

MONDAY
 SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

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 93
 Partly Cloudy



MT less lucky
 than Lightning
 at beating
 down UT

In Sports Wrap, inside

Freethought
 Alliance
 makes waves

In Interests, 5



This week's poll question at
 www.mtsusidelines.com
 How much money
 did you spend to watch the
 Middle Tennessee-Tennessee game?

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 19

Official numbers tallied

Staff Reports

MTSU's official student census indicates that enrollment has surpassed the 21,000 plateau that may make it the second largest school in the state of Tennessee.

As of Sept. 4, the final headcount for the fall of 2002 semester was 21,163 students.

Enrollment figures were submitted to Bob Glenn, vice provost of Enrollment Management and vice president for Student Affairs, and the Tennessee Board of Regents. The figures were submitted by Sherian Huddleston, director of

records and interim assistant vice provost of enrollment management.

MTSU's headcount is nearly 1,100 more than the previous mark of 20,073 students in 2001, which represents a 5.4 percent increase from last year's numbers.

The full-time equivalent record for fall 2002 of 18,150 is an increase of 1,026, nearly a 6 percent rise from the 17,124 total submitted last year.

Full-time equivalent students factor in as part of the funding formula used by the TBR to distribute funds.

MTSU's total fall enrollment

for 2002 includes 16,309 full-time students, 4,854 part-time students, 19,160 undergraduates and 2,003 graduate students.

More than 3,100 new freshmen enrolled this fall, along with 1,914 new transfer students from other universities.

A total of 938 students have enrolled in the Regents Online Degree program, 454 of which are new graduate students.

MTSU will soon know if it has passed the University of Memphis and moved into second behind the University of Tennessee as the second largest school in the state. ♦

2002 Enrollment facts and figures

	Fall 2002	Fall 2001	12 years of headcounts	
			Year	Headcount
Total headcount	21,163	20,073	2002	21,163
Full-time equivalent	18,151	17,124	2001	20,073
First-time freshmen	3,136	2,904	2000	19,121
Full-time	16,309	15,270	1999	18,993
Part-time	4,854	4,803	1998	18,432
Undergraduate	19,160	18,130	1997	18,366
Graduate	2,003	1,943	1996	17,924
Male	9,638	9,160	1995	17,424
Female	11,525	10,913	1994	17,120
African American	2,428	2,215	1993	17,383
In-state	19,402	18,345	1992	16,787
Out-of-state	1,484	1,458	1991	15,673
Non-resident aliens	277	270		
Regents Online Degree	484	191		

No relief for P.O.'d freshmen

Despite paying postal fee, many new students will go without a box

By Tiffany Brown
Staff Writer

For the first time in MTSU history, the post office has run out of post office boxes, with no end to the shortage in sight.

Some students may be forced to go the entire semester without a box, though they pay \$8 for general mail service. "Of the 16,942 post office boxes, there are approximately 600 students that don't have mail boxes," said Elizabeth Patty, mail manager at the campus post office. "They're still getting mail service, and that is what the fee is."

General delivery is a term that refers to the students who have campus mail service, but no post office box. They must pick up their mail from the post office window until a box becomes available.

Students who register for 12 or more credit hours are automatically assessed an \$8 postal service fee, which entitles them to mail delivery service. After completing registration and fee payment, part-time residence hall students may then obtain mail service upon payment of the fee at the post office.

"The problem is, is that we have just expanded everywhere and there is just not another wall or another area to put one more box," Patty said. "The closest thing that I can see is the new student union that is being discussed. We're talking years with that, but when it is built, we'll have a brand new post office, plenty of room and areas for the boxes."

In the mean time, students must deal with mail service that is slower than normal. The cause is a higher volume of students attempting to use the post office and pick up mail, she said.

The post office accommodates the higher volume with more employees, Patty said. There are 15 full-time

See Post office, 2

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Photo by Jenny Cordle | Staff Photographer

Office outlines hazing policies

Punishments vary according to severity of alleged actions

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Hazing. Just what is it exactly and what is MTSU's policy on the subject?

Webster's Dictionary defines hazing as "to subject (as a freshman or fraternity pledge) to treatment intended to put in ridiculous or disconcerting positions."

The Constitution of the Interfraternity Council of MTSU defines hazing as the "action taken or situation created by any member of a chapter intentionally or unintentionally, on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include paddling of any form, creation of quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks or any other activities of like and tasteless form."

"In my opinion, hazing is anything that causes physical or emotional harm for the purpose of joining an organization," said Kim Godwin, director of Greek Life. "Whether that harm be serious threat, bodily harm or mental issues, the act is still illegal and the punishment will fit the severity of the crime."

Article VI of the constitution also states, "The IFC believes that true fraternalism is nurtured in an atmosphere of social

and moral responsibility, respect for duly constituted authority and loyalty to the principles of higher education. While social behavior cannot be legislated, a fraternity without morally sound precepts and practices is not a constructive influence upon college men."

"Hazing is a cop-cut for building brother- or sisterhood in an organization," Godwin said. "It is basically scaring the individual into liking that organization. When a fraternity or sorority breaks this policy, action will be taken."

When an organization gets caught hazing, the matter is handled swiftly, she said. Treatment is on a case-by-case manner and is determined by how extreme the action was. Smaller offenses result in educating the organization, whereas severe offenses could land the group on probation or banned from campus.

"It does not matter if your organization meets on or off campus," Godwin said. "Our policy is still enforced and if you are caught hazing, you will be punished. It is still against the law no matter where you are."

The school also has an Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services whose mission is to "promote a learning environment that is safe, positive and in which the rights of all members of the campus community are respected."

Their philosophy also states, "We believe the disciplinary process is an educational process as opposed to a punitive process. The disciplinary

See Hazing, 2

Commemorative events scheduled

Staff Reports

In honor of Sept. 11, MTSU faculty and staff have organized a day of remembrance devoted to honoring the events of that day and allowing students to express their feelings.

Sept. 11 in reflection

Deborah Newman teaches a class titled "Terrorism and the Criminal Justice System," offered for the first time this semester (12:25 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 103B). The class on Sept. 11 will be devoted to remembering and discussing the events of Sept. 11.

"During the class, I will be asking students to comment on such questions as how Sept. 11 affected their lives or what they remember most about the

event. I also plan to play one or two of the most requested songs for radio during the days that followed," Newman said.

Newman will also ask students why a particular song became so popular during that time.

For more information, contact Newman at 898-2630.

Sept. 11 in discussion

Elvira Casal, assistant professor of English, will hold a moment of silence in two of her classes.

"I will probably start with a moment of silence and then invite students to discuss their memories/impressions of the event for the first five to 10 minutes of class," Casal said.

Her classes will also be talking about the tension between

private, domestic experiences and world crises in relation to *The Glass Menagerie*.

For more information, contact Casal at 898-2668.

Sept. 11 in interaction

Maria Clayton, assistant professor of English, will hold a moment of silence at the beginning of each of her classes at 7, 8:05 and 11:20 a.m. in Peck Hall.

"In advance of that day, I'm going to ask my students that they make a concentrated effort on Sept. 11 to be even more kind, gracious and generous to others, as we were right after the tragic events; perhaps it will reinforce these good habits once again."

For more information, contact Clayton at 898-2585. ♦

'Table française' promotes foreign speech

By Michael Haynes
Staff Writer

Qui veut parler français? Who wants to speak French?

At MTSU it is possible for students to gather at the Woodmore Cyber Café to do just that.

"This is an opportunity for students to speak French with native speakers," said Rachel Courty, a graduate teaching assistant in foreign languages.

"This is a concept used in a lot of universities. It encourages people to chat in French in an informal setting," said Rosemary Kew, a foreign language professor.

Whether students are beginners or more advanced, the table française offers a relaxed environment in which to learn and converse.

"It can work for speakers of



Sophomore Tala Chaivavong and graduate student Jason Simpson converse in French at Thursday's open table.

different levels because you get to listen to spoken French," Kew said, "which should encourage beginners to speak. ... One can hear and observe the exchanges between the speakers."

The table française is open to students of all majors and ability levels.

"In the past, we have had

See French, 3



porch are crumbling, and that there is work to be done on the roof as well.

The residents were warned in the letter that it might be necessary to cover some of the dorm windows during certain phases of the construction.

However, the area coordinator assured the residents that, if boards were used to cover the windows, they would be removed at night to allow a safe exit in case of a fire.

The letter also stated that if the residents' windows were covered with paper, then in case of a fire, they should rip off the paper for a safe escape.

"It doesn't particularly bother me, but it seems like they could have done it this past summer when nobody was on campus," said freshman

Suzanne Long. Several other students voiced the same opinion.

In response to the residents' general query on why the renovations were not finished during the summer vacation, Sudak responded that the project had never been scheduled for the summer term.

Because of the school's busy schedule, the renovations were intentionally slated to go underway in late August, Sudak said.

Until the construction ends in November, students must resort to using the side doors if they are entering from the parking lot.

Construction is slated to end some time in October. For more information, contact Sudak at 898-2860. ♦

Continued from I

process allows individuals the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, while at the same time protecting the rights of all members of the university community."

"The last reported case on campus was last November," said John Dickerson, assistant dean for Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services. "The problem we have on campus is that people do not report cases so we do not have enough evidence on hazing being a huge problem."

When an organization gets caught hazing, the office will investigate the matter and the institution officials will set sanctions forth.

If the sanctions are not accepted, that organization has a right to appeal to the University Discipline Committee, which hears cases referred to it by the dean of Student Life and makes its recommendations to the vice president for Student Affairs.

If the verdict is appealed back to the University Discipline Committee, the matter goes to the Student Appeals Committee. Examples of sanctions include verbal warnings, a written reprimand, community service hours, removal of privileges, suspension and expulsion. The Judicial Affairs statistics stated that from summer 2001 to spring 2002, five cases of hazing were reported.

"Hazing is not a huge problem on campus, although I am not naïve in knowing that it does not occur," Dickerson said. ♦

Continued from 1

employees and approximately 10 student workers who staff the post office.

According to Patty, the timeliness with which boxes are assigned at the start of a new semester actually has to do with registration, not graduating seniors, which is a common misconception.

"After everybody registers, the computer goes in there, and picks up everybody that needs a box," she said. "The problem is that we keep extending the late payment deadline."

"We try to wait as long as we can, to be sure that everybody that had a box the previous

semester will get their old boxes back.”

Boxes start getting reassigned the day fees are due, and if a student has not paid what he or she owes, the box is automatically deleted.

According to Patty, the post office is constantly turning over boxes when students drop classes or leave school. Therefore, the process of assigning boxes is ongoing.

“The post office told me I may not get a box until next semester, but that I should keep checking in each week,” said Jennifer Whittall, a freshman living in Corlew Hall.

“I’m kind of OK with it, but it kind of makes me mad

because my parents don't want to send my mail general delivery because they worry about it getting stolen or something happening to it," she said.

Although this is a common fear among students who must have their mail delivered general delivery, Patty said general delivery is actually quicker than having a post office box because the mail is automatically put at the window, instead of having to be sorted out to be put into a box.

According to Patty, some students prefer general delivery.

"It's real unusual to watch, but they get that personal attention, and the window clerks know them and they know their

name and they get all excited. We've had people assigned a box and they say, 'I'd rather come up here (to the window) and get my mail,'" Patty said.

The long lines at the post office frequently come in spurts, according to Patty. The lines are caused by students rushing to the post office in between classes, she said, and the lines for general delivery create an extra line of students.

The best way for students to avoid long post office lines is to come earlier in the morning, or later in the afternoon. Patty suggests not coming during the middle of the day when the Keathley University Center is full of students trying to run

errands in between classes.

"You're always going to have one or two angry about something, but generally the students are great," Patty said when asked if there have been any upset students or parents.

"We love working with them, and the parents too, and I think the main concern is that they just get their mail. And that's our concern too, so we do everything we can to make sure they are given adequate mail service."

Students who need a post office box also have the option of opening one up at a local post office. Any questions regarding can be directed to Patty at 898-2459. ♦

By Kayla Gagnet
The Reveille
(Louisiana State U.)

(U-WIRE) — Chancellor Mark Emmert announced Tuesday his decision to fire Steven Hatfill, the recently-hired biomedical expert whom the FBI is investigating in connection with last fall's anthrax mailings.

The university hired Hatfill July 1 as the associate director of the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, a division of Continuing Education funded by the U.S. Justice Department.

Emmert placed Hatfill on 30 days paid leave Aug. 2 after the FBI began searching his Maryland home.

"In taking this action, the university is making no judgment as to Dr. Hatfill's guilt or innocence regarding the FBI investigation," Emmert said in a statement.

Emmert's statement cited concerns for the university to fulfill contractual obligations and maintain academic integrity as reasons for terminating Hatfill, but would not elaborate. "It is the university's policy and practice to not discuss specifics of personnel actions," he said.

Emmert refused to comment on Hatfill's termination in relation to future hiring procedures.

"We are confident that we have been thoughtful, objective and fair in this decision," he said.

Emmert said Hatfill has received the standard 30-day notice before termination.

Victor Glasberg, Hatfill's attorney, said the university notified him and his client of the termination but did not give a specific reason.

He said "simple fairness" warrants "a more elaborate explanation as to why a distin-

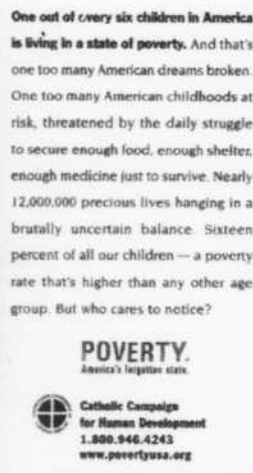
guished scientist is not allowed to begin his work.”

Glasberg said Hatfill is not and has not been considered a suspect by the FBI.

“I think this is an understandable yet regrettable consequence of the defamation that has plagued Dr. Hatfill for months,” Glasberg said.

According to media reports, Hatfill worked for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Md., from 1997 to 1999. USAMRIID is the nation’s premier bio-warfare research facility where biomedical weapons such as anthrax are studied.

Emmert told The Reveille last month he felt the University went through an appropriate informal background check when hiring Hatfill. At the time, he said the University would examine the issue of mandatory background checks in the coming month. ♦



All Events Will Take Place on Wednesday, September 11, 2002

• Several faculty members of the MTSU School of Music will present a concert commemorating the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last September 11. This will be a free, informal concert and is open to the public. The concert will last between 30 minutes to one hour.

- During this memorial, representatives from the following agencies will be recognized:

MTSU Department of Public Safety
Murfreesboro Police Department
Murfreesboro Fire Department
Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency
Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services

Must have knowledge of AP style



Tel 615-907-6633
Fax 615-907-0809



French: Conversation group blurs borders

Continued from 1

students and faculty gather to speak about many topics," said Vilay Ly, a graduate teaching assistant in foreign languages.

"Last semester we had a business professor and foreign language professors participate," said Ly, who led the conversation group during the

spring semester.

Thursday was the inaugural meeting for the semester.

There were 10 students who attended, of whom three were French, two were German and five were American.

"I've never studied French until now, and I came to listen to the spoken language," said Rebecca Hanks, a special stu-

dent taking French classes.

"This is an international setting," Kew said.

"In the past we've had international students from other countries also participate."

Tonya Tami and Jason Simpson, foreign language GTAs, worked with some of the beginners.

They used hand and verbal cues to assist with their comprehension of French.

Tami, a doctoral student from France, is at MTSU to teach, write a dissertation and take courses related to her dissertation.

This semester she is charged with leading the discussion groups.

The table française meets on Thursday afternoons beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Cyber Café.

According to Kew, a second time slot may soon be available.

For more information about the table française, contact Kew at 898-2283 or e-mail her at rakew@mtsu.edu. ♦



Photo by Michael Haynes | Staff Photographer

Freshman Nicole Brackett, junior Leah Thornhill and Sophomore Tala Chaiyong (left to right) discuss topics in French at the table française.

MTTV looks for fresh faces

By Patrick Chinnery
Assistant News Editor

If you've ever wanted to see your face on television, now's your chance.

MTSU's student-run television station will be holding open auditions for on-air personalities Sept. 16, 17 and 18.

Host spots for *Open Line With President McPhee*, news anchor and reporter positions are all looking to be filled.

Open Line will be returning for its second semester. Last year's host, Neil Price, will be returning as the other man behind the desk.

Producers are looking to

select two co-hosts as well as understudies for all three parts.

"It's a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get involved with the television station," said Terra Grant, station manager for Channel 10.

Also available are anchor spots on the four-nights-a-week news broadcast.

In addition to reporters and anchors, the show needs people with technical experience to join the production crew.

Lack of experience isn't a problem.

"We need just about everybody," Grant said.

"We want to open up our shows so that you don't

have to be a broadcast major to get on. We can teach people to be talent."

There will be a general interest meeting for anyone with an interest in Channel 10 Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 221 of the Learning Resources Center.

The procedure for launching new shows as well as details on the talent auditions will be discussed at the meeting.

It is mandatory for everyone who wants to have their own show that they be present at the meeting.

For further information, contact Channel 10 at 898-5050 or Terra Grant at 474-3355. ♦

Positions open for legislature

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Legislative Internship Program has several spots available for internships at the state Capitol.

The internships will take place during the 2003 session of the Tennessee General Assembly and run from Jan. 13 until May 31, or until one week after the Assembly adjourns, whichever occurs first.

The schedule does not coincide with the semester calendar and spring break is not observed.

Applicants must be registered to vote in Tennessee and

must be enrolled as juniors, seniors or graduate students in degree programs in political science, history, law, social work, administration, economics, journalism, sociology or related fields.

Each intern will be paid a stipend of \$325, plus a one-time advance payment of \$325 to cover costs incurred. Students can earn 12 hours of academic credit for the program. Two internships are offered, one through the state that allows students to earn a letter grade, and one through the university that has a pass/fail option.

Interns will be assigned to

work in legislative offices and committees and will be expected to work 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Duties will vary, but may include bill analysis, constituent work, computer and library research and general office work.

Interns will also be expected to attend weekly meetings, usually on Fridays.

Applications can be picked up in professor Mark Byrnes' office in Peck Hall room 247, and must be completed and returned by Oct. 7.

For more information, call Byrnes at 898-2351. ♦

Fraternity will recruit

By Jason Cox
Managing Editor

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity will be allowed to participate in recruitment activities this week.

SAE, which is on social probation until the fall of 2004, submitted requests to the Judicial Affairs and Greek Life offices, as dictated by the terms of the probation.

Judicial Affairs has "given [SAE] a lot of leeway," according to John Dickerson, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.

Dickerson said this consideration was given to the fraternity because the university did not wish to impede recruitment and alumni relations.

Under the terms of the probation, SAE may not host or sponsor social events with the exception of approved homecoming and recruitment activities until the end of the spring 2003 semester, but still will be allowed to host philanthropic events, most notably the Miss MTSU Pageant, a scholarship event.

SAE is eligible for review of social probation in 2003. The fraternity is on disciplinary probation until the end of the fall 2004 semester.

Dickerson said the fraternity is eligible to petition for review in the fall of 2003 and the spring of 2004 of the sanctions.

He said these reviews were added after the fraternity sent a letter to university President Sidney McPhee on June 10, following the procedure set in the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, requesting review of the sanctions.

According to Dickerson and a press release issued by the fraternity, the request disputed the charge that SAE violated disciplinary offense 16A, which is listed in the handbook as "falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information to the judicial officer or judicial body."

"The chapter realizes that it should be disciplined for its actions, but feels that it has been wronged by a heavy-handed university administration," SAE President James Festervand said in the press release.

"There was never intent to harm anyone and in retrospect the fraternity regrets hosting the event. We want to create a positive from this situation, learn from the mistake and grow to be a better fraternity."

McPhee designated Bob Glenn, vice president for

Student Affairs and vice provost for enrollment management, to review the matter, Dickerson said.

"Dr. Glenn felt that [the sanctions] were appropriate, but, as a compromise, he asked that I add a review in the fall of 2003 and the spring of 2004," Dickerson said.

Festervand was not available for comment, but said in the press release that "the fraternity realizes that the comments made at our social event were inappropriate and we have apologized for our behavior."

The disciplinary violations, in addition to the misrepresentation of information charge, were disorderly conduct and consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus.

SAE was charged with, but found not responsible for, conduct dangerous to others.

The sanctions are a result of events that occurred during the fraternity's Paddy Murphy week last spring, where a roast of fraternity members resulted in several SAE members giving descriptions of sexual encounters between members of the fraternity and sorority sisters in attendance. ♦

Science proves attractiveness increases with alcohol intake

By Dana DeJong

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) – The concept of "beer goggles" has finally been backed up by scientific data.

Thanks to the research of two Scottish professors, consumers of alcohol now have proof that a few drinks increases the chance of them finding someone else attractive – by 25 percent.

In the study, 80 students from the University of Glasgow examined photographs of 120 St. Andrews University students after having a few drinks.

The study was conducted by professors Barry Jones of Glasgow and Ben Jones of St. Andrews.

Participants rated the attractiveness of the photos on a scale of one to seven, with seven having the highest attraction factor. After one to two drinks, men and women were 25 percent more likely to find faces of the opposite sex attractive.

"Everyone knows it is a common phenomenon," said Rich Parizek, manager of The Keg Shop. "It's an established fact."

Barry Tewes, manager of Paddy's, agreed this study is not a big revelation.

"Honestly it doesn't surprise me at all. I see it every week," he said. "It's interesting, but it's

definitely not surprising."

In the world of science, the results of the study aren't new, either.

"From a neuroscience perspective, it's not surprising," said Brian Brooks, graduate assistant in psychology and neurosciences at Iowa State University. "Any substance that alters brain activity alters perceptions."

The study shows there's a relation between drinking alcohol and judging facial attractiveness, Brooks said.

However, he said showing a relationship between the two is not adequate to understanding the brain's complexities.

"The study brings out more questions than answers," Brooks said.

The Jones' study suggests that alcohol stimulates the part of the brain that determines attractiveness – the nucleus accumbens.

Brooks said the amygdala, a part of the brain that controls anxiety levels, which is not considered in the new research, is suppressed by alcohol.

This in turn reduces anxiety and lowers inhibitions, he said. This could have an effect on the judgment of attractiveness that wasn't considered in the Scottish study.

"These people have uncov-

ered a perceptual effect for the 'beer goggle' effect, but there may be more to it," he said.

More research would be required to find out the mechanisms that change perceptions and judgment, Brooks said.

Alcohol can affect how individuals judge how positive a stimulus is, including an individual's attractiveness, he said. A few drinks can also make a situation seem more rewarding than prior to drinking, Brooks said.

"The 'beer goggle' effect may only be one reason there is a relationship between sexual activity and alcohol," he said. The exact connection is likely much more complex, Brooks said.

Though the specific reason alcohol has this effect on people is not known, to Brooks the little information known is worthy of consideration.

Based on the new study and previous studies on the effects of alcohol on various brain functions, Brooks has some advice for those who consume alcohol.

"Be aware of how profoundly alcohol can impair us," he said. ♦

U-Wire contributed to this story.

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Fan support, defense encouraged Raiders

When it comes down to it, Middle Tennessee fans can't be too unhappy with the 26-3 loss at the University of Tennessee Saturday. Those who watched the game knew that the matchup was much closer than the score indicated.

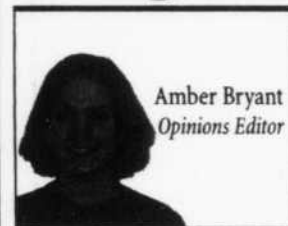
For instance, with the exception of the two touchdowns scored during the first quarter, MT's defense kept the Vols out of the end zone for the rest of the game. This would be an impressive feat for any top team but, for the Blue Raider defense, this is nothing short of spectacular. The staff gives its congratulations to the oft-criticized defense for its best performance in recent memory, particularly Brandon Lynch, who knocked the crap out of UT quarterback Casey Clausen to set up a field goal attempt by the Vols. Defensive lineman Kareem Bland blocked the field goal, which has not happened to UT since Notre Dame did it in 1999.

These plays and the interception in the end zone by Muhammad Rashada redeemed the Blue Raiders and gave the defense a long-overdue confidence boost.

Unfortunately, the critically acclaimed MT offense sputtered, stalled and just plain sucked at times. Endrico Hines, who just might do MT more good lined up at Dwone "No Heisman" Hicks' spot, couldn't get anything done in the air and employed the rush entirely too often. Despite the criticism, we give props to Hines, both for being the team's leading offensive weapon and for taking responsibility for some bad plays in the post-game press conference.

While orange dominated the Neyland landscape, we also thank the masses of blue that populated Knoxville and the stadium. It would have been really easy for fans to catch the game on the radio or pay-per-view television, but MT managed to sell out its 9,000 tickets. It's no 100,000, but it's a step in the right direction. ♦

From the Opinions Editor Tennessee State Fair isn't good, clean fun



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

If our fabulous state has anything more detestable than the Tennessee State Fair, I haven't experienced it.

When I was young and oblivious, I looked forward to frolicking on the giant concrete playground each year so I could ride the pirate ship that rocks back and forth. I ignored the moth-eaten pirate with the demonic face, the putrid smells and the sound of the rusty, grinding chains operating the machine. Now, when I see the commercial early in September, I can't help but cringe and flee to my happy place.

Last year, I went against the voices within and gave the fair another chance. I breathed through my mouth and hoped the smell of sugarcured urine wouldn't

permanently adhere to my skin. Every ride, most of which were operated by toothless characters plucked straight out of Stephen King's imagination, made me feel like chucking for an entire day afterwards. I attribute my nausea to a mix of scent and overenthusiastic ride operators. After an evening of disgust, barring the inside exhibits and the horses, I bathed with Clorox and vowed never to go again.

Fair-loving locals are settling for much less than is available. Smaller county fairs are usually cleaner, quainter and less expensive. Sure, there are few or no rides, but that means the risk of experiencing a new kind of horrifying death isn't as great.

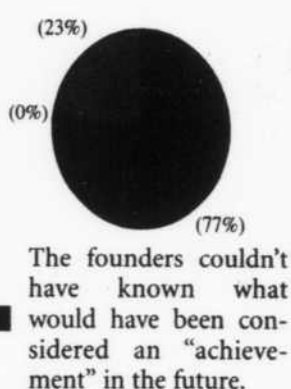
Tennessee should give this annual practice a good scrubbing before it permanently suggests we are as backwoods and uncivilized as other inhabitants of the country think. Going by our state fair, we all deserve to be in cages. ♦

Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "Do you think MTSU has achieved what the founders intended?"

Yes, we've grown substantially from Middle Tennessee Normal School.

No, we've been declining in quality ever since 1911.



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "How much money did you spend to watch the Middle Tennessee-Tennessee game?"

Attendance not always necessary



I'm Just a Girl

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Some classes are boring. There are times when, after I've dragged my overworked, under-rested body out of bed, I feel I'm wasting my time. I fight to stay awake and I find myself wishing I had just stayed in bed.

This brings me to a rule I despise: attendance policies. Some classes have them; some do not. I agree that sometimes these poli-

cies are useful. For example, a physical education class that requires physical activity is one you should go to in order to get an A.

If, on the other hand, the class is full of dull information that you already know, why should you be expected to go to class? You're only going to be bored while the rest of the class tries to understand the simple concepts you've already mastered. If you were a foreign exchange student in Germany, would you go to an English class? I doubt it. You'd probably only show up on test days. Good for you.

Let's not forget the sick.

I can't stand those who don't excuse absences for sickness or family emergencies. For instance, last semester I obtained a lovely case of walking pneumonia. Needless to say, I had to miss some classes. Most of my professors were understanding and forgiving of this. No one should be expected to go to class with pneumonia, let alone get out of bed.

Here's another factor: Laziness. We all get lazy sometimes. Everyone needs a day off. A day in bed does wonders, especially when you've damn near killed yourself by overexerting your brain and staying up studying all

hours of the night. A month of that and you will need a day off. If you're just going to sleep or talk with your friends the entirety of the class, don't waste everyone's time.

You're essentially sucking the life force out of the class. Stay in bed. I'll be sure to return the favor if and when I'm in a similar situation.

This goes for professors as well, especially mine. If you're feeling a little overwhelmed midway through the semester, take a day off. I won't feel cheated.

I understand attendance policies will probably be around as long as the state legislature keeps

holding back money. I'm fully aware of the monetary benefits. I just don't care enough to work myself to the point of being sick because of it. We are adults. We know when we need to be in class.

Attendance policies help us get more money, and, in some instances, are necessary for success in class.

However, this isn't always the case; therefore, attendance policies should not apply to the exceedingly brilliant, ill or lazy. ♦

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

Christians, atheists: stop slinging mud

By Stephen Brace
Guest Columnist

I'm appalled at all the mudslinging. I see this back and forth "Open your mind, shut your piehole" from the Editorial Board (*Sidelines*, Sept. 5) disturbing, both in the attitude it was written, as well as the individual responses from the professing Christians mentioned in the article.

Mudslinging, proclaiming a theory as fact and just plain hiding behind pretty names, be it holier-than-thou Christians or arrogant Campus Freethought

Alliance advocates, is no reason to be smug. I do believe in the resurrection of Jesus, but not because I haven't examined the opposing view. I think Christian apologist Norman Geisler gives a brilliant explanation for the resurrection conflicts when he writes, "The fact that various accounts do not fit together with perfect ease should be expected of authentic testimony from independent witnesses. Were the accounts perfectly harmonious on the surface, there would be suspicion of collusion.

That the events and order are described from differing perspectives that depend on personal involvement of the participants and some confusion of detail at an intense and bewildering moment is exactly what one would expect of credible accounts."

I also think it pretty foolish for 12 apostles and thousands of disciples who knew Jesus personally to face death and persecution at the hands of the secular authorities. Better they all recanted and lived a few more years in peace than

be fed to lions, burned as torches and crucified. Then again, maybe their actions testify to the truthfulness of his resurrection.

The free thinker can quote Gerd, who is a great speculator, when he states, "I'm wondering whether Mark changed something." I can quote just as many scholars who disagree with him. If free thought is ever going to be attained, it isn't going to come about by excluding the Christian in favor of the atheist, or vice versa. People can be open-minded, but that doesn't mean you have to agree,

nor do you have to sit there and be told what you believe is intellectually defunct or made to feel inferior.

I think if the CFA truly supports freedom of thought in a fair and objective approach, they would give equally respected professors, from opposing views, an equal amount of time to "battle it out." If they don't want to present this type of fair and objective approach, perhaps they're afraid Christians can be intellectuals and persuade others to their faith. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Lecture proves alliance is freely thinking

To the Editor:

Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines "freethinker" as "one who forms opinions on the basis of reason independently of authority; esp. one whose beliefs differ markedly from those of an established religion, usually in the direction of skepticism or denial of established belief."

Mr. Spencer Hyatt, in his letter to *Sidelines* (Sept. 5), says "The Campus Freethought Alliance promotes anything but free thought." From this statement, one would believe that the CFA promotes the opposite of free thought, which is unquestioning acceptance of orthodoxy. However, if that be the case, it seems strange that they would sponsor such an unorthodox thinker as Professor Ludemann.

The very fact that they did bring Ludemann to our campus suggests that their name is exactly descriptive of them, and that they don't "deceive people with a false name," as Mr. Hyatt charges.

On a related matter, I would like to commend *Sidelines* for an excellent and well-balanced editorial.

Bret Hooper

Instructor, Mathematical Sciences

Atheists were also bludgeoned by attacks

To the Editor:

In response to Wesley Jackson's column (*Sidelines*, Sept. 5) - the battle of science vs. religion will always exist. Some extremists will fight one another until the day they die. Some will attempt to blend the two and find their own personal shelter from the shrapnel that the others fire off. That's understood.

The column in question decided to jump off of the page and jab me in the eye with its cruel, pointed finger when it stated, "For an atheist, such a calamity as Sept. 11 is meaningless." Those are some strong words, fella, and one would have to be a dolt and a dullard to believe such a thing. I'm an atheist and I woke up to the same news that the rest of the world woke up to a year ago. If someone came into my room and told me how I was feeling while I watched with my jaw frozen open as the country's tallest buildings imploded, taking with them thousands of people, I'd smack them in the face repeatedly with a whiffle-ball bat. I have friends, as well as family, in New York City. I immediately wondered if they were all right or not. When the Pentagon was attacked, I wondered how the country I live in, which gives me the freedom to choose what I believe in, was going to react to these hostile actions. With a cowboy in the White House wanting to one-up his pappy, World War III didn't seem that far from a reality.

You see, atheists have feelings, too. We have the ability to differentiate what we think is "right" from what we think is "wrong." Jackson also goes on to say, "Without God to give life importance as a whole," atheists don't think much different of Sept. 11 than the road kill we pass on the road. Atheists do not believe in "God" or "heaven" or "hell." Some might have their own personal ideas on what happens after death, but I'm going to estimate that most atheists believe that this is all we've got. We live life because we don't believe in an afterlife like you do. So who are you to tell us that atheists don't think much of life? If anyone would care to answer, please do so promptly. It's not like we have all eternity.

J.K. Robbins

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.

If your heart is full of good intentions, don't try to rob a store - especially one with a time-delay safe.

Also remember, if you point a gun at someone's head, they aren't likely to help you pretend you had nothing to do with the robbery when the cops arrive. Otherwise, your experience might be something like what happened to Johnathan Ortega and Miguel Angel Correa when they tried to knock off a Pizza Hut.

The pizza perps entered the Boston pizza palace through a side door early Friday morning and took the lone working employee hostage, tying him up in the men's bathroom when he informed them he didn't have the combination to the safe.

Ten minutes later, an off-duty manager walking his dog stopped by the store. Both man and beast were shown to the bathroom.

Employee Wilfredo Rodriguez stopped by next. After extracting a promise that he wouldn't call the cops, let him go.

They should have made him pinky-promise, cross his heart and hope to die, because he made a beeline to the parking lot payphone



and dialed 911.

While the police were en route, the manager with the safe combination arrived for work. He used the combination for the safe, but pointed out to the inept intruders that it would be 15 minutes before the door would swing open. The manager was then led to the bathroom.

However, when the police showed up, the bandit buffoons ran into the bathroom and begged the hostages to let the police think that the meatball marauders were themselves prisoners. Store manager Orlando Reyes agreed to go along with the ruse and tell the police what happened.

Outside he went and told the police the truth. Johnny Law came in, made arrests and everyone went home happy.

Except for Tweedledee and Tweedledum, who now face charges including kidnapping, attempted robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. ♦

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopino@mtsui.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.

*denotes member of editorial board

Man should be in pursuit of truth, absolutes

Joshua B. Parman
Guest Columnist

I was quite disturbed by the comic strip *Burnt Orange Peel* presented in the last issue of *Sidelines* (Sept. 5).

The comic features a conversation between a student and Vincent van Gogh as they make their way through a modern art gallery. Van Gogh is obviously horrified at what passes for art as the student explains that art is relative to redefinition by the creator.

The master artist and student give up on the argument and surmise that van Gogh could not call himself an artist by his own definition of art, and therefore could not be the judge for what is and is not art.

The fallacy lies not in what is or is not to be considered art but in who or what has the authority to dictate what is or is not art. The author of the comic strip merely presents us with two opinions and provides us with no basis for

what is right or wrong.

It seems, in our age, we are prone to base our opinions, thoughts, ways of life and everything on the barbaric and popular ideas of "different is good," "be all you can be," "just do it," "have it your way," "different strokes for different folks" and "be yourself." This blatant individualism is a dangerous philosophy that is slowly shading the difference between right and wrong and, eventually, will bring ruin on our society. Most individuals see it as their place to throw off the confines of social structure and traditional concepts of what is right.

This is more accurately described as the inability of the individual to accept responsibility. He sees the amount of labor and effort required to meet the undying standards of timeless values and then fabricates new paradigms of transient security.

If humans are the end, beginning and middle of ourselves, if we have no

responsibility to a higher authority, if we are to define our reasons for living, our own laws, our own standards, our own goals, wills, dreams and inspirations, we have indeed lost the vision of our very purpose for being here.

The most certain facet of life is that there is a definite truth. To deny mankind of this is to equate him with mere nothingness. We see evidence from life itself.

You deposit \$10 in the bank, go back the next day to find that the bank decided that they no longer needed rules and stated your account as having \$8. A teacher decides that the traditional grading scale is not convenient for him, so he requires all students to make a 90 in order to pass the class.

There are millions of other examples, some not quite so extreme and others more so. But are these examples so far-fetched?

In many elementary schools, a student is never to be told that he or she is

wrong, only that they are right in a different way. Even at this institution we are taught in the most diplomatic fashion the pluralistic philosophy (what I call intellectual sloth) of "whatever is right for you is what is right; it does not matter what you believe as long as you believe it." Court hearings all over the world echo with pleas of temporary insanity and victimization circumstances, both of which stem from the pursuit of the redefinition of right and wrong. For anyone this should scream, "Do something!"

But what can be done? Where are individual freedom and communal law wed? How can humans be part of something larger than themselves without compromising individuality? Can submission and creativity mix? How do you balance this cumbersome and complex equation in a non-confrontational way?

The answer is a paradox not unlike the questions. It comes from an indi-

vidual and fanatical devotion to the truth. Were each man in pursuit of truth, regardless of where it may lead him, willing to search the ages for the absolutes and committed to something higher than his own authority, he could then stand atop the mountain of life and shout down to all who care to listen, "I found it."

The words would echo through the valley, between the hills summoning forth like a great flood every creature to see the treasure sought since the beginning of time.

The truth lays dormant, earnestly hoping to be discovered by one brave enough for its provoking and vulgar demeanor.

It is waiting for one unafraid to face the challenge of overcoming the self and submitting to the absolute. Will truth have waited for us in vain?

Surely not, for, unlike the man, truth knows no time. ♦

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Freethought Alliance makes waves

Campus organization stands on free speech, debate, discussion of student differences

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

Mathew Pauley doesn't think science turns people away from religion, but he says that the way people are taught about science can be very decisive.

"If you take scripture as truly literal, meaning nothing is figurative and everything is the exact word of God, obviously a lot of science and reasoning is going to contradict it," Pauley said.

"The more confining to scripture you are, the smaller you make God."

Pauley is the president of Campus Freethought Alliance, which promotes pro-science literacy, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, race and age rights and First Amendment rights.

"A lot of students in CFA don't agree with each other," Pauley said. "The fact is that we can discuss these differences."

For many students, keeping an open mind to questions of faith helps to strengthen their understanding of God.

John Ingle, a freshman, said he is looking for ways to expand his horizons and open up opportunities to freely discuss religion on campus.

"I don't doubt my faith in anything," Ingle said, "but I doubt what I'm told because I want to search for my own reasons."

This is the kind of student the CFA tends to attract.

However, Pauley said, they're also facing a false interpretation about what they stand for.

"When I first found out about this group," Ingle said, "I was really afraid it was an anti-religious group."

"We often get an anti-religious stigma," Pauley said, "which is untrue. We just assert that one religion is not basically better than another is. We are more or less a watchdog group on campus for infringements of civil liberties rights."

Ingle, like others, had a predisposition to groups that promoted science literacy.

"As far as I had been taught, the word 'freethought' had always been associated with atheism," he said.

"You can't really have a debate without different beliefs," Pauley said, noting that CFA tends to cater to atheism. "We're not that exclusionary of

people."

As far as the students already involved in the group, Pauley said that many of them came out of a strict religious background and don't necessarily agree with their parents or friends.

"We're not going to ostracize people or make someone feel unwelcome," Pauley said.

The main benefit of CFA is the opportunity to talk to other students, and lecturers, who have different views and ideas about religion.

Tuesday's lecture by Gerd Ludemann, "The Hoax of the Resurrection," served as an open forum for questions of faith and science, and the first of many possibilities CFA will provide to discuss issues of spirituality.

Ludemann's lecture brought out many questions from the largely student-populated audience. The students were so interested in discussing and debating with the speaker that the lecture went almost an hour longer than expected.

Ludemann, who has written more than 20 books on theology and the New Testament, is a professor at a Lutheran university — the University of Göttingen in Germany — but renounced Christianity in 1998.

"More or less," Pauley said, "he is one of the best intellects in the field; it just happens he is not Christian."

Not all of the students who attended Ludemann's lecture agreed with him by the end, but others were just interested in hearing what he had to say.

"I'm not looking for proof that Jesus wasn't the Son of God," Ingle said. "I'm looking for an alternate way to look at things, so that I am better equipped to see the truth."

Many students try to keep those two aspects separate. Science, to some, has no basis on divine interpretation and religion does not affect our earthly experiences.

Albert Einstein, a man considered to be one of the most brilliant minds of the 20th century, was often challenged by journalists to define how he dealt with religion.

His reply?

"All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree."

"Every time there's a scientific discovery, it can also speak to



File photo

Gerd Ludemann (left) fields questions during his presentation Tuesday in the Business and Aerospace Building. Ludemann's topic, titled "The Hoax of the Resurrection," is part of a series of speakers sponsored by the Campus Freethought Alliance. Freethought Alliance member Amanda Cotton (right) discusses topics after the presentation with fellow students. Freethought Alliance President Mathew Pauley said his group strives to act as a watchdog for students' general civil liberties.



Photo by Erin Barger | Contributor

the grandeur of a deity," Pauley said. "In one respect, science keeps making God bigger."

One of the reasons CFA is hoping to educate the student body about different ways to interpret religion is to decrease

prejudice of other forms of spirituality.

"We will often voice an opinion that goes unheard," Pauley said.

Pleased by the success of the event, Pauley is already looking

ahead to future plans for the group.

CFA's next event is a lecture by Massimo Pigliucci, an assistant professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

"We have to one-up this event and the best way to do that is try to make Pigliucci's lecture a debate," Pauley said.

"It really should not be one-sided," he said.

"It's less effective that way." ♦

New sorority has different outlook

Group stresses ministry over social

By Stephanie Hughes
Staff Writer

The word "sorority" is going to take on a new meaning this semester.

For the first time in MTSU history, a Christian sorority is in the making. Ailisha Vaughn, president and co-founder of Alpha Theta Omega, is excited about the idea.

When Vaughn, a junior mass communication major, transferred to MTSU last fall from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., she had no idea what she was about to be a part of.

"I never thought that in the future I would be a part of a Christian sorority," she said. "It had to be a work of the Lord."

The idea of a Christian sorority formulated within Ailisha sometime last year when she was thinking about what she

could do for Christian women.

Vaughn was hoping to develop an organization for Christian women to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ.

From that thought, and with the help of a few friends, Alpha Theta Omega was born.

Alpha Theta Omega stands for, "In the beginning, God, to the end."

"This means that God is the first, the middle, and the last," Vaughn said.

In other words, God is going to be a part of everything they do as a ministry and an organization.

However, according to Shalynda Parker, a senior nursing major and vice president of Alpha Theta Omega, being a ministry is more important.

"I want to be able to help others and minister to people," she said. "We aren't just a sorority or an organization; we are a

ministry."

Vaughn definitely agrees.

"It does us no good to have an organization if we are not growing spiritually," she says.

Part of a ministry is to grow spiritually. Vaughn has a few personal goals that will help the growing process along.

"By the end of the year, I want every woman involved in Alpha Theta Omega to have a stronger prayer life, to know who she is in God, and to be growing in Christ," she said.

The group has goals for this semester as well. The sorority plans to work with area churches and reach out to the community.

"We want to get involved in our community, especially if God has given us this blessing," Vaughn said.

Alpha Theta Omega plans to start mentoring programs for young girls at area churches.

They want to make the sorority known to the high school senior girls, especially if they are interested in attending MTSU.

The group also wants to unite with other fraternities and sororities at MTSU.

"MTSU has given us unbelievable support. Other fraternities and sororities have been supportive also," Vaughn said.

Alpha Theta Omega wants to return the favor.

"We definitely plan to work with other organizations on campus, including sororities and fraternities. We want to show our support to all organizations," Parker said.

Alpha Theta Omega plans to do community service and co-sponsor events with other sororities.

On a deeper level, Vaughn and Parker want to minister to their own girls as well.

"I just want to be dedicated to the organization, give it my all, and see it grow," Parker said.

According to Parker, they

plan to get into the Bible, fellowship, pray and fast together, as a group.

"We want to keep the focus on God and the vision He has given us."

"We don't want to stray away from our purpose," she said.

Their purpose, and what they are essentially about, is summed up in their mission statement:

Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority Inc. shall be "a sorority of distinct women who are not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:6). It is a ministry for women who share the desire to grow in excellence spiritually, mentally and socially. Through this ministry, we will spread the uncompromising message of Jesus Christ through discipleship, fellowship, and evangelism. We plan to incorporate the following endeavors within our sorority, MTSU, and our community."

"We want to be known for

something positive," Parker said.

"We have quite a few girls that have been calling about us and they all seem excited," Parker said.

Any woman that wants to be dedicated and work hard is welcome in Alpha Theta Omega.

"We want all women, all denominations, all ethnic backgrounds," Vaughn said.

The biggest requirement to be a member is to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Vaughn is confident that God is going to make MTSU this semester and in the future.

"I just know that God is going to do something awesome on this campus," she said.

When asked if there is a verse in the Bible that reflects the group's ministry, Vaughn pointed out the following Bible verse from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ♦

MTSU alumnus publishes book

First tale in series chronicles Midwest Buffalo Soldier

By Alan Slone
Features Editor

Tennessee's newest author is coming back to Murfreesboro.

While it may not be for the football games, author and MTSU alumnus Michael Kellum will return to Murfreesboro to sign his new book, *Buffalo Man*, at Hastings Sept. 13.

"I'm excited," Kellum said. "I finally get to do some of the activities that I planned during the summer months. I'm equally happy to kick off the promotional campaign in my home town."

Buffalo Man, the first of a series of novels, came out after Kellum was writing a history book on the Buffalo Soldiers.

The Buffalo Soldiers were the first all African-American cavalry divisions, and earned

their name from the Comanche Native Americans in the late 1800s.

Kellum said his book, while starting out as a history text, began to sound a bit too dry. That's when the creativity took over.

"I started this book in the summer of 1996," Kellum said. "It took me two years, off and on."

Kellum started writing the fiction paragraph by paragraph, and came to a discovery one day.

"It was like, all of the sudden, I thought, 'I've got a story here,'" Kellum said.

Kellum, an '84 graduate of MTSU, was just a "normal Joe" on campus, working in the student union building as a freshman, and a campus security person in his senior year.

Not a member of any clubs

or fraternities, Kellum was more interested in the ROTC, which he graduated from.

"My main focus was to graduate into the Army from the ROTC," he said.

He then spent the next 12 1/2 years in the U. S. Army Infantry, commanding a company in Fort Knox, Ky.

The company at Ft. Knox was the 1/10th Cavalry, also known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

When asked about the difficulty of writing a book, Kellum said the first book is always the hardest.

The book is often very one dimensional, he said.

This, however, makes the following books more interesting to write due to the depth of the characters that can be covered.

Even though the book was just published a few weeks ago, Kellum has already gotten a jump on the rest of the series.

"I've written the second and third books," he said.

The next book will go to the

publisher next March, according to Kellum.

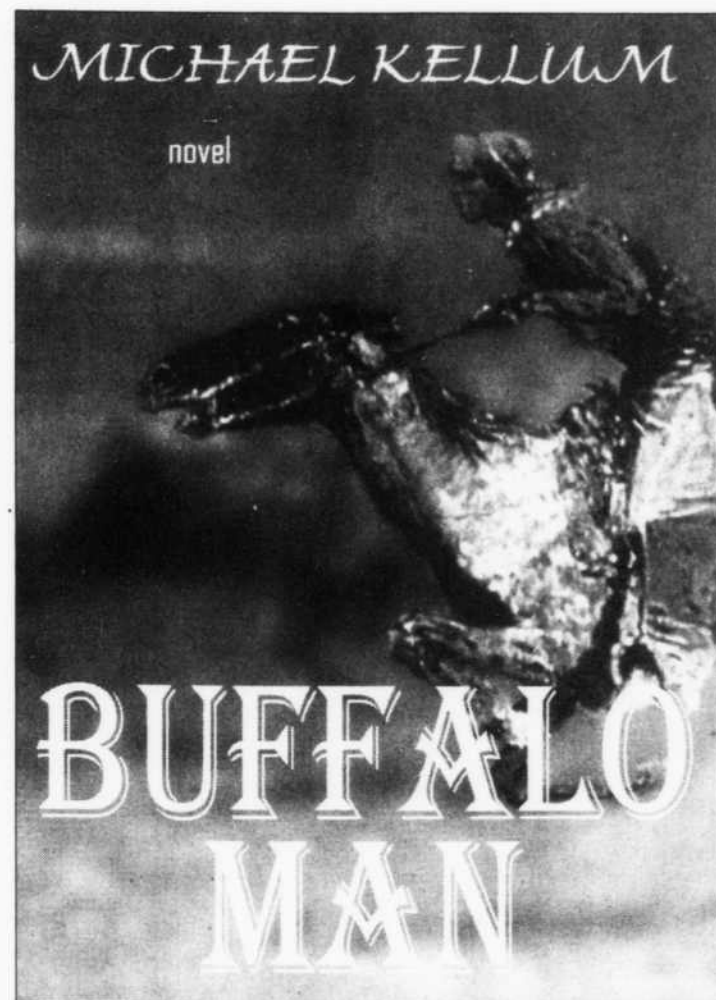
The book has gotten a nationwide release, selling at most major bookstores, such as Borders, Hastings, Waldenbooks and Barnes and Noble, and is available at Amazon.com.

Kellum will be signing books at many places across Middle Tennessee and Kentucky, including Winchester, Tullahoma, Nashville and twice in Murfreesboro.

Kellum will also be heard on WMOT later this month, he said.

He also plans to donate a book into the Nashville public library, adding his work to his hometown's collection.

When asked what advice he could give to people trying to write a book, Kellum answered, "Be persistent. It's a cold world out there; out of 50 to 60 letters, only two came back. It's very competitive." ♦



Michael Kellum's book, *Buffalo Man*, tells the adventures of a late 1800s Buffalo Soldier in the Midwest.

Got an interesting life?

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features department!

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100 SALES

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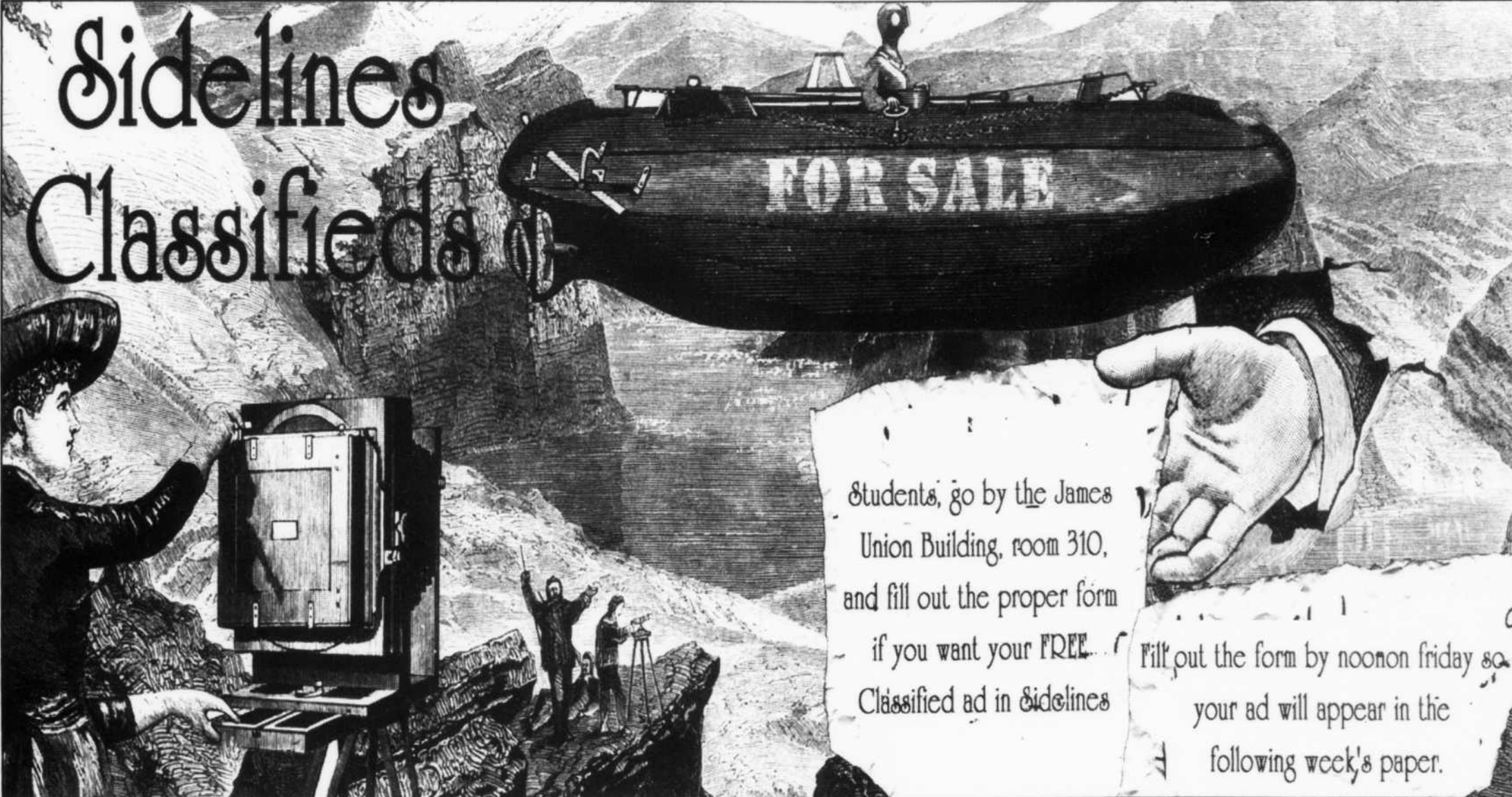
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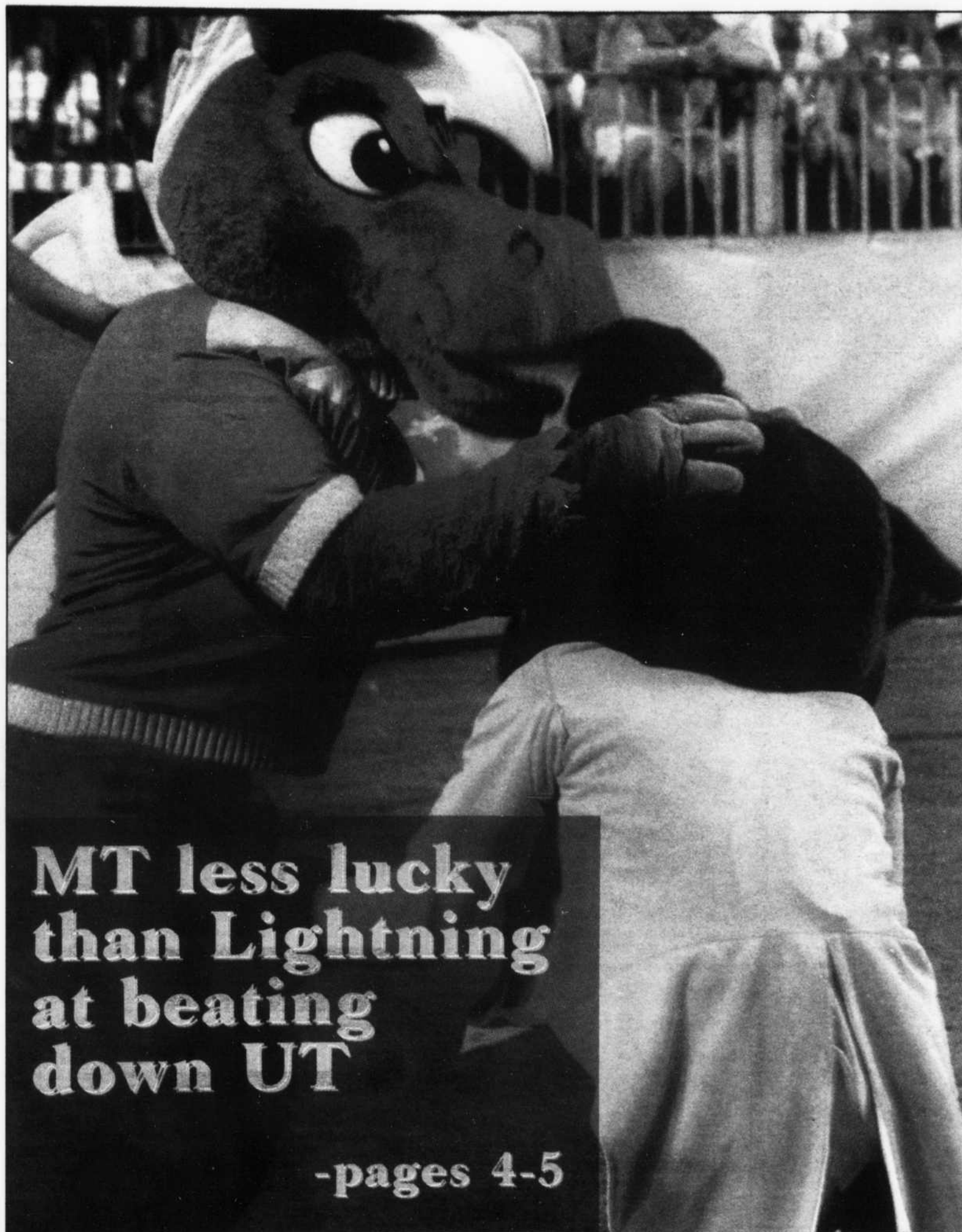
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**MT less lucky
than Lightning
at beating
down UT**

-pages 4-5

Presidential scholar picks MT for football

By Justin Ward
Staff Reporter

J.P. Shelly, a walk-on to the MT football team, has a solid background in football, and more specifically, in playing quarterback.

Shelly started playing football when he was seven years old for the Una Bears, a local junior pro team in Nashville.

He stayed in the junior pro league till he was 12. During this time, he went from playing tight end and defense to playing quarterback after the first year.

"I was never a very good player," Shelly said. "I was just surrounded by very good players. We won the city championship a couple of times in junior pro ball."

After junior pro, Shelly joined the middle school football team at Ezell Harding Christian School, and the team went 6-2, which is the best record the team had in its recent history.

He continued to play quarter-

back and also played strong safety for the middle school team.

Shelly joined the high school team his freshman year, but was declared ineligible because he repeated the seventh grade.

"My parents, along with my input, held me back," Shelly said, "I was young and rather immature."

Shelly continued to play quarterback in high school and got some playing time his sophomore year and started one game.

His junior year was when he started taking over as quarterback. That year, he won All-Region honors and All-State honorable mention.

Shelly's senior year was his year to shine. Under his leadership, the Ezell Harding football team won the state championship title for the first time in the school's history. The team beat Cloudland High School 63-26 in the championship game.

Shelly's honors that year include All-Region, region offensive MVP, All-Midstate, All-State in all classifications and he was a Mr. Football finalist.

He was also chosen to play in the East-West Shrine bowl game.

The team went 15-0 his senior year and the three-year total was 29-8. Shelly went 192 for 316 with 3738 yards and 48 passing touchdowns. He had a total of 52 touchdowns and 3,894 yards of total offense.

"It was an incredible feeling," Shelly said. "We had finished second in basketball the year before, so I knew what it felt like to get so close and fall short. The football championship really didn't sink in for two or three days after it was over. To know what our team accomplished is truly amazing."

Shelly considered quite a few colleges before deciding on MT. He looked at Harding University, Arkansas, Sewanee, Rhodes College, Hawaii, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Yale and Dartmouth.

He was offered academic scholarships to Harding University and Sewanee. MT also offered him a presidential scholarship for academics.

"It's a local school which I am very familiar with," Shelly said. "The reputation of this school for athletics and academics was also something that lured me here. I wanted to play Division I-A foot-

ball and here was my perfect opportunity. I also wanted to play on a high caliber team. Coach [Andy] McCollum and his staff have this program soaring right now, and I just wanted to be a piece of that."

Right now Shelly is behind four other quarterbacks on the MT football team and he is working hard to move up that list. He is the scout team quarterback and helps the defense get ready for their week's opponents.

Shelly is an accounting major right now and wants to get a business degree. He also likes to play the guitar, the Playstation and writes a little poetry on the side.

"I was talking to Colby Smith, a freshman punter here, the other day and we decided that we need to leave here with eight rings," Shelly said.

"Four of them would be Sun Belt Championship rings and the other four would be bowl rings. If we can accomplish that, then all my personal ambitions for the team would be satisfied."

"All I want to do is be the absolute best that I can be." ♦



Shelly

Woods chooses 'Little Middle' over big schools

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

As a senior in high school, Michael Woods had choices. He could play in the Southeastern Conference for Auburn. He could play in the American Coast Conference for Clemson. He could play in ... the Sun Belt Conference?



Woods

According to Woods, the Middle Tennessee coaching staff made choosing an SBC school an easy decision.

"When I came on my recruiting visit, a lot of the coaches showed me that they really needed me," Woods said. "That's what got me up here."

That bit of recruiting has paid dividends for MT as the junior from Valdosta, Ga., has been a

force on defense and special teams for the past two seasons.

As a defensive back, Woods played in all 11 games of his freshman campaign, highlighted by a blocked punt returned for a touchdown against Louisiana Tech University.

Last season, while splitting time between free safety and outside linebacker, Woods led the team in tackles (80), while collecting two interceptions and a fumble recovery, earning him second team All-Conference honors.

This year Woods will split time again between free safety and outside linebacker.

"I'm just going to play wherever the team needs me," Woods said. "I just try to go out and play hard for the team and get some victories."

While he's only a part-time linebacker, that still hasn't kept

See Woods, 7

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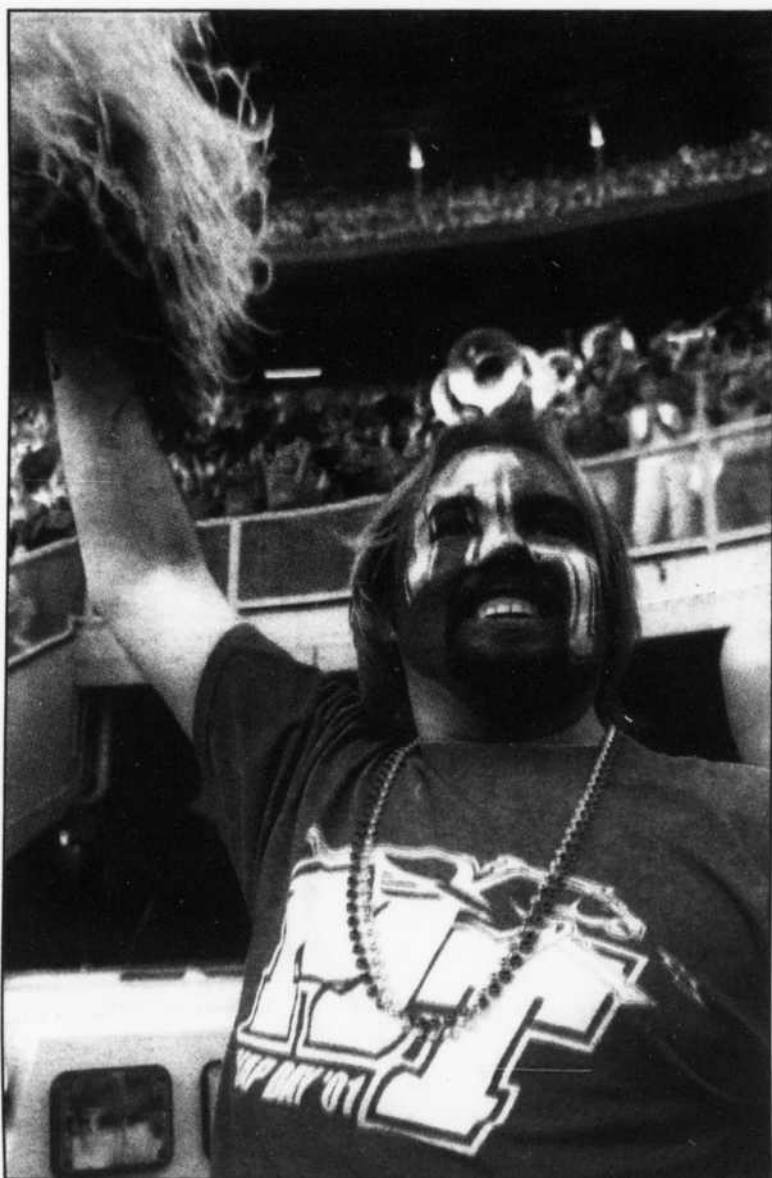


Photo by Steve Cross
Staff Photographer

Sophomore Andrew Moss (left) shows his MT pride at the University of Tennessee game Saturday.

Photos by Kevin Jones
Staff Photographer

No. 27 Tyrone Calico (above) gets hammered from both sides by UT players. Calico caught a ball in the end zone during the game, but he was declared out. No. 3 Tony Sutton (right) takes down UT wide receiver Montrell Jones at the waist.

MT offense incapacitated by UT

By Kasimu L. Harris
Staff Writer

In the past two weeks, Middle Tennessee faced two of the most storied football teams in the Southeastern Conference with 14 national titles combined.

"We took two of the top teams in America to the fourth quarter with a chance to win," said Middle Tennessee head coach Andy McCollum. "Tennessee closed the door and finished the game. They had a tremendous game. They are a very good football team."

In front of 107,672 people, the Blue Raiders (0-2) faced the University of Tennessee Volunteers (2-0) for the first time ever. It was the largest crowd the Blue Raiders have ever played in front of, and the sixth largest crowd in UT history.

The Blue Raiders traveled to Knoxville for one reason.

"They didn't come here to play close," McCollum said. "They didn't come here thinking they couldn't win. They came here to win this football game."

UT won the coin toss and deferred. During the opening kick-off, UT was penalized five yards for encroachment and was forced to re-kick. MT's first drive began at its 20-yard line with several running plays to Dwone Hicks for short gains.

UT's defense quickly committed two more penalties during MT's drive, including a 15 yard personal foul penalty that gave MT a first down.

"We finally got our touches this game, and we tried to go out there and run it," Hicks said. "They just completely shut us down. There was nowhere to go so all we got to do is learn and get better, because if we can better from this film, we can

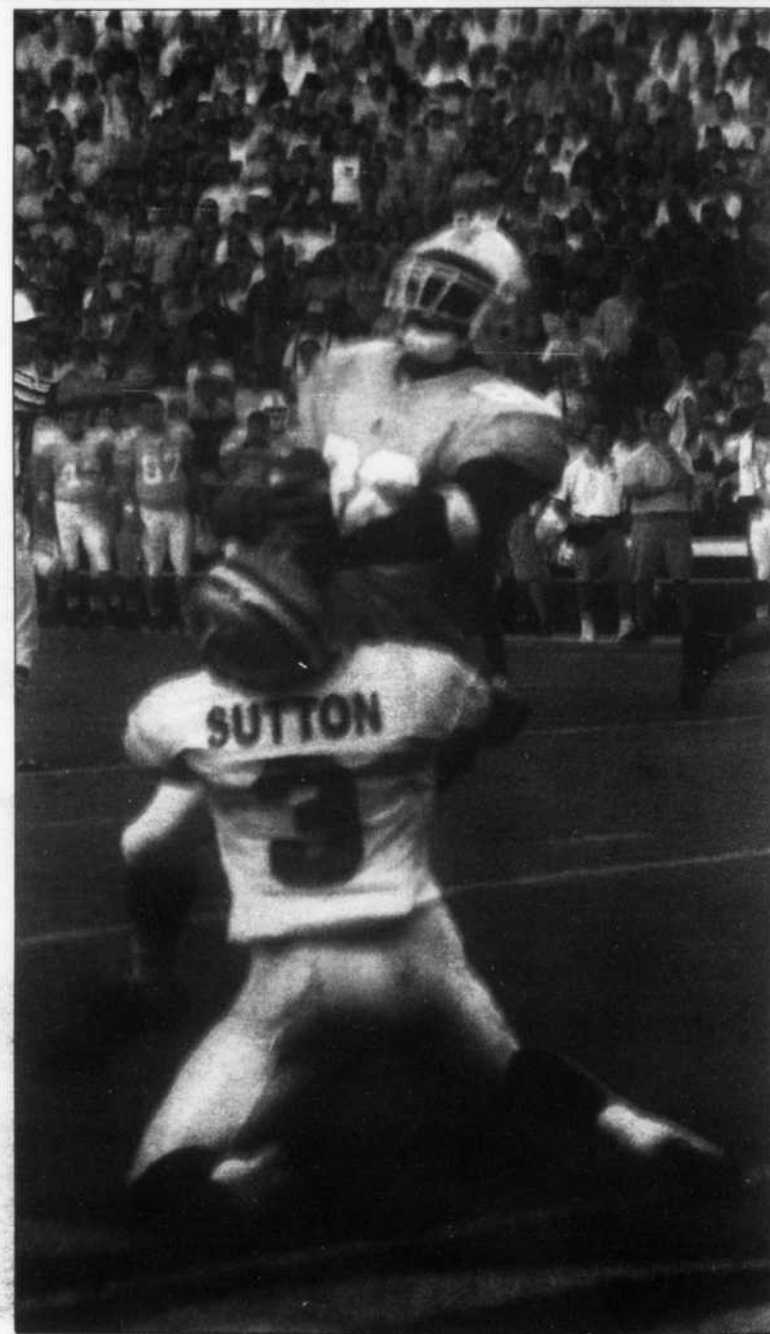
do good coming on for the rest of the season."

MT was not able to capitalize on the mistakes and was forced to punt. The punt by Robert Billings was the first of three MT punts in the first quarter.

UT's first drive quickly began on their 31-yard line with a huge gain. UT quarterback Casey Clausen completed a 40-yard pass to tight end Jason Witten. Two plays later, Cedric Houston rushed for a 15-yard touchdown to put UT on the scoreboard first.

The MT defense had three take-aways, two fumbles and one interception. They also didn't allow a 100-yard rusher or a receiver. The first turnover came on UT's second drive of the game. The Volunteers were threatening to score deep in MT territory.

See Football, 7



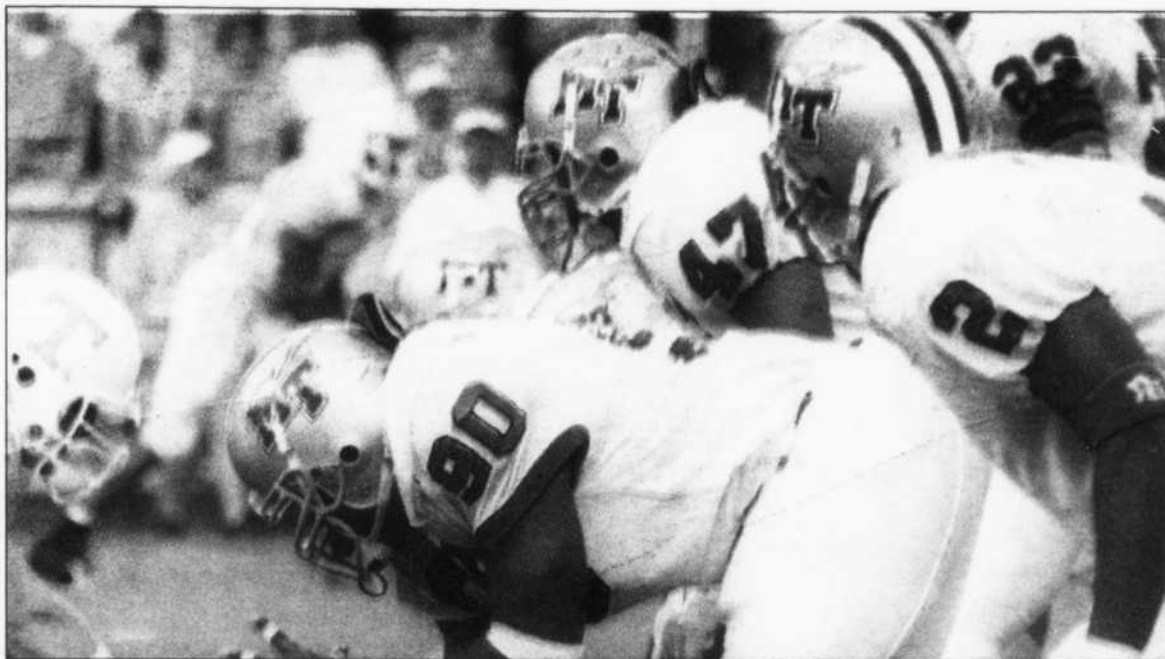


Photo by Kevin Jones
Staff Photographer

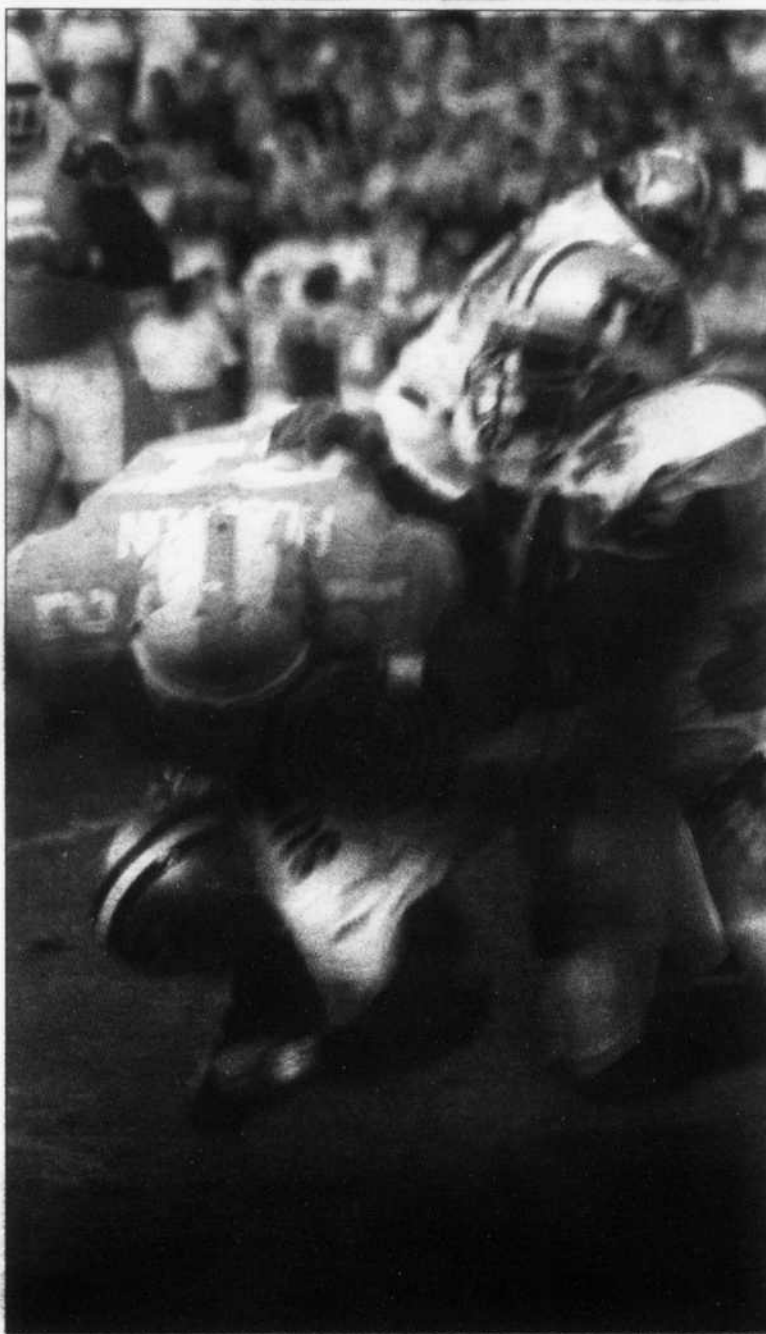
Randy Arnold, No. 54 (left), and Tony Sutton, No. 3, work together to take down the University of Tennessee's Cedric Houston Saturday.

Photo by Amy Jones
Chief Photographer

The MT defensive line (above) gets ready at the line of scrimmage to take on the UT offense.

Photo by Kevin Jones
Staff Photographer

Lightning (right) tries to get a rise out of the crowd.



Defense holds strong in Knoxville

By Brandon Morrison
Assistant Sports Editor

Saturday's game against the University of Tennessee showcased the best in Middle Tennessee's defense.

MT's defensive line was the backbone for the defense's determination. The defensive line kept Tennessee's total rushing yards down to 137 on 31 attempts. Also, no individual receiver or rusher got more than 100 yards total during the game.

After the game, head coach Andy McCollum expressed his feelings about his team's performance over the past two weeks.

"For two weeks in a row, we've taken two of the top teams in America to the fourth quarter with a chance to win," McCollum said. "But we just got beat by the fourth ranked team in America."

"We had some people grow up

today," McCollum said. "We grew up defensively today."

There were many key players in MT's defensive abilities Saturday.

Full safety Will Martin led the team with six solo tackles and five assists. Close behind him was linebacker Randy Arnold with 10 credited tackles.

Linebacker Brandon Lynch seemed to be all over the field with two solo tackles and three assists. Lynch also recovered one of two fumbles by Tennessee in the second quarter. UT quarterback Casey Clausen won't forget Lynch anytime soon. Lynch nailed Clausen for a 10-yard sack that forced UT to set up a field goal attempt.

Defensive tackle Jerry Vanderpull had an impressive game with three tackles.

The highlight of MT's defensive achievement was the field goal block in the third quarter. After an 11-play drive, MT stopped

Tennessee's offense cold at Tennessee's 42-yard line. Kicker Phillip Newman of Tennessee came in to kick the field goal. Newman kicked it off, but the defensive line rose up to block it. As senior linebacker Kareem Bland got his hands up to block the field goal. It was the first field goal block against UT since they played Notre Dame in 1999.

The performance level of the defense is a far cry from MT's defense three years ago when MT was ranked 114th in the nation. However, McCollum isn't satisfied.

"I've got a team in there (the locker room) that's hurting," McCollum said. "They didn't come here to play close. They came in here thinking they were going to win."

MT's next game is Sept. 21 against the University of Kentucky in Lexington at 12:30 p.m. ♦

Proposed changes may affect MT's athletic teams

By **Kasimu L. Harris**
Staff Writer

The NCAA Football Study Oversight committee met in Indianapolis, Ind., concluding its two year study, making several recommendations that will affect the future of college football.

The recommendations include an out-of-season football conditioning model, and a plan intended to increase the number of ethnic minorities in the football coaching ranks.

At this final in-person meeting, the FSOC approached closing stages on its report that will be presented to the Board of Directors this fall. The report contains a synopsis of actions that were initiated to strengthen the sport, including legislation that increases Division I-A membership requirements and policies that provide for stronger postseason bowl certification.

"This group has determined that the game is in good shape and that the changes we've made have strengthened the sport, but that we need to continue to monitor and evaluate issues to ensure the long-

term viability of football," said FSOC Chair Charles Wethington, president emeritus at the University of Kentucky to NCAA.

According to the NCAA, a working group composed of medical professionals, strength coaches, athletic administrators, student-athletes and football coaches developed the model that is designed to minimize health and safety risk, reduce student-athlete time demands and provide adequate preparation time for the regular season.

The year is divided into three calendar periods according to the model including: Jan. 1 until the start of summer conditioning, summer conditioning and preseason practice.

Grant Teaff, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, considered the model "a positive and quick approach that would have a long-term effect on student-athlete welfare."

"The people that made this recommendation fundamental understand that if a guy trains more and prepares more like the old saying about, sweat more in peace, bleed less in battle," said Robb Rogers, head football strength coach at Middle Tennessee. "If you prepare more, your chance of injury drops greatly."

The first period would allow

eight weeks, which is considered student discretionary time, the strength and conditioning coaches are allowed to monitor the facilities used by the student athletes for health reasons only, however, they may not conduct the workouts.

Eight hours per week of mandatory conditioning would remain permissible beyond the eight weeks, and spring practice would remain in place.

The second period, summer conditioning, would begin nine weeks prior to a university's first permissible preseason practice date. The student-athlete would have one of the nine weeks unrestricted. The remaining eight weeks student-athletes and prospects may participate in optional, but recommended weight training and conditioning activities administered by the strength and conditioning coach for a maximum of eight hours per week.

Also recommended in the proposal is the requirement that summer conditioning participants will have mandatory medical examinations. Furthermore, all strength and conditioning coaches involved in weight-training and conditioning

activities are required to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.

"That person would be vested with the unchallengeable authority to cancel or modify workouts for health and safety reasons," Teaff said.

Finally, the beginning of the preseason practice will begin gradually, using the 29 practice opportunity formula. Again the student-athletes will undergo medical examinations. The first five days will have gradual practices beginning with the students only practicing once a day.

For the first two days, helmets will be the only protective equipment allowed. The next two days shoulder pads will be added. On the fifth day, full pads are allowed and institutions are not allowed to conduct two-a-days in succession.

During two-a-day practice sessions, student-athletes will have at least three hours of recovery time, during which time meetings or other athletic activities, except medical treatment and meals, are prohibited.

"This model gives five days the medical experts feel are very important for acclimatization and gets rid of the consecutive two-a-days," Teaff stated. "It creates an environment where safety is the first priority and one in which the

student-athlete has someone looking out for his medical well-being at all times."

The NCAA Football Issues Committee recently endorsed the proposal and is asking the Championships/Competition Cabinet to recommend the proposal as emergency legislation for the Board of Directors to consider in November.

If the Board approves the emergency measure the model will be effective beginning January 2003.

Rogers said the NCAA is moving toward mainstreaming, which began several years ago with the disbanding of athletic dorms as well as training tables of designated cafeterias for athletes that served longer portions, better food and had longer hours.

"On the other side of the coin, football coaches are supposed to know where their kids are all the time and they are supposed to never get in trouble," Rogers said. "And if they do get in trouble, the football coach is supposed to be responsible for them, but yet you can't keep them all in one place and do bed checks on them."

However, many people are concerned with the young men whom recently passed away at football practice.

See NCAA, 8



Donnelly



Boyd

Brandon Lynch: fast on the field, quiet off

By **Erich Heinlein**
Staff Writer

Blue Raider right pony Brandon Lynch is regarded as a quiet and polite person, but his performance on the field speaks volumes.

"Brandon is very high motored on the field, and a lot of times we have to slow him down and, as a coach, I have to love that," said Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum.

Right pony is merely a fancy term for outside linebacker.

"The right pony roams the field, rushes the quarterback but also drops back and picks off passes,"

McCollum said.

"Just about every team in the country has that position now," McCollum said.

"South Carolina uses it, Mississippi State uses it, and even UT has their own version of that position," he said.

Instead of just dropping back to cover a receiver or play free safety, a pony roams the field and does a little bit of both.

The Watertown, N.Y., native is a young man who has been inspired most by his parents and teachers.

At the beginning of his high school career, Lynch had to move to Augusta, Ga., from Watertown due to extenuating circumstances.

"I love it," Lynch said about playing right pony. "I am used a lot on third downs, I play as a nickel back, blitz quarterback along with being able to pick off a few passes,

so I am able to participate in all facets of the game."

The play that temporarily made Lynch famous last year was during the MT-University of Louisiana-Lafayette game, when he picked up a fumble and returned it for a touchdown.

In high school, Lynch also enjoyed success, especially during his senior year when he contributed 80 tackles, including 17 against Northside High School, which was ranked No. 11 in the country at the time.

Lynch's second game against a big time school was the opening game against the University of Alabama.

Despite the effort, Lynch was a little bit disappointed.

"Of course, we are never happy with a loss, but despite being down 22 points, I am proud to say that we

never quit and that we fought for four quarters," Lynch said.

In the two games against UT and Alabama Lynch has had a combined 13 tackles.

When choosing schools, the Blue Raiders had some competition among them for Lynch.

The competing schools were Atlantic Coast Conference foes Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Albany State.

"Coach Robbins, who recruited me, made me feel right at home," he said.

"They told me that I was going to be part of something really exciting and they [the coaching staff] wanted what's best for their players, so that was a really big draw," Lynch said.

"Brandon is a good person and we have gotten really close as roommates the past three years," said

Blue Raider left pony Michael Woods.

Woods sees many good qualities in Lynch.

"Whenever I need somebody to come talk to or whatever, he is always there as a mutual friend," Woods said.

Lynch, most interestingly, is a liberal arts major.

"Although I actually think I am about to change it to English," Lynch said in his usual respectful and fairly soft voice.

Lynch said he was inspired by his sixth grade English teacher, Mrs. Rinner, who drummed the fundamentals of English into his head.

The Blue Raiders' next game will be on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the University of Kentucky. ♦



Donnelly



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Erin Hillstrom goes down low for a dig. Hillstrom led the front line in kills during the University of Tennessee match.

MT volleyball continues streak

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

It was a busy but successful week for the Middle Tennessee volleyball team as they defeated the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Wednesday night at home, then followed that with a weekend win at the Cal's Steakhouse Memphis Tournament.

The Lady Raiders took three straight games (30-22, 30-16, 30-22) from the UTC Lady Mocs who left Murfreesboro still looking for their first win of the season.

Senior outside hitter Erin Hillstrom led the frontline for MT with 10 kills. Jennifer Hignite added a career high nine, as did junior Karisse Baker.

The career high was a bit of a surprise to the senior from Versailles, Ky.

"I didn't know I had that many

kills," Hignite said. "It starts with the setters, Kelly Cannon and Kelly Quinn."

Quinn and Cannon together have a combined total of 35 assists in a match in which 12 of MT's 15 roster players saw action. Three of the Lady Raiders' five freshmen saw action with middle blocker Kimberly Moeller, the designated libero, standing out in particular.

"She's one of our best defensive players back there," Hignite said. "She played really well."

In the first game the Lady Raiders found themselves down four before a UTC attack error led to MT's first point of the game and began an impressive rally leading to the 30-22 win.

In the next game it was MT getting on the board first as Hillstrom and Baker blocked Jody Steinberger's attack and sent the Lady Raiders on a 24-11 run, led by Hignite's five kills.

In the third game, the Lady Raiders closed out the match with a balanced effort as five players scored kills for the 30-22 game win.

Next the Lady Raiders traveled to Memphis, where the team began the tournament with a 3-1 win over Appalachian State University. Losing the first game 30-25, the Lady Raiders won the last three games 30-25, 30-23, 30-24.

Sophomore Keke Deckard had her second double-double of the season with 12 kills and 13 digs.

The Lady Raiders then went to take on host of the tournament, the University of Memphis. MT took the first game 30-20, but the outcome of the match began to look dismal for the Lady Raiders as the Lady Tigers won the next two games 30-24, 30-18.

Memphis, only one game away from a win, fell to MT 17-39, 9-15,

See Volleyball, 8

Football: Calico gets only touchdown called back

Continued from 4

Muhammad Rashada intercepted Clausen's long pass to Leonard Scott in the end zone. Clausen was 24-of-29 for 263 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

"As far as defense goes, we knew what they were going to do," Rashada said. "We watched enough film and we came out and played. It wasn't good enough as a whole. As a team, we played pretty good, but we can't be satisfied with two losses. Nobody can be happy about losing. If you can be happy about losing, then something's wrong."

After the MT punt, UT made the score 14-0 with a 10-yard touchdown catch from Clausen to Witten, who had three catches for 55 yards.

On UT's next drive, MT defensive back Tony Sutton forced a fumble that was recovered by Brandon Lynch on the MT 42-yard line.

Late in the second quarter trailing 17-0, MT's offense began to move the ball.

With a mix of plays, MT drove the ball to the UT 2-yard line. On the next play, Hines mishandled the snap and fumbled the ball. UT recovered the ball on the 4-yard line.

"That was my fault, that's all I

can say about it," Hines said. "There are no do-overs in football, and that is the great thing about it. If we execute right there, then it's probably a different ball game."

"We came together as a team," Hines said. "The defense played a great game, and you can't ask them for much more. The offense sputtered a little bit here and there. We just didn't capitalize when we needed to, and it's a credit to the defense. We learned a lot tonight as a team."

Several plays after the MT fumble, Clausen scrambled in to the MT secondary, alone, yet fumbled the football. Louis Kemp recovered at the UT 46-yard line.

With just under a minute to go before halftime, Hines' long pass to Tyrone Calico was ruled incomplete.

"It would have been a huge momentum change," Calico said. "I felt like I was in, but the ref called me out. I can't go against his call, so I was out."

Hines was 13-of-23 for 109 yards and led the team in rushing for the second time with 19 attempts for 63-yards. Hicks had 17 attempts for 33-yards rushing.

"Dwone Hicks is a Heisman Trophy candidate so everyone is gunning for him as it is," Hines said. "Every game we go into the whole thing is stop Dwone Hicks

and let the inexperienced quarterback, so to speak, beat them. He'll come to light."

MT's offense moved the ball into the red zone but was not able to score before the end of the half.

In the third quarter, UT attempted a field goal that was blocked by Karrem Bland. It was the first blocked kick against UT since Nov. 6, 1999, against Notre Dame.

Early in the fourth quarter MT put points on the scoreboard with a 45-yard field goal by Brian Kelly.

UT's last points came on defense play late in the game on a blocked punt that resulted in a safety, making the score UT 19, MT 3.

"The blocked punt was inexcusable. We've never had one blocked at Middle Tennessee," McCollum said.

UT's last touchdown occurred when Hines was sacked in the end zone, plus the extra point conversion, brought the final score 27-3.

"I have to give congratulations to Middle Tennessee," Fulmer said. "I hope they go the rest of the way and do well. They are a hard-fighting football team."

"We got a off week to get Middle Tennessee better," McCollum said.

MT's next game is against the University of Kentucky Wildcats. ♦

Woods: Attitude valuable

Continued from 4

Woods from garnering national attention. Last week he was named to the Butkus Award watch list. The Butkus Award is presented annually to the best linebacker in college football.

Woods' ferociousness on the field can be attributed to two things: heart and heredity. His attitude and work ethic have earned him plenty of praise from the coaching staff.

"[Michael Woods] is just a natural on the football field and has a great desire to be the best," said head coach Andy McCollum. "He's a fun guy to coach."

In regards to heredity,

Woods' cousin is another hard hitter playing defense in Middle Tennessee: Titans linebacker Randall Godfrey.

With trips to four SEC schools this year, will there be any added pressure on the Blue Raiders this season?

"Coming into the season you try to win the big games as well as the Sun Belt teams so you can make a name for yourself," Woods said. "We know we've got four big SEC games on the schedule but if we play hard and concentrate we can win."

After all, why should there be extra pressure for Woods playing against teams from the SEC?

He could have played there if he wanted. ♦

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Volleyball: Lady Raiders take tournament win

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and MT cemented the win.

The last match of the tournament for the Lady Raiders was against Birmingham-Southern College Saturday.

The first game of the match was close, as MT barely pulled out a 31-29 win.

BCS refused to be left behind and one the next match 32-30.

Tied up, MT upheld its 3-0 tournament record and five-game winning streak, ending the tourney with game score of 30-27, 32-30.

Hillstrom was named to the tournament All-Team with 21 kills, 23 digs and four service aces. The tournament MVP, MT senior Katie Thiesen, finished the tournament with 13 kills.

The Lady Raiders' next match is against Mississippi State University at 6 p.m. tomorrow in the Alumni Memorial Gym.

After that, they travel to Auburn, Ala., to take on Auburn University. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

KeKe Deckard led Middle Tennessee in kills this past weekend.

Hicks goes down at UT

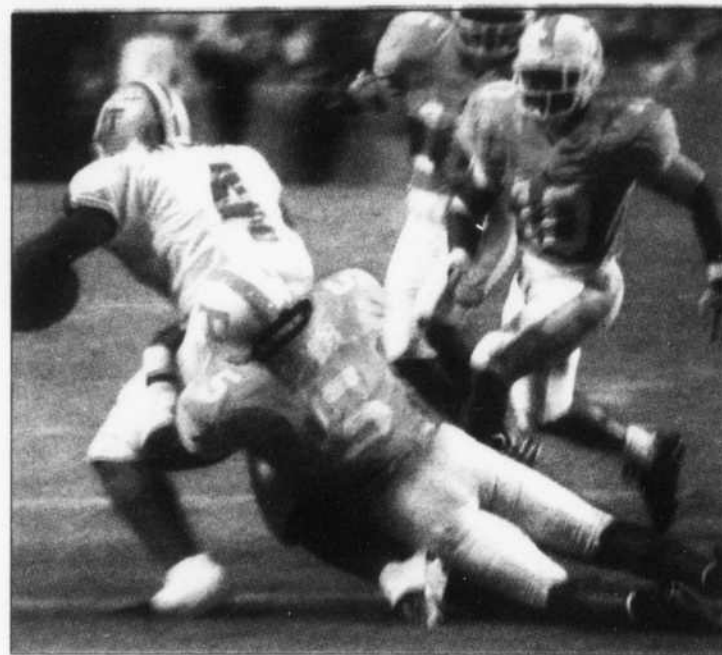


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Dwone Hicks had a disappointing game at Knoxville Saturday, rushing for only 33 yards at Neyland Stadium.

NCAA: Diversity in college football coaching ranks issue for NCAA committee

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The young man at Florida, I talked to Robb Glass [a trainer at Florida]," Rogers said. "They did a workout that they had done before — a workout that they would do again. They were walking off of the field and this young man collapses. [He] immediately has trainers on him. I don't know exactly what happened to him. I don't think they still know to this day."

"Was it the workout, was it the player, was it something the player ingested, and was it the alignment of the moon," Rogers said. "Who knows? I don't think anyone really knows at this point."

Rogers also discussed senior safety Rashidi Wheeler, who died at the age of 22 while doing conditioning drills at Northwestern University last year.

"From what I understood, that was not a great conditioning test," Rogers said.

"It was not something that most strength and conditioning coaches would do, because it was too strenuous."

Rogers added that, in his opinion, the FSOC feels as though the coaches are probably pushing too hard, and that athletes should be

pushed less and have more time off. Also, in his opinion, the most off-the-field problems occur from January until May because the players have more free time.

Rogers also said compliance issues such as these make it harder for school like MT to get better and improve. Because the bigger schools have postseason play until January, they continue to practice for an extra month, and take the first two weeks of the new year off already.

During the first two weeks of school, MT is not allowed to conduct any mandatory workouts, then spring break is considered the third week of inactivity.

Followed by spring football practice for four weeks, usually following spring football, light workouts are held in preparation for pro-scout timings.

Under the proposal, those workouts will be discontinued and the student-athletes are required to work out again until summer conditioning begins, five weeks away.

"Looking at our schedule, and talking to our compliance people, that gives us eight weeks and make us eight weeks in compliance with this proposal," Rogers said.

Ellie Kunkel, director of compli-

ance at MTSU, monitors practices through use of practice logs that the coaches turn in, verified by student-athletes who will sign off on them periodically.

"We have to rely a lot on the coaches," Kunkel said. "The coaches know the rules and the coaches' number one priority is to take care of the student-athletes."

"As far as monitoring it has never been my philosophy to go out and police what our coaches do, and what our student-athletes do," Kunkel added. "We put our trust in our coaches because, in the past, reputation wise they have accountable for what they do, and they adhere to the rules."

Kunkel said he feels there are a number of reasons for health-related risk.

"I don't think it lies just in how many times you practice per day, but in your preparation before you come to preseason camp," he said.

"They're now allowing less preparation and expecting them (student-athletes) to be better acclimated and better conditioned when they come in," Kunkel said. "I think it works against itself."

"I'm sure that this new model has a place in which to protect student-athletes, but I also feel that on

the outset here, initially that there are a lot of other things that are being missed."

The Minority Opportunity and Interest Committee has been charged with investigating the lack of ethnic diversity among the Division I-A football coaching ranks and providing recommendations for the FSOC's consideration.

The research stated that the number of black head football coaches has decreased from 4.8 percent in 1995-96 to 2.1 percent in 2001-02. However, the percentage of black assistant coaches has increased slightly from 18 percent to 22.1 percent during the same time span.

"The diversity of football student-athletes is not reflected in the people who oversee them," said Eugene Marshall, athletic director at Ramapo College and chair of the MOIC.

The report presented outlined four recommendations:

- Increase the pool of ethnic minority candidates by partnering with the American Football Coaches and Black Coaches Association to develop programs to recruit ethnic minorities.

- Increase exposure opportunities for ethnic minority coaches to

work at Division I-A football camps.

- Provide professional development opportunities for ethnic minority coaches by developing workshops to help build job preparations skills for ethnic minority coaches.

- Strengthen the hiring process and encourage institutions to include steps that would ensure a diverse pool of candidates.

"When we go after quality head coaches by and in large we try to get recommendations and stay in with coaches with winning records," said Boots Donnelly, athletic director at MT.

"More and more universities are going after quality coaches and we will see an increase in the hiring of minority coaches," Donnelly said.

He added that everyone has a different criteria for every school and situation, and that many times institutions often hire from within their own ranks and people who had prior affiliation with the institution.

The FSOC acknowledged that the lack of diversity in football coaching is severe and endorsed the strategy as well as requesting that it be further reviewed by the NCAA membership. ♦