

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

47 68  
Sunny



## Freshman makes early impact

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## Music stores offer hard-to-find selections

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ONLINE

Has the condemnation of  
Ezell and Abernathy  
apartments shaken your  
confidence in MTSU housing?

## INSIDE: Officials should look in mirror for waste

In Opinions, page 5

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 76 No. 80

www.mtsusidelines.com

### Campus Briefs

#### Game day tribute planned

Blue Raider football fans will be able to thank Rutherford County's emergency workers at the Oct. 6 game against the University of Idaho.

"Because we live such safe and sound lives, these emergency workers are all too often taken for granted," said interim Athletic Director Boots Donnelly.

Emergency personnel are invited onto the field at 5:40 p.m. on game day so fans may show their gratitude. The day is also "Family Day" at MTSU.

If there are any emergency agencies or groups in Rutherford County that have not yet been invited, call 898-5632 or 898-5563.

#### Family establishes scholarship

Addie and Telford Wright, parents of the late MTSU student Elizabeth Wright, have donated \$7,000 to establish the Elizabeth Wright Scholarship in her honor.

Elizabeth Wright was born with a congenital heart-lung defect and nearly died at the age of 11. She attended Soddy-Daisy High School and, after graduating from Judson Baptist Girls College, came to MTSU as a psychology student. She died in 1994 at age 24, just nine days before graduation.

For the full story, go to [www.mtsu.edu/~proffice](http://www.mtsu.edu/~proffice).

#### Oracle8 course available

The Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service is offering Fundamentals of Oracle8. The course is designed to familiarize students with the basics of Oracle as well as the new features of Oracle8.

Topics will include programming with collection types, subprograms, JOIN concepts, database design and modeling concepts.

The course will take place Tuesdays, Oct. 2-Dec. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. and will meet in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room 302. The cost is \$325, and the course number is CC01F-1531.

For more information or to register for the course, call the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service at 898-2462.

#### Professor to discuss chemicals

Conrad Bergo of East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania will be on campus today and tomorrow discussing "Chemicals in the Marketplace in Thailand."

The discussion will cover topics in food engineering and how compounds in foods are being analyzed for medicinal purposes.

The discussion is one of the chemistry department's weekly seminars. Bergo will also make a presentation to Sigma Xi, a professional scientific organization. Both will take place in Davis Science Building, Room 100.

The presentation that is open to students and faculty will take place Thursday.

For information on the public seminar, call Martin Stewart, associate chemistry professor, at 898-2073. For information on Bergo's Sigma Xi appearance, call John DiVincenzo at 904-8251. ♦

## Aerospace releases student names to FBI

By Lindsey Turner  
News Editor

The aerospace department has released a list of more than 1,000 student names to the FBI.

The list, composed of students who took professional flying courses at MTSU since 1996, consisted of only "directory information," said Mary Morgan, director of communications for the Tennessee Board

of Regents.

Only public information such as name and country of origin was included on the lists, she said.

Paul Craig, chair of MTSU's aerospace department, said he was positive the lists contained no grades, social security numbers or home addresses.

"It wasn't an unusual request," Craig said. "They could have gotten the same

information from the phone book." Craig said the FBI also wanted to know if any students had suddenly dropped out of class prior to Sept. 11.

He said all aerospace students had been accounted for.

"If we have a student just stop coming to class, it's automatically a red flag," he said. "To have someone disappear, we would know about it."

Morgan said other universi-

ties had received similar requests.

"Our feeling is that they asked every aviation program in the country for information," she said. Morgan said she isn't sure whether the records were seized for criminal investigation of the Sept. 11 attacks or for possible future investigations.

"My guess would be they're still trying to round up everybody associated with [the

attacks]," she said.

No suspects have been named.

She said the requests were made under various legal guidelines, but all information collected is considered "public access."

The FBI requested the information Sept. 13, and neither the university nor the Tennessee Board of Regents has received further inquiry. ♦

## WRECK THE HALLS PART II OF III

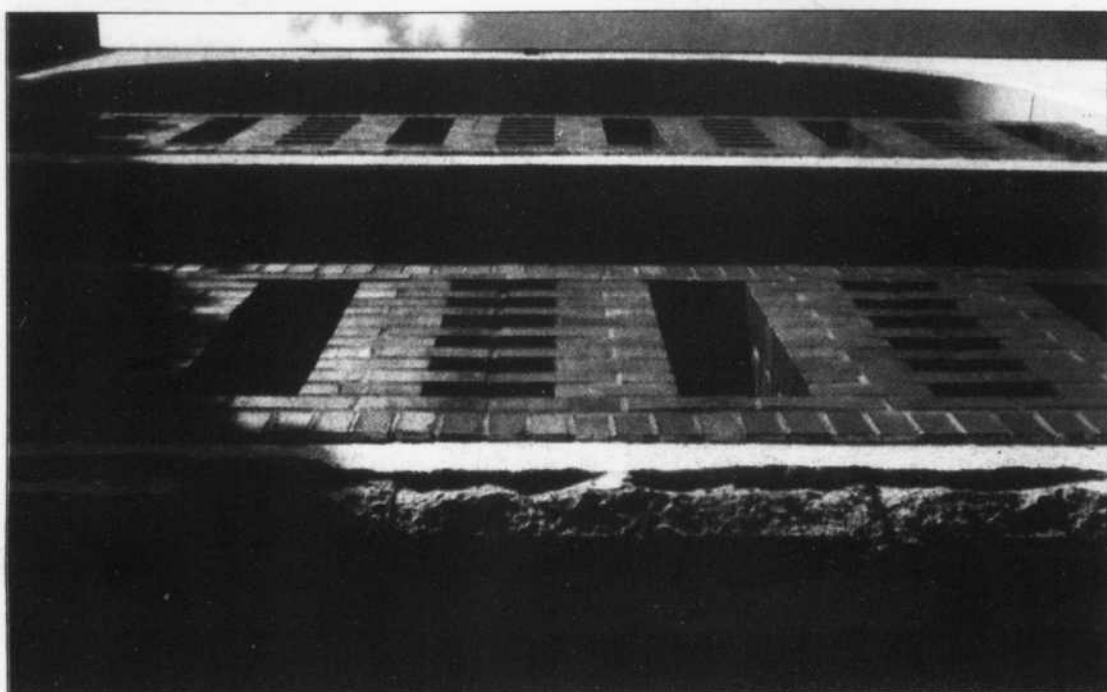


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

A damaged outdoor hallway of the Ezell/Abernathy complex is evidence of construction problems throughout the building. Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, denied *Sidelines'* request to take photos inside the abandoned buildings, citing a warning from architects that only necessary personnel should enter the facility.

MTSU administrators decided in 1972 to eliminate the ventilation system of the forming Ezell and Abernathy halls, which led to unusually high moisture in both halls. In 1988, concrete chunks began falling from the ceilings, endangering students below. Here's why.

By Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum  
Staff Writer

Charlie Pigg figured eliminating the ventilation system from the forming Ezell and Abernathy halls in 1972 would save the university \$26,000. Most sources agree that this decision coupled with an unrelated action would end up costing students more than \$1 million.

"Nobody knew at the time what the result would be," said Pigg, who was director of Campus Planning from 1965-1992. "We rationalized that because the front doors (of each apartment) would let fresh air in it was OK. We had showers with exhaust fans and exhaust fans over the stoves. We were taking air out, but not putting air in."

Not having a ventilation system led to unusually high

humidity in the dorms over a 30-year period. Various administrators, including Pigg and then Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance suggested solutions to the problem over the late '70s and into the 1980s. No conclusive action was ever taken.

Over the years, while three university presidents looked the other way and six directors of Housing and Residential Life came and went, a serious problem was brewing that would lead to the demise of the multi-million dollar dorms. And possibly adversely affect the health of thousands of MTSU housing students.

#### Hush, hush

"I can't talk to press types about this," said David Johnson, an architect hired in 1999 to determine what had gone wrong with the two dorms.

"My contract with the

Tennessee Board of Regents won't allow me to discuss that."

Correspondence from David Johnson to administrators in 1999 explains a lot.

Paperwork shows the floors, ceilings and walls in both dorms were poured concrete slab. By 1988, less than 20 years after the dorms were constructed, ceilings in both buildings were cracking and crumbling, falling on hallways, floors and even bed pillows below.

University documents suggest the falling concrete problem began in 1992, prompting correspondence between university officials.

Recommendations about what to do about the falling ceiling material were made by several engineering firms as well as MTSU personnel. No record among 2,000 pages of university documentation

See Halls, 3

### Timeline of Events

- May 1987** Pigg writes to President Ingram proposing asbestos removal for Ezell and Abernathy in 1988-89. Cost: \$100,000.
- 1988** Dan Sinclair, associate director of Housing and Residential Life, and Charles Johnson, a housing area coordinator, first notice concrete falling in both dorms.
- May 1988** Pigg writes to Ingram, suggesting asbestos abatement again in 1991-92.
- June 1988** Ingram approves re-roofing of Ezell and Abernathy. Cost: \$150,000.
- 1991** James Walker becomes president.
- Aug 1992** Law Engineering, a geotechnical, environmental, technical firm, reports to university administration that many apartments in both dorms are damaged and should be carefully observed. The cost for asbestos abatement: \$3,600 per apartment.
- May 1993** Terry Logan, safety officer, writes to Ivan Shewmake, director of Housing and Residential Life, about concrete damage inside and out of both dorms.  
"I am concerned about the safety of the residents in both halls," Logan wrote.
- Aug 1994** Law Engineering proposes idea that conduit (piping holding wires inside concrete walls) corrosion along with moisture led to concrete cracking and falling in both dorms.
- Summer '96** Asbestos removed from Ezell and Abernathy halls.
- Nov 1998** Safety officer Logan writes another memo about damage to both dorms. He also sent a picture of a corroded steel plate hanging over a walkway.
- Mar 1999** Johnson, Johnson, Crabtree Architects, a Nashville firm, confirms that students are in danger due to falling concrete. The firm suggests MTSU evacuate students immediately.
- June 1999** Students moved out of Ezell and Abernathy halls.  
  
Johnson, Johnson, Crabtree Architects conclude that a chloride substance was added to the concrete mixture in 1972 to accelerate drying time. The firm concludes that this fact, along with lack of ventilation system and unusual humidity, led to concrete cracking and falling.
- Today** Administration has not determined future of Ezell and Abernathy halls. Housing students must continue to pay for \$1.2 million owed.

## Two new programs tackle addiction

By Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum  
Staff Writer

Students struggling with eating disorders or alcohol addiction can meet with other students who face similar struggles each week at Keathley University Center.

Overeaters Anonymous,

which helps people with all types of eating disorders, meets at 8 p.m. Sundays in KUC, Room 313. Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. Fridays in KUC, Room 313.

Interested students can call Maggie Prugh, coordinator of Student Organizations and Community Service, to be referred to the student organiz-

er of both programs.

Prugh will respect the privacy of those who call and will not ask for a name.

"I am very careful about the fact that it's anonymous," Prugh said.

Both programs follow AA's 12-step recovery program, which encourages participants to accept concepts such as the

individual lacks the ability to control their addiction and that a power greater than the self helps restore sanity.

In a 1990 study conducted by the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, 11 percent of senior high school students surveyed at 20 high schools in 18 states suffered

from either anorexia nervosa or bulimia.

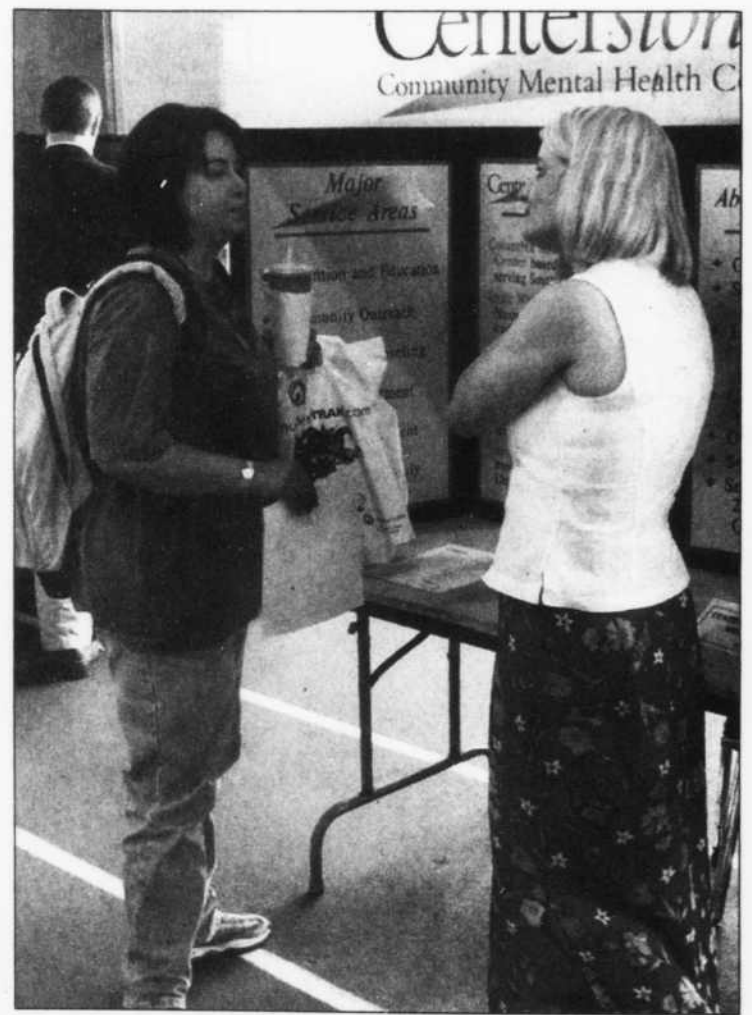
Most were female, but a significant number were male.

"Projecting the 11 percent of this age group nationally suggests that 716,000 students may have serious illnesses which need to be recognized and treat-

See Addiction, 3



# Working toward the future



(Above Left) Blake Tipton talks to an Army representative at the Career Fair in Murphy Center Thursday. The fair, sponsored by the Placement and Student Employment Center, features more than 100 companies and businesses. (Above Right) Jaimee Nash gets information from a representative of Centerstone Community Mental Health Center.

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### WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

"FRESH AIR" WITH

TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

PREGNANT? 893-0228

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745 S. CHURCH ST.  
MURFREESBORO

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- Free Pregnancy Test
- Someone to talk to
- Support through the decisions

# Jesus

## good guy or GOD?

Wednesday  
September 26 @ 7:45 p.m.

**connecting point** meets in the sanctuary at Belle Aire Baptist Church  
(on the corner of Greenland and Fairview Ave. near MTSU)

**MORE INFO:** 890-6977 • [connectingpointinfo.com](http://connectingpointinfo.com)



# CRIME LOG

Compiled By Lindsey Turner - News Editor

The following is a partial list of incidents responded to by the MTSU Police Department between Sept. 15 and Sept. 25. This log was compiled from actual police reports.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 1:05 a.m.

Greek Row - James Bradley Gotto of Hermitage, Tenn., was arrested for underage consumption and public intoxication.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1:18 a.m.

Off campus - Karhonda M. Porter of Nashville, Tenn., was cited for driving on a suspended license.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 3:12 p.m.

Peck Hall - A vehicle was stopped for driving

the wrong way on a one-way street. The officer learned that the driver's license was suspended. A state citation was issued for driving on a suspended license.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 11:03 p.m.

Corlew Hall - A complainant stated that a Playstation 2 console and one video game were stolen from his dorm room while he was out. He also said the door was locked and he was the only person with a key. No force was evident in the burglary.

Friday Sept. 21, 1:27 a.m.

Nicks Hall - An anonymous caller said three people were possibly fighting outside his door. Michael Stanley, of Alabama, and Brian A.

Burdette, of Tullahoma, Tenn., were arrested for public intoxication.

Friday, Sept. 21, 4:19 p.m.

Deere Hall - A resident assistant on the first floor noticed racial graffiti on bulletin boards near the lobby.

Sunday, Sept. 23, 3:19 a.m.

Greenland Drive and Rutherford Boulevard - Amber Kitchen of Nashville, Tenn., was cited for driving on a suspended license.

Monday, Sept. 24, 2:18 a.m.

Clement Hall - Two male students were found in possession of alcohol. They were cited for underage possession of alcohol.

Monday, Sept. 24, 11:02 a.m.

Womack Lane Apartment L - Residents made several reports of gunshots being fired. There was no visual evidence of shots fired.

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2:37 a.m.

East Main Street and Tennessee Boulevard - Christopher Neitzke of Readyville, Tenn., was arrested for public intoxication.

For assistance or in the case of an emergency, contact the MTSU Police Department at 898-2424.

Beginning next week, the Crime Log will appear on Mondays and Thursdays.

## Halls: Two halls categorized as 'damaged'

Continued from 1

shows any action was taken.

In 1999, David Johnson, discussed with university officials solutions to various problems surrounding the

dilapidated dorms. Johnson found what is possibly the other piece of the puzzle.

Back in 1972, when the concrete slabs were poured, creating both the ceilings and floors of the two halls, a chloride substance was added to the concrete mixture to accelerate the concrete drying time. When Johnson's firm had concrete samples tested from both Ezell and Abernathy, the results were illuminating.

"The samples contained 30 times more chloride than allowable, which was probably introduced during placement," documents to university officials from the firm read. "Since the concrete was set in winter,

calcium chloride was probably used to help accelerate the initial set of the concrete."

Most sources conclude that this factor, along with the high levels of humidity over many years due to the lack of the ventilation system, caused the concrete to well and contract over time, eventually cracking and falling, leading to the costly demise.

"The owner did make a decision, against the designer's recommendation, to take out the air make-up system. This decision has caused problems of its own and had aggravated the concrete problem," David Johnson's correspondence reads.

(David Johnson does note that only one concrete sample from each dorm was analyzed. He concluded this was adequate because all of the concrete was poured at the same time and the crumbling concrete problem exists all over the complex.)

Pigg and Dick Tracy, an architect with TBR assigned to help with the future of the buildings, disagree with this conclusion.

"It's speculation," Pigg said. "Intelligent speculation at best."

Tracy suggested the structural problems in the halls might be due to "conditions at the time they were built," but offered no further details.

And of the approximate 2,000 pages of university documents on file relating to Ezell and Abernathy, about 100 pages are dedicated to the humidity/crumbling concrete discussion.

Only one other explanation was offered, resulting in three pages of discussion. The alternate explanation also suggests the high humidity and problematic concrete as the culprit.

To complicate matters further, asbestos was used as an insulator in the concrete throughout Ezell and Abernathy halls, and many other university buildings built prior to the 1980s, including Murphy Center, Peck Hall and Cope Administration Building.

Asbestos is a mineral composed of calcium and magnesium sulfate and was largely used to insulate and fireproof

buildings. Inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers has led to inflammation and scarring of the lungs reported Mayohealth.org — the Mayo Clinic's Web site. Asbestosis also has been associated with an increased risk of lung cancer. University budget proposals from 1987 show asbestos abatement was scheduled for Ezell and Abernathy in 1989-90. In the 1988 budget, the abatement got pushed up to 1991-92. In the summer of 1996, nine years after it was first proposed, asbestos was removed from both halls, years after the crumbling ceilings began to fall exposing students and staff to asbestos.

Law Engineering, a Nashville-based geotechnical, environmental and construction materials consulting firm, analyzed the ceiling status of Ezell, Abernathy, Deere and Nicks Halls in August 1992.

"In both of the residence halls that we observed (Ezell and Nicks) the majority of the rooms would fall into category 2, damaged," Law Engineering reported. The damaged category indicated that "materials show visible evidence of water damage and has the potential for delamination (splitting/cracking)." Some rooms were in better shape and others in worse shape.

Law Engineering recommended that all rooms be inspected quarterly and asbestos abatement should occur in significantly damaged rooms.

The cost of abatement was listed at \$3,600 per apartment in Ezell and Abernathy Halls, less if many apartments were done simultaneously.

The only other correspondence from Law Engineering on file was a 1994 report indicating they had been commissioned to determine the cause of the cracking concrete, just as David Johnson's firm had been asked to do.

Law Engineering's report cited the cause as corrosion of conduit, piping that holds wires within walls of buildings.

The report also says that stray electrical currents may have contributed to the concrete cracking, and high levels of moisture present would provide the catalyst, creating an electrolyte solution.

Within months of the first Law Engineering report in 1992, the first memo about falling concrete would be written in 1993.

Law Engineering oversaw the asbestos abatement from Ezell and Abernathy halls in 1996. The asbestos was physically removed by two private companies.

Charles Johnson was an Area Coordinator for Housing and Residential Life from 1988-1994. He was fired in 1994 by LaLance.

According to Charles Johnson, the concrete in Ezell and Abernathy Halls began falling in 1988 - eight years before any asbestos was removed. Charles Johnson also says to save money Ivan Shewmake, then director of

Housing and Residential Life, hired student workers to remove asbestos and haul the hazardous material to the local Murfreesboro landfill, both actions breaking numerous OSHA and Environmental Protection Agency codes and regulations.

"There are literally thousands of students who have gone through the residence halls exposed to asbestos and they have not been told," Charles Johnson said. "It's been hidden."

"I was terminated after I reported to OSHA that student workers were being used to abate asbestos," Charles Johnson said. "The Secretary of Labor (of Tennessee) ordered the university to reinstate me in 1995. It's 2001 and they haven't done it yet."

Charles Johnson appealed to then President James Walker after he was fired in 1994. Walker concurred with LaLance.

Johnson is considering filing suit in federal court.

Dan Sinclair was associate directing of Housings and Residential Life from 1986 to 1993. Sinclair corroborates everything Charles Johnson has to say. Sinclair was also fired.

"They knew asbestos was there and that the concrete was spalling (falling) in 1988," Sinclair said. "When the ceilings began to peel, Shewmake sent in students to paint it, with all this stuff falling on the kids," Sinclair recalled.

Sinclair described the same scenario in numerous dorms around the campus including Clement, Gore, Deere and Nicks halls. Charles Johnson said Beasley and Sims halls had similar asbestos scenarios as well.

"They literally exposed tens of thousands of students to airborne asbestos since 1988," Sinclair said.

University officials deny all of Charles Johnson's and Sinclair's claims.

When asked if students ever were employed to remove asbestos from the dorms, Richard Smith, who replaced Sinclair as associate director of Housing and Residential Life in 1993, laughed and said, "Of course not."

Sinclair filed suit against the state of Tennessee to get compensation for wrongful termination. The U.S. Court of Appeals found for the defendant, the state, who presented the defense of "sovereign immunity," meaning, the state is immune from prosecution. "You'll do better if you leave me and Charlie out of it," Sinclair said. "Just state the facts. To them we are just disgruntled former employees."

Ivan Shewmake - former director of Housing and Residential Life that Sinclair and Johnson claim put students in harm's way - now spends his days writing fiction novels about the Apocalypse. And trying to forget Dan Sinclair, asbestos, dormitories and the heart attack that forced him to leave MTSU for good.

"Dan Sinclair is really into



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Sunshine streams through a hallway of the abandoned Abernathy Hall.

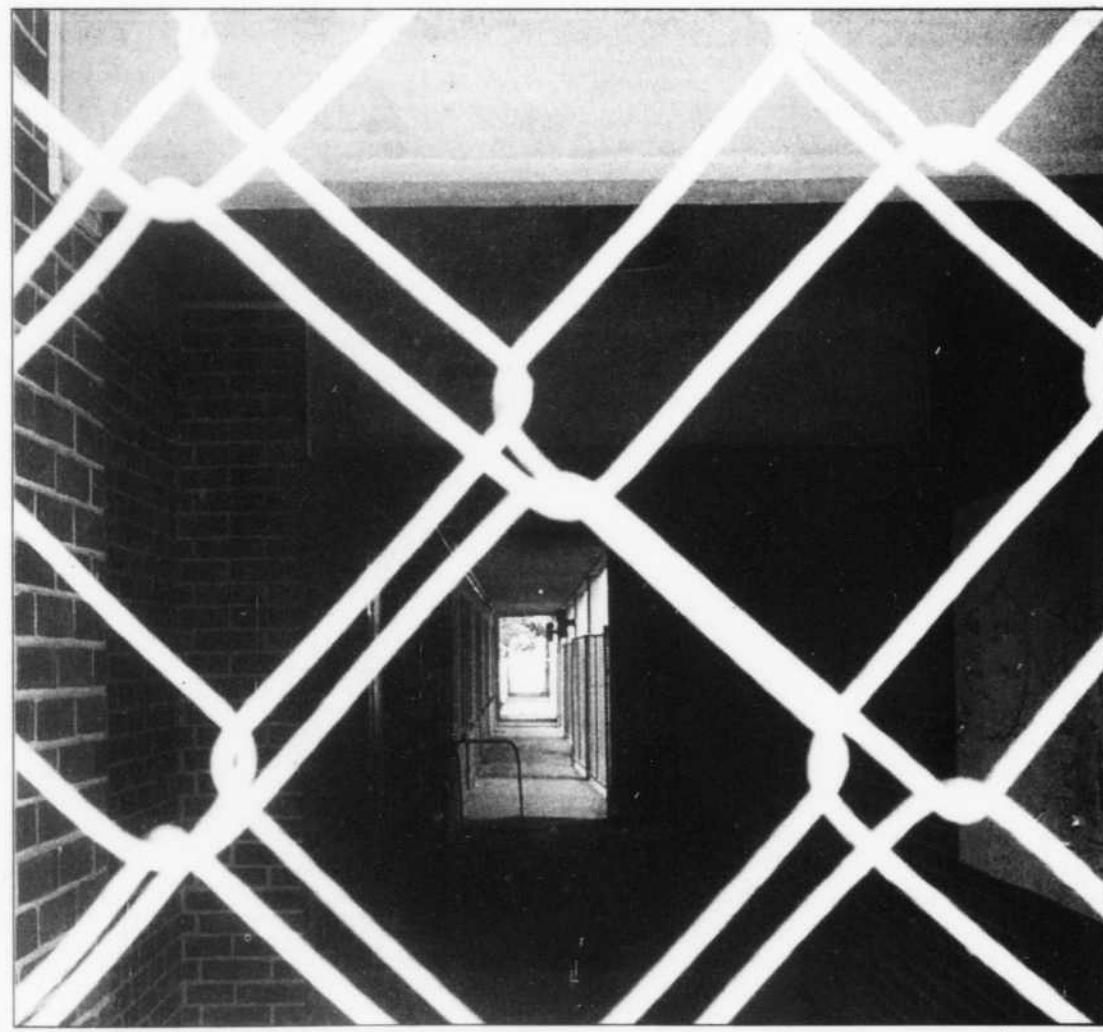


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Chainlink fences were erected in 1999 to keep students away from falling material.

getting money from the state," Shewmake said. "He wasn't subtle about it. And he was never fired - I would have, he was always making accusations."

About half of MTSU's dorms were built using asbestos.

Whether or not removing the asbestos was in the best interest of the students was never clear, Shewmake said.

"One group (of experts) said

move it, the other said don't move it. There was never anyone who could give you a definitive answer... If nothing else, it was scaring everybody."

"Finally, I said, 'to hell with it. I don't want to deal with this anymore. Even if there's one chance in 27 million, we're taking it out (via professional removal).' It turned out to be a very expensive Chinese fire drill," Shewmake said.

Shewmake said Sinclair's claims that he hired students to remove asbestos are untrue.

"We've been painting dorm ceilings forever, but we never scraped them," Shewmake said.

"Dan Sinclair was in charge of maintenance," Shewmake said. "He's the one who sent them to do it."

"Ezell and Abernathy were a nightmare anyway," Shewmake said. "They went up so fast." ♦

## Addiction: Students binge

Continued from 1

need to be recognized and treated," ANAD reported.

Statistics also show alcohol consumption by college students is on the rise, though statistics about the actual percentage of college students with alcoholism were not available.

A 1993 report from The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University indicated that 33 percent of college students now drink just to get drunk.

Similarly, a 1993 questionnaire by the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill completed by nearly 18,000 students at 140 colleges in 40 states found that 44 percent of students - 50 percent of the men and 39 percent of the women - binge - drinking more than five drinks in a sitting for men and four drinks at a time for women.

For more information about either support group, call Prugh at 904-8418. ♦



SENIOR AND UNDERCLASS PHOTOS  
for MIDLANDER

Sept 24-28  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Seniors should make an appointment by calling 2815  
ORGANIZATION PHOTOS

Sept 24-27  
6 - 8 p.m.

Appointments must be made by calling 2478  
KUC LOUNGE, 2nd FLOOR





# POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Briefs By Jeremy Davis - Staff Writer

## Minimum wage needed for survival

By Angela White  
Online Editor

If a single mother were to work full-time at minimum wage to support her two children, she would earn \$10,712 a year. That income would place her family \$3,918 below the 2001 Department of Health and Human Services poverty line.

Legislation has been floating around Congress for some time now that would raise the minimum wage to \$6.65 by 2003. If passed, the single mother above would be making \$13,832 a year, still \$798 below the 2001 poverty line. The line, which rises yearly, would bury this family even further into destitution by 2003.

According to The Economic Policy Institute, women and minorities are more likely to hold low-wage positions; therefore, they are more affected by changes in the minimum wage. More women than men (60.6/39.4 percent) work in minimum wage industries like retail and food service. Thus increasing the minimum wage would somewhat help close the wage gap between the genders.

African Americans make up 11.7 percent of the workforce, yet 18.1 percent will be affected by an increase. A similar difference exists with Hispanics, who make up 11.3 percent of the workforce and 14.4 percent of those affected by an increase.

Overall, 18 percent of all minimum wage workers live in households that make less than \$10,000 a year, and half live in households making less than \$25,000.

Raising the minimum wage will help our country's unprivileged masses regain some of the spending power they lost in the past two decades. The value of the minimum wage has dropped 24 percent since 1979, taking a sharp dip in the '80s, when no adjustment was made, and making a slight improvement with its ultimate rise to \$5.15 in 1997.

With the proposed increase, the minimum wage would still be worth 13 percent less what it was worth in 1979. Without the increase, the real value of the minimum wage will fall to \$4.75 by 2003.

Wealthy conservatives are the largest opposition to correcting this wrong. The current uneven distribution of wealth benefits them the most, and they fight to keep it that way through large corporate tax cuts, welfare and social security limitations and, of course, a poverty-inducing minimum wage.

Conservatives argue that a

**Conservatives argue that a simplified theory of supply and demand should apply to the workforce. But people are not products, and employment is not a supermarket.**

simplified theory of supply and demand should apply to the workforce — when the wage goes up, employment will go down. But people are not products, and employment is not a supermarket. When the minimum wage rises, employer's recruiting costs decrease, as more people are willing to work for the higher wage. Training costs would decrease, as turnover would drop. Employee morale would improve, as would productivity. Therefore, an increase in wages would not result in a decline in employment, as the extra costs would be absorbed.

No one has ever proven that minimum wage increases result in an increase in unemployment. A study of the 1996-97 increase showed no systematic job loss. Employment during the period in fact increased. Employment rates for single mothers rose from 62 to 69 percent from 1995-98.

The minimum wage increase, so feared by conservatives who constantly predict doom, did nothing to stop the growth of the economy during the period. In addition, the increase during the recession of 1990-91 did not result in additional job losses. Therefore, despite the state of the economy, employment was unaffected by minimum wage increases.

Treating people as common goods that are bought and sold can only be described as slavery. Our country, while capitalistic, is not inhumane. We abhor the use of sweatshops in other countries (and our own), yet conservatives are willing to let people live in destitution for the benefit of the corporate machine.

Liberals seek not to keep people at the bottom to win votes, but to bring both the poor, exploited workers and the patriarchal, wealthy conglomerates to the middle. Conservatives, on the other hand, will use their vast financial power to do whatever is necessary to keep their own at the top. ♦

## Briefs

### Bush gets record-high approval

President Bush's job-approval rating jumped to 90 percent after his address to a joint session of Congress Thursday night. Pundits and politicians from both sides of the political spectrum said the speech was one of the best given in the House chamber in decades.

No other president has received that high of a rating since Gallup began the poll in 1938 during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The previous record was 89 percent set by President Bush's father after the conclusion of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

### Saudi Arabia deserts the Taliban

The government of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially broke off diplomatic relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan yesterday.

That leaves Pakistan as the only nation that has any formal relations with the fundamentalist regime, but Pakistan has sided with the United States and pulled their diplomats out of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The United Arab Emirates also broke off their relationship with the Taliban last week. Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was exiled from Saudi Arabia in 1994 for being opposed to the royal family.

### Bush strikes terrorists' wallets

The first offensive against terrorists came Monday when President Bush announced the freezing of all assets of suspected terrorist groups and individuals within the United States. Bush also said he would order the freezing of U.S. assets of any foreign banks that did business with terrorists.

Tuesday the financial leaders of the Group of Seven countries voiced their support for President Bush's action and said they would do the same in their countries.

The G7 is made up of France, Germany, Italy, Britain, Canada, Japan and the United States. ♦

## Minimum wage means higher unemployment

By Jeremy Davis  
Staff Columnist

Before the attack on New York, one of the Democrats' issues for the remainder of the year was an increase of the minimum wage. Even further to the left, the Green Party has called for a "living wage," which would more than double the current minimum wage.

The first question we must ask is why. Why do these groups want to raise the minimum wage? Is it because they care so much for the poor and want to increase the income of minimum wage earners? No — in fact it is the exact opposite.

A few weeks ago on Fox News Channel's "Hannity and Colmes," former Clinton adviser Dick Morris said Democrats want to keep African Americans and Hispanics poor and in a unified voting block. Why would he say that on national TV? Because it is true.

All humans work in their own self-interest and this is especially true in politics. A majority of the poor and uneducated citizens of this country vote Democratic. A majority of the wealthy and highly educated people in this country vote Republican. There are numerous reasons certain people support certain political parties, but that is the general breakdown in regard to economics.

Now, if Democrats want to increase their political power they would naturally want more people poor and uneducated. That's the basic result of each parties' policy proposals in Congress. Republicans want to make people rich and Democrats want to make people poor.

The debate over the minimum wage is a great example of these partisan objectives. First, it must be understood that wages are simply the price of labor determined by the worker's productivity. How much wealth the worker produces for the company and the amount of responsibility the worker has helps determine his wage. Other factors like competition in the labor market and the safety of the job also influence wage rates and benefits. Don't think greedy CEOs just sit around with a big pot of money and distribute it as they please, keeping the most for themselves. This is not true, so don't believe it.

What minimum wage laws do is set a wage rate by government decree without any regard to a worker's productivity. This causes all sorts of problems. The most obvious problem is where businesses are going to get the extra money. There are only a few ways to come up

**Republicans want to make people rich and Democrats want to make people poor. The Republicans have fought against this kind of exploitation of the poor and minorities for decades.**

with the money: reduce wages of management, raise prices or cut jobs.

Is it fair for a company to reduce the wages for managers who are responsible for the day-to-day survival of the company in order to raise the wages of workers with much lower workloads and responsibilities? No, that's why no one does that. Is it reasonable to suddenly raise prices for the consumers? No, consumers will go to the competing company or simply buy less of the product. Increasing prices without increasing the quality of the product will cause a dramatic loss of revenue and possible bankruptcy.

Since the first two options are not plausible, that leaves job cuts as the only option. Facing increased costs, a good manager will find ways to consolidate tasks and spread them over fewer workers. Basically, higher minimum wages means higher unemployment among low-wage earners.

To illustrate the problem of raising the costs of labor by government decree, let's say Joe makes \$30,000 a year. Joe's expenses are around \$28,000 a year. That leaves Joe with \$2,000 a year to save and invest in a house, his child's college education or any other useful investment. Now suppose the government passes a law that somehow raises Joe's expenses to \$35,000 a year. Joe must either borrow money or file for bankruptcy. This is what minimum wages do to small businesses who don't have investors backing them up.

When the minimum wage was introduced by President Franklin Roosevelt as part of the New Deal, the Supreme Court struck it down as unconstitutional along with many other New Deal programs. FDR then threatened the court with adding more justices. The Supreme Court later approved of minimum wage laws a few years later after some justices retired and FDR put some of his friends on the court, including a former Ku Klux Klan member.

The result was that hun-

dreds of thousands of working class Americans lost their jobs in a single day and unemployment was pushed higher than it was at the height of the Great Depression when FDR was elected in 1932.

Also, minimum wage laws affect minorities disproportionately. Most minimum wage workers are teenagers or minorities. Teenagers work at these jobs to get experience in the working world and to get a few extra bucks. The reason minorities work in these jobs is a whole other bag of worms that I don't have time to get into here. Since minorities and teens are the bulk of minimum-wage earners, it makes sense that unemployment is higher among these groups.

So why do Democrats advocate raising the minimum wage? So they can fight for working Americans. Democrats need poor people to fight for, so if there is an economic expansion like we have had in the 1990s, they must make more poor people. Now that a Republican is in the White House Democrats can raise the minimum wage and therefore increase unemployment, and when 2004 rolls around blame President Bush for it and get him out of office.

This is the pure deception of our nation's low-income workers in return for votes. The Republicans have fought against this kind of exploitation of the poor and minorities for decades. Unfortunately, the Republicans don't always get their way because raising the minimum wage looks so good on the surface.

The appropriate way to raise wages is to raise productivity through investments in education, new technology or any other infrastructure improvements. Money cannot be created out of thin air as minimum wage advocates foolishly assume. It must be earned. Successful companies like Federal Express pay high competitive wages to unskilled labor not because they are so loving and generous but because their workers earn high profits for the company. So to increase the wages of unskilled workers the government can ease the burden of regulations on corporations so they can pay their workers more. However, when Republicans try to raise the profit-making ability of corporations they are accused of sucking up to big business for campaign contributions.

Minimum wages are just one tool for voter exploitation. There are many others tools used in politics, so don't listen to emotional arguments about helping the poor. Find the facts and find the real solutions to the real problems. ♦

## Alcohol research aims to build education between East, West

By Katie Eder

Daily Nebraskan (U. Nebraska)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln aren't the only people who drink. Alcohol is used in almost every culture in the world.

And Ian Newman, director of the Nebraska Prevention Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, has been researching the way young people use alcohol in other cultures.

He said the researchers at the center hope to build an education program but that more study needs to be done.

"We're looking at the way young people in particular use alcohol in other cultures to see what we can learn that might be useful here," he said.

"And we are also working with people in other countries and other cultures to see how education might be more effective in reducing alcohol-related problems," Newman said.

Newman is studying the drinking habits of young people in China, Thailand, the United States and Canada.

Newman began research in China about 11 years ago. The research grew out of a teaching program he was involved with there. His alcohol research in Thailand began about five years ago. Newman was familiar with Thailand because he worked with the World Health Organization in the country.

Youth drinking is a new area of research in China, and some of Newman's study results have been published in newly printed Chinese books on drinking.

Newman said he was interested in behavior and spent time researching tobacco in the United States. He said he saw alcohol as a new challenge, and his interest spread to other countries when he realized Americans could learn from other cultures and that the United States also had something to contribute.

Unlike tobacco, alcohol can be good for health as well as detrimental, Newman said. Alcohol is used positively in special ceremonies, celebrations, religion, medicine and hospitality. But drunkenness is also a factor in things such as automobile crashes and violence.

"The other thing that's interesting about alcohol is that practically every society in the world uses it. There are only a few isolated island-type communities that don't produce alcohol and use it.

We've been using alcohol since earliest times, and we have this huge history of alcohol," Newman said.

Ming Qu, a physician with the Health Education Institute in China and a graduate student in medicine at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is one of three students from China working on the research at UNL.

While in the United States, the students design questionnaires and a study plan. They then return to China every two years to gather data.

Ming came to the United States in 1995 and returned to China in 1998 and last summer, where he conducted interviews with students about alcohol use.

China does not have laws concerning alcohol, but there is little abuse of

alcohol in China. Newman said this was because customs and practices influence alcohol use. There is peer pressure against abusing alcohol in an embarrassment to family, he said.

Drinking in China is normally done on special occasions with family members, and Chinese alcohol is usually in the form of a hard liquor.

Ming said alcohol has been valued throughout Chinese history, as can be seen from some of the beautiful and valuable artifacts that were used to hold it. Alcohol and its effects are also portrayed in Chinese theater. Compared to the United States, Ming said, the Chinese value alcohol more ceremonially.

At large dinners in China, it is important to offer alcohol and food to guests, Ming said. This is because there were times in China's history when there was not enough food or drink, he said.

Alcohol use has become more frequent in big cities since the 1980s in China. There is also more beer being consumed in place of the hard liquor that is more traditional in China, Ming said.

There are traditionally fewer alcohol-related problems in China than in the United States, but as China becomes more Westernized, problems are increasing, and the Chinese government is not paying much attention to it, Newman said.

Ming said drinking frequency in cities like Beijing and Shanghai is closer to the frequency in the United States, but inland it is much less frequent.

Newman said that even in Shanghai, alcohol use is less frequent than in the United States, but there are more young people using alcohol infrequently on special occasions.

There are many cultures within China, Newman said. One of these is a culture in Inner Mongolia that has a reputation for heavy drinking.

In this culture, only men drink, usually on special occasions. This drinking sometimes causes problems such as violence.

But these problems are not as great as problems in the United States because there is powerful peer pressure not to embarrass family members, an idea that is sometimes called "face." Parents are also important in Confucian society, and no one wants to embarrass his or her parents.

Newman said the idea of drinking only on special occasions is significant because it is different than drinking in the United States today but similar to drinking in the United States two generations ago.

Newman said at one point China had many rules governing the use of alcohol. At that time, China had problems with alcohol similar to the problems in the United States.

At other times, there was little alcohol abuse and few problems. Newman said it is not known whether the laws were so effective they became unnecessary or if laws were dropped because they weren't effective.

Newman said his research would help America find new ways to deal with alcohol problems. It will also help China know what problems it may face as it becomes more Westernized.

The research includes surveys in schools and participant observation. This part of the research is mostly done by Chinese and Thai people. Newman said a lot can be understood by analytical observation by the Thais and Chinese themselves. Analytical observation, or watching drinking habits critically, is a skill that must be built and developed, Newman said.

Three Chinese graduate students at UNL are working on alcohol research for their doctorates, Newman said. Another student is working at a university in Canada, also studying Chinese alcohol consumption.

There is also a student in Thailand researching for doctorate work. Many more have worked on the program in the past in China, Thailand and the U.S.

"It's not people from America coming over there and trying to find out the answers. It's working with people over there to share their knowledge and our knowledge, so that they can perhaps begin to look at things differently. And so can we," Newman said.

"In that, there's a real sharing between the West and the East to try to look at a behavior that is common — alcohol use."

Ming has been researching how adolescents' expectations about drinking influence their choices. He said based on what adolescents expect from alcohol, their actions can be predicted.

Ming said the more that is learned, the better education programs can be designed and the more effective they will be.

"We probably have more questions than answers right now," Ming said. ♦



## From the staff

### Officials should look in mirror for waste

Money, or lack thereof, is perhaps the most used word on campus this year. Everywhere you turn, budget problems constrain what the university should be doing. The leaky roofs, condemned dorms and grossly outdated technology are everywhere to be seen.

These problems, however, can't be seen from Fall Creek Falls, where university administrators and staff sit around on a free vacation and talk about saving money.

At a school where the budget problems are stirring up talk of even lower per-student spending and raising enrollment standards to reduce the number of students, this is absurd.

Every year administrators, coaches and staff 'retreat' to Fall Creek Falls where they discuss changes, problems and issues concerning the university. In case you were wondering, the trip is entirely paid for by MTSU and the attendees are still paid their full wages while attending the event.

While no one wants to see university staff working for free (even though the *Sidelines* staff pretty much does), why does this "retreat" need to be held in another part of the state? There are several very nice places on campus that this could be held, not to mention the gorgeous MTSU Foundation House.

While items that benefit the students continue to be cut, the wasteful spending continues.

Take Ezell and Abernathy, for instance. In lieu of spending the money needed for a ventilation system during the initial construction or installing a stop-gap solution, administrators instead paid to repaint the buildings and put on new roofs. The numbers in the "Wreck the Halls" series speak for themselves.

Frequent banquets for administrators and staff are another way that our money is being thrown around. We don't know what kind of food they're serving at the banquets, but our guess is that it isn't burgers and hot dogs.

Finally, there were the Baha Men. In times where chalk is scarce and many facilities are laughable, the university shelled out the money to bring a high-profile band whose only hit was heard approximately 97,000 times at football games last season and after paying them to come, couldn't even get our name or mascot straight.

When a budget problem as significant as ours is around, we all have to make sacrifices. Unfortunately, it appears that only those who pay to be here are taking the hit. ♦

## Don't target cell phone rings for persecution

### For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox  
Asst. News Editor

Imagine this scenario: You're sitting in class, not listening to whatever it is your professor has to say. As you drift sleepily in a state of semi-consciousness, you are suddenly jolted awake by Destiny's Child's *Say My Name* blaring from your cell phone.

Do you realize that in the midst of your embarrassment and your professor's condescending rant directed toward you, you could have been breaking the law?

Any recording industry

major that is worth his ABBA collection could tell you that broadcasting any copyrighted music, be it digital quality or a horrible midi, could constitute copyright infringement.

Lawsuits were recently filed by several record labels against Web sites that allowed users to download midi versions of popular songs, television show themes and the like for their ring tone. In the wake of the legal victory against Napster, recording industry executives have found another way to fill their coffers and 401(k) plans.

In this writer's opinion, it's absolutely ridiculous.

There is a fundamental difference between Napster and Web sites that allow the download of ring

tones. This may be obvious, but Napster allowed the unrestricted trading of digital-quality music for free.

On the other hand, these cell phone rings are nothing more than hokey, synthesized versions of songs.

One argument that the Recording Industry Association of America used in their suit against Napster was the claim, albeit unsubstantiated, that the free trading of copyrighted material would directly lead to a slump in music sales. Thanks to the Napster suit, there aren't any poor, hungry record executives standing in line at the soup kitchen.

Personally, when I like a song, a ringer on a cell

phone just isn't going to do it for me. Few and far between are those who call their friends and tell them to call them back so they can hear *The Love Boat* theme without spending \$4 to retrieve the real version from your local CD bargain bin.

If nothing else, the rings could serve as a means of promotion. It could get the melody stuck in your head, where it resonates and echoes to the point that you must buy the CD in order to maintain your sanity and get it out of your head.

Is it copyright infringement? Perhaps. However, police don't ticket drivers for driving one mile over the speed limit. Will the RIAA next start prosecuting people who sing *Happy*

*Birthday* at a child's birthday party?

Finally, why would industry executives want to further alienate their customers?

CDs already cost an arm and a leg, and the fall of Napster has curtailed the flow of independent and unique recordings along with everyday album cuts.

In case you were wondering, the Web sites that allowed the download of these songs now must pay a fee to the record label that owns the particular song.

Something that would have been nothing more than innocent fun was turned into a legal issue by corporate stiffies whose greed has overtaken their common sense. ♦

## Why things suck, or an image of post-adolescent pessimism

### Bathroom Stall Graffiti



Nick Fowler  
Staff Columnist

Recent events have motivated me to examine my value system. I have made a few loosely connected notes on the subject.

My world view has become increasingly chaotic. Order is only a means, an excuse, for asserting our values, which we have supposed as being true, on other persons, dissidents, criminals, heretics and savage cultures who would disrupt the order.

Thus, we choose to per-

ceive order in the universe only insofar as it buttresses our own selfish prejudices. The so-called natural order is useless for modern civilized man. We left behind that natural order when we created our own order and called it society. We have made our own rules; we have imposed our own order on this planet.

We do make the rules. We choose what values we live our lives by. We are defined by our actions.

When we are given a choice of war or peace, which do we choose?

Can we have peace by means other than war?

How often do we choose war for vengeance when a peaceful solution is possible?

If you kill those who

challenge your value system, you don't have to change the way you behave.

Our values are but utilities we use as we see fit. How many times can I hear "... whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also," and not feel jaded when I see the way men behave.

And so I have been raised on the typical American intellectual diet of liberalism and Christian ethics.

Our values are democracy and freedom. We want all the other peoples of the world to have freedom as well.

It would seem that all we have been working for in establishing society is to

find a peaceful solution to conflicts and to avoid war.

We seem to want a society that follows the golden rule. Reality may give us insight to our true motivations.

Western Europeans and, later, Americans have viewed any culture with opposing or even different values as an enemy. War is to be avoided unless you can win.

When we don't have war, it is because of fear. Fear of mutual annihilation has allowed us to avoid nuclear war for some time now.

I've had the fortune of growing up for 20 years in a nation not involved in a major conflict. World War II is a distant memory of a fight against true evil.

Vietnam is a lesson our parents learned; we wouldn't allow that to happen again. Desert Storm wasn't even a real war.

I once thought of America as a peaceful nation. We only helped to motivate peace in the world. Soon other nations would learn that peace, democracy and freedom were good, too.

How deluded was I? Twenty or 30 years without war is no reason to suppose that we are a righteously peaceful people.

When we choose war, it is not out of a sense of right and wrong or the rational use of our value system or because war is the only choice. War is easier than change. ♦

## Letters to the Editor

### Foreign policy makes America responsible for attacks

To the Editor:

Since the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, all I have been hearing on television is that it will be the work of Osama bin Laden.

Why? The number of people around the world who are angry over U.S. foreign policy is extremely large. Iraqis are angry over the continual bombings, the sanctions which have killed over a million people and the depleted uranium used in bombing that has caused leukemia and other cancers. Yugoslavs are angry over the bombing and dismember-

ment of their country. Palestinians are angry over U.S. support for Israel. Latin Americans are angry over decades of U.S.-supported coups, death squads, torture, disappeared people and ruthless dictators. Africans are angry over U.S. support for apartheid and the proxy wars by Renamo and UNITA in Mozambique and Angola that have caused the deaths of millions of people. Indonesians are angry over the bloody dictatorship of Suharto. I could go on and on.

Now, President Bush will

undoubtedly massively bomb another country, probably Afghanistan, causing the loss of more innocent lives and possibly commit U.S. ground forces in a search for bin Laden.

Incidentally, the CIA was responsible for bringing the Taliban to power by financing the fight against the Russians. This policy will only exacerbate the situation and bring more terrorist attacks.

I am appalled at the suffering and loss of life in New York and Washington, D.C. It is a terrible tragedy and could lead to the loss

of civil liberties and will result in a headlong rush to Star Wars and militarization to the detriment of Social Security, education, the infrastructure, the environment, etc. The difficult task for the American people is to change U.S. foreign policy from one based on imperial might designed to foster the interests and profits of multinational corporations to one based on peace, justice and the interests of the common people everywhere. Then terrorism will cease.

Sincerely,  
Gary Sudborough

### Use love and faith, not weapons, to defeat terrorists

To the Editor:

The tragic events that occurred on Sept. 11 will be on the minds of Americans forever. While America finds comfort in patriotism and braces for war, I would like to offer an alternative opinion.

These hijackings were committed by men who consider themselves to be men of God. As American citizens, we have worked for centuries to promote an understanding of tolerance and love for all people.

This includes basic respect for life given to us from a creator. We have different names for this creator, yet we are all a part of creation. We are sons and daughters of creation. We cannot help but understand that we all come from the same place. We see love and kindness as the proof that God exists.

If this is a "holy war," then the children of love and creation are being pitted against an extreme evil which can only be truly defeated by extreme love. Here is

that extreme solution.

Offering forgiveness to the men involved in these acts and taking no military action abroad will show the world and the enemy what it truly means to be a peace-loving people of the one true God, the God of love.

It will show the world that we are not offended only by the death of innocent Americans, but by the death of all innocent people. Military action in the Middle East can lead to the death of more innocents. Innocent Afghans, Pakistanis, Palestinians and other innocent Arabs could be killed. Revenge will only breed stronger revenge. Arabs who were not extremists before may change their hearts to evil and revenge when their innocent brothers and sisters are killed.

When will it end? The stakes are higher now than they ever have been. We risk the destruction of the world or the destruction of freedom throughout the world.

As long as revenge is carried out, our children will never know

what it is like to be free. They will not know freedom from fear or intolerance. They will not know the freedom only peace can bring.

So I ask America to unite, and stand tall as a people of love. It is not a time for pride, but for humility before all creation. Make yourselves visible. Tell the world we will not seek revenge. If we are truly God's country, then we will act accordingly.

I urge people of all faiths and those of no faith to understand the gravity of the situation. We must look to the worst, fear it and then overcome the fear. Our lives can be taken. Our brothers and sisters may fall, but we can remain a just people. We can be known as a nation that has learned from its mistakes and have become a family regardless of our differences.

People of all ages, races and religions must get out from the front of the television and get in front of the cameras. Offer love to the men we fear. Offer forgiveness to the men responsible. We

must be as visible as possible. Offer total support to those whose lives have been directly impacted by these events.

We will not fight with weapons. We will fight with faith at our side and love in front of us. We must appear defenseless while never afraid. Fear is what causes us to pick up arms. We think we can fix the solution when we have weapons. This is wrong.

These extremists will gain nothing but an empty world with their weapons. If we take arms, then the world will be just as empty.

We must not forget the innocent victims on both sides of this conflict. They will have died in vain if this war continues.

(Matthew 5:21-24)  
(Matthew 5:38-48)  
(Matthew 6:25-34)  
(Matthew 26:52-56)

Sincerely,  
Michael LaBo

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## Looking for an Eargasm?

Two Murfreesboro music stores have hard-to-find albums for those with special needs, musical tastes

By Erika Pryor  
Staff Writer

In a day and age when music reigns supreme, it makes people feel good to know where they can get that hard-to-find song.

Everyone seems to be looking for the single *I'm Real* by Jennifer Lopez and Ja Rule, but if you go to Camelot or any other mainstream store, they tell you you'll have to buy J-Lo's or Ja's whole album because a single wasn't produced.

How about that old song your parents listened to so much that you began to like it, but they only have a copy of it on eight track? There is no need to fret or fear because the little guys are here!

For those of you with special needs, look to Digital Planet and Music Jams. These two stores may not be in the mainstream, but they may have exactly what you're looking for.

Most people think that in order to start a business, you have to have this grandiose plan, tons of money and government grants to back you up. Well, that was not the case for Michael Morrison and Jim Laughlin of Digital Planet.

"Jim wouldn't let me forget," Morrison said. "He drug me down there to see this building, and I told him this is probably expensive. Find out how much it is."

After Laughlin came back to

Morrison with the the \$250 figure, Morrison said he couldn't get out of it.

The idea for a CD store stemmed from a stop at Waffle House after a CD convention. So in 1993, Digital Planet was born.

"We didn't even have a cash register," Morrison said. "We had six big tables filled with about \$400 worth of CDs. We made \$20 that first day. We felt important."

"It really did start from nothing," Laughlin said. "Looking back, things out was hard, but we've come a long way. We have changed with the times, but we still have eight tracks and Atari games."

Morrison and Laughlin realized that making \$20 on the first day was not bad, but things could not stay that way.

"It was hard the first couple of years," Laughlin said, which is why Morrison decided to turn to his wife Jennifer for help on the business side of things.

Jennifer later joined the dynamic duo as an investor.

"She's the money person," Morrison said. "To be honest, she runs Digital Planet. Jennifer handles where we go and where we are."

Digital Planet prides itself on selection. "It's all 100 percent across the counter," Morrison said.

He also added that they don't buy from distributors.

"We like to keep it circulating. We buy, sell and trade straight from the customers," he said.

"The flavor stays a little different," Laughlin added.

Digital Planet, which got its name from a combination of words written on a sheet of paper, didn't live up to its name until six months after opening.

"I turned down movies for the longest time," Morrison said. "I finally gave in and put shelves on the wall."

"This is all we do," Morrison said. "We are the business."

Well, that's not all they do.

Digital Planet does a lot for MTSU students. As a whole, the stores contributes to MTSU functions and Heart Walks for the American Heart Association. They also hang banners for local plays and advertise for local artists. Digital Planet is quite dedicated to staying in Murfreesboro.

"We are not doing it just to do it. Selling CDs is an art not a science," Morrison said.

The Digital Planet chain is divided into two stores. The original store in downtown Murfreesboro still exists along with the newer store, founded in 1995, behind Stones River Mall. They are planning to build a third store behind Home Depot.

Morrison said he's very excited about the new store and praised his partner.



Photo by Erika Pryor | Staff

A customer at Digital Planet browses through the selection of new and old movies.

"Jim's the energizer bunny, the motor that keeps us all going," Morrison said. "I told him that we are going to retire and go fishing one day, but not now."

"I doubt that," Laughlin responded.

Digital Planet is not alone in the competition against the mainstream big boys. Music Jams, a store that specializes in R&B and rap music, is just around the corner.

MTSU alum Thurman Tucker, owner of Music Jams, said, "It feels good to be in business. It takes a lot of hard work, but it is worth it, being able to see your vision and be able to achieve it."

Where in Murfreesboro can

you go to find the latest rap by local artists, especially when most new artists are underground?

"We specialize in underground local music, mix CDs, gospel and special orders within one to three days," he said.

"We have a good selection of R&B and hip-hop, but if you are looking for something in particular, Music Jams is the place to go," Digital Planet's Morrison said.

Music Jams has been in business only since November. Therefore, you can imagine that being the new kids on the block can be rough.

"I am still learning," Tucker said. "But I am getting a lot of support from MTSU."

Tucker is also the owner of Rap Ball Records, a record company that allowed him to get a feel for local groups.

"They won't be just another CD on a shelf," Tucker said. "I am a music lover."

Tucker, who gets his products from various distributors, said, "I love being an independent vendor. That allows me to order from whomever."

Tucker said he enjoys what he does and loves being in his store everyday.

"I try to keep business as fair as possible for customers. I even accept all major credits cards," he said.

Digital Planet and Music Jams both cater to college students with low prices. ♦

## Inside the world of entertainment



By Luke Burke

### Millions donated by stars

Hollywood stars continue to show their American pride since the terrorist attacks. Dr. Dre, Rosie O'Donnell, Jim Carrey and other stars are just a few stars who have donated up to 2 million dollars a piece to aid in the recovery of this American tragedy. Janet Jackson and Britney Spears have reportedly donated proceeds of the tickets from their current tours to the cause. Last week, a rare network musical tribute/fundraiser was aired live, showing many of Hollywood's biggest stars performing and urging fellow Americans to give their time and money in support of America and the families affected by the events. Marvin Gaye's

classic *What's Going On* has been re-made by a host of today's hottest superstars in efforts to raise money for AIDS research in Africa. The video portrays images of the American public's reaction to the tragic events that took place just a few weeks ago. The video can be seen on your local cable station.



### Schwarzenegger postpones movie

With the terrorist attack events remaining a sensitive subject, Arnold Schwarzenegger says there was no hesitation in postponing the release of his movie *Collateral Damage*. In the film, which was scheduled to open Oct. 5, Schwarzenegger plays a Los Angeles firefighter whose wife and son are killed in a terrorist attack. Now the movie has been delayed indefinitely. The 54-year-old actor said he doesn't expect Hollywood to stop making action films, though after what happened, he says he didn't want the movie to come out right now. Schwarzenegger says "I don't think that ... there's any indication that this terrorist attack happened because of some of the terrorist movies that were made."



### Manson faces court

Shock rocker Marilyn Manson, 32, has done it again. This time for a sexual misconduct charge stemming from allegations that he gyrated his pelvis against the neck and head of a security guard during a July concert in Michigan. Manson, whose real name is Brian Warner, is charged with criminal sexual conduct and assault and battery. If convicted on the felony sexual conduct charge, he could face up to two years in prison. The prosecutor's office had issued a warrant against Manson in August, but the performer was out of the country when the charges were filed. A preliminary examination was set for Oct. 9. Manson pleaded innocent to the charges Sept. 21. ♦



### Friends to be re-shot

The cast of NBC's sitcom *Friends* re-worked the third episode of the season, which was originally set in an airport. The show was to have newlyweds Monica (Courtney Cox Arquette) and Chandler (Matthew Perry) head off for their honeymoon with Monica insisting on being three hours early for the flight. Also, while going through a metal detector, Chandler makes a crack about a sign that reads, "it is illegal to joke about bombs on airplanes." Executive producer David Crane said, "Two weeks ago, that would have been ridiculous. It's not ridiculous now." Many networks are looking closely into show content this fall to eliminate any sensitive material that may have already been taped.

## Get ready for the funk



Photos provided

Bassist Tyler Moore (bottom left) and guitarist (far right) Ky Brazelton funk it out during the band's performance at the Green Door Pub in their hometown of Winchester, Tenn. Drummer Steve Counce (top) rocks at The Attic in Chattanooga.

By Erika Pryor  
Staff Writer

It's rare to find a bluesy, jazzy, funky, alternative group with a twist of twang all rolled in to one. Well, search no more. Alto Funk has hit the scene.

This alternative funk trio consists of drummer Steve Counce, guitarist Ky Brazelton and bassist Tyler Moore. These three men have come together and created a sound that's hard to duplicate.

"Our sound is laid back, yet progressive. All of our styles are different, and when they come together, it evolves into this interesting musical sound," Counce said when asked to describe the bands

sound.

Alto Funk has been sweeping across Murfreesboro for over two years. The group originally started with five members but has dwindled down to three.

"Getting everyone together was challenging, but I enjoy playing with two people who know how to handle themselves on stage," Moore said.

According to Moore, the group will remain a trio for the time being. He said they do not want to travel outside of their comfort zone.

"We're a big, well, small family," Counce added.

According to the band, touring is so hectic that there is rarely time to practice.

"It's good to be on stage

with competent musicians. That way you don't have to worry if everyone is where they ought to be," Moore said.

"Ky can freestyle like no other," Counce said. "He is very good on his feet with words. It's just comes naturally to him."

"We could run out of material and keep playing just making up new songs. He's that talented."

If you want to behold this band for yourself, check them out at The Boro tonight at midnight or Saturday at Wallstreet.

For a complete show listing and information on the bands forthcoming CD, Till the Break, check out [www.alto-funk.20m.com](http://www.alto-funk.20m.com) ♦



Call from  
the  
Pressbox  
J.P. Plant



Staff Writer

## Ruining the memory

Michael Jordan left us with the most memorable image possible when he hit the 20-foot jumper to capture his second three-peat for the Chicago Bulls.

The greatest player ever in the NBA ended his career on this note unlike many other great athletes like Joe Namath, Johnny Unitas and Magic Johnson.

Jordan already proved he could return and dominate, as was the case following his stint in the minor leagues with the Chicago White Sox organization. So why does he want to return now?

It's not the money - Jordan already has plenty of cigars to smoke while out on the golf course. It can't be because he wants to win another championship - he already has six, and, more importantly, he would be lucky to make the playoffs with the Washington Wizards.

The only feasible reason left would be his ego. Jordan wants to come back simply because he can. Or can he?

His 38-year-old body has already suffered two broken ribs, back spasms, tendinitis in the knee and hamstring problems while attempting to return his body to game shape. Jordan was never injury prone but was also never two years away from turning 40.

Jordan had originally scheduled to hold a press conference regarding his decision to return the week of the terrorist attack but rightfully postponed his decision to a later date. That was supposed to be Monday, but Jordan left us all on the edge of our seats waiting for the word, fax or telephone call to let the sports world know when he would speak. That word never came.

So the sports world puts its life on hold waiting for this superstar to announce his decision. Only Tiger Woods has the ability to keep a sport on hold in the fashion Jordan has. And even Tiger has a little of the Bear (Jack Nicklaus) still providing some 'superstar' shade.

Middle Tennessee head basketball coach Randy Wiel and former coach of Jordan as an assistant at North Carolina told Joe Biddle of *The Tennessean*, "For selfish reasons, I don't want to see him come back. Mike is 38 now. He can still play, but it is hard for me to imagine him guarding guys like [Allen] Iverson or some of those 20-year-olds because you do lose a little something."

I think Wiel speaks for most of us romantic sports fans who want to keep that final jump shot engrained in our memories.

As much as you thrilled us during your hall of fame career Michael, please don't return. Don't ruin the memory. ♦

Michael Jordan made his decision to return to the NBA and play for the Washington Wizards after this column was written yesterday.

Call from the Pressbox appears every Wednesday. J.P. Plant can be reached at 898-2816 or at slsports@mtsu.edu.

# Freshman makes early impact

By Steven Finley  
Staff Writer

Most college athletes arrive at school as freshmen with the notion that they should watch now and star later.

Evidently, Middle Tennessee freshman soccer star Danielle LaDuke never received that message.

LaDuke, a 5-foot-7-inch spark plug, set an early tone for the season when she scored two goals in her college debut Sept. 5 against the University of Tennessee at Martin. The second goal was the game-winner in the 90th and final minute.

The outburst catapulted LaDuke into fourth in points per game and goals per game in the league. Her barrage also marked the first time a MT player scored twice in a match since Jenny Cox pulled the trick Oct. 23, 2000.

LaDuke even surprised herself with her immediate impact.

"I was shocked because I was extremely nervous. I thought I wasn't really going to play that much," she said.

Success, however, is nothing new to LaDuke in her 13 years of soccer experience.

Since getting into competitive soccer at the age of seven, she has been giving increasing levels of competition fits, cumulating in her senior year of high school when she was named All-Central New York and All-State while leading both Liverpool High School and her conference in scoring.

A star in the making, LaDuke could have had her pick of the litter of New York schools but instead chose to attend MTSU to further her education and soccer career, citing "the style of play, the competition and the conference" as her

deciding factors.

LaDuke joins 13 new arrivals and 10 returning letter winners whom all have a common goal: To improve upon their 8-11 record in 2000 and this year's preseason poll positions, most of which placed the Blue Raiders in the middle of the Sun Belt Conference pack.

The transition to college athletics hasn't been as easy as planned for LaDuke. The team is coming off a season with sub .500 records both overall and in the Sun Belt Conference, and progress is hoped for if not expected.

Three-a-day practices and a grueling fitness test took their toll on the young forward. A partial tear and strain of her



LaDuke

Achilles forced her to miss action in practice and the season opener against Southern Mississippi.

To LaDuke, the injury was more of a nuisance than worry, and she doesn't expect any further problems from it.

"It wasn't bad, but I needed to rest it. If I had played I could have injured it more," she said.

The Lady Raiders will, however, need help from the newcomers to reach the heights they are seeking this season.

LaDuke, who leads the team in goals scored - two, joins fellow newcomer Lisa Langrish and redshirt sophomore Megan McGregor as the only three Raiders to touch the back of the net thus far this season.

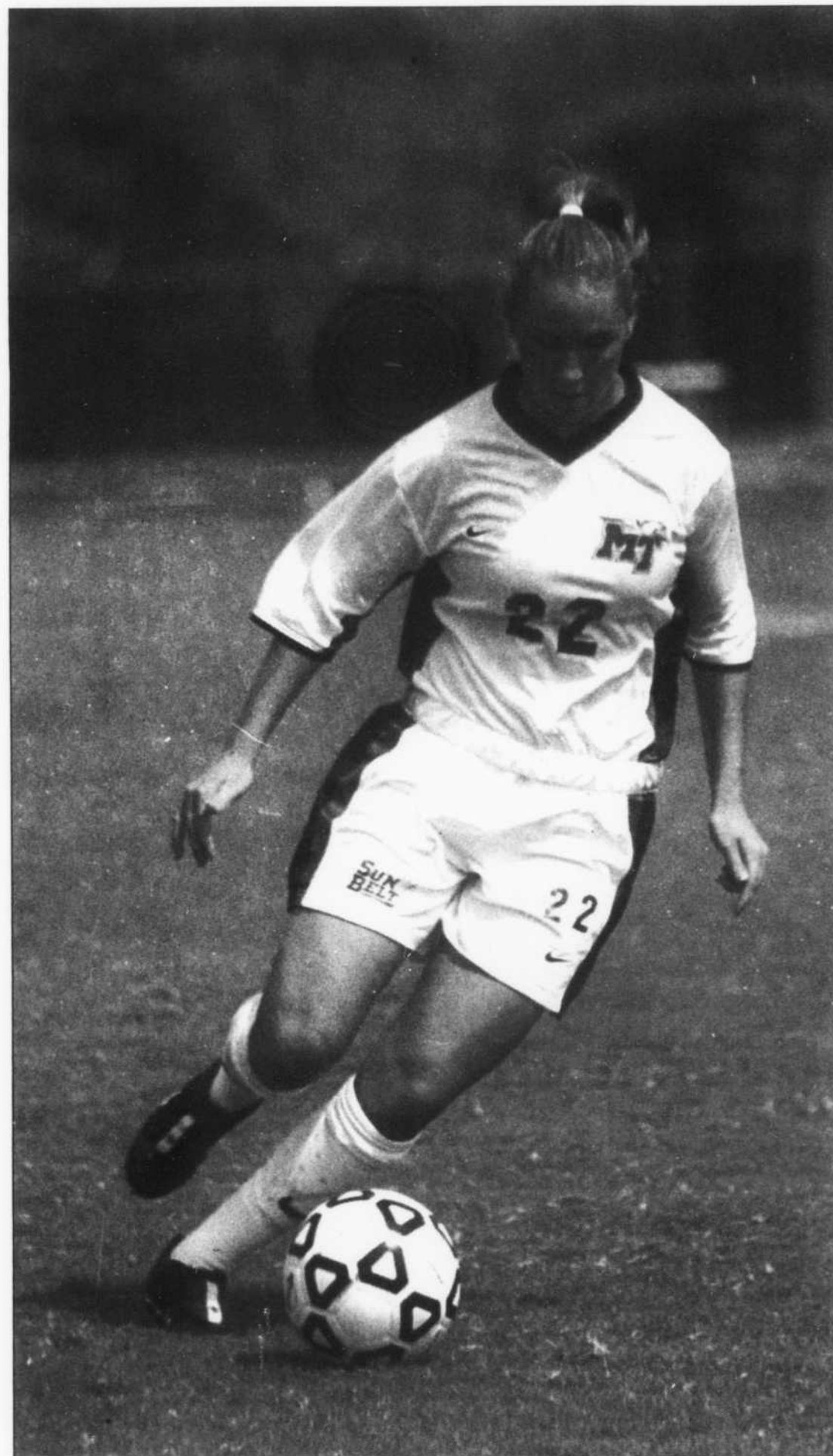
"We're not to far away (from where we want to be as a team)," LaDuke said. "We just need to step it up as a team and show leadership."

The Lady Raiders got off to a rough start with a 0-1 loss to USM before LaDuke lead them to the 3-2 victory in the thriller over UT at Martin. Their current 2-3 record still has a sense of optimism because both defeats were close one-goal losses.

LaDuke was taken down by an Alabama defender and collided with the goalkeeper in Saturday's game. She stayed down following the play, and an ambulance and EMTs were needed to remove her from the field.

Initial thought was that the injury was a fractured femur or dislocated hip. After reevaluation, she was found to have a deep tissue bruise. LaDuke will be out of action for a couple weeks. ♦

# Lady Raider soccer loses home contest against Eastern Illinois



Lindsey Bopp controls the ball while advancing downfield in Sunday's game against Eastern Illinois.

Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

## Ashley Hicks scores sole goal for Middle Tennessee in 2-1 loss to OVC team

By Steven Finley  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee soccer team continued its roller coaster season Sunday with a 2-1 loss to the visiting Eastern Illinois Panthers.

MT came into the match with the momentum of a huge victory over previously undefeated Alabama. Add that to the confidence of last year's 5-0 defeat of the Panthers, and the Lady Raiders seemingly had everything in their favor.

What MT wasn't prepared for was the play of Eastern Illinois' sophomore speedster and 2000 Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year Beth Liesen.

Liesen wasted no time getting her team on the board when she took a pass from midfielder Devon Bissell and beat Lady Raider goalkeeper Emily Shrum one on one.

She scored the goal just seven minutes into the game and placed MT in the come-from-behind role they haven't played well all season.

The Panthers kept the 1-0 lead throughout the first half until the 64th minute when the Lady Raiders tied the score with a spectacular play.

Forward Megan McGregor headed a pass to Lindsey Bopp who fed freshman Ashley Hicks streaking down the left flank of the 6-yard box. Hicks then beat the Panther goalkeeper to knot the score up at 1-1.

Led by the aggressive play of midfielder Laura Miguez, the Lady Raiders seemed destined to make a comeback. Miguez was all over the field, playing stifling defense and attacking the net.

This type of offensive play gave MT several quality scoring chances, but the great play of EIU keeper Lindsay Dechert and several mental mistakes by the Lady Raiders kept the ball

out of the net.

Liesen struck once more with Bissell again assisting her in the go-ahead goal in the 80th minute. Her game-winner was the 11th of her short career, good enough to pass Tracie Strother for the school lead.

The final 10 minutes ticked off the clock without a serious MT threat, and EIU celebrated their fifth win of the season.

The loss drops MT's season record to 2-3 overall.

"We played well in spurts today," MT head coach Scott Ginn said. "We played much better in the second half than the first, and many of our youngsters played quality minutes."

"We just need to do a better job of finishing our chances and cut out the lapses we have on defense."

Liesen's two goals for Eastern Illinois gave her seven in the past three matches and nine overall this season. It also pushed her career total to 22 goals in only 25 games.

On a positive note for the Blue Raiders, freshman forward Danielle LaDuke's injury in Saturday's game against the University of Alabama, first believed to be a season-ending fracture, was instead ruled to be a deep tissue bruise. The injury will still cause her to miss significant action, but nowhere near the amount originally believed.

LaDuke will be missed as MT plays through a critical home stand in which key victories are needed before the start of Sun Belt Conference play.

The current home stand includes matches with Murray State yesterday, the Sun Belt opener with Florida International on Friday and a Sunday date with Lipscomb.

The Lady Raiders then hit the road for five straight Sun Belt games. ♦

# Volleyball defeated in make-up game against Arkansas

By Erich Heinlein  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team lost their third consecutive game, 30-24, 30-21, 30-19, Monday to the University of Arkansas.

This is the third time in four matches that MT has played against a team from a major conference.

The Lady Raiders have lost

nine out of their last 11 matches.

"I think a lot of our girls aren't where they need to be," MT assistant coach Tara Miller said. "This experience should show the girls where they need to be, and it should keep them from getting complacent."

In the game, the Lady Razorbacks jumped out to a commanding 6-1 lead in the first set. The Lady Raiders

showed signs of coming back, taking the lead at 23-22 at one point and tying the score four times in the first set. Arkansas held off the Middle Tennessee comeback, taking the 30-24 win.

The second set was pretty even. The Lady Raiders only led once in the second set, when Katie Thiesen had a service ace. Arkansas then took six out of the next eight points and lead

by as much as nine points in the second set at 20-11. They won that set 30-21.

The last set was a repeat of the second with MT falling behind, catching up and then Arkansas pulling away again. The set featured eight ties, the last tie at 16, and one lead change before Arkansas ran away with the game winning 14-3.

ShaKeitha Deckard led the

Lady Raider attack with 11 kills and 32 attacks. Katie Thiesen added 10 kills, 20 attacks and three service aces. Erin Hillstrom also contributed 27 attacks to the cause.

As a team, the Lady Raiders attacked the net with a season high 121 attacks but had only 37 kills and seven blocks, which gave them a .149 attack percentage.

The Lady Raiders also had

many balls sail out of bounds on the attacks and on serves. MT had six service errors.

"We were not adjusting to the plays with sets," Miller said.

As a team, the Lady Razorbacks had 43 kills, 98 attacks and seven blocks.

The next game for the Lady Raiders will be at 7 p.m. Friday in another conference showdown against Louisiana Lafayette. ♦



# Blue Raider Notebook

By Shane Marquardt  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee visits Louisiana at Lafayette in part two of a possible four-part series within the state of Louisiana.

The Ragin Cajuns are the next Sun Belt Conference opponent on the Blue Raider docket and the second consecutive trip to Louisiana after a successful trip to Indian country last weekend.

A sabbatical against Southeastern Conference beast Louisiana State University looms in the future, but Louisiana at Lafayette is the forthcoming battle, and the game against the Ragin Cajuns should help determine whether MT gets a fourth trip to Louisiana for the New Orleans Bowl.

## The Blue Collar Workers:

The offensive line will have their hands full this weekend in Lafayette, La. They face two defensive linemen who were named to the All-Louisiana team last year. Heads need to be on a swivel for nose guard Walter Sampson and defensive end Derrick Marshall, who had two sacks against the Blue Raiders last year.

## Big D:

The Blue Raider defense has been flexing their muscles as of late and showing that MT has more than just offense to offer Sun Belt opponents. The Raider defense shut out Louisiana at Monroe in the first half last weekend and played tough under the strain of penalties and turnovers provided by the MT offense. Cornerback Jykine Bradley is doing his best to forewarn opposing offenses not to throw in his direction. He has collected a conference-leading three interceptions and also is ranked fourth in the nation in the art of theft through the air.

## All-American Watch:

Running back Dwone Hicks continued his campaign for the nation's leading scorer with three rushing touchdowns and one receiving touchdown. He didn't cover much territory in Indian country, though, with only 75 yards on 20 carries. Wide receiver Kendall Newson picked up the slack in yardage with 103 yards on eight catches. This gives Newson a total of 12 career 100-yard games, the most in Blue Raider history.

## Spotlight On:

Junior wide receiver David Youell had a career game against Louisiana at Monroe. Youell had seven receptions for a total of 83 yards. Just what Sun Belt opponents need, another Blue Raider wanting to participate in an offense that is already one of the top in the nation.

The Blue Raiders take on Louisiana at Lafayette Saturday in Lafayette, La. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. ♦

## Staniak loses in finals



Photo by Rebecca Pickering | Staff

**Michael Staniak returns the serve during a recent match. Staniak advanced to the finals of the Collegiate Championships in Athens, Ga., played Sept. 21-24.**

### Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee tennis team ended their stint at the Southern Collegiate Championships in Athens, Ga., Monday.

Michael Staniak lost in the finals of the Division I singles consolation bracket to Cody Conley of Louisville 4-6, 6-3, 6-10 in a tiebreaker.

Staniak split sets with Conley and led 5-1 in the tiebreaker before Conley rallied to take the

match.

"It's disappointing. Michael was up 5-1 and then played a few shaky points and Conley took advantage," MT head coach Dale Short said. "Most of the guys played several good matches over the weekend, especially Michael and Oliver [Foreman]."

Staniak won his semifinal match against Mark Kovacs of Auburn by default.

He began the tournament with a loss to Nikola Aracil of

Murray State.

Staniak came back to win his next match against Piero Demichelli of Stenson.

He then used two wins Sunday to reach the semifinals.

The Blue Raiders are scheduled to play in the Louisville Fall Invitational in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 5-7. They may skip the event to concentrate solely on the

All-American Championships scheduled for Oct. 6-14 in Stone Mountain, Ga. ♦

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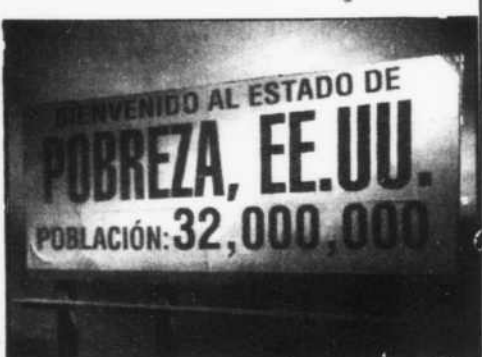
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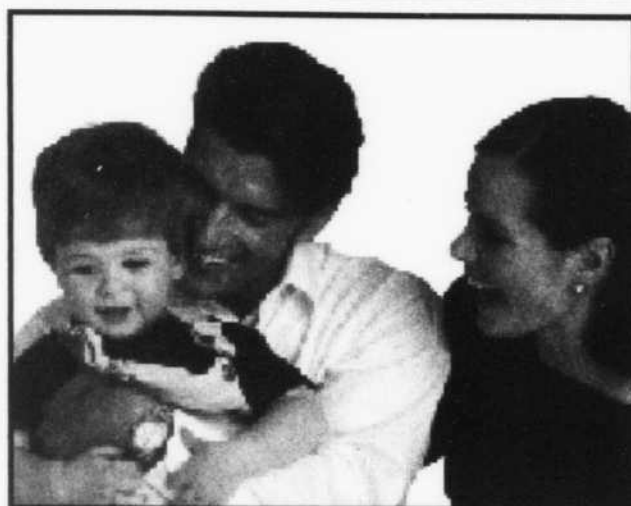
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