

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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## Starlett gets four years

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Community News Editor

Starlett Custer received a four-year sentence, including \$3,200 in restitution, from the Rutherford County Court Sept. 4 and begins serving her sentence next weekend.

Hon. Judge David M. Bragg sentenced Starlett Custer, the former student charged with reckless aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

The four years will be suspended following 45 days of time served – allowing Starlett Custer to complete the remainder of the sentence on probation.

“I am the only person getting penalized and that hurts me,” Starlett Custer said. “I don’t want to go to jail – I did not have a weapon at all.”

The period of incarceration will be served concurrently with her other sentence of 11 months and 29 days of probation. The court also approved a motion to allow Starlett Custer to serve her period of incarceration on weekends.

“I think the judge was extremely fair,” said attorney for the defense Joe Brandon Jr. “I would assume it’s a relief to both of the girls from these families.”

Brandon said that Bragg listened to all of the proof, and the alternative sentencing was appropriate due to the lack of a prior record and the overall character of his

client.

Prior to sentencing, friends and family members from both sides of the case were allowed to speak their minds and voice their concerns to the court.

Harold Ramsay, the father of the victim, said Ashley has already acquired out-of-pocket expenses that exceeded the restitution of \$3,200, and she may require more surgeries. He said his daughter has also suffered beyond just physical damages, possibly future counseling.

“One of the first things I noticed is when we went out into public, she and I were afraid to come within 10 or 20 feet of people,” Harold Ramsay said. “Because the way that this happened was so out of context from what she and I expected, that we didn’t know what to expect from other people.”

Harold Ramsay said his daughter was forced to drop out of school and lost her apartment because of the amount of time she spent with doctors, lawyers and the public in regards to the incident.

Yolanda Howard, whose husband is the pastor of Living Truth Christian Church where Starlett Custer and her family attend, said the altercation is out of character for the defendant and asked the court to give her a second chance.

“I believe that this experience has been a learning experience,” Howard said. “When given a chance to



Photo by Shelley Vernon, production manager  
A year since the incident in the Bell Street Lot, Starlett Custer receives a four-year sentence for reckless aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

continue her education and to let children know that violence is not the way to resolve problems, I believe she will make a difference in our community.”

Dolores Custer, mother of the defendant, said the media led many to believe the altercation was one sided. She asked the court to recognize that her daughter was not the only one involved in the fight.

“I’m not saying that she shouldn’t be held responsible for what she did, because she did do something wrong,” Dolores Custer said. “The thing of it is, there [were] two girls that unfortunately got into

this situation, but it is one that is really going to pay for it.”

Starlett Custer said that while she is upset that she is the only one to carry any legal penalties from this situation, although she has learned a lot from the experience. “I do know and recognize that Miss Ramsay has suffered,” Starlett Custer said. “Both of us could have made a different decision, and I wish that I had made a different decision by staying in my car or calling the police. I wish I hadn’t gotten out of my car to see what was wrong with her.”

### Aug 28, 2008

Custer and Ramsay engaged in a dispute over a parking spot. Both girls were found cut. MTSU police handle the crime scene alone, refusing offers of assistance from local police. No weapon was found. Starlett Custer was expelled from the university and entered police custody.

### Nov 18, 2008

Starlett Custer brought her case before the grand jury in the Rutherford County General Sessions Court. Starlett Custer pleaded not guilty.

### July 13, 2009

Starlett Custer trial began with the juror selection. The state called their witnesses, including Ashley Ramsay.

### July 14, 2009

Custer trial resumed with testimony from the defense including the defendant Starlett Custer.

### July 15, 2009

Trial concludes. Jury delivered guilty verdict. Starlett Custer charged with Reckless Endangerment and Reckless Aggravated Assault.

### Sept. 4, 2009

Hon. Judge David M. Bragg sentenced Custer to 4 years, suspended after 45 days. Custer will serve her period of incarceration over the weekends. Following the 45 days, Custer will be placed on probation.

Graphic by Shelley Vernon, production manager

## Obama speaks to students despite objection

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Community News Editor

Amidst controversy, President Barack Obama addressed the nation’s students, discussing his childhood, his hopes for the nation’s future and urging students to stay in school and pursue their dreams.

Obama’s address, which was filmed at Wakefield High School in Arlington Va., was televised across the country and viewed by children and young adults in various schools Tuesday morning.

“I’ve talked a lot about your government’s responsibility for setting high standards, supporting teachers and prin-

cipals, and turning around schools that aren’t working where students aren’t getting the opportunities they deserve,” Obama said.

Obama said that at the end of the day, we still can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents and the best schools in the world. “But none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities,” Obama said.

Cheryl Harris, director of community relations for Murfreesboro City Schools, said each principal sent parents voice messages last Friday with the “Alert Now System,” informing them of the meeting and requesting

a note from any parents who objected to the viewing of the speech.

“We want our children to respect what the president says and we want them to have the opportunity to hear what he says, if the parents approve,” Harris said.

Prior to the speech, Rutherford County Schools also sent a notice to parents informing them of the president’s intentions. The letter stated that the speech was not expected to address any politics or policies and the schools would not be modifying their regular schedules to view the speech.

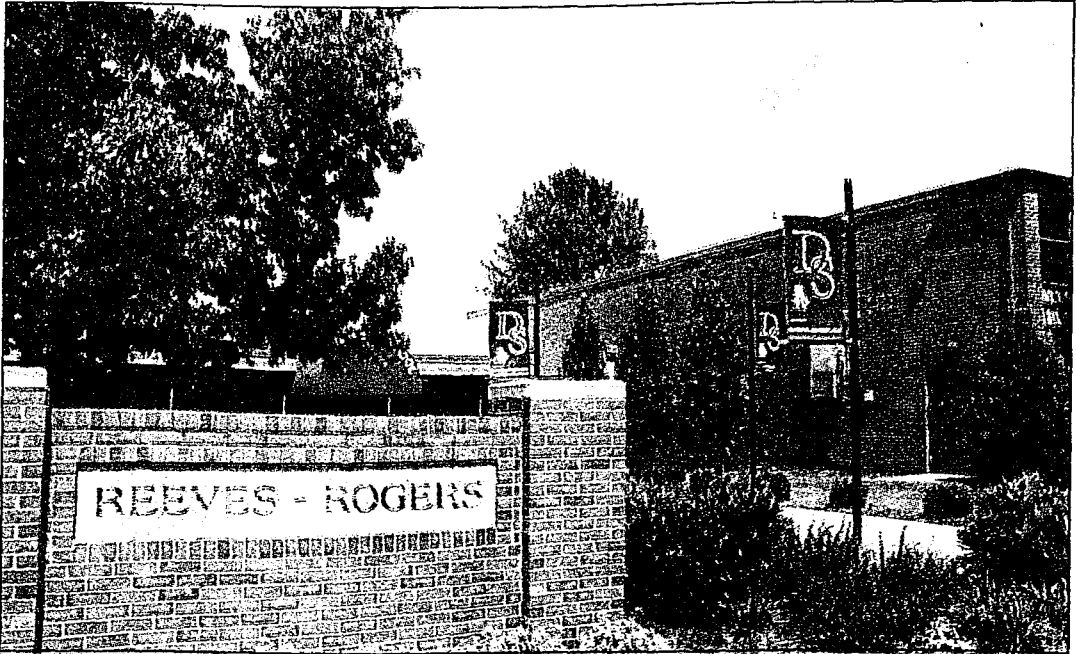


Photo by Dustin Evans, Assistant Community News Editor  
The Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers along with other Rutherford County school allowed parents to hold their students out of class if the parents did not want their children hearing Obama’s speech on Tuesday.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Ralphie May performed his comedy show to hundreds of students, faculty and guests Sept. 2.

# Comedian kicks off semester

By MEGAN MCSWAIN  
Staff Writer

No topic was off limits for comedian Ralphie May who performed for MTSU's Week of Welcome at the Murphy Center on Sept. 2.

The 37-year-old comic joked about college life, Michael Jackson, swine flu and why he likes going to movie theaters that have black audiences.

"I am racially insensitive and culturally controversial," comedian Ralphie May warned his audience. "I'm politically incorrect, but I'm self-aware and I'm honest."

May said performing for college audiences differ from his regular audiences and make him focus more on relating to the attendees rather than them relating to him.

"[College audiences] are open-minded but they haven't lived enough to have the experiences to get older references," May said. "Their minds are open to any new idea, any new thought."

May, who knew he wanted to be a comic when he was nine years old, said he got his start when he was



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Ralphie May performs his comedy act in MTSU's Murphy Center.

17. At the time he was in Arkansas, attending high school and also taking college courses.

He said he and his organic chemistry study group went to Shakey's Pizza, which was having a stand-up comedy contest. He performed and won. After getting attention from a girl, he said he decided to forget about college and move to Houston to pursue a comedy career.

"An unattractive girl changed my whole life because I [told] stupid jokes about the drummer from Def Leppard," May said.

To read more, visit us online.

online  
www.mtsusidelines.com

## CRIME BRIEFS

- Sep. 3, 3:06 a.m.**  
**Traffic Violation**  
Felder Hall  
Zachary Tucker was issued a State Citation for driving without a license.
- Sep. 3, 2:40 p.m.**  
**Theft**  
Alumni Memorial Gym  
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to items that were taken from her office.
- Sep. 3, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Theft**  
Woodfins Lot  
Report of theft of a catalytic convertor from a Toyota 4Runner.
- Sep. 4, 12:59 a.m.**  
**Underage Alcohol Consumption**  
Alumni Drive  
Aaron Battle, Preston Crim, Jacob Dwyer, Justin Fulkerson and Devin Pruitt were issued state citations for consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 and issued written trespass warnings.

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## School FROM PAGE 1

Adam LaPorte, a sixth grader at the Discovery School at Reeves Rogers, said while he had heard opposition to the presidential address, he found the speech to be motivational.

"It sounded to me more like a pep talk than an order," LaPorte said. "I have heard a lot of controversy that some of his speeches were offensive, but I didn't feel or see anything against it."

Emily Oppunam, a fifth grader at the Discovery School, said the content of the speech was not surprising.

"He pretty much mentioned a lot of things that Ms. Jones, our teacher, already went over," Oppunam said. "It was kind of cool that we knew what he was expecting of us."

Obama mentioned the successes of author J.K. Rowling, who wrote the Harry Potter series, and professional basketball player, Michael Jordan. He said their successes came from multiple failures.

"These people succeeded because they understand

that you can't let your failures define you – you have to let them teach you," Obama said. "You have to let them show you what to do differently next time."

Atticus Spurlock, a fifth grader at the Discovery School, said while he was disappointed to miss his favorite math class due to the speech, he learned a lot.

"He talked about how we will probably do something good for our country and make our country proud," Spurlock said. "If we give up on school, we are letting our country down."

## CURRENT EVENTS

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Chuck Close Prints: Process and Collaboration</b><br><b>Now through Sept. 13.</b><br>Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts<br>Admission: \$8.50, \$7.50 seniors and military, \$6.50 college students<br>Free to college students from 5-9 p.m. Thursday and Fridays | <b>Wicked</b><br><b>Now through Sept. 20</b><br>Location: TPAC's Jackson Hall<br>Admission: \$55-145  | <b>MTSU Blackout Bash</b><br><b>Sept. 12, 8 p.m.</b><br>Location: Club 527<br>Admission: visit club527.com for more information   |
| <b>Shakespeare in the Park: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged</b><br><b>Now through Sept. 13, select nights at 7:30 p.m.</b><br>Location: Centennial Park Bandshell<br>Admission: Donations accepted, \$5 suggested donation                                | <b>Buzzfest</b><br><b>Sept. 11, 3 p.m.</b><br>Location: Riverfront Park<br>Admission: \$29 general admission, \$99 four packs                                     | <b>Taylor Swift</b><br><b>Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.</b><br>Location: Sommet Center<br>Admission: \$20-50                                |
|  | <b>Hometown</b><br><b>Sept. 11, 8 p.m.</b><br>Location: The Boro Bar and Grill<br>Admission: Free   | <b>Freedom Sings</b><br><b>Sept. 16, 2:20 p.m.</b><br>Location: Tucker Theatre<br>Admission: call 494-8736 for more information   |
|  | <b>Midnight Movie: Saturday Night Fever</b><br><b>Sept. 11-12, midnight</b><br>Location: Belcourt Theater<br>Admission: \$8.50 adult, \$6.25 seniors and students | <b>Legal Clinic</b><br><b>Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.</b><br>Location: Julie Anderson Women's Center<br>Admission: free, contact 898-2193 |

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Letters Policy

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

MTSU, sell us alcohol

We'll pay. We promise. It's okay to have a few beers at a football game, and what better way to do it than to enrich the MT purse in the process?

The current policy for tailgate events includes these highlights: alcohol, or any manner of community drink container are strictly prohibited. No more Gatorade jugs full of "ginger ale."

There has long been a large discrepancy between tailgate party attendance and game attendance. We suspect it has something to do with traditional party elements, namely, alcohol.

Now, it's definitely strange that a university which self-identifies as a football school would not encourage the tradition of the raucous, beer-fueled tailgate party. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, anyone?

Simply put, we're grown-ups, and we think MTSU deserves to have the same quality of party as any other school which enjoys a good game. It's time to sell beer at games, and it's time to openly allow alcohol in tailgate zones.

The arguments against these changes typically go as follows: No, we won't have alcohol at tailgate events because people drive to and from them. No, we won't sell beer at games due to liability. Duly noted.

The fact is, these are collegiate sporting events. People enjoy a good party to go with their game. If they can't have their favorite adult beverage, why would they climb the stairs and sit in the stands when they could enjoy the game at home, with no restrictions on drinks? Every semester, the cry goes out for increased involvement in campus events, and every semester, it goes unheard.

Financially, this makes sense. Football, we are told, is a very important program for the university, for our prestige and fundraising. Why would we ignore an easy fundraising tool that merely enhances the football program?

Although it may impact the liability insurance required to have games and tailgate parties, the super-inflated price of alcohol at sporting events is a virtually guaranteed revenue stream. The cost increase would be easily offset.

Additionally, alumni and fans who travel to games and tailgate parties would be far more likely to attend, imbibe and thus enrich the admittedly starved purse of our dear university.

Tailgate parties are a trickier situation. In general, an event which combines alcohol, automobiles and large crowds of people is a recipe for disaster, but isn't this what we have already?

It has been the unspoken rule that beverages in Solo cups or otherwise obscured are totally fine. What we currently have is a black market, with no potential for money earning.

Besides, tailgate parties happen before games, so the partygoers should be reasonably sober when it's time to go.

Dear MTSU, can we be grown-ups? Can we make some money? Can we have a game and a brew?

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

Live simply, save environment



Uncommon Ground

Alex Blackwelder

have forgotten that reducing consumption is the main pillar of environmentalism.

Take the Democrats' Cash for Clunkers program as a perfect example.

This "green" program allows consumers to trade in cars getting 18mpg or less and receive a rebate check of varying amounts for the purchase of a brand new vehicle clocking at 22mpg or more.

To show how environmentally unfriendly this program is, look at how you can trade in your old Hummer and get a rebate to purchase a new Hummer, the environmental movement's icon of overindulgence and unnecessary waste. Trucks and smaller SUVs top off the list of vehicles most bought with the program in an independent study.

Participating in this program requires buying a brand new car, which is at least an \$18,000 investment after the rebate. Poorer people, who can't afford that, are the ones that own the oldest, least efficient cars on the road.

Car part dealers are crying as they watch YouTube videos of perfectly good engines being destroyed in the name of environmentalism. This also raises the price of car parts for lower-income families still driving the clunkers.

Duke University researchers determined that the program would cut emissions, but only after 70,000 miles when the carbon footprint from production has been offset. So yes, there are short-term rewards of this program, but what might be gained is lost as the government tries to buy its way out of our energy crisis, promoting wasteful behaviors for the future.

The attitude that we can continue living and consuming at the same rate, and still save the environment, is very dangerous. Long-term problems require long-term solutions, like lifestyle changes.

The Cash for Clunkers



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
A car in MTSU's parking lot which could be a Cash for Clunkers candidate.

program is a good way for Congress and our President to feel good about themselves without addressing the real problems. Others may be fooled, but I know you can't save the world by buying a brand new 22mpg Ford Escape.

Next time you shop at a secondhand store, tell yourself it is a revolutionary ac-

tion slowing down the speed that we spiral into spiritual and environmental disaster. If that is too dramatic for you, just remember that stuff is cheaper there and you can buy more of it.

Alex Blackwelder is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached at [anb4j@mtsu.edu](mailto:anb4j@mtsu.edu)

Embrace ideological diversity



Pearl Before Swine

Pearl Howell

Coming from a small town in Nowhere, TN, to a huge university as a theater major has been a huge shock. Some of the surprises are pleasant, and some are much less so.

Discovering that my dorm is not scary or grimy was pleasant. Realizing the food in the cafeteria was not only colorful and varied, but also delicious, was enjoyable.

Learning that I would have to walk across the sprawling campus was upsetting. Hearing the colorful language of my professors and peers was disappointing. The single most disturbing surprise, however, was the attitude of some of these acclaimed professionals and students.

As a church-goer and a conservative, the new views, ideas, and impressions have been swamping me, and I am only too happy to listen, as well as argue. I like learning about different beliefs and comparing them with my own. It is educational, and the arguments keep me sharp. The same cannot be said, however, of some of my liberal compatriots.

I have noticed as I have spoken with more and more people that those who claim to be open-minded are those

who are the worst for being close-minded, but in an unexpected way. They embrace the odd, the unusual, and the rejected, and that is well and good. Such people need and deserve protection.

Their close-mindedness comes in the form of a blind-spot, a place they do not want to see. The liberally minded shut off the conservatives.

Some might say, of course, that is only natural. They sit on opposite ends of the spectrum. It is natural that they should feud, disagree, and even give each other the cold shoulder. Not so.

After all, we are all humans. No one should be neglected or dismissed because they are different. That is just common sense and plain good manners.

In the university environ-

ment, those who believe in God, those who are pro-life, and those who might lean toward the Republican party are a minority. Shouldn't they be embraced and protected, too?

Even though liberals and conservatives might sit on opposite ends of the spectrum, they are still on that same spectrum, after all.

**I would never wish that everyone would have the same beliefs. The beauty of living in America is that we don't have to have the same ideas."**

Perhaps some have the ill-conceived impression that conservatives are country, slow-talking, dim-witted, ill-educated, bodily-function-glorifying idiots who are war hungry and irrationally argumentative.

This is a stereotype, a term the open-minded claim to abhor. Nevertheless, they seem to bring up Bubba and his love of guns frequently when arguing their own points.

As a conservative who is also a capable, intelligent,

and peaceful citizen, I deeply resent this. I am not ignorant. I read, write, think, and obey basic rules of decorum, much like any other person. My personal, political, and religious views cannot change that.

I take both sides of the story into account before I decide which one to support, which is the way that all hu-

man beings should approach their belief systems. Everyone must decide for themselves what they base their beliefs on, and they should collect information about them, decide what they as an individual feel is the best, and then continue from there.

It should be said that few people truly do this. It is impossible to be completely unbiased in all things. The best way to live is deciding for yourself how biased you are going to be.

Everyone has a moral code,

an idea of right and wrong, regardless of what they believe. This is a human commonality, and should be embraced. No one should be mocked for their ideas, including conservatives.

I would never wish that everyone would have the same beliefs. The beauty of living in America is that we don't have to have the same ideas. We have freedom of speech and uncountable rights.

Everyone on the spectrum, from liberals all the way to conservatives, should learn to respect and understand each other, even if beliefs collide. Diversity strengthens our own beliefs and helps us gain in knowledge and experience.

Without conservatives, liberals would not exist, and vice versa.

When people share and argue their ideas, they push themselves together to create something better than either could have been alone.

If you have an open mind with all people, even Bubba might surprise you with a little more knowledge and a lot more tolerance.

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major and can be reached at [rph2t@mtsu.edu](mailto:rph2t@mtsu.edu)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ralphie May vulgar, poisonous

To the Editor:

I spent 105 minutes watching Ralphie May fill minds with poison and get most to laugh and applaud it. An abecedarian, but not comprehensive list of the poison (lies): dehumanizing others and accusing them of bestiality is good, smoking and buying marijuana illegally is good, fornication is good, masturbation is good, pornography is good, supporting a president who

radically contradicts and undermines the fundamental human right (the right to life), is good, sodomy is good, the development of same-sex attractions is normal and healthy and that people are "homosexual."

I should like to point out that our sexuality is one of the most powerful, beautiful and profound gifts from God; it is sacred, and it is no coincidence that it is what Satan attacks most forcefully in our culture. He [May] got many to embrace and laugh at this demonic propaganda, thereby leading us

to reject and sin against our God, Father and Creator of our universe and us. I urge us to repent and reconcile ourselves with our merciful and just God.

It is beyond the scope of this letter to address all the societal harm caused by these lies of Ralphie May; it is a very grave matter. I shall say only that these theological truths have natural evidence.

Ralphie May's message, as I itemized, was poison and leads to vice and death, hurting us, our society and our relationship with God.

If you want a message as an antidote, I recommend reading the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Theology of the Body for Beginners and Good News about Sex and Marriage, both by Christopher West.

I wish to avoid specific details of his performance. However, he sold himself as someone who "provides alternative thinking," attempting to bolster his lies with the facade of originality or individuality. How terribly dishonest and what nonsense: his message mirrored the media and the

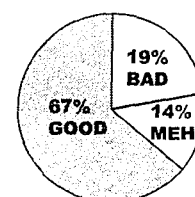
tripe of television. You can see it for hours every day simply by turning to Comedy Central.

If you want alternative thinking, throw away your television and open a book. If you want an alternative lifestyle, to be an individual, then follow Jesus Christ and be more than a natural creature. Receive the living bread that comes from heaven and anticipate the bodily resurrection.

Daniel Bridges  
Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

DO YOU PLAN TO TAILGATE  
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## FEATURES

HOW WAS YOUR  
FIRST WEEK OF  
CLASSES?BASED ON VOTES FROM  
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## Four easy tailgating recipes sure to win

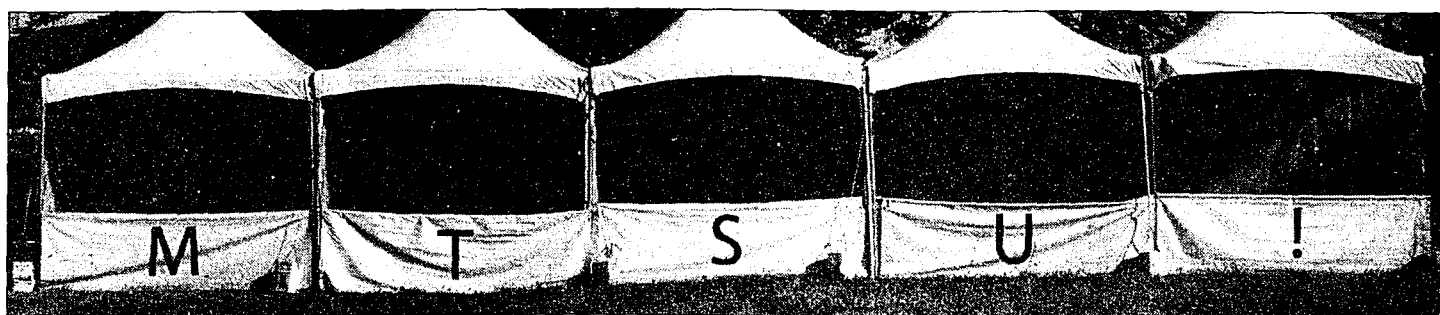
Since tailgating season is just beginning *Sidelines* is pleased to offer all the Blue Raider football fans a few of our favorite recipes. We'd also like to hear what your favorite tailgating recipes are.

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Check out our Web site, find this story and post your favorite recipe as a comment under this story for other fans. We look forward to reading about your tailgating favorites.



Graphic by Andy Harper, Managing Editor



Photo courtesy of Hillbilly Hilton MTSU Alumni



Photo courtesy of Hillbilly Hilton MTSU Alumni

## Tailgating Buffalo Chicken Dip

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Grease a baking dish or casserole dish. The dip can be baked and then transfer into a serving bowl afterwards. Frozen chicken tenders can be used, but fresh delicatessen styles ones are easier to use.

Chop the tenders and fill the bottom of the casserole dish with the chicken bits. After that, pour the wing sauce over the chopped chicken and toss the chicken into the sauce.

Next, chop the cream cheese into cubes and layer on top of the chicken.

Cover the mixture with the ranch dressing and then fill the remainder of the dish with the shredded cheese.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 12 min. or until golden and bubbling on top.

Serve with Fritos or tortilla chips.

*What you will need:**Greased baking or  
casserole dish**3 lb. chopped fried  
chicken tenders**1 14 oz. btl. Budweiser  
wing sauce**1 8 oz. btl. Ranch dressing**1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese**1 8 oz. pkg. Mexican  
blend*

## Tex-Mex Beef and Bean Dip

Cook beef in a large nonstick skillet over a medium-high fire.

Heat the beef until browned, stirring until it begins crumble.

Drain well; return beef to pan.

Add tomato paste and the next 4 ingredients (through diced tomatoes), and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat, and let it simmer for 5 minutes or until thick, stirring occasionally.

Spoon meat mixture into a serving bowl

Top with crumbled cheese and green onions.

Serve with tortilla chips.

*What you will need:**1/2 pound ground sirloin**2 tbs no-salt tomato paste**1 - 2 tsp chipotle powder**3/4 tsp ground cumin**1 (15-oz) can pinto beans,  
rinsed and drained**1 (14.5-oz) can diced  
tomatoes, undrained**3/4 cup (3 oz) crumbled  
queso fresco**1/4 cup thin sliced green  
onions**3 oz bite-size tortilla chips*

## Loaded Nachos

*What you will need:*

Spread the chips on the plate for the first layer, but be sure to set some aside for dipping with later.

After opening the tomato and chile mix, drain the water from the can before spreading over the chips.

For the next layer, spread the cheese on top.

At this point, the plate can be microwaved for about 30 seconds to melt the cheese.

For the next layer, place 2-3 tablespoons of sour cream on the top and spread them evenly with the back of a spoon.

Wash green onions, cut off ends, until you have 1 cup of diced green onions.

Spread diced onions on top of the sour cream layer.

*1 package nacho or salsa  
chips**1 package Mexican cheese**1 cup sour cream**1 package green onions**1 can Rotel Tomato and  
Chile mix*

## Pregame Wisconsin Brats

Over low heat combine the butter, onions, garlic, salt and sauerkraut. Stir occasionally until they begin to sweat.

Once the onions have turned translucent remove the pan from heat.

In a large stock pot combine the entire contents of the vegetable pan as well as 3 beers. Continue to fill the pot to 3/4 capacity with water

Bring the stock pot to a boil.

While the stock pot is heating puncture the casings.

Once the pot has come to a boil place the bratwurst in the stock pot.

Boil until fully cooked and serve on a hotdog bun with appropriate condiments.

*What you will need:**2 tablespoons butter**1 package bratwurst**3 cloves crushed garlic**1/4 cup diced white onion**1/2 teaspoon salt**3/4 cup sauerkraut**3 12oz. cans of your  
favorite beer*



# So Good it's THE WORSTIES

## High energy Nashville band rises to the top on stage and on the radio

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

Next door to Exit/In, The Worsties sit around a table in the corner of a Mexican restaurant.

"That is not the 'Reader's Digest' version," Jesse Worstell says to Anna Worstell, after she spouts a long-winded tale of the band's history.

Playing what the band describes as foxy rock, The Worsties are four Nashville natives who duck the prominent roots/Americana scene in Music City and instead spend their time clashing glamour-pop with a dirtier brand of garage rock.

Though it might be expected that diva personalities would naturally tail a label like "foxy rock," The Worsties – guitarist Jesse "Worsty" Worstell, vocalist Anna "Madame Worsty" Worstell, bassist Jairo "El Guapo" Ruiz and drummer Nathan "Four to the Floor" Shelton – is a down-to-earth band.

Before a set at Exit/In, the band talks about its developing brand of rock, its place in Nashville and how The Worsties came to be. Odd as it may seem, The Worsties sprang from what began as a twee, duet kind of project between Anna and Jesse Worstell in 2003.

Before the married couple (sometimes mistaken for brother and sister) collaborated, each played in separate bands. Anna Worstell credits her old band for teaching her the basics of performing, but saw no future in the project. Jesse Worstell had a different opinion of his own band.

"It was a college band," he deadpans. "We thought we were going to take over the world like every other college band." The band ended up falling apart.

"I told them that they sucked and I said to Jesse, 'Why don't we write music,'" Anna Worstell says.

They tried, and the effort was natural, but just too organic for their taste.

"I finally said, 'Dude, I f\*cking want to rock out. Really, we have to do something about this,'" Anna Worstell says. "So we got a drum machine, thinking that was going to make us rock stars, and we recorded well with it, but when you get on stage with a drum machine, it's a complete and utter embarrassment."

Two Worstells and a drum machine made three, and soon after Ruiz offered to layer in bass lines, which the band immediately loved. Still, there was pressure to replace the drum machine with an actual drummer, an idea to which The Worsties were not as receptive.

"We were being defiant," Anna Worstell says. "'We're gonna play with our drum machine, damn it!'" But her desire to actively perform on stage eventually won out over the attachment to the drum machine, and the hunt for a drummer commenced.

"We went through some crazy ones, drug addict ones, studio musician ones that would just play shows for the hell of it," she says. "No one could commit, but then baby Nathan came along." Shelton joined the band through Craigslist, thus completing The Worsties.

They began to push their way onto the scene, releasing EP "Put Your Babe On" in 2008. Heavy with hard, gritty riffs, the grungy instrumentation is alleviated with shrill and seductive vocals reminiscent of Le Tigre's Kathleen Hanna. Throughout the EP, Anna Worstell teases with her voice, like on "Drop Your Panties and Roll," squealing "Don't forget to



Photo courtesy of the Worsties  
Nathan Shelton (Drums), Jairo Ruiz (bass), Jesse Worstell (guitar) and Anna Worstell (vocals) get ready backstage before a show. The band currently has two EPs and has performed at festivals and shows like "Next Big Nashville."

pose for the camera."

Last August came the follow-up EP, helping The Worsties solidify its sound. Titled "Dude. Dude. Dude. Totally!" in honor of a friend's overuse of the "D" word, the EP is a swift kick in the balls with a spiky stiletto. It is the first recording to include Shelton, and compared to the last effort, "Dude. Totally!" is more concise.

"The last EP was songs that were written like two years ago and a couple songs that were brand new," Jesse Worstell says. "These songs came from the same timeline, so they felt more in the same vein."

With the same surfy guitar backing in-your-face vocals as the previous EP, The Worsties again achieved glamour-puss rock with few problems in the songwriting process. In addition to the habit of dreaming melodies, the singer often writes lyrics almost on the spot, and the band as a whole has the chemistry to put together songs with little conflict.

"This group writes songs easily," Jesse Worstell says. "Other bands take three

months to write one song just because everyone's like, 'No, I don't like this.' We give each other a shot."

At a glance, much about The Worsties screams gimmick – fashion sense, stage names with "worsty" worked in – but snide remarks and labels like "glam rock" inflict little concern.

"For a while, no one was saying anything, and then when someone knocks your band, you get mad at first," Jesse Worstell says. "But if someone posts 10 pictures and says 'I hate these guys,' I guess we're doing something right."

"There will be more people putting labels on it and making fun of it, but also people embracing it."

"We get everything from 'post-punk' to 'indie alternative,'" Shelton adds. "We're playing rock music, and what does that really mean? It could be anything, so call it whatever you want."

It is true that The Worsties have been christened a variety of conjoined genres including "glam rock," "surf rock" and "party punk." This may partly be attributed to a vast collection of influences, like David Bowie, The Hives, Beck and Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

Anna Worstell especially hones in on the qualities of Yeah Yeah Yeahs singer Karen O, dancing around

the stage clad in bright tights and heels. One part Debbie Harry in lady-like performing stature and one part Karen O – decked out in loud outfits and playing with the mic cord, she handles herself like so many other female rock hellions.

Loud style could explain why the Nashville natives are occasionally mistaken for out-of-towners from New York or Los Angeles, or why Nashville has some difficulty in deciding where bands like The Worsties fit into the scene. As a gigantic music capital, it is home to a garden variety of bands, but hesitates in labeling groups of intermingling genres.

"We're not cool enough to be indie rock and we're not metal enough to be hard rock," Jesse Worstell says. "We ride that fence but I kind of like that because when they don't know what to lump you with, you kind of stand out."

While finding their sound, The Worsties have attracted unwarranted advice

regarding music, lyrics and style in the past, and the standard share of criticism.

"There are always people who think they know more than your band," Jesse Worstell says, "You read the local alt weeklies or blogs, and people think, 'Oh, whatever they say is gold.' If the blogs don't like you, their readers won't like you just because they'll believe whatever they read."

With the resolve not to conform and the competition with the rest of Nashville to play the same handful of venues, The Worsties work for notoriety within a city largely composed of musicians.

"You have to prove that you know how to play because you have to assume that everyone else at the show does too," says Shelton.

What the band loves about playing outside the city is the fact that show goers who come armed with a criticism are weeded out.

"When you go out of town and play to a crowd you've never seen before, or to megafans from other areas that come travel with you, they're not seeing you to judge," Anna Worstell says. "They're completely appreciative of the entertainment."

As much as the band loves Nashville, The Worsties are looking to play more outside the bounds of home.

"In town we've already developed a good audience," Ruiz says. "The next thing would be to grow out of Tennessee, the neighboring states, the country, and then the world."

The Worsties have accomplished every small goal as a band. They have played RedGorilla music festival in Austin.

They have also opened for Candlebox, one of Jesse Worstell's favorite groups, and are scheduled to play Next Big Nashville for the second year in a row.

"That's a fun week," Jesse Worstell says, referring to Next Big Nashville. "Very busy, very drunken, but fun."

The Worsties are not exactly blending unnoticed into the musical landscape either. Nashville's niche for The Worsties' kind of music is not well carved enough to dismiss high-voltage foxy rock when it comes walking along in printed heels.



Photo courtesy of the Worsties  
Anna "Madame Worsty" Worstell is the lead singer for the band and is known for her seductive vocals and unique fashion sense. The bands onstage performances lead to it being categorized as glam or performance rock.



Photo courtesy of the Worsties  
Anna Worstell sings onstage. Though they are often mistaken for brother and sister, Jesse and Anna Worstell are husband and wife.



# SPORTS

## MT fumbles season opener to Tigers

ACC opponents Clemson utilize talented defense, effective scoring drives to best Blue Raiders

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders gave up their first touchdown since 1999 off a kick return at Clemson Saturday, and never recovered from the deficit to give up the season opener 37-14.

The score was the same as the last meeting between the two teams, which took place on Sept. 13, 2003.

The Tigers' opening score burned a mere 15 seconds off the clock, but gave the ball to MT early in the game. Senior WR Desmond Gee took the return, and set MT up for an opening offensive drive. But with junior QB Dwight Dasher under pressure by the Clemson defensive line, a pass was intercepted by Clemson's safety DeAndre McDaniel, and the Tigers gained possession with 13:51 left in the first quarter.

The two teams traded possession for the next few minutes, ending with Clemson's Richard Jackson attempting a field goal that fell wide left.

The Blue Raiders began and ended their fourth drive with a tipped Dasher pass that was intercepted by the Tigers' Brandon Maye.

Clemson ended their four minute drive with a Jackson field goal, enough to bring the Tigers' lead to 10-0.

MT punted to start off the second quarter. On the second play of the Tigers' drive, MT defensive end Chris McCoy snatched the loose ball and returned it 68 yards for

a touchdown with 14:07 left to go in the first half. Kicker Alan Gendreau's extra point brought MT within three points of the Clemson lead.

The Tigers hit another field goal to bring the score to 13-7. After an unsuccessful MT drive, Clemson WR Jacoby Ford returned the punt for a touchdown, taking the lead to 20-7. This made the first time since 1987 that the Tigers scored on both a punt return and a kick return.

Ford would again score for the Tigers, taking a 43-yard reception to make the score 27-7. This drive took a mere nine seconds, and left 2:25 on the game clock.

To add insult to injury, a Jackson field goal with 1:15 left in the second quarter would increase the Clemson lead to 30-7.

As the second half started, Dasher immediately went to work getting the Blue Raiders within scoring distance. The QB hit a 43-yard pass to sophomore WR Shane Blissard and crossed into Clemson territory. MT received their last score of the day when Dasher connected with WR Chris McClover for an 18-yard career-first touchdown reception. The drive crossed 85 yards and took 2:25 off the clock.

Senior cornerback Marcus Udell took his first career interception on the Tigers' next drive. The pick was returned as Dasher threw his third interception of the game into the hands of Chris Chancellor with 10 minutes to go in

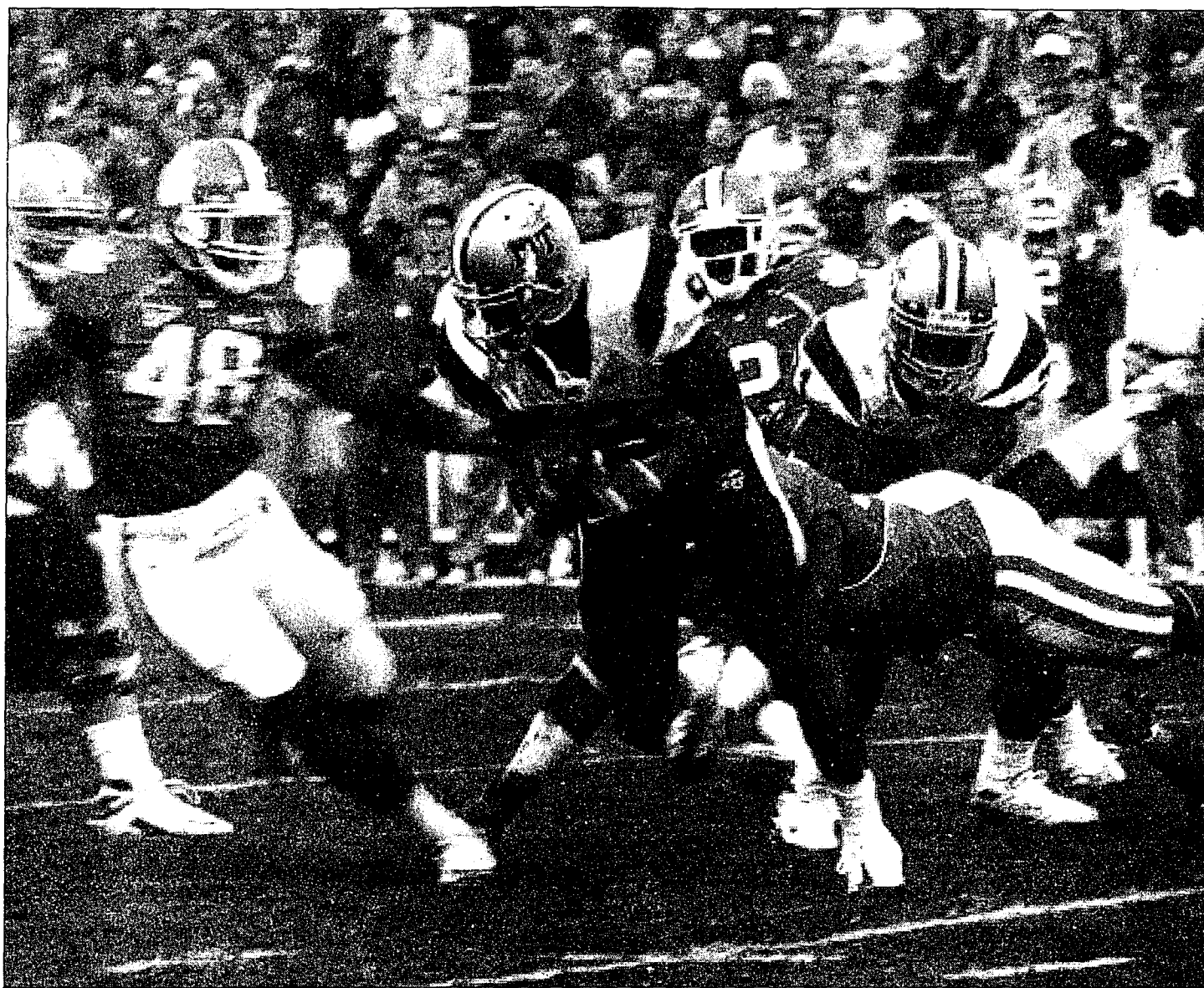


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher looks for the run as the Clemson defensive line gives pressure. Dasher netted 61 yards against the Tigers.

the third.

Clemson would score off of the interception yet again, as Tiger Marquan Jones took a 33-yard pass into the end zone.

Freshman Andrew Banks moved into the quarterback position with 14:16 left in the fourth. However, Dasher returned a mere three plays later

for a completion to senior receiver Gene Delle Donne, and led the Blue Raiders down to the Clemson five-yard line. But Dasher's attempt to junior receiver Garrett Andrews went out of bounds, and the Tigers gained possession.

Clemson ran the clock out, and kept the ball on the ground for the remaining

three minutes of the game.

Dasher threw over 200 yards for the third time in his career, with 204 total yards against the Tigers. Dasher was also the team's leader on the ground, with 61 rushing yards.

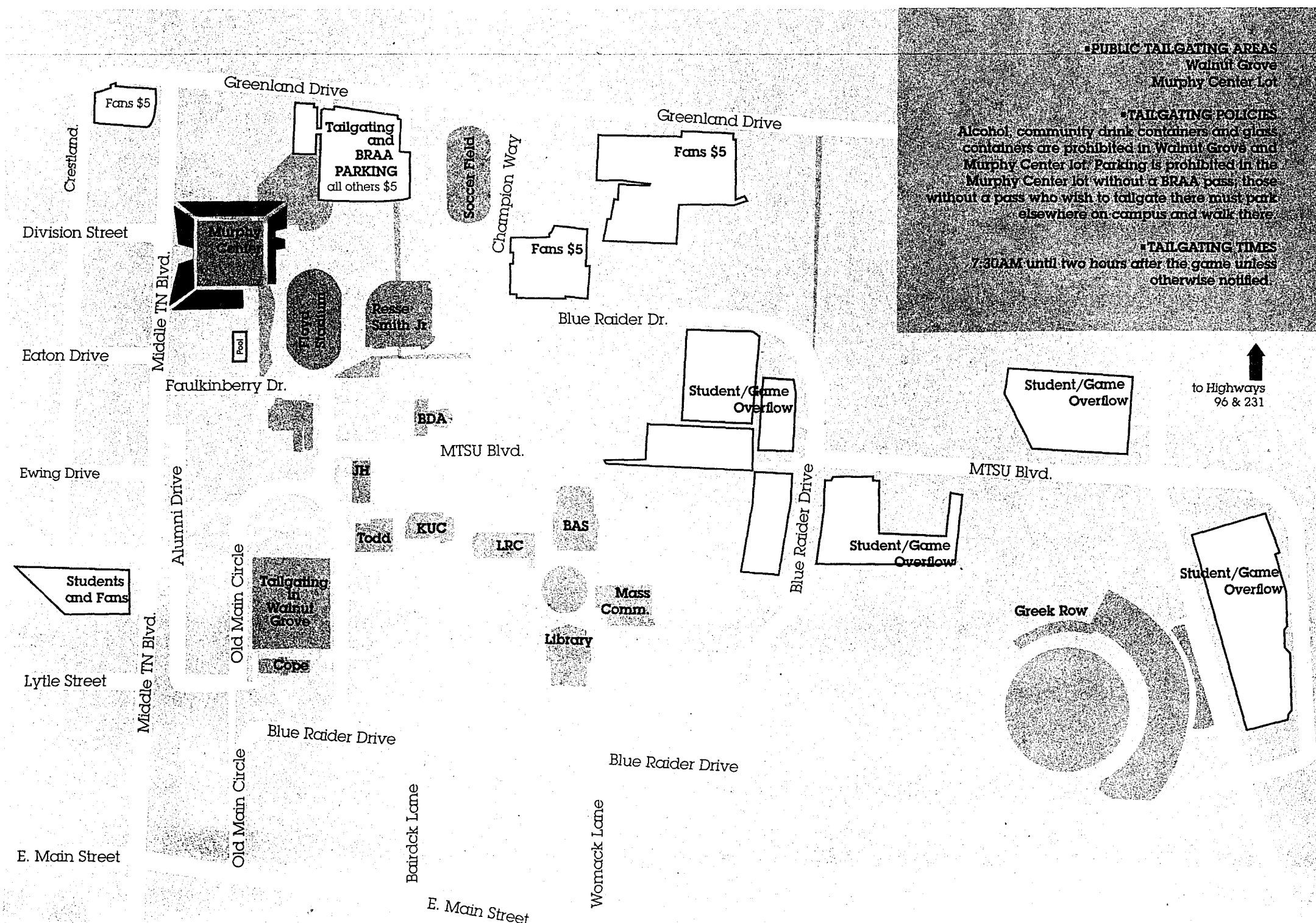
MT's Antwan Davis and Cam Robinson led the defense with seven tackles each.

Robinson also carried the team's only sack.

MT will host Memphis this Saturday for the team's home opener. The game, the annual Blackout Game, will start at 6:00 p.m. CST.

## What you need to know about tailgating

Check out where you can get the closest parking, the best tailgating areas and what to avoid bringing if you're planning on tailgating on Saturday. You might be surprised at some of the MT policies for games.





File photo  
Cornerback Ted Riley and then-sophomore safety Kevin Brown chase down a North Texas receiver to stop a Mean Green touchdown. Brown led the defense with eight tackles, while Riley managed seven.

# Annual Freshman Walk to occur at Blackout halftime

## STAFF REPORT

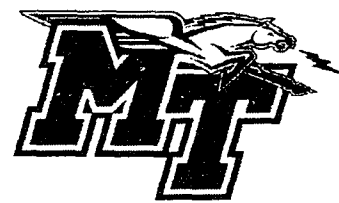
The Class of 2013 is invited to participate in the annual "Freshman Walk" with President Sidney McPhee at Saturday's football game.

This year's Freshman Celebration coincides with the annual Blackout Game, another tradition on the MT campus. This year's game brings Conference USA opponents the Memphis Tigers to Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium.

There will be an announcement with about five minutes left in the first half for all Class of 2013 freshmen to gather in the tunnel below section 2E. McPhee will then lead all participating freshmen onto the field at halftime for a walk in front of the Blackout game crowd.

Admission is free of charge to all MT students with a valid student ID card.

All students, staff and fans going to the game



are encouraged to wear black. Phillips Bookstore and goblueraiders.com each carry official "Blackout" apparel.

For further information, please contact the Office of Student Unions and Programming at (615) 898-2552.



File photo  
Quarterback Dwight Dasher looks for a block as he runs the ball against North Texas. Dasher was the team's third leading rusher.



File photo  
MT fans gather on the field after last year's comeback win at the Blackout game. Quarterback Joe Craddock led the Blue Raiders down the field with no timeouts to rally the team to a 14-13 victory over Florida Atlantic in front of a crowd of 25,766 and a national ESPN2 viewers.

## The Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and the MTSU College of Mass Communication

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# Constitution Day 2009

*with two days of panels, lectures and musical programming*

**Wednesday, Sept. 16**

**Thursday, Sept. 17**

**10:20 a.m., KUC Theater**

### **Free Speech on University Campuses: The State of Play**

Vanderbilt University Prof. Bruce Barry, author of *Speechless: The Erosion of Free Expression in the American Workplace*, will make students aware of their on-campus rights.

**11:30 a.m., KUC Theater**

### **State of the First Amendment**

Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center, will present results from First Amendment Center's annual survey of American attitudes and opinions on First Amendment issues.

**2:20 p.m., Tucker Theater**

### **Freedom Sings**



Freedom Sings is a critically acclaimed multimedia experience featuring an all-star cast of musicians and an "only-in-America" story line. It features music that has been banned, censored or sounded a call for social change.

**All events are free and open to the public**

For more information, contact Beverly Keel at [bkeel@mtsu.edu](mailto:bkeel@mtsu.edu), 898-5150

**9:40 a.m., KUC Theater**

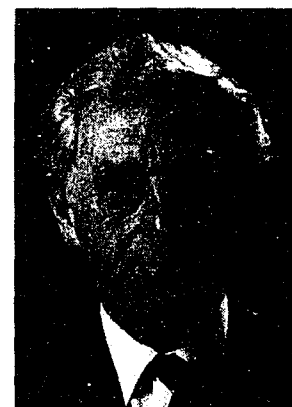
### **The Internet and the First Amendment**

Legendary journalist John Seigenthaler will moderate a panel featuring Media Bloggers Association President Robert Cox, attorneys Lew Conner and Steve Wagner, Associated Press vice president/general counsel Srinandan Kasi, and model Liskula Cohen.

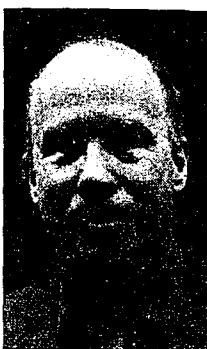
**11:20 a.m., KUC Theater**

### **The First Amendment in 2009**

A panel will explore the state of the First Amendment's five freedoms and what they mean in today's society. Panelists include Seigenthaler, Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Elaine Jones of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.



**Seigenthaler**



**Danner**

**1 p.m., LRC 221**

### **Torture, Democracy and the American Press (co-sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Committee)**

This lecture will be delivered by Mark Danner, who has written about foreign affairs and American politics for more than two decades, covering Latin America, Haiti, the Balkans and the Middle East. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times Magazine*. His next book is *Stripping Bare the Body: Politics Violence War*, published by Nation Books.

**2:40 p.m., KUC Theater**

### **Civil Liberties: Surveillance and Terrorism**

Prof. Roger Newman will lecture and lead a discussion on the civil liberties aspects of the War on Terror and technology's impact on the First Amendment. Newman is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and author of the book *Hugo Black*. He is currently writing a book on President Clinton's Supreme Court appointments.



# MT men's basketball schedule released

18 league games, matches against Tennessee and Vandy highlight difficult schedule for Blue Raiders

By RICHARD LOWE  
Online Sports Editor

MT's men's basketball program announced their 2009-2010 regular season schedule Wednesday.

The Blue Raiders open their season at home versus King College. MT will then become road warriors, spending four of their next six games away from the Murphy Center.

The spotlight game for many will be the second Sun Belt Classic on Dec. 11, co-hosted by MT and Western Kentucky University. MT will be taking on SEC member school the University of Tennessee while Western Kentucky takes on another SEC member school, Vanderbilt University. The event will be held at the Sommet Center in Nashville.

MT will get their shot at Vanderbilt on Jan. 4 at Memorial Gymnasium on the Vanderbilt

campus. MT played UT and Vanderbilt last year and went winless against both.

In addition to the two SEC teams on the schedule, the Blue Raiders will face off against teams in Conference USA (UAB and Marshall), the MAC (Ohio) and Atlantic Sun (Belmont).

"I think we will be tested very early in the non conference schedule by playing teams from the SEC, Conference USA, MAC and A-Sun," head coach Kermit Davis said. "To open the season we have four of our first seven games on the road which will be a difficult task."

The Blue Raiders open up conference play on New Year's Eve at the University of New Orleans. Their home conference opener will be against the University of Louisiana on Jan. 2.

MT will be facing confer-

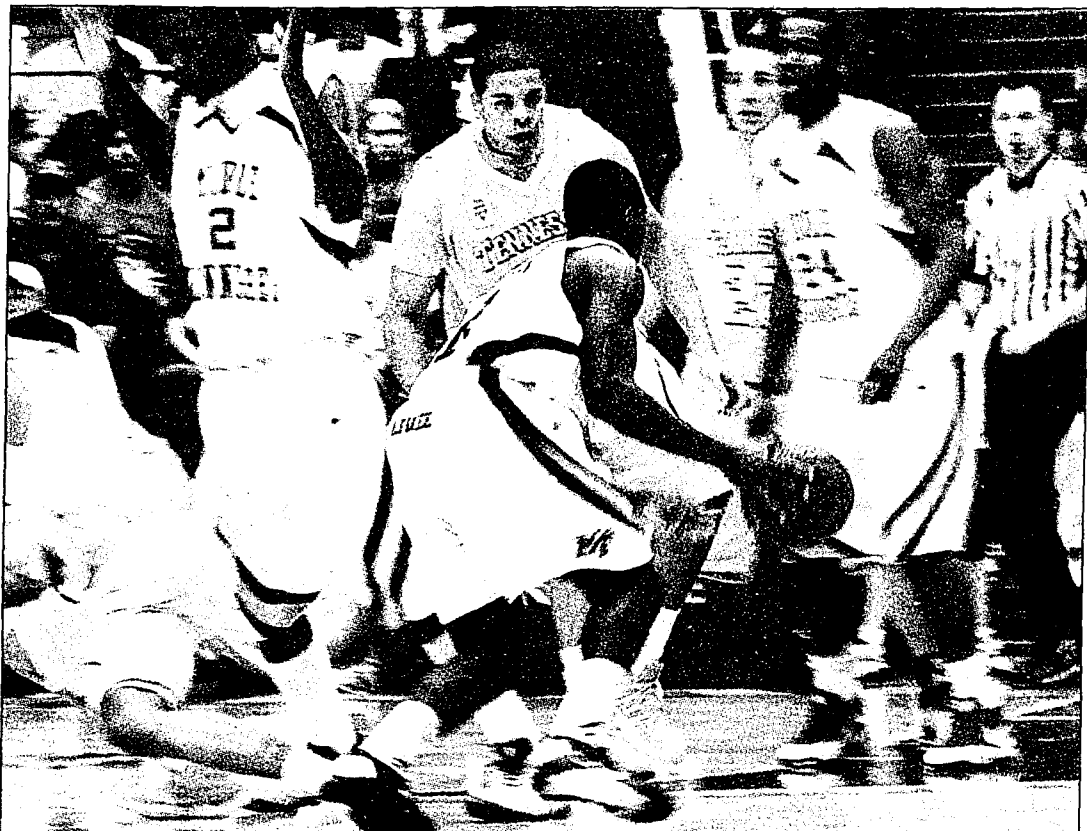
ence rival Western Kentucky twice in a six-day span, first at home on Jan. 18 then in Bowling Green on Jan. 23.

"I really think the 18 league games will be the most difficult 18-game league schedule we have ever played since I have been here," Davis said. "I think the balance top-to-bottom will be the best it has been."

"We are trying to prepare ourselves for the Sun Belt season and I think we will definitely do that with our non-conference schedule."

The regular season finishes Feb. 27 on the road against Florida Atlantic University.

Because of changes announced by the Sun Belt Conference last month, every team is guaranteed a trip to the conference tournament. The Sun Belt Conference Tournament will be held in Hot Springs, Ark. March 6-9.



File photo

MT guard Nigel Johnson attempts to layup against a Tennessee defender. The Blue Raiders fell to the Volunteers 76-66 in the Murphy Center. The teams will matchup again on Dec. 11 at the Sommet Center.

## MT soccer continues hot streak

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders continued their hot start to the season this past weekend, notching a victory over Belmont University and tying the University of Oklahoma at home.

The Sooners came in to Dean Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium Friday undefeated at 4-0, but MT controlled much of the play throughout the first half. Despite the offensive control, neither team managed to score. The first goal would come at 61:06 by Sooner defender Katherine Nutman, assisted by forward Dria Hampton.

MT would respond with an equalizer at 73:37 off the foot of senior forward Jen Threlkeld after a corner kick by junior midfielder Vanessa Muegler and assist by sophomore Luisa Moscoso.

The Blue Raiders would take a 2-1 lead after freshman Paige Goeglin tapped in a Hope Suominen pass.

"We were pushing for a goal because it was tied and I thought my goal helped give us momentum," Goeglein said.

The Sooners continued to fight, and their work paid off at the last possible second. At 89:06 forward Whitney Palmer beat MT keeper Rebecca Cushing to send the game into overtime.

Multiple scoring chances were there for both teams throughout the two overtime periods, but neither team

found the net and the match was declared a draw.

The extremely physical contest resulted in three yellow cards.

"We played a great game against a great opponent," Rhoden continued. "Oklahoma provided us with a solid test which will help us the remainder of the season."

The Belmont Bruins (1-3) came into town Sunday and controlled much of the first half before a 40-minute weather delay, but couldn't find the back of the net.

Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Shan Jones scored the only goal of the game off a Regina Thomas pass across the top of the 18-yard box.

Despite the loss, Belmont ended the contest with a 17-14 edge in shots taken and a 6-0 edge in corner kicks. Cushing registered five saves while Bruins keeper Sari Lin had three.

Both games were greeted by fairly large and boisterous crowds, which delighted the Blue Raider players and coaches.

"It was great to get to a win over the weekend in front of our loyal supporters", head coach Aston Rhoden said. "Although we may not have played our best, we are happy to get the victory. Our fans again were tremendous in their support of our team."

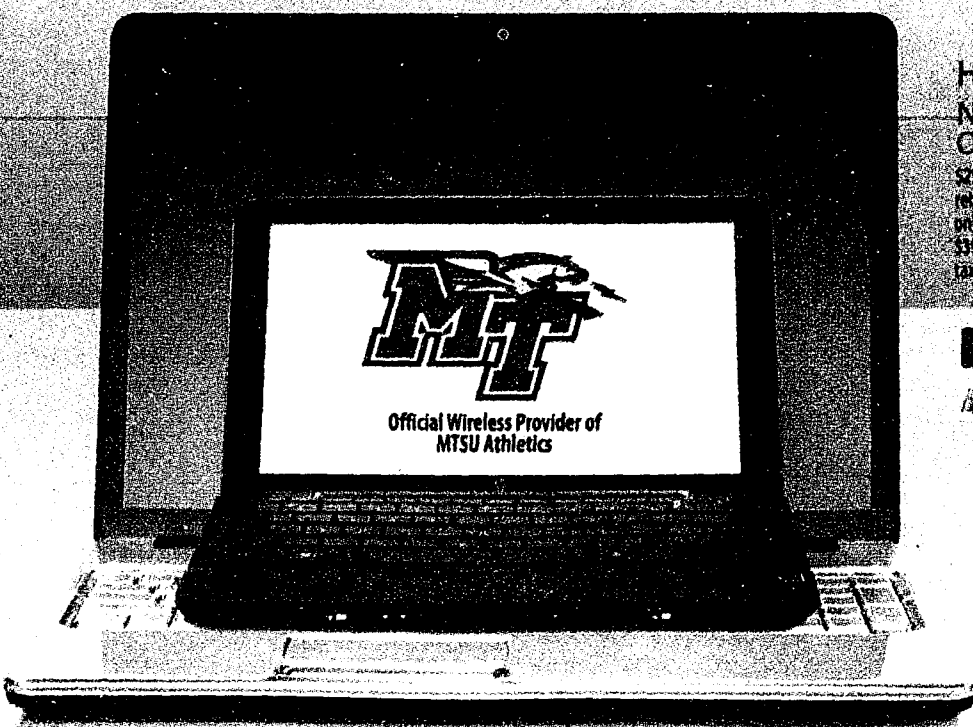
MT has a week off until their next match, when they go to Evansville, Ind. to take on the University of Evansville Purple Aces.

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### Top Performer



**IZABELLA KOZON**  
Outside Hitter  
Volleyball  
Hometown:  
Warsaw, Poland  
Class: Jr.  
Height: 6-0  
Previous School:  
XXIV LO im Cypriana  
Kamila Norwida  
10 kills against Northern Illinois; led the

Blue Raiders with nine kills against Ohio.

.381 hitting percentage on the season

In 2008, she guided team in NCAA tournament appearance with 38 kills averaging 3.80 per set and had 27 digs.