

MT dusts Indians in second half

page 6



McNair Scholars Program affords new opportunities

page 5

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CAMPUSBRIEFS

Fraternity sponsors concert, food drive

Pi Sigma Epsilon, the national professional sales and marketing fraternity, will sponsor a show tomorrow featuring Grand Revue, The Cry Room and Folk Medicine. The show will be at Hurricane Station at 9 p.m. Two canned goods for "Room in the Inn," a homeless shelter in Murfreesboro, will take \$1 off the \$5 cover. For more information, e-mail Sarah Wilbur at sgt_24601@hotmail.com.

SGA sponsors free trip to football game

The Student Government Association invites all students to join them on a road trip next week to Troy, Ala., to support the Blue Raiders in the last football game of the season. The trip will be free to the first 55 students that come by the SGA office to sign up. Participants are only asked to pay for their tickets to the game. Call 898-2464 for more information.

Fraternity sponsors video game tournament

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity will be hosting a Halo 2 tournament Nov. 20 at noon in the Business and Aerospace Building. The entry fee is \$10 a player. Prizes will be awarded to top-ranked players, and the proceeds will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For more information, visit www.vfxdesign.net/halo2/ or contact halo2_tournament@yahoo.com.

Record label looking to fill job openings

Scared Rabbit Records, MTSU's student record label, is looking for new enthusiastic people to join their team. There are openings available in marketing, promotion, Web design, production and distribution. Those interested should indicate the department of interest, resume, graduation date and whether they have achieved candidacy. Send submissions to Scared Rabbit Records, P.O. Box 166, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132 by Nov. 24.

Fraternity hosts food drive

Beta Theta Pi will have a Thanksgiving food drive Nov. 15 – 18 in the Keathley University Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food collected will be donated to the Salvation Army. Food can also be dropped off at the Beta fraternity house any time during the week.

Achievement Award nominations accepted

The Career Achievement Award Committee is now seeking nominations for the 2004-2005 MTSU Career Achievement Award. Criteria and the nomination form may be found at www.mtsu.edu/~provost/careraaward.htm#career.

The deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 1. Nominations should be sent to the Career Achievement Award Office of Executive Vice President and Provost ATTN: Faye Johnson, 111 CAB, MTSU, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132. ♦

Hayes to speak at commencement



By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

Issac Hayes will be delivering this year's commencement speech to more than 1,500 graduates, the largest recorded December graduation at MTSU.

Hayes, who was recently inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, may be best known for his work on the *Shaft* soundtrack and as the voice of "Chef" on Comedy Central's TV show *South Park*.

In 1971, the double-album soundtrack to *Shaft* was the first to hit No. 1 on Billboards Pop and R&B charts simultaneously.

President Sidney McPhee invited Hayes to MTSU to speak at commencement at the Murphy Center on Dec. 18 at 10 a.m.

"For several years we have seen the December graduation numbers growing, and now, this year's December graduation is about as large as our May graduation, which

has traditionally been the largest in terms of graduates," said Sheridan Huddleston, assistant vice provost, Enrollment Management.

Hayes, a Memphis resident and Tennessee native, was also awarded the 2004 R&B Founders Award.

His influential voice and talent helped to craft the "Memphis Sound," which influenced Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, among many others.

Songs such as "Hold On, I'm Comin'," "Soul Man" and "Wrap it Up" are a few of Hayes' formidable hits.

Hayes has also starred in over 34 films, has had roles in 23 television shows and was the first black person to win an Oscar for Best Musical Score (for *Shaft*). He won three Grammys, the NAACP Image Award, a

See Hayes, 2

R & B singer Issac Hayes will be speaking at graduation in Dec. 18.

Horsing around



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The Budweiser clydesdales joined tailgating activities in the Greenland Drive parking lot Saturday.

Student reported rape on campus

Staff Reports

A female student reported that she had been raped by one of her acquaintances in Gore Hall last week, police officials said.

"[The victim] has declined to prosecute at this point," said interim Campus Police Chief Roy Brewer.

The police report, filed at 12:38 p.m. on Nov. 7, indicated that alcohol was involved in the incident.

"There's nothing in federal law that says [the victim] has to [prosecute]," Brewer said. "We're just trying to handle it as delicately as we can."

Brewer said the suspect was a person whom the victim knew

personally.

"We did collect evidence [of the rape] and took it to a Tennessee crime lab," Brewer said. "So we will be prepared if she does decide to prosecute."

According to the report, the incident occurred sometime between Nov. 6 at 11:30 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 8 a.m.

In addition to the rape, the police report details that a trespass warning had been given to the suspect.

This is the second rape reported on campus since January.

The other rape, reported on July 12, allegedly took place on Feb. 27. In that case, the victim also knew the suspect and declined to prosecute. ♦

Legendary musician to speak at MTSU

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Singer/songwriter Rodney Crowell will be featured at the College of Mass Communication's presentation of the Tom T. Hall Writer Series.

The Tom T. Hall Writer series is an annual event sponsored by the College of Mass Communication that celebrates songwriting, poetry and other artists to discuss their different outlets of free expression.

Rodney Crowell was chosen to speak at the writers series because of his contributions to the country music industry over the last 30 years, according to campus officials.

"We are very excited that Rodney Crowell has agreed to participate in our annual Tom T. Hall Writer Series," Anantha Babbili, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said in a press release. "He is one of our most versatile songwriters today and we are eager to hear him discuss how he creates the masterful narrative that flows so seamlessly throughout his music."

In addition to speaking about his creative process, Crowell will perform some of his music, read from person memoirs and have an on-stage discussion with Beverly Keel, a professor in the recording industry department.

See Crowell, 2

AIDS Quilt showcased yesterday, funds raised for victims

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

Eighty panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt were displayed at the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building Saturday.

Each panel is a tribute to someone who has died of AIDS. The panels are decorated with names, photographs, letters and mementos of AIDS victims and their friends and families.

For AIDS Quilt committee member Krystle Gray, arranging

the panels was an emotional experience.

"You start looking at it, because you really don't know what it is going to look like, and you unfold it and you're like 'wow' because you read, and you see the pictures," she said.

The AIDS quilt is the official philanthropy of the Student Government Association. This was the third year in a row the quilt has come to campus.

This year, student Senator Chastity Wilson headed the

committee to bring the quilt to MTSU.

The AIDS Quilt committee held fund-raisers to earn the money needed to bring the quilt to campus.

Any money left over will be donated to Nashville CARES, an organization that offers HIV prevention education and services for people who are infected with the virus.

The NAMES Project Foundation, the organization devoted to preserving the quilt,

charged \$1,300 to bring the quilt to campus. The SGA donated \$1,000 to the AIDS Quilt committee.

The committee raised \$1,400 from a 5-kilometer run, \$300 from a basket auction and \$450 from the Wacky Olympics.

Hosting the fund-raisers and printing the T-shirts worn by AIDS quilt committee members cost \$1,500.

After all is said and done, Wilson said she expects the committee to donate approxi-

mately \$500 to Nashville CARES.

Though the AIDS Memorial Quilt was on campus for only a day, committee members said the feelings it inspired will last for much longer than that.

What Gray remembers most about the quilt is a moment that happened early Saturday morning when she and the rest of the committee arranged the panels.

"We all just got silent," Gray said. "It's a powerful thing." ♦

See Cells, 3

Radio show addresses stem cells

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

An MTSU chemistry professor chided the U.S. government for restricting scientific freedom during radio commentary on campus jazz station WMOT 89.5.

Professor Preston MacDougall, public relations director for the Nashville section of the American Chemical Society, defended embryonic stem cell research and therapeutic cloning in "Chemical Eye for Scientific Freedom," a radio spot broadcast on Nov. 5.

The U.S. government's attempts to restrict embryonic stem cell research and therapeutic cloning disturb MacDougall.

President George W. Bush limited funding for stem cell research in 2001. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., sponsored legislation passed by the House of Representatives that would have sent scientists who practice therapeutic cloning to prison for 10 years.

And while the Senate has not passed the companion bill sponsored by Sam Brownback, R-Kan., he has continued to introduce versions of it. MacDougall worries that the November elections gave Republicans the seats in Congress they needed to pass a ban.

MacDougall lauded California's approval of Proposition 71, which devoted \$3 billion for stem cell research, and "more importantly, they changed the state's constitution to allow scientists the freedom, in that state, to conduct this kind of research."

According to MacDougall, therapeutic cloning is controversial because people don't understand it.

"I imagine that many listeners will picture Jango Fett 'bubble boys' being grown for body parts when they hear 'therapeutic cloning.' Therapeutic cloning is nothing like that," he said.

Therapeutic cloning is different from reproductive cloning, although the terms are often confused.

Reproductive cloning creates a child. In therapeutic cloning, embryos are destroyed less than a week after they are created. Therapeutic cloning is for creating stem cells, which are cells that can develop into many different kinds of cells.

Here's how it works: Scientists remove the nucleus of an egg cell and replace it with

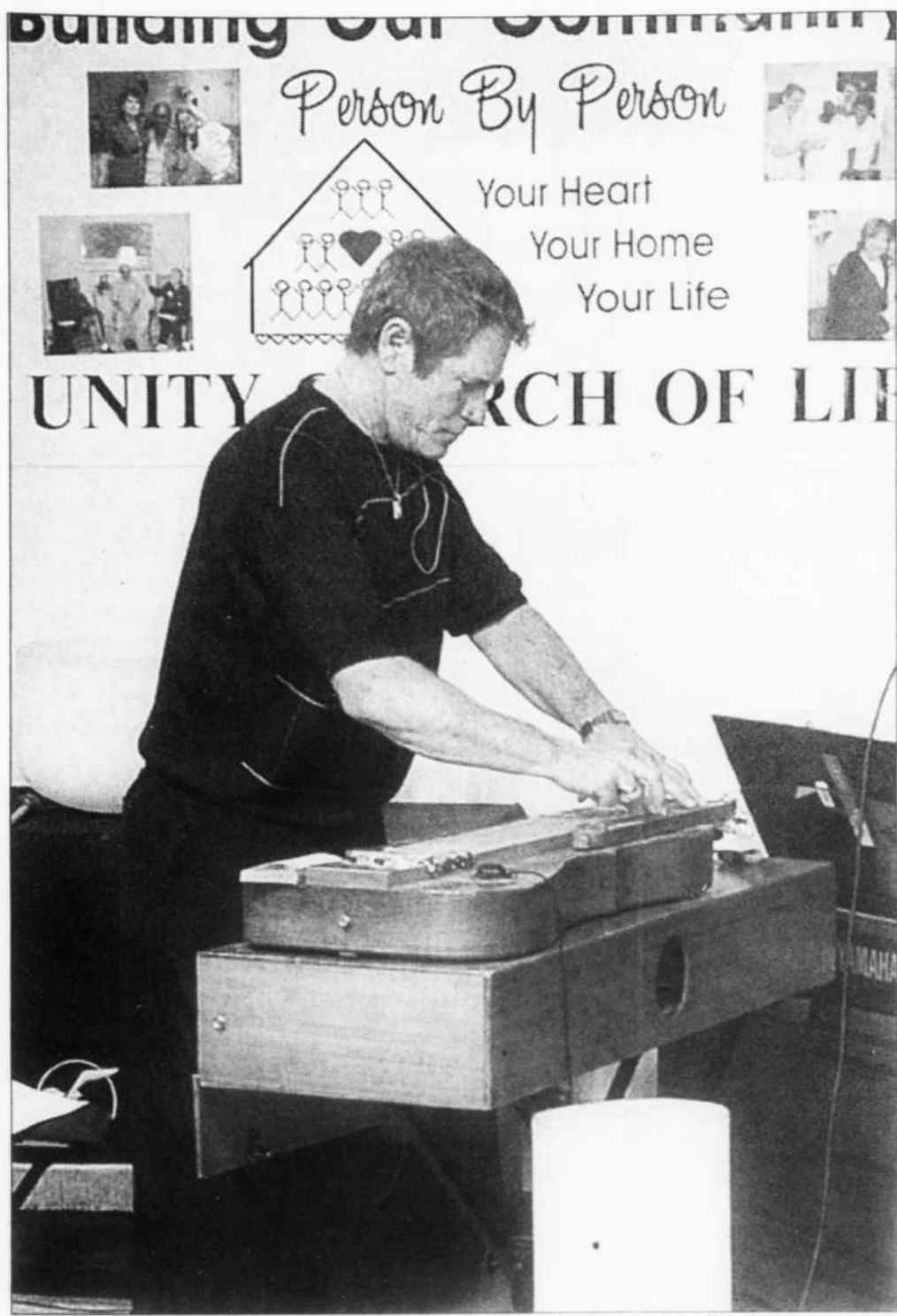


This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you agree with embryonic
stem cell research?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

One-of-a-Kind



Gene Cole plays the "dulcitar" – the only instrument of its kind in the world – at Unity Church in Murfreesboro yesterday.

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Crowell: Accomplishments vary

Continued from I

Some of Crowell's accomplishments include 10 solo albums, a greatest hits package and five consecutive number one hits.

Crowell has also written songs that have been recorded by artists including Andy Williams, Tim McGraw and The Grateful Dead.

His recent CD, *Fate's Right Hand*, garnered a Song of the Year award at the 2004 Americana Awards, and music critics have called it "one of the best country CDs released in 2003."

Originally from Houston, Texas, Crowell began his music career in 1975 as a member of Emmylou Harris' Hot Band.

Crowell began his solo career by signing a deal with

Warner Brothers Records in 1978.

During this time Crowell brought together artists Vince Gill, Tony Brown, Richard Bennett and Emory Gordy, Jr., to start a road band called The Cherry Bombs.

Since then, Crowell has worked with The Jenkins, Keith Urban, Waylon Jennings, Rosanne Cash and the Oak Ridge Boys.

In 1989, Crowell won a Grammy for his song "After All This Time."

In the late '80s and early '90s, Crowell took time off the road to spend time with his family. From 1994 until 2001, he only performed occasionally at Nashville clubs.

Crowell spent this time re-inventing himself and his career.

In 2001, he released his CD *The Houston Kid*, a project that was intimately created by Crowell.

Crowell is currently making an impression on the music industry as a poet and a social commentator.

Crowell will speak about these accomplishments and more during the Tom T. Hall Writer Series to be held on Nov. 18.

This year's conference is free and open to the public and is set to begin at 7 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building State Farm room.

Past conferences in the series have included artists such as best-selling author Venise Berry, children's author John Erickson and Buddy Carter, the nephew of former president Jimmy Carter. ♦

Environmental justice panel on campus today

By Amber Frensley
Staff Writer

MTSU is offering students a chance to learn about and discuss current environmental issues at a free, open panel discussion, "Global and Local Environmental Justice."

The discussion will be held today at 11:30 a.m. at the Hazelwood Dining Room in the James Union Building.

MTSU's Angela Martig and Andrew Austin from the University of Wisconsin are two of the panelists that will be there. Scott Frey and Bobby Jones from UT-Knoxville will also participate in the panel.

Executing environmental justice means to practice fair treatment of the environment in both corporate and personal lifestyles, with respect to the expansion, execution and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

"When those who abuse the environment in the name of corporate profits use their immense economic and political power to do so, issues of jus-

tice for the rest of humanity are brought into focus," Austin said.

Austin said he believes consumers in the United States have assumed for much too long that the supply of natural resources is unlimited. It is vital for students to get involved with executing environmental justice, he said.

Environmental justice is achieved when everyone, regardless of race, culture or income, enjoys the same amount of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work, according to Austin.

MTSU's Sociology and Anthropology department has sponsored the Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium for 13 years.

Over the years, the Sociology and Anthropology departments have annually sponsored panel discussions in a variety of fields of interest. Several include Native Indian issues, Holocaust studies, applied sociology,

media and society issues, women's issues and crime and deviance.

"Global and Local Environmental Justice" is part of the Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium, a program devoted to showcasing undergraduate scholarship.

With the exception of the environmental panelists and Andrew Austin, all the presenters during the two-day symposium will be undergraduate students from universities throughout Tennessee, including MTSU, Lambuth University, Union University, Bethel University and Tennessee Technological University.

The discussion panel is free and open to the public.

Approximately 60 undergraduate students are scheduled to present their research on a wide variety of social science topics in Sociology, Social Work, Anthropology, Archaeology and Political Science.

Contact Ben Austin and Angela Martig for more information. ♦

Hayes: 'Chef' comes to MTSU

Continued from I

Golden Globe and Britain's Edison award.

On top of all his accolades, Hayes is also a coronated King of the Ada coastal district of Ghana in western Africa. He built an 8,000-square-foot building dedicated to education for the residents of his kingdom through the Issac Hayes Foundation.

Hayes has done a great deal of philanthropical work in this

vein, where he has helped disadvantaged and underprivileged children.

He is an advocate of literacy and participated in the Memphis-based literacy program LEAP, the Learning Education Ability Program.

"We have the knowledge, technology, research, resources and experience," Hayes said. "Let's turn crime, illiteracy, unhealthy, unproductive poverty lifestyles around from the ground up... One child, one

community at a time, we can change the world. Let's give our children our best."

Graduates are allowed a maximum of eight tickets for graduation, which will be available on campus Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 in the Keathley University Center lobby.

Overflow guests will be asked to watch commencement in the Alumni Memorial Gym, where a large screen with surround sound will showcase the graduates. ♦



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Cells: Cloning creates controversy

Continued from 3

the nucleus of a cell they want cloned.

They manipulate the conditions of the egg cell to make it divide even though it has not been fertilized. It divides for four or five days until it forms a blastocyst, a round ball of several hundred cells. Some of these will be stem cells.

Scientists harvest them and destroy the blastocyst to prevent it from developing further.

Therapeutic cloning will allow scientists to tailor stem cells to a patient's DNA. A burn victim could receive cloned skin cells, and a Parkinson's disease sufferer could be given cloned brain cells.

"The best remedy for your old and sick cells will often be your young and healthy ones. These optimal therapies would require cloning," MacDougall said.

Opponents of therapeutic cloning say the practice dreams and all cloning, even therapeutic, is unethical.

"Human cloning is human cloning, and all human cloning is wrong no matter what the euphemism used or what the hoped-for benefit is," Brownback said in a press release in 2003.

Brownback sponsored the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, the Senate version of Weldon's bill that would have criminalized all cloning – reproductive and therapeutic.

"There are not two types of cloning, there is only one, and it

always results in the creation of a new human embryo," he said.

MacDougall disagrees.

"It is not until about the 17th day [after conception] that the blastocyst will – normally – will travel down the fallopian tube into the uterus and implant in the wall, and there the blastocyst will change into an embryo," he said.

"I don't want to try and influence how people think about spiritual things," he said, "but I do think it is important for science to have freedom to pursue very, very important avenues of scientific research."

"Scientists are ethical people too," he said. "The National Academy of Scientists examined this very issue."

It concluded that "reproductive cloning was dangerous and should be banned, but therapeutic cloning is very promising technology and should be pursued."

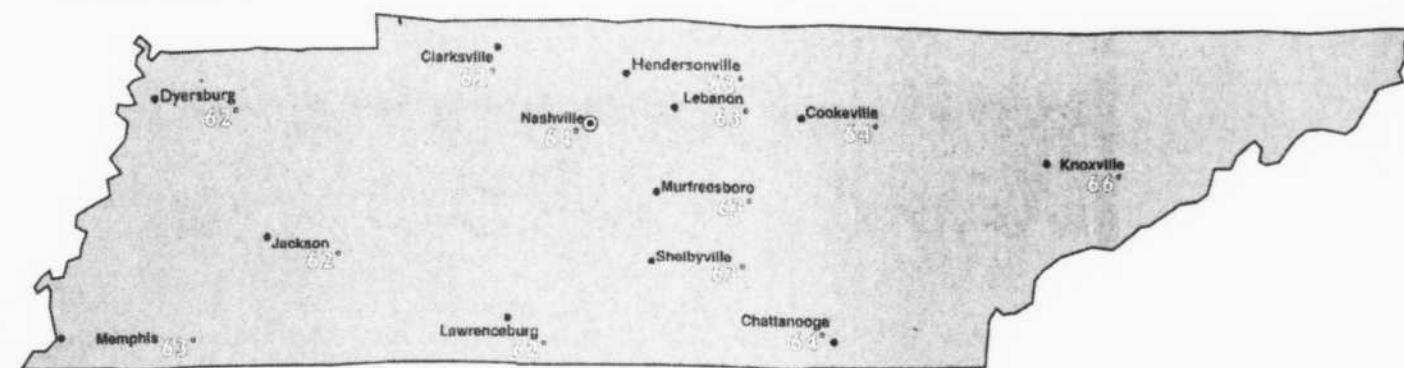
MacDougall is quick to point out that scientific freedom is not a partisan issue. Democrats have opposed nuclear testing, he said.

"If you pick your science," MacDougall, "then there could be different parties trying to restrict research in that area."

"The most important thing that's at stake, in my opinion, is scientific freedom, above and beyond the issue of any particular disease," he said. "Scientific freedom is essentially the freedom to question the things around you. If you can't do that, then we're in trouble." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Popular culture pushing societal limits

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

Melodie Phillips, MTSU professor in the Marketing and Management department, has a unique insight into the world of pop culture. Phillips described her involvement with popular culture studies as, "my reflections in the work I do in popular culture are a reflection of the entertainment industry."

"I think that from a marketing perspective, when we talk [about] popular culture and entertainment, we're really sort of looking at it from a feasibility standpoint. For example, we have a lot of discussions in popular culture really reflected or does the entertainment industry actually initiate change? And sometimes what we find is that both occasions occur and both are ways of study."

Phillips explained that while a large number of Popular Culture studies are conducted

by the behavioral sciences, marketing and promotions play a valid role.

"The discussions that we usually have are the direction that a director or artist might take, and how that relates to popular culture; does that impact the marketability of [the final product]," Phillips said.

Controversial topics, like race issues, violence, rape and suicide are brought to discussion through popular culture. In support of this, Phillips discussed Eminem's 2000 release, "Stan," that deals with teenage homicide and suicide.

"This is a topic that is often difficult for parents and teachers to address, yet sometimes popular entertainment venues can actually take a topic like that and put it in an entertainment form and allow people to open up discussions."

Phillips discussed how video games have become increasingly more violent since the days of

"Pong."

"They have become very three dimensional, very visual, very real-life and laden with violence and sexual content. We have children who are of an age now that... are exposed to so much violence."

As a consequence of this violence, Phillips cited the impact it might have upon children.

"You may have young kids who don't realize the difference between reality and fantasy... [there are] young children who do not realize the gravity of death or the consequences of violent behavior."

The Internet, another key-stone of current popular culture, was also discussed by Phillips.

"In all honesty, I think the Internet is a lot like other technological advances: there have been a lot of positive outcomes and negative outcomes."

Negative outcomes included fraudulent misrepresentation

and the activity of sexual predators, or those individuals with abnormal interests or with sexual interests, including those with sexual issues or with tendencies toward violence.

"To a certain degree it has allowed small segments of the population that would be relatively isolated in their own communities to find one another and feel that their behavior is more normal, because they have other people to talk about it and discuss it."

Reality television, which has seen an intense growth in popular culture, was the next topic for discussion. Phillips talked about how the "Bachelor" and "Bachelorette" programs on ABC are nothing more than a modern extension of shows like "The Dating Game."

"Society is much more desensitized. Something as simplistic as 'The Dating Game' wouldn't really draw the ratings now, because it's not sensational enough, and not so overtly sexual."

"You see a positioning of these shows, [where a] simple premise is taken, devised in the '50s or '60s, and expand it where men and women are competing, and put in very tempting situations... which drive the ratings, and drive the advertising dollar, which is really the whole motivation behind it all."

"It is reflective of consumers' desires to see racier, edgier programming," she said.

Shows like "The Swan" take "something that is accepted by society, like plastic surgery, and takes it to the extreme," Phillips said.

"Unfortunately it reinforces a lot of sociological problems we see in young women. We have issues in body image, anorexia [and] people that are just fairly unhappy with their individual person."

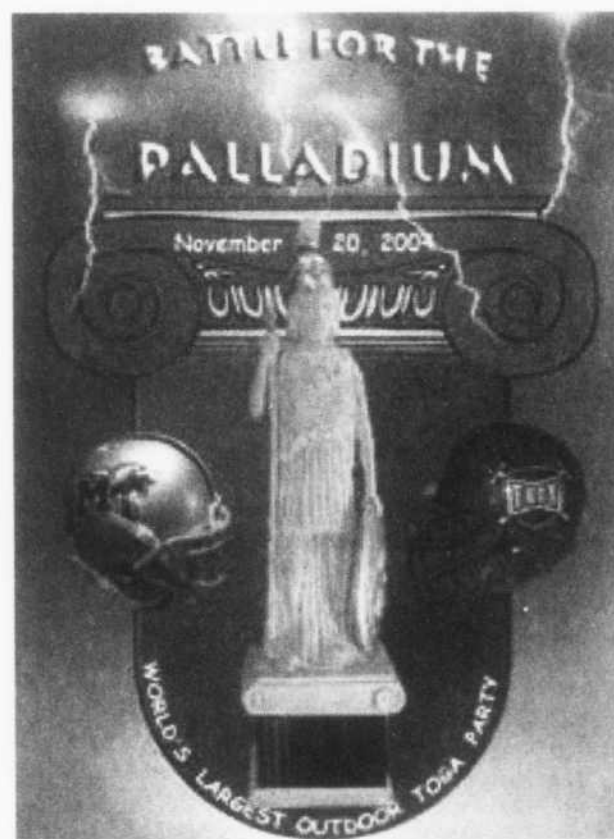
"The Swan" creates the illusion that once the exterior is changed on a person, then someone's life can be entirely different and better.

Phillips argued "that type of show can actually can be relatively damaging to women's self images and the men in their lives, who see a show like that and think, 'well if I don't like my wife's this or that, with \$10,000 I can send her off and get that changed,' which can be damaging to the ego."

Phillips has developed a course in entertainment marketing, which deals with these subjects on a broader scale. She has also taught promotions and can be reached by e-mail at MPhillips@mtsu.edu. ♦

BATTLE FOR THE PALLADIUM

MTSU vs. Troy



Greek Mythology holds that The Palladium is a wooden statue that fell from the Heavens. It was kept at the Temple of Athena in the city of Troy. According to legend, as long as The Palladium was preserved within the walls of the city, Troy would be safe and could not be taken. However, a "Raider" by the name of Odysseus – also known as the Raider of Cities – stole The Palladium during the Trojan War leading to the fall of Troy.

In the spirit of the Blue Raiders and Trojan Greek mythology link, Middle Tennessee and Troy compete in The Battle for The Palladium during their annual Sun Belt Conference game. Legend dictates the winner of The Palladium gains an unknown and unexplainable advantage over the other making it more difficult to regain control during future battles. The history between the two schools dates back to 1936 with the Blue Raiders owning a 10-1 advantage in the series. Now competing in the same conference for the first time, the legend may extend well after the football season is over. Many believe losing possession of The Palladium has an enduring effect, mystically influencing other athletic events throughout the year matching the Trojan and Raiders. It's just another factor to overcome in this rivalry game between Middle Tennessee and Troy.

SGA is sponsoring a trip to Troy.

We will be departing at 9:00 am on Saturday and returning Sunday morning.

The cost of the trip is \$15.00 and the seats are limited.

flash

on stands thursday

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From the Editorial Board

'Sidelines' remembers the legendary ODB

Whether it was laying down tracks in the record studio or cashing the welfare check, Ol' Dirty Bastard always got his money.

ODB, a.k.a. Russell Jones, received his heavenly pink slip Saturday in his New York City recording studio, and we are all lesser for having lost him.

ODB got his start as a member of the famed Wu-Tang Clan in the early 1990s, but later became renowned more for his outrageous and sometimes erratic behavior.

Perhaps his most famous stunt was managing to pick up a welfare check even as he pulled up to the distribution center in a stretch limousine with MTV's cameras rolling. ODB showed us all that day what a determined person can do to exploit government giveaway programs if they try really, really hard.

But there was more to ODB than rhymes and an uncanny ability to deceive social workers. When Shawn Colvin (singer of that god-awful "Sunny Came Home") inexplicably won a Grammy Song of the Year statue for said song, ODB took control. He rushed the stage in a bright red suit he had bought just for the occasion, only for Puff Daddy to steal Best Rap Album from the Wu Tang Clan.

"Wu Tang is for the children," ODB said at the time.

This statement could not have been more appropriate for ODB: Not only was he the father of 13 children, but he saved a child from certain death.

That's right: The day before his Grammy appearance, he and several members of his entourage rushed out of a New York recording studio and helped save a four-year-old girl who had been struck by a car and was still laying underneath when ODB arrived on the scene.

So whether you knew him as Ol' Dirty, Russell Jones, Dirt McGirt, Joe Bannanas [sic] or Dirt Dog, the world has lost a friend with the untimely passing of Ol' Dirty Bastard. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Congress wants to write 'divine right' into the law

You might not have noticed it, but a few members of Congress have been working to neuter your judicial system.

Their last word on judicial decisions is called the "Constitution Restoration Act of 2004" and it means to strip the courts of the ability to hear an appeal of a case in which God has been cited as the authority for the decision.

This amendment to federal law affords an attractive loophole to conservative judges and officials who want to officially silence anyone who disagrees with their decisions. All one has to do is say that their authority derives from God and the wheels of opposition are stopped in their tracks.

I thought this matter had been settled back during that little thing called the English Civil War, ladies and gentlemen. Apparently, however, the idea of the "divine right of kings" is seeing new life in the spirit of the Constitution Restoration Act.

The authority of the government does not in any way derive from God. It may be influenced and guided by our religious beliefs, but God is not the source of our Constitution or any other law of the United States.

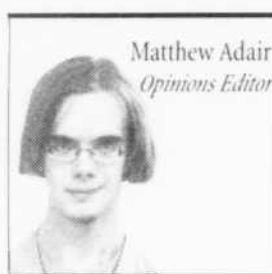
Take a look at the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, folks. Unless someone has done some creative editing to the document, it states, "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Please take note that it does not say, "We the People, acting on the behalf of our Lord and Creator..."

The CRA is a misguided and foolish attempt to water down the judicial system's ability to properly regulate the behavior of our other two branches of government. No one should be able to pull out God or religion as an excuse to legislate as they see fit.

If you think your beliefs can stand on their own two feet, then prove it and stop trying to hide behind laws that cripple the courts. ♦

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



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Democrats miss the boat on values

Has the 2004 election finally woken up Democrats? Nah.

On Nov. 4, Jane Smiley argued in *Slate* that blue state Americans lived ignorance free because they embraced the Rousseauvian philosophy that man is basically good. (Remember homicidal dictators Pol Pot and Ho Chi Minh? They embraced Monsieur Jean-Jacques Rousseau's ideas when they studied together in France.)

Red states, on the other hand, harbor ignorance. And in Smiley's mind, only the forces of liberalism can educate (or indoctrinate) red state rednecks.

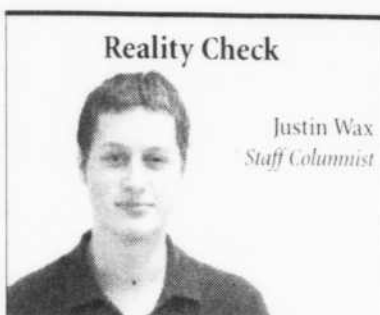
But until that happens, we'll have to endure liberal election denial and playing the blame game.

Smiley blamed ignorant, warped "red state" people — who believe in God, sin and all that junk — for wrecking the country.

Her diatribe also warned of cheating and intimidation tactics carried out by "red state types." But at one point, she paused to inspire readers: Never surrender to evil, ignorant Republicans. She did admit, however, that all Republicans aren't ignorant — some are just greedy.

Which of the following beliefs displayed by conservatives this election are greedy or ignorant?

First, we esteem right and wrong.



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

Second, we don't embrace "tolerance" when it's a code word for immorality.

Third, we refuse to revere "women's reproductive rights." Rather, we choose to support the rights of innocent, unborn babies.

Fourth, we still believe that marriage should be defined between a man and woman. I will point out that even blue states Oregon and Michigan passed amendments protecting traditional marriage on Nov. 2, in addition to nine red states.

Of course these beliefs aren't destroying the country, nor can they be attributed to ignorance. Our beliefs are Christian, logical and defensible.

Memo to Smiley and friends: you can't label people "ignorant" just because you disagree with their ideology.

Smiley and others, in a state of election denial, need to quit pointing the finger and face reality. Left-wing dogma isn't resonating with the United States.

Do yourselves a favor and stop name-calling and blame-gaming. Listen to other voices in your own party.

The Cybercast News Service quoted Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life of America regarding the November elections. "When Democrats take a stand and protect the rights of the unborn, we win elections. When Democrats campaign on a pro-abortion platform, they lose."

Day also mentioned pro-life Democratic congressional candidates who won in Iowa, Missouri and Michigan. In addition, a pro-life Democrat captured the governor's mansion in West Virginia, another red state.

Rochelle Riley, a black woman, wrote in *The Detroit Free Press*, "the party needs religion [for] its spirit, its moral values and its love of God. The Democratic Party's most loyal constituency — African-Americans — are, too, making decisions based on moral values."

Before Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., retired this year, he tried to warn Democrats. He delivered an extraordinary speech on the Senate floor, which he called "A Deficit of Decency."

Everyone today seems to think that the U.S. Constitution expressly provides for separation of church and state. Ask any 10 people if that's not so. And I'll bet you

most of them will say "Well, sure." And some will point out, "it's in the First Amendment."

Wrong. Read it. It says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Where is the word "separate"? Where are the words "church" or "state"? They are not there. They were never intended to be.

Read the Congressional Records during that four-month period in 1789 when the amendment was being framed in Congress.

Clearly their intent was to prohibit a single denomination in exclusion of all others, whether it was Anglican or Catholic or some other.

Democrats can't practice separation of faith and politics and reasonably expect to win national elections. The party must welcome back the moral compass Christianity has embodied in our nation's history.

Look at the main reason why people voted: It's the values, stupid. Unless Democrats stop slamming the door on red states, Christians and principles, they can begin crafting concession speeches for 2006. ♦

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

Bury Arafat in Jerusalem to build Middle East peace

Yasser Arafat died last Thursday in a French hospital. Most Palestinians now lament while many Israelis cheer the passing of the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel tried to kill Arafat numerous times but in the end only hastened his death by trapping him in the unsanitary conditions of his ruined headquarters. Arafat's demise raises both hopes and fears for the future of Palestine and peace in the Middle East.

President George W. Bush offered a cryptic blessing for Arafat's soul and decided to appease conservative Israelis and further alienate Arabs by refusing to send a representative of any stature to his Cairo funeral. Israeli officials allowed Arafat to be buried in Ramallah, but denied the wish of the Palestinian icon to be buried in Jerusalem near the al-Aksa mosque.

"Jerusalem is a city where Jews bury their kings. It's not a city where we want to bury an Arab terrorist," said Israeli Justice Minister Yosef Lapid. It is true that Arafat rose to fame through the death and destruction of bombs. But one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. Arafat fought for the liberation of his homeland, a cause any American should understand. Denying Arafat's burial in Jerusalem is akin to refusing Sitting Bull the right to be buried in America.

Arafat never quite made the successful leap from militant resistance leader to statesman, but Israel has leaders every bit as intolerant and extreme as any Palestinian.

Keeping Arafat's resting place out of Jerusalem reflects the wish of conservative Israelis to exclude all Arabs from Israel.

Lapid's statement echoes the views of former prominent Israeli leaders. The first prime minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion excused Jewish terrorism by saying in a "historical and moral sense," Palestine is "without inhabitants."

Former Prime Minister Golda Meir simply stated "the Palestinians do not exist."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu showed his usual penchant for divisive rhetoric while speaking to CNN's Wolf Blitzer about Arafat's death. He said



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

that Palestine had to be detoxified before any peaceful progress could be made. I can only assume the toxic elements he wants removed are the Palestinians themselves.

Since embarking on our conquest of the Middle East last year, the United States has boasted about bringing democracy and freedom to wherever Dick Cheney chooses. It is not surprising that we are viewed as hypocrites by most of the Arab world when our closest ally there is exempt from our freedom slinging.

Too often Israel is seen as a little slice of America in the Holy Land, yet it is a nation dedicated to the betterment of one race and religion even at the expense of others. This does not reflect American values and we should not be shy in admitting this.

Perhaps Israel should take a lesson not from our current actions but rather from our history. Racial inequalities and aggressive conquest played a part in the formation of the United States. Realizing that not all injustice can be undone, the United States has tried to understand the sins of our past in order to rectify the failings of our present. The Civil Rights Movement proved that peace is possible and practical.

It may be hard to convince someone who has lost a child to a Palestinian bomb or Israeli tank that this is a civil rights issue. It is important however to remember the horrors of the lynching, bombings and riots of our own racial and religious clashes and their ultimate futility in the face of peaceful coexistence.

If only the Israelis had set aside their hatred and allowed a simple burial, they could have taken a critical step towards progress instead of generating a cause for further hatred. ♦

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

Won't someone think about us?

I sat down this weekend to continue my exploits in the recently released video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas." For the uninitiated, "GTA: San Andreas" is a



Filler

Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

third-person shooter game that is considered innovative by many for its open-ended game play. The protagonist, Carl Johnson, or C.J., returns to his home town of Los Santos after the death of his mother only to find everyone he grew up has changed for the worse.

The title of the first mission, "Snail Trail," seems innocent enough. One of C.J.'s antagonist's, Officer Frank Tenpenny, shows up to C.J.'s base of operation to force him into another favor.

The mission starts with Tenpenny telling the protagonist to kill another person. Nothing new here. In the last few hours, I've killed dozens of innocent people.

"There's this journalist that has some dirt on one of my buddies," Tenpenny continues. "He's about to meet his informant. I need you to kill him and the informant."

No, this couldn't be right. C.J. surely understands how important it is for journalists to act as a watchdog for corruption in governmental and civic life. Since I began playing the game 36 hours prior, I felt like a brother to C.J. Surely he would turn Tenpenny down. Maybe he would shoot him for even suggesting such an audacious request.

No dice. C.J. rushed to the train station to follow his mark. As the train hurtled across the tracks, I felt for the young journalist whose brilliant career was about to come to an end, just because some pot-smoking cop couldn't stand the heat. I had to do everything I could to save him.

"Carl, please," I said. "Don't deny this man his First Amendment rights. His razor-sharp reporting can only benefit society as a whole."

My begging came to no avail. While C.J. beat the last of the free speech out of the late *San Andreas Times* reporter with a baseball bat, my heart sank a little, and then filled with a great rage. How dare GTA expose millions of willing videogame players to such anti-democratic propaganda? The insensitive portrayal of a brutal beating of an American hero surely must be the cause of all that is evil in the world.

While I may continue to play the game due to my digi-crack addiction, I hope that the publishers of the game realize that I do it in protest. Shame on you, Rockstar, shame on you. ♦

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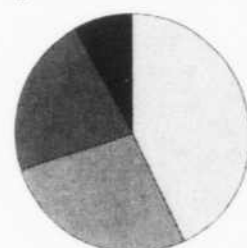
Sidelines online poll results

Do you think Destination Rutherford is a good idea?

Yes, it will be great for our economy. (43 percent)

Yes, it will help put Murfreesboro on the map. (27 percent)

No, it's a waste of money. (22 percent)



No, the potential benefits aren't promising enough. (8 percent)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Do you agree with embryonic stem cell research?" 49 people voted. Results are not scientific.

Calling All Rockers-Turn it Up

Raging Brilliance



Adam Flowers
Staff Columnist

A vision struck me last week. And with your help, dear readers, I believe that we can make this vision a glorious reality—thus making our world a better place.

My insatiable desire for a great burger led me on a quest to Manchester, specifically to Bubba's Bar-B-Cue, which serves epic burgers. I could have taken the interstate and been there in 30 minutes, but the highway—with its hills, dangerous curves and promise of adventure—was a much more enticing drive. On the way there I had a moment of pure and unadulterated joy.

Picture this: a cloudless fall afternoon, rolling down Hwy. 41 like a ramblin' man, rejoicing in the Tennessee countryside, and all the while *Permission to Land* by The Darkness cascading from my stereo into the landscape. I feel sorry for those folks who have only heard "I Believe in a Thing Called Love" by these guys, because they're missing out. *Permission to Land* is at least the best rock CD of 2004—probably of the millennium.

During the fourth or fifth repeat of "Growing on Me," I truly began to feel the music. I'm talking fist out the window, nailing all the high notes (EEEE!), open-palming the steering wheel with each thunderous drum fill, and air-guitaring every blistering solo. As the CD moved on to "Love on the Rocks With No Ice," I reached a new standard in rocking out. I ruled the world at that time and place.

While the music realigned the space around me into a configuration of rock, I realized that this was the best day I'd had since I returned from Scotland three months ago. If the drive had been 20 minutes longer, I may very well have achieved nirvana.

And suddenly: clarity. It was so lucid that I almost missed it completely. It came to me as I was listening to *Good News for People Who Love Bad News* by Modest Mouse. There's a line in the song "The World at Large" that goes, "I pack up my belongings and I head for the coast, it might not be a lot, but I feel like I'm making the most." You just have to hear Isaac Brock's sincerity and hope in the face of a cruel world when delivering these words, but that line moved me and helped to supply me with a vision.

My friends, what I am about to propose is absurd in its simplicity, but monumental in its potential.

What if everyone who listens to rock (and I know there are more of us) played it at top volume from their vehicles? Imagine walking across campus and hearing, instead of the repetitive thump of hip-hop, the soaring power of rock coming from the cars. It's time to bring the rock to the masses.

So this is a call to arms, my fellow rockers. All you punk rockers, indie rockers, classic rockers, acoustic rockers, I implore you—turn it up. Don't be shy, you emo rockers (yes, there is such a thing), let it be heard.

I look forward to the day that I hear Jimmy Eat World, Thursday, O.A.R., Franz Ferdinand, The Postal Service, Coheed and Cambria, Kings of Leon, Further Seems Forever, Thrice, Taking Back Sunday and The Darkness bombarding me from the passing cars. If you listen to rock, turn it up!

Let the rock course from your vehicle with unabashed confidence into the unsuspecting ears of those around you. Let the revolution begin. ♦



McNair Scholars Program affords new opportunities

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Taking advantage of facilities: Front to back—Anna Fitzgerald, Suzanne Glen and Carmen Triplett use the computers in the McNair computer lab.

Scholarship program aids first-generation college students achieve their graduate study goals by close mentoring

By Sarah Catlett
Staff Writer

“Whether or not you reach your goals depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them,” Ronald E. McNair once said.

The McNair Scholars Program was designed to help students who plan to earn a doctorate degree and move into academic positions.

“It [the program] was named after Ronald McNair, who was an African-American astronaut who died in the Challenger tragedy,” says Becky Linville, Interim Coordinator.

Though Congress birthed the idea of the program in 1986, the program was not activated until 1989. This is the sixth year that it has been in existence at

MTSU.

One hundred and fifty-six universities now offer the program, four of which are in Tennessee. Thirty-three McNair Scholars have graduated from MTSU with a bachelor's degree. The graduate scholars from MTSU have continued their education at such graduate schools as the University of Delaware, the University of North Carolina and even here at MTSU.

Scholars of the program are provided with numerous

opportunities to work towards their academic goals.

“To qualify for the program, a student must be either a low-income, first-generation college student or part of a group that is under-represented in graduate study,” Linville explains.

Additionally, students must have completed at least 60 semester hours of credit and currently have a minimum 3.0 grade point average in order to be eligible.

Once accepted into the program, scholars are given the opportunity to choose and work with a faculty mentor. Course tutoring is available to those who need assistance while enrolled in the program, as well as academic and career counseling.

The scholars are also required to attend a weekly seminar each semester. The seminars provide the scholars with important preparatory information concerning graduate school and issues related to research.

When the scholar is prepared to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), vouchers for the

GRE fee payment may be obtained through the program.

Scholars receive three academic credits per year for the activities in which they participate.

The program provides scholars with opportunities that will aid them in their endeavors as they move forward to earning a doctorate degree in graduate school.

Paid summer research internships are also provided to the participants. While participating in the Summer Research Internship, students receive a stipend of \$2,600.

Additionally, during the summer session of the program, scholars present the topic of their research. Presentations on campus are mandatory, but scholars can be invited to give their presentations elsewhere as well.

Karin Hooks, a junior English major, gave her most recent presentation at the McNair National Conference in Delaware. The trip expenses were paid for by the program, since this was a result of her summer research.

“In the fall and the spring, you're just attending weekly seminars in that you can learn to be more successful. The good thing is a bulk of your research is done during the summer. So you're probably thinking, 'How can I do this and do classes?' Well, you don't,” Hooks says.

“Most graduate schools around the country know about the McNair Scholars Program, and they welcome them [the scholars],” Linville says.

“It's a great program,” Hooks adds.

The staff of the McNair Scholars Program is holding an Open House in the McNair Scholars Program office on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available, as well as the opportunity to register for door prizes. The office is located in Room 103 of the Midgett Building, and students with any questions are encouraged to stop by the office for more information. ♦

Semester burnout: ways to deal

Take the high road!



Calley Stroud
Staff Columnist

I'm so freakin' burned out! Will this semester ever end? Four years! Blech! Only one more year to go! Blech!

I'm procrastinating like mad. The other night, I actually chose to clean out the fridge rather than write a composition. I waited until the very last minute to whip it out.

The last minute meaning my class started at 9:10, and I began my composition at 8:47. Funny thing, I actually managed to get it done in time, thereby reinforcing my tendency to put things off.

So, I was thinking that there should be a top 10 list somewhere of ways to not cope with diversions stemming from college burnout. Since I couldn't find one to fit my needs, I've created my own. Let me know if it helps.

The top 10 ways college students shouldn't and should cope with college burnout:

1) Instead of wearing your pajamas to class because you overslept again, completely dress yourself before passing out the night before. Have you noticed this epidemic too?

2) Instead of obsessing over the incompetence of your least-favorite professor for days on end, bash him/her on mtsureview.com and get over it. It's important to note that altering your age and class status will deter any self-incrimination.

3) Instead of pulling off Kerry bumper stickers

from unsuspecting Democrat supporters, clean out the fuzzies in your couch as well as any change. Then proceed to poke what you find into better places—expired parking meters of fellow colleagues.

4) Instead of converting to a new religion, enroll in a philosophy class for the spring.

5) Instead of selling your books back (before finals) to finance your trip to Vegas, just take out another student loan. What's another five years of loan payments... really?

6) Instead of finding a cozy nap space in the book stacks of the library, find a practical study area with your most studious friend.

7) Instead of paying to have your wisdom teeth removed (a valid excuse to miss classes) or cavities filled, floss regularly and invest in a teething ring. Freeze it first. It feels great!

8) Instead of experimenting with the new cutting edge antidepressants, consume large amounts of anti-depressant Halloween candy.

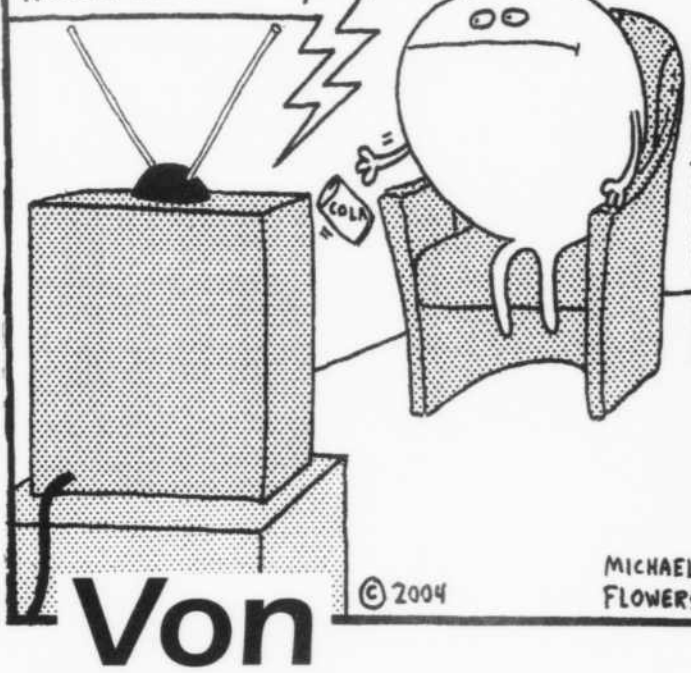
9) Instead of funding your winter wardrobe by accepting that credit card that offers a 23.5 percent introductory interest rate, go retro and hit the thrift stores!

10) Instead of picking a fight with your professor, join the MTSU Boxing Club. Yes, we have one!

Regardless of the way you choose to cope with the accumulating deadlines, find a productive way to deal with your compounding responsibilities. If you can handle a week-long drinking binge, you can handle a few words strung together to make sentences which might contribute to your magnum opus.

Hope is on the way! As I was gazing through our school calendar I noticed something encouraging! Do you realize that final exams begin the first week of December? And, once we finish those, we don't return for the spring until Jan. 18, 2005! How awesome is that? ♦

Anxiety is a serious illness, requiring immediate attention. Sadly, it often goes untreated until it's too late... You may be at risk without even knowing it. In fact, you probably are. You're probably worried about it right now. You thought you were fine, but suddenly your mind is cast in doubt as your stomach knots up and your hands turn sweaty...



MIDDLE TENNESSEE 37 LOUISIANA-MONROE 24

MT dusts Indians in second half

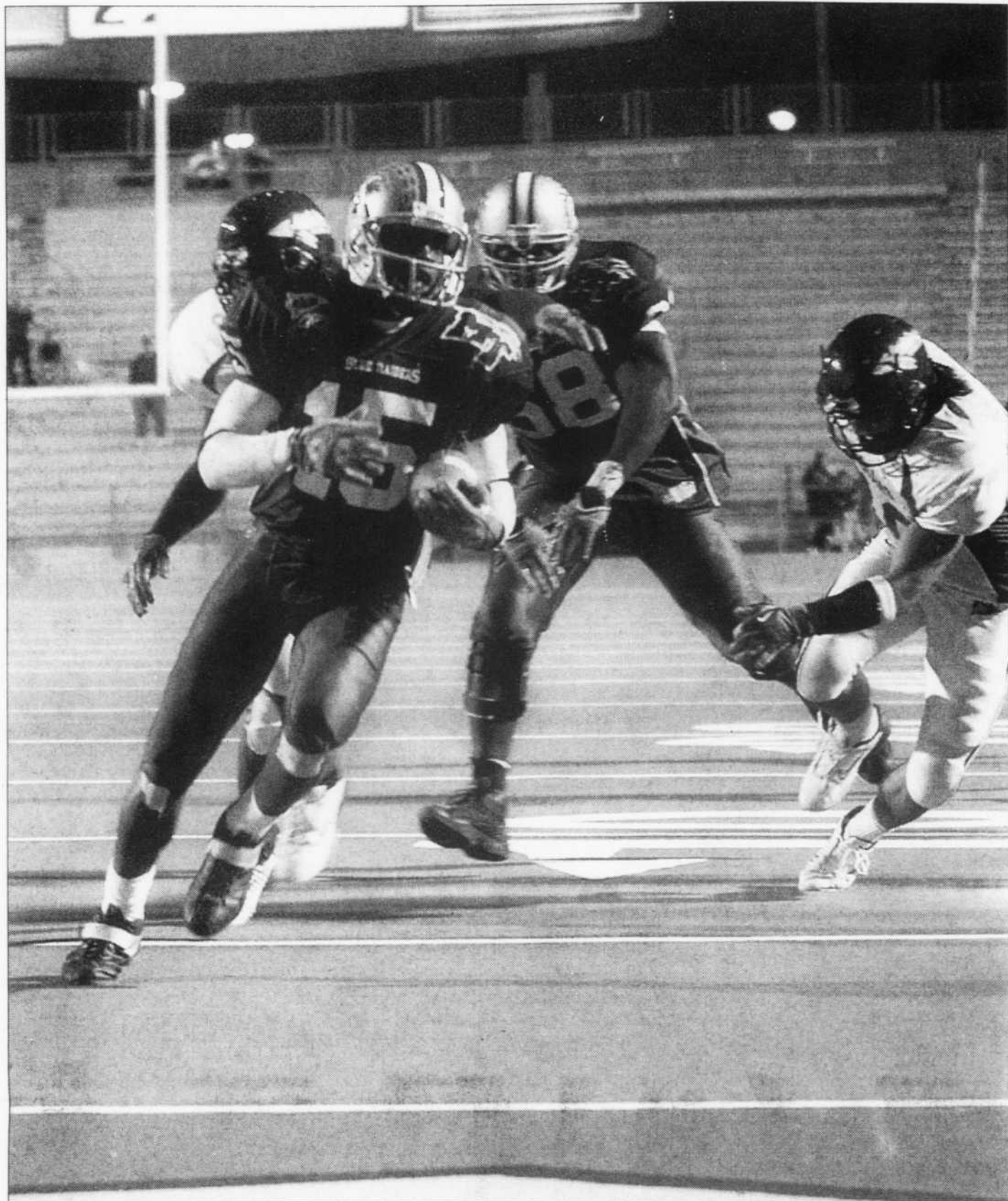


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Blue Raider Cleannord Saintill scored on a 27-yard reverse in the third quarter of MT's 37-24 win over ULM.

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's contest against Louisiana-Monroe Saturday was a tale of two halves.

After battling to a 17-17 tie at halftime, MT exploded for 20 unanswered points as the Blue Raiders notched a 37-24 victory on Senior Day at Floyd Stadium.

"We had to make sure we played good for the seniors, especially since we have a chance to have a winning record," linebacker Dennis Burke said.

The Blue Raiders started the scoring with an opening drive of 80 yards, including a 45-yard run on the first play of the game by freshman Terry Jackson. The drive ended with a 15-yard touchdown reception by Kerry Wright.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Blue Raiders recovered a pooch kick by Paul Wheeler. Lee Baker's 8-yard touchdown run put MT up 14-0.

ULM responded with a 25-yard field goal by Cole Wilson after a goal-line stand by MT.

After the Blue Raiders punted the ball

back to the Indians, Burke intercepted a Steven Jyles pass and returned it to the Monroe 2-yard line.

MT was forced to kick a field goal, however, as the Indians made a goal-line stand of their own.

Monroe quickly tied the score with a scoring run by quarterback Steven Jyles from two yards out and a one-handed, 43-yard touchdown grab by Joseph Merritt.

MT outscored Monroe 10-0 in the third quarter with another Wright touchdown, this time for 37 yards, and a 39-yard field goal by Colby Smith.

Smith added his third field goal at the start of the fourth quarter to extend the Blue Raiders' lead to 30-17. MT concluded their scoring for the day with a 27-yard scamper by Cleannord Saintill on a reverse.

The Indians broke MT's second-half shutout with a 17-yard pass from Jyles to Drouzon Quillen with just less than 12 minutes remaining in the game.

The Blue Raider backfield enjoyed its best output of the season with a total of 213 yards on 38 carries. Running back

Terry Jackson, who finished with 82 yards on 10 carries, said MT was on a mission to run the ball.

"We spoke with our position coach on Friday," Jackson said. "We felt like we weren't getting enough touches. That changed the game plan for today."

Jackson's backfield mate Baker agreed. "I think after that New Mexico game we felt like we had something to prove running the ball," Baker said. "We went out today and ran the ball well."

Baker led the Blue Raiders with 88 yards rushing on 12 carries.

Three Blue Raiders reached personal milestones in the victory. Wright broke an MT single-season record with his 10th touchdown catch of the season. Wright also became the first player in Blue Raider history to notch back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons.

Lou Groza candidate Smith finished with three field goals, bringing his season total to 14 and tying him for second for field goals in a season. MT quarterback Clint Marks broke the single-season record for 200-yard games this season with eight. ◆



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Tia Stovall battles for the ball in a 70-62 loss to USF.

Lady Raiders fall to South Florida in season opener

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders' inability to collect rebounds in the first half and poor shooting in the second half led to a 70-62 loss against South Florida Friday night in the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament.

"We had a hard time getting baskets," Middle Tennessee head coach Stephany Smith said. "We knew coming in that they were an athletic team. We have an athletic team, but they were just more athletic. They bothered a lot of our shots around the basket."

With 5:46 to play in the first half, the Lady Raiders trailed 27-20. Krystle Horton, Patrice Holmes and Tia Stovall helped the Lady Raiders finish the half with a 16-5 run and take the lead 36-32 at halftime. During the run, the three combined for 12 points and had four assists.

The Lady Bulls managed to keep the game close in the first half by getting offensive rebounds. The Lady Bulls had 16 total offensive rebounds for the game, with 13 of those coming in the first half. USF only shot 36 percent from the field, but took 16 more shots than the Lady Raiders.

"We stressed them getting offensive rebounds throughout the game," Smith said. "When we were playing zone defense, we didn't do a good job of rotating

down and boxing out the weak side man with the guard."

The Lady Raiders shot 65 percent in the first half, but could not keep it going in the second. MT led 51-42 with 12:35 remaining in the game before the Lady Bulls went on an 18-3 run over the next eight minutes.

Stovall's free throws with just more than a minute remaining pulled the Lady Raiders to within three, 64-61. The Lady Bulls Jessica Dickson answered with a jumper, however, and put the game out of reach for the Lady Raiders.

"We kind of panicked and wilted under the pressure," Holmes said.

Stovall led the Lady Raiders with a career-high 28 points. Holmes added 11 points, six rebounds and led the team with six assists. Horton recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Dating back to last season, Horton has scored in double figures in 14 straight games.

"We still have a lot of basketball ahead of us," Smith said. "We are young and we are going to be fine down the stretch."

Dickson was one of three USF players to score in double figures. Dickson led the team with 21 points. Rachael Sheats added 10 and Chanae Early had 12 for the Lady Bulls.

The Lady Raiders (0-1) will next play on Friday when they will host Florida Atlantic. ◆

Cuffee leads men's team in 86-62 win

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Five Blue Raiders scored in double figures in Middle Tennessee's 86-62 victory over North Alabama in an exhibition game on Thursday.

"First, I would like to commend North Alabama," Middle Tennessee coach Kermit Davis said. "They are a well-coached team and they play hard, which is what we wanted to face. We got a good test tonight."

North Alabama led 20-13 with 11:48 remaining in the first half, but senior Michael Cuffee then scored eight of the team's next 10 points to pull the Blue Raiders to within one at 24-23.

Photo by Kevin Lane | Staff Photographer

North Alabama's Milton Nance brings the ball up the court against MT's Mike Dean, who finished with 10 points and eight assists.

Over the last eight minutes the Blue Raiders went on an 11-2 run to close out the half and led 34-36.

The Blue Raiders shot 51 percent in the first half and held North Alabama to only 28 percent.

The second half opened with an 11-0 run by the Blue Raiders. MT eventually built a 17-point lead, and the Blue Raiders' defense kept the Lions from making any kind of comeback.

"We started kind of sluggish, but we came out in the second half and played much better," Cuffee said. "We played strong team defense and it showed. As for me, my teammates put me in the right place to score and they got me the ball, so all the thanks goes to my teammates."

Cuffee led the Blue Raiders with 18 points and 13 rebounds. Freshman Brian Lake, who won a state championship for Bolivar High School in the Murphy Center just months ago, scored 14 points and had eight

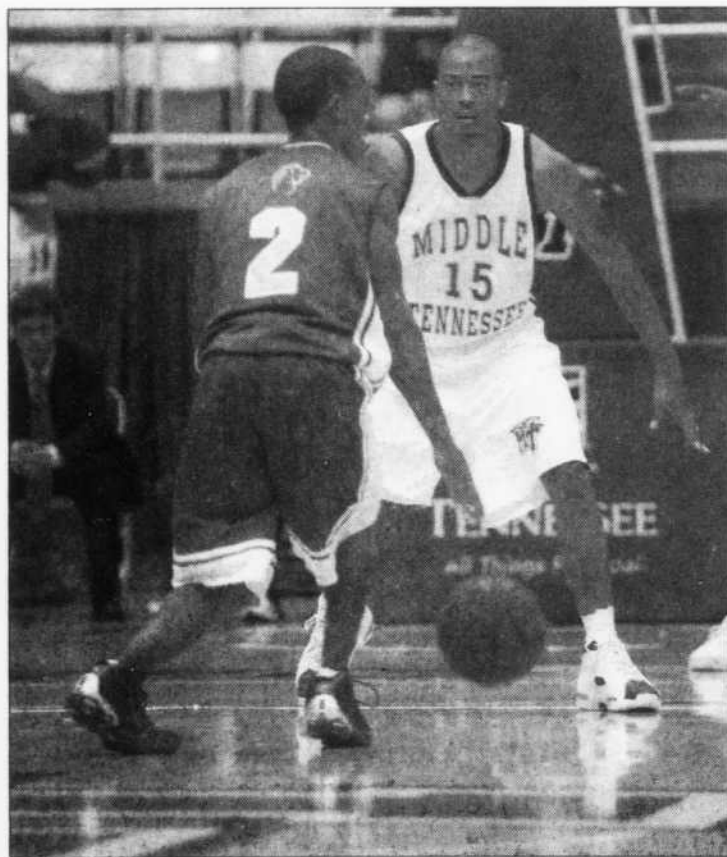
rebounds in his first game at MT. Senior Mike Dean also scored in double figures with 10 points, and led the team with eight assists.

MT's Kyle Young added 13 points, and Marcus Morrison, who played 24 minutes off the bench, scored 10 points and had eight rebounds.

"It's a very good line," Davis said. "I'll have to watch the tape, but when you shoot [55] percent, limit the opposition to [35 percent] and have a positive assist-to-turnover ratio, that's what we try to do, so you have to be pleased with that."

The Blue Raiders had 22 assists and 15 turnovers while forcing 10 UNA turnovers. "We've still got some kinks to work out, but that is what practice is for," Cuffee said. "I wish we had a couple more exhibition games, but that is not how it is."

The Blue Raiders will open their regular season when they host Lambuth University on Friday at 7:30 p.m. ◆



Wright, Marks enjoy record-setting victory



By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Wide receiver Kerry Wright and quarterback Clint Marks had record-setting days for the Blue Raiders in their 37-24 victory over Louisiana-Monroe.

On Senior Day, Wright had eight catches for 126 yards and two touchdowns, setting two Middle Tennessee receiving records. Wright bested his own record set in 2003 of nine touchdowns in a season and tied Kendall Newsom and Herbert Owenby for the top spot in all-time touchdown receptions at MT.

For his career, Wright has 21 touchdown receptions, including 10 this season. With his 126 receiving yards, Wright became the

first player in school history to record two 1,000-yard seasons while playing at MT.

To his credit, Wright said he would not look at what he has accomplished until after the year is over.

"I can take a look at [the records] at the end of the season," Wright said after the game. "I just go out every week trying to get the job done, and it just shows how hard I work in practice."

Wright also had four punt returns for 40 yards.

Clint Marks bounced back from his worst performance of the year last week, as he completed 26 of 36 passes for 241 yards. Marks now has 2,618 passing yards for his career, breaking Wes Counts' previous record of 2,603 that was set in 1999.

Marks also moved into eighth all-time with 241 career completions, passing Phil Ironside.

Marks credited a balanced offensive attack, which allowed him to put up the

numbers he did.

"Lee [Baker] and Terry [Jackson] did awesome, and the offensive line blocked great," Marks said. "A balanced attack helps the passing game, and the running attack will help the passing game. It was just a whole team effort tonight."

The humility of the two record-setting players reflected their unselfishness, according to MT head coach Andy McCollum.

"It will mean something to them in two weeks," McCollum said. "Those two kids are as good of team players as I have ever been associated with. They didn't go into the game thinking about breaking any records. They went into the game trying to win the last home game, and that gave us a 4-1 record at home and I was very proud of that."

With one game remaining on the schedule and a Blue Raider team looking for a winning season, the two can extend their records even further into the history books. ♦

Athletes today concerned with money, not winning

By Lee Murphey
Contributing Columnist

While I can't speak for everyone, many fans of NASCAR, the NFL and the NBA have reasons to be concerned.

Players and authority figures in the aforementioned sports are becoming more concerned about money and less concerned about doing the right thing.

On Oct. 7, Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to sell drugs. Lewis was sentenced to four months in prison, but the judge is postponing the sentence until after the season is over. The NFL suspended Lewis for only two games.

Ordinary people who can't put a spin move on Tank Williams have to serve their jail time immediately. Of course, if their star player was punished immediately, it would have meant less revenue for the Ravens.

In the NBA, Kobe Bryant was put on trial earlier this year after being accused of sexual assault. The trial had little effect on the Los Angeles Lakers' season, however. Bryant flew back and forth between court appearances and games, frequently arriving late for practice, but he still played. After all, if Bryant wasn't allowed to play, it would have meant less revenue for the Lakers.

Granted, the accused in our country are innocent until proven guilty. But what message is the NBA sending when a player can put himself in an irresponsible situation and then get more publicity than the Sept.

11, 2001 attack? What message are the Lakers sending when a player is allowed to repeatedly show up late for practice without consequence?

People wonder why so many athletes come straight out of high school to play professional sports. Well, they get paid millions of dollars, and they can seemingly do whatever they want without fear of punishment. Sounds like a good deal to me.

NASCAR is one sport, however, that never seems to miss an opportunity to punish its drivers for violating rules – but the punishment rarely fits the crime.

On Sept. 19, a day after the Sylvania 300 in New Hampshire, Robby Gordon admitted he intentionally caused a wreck. As a result, Gordon was penalized two laps in that race, fined \$25,000 and put on probation, but was still allowed to race.

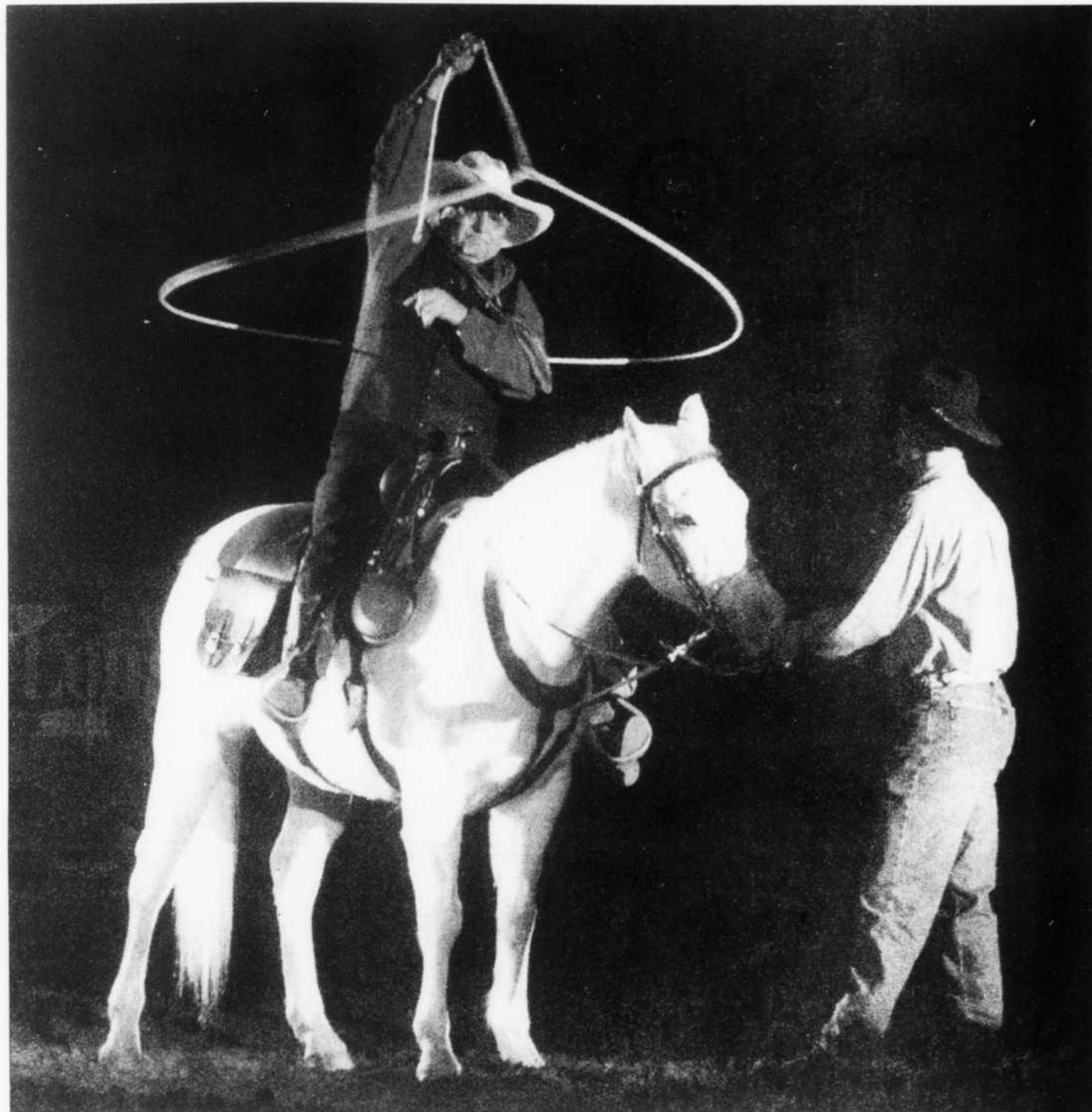
When a driver knowingly puts another driver's life in jeopardy, he needs to be suspended. And frankly, a \$25,000 fine isn't going to cut it.

Athletes are becoming more disrespectful of their superiors everyday. Of course, if their superiors would start doing the right thing, maybe they would be able to demand more respect from athletes.

Despite the steady rise of record-breaking performances by today's top athletes, if this trend continues, sports fans are also going to start seeing new lows. ♦

Lee Murphey is an undeclared junior and can be reached at hlm2a@mtsu.edu.

Yee-haw!



A rodeo cowboy shows off his lasso skills at the Longhorn Championship Finals Rodeo at Tennessee Miller Coliseum over the weekend. The three-day event has become one of the largest annual attractions in the area.

Titans lose in overtime

By Teresa M. Walker
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Chicago defensive ends Alex Brown and Adewale Ogunleye laughed, arguing at their lockers, trying to figure out who deserved credit for the final play. The way this Chicago defense is playing, there's more than enough to go around.

Brown sacked Billy Volek in the end zone and knocked the ball loose, and Tennessee tackle Fred Miller recovered but was tackled by Ogunleye for a safety to give the Bears a 19-17 overtime win over the Titans on Sunday.

It was only the second time an NFL game ended in overtime on a safety. The first was Nov. 5, 1989, when Minnesota beat the Los Angeles Rams 23-21 when Mike Merriweather blocked Dale Hatcher's punt and the ball rolled out of the end zone.

"The least we wanted to do was keep them down there, make them punt out of there, get a first down or two and kick a field goal," Brown said.

The victory gave the Bears (4-5) their first three-game winning streak since the end of the 2001 season — Chicago's last playoff appearance — and kept them alive in the NFC North race.

Tennessee (3-6) gave Steve McNair another week to rest his bruised and aching chest, giving Volek the fourth start of his career. It turned into a sloppy, ugly game that featured 20 punts. "I don't even know where to

start since there were so many unusual things that happened," said Titans coach Jeff Fisher, now 0-3 against the team he played for in the 1980s. "I never would have thought we would lose the game in overtime on a sack for a safety."

The Titans came up with five sacks and forced three turnovers while holding Chicago to 176 yards total offense, including just 38 in the first half. But Tennessee made some costly mistakes, including an interception returned for a touchdown and two fumbles by Chris Brown. The loss left the Titans questioning what else they could have done on defense.

Cornerback Samari Rolle said the Bears' offense only gave its defense a breather by running on the field, and linebacker Keith Bulluck said he was left shaking his head, trying to figure out what happened.

"I'm dumbfounded," Bulluck said. "We gave up three points, and we're on the losing end of it."

Bears rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel did little until the final drive of regulation, when he was 4-of-7 for 65 yards to set up Paul Edinger's 29-yard field goal to tie the game at 17. Chicago coach Lovie Smith defended his offense and pointed out how Krenzel played at the end.

"They did enough. We scored more than they did. When they had to come through at the end, they did. It's kind of simple as that," Smith said.

The Titans tried to win in regulation, but punter Craig Hentrich, who tries all field goals over 50 yards, had a 52-yard attempt blocked as time expired.

The Bears won the toss to start overtime and couldn't do anything with the ball. Punter Brad Maynard pinned Tennessee at its own 9 with a 43-yard punt, his 11th of the game.

Volek had thrown for two touchdowns and a career-high 334 yards. But his first pass in overtime was incomplete, and Bears linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer sacked him on second-and-10 for a 4-yard loss. On third-and-14, Volek dropped into the end zone and Brown hit him and forced the decisive fumble.

"Our defense is playing as well, if not better, than any defense in the league right now," Krenzel said. "They came through for us big today. Offensively, we came nowhere near to holding up our end."

Chicago built a 14-7 lead off defense and special teams. Michael Haynes intercepted Volek's pass and returned it 45 yards for a touchdown just before halftime, and R.W. McQuarters added a 75-yard punt return for a TD in the third. McQuarters nearly gave Chicago a 21-7 lead on the next punt, but his 85-yard return was wiped out by an illegal block.

Krenzel finished 10-of-28 for 116 yards, while Anthony Thomas ran 29 times for 72 yards for the Bears. ♦

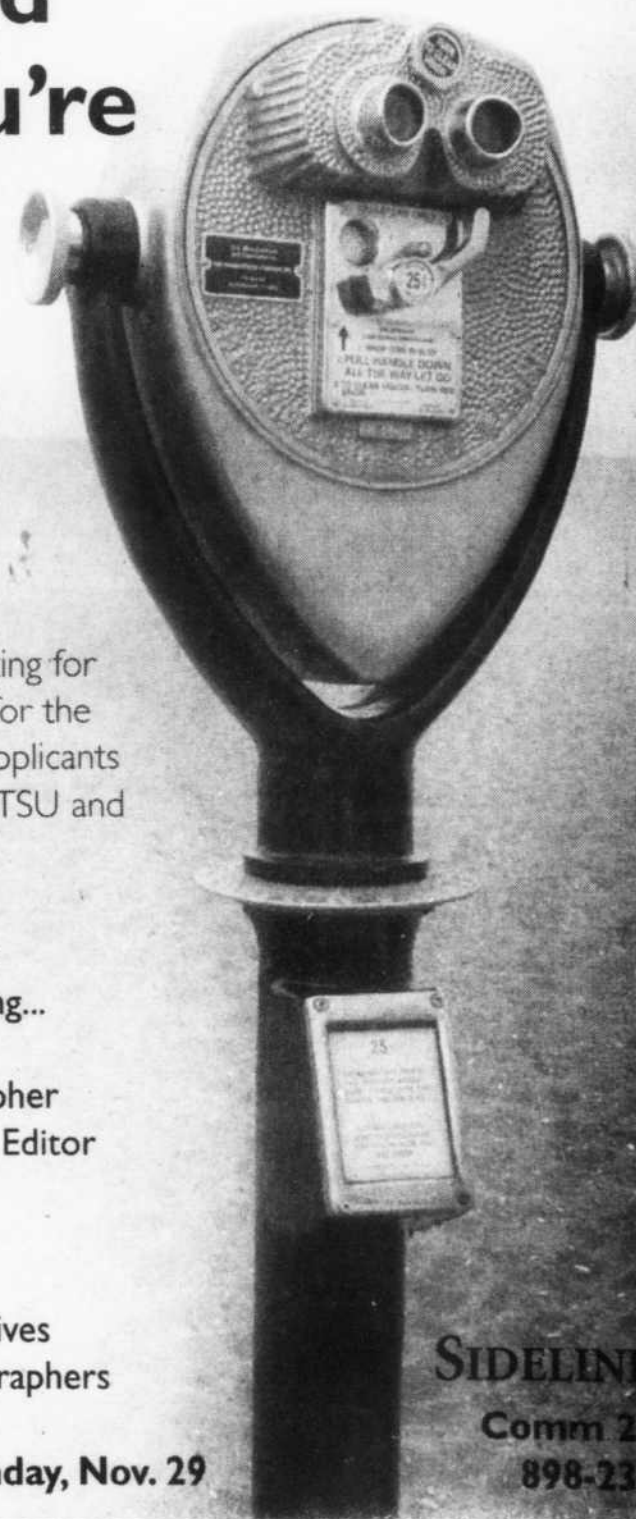
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Thomas ties NCAA mark in UNT victory

Compiled by sunbeltsports.org

North Texas 51, Idaho 29

DENTON, Texas (AP) — Jamario Thomas ran for 291 yards and tied an NCAA mark with his fifth straight 200-yard game as North Texas won its fourth consecutive conference title and a spot in the New Orleans Bowl with a 51-29 victory over Idaho on Saturday night.

Thomas, the nation's leading rusher entering the game at 177.3 yards a game, also scored four touchdowns as UNT (6-4, 6-0 Sun Belt) won its 24th straight conference game.

The Mean Green will play a Conference USA team in the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 14.

The Vandals (3-8, 2-5) played their final game in the Sun Belt Conference and will move to the WAC next season.

Thomas broke the North Texas and Sun Belt Conference single-game rushing mark for the third time this season, surpassing the 258 he gained against New Mexico State on Oct. 23. It was also his fifth straight game over 200, tying the NCAA record shared by Marcus Allen (University of Southern California, 1981) and Barry Sanders (Oklahoma State, 1988).

Thomas has 1,709 yards this season, breaking the Sun Belt and UNT single-season rushing record. The record was 1,680, set by Patrick Cobbs last season.

He broke a 70-yard run for a touchdown on the game's third play. On the next series he also scored on the third play, going 31 yards to put UNT up 13-0. After four carries he had 107 yards. His final touchdown, a 15-yard run, put North Texas ahead 37-22 with 8:58 remaining.

Idaho pulled within 37-29 with 6:12 left when Michael Harrington threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Luke Smith-Anderson.

But then Scott Hall connected on a 2-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Quinn with 1:40 remaining to put the Mean Green up 44-29.

UNT added one more score when Maurice Holman returned an interception to the Idaho 35-yard line before fumbling. Teammate Walter Priestley picked up the ball and scored.

Harrington was 24-of-42 for 328 yards and two touchdowns. Desmond Belton caught eight passes for 156 yards and Bobby Bernal-Wood had 12 receptions for 137 yards and a score.

Idaho's freshman running back, Jayson Bird, who entered the game as the fourth-leading rusher in the conference, left the game after his first carry with a sprained knee. He did not return.

Arkansas State 16, Utah State 7 (Thursday)

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — Darren Toney returned a punt 61 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown and Eric Neihouse kicked three field goals, sending Arkansas State to a 16-7 victory over Utah State on Thursday night.

It was the sixth straight loss for the Aggies (2-8, 1-5 Sun Belt Conference) and their first game since coach Mick Dennehy was fired on Monday. Dennehy, in his fifth season at Utah State, agreed to coach the last two games of the season, including Nov. 20 at home against New Mexico State.

The Indians (3-7, 3-3) overcame 11 penalties and two turnovers by intercepting three passes and recovering a fumble. Toney provided their only touchdown with 13:59 left, and Neihouse's extra point made it 16-7. It was the first time Arkansas State has returned a punt for a touchdown since 2000.

Despite rushing for minus-six yards in the first half, Utah State took a 7-6 lead on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Leon Jackson to Kevin Robinson with 4:25 left in the second quarter. Until that drive, the Aggies had negative yards of total offense.

Neihouse's 25-yard field goal with 2:36 remaining in the half regained the lead for the Indians. Arkansas State allowed 256 total yards, including 51 on the ground.

Troy 13, Louisiana-Lafayette 10

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Sean Dawkins scored Troy's only touchdown on a nine-yard run, while the Trojans came up with three crucial interceptions and stopped a fourth-and-short play to hold off Louisiana-Lafayette 13-10 on Saturday.

DeWhitt Betterson rushed for 122 yards for Troy (6-4, 4-2 Sun Belt), while quarterback D.T. McDowell used his scrambling ability to keep alive the Trojans' lone touchdown drive.

McDowell was in a shotgun formation on a fourth-and-four play at the Ragin' Cajuns' 22-yard line when the snap went well to his right and bounced back toward midfield. McDowell rushed back to pick up the ball, evaded several tacklers, then ran left toward the sideline to gain the first down. Dawkins' touchdown came a few plays later and left Louisiana-

Lafayette (4-6, 2-4) down 10-0.

Greg Whibb's 40-yard field goal gave Troy a 3-0 lead to conclude a drive that began when UNT's Jerry Babb was hit as he threw and the pass landed in the arms of Johnny Faulk in his own end zone.

In the third quarter, Whibb's 24-yard kick gave Troy a 13-0 lead. Louisiana-Lafayette closed the gap to 13-7 on Babb's plunge from a yard out to conclude a drive that started with a recovered fumble on the Troy 40-yard line.

On their next possession, the Cajuns drove 81 yards to the Troy 10 yard-line, but settled for a 27-yard field goal by Sean Comiskey. Louisiana-Lafayette got the ball back three more times in the final 6:23, but turned the ball over twice and punted once.

Babb finished 17-for-35 for 147 yards and three interceptions. McDowell was 8-of-12 for 92 yards.

New Mexico State 35, Florida Atlantic 7

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Buck Pierce threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third as New Mexico State defeated Florida Atlantic 35-7 on Saturday.

Pierce was 16-of-28 for 225 yards as New Mexico State (5-5, 4-2 Sun Belt) won its third straight game. Muammar Ali and Justine Surines also had rushing touchdowns for the Aggies.

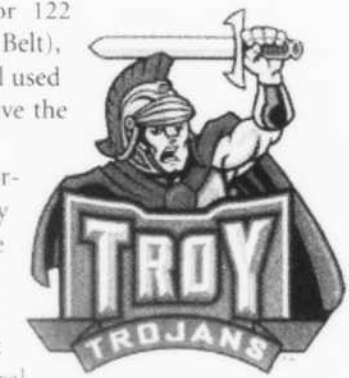
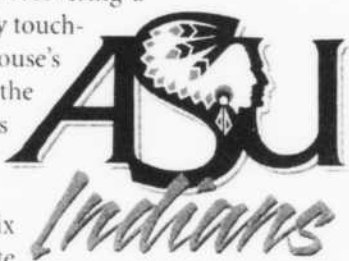
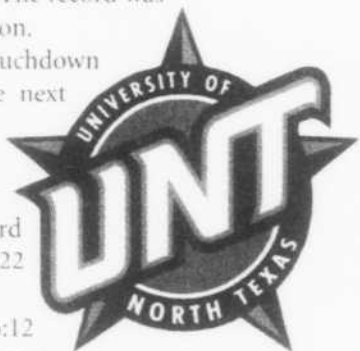
After starting the season 5-0, the Owls (6-3) have lost three of their last four games. Jared Allen and Danny Embick combined for only 118 yards passing for Florida Atlantic, with Allen going 8-of-17 for 90 yards and a touchdown. The Owls turned the ball over four times.

In the third quarter, the Aggies' Greg Scaffidi recovered a fumble on the Florida Atlantic 18-yard line. Eight plays later, Muammar Ali scored on a one-yard run. A successful two-point conversion gave New Mexico State a 28-0 lead.

Aaron Sanchez scored the Owls' only touchdown in the fourth quarter on a 17-yard pass from Allen.

New Mexico State opened a 20-0 lead in the second quarter, when Pierce scrambled 15 yards for a touchdown after a Dominique Jacobs interception of Embick gave the Aggies the ball at the Florida Atlantic four-yard line.

Pierce hit Paul Dombrowski for a 51-yard touchdown pass and found Andrew Mooney on an eight-yard scoring toss to give New Mexico State a 14-0 lead. ♦



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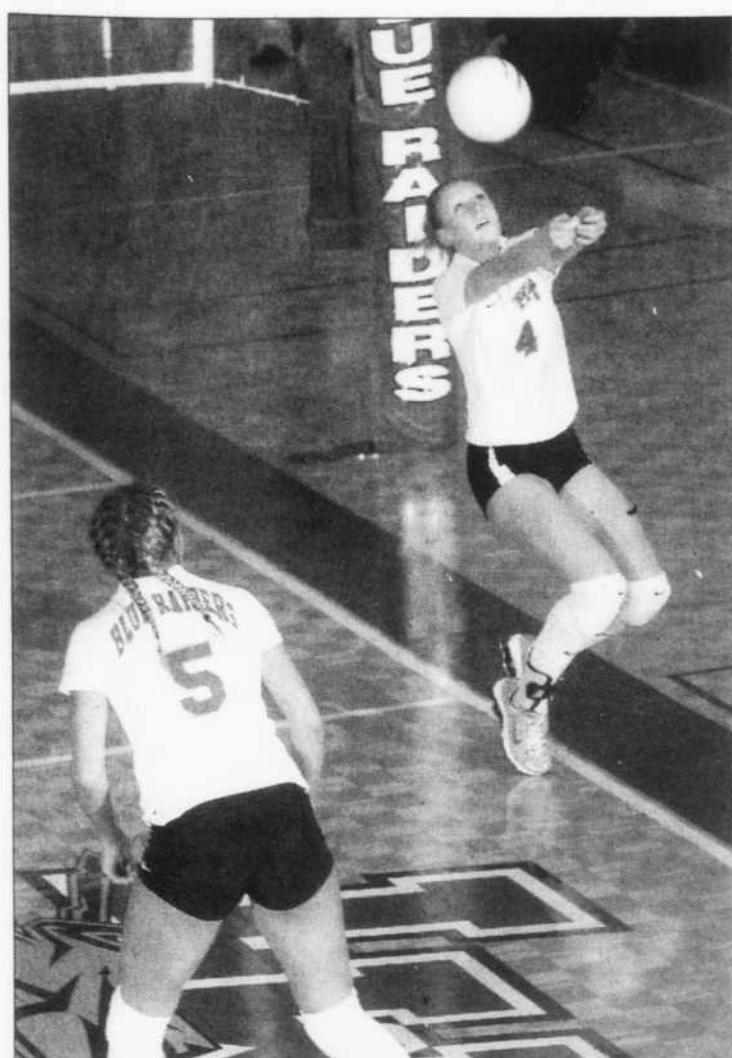
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MT earns No. 4 seed with loss

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider volleyball team fell to Western Kentucky 3-1 (21-30, 30-23, 24-30, 26-30) in the Lady Toppers' final home match of the season.

WKU seniors Lyndsey Broerman, Amanda Cecil, Ashly Miller and Amanda Schiff led the Lady Toppers (23-6, 10-3 Sun Belt Conference) on Senior Day for the Lady Toppers.

The loss came from multiple MT mistakes that hindered their chance at the victory. The Blue Raiders had a .235 attack percentage and committed 24 errors in the match. They also had seven service errors.

The Lady Topper took control of Game 1 with a 7-2 lead, but MT managed to come within one point at 14-13. WKU scored the next two points to lead 16-13, and then added six more points to make the score a 22-16 Topper advantage.

The Blue Raiders scored the next three points to make it 22-19 off a WKU attack

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore Megan Sumrell (4) has 1,458 assists this season.

error. A McLean kill narrowed the lead to four at 25-21 until WKU scored the final five points of the game, getting back-to-back kills from Crystal Towler to win the game 30-21.

Game 2 was different, as MT scored the first five points and the Lady Toppers never recovered. WKU came within two points of the lead at 8-6 with a block from Caron Blotch and Schiff.

The Blue Raiders then went on a 7-2 run that was capped off by a Deckard kill. WKU came no closer than five points the rest of the game as MT evened up the match with a 30-23 win.

WKU apparently refocused after halftime by scoring the first four points in Game 3 en route to a 30-24 win. The Lady Toppers never trailed in the game.

Game 4 saw nine ties and four lead changes. With the score tied at 20, the Lady Toppers scored four of the next five points to take a 24-21 lead. MT pulled within two when a Cecil service error made it 26-24, but WKU scored the next three to get to match point (29-24) on a block from Broerman and Blotch.

The Blue Raiders stayed alive with two

straight points until an Alicia Lemau'u serve sailed out of bounds to give WKU the match with a 30-26 win in the final game.

Keke Deckard led the match with 23 kills, while Dara McLean added 14 and had a .250 attack percentage. Addressa Lyra and Lindsay Sisco each recorded 10 kills in the match.

Schiff led the Lady Toppers with 16 kills, while Broerman and Cecil added 15 and 13, respectively. Cecil also added 15 digs for her third double-double of the season.

Miller led the Lady Toppers with 18 digs to round out a successful night for the 2004 class.

The Lady Toppers defeated North Texas 3-0 on Sunday to earn a share in the Sun Belt Eastern Division championship for the fifth straight season and give them the second seed in next week's SBC Tournament. WKU finishes the season 12-1 at home and 7-0 against SBC opponents on their home court.

The loss for MT assures the Blue Raiders a No. 4 seed in the conference tournament beginning Nov. 18 in New Orleans.

The Blue Raiders (16-13, 8-5) closed out regular-season play at Louisiana-Lafayette yesterday. *Sidelines* will have a full report on yesterday's match in Wednesday's edition. ♦



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 ponyboy@KaZaA, 64.203.10.xxx, 9:44 AM 9/17/04; EnergyStar_17@fileshare, 67.181.236.xxx, 2:40 PM 9/17/04; galgambini@fileshare, 68.189.18xxx, 11:21 PM 9/17/04; blazies2004@KaZaA, 24.128.21xxx, 12:17 AM 9/18/04;
 pelagopoland@KaZaA, 64.222.105.xxx, 2:36 AM 9/18/04; bubba_one@fileshare, 67.21.163.xxx, 2:52 AM 9/18/04; Burner@KaZaA, 65.26.193.xxx, 4:59 AM 9/18/04; Smith2006@fileshare, 24.26.138.xxx, 6:22 AM 9/18/04;
 saboski@fileshare, 24.229.41xxx, 7:33 AM 9/18/04; bipmaaz2004@fileshare, 68.47.4xxx, 9:13 AM 9/18/04; TRILLGATOR226@fileshare, 24.117.22xxx, 10:37 AM 9/18/04; mikaaaa@KaZaA, 66.27.156.xxx, 10:56 AM 9/18/04;
 michael@KaZaA, 66.168.105.xxx, 11:09 AM 9/18/04; tramatnick@fileshare, 24.190.114.xxx, 11:51 AM 9/18/04; glalfarewell@fileshare, 24.242.228.xxx, 12:30 PM 9/18/04; jhead81@fileshare, 68.30.3xxx, 12:36 PM 9/18/04;
 swankknews@fileshare, 24.252.84.xxx, 1:20 PM 9/18/04; gayla@fileshare, 68.97.3xxx, 2:46 PM 9/18/04; vernick@fileshare, 209.30.17xxx, 4:12 PM 9/18/04; mJ23r@fileshare, 24.170.9xxx, 6:32 PM 9/18/04;
 mcs1060@fileshare, 68.48.176.xxx, 6:35 PM 9/18/04; delighm3624@KaZaA, 69.149.50.xxx, 7:06 PM 9/18/04; naughtytypinky13@fileshare, 68.3.1xxx, 8:45 PM 9/18/04; linamdpina@fileshare, 66.127.186.xxx, 9:45 PM 9/18/04;
 luye@Grokster, 67.153.1xxx, 9:59 PM 9/18/04; antwan1234567@fileshare, 24.181.231.xxx, 12:28 AM 9/19/04; ladders3212005@fileshare, 68.113.10xxx, 1:00 AM 9/19/04; jn@KaZaA, 24.26.10xxx, 1:31 AM 9/19/04;
 sophmoreslammer17@fileshare, 67.180.58.xxx, 4:32 AM 9/19/04; yessy2004@Grokster, 69.149.6xxx, 6:43 AM 9/19/04; Alisia43@fileshare, 68.88.25xxx, 7:18 AM 9/19/04;
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 aazak1@KaZaA, 68.96.10xxx, 6:33 PM 9/19/04; Jay5313@fileshare, 69.212.230.xxx, 8:22 PM 9/19/04; BANJOLUVA@KaZaA, 24.4.51.xxx, 9:24 PM 9/19/04; hoapee@fileshare, 68.169.10xxx, 11:20 PM 9/19/04;
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 akmg (eDonkey), 24.7.1xxx, 5:25 PM 9/20/04; Bri-Bri26@fileshare, 69.37.12xxx, 10:39 PM 9/20/04; djmitkozmel (DirectConnect), 24.107.15xxx, 1:54 AM 9/21/04; wildchick29706@KaZaA, 204.116.4xxx, 12:10 AM 9/21/04;
 partykeg69@fileshare, 68.70.17xxx, 1:59 AM 9/21/04; badkid@KaZaA, 24.7.207.xxx, 6:24 AM 9/21/04; jccin (eDonkey), 68.229.23xxx, 10:31 AM 9/21/04;
 magneto2172@fileshare, 24.91.240.xxx, 10:32 AM 9/21/04; dicko75 (DirectConnect), 172.202.115.xxx, 12:20 AM 9/27/04; cordscj@fileshare, 69.111.116.xxx, 12:23 AM 9/22/04; babyjuetz1@fileshare, 67.163.182.xxx, 10:38 PM 9/22/04;
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 sawyathere@fileshare, 68.77.94.xxx, 11:10 PM 9/20/04; soccerfreak@KaZaA, 66.138.254.xxx, 3:32 AM 9/21/04;
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 novemberman76@KaZaA, 68.77.88.xxx, 8:47 PM 9/21/04; MICHELLE212@KaZaA, 162.83.229.xxx, 10:06 PM 9/21/04;
 ruben6191904@fileshare, 67.20.65.xxx, 1:10 AM 9/22/04; tgust001@fileshare, 67.9.70.xxx, 2:13 AM 9/22/04; esquivelll@fileshare, 66.138.254.xxx, 4:17 AM 9/22/04;
 LilHeather17x@fileshare, 68.65.12.xxx, 9:04 AM 9/22/04; Ariakais@fileshare, 69.108.234.xxx, 11:22 AM 9/22/04;
 mindy@KaZaA, 68.11.xxx, 1:39 PM 9/22/04; kahifgdjfs@fileshare, 24.188.41.xxx, 3:31 PM 9/22/04; FunkBass87@fileshare, 64.165.10.xxx, 2:27 AM 9/23/04;
 sharpire@fileshare, 67.39.195.xxx, 3:26 AM 9/23/04; (LimeWire), 68.14.62.xxx, 3:43 AM 9/25/04; oneofakind@KaZaA, 67.41.78.xxx, 6:38 AM 9/23/04;
 lyndaluv414@fileshare, 68.234.1xxx, 7:12 AM 9/23/04; (LimeWire), 65.30.81.xxx, 6:10 PM 9/27/04; bigpsyce@fileshare, 4.26.2xxx, 9:38 AM 9/23/04;
 dre_dizzle67@fileshare, 209.112.208.xxx, 10:12 AM 9/23/04; rustyplatinum187@fileshare, 68.212.62.xxx, 11:22 AM 9/23/04;
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 Chill_E_Will_E@fileshare, 24.233.13xxx, 5:31 PM 9/23/04; gamemasterbebo14@fileshare, 66.67.221.xxx, 6:26 PM 9/23/04;
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 wooooo00000 (DirectConnect), 166.66.107.xxx, 9:23 AM 9/26/04; Flipflash@KaZaA, 68.159.1xxx, 10:59 AM 9/24/04;
 tarzan1104@fileshare, 24.210.166.xxx, 7:53 AM 9/23/04; (LimeWire) 69.22.198.xxx, 10:27 AM 9/28/04;

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