

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

58

85

Morning Thunderstorms



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

"Will you still go to the Red Rose?"

A nonsensical telling of a band

In [flash], inside



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 14

Former student paralyzed after fall

By Patrick Chinnery and
Kristin Hall
Editor in Chief and News Editor

A former MTSU student is currently paralyzed and listed in critical condition, the result of a fall from a bridge on State Route 840 Saturday night.

Chris Bell, 20, who was enrolled at MTSU last semester, attended a party at the Tau

Kappa Epsilon house Saturday night, according to Kenny Overall, a current senior, who rescued Bell from Stones River Sunday afternoon.

Curtis Hedgepeth Jr., a TKE brother at University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, confirmed at he was at the TKE party and was drinking. According to Hedgepeth, they left the party, and at around

1:45 a.m., Bell jumped out of the car after it was stopped so he could vomit, and ran off into the dark. Hedgepeth said he searched for Bell for 1 1/2 hours before driving away.

Bell's sister Misty says she got a phone call around 2:30 a.m. from Hedgepeth, saying Chris had run off.

Overall's neighbor's son was the first to notice Chris.

"My neighbor's kid was four-wheeling, and he thought he heard someone yelling by the river," Overall said. "I went back with him to the river, and said, 'Hello.'" After Bell responded, Overall saw him in the river, clinging to a rock.

"I could tell from [on the embankment] that he had a severe spinal injury. He told me he couldn't feel his legs," Overall

said. He then called 911. Overall estimates that the first police car arrived 25 minutes to 35 minutes later, at roughly 4:30 p.m.

While waiting for the emergency crews to arrive, Bell allegedly told Overall that he thought he was either thrown off the bridge by the people who were driving him, or that he fell off.

David Hays, interim univer-

sity counsel, said that a thorough investigation would be made. He added that there could be repercussions for those involved.

"If we can determine that he was at a fraternity house, and he was underage, that's definitely something that we'd be interested in," Hays said.

A follow-up story will be in Monday's *Sidelines*. ♦

Photos exhibited



Photo by Christopher Rauschberg | Staff photographer

Photographer Christopher Rauschberg's photographs will be display at the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the Learning Resource Center until Oct. 10. He will be giving a lecture about his photos Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in LRC Room 221. There will be a reception after the lecture.

TBR auditing President's expense account

By India Stone
Staff Writer

Amid public concerns about overspending, the Tennessee Board of Regents has requested that Tennessee's six universities and 13 community colleges submit expenditure reports.

Each report will include an outline on money spent on travel, entertainment, meals and credit card charges.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee will submit records detailing his expense account for the fiscal year ending June 30. McPhee said he has

"absolutely no concerns about MTSU's expenses."

"I believe the review will show a great amount of caution in using MTSU's expenses," said McPhee, who thinks the budget crisis two years ago prepared him to be thrifty.

According to reports by *The Tennessean*, Bob Adams, TBR vice chancellor for business and finance, said the decision to request the reports was made after University of Tennessee President John W. Shumaker resigned due to questions about

See Audit, 2

Murphy Center custodial services may be outsourced

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Murphy Center custodial workers have raised concerns about the outsourcing of custodial services at the Murphy Center to Aramark custodial services.

"The university is in its third year of implementing a phase-in plan of outsourcing its custodial services," MTSU president Sidney McPhee said.

"We have had very good success with contracting custodial services on campus," he continued.

McPhee was also quick to clarify that the actions taking place do not involve any contract renegotiations.

"This is not about renegotiations," he said. "Instead, this is about looking at the best way to

cut expenses and still effectively get the job done."

Terry Carroll, a Tennessee State Employees Association field representative sent a letter to the university Aug. 8, addressing concerns he had received from Murphy Center employees.

On Aug. 19, McPhee sent his response to the TSEA, stating, "Our decision to outsource certain services at the university is not a reflection of the lack of concern for our employees."

"It is our effort to find ways to be more efficient and effective in managing state resources. The possible outsourcing is a way to save the university some money during tight financial times."

The Murphy Center employs

See Aramark, 2

Student loan interest rates drop

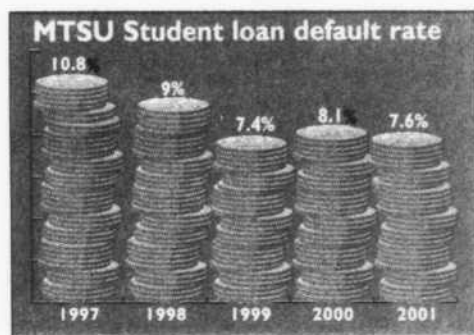
By Meagan Kirby
Staff writer

Students and parents might be interested to know that for the 2003-2004 school year, loan interest rates have dropped to a new low.

In July 2003, the student loan interest rate dropped from 4.06 percent to 3.42 percent for out-of-school students. For those still in school, the rate dropped to 2.82 percent, and for Parent Loan for undergraduate students, the new rate will be 4.22 percent.

This year, approximately \$42.4 million in Stafford loans have been certified. "The average loan rate is about \$5,000," said David Hutton, director of financial aid at MTSU.

Most borrowers owe about \$17,000 in loans. By consolidating their loans, a bor-



Graph by Brandon Morrison | Production Manager

rower can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars, depending on how much they have borrowed.

MTSU has three different types of loan programs: the Stafford loan, the Perkins loan, and the PLUS loan. At MTSU, the Stafford loan is the largest.

"The interest rates are great right now. They are the best I have ever seen," Hutton

said. He also said that some lenders will drop their interest rates even lower than what they already are.

Hutton suggested students take advantage of subsidized loans, but to stay away from unsubsidized loans.

"In a subsidized loan, interest does not accrue while the student is in school, he said. "In an unsubsidized loan interest does accrue while a student is in school. For example, a loan that may be for \$1,000 while a student is in school can become a \$1,200 loan when that student gets out of school."

These new loan interest rates will help students with a large student loan debt.

Hutton's advice on loans is, "Only borrow what you need. Do not borrow to buy a new car or such, and do not borrow in excess." ♦

Mars Attacks: Red Planet mere 34.6 million miles from Earth

By Jess McKelley
Staff writer

Mars and Earth were closer than they have been in 60,000 years. Last Wednesday morning, at 5 a.m., the small, red planet was 34.6 million miles from Earth, last week.

This was considered by many as the best opportunity to view Mars in our lifetime. However, it is not too late to clearly see the planet.

"Mars will be easily visible in the southern sky for two to three more months," said Chuck Higgins, MTSU professor of astronomy, pointing out that while the actual day of Mars' closest proximity to our planet was last Tuesday, it can still be seen with the naked eye through November.

The orbits of Earth and Mars coincide roughly every two years, when both planets are on the same side of the sun at once. These orbits are not perfectly circular, so each time they approach they are a little closer together or a little further apart.

It is only every 60,000 years that they are closest together, as they are now. At this point, Earth is farthest from the sun and Mars is closest.

This is actually the largest that Mars has appeared since 1988. The planet's apparent size grows every 15-17 years, although it will not actually be this close again until 2287.

Mars can be viewed with the naked eye, however the use of a telescope will provide much more detail.

The planet will be visible in

the night sky and will resemble a large star with a red-orange tint. Amateurs using telescopes may be able to see the southern polar cap, cloudy dust and polar formations on the planet. The dust storm season is expected to be in in October, causing orange spots to appear on the surface of Mars, eventually overtaking the planet and obscuring its detail.

For those who wish to have the best view of Mars, check out the star party this Friday Sept. 5. As part of an ongoing series of night viewing parties throughout the year, there will be a short lecture and telescopes available to view the night sky and Mars.

The MTSU department of physics and astronomy will

See Mars, 2



Mars won't be this close again until 2287. The planet will be visible in the night sky and will resemble a large star with a red-orange tint.

Graph by Brandon Morrison | Production Manager

Audit: TBR to determine whether the school's expenses meet their needs

Continued from 1

his excessive spending of the school's private foundation and taxpayer-funded accounts.

Reports indicate that Shumaker inappropriately spent almost \$32,000, failed to turn in receipts and bought lavish furnishings for his home.

Mary Morgan, director of communications for the TBR, said that in light of the recent

UT discrepancies in spending, the TBR Chancellor Charles Manning thought gathering all schools' reports was in order.

Morgan said there is no real rule in place that specifies what constitutes too much or inappropriate spending and that the review of the expense reports will be handled on a case-by-case basis by those examining them.

"We want to make sure the

schools handle money properly and appropriately," Morgan said. "All schools have different needs."

According to Morgan, members of the TBR finance department will examine each report to determine whether the schools' expenses are proportionate to their financial needs.

"I have always been conscious about how state dollars are being spent," McPhee said,

who detailed, for example, that last year's travel expenses were \$9,000.

According to McPhee, MTSU's internal auditing department randomly selects departments within the school for audit over two or three-year periods, and an audit for the entire school is done each year by the state of Tennessee. Morgan said the TBR audits major universities once a year

and community colleges once every two years.

"It's a bit of an unusual situation," Morgan said, elaborating that she had never seen the TBR make this sort of request before.

McPhee said that he has concerns of being too conservative with spending. For example, he said that the popular administrative retreat, an expensive but good way to bring MTSU's staff together, was cancelled this year

because of a lack of funding. Similarly, the back-to-school social was also cut this year because it would have cost too much. The expense reports are due to TBR by Sept. 15 and are scheduled to be released to the public by Sept. 25 or 26, the days of the TBR's next meetings. Morgan said there is a possibility that the reports could be released earlier, although she couldn't specify a date. ♦

Aramark: Outsourcing could cut costs for University

Continued from 1

13 custodial workers and is managed by Ronald Malone.

"In the past, Aramark has given the option to maintain employment of any current custodial employee," Malone said.

Other areas on campus, such as housing and administration, have also been outsourced in recent years.

"When we outsourced other areas of the campus we worked with existing employees, the employees did not lose their jobs," McPhee said.

"The same is true for the Murphy Center employees. If a custodial worker wants to work elsewhere on the campus, should the decision be made to outsource the Center, we will work with that individual as

well," McPhee said.

"We want to have the most effective way to get the job done," he said.

McPhee wanted to stress that the university respects and values all of its employees.

The university has not laid off any employees due to outsourcing, according to McPhee.

In his letter to the TSEA, McPhee explained that the pre-

vious layoffs were a result of the 9 percent reduction in our state appropriation that was mandated this year.

Efforts were made to place those individuals in other positions throughout the campus.

The university is considering the option of outsourcing, however no decision has been made yet. ♦

Mars: Star Party Friday

Continued from 1

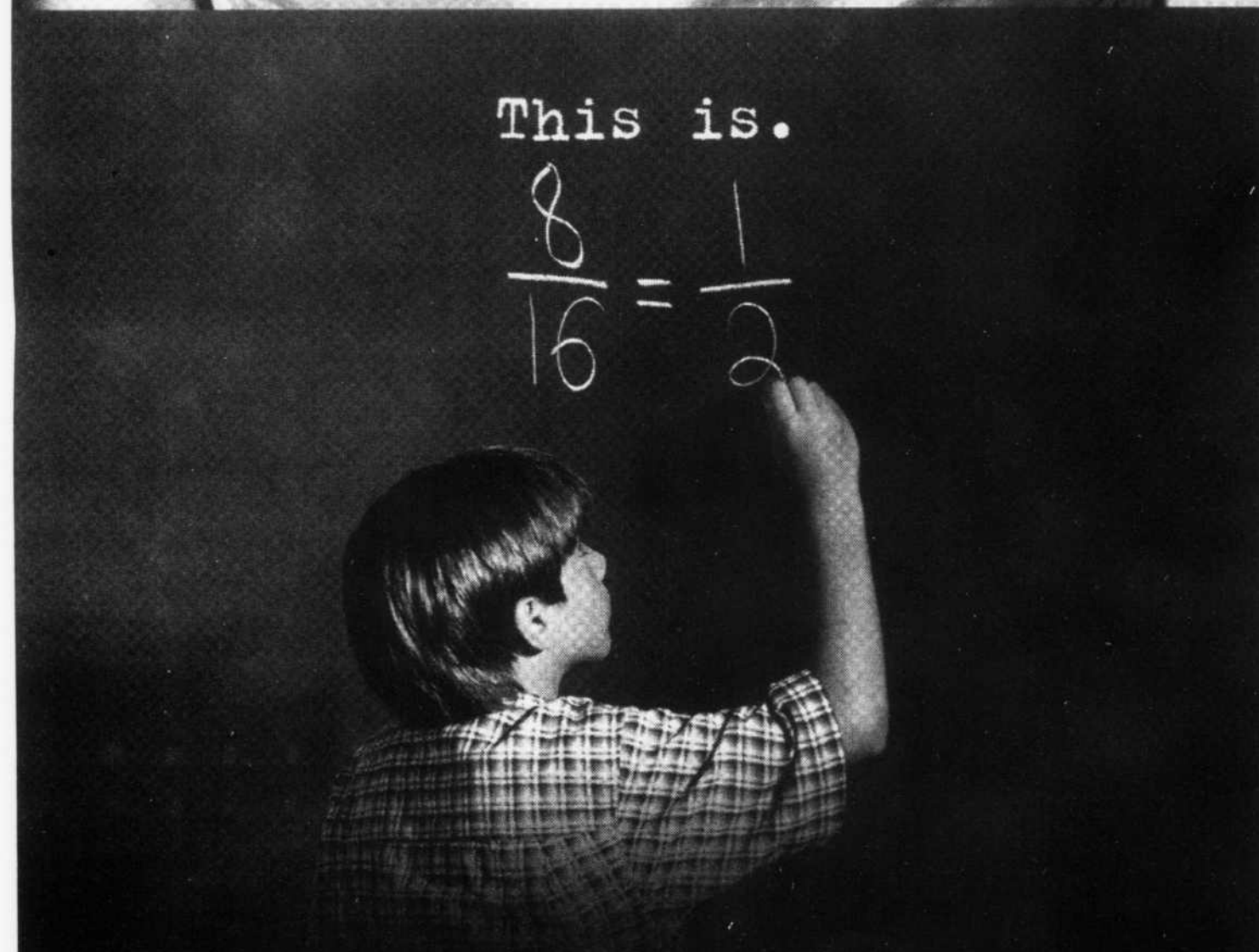
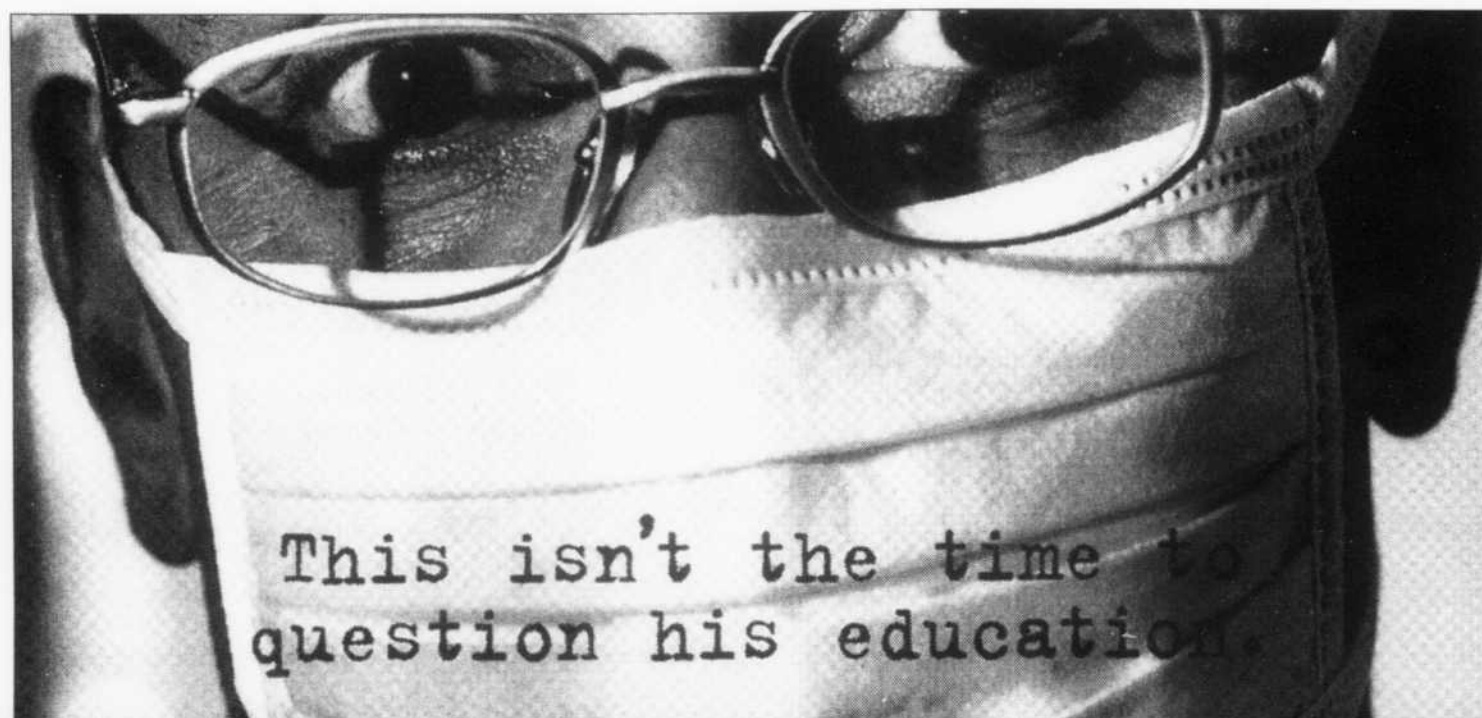
sponsor the First Friday Star Parties on the first Friday evening of each month.

Each event is free and open to the general public and will offer a 20 minute to 40 minute lecture in Room 102 of the Wiser-Patten Science Hall, after which telescopes will be set up in the field in front of the building for observation. Most parties are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., but due to the later time that Mars is visible, this month's

event will be from 8-10 p.m.

"It's a great start to a date. Before you go to a movie or dinner, come on out," Higgins said.

He noted that over the next year, the university observatory will be moved from its current location near the soccer field to a more convenient spot right next to the Wiser-Patten Science Hall. This telescope will be bigger and more powerful, making star parties "even more dynamic." ♦



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WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled by Kristin Hall - News Editor



Iraq occupation could cost up to \$29 billion a year

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the most vocal critics of President Bush's policy in Iraq is citing a report by congressional budget analysts to back his claim that the administration must get other countries to send peacekeepers there.

The study by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, released Tuesday, said U.S. military operations in Iraq could cost an estimated \$8 billion to \$29 billion a year.

The report concluded that the least expensive option would force the United States to reduce its current force of 180,000 troops in and around Iraq — assuming the United States maintained its military operations elsewhere in the world.

Survey finds 1.4 million people in poverty

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's rocky economy sent 1.4 million more people into poverty last year, a Census Bureau survey found. Nearly half of the newly impoverished were children.

Roughly 17.2 percent of children, or 12.2 million, lived in poverty in 2002, up from 16.4 percent, or over 11.5 million, in 2001, according to the American Community Survey results released Wednesday.

Overall, 12.4 percent of the population, or nearly 34.8 million people, lived in poverty in 2002, up from 12.1 percent, or 33.4 million, the previous year.

Median household income rose by \$51, when accounting for inflation, to \$43,057 after a similarly slight drop the previous year, when the nation was in recession from March to November. Median income refers to the point at which half of households earn more and half earn less.

The increases in poverty in 2002 were "not out of the ordinary" for a recession, and less severe than expected, said

Sheldon Danzinger, co-director of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan.

Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, blamed the increase in poverty on rising unemployment and the government's failure to promote more child tax credits for low-income families and stronger unemployment insurance.

Federal court vacates 100 death sentences

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More than 100 condemned prisoners had their sentences overturned by a federal court that ruled only juries can choose between life and death.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday extended a 2002 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that found non-jury sentences unconstitutional. The appeals court applied the ruling retroactively to death row inmates in Arizona, Idaho and Montana.

The decision affects only those three states — all under the 9th Circuit's jurisdiction — but death penalty opponents hoped it might be extended to Nebraska and Colorado, two states with similar laws but under different jurisdiction.

Michael Donahoe, a federal public defender with a client among those condemned inmates, called the decision groundbreaking and predicted it would spark a host of death-row appeals.

Federal prosecutors said they doubt the ruling would stand.

Mixed progress against cancer report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's sobering news from the cancer front: Deaths appear to be leveling off after several years of decline. For several types of cancer, black patients are increasingly less likely to survive than whites.

Many states are lagging in proven methods to fight the

most common tumors, says the nation's annual report on cancer. Sixteen states spend less than \$1 per person on tobacco control — far less than the \$5 to \$10 per person recommended — even though smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, the top cancer killer. Screening for breast and colorectal cancer varies widely, too.

"The progress against cancer continues to be mixed," said Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society, who co-authored the report, published Tuesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Instead of awaiting the next anticancer discovery, the report shows states how to better target programs proven to save lives that aren't being offered equally across the country, he said.

North Korean parliament supports nuclear build up

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's parliament re-elected Kim Jong Il as the isolated country's top leader on Wednesday, and approved his government's decision to "keep and increase its nuclear deterrent force" to counter what it calls a hostile U.S. policy.

As Kim watched from a raised platform, the Supreme People's Assembly — a rubber-stamp body for government policy — adopted a statement that also backed the Foreign Ministry's announcement last week that North Korea no longer had "interest or expectations" for future talks on its nuclear program, according to the North's official news agency KCNA.

KCNA also reported that the parliament "decided to take relevant measures." The news agency did not elaborate.

Schwarzenegger skips Wednesday's debate

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As the state's most popular politician came to the defense of Gov. Gray Davis, the leading candidates to replace him — minus

Arnold Schwarzenegger — prepared to take each other on in the recall election's first scheduled debate.

Schwarzenegger planned to skip Wednesday's debate, opting instead to deliver a speech before supporters and students at California State University in Long Beach.

Schwarzenegger has agreed to participate in only one debate, sponsored by the California Broadcasters Association on Sept. 24, for which questions will be provided ahead of time. That decision has drawn criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike.

In the first part of the debate, Davis, as the target of the recall, will be questioned by journalists and voters about his record. Then five of the 135 candidates battling to replace Davis will field questions and debate among themselves; Davis will not be part of that forum.

Candidates qualified for the debate by receiving at least 4 percent support in either a recent poll or the last statewide vote.

In his first campaign commercials, Davis lets Sen. Dianne Feinstein do the talking. A small picture of Davis appears briefly at the bottom of the screen, but his name is never mentioned.

Attorneys say terror trial verdict a compromise

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Attorneys for a radical Muslim cleric convicted of sedition but cleared of heading a Southeast Asian terror group said Wednesday the verdict was politically motivated, while Indonesia's government defended the ruling as showing its commitment to fighting terror.

Abu Bakar Bashir was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison for his involvement in a plot by the al-Qaida-linked group, Jemaah Islamiyah, to

overthrow the Indonesian government and lesser charges of faking travel documents and entering Indonesia illegally.

The panel of five judges cleared Bashir of the main charges of leading Jemaah Islamiyah, saying prosecution witnesses relied on hearsay and lacked credibility.

Poles to control south central Iraq

BABYLON, Iraq (AP) — The top U.S. commander in Iraq on Wednesday symbolically marked the transfer of control over the south-central part of the country to an international force led by Poland, hailing the handover as a sign of the international community's commitment to Iraq.

In Baghdad, the interim Governing Council swore in members of the newly appointed 25-member Cabinet that will begin taking over many of the day-to-day duties of governing the country from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority.

While military control was ceremoniously passed to the Poles, the handover of the holy city of Najaf was delayed at least two weeks after the car bombing Friday outside the Imam Ali shrine that killed between 85 and 125 people, including leading Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim.

Chinese to move toward free-floating yuan

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S. treasury secretary said Wednesday that Chinese leaders indicated they would move toward letting their currency trade freely on world markets, but he came away with no timetable for ending exchange-rate controls.

John Snow was continuing a two-day visit to Beijing to press Washington's case for loosening controls on the yuan. Many abroad say its government-set

value against the dollar and other currencies is too low and is a protectionist attempt to keep down the price of Chinese exports.

"The objective here is to get China to move toward a free-floating currency," said Snow, who met with the Chinese finance minister and central bank governor. "I was encouraged to see Chinese leaders reaffirm that goal."

Agassi gets his match, beats Dent

NEW YORK (AP) — After surviving two rain delays, Andre Agassi defeated unseeded American Taylor Dent 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-5, at the U.S. Open, with Dent retiring because of tightness in his lower right hamstring in the fourth-round match.

With the men's draw further behind, Open officials pushed back top-seeded Kim Clijsters' quarterfinal date with Amelie Mauresmo, later suspending it for the day altogether.

Court tosses out more than 100 death sentences

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court threw out more than 100 death sentences in Arizona, Montana and Idaho on Tuesday because the inmates were sent to death row by judges instead of juries.

The case stems from a 2002 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, in which the high court found that juries, not judges, must render death sentences. But the Supreme Court left unclear whether the new rules should apply retroactively to inmates awaiting execution.

In an 8-3 vote, the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said all condemned inmates sentenced by a judge should have their sentences commuted to life in prison. ♦

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DAVID SPADE

50 million people used to watch him on TV. Now he washes their cars.

DICKIE ROBERTS
FORMER CHILD STAR

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IN THEATRES SEPT. 5

From the Editorial Board Regents wise to review presidents' spending

As student journalists we are always in support of open university records, especially when administrations spend inappropriately.

The *Sidelines* editorial board supports the Tennessee Board of Regents' review of each school president's expenses in the wake of University of Tennessee President John Shumaker's resignation.

In a state where higher education is underfunded and universities really have to struggle to keep quality professors and staff, it is unconceivable that Shumaker would make his students suffer under tuition increases so that he can enjoy luxuries.

While the UT Board of Trustees is taking the blame for not catching this problem sooner, the TBR has the advantage of learning from another's mistake and is taking steps to ensure similar problems haven't occurred in the Regents system.

Mind you, this is no time for a witch hunt, but a careful look at a few receipts won't hurt anyone.

We also ask why aren't these expense accounts examined more regularly. A bit of regular oversight could save the state a few bucks. It would also prevent guys like Shumaker from spending like a mad man.

Without regular oversight, how long will it be before everyone's forgotten this crisis? In ten years will another president pull a Shumaker?

And will everyone ask why there wasn't any oversight?

We hope that won't happen.

As MTSU students we can feel relieved to have a president that knows the meaning of thrifty. However, oversight of each and every university president is the most effective and fair way to ensure that such a debacle will not happen again. ♦

Group exposes remnants of prejudice

Said My Muse To Me



Amber Bryant
Staff Columnist

With visions of all-male military institutes dancing in their heads, military school graduates in Shelbyville, Tenn., are hoping to resurrect remnants of the former Confederacy. Their goal is to get back to the days when women weren't admitted, prayers graced the dinnertime table (whether you were Christian or not) and Gen. Robert E. Lee was a sword-bearing god.

Led by Alabama native Michael Guthrie, the small group hopes to open a male-only military school in the fall of 2004 and revive "tarnished and almost lost" Southern traditions. In the Aug. 31 edition of *The Tennessean*, Guthrie quipped, "We have a minority in this country."

Guthrie's sentiment rings true, but only if you're a complete idiot. As a privileged white male, I doubt he and any of his buddies will ever be able to call themselves a minority (unless, of course, automations take over the world). Even if we lived in a crazy fourth dimension of sorts and they were a minority, since when does overcoming oppression include the exclusion of others?

The group's excuse for disregarding women as potential military leaders is that "education in a military environment is assisted by male bonding."

Such a brazenly sexist statement assumes that women are incapable of contributing anything worthwhile in a team setting.

At the same time, although slightly less obvious, it suggests that men are unable to concentrate on regular tasks when females are present, a misogynist myth many a yokel has used to excuse harassment and, in some

cases, assault.

Along with all of woman-kind, the group is discriminating against anyone commending democratic politics or worshipping a deity other than the Christian God. Guthrie, however, believes that "Southern Christian heritage has been villainized."

There's nothing wrong with forming a group or school focused on particular aspects of culture — we've all been innocent members of exclusive clubs, such as The Hackey Sack Club or the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

However, when a group vehemently opposes potential members because of sex or creed, they're furthering an oft-missed form of hate that should be extinct in any progressive society.

While the group hasn't confirmed a dismissal of non-white races, informational materials for the school are adorned with the first Confederate flag, a historical beaconn long-

used as racist propaganda. While it's true that the flag wasn't founded as such, moronic rednecks who haven't the slightest inkling of historical knowledge continue to use it as a soundless abusive device, as is likely the case with Guthrie and his brigade, given their exclusion of women and non-Christian religious sects.

Guthrie claimed the symbols aren't used to dissuade blacks from attending.

He proclaimed, "I think there are a lot of conservative blacks who would understand the issues that revolved around the Civil War."

Right. I'm sure there are just as many Jews who would understand the issues surrounding the Holocaust.

Sure, fools are everywhere, but Guthrie's particular breed is what makes the South a less-than-stellar place to live and learn. Parading discrimination and hate under the guise of tradition has always been a

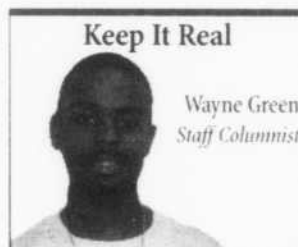
prominent practice in the South, and it's high time our little corner move past barbaric beliefs.

If we've learned anything from history, it's that the darker recesses of "Southern tradition" can hurt millions, making the ones who embrace it no more mentally and spiritually evolved than animals.

Guthrie and his group can do their part by only slightly modernizing their version of Southern tradition. They could keep the quirky expressions ("Bless your lil' pea-picker" is one of my personal favorites), the accent, the fried food and grits, the legacy of brave leaders — male and female — and the nauseatingly ridiculous customs (cow tipping, anyone?). They could be brave enough to create a new history, sans lynching, stoning and bustles. ♦

Amber Bryant is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at alb2x@mtsu.edu.

Word on the street often wrong, hurtful



Wayne Green
Staff Columnist

Word of mouth is influential in our society. A lot of people live and die by what he said and she said. Gossip is in television, radio, etc.

Merriam Webster's dictionary defines gossip as any persons or person who reveals personal information or spreads a rumor or report of an intimate nature. The effect of word of mouth is very powerful because it gives street credibility.

Street credibility means that everyone around you has been influenced by the specific subject matter. If enough people say that a particular person is a bad person, then that person will have the reputation of being a bad person, even though no one has taken the time to get to know that person.

Most people base their opinions on word of mouth. The problem is that sometimes the context and the meaning of what a person says is often not repeated in the way it was said.

For example, there were two young men sitting at a town's favorite pizza place. The young men's names were Ralph and Tom.

One day while waiting on their pizza, Ralph asked Tom what he thought about Bruno. Tom replied, "No, I'm not friends with Bruno because I don't know Bruno."

Tom continued on to say that even though he wasn't friends with Bruno, he didn't have a problem with him and Bruno seemed to be a cool guy. Both young men agreed that Bruno was a cool guy and that they didn't have a problem with him.

While this conversation was taking place, Sally overheard what was being said and told Bruno that Tom and Ralph were talking about him and that Tom said that he didn't like Bruno.

She also told Bruno that Tom said that he and Bruno aren't friends. Consequently, Bruno was furious and confronted Ralph and Tom. The buzz about what happened spread like wildfire throughout the school.

Later that day, a revised story had reached the ears of Principal Johnson. Johnson didn't want anything to occur that might encourage violence.

After a long day, things got cleared up and Sally was punished for stating false facts without knowing the whole story.

The moral of this story is if you do not know exactly what is said, do not speak about it. A lot of situations could be fixed if everyone would take time to know the truth, and what is said exactly. A person can't believe everything he or she hears.

Everyone should try and stop negativity before it starts, because negativity is nothing but a stress builder and a sure-fire way to keep drama in your life.

Know the facts and everything else will fall into place. ♦

Wayne Green is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at greenlight25@hotmail.com.

In effort to safeguard kids, software denies info to adults



Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

In mid-June, the Supreme Court upheld a law requiring libraries receiving federal funds to install and maintain blocking software to prevent access to online pornography.

At first glance, this seems logical — the government is trying to keep kids from skipping down to their local public library or hopping on a computer in the school library at lunch to watch Luscious Lola give a blowjob to Hairy Henry.

But at what cost are the blocks being erected and how efficient are they?

Internet filtering systems primarily work by detecting various words and phrases contained on a Web site. This method of detecting objectionable material is problematic because it also leaves many sources of information out of the reach of not only children, but anyone who attempts to access them along with other online destinations that have nothing to do with bestiality or group sex.

This is only a small portion of the filtering controls erupting on the Internet scene. With the

advent of e-mail spam blocking, e-mail has morphed from a convenient way to converse with family, friends and business associates to a battle ground where the user no longer knows that is a friendly e-mail from Mom or a junk mail advertisement and spends the majority of time logged on sorting through a filtering system that simply doesn't work.

In our pursuit of control over content across the Web from our inboxes to the computers down the hall from the fiction shelves, we're blocking the good stuff — the e-mail from Dad about little brother's first days of college, the Web site detailing the evolution of historical preservation, the online biography of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Filters and blocks shouldn't be in place unless they work properly. Erecting walls between users and information is only valuable if the information being blocked is intended to be inaccessible. A country builds a wall to keep undesirables out — not the people it's trying to protect.

While trying to prevent children from accessing pornography, we're denying them more than naked bodies and sexually related material. We're denying them access to other material and thus defeating the whole purpose of the

Internet's existence.

The other point to consider is that while this blocking software blocks some information that should be accessible, it also does a poor job of preventing access to material they are working to suppress. Many Web sites containing pornography are still accessible, having not included the proper word or phrase to trigger the filter, and the ability to view this content remains.

So, while Jimmy can't look at some scientific research on cloning for his science report, Mary can watch Voluptuous Vickie at school where Dad can't catch her.

If filters and blocking software are in place to monitor the content that users are accessing and prevent viewing of pornographic material, they should work to represent the societal standards they set out to maintain without hindering a user's ability to access information.

The current systems in place only serve to work against the true purpose of the Internet — to serve as a gateway of information to further understanding and knowledge across the globe. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

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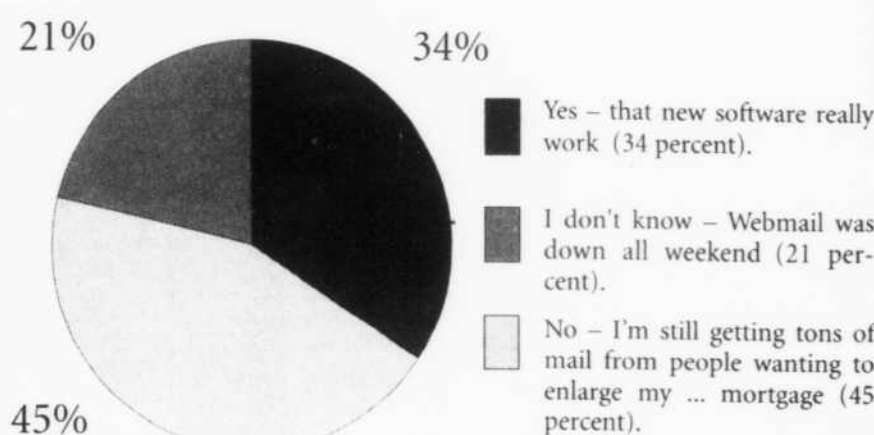
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Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Have you received a reduced amount of spam in your e-mail?" Here's what readers said:



Be sure to visit www.mtsusidelines.com to vote in this week's poll question.

SPORTS

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Rhoden, Blue Raiders to host MT Classic

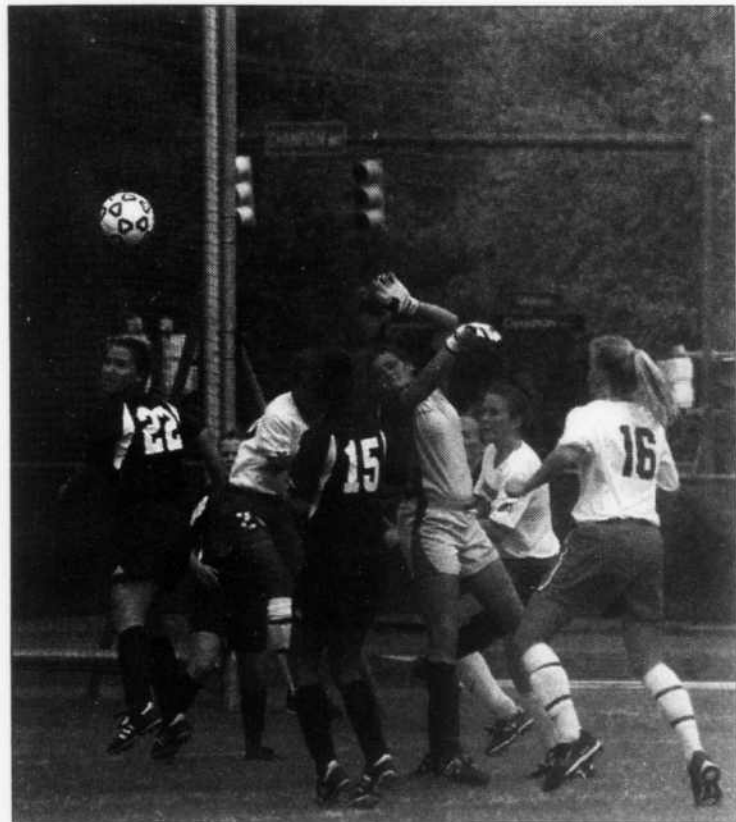


Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raiders try to gain control of the ball Sunday.

By Trey Porter
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider Field will host the Middle Tennessee Classic this weekend as Louisiana Monroe, Alabama A&M and Western Carolina bring their soccer skills to town.

MT is coming off a 1-0 season opening win against Belmont last Sunday and expects to fare well in a weekend that will see them play both Western Carolina and Louisiana-Monroe.

"We are excited about playing at home, and the team is beginning to gel together," midfielder Claire Ward said. "I hope to win by a big margin."

In the win last Sunday against the Bruins, MT fired 44 shots, but only one found the net. Shooting and finishing drills have been a concentration this week at practices.

"We made their keeper look like an All-Star," goalie Caroline

Schuepbach said.

The goal this weekend is for the only all-stars to be on the home team.

MT has the talent and the speed, and looks to have the intensity.

"Our defense is really solid, and I feel we will put more chances away," Schuepbach said.

Western Carolina and Alabama A&M play in the weekend opener at 2 p.m. on Friday.

Western Carolina lost 2-0 to Georgia State Monday at Schrader Field in the team's 2003 home opener. The Panthers found net early when junior forward Sarah Feske

snuck one past Catamount



Rhoden

goalkeeper Tina Weaver 1:26 in the first period. The Panthers' second goal came in the second half when Georgia State sophomore Liz Gardner scored on an unassisted shot from 10 yards out.

Georgia State held the Cats to 10 shots in the game. Western Carolina gave up 14 shots in the contest. Western Carolina is lead by four seniors and is coached by Debbie Hensley.

Louisiana-Monroe kicked off the 2003 season by losing to Texas-El Paso in a 1-0 double-overtime contest Friday at University Field in El Paso, Texas.

UTEP's Sarah Graef scored from 15 yards out with 39 seconds remaining in the final overtime period to give the Miners the win. Graef was set up in front of the net off passes by Kate Stevens and Ann Birchall.

Louisiana was out shot in the game 31-12, including 10-1 in

the first half. A bright spot was that ULM saved Rachel Marcom had 13 saves from the line.

The Lady Indians also lost to Northern Iowa Sunday to finish their play in the UTEP Miner Classic. Once again, ULM was out shot, this time 17-14. Marcom recorded 11 saves.

Alabama A&M comes to Murfreesboro looking for some wins. The Lady Bulldogs last visit to Blue Raider Field resulted in a 2-0 loss.

MT's points came from the feet of Danielle LaDuke and Christina Mascaro, both of whom will be on hand this weekend.

The Blue Raiders, however, will not meet the Bulldogs on the pitch this weekend.

MT plays at 4 p.m. on Friday and Sunday afternoon following the Alabama A&M Louisiana-Monroe match. ♦

Looking for a win ...

Raiders travel to Georgia

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee football team faces the daunting task of traveling to Athens, Ga., Saturday to face the Georgia Bulldogs.

The team is looking to rebound from last Thursday's loss to the Florida Atlantic University, a loss that will not soon be forgotten by Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum or his players.

"The loss hurt us, and it should have," McCollum said.

"To play so well defensively for 55 minutes and not finish really hurts, but we've got to turn the page."

Turning that page should be tough, as No. 8 Georgia is coming off a 30-0 shutout of a future Blue Raider opponent, the Clemson Tigers.

Georgia returns 10 starters from last year's Southeastern Conference champion team, which finished 13-1.

Head coach Mark Richt is regarded in college football as one of the top coaches in the nation, as he has resurrected the program back to prominence.

Defensively, the Blue Raiders will be up against the Bulldog quarterbacks - an offensive powerhouse.

Georgia will start junior David Greene, who is 22-5 in

See Georgia, 6



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Running back Eugene Gross runs the ball against Florida Atlantic. Gross will be a key player in the matchup against Georgia Saturday.

Tennis team set to host 17th ProAm

By Jonathon Long
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee tennis teams will host the 17th annual Pro-Am Tennis Classic on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

The Pro-Am is the only fundraiser held by the tennis squads, and the members are looking forward to exceeding \$10,000 in donations this year.

Coach Dale Short expects one of the best turnouts of the past years with close to 100 parties participating in the event. The event has become popular because "it allows the tennis public to come out and see the team, many for the first time," Short said.

The classic consists of a dinner party, tennis clinic and exhibition match on Friday, while finishing up with doubles round robin play, lunch and awards ceremony on Saturday. The tournament consists of current and former MT tennis players teaming up with amateurs from around the area. Prizes vary from tennis equipment to a vacation in Antillia.

The event is sponsored by Morgan Keegan, Corky's, Jersey Mike's, the San Antonio Technological Center and Corporate Image Group.



Short

"It's [the classic] also a good way to get the community excited about the upcoming season," coach Short said. "With the fresh new talent and four of the top six players returning, the team is healthier and deeper and is looking forward to breaking their two year run of second place finishes."

"It will be sad, this being the last Pro-Am as a team member," Trevor Short said.

Trevor Short also said that he will be back to play in future Pro-Am's, which is part of the tournaments tradition, according to senior Kirk Jackson.

"Seeing the former players and meeting the community makes the whole tournament fun and enjoyable" Jackson said.

Former team member Oliver Forman who now plays on the Pro Tour, flew in from England just to participate in the event.

"This is a fantastic event, and allows me to come back and get to know the new players," Forman, who is looking forward to winning

his first Pro-Am, said.

Other notable guests include three former MT All-Americans Paul Goebel, David McNamara and Julius Roberts. Those three and Forman will be involved in the exhibition on Friday.

Though it is too late to participate, coach Short hopes that faculty and students will come out and support the tennis team and their commitment to winning. ♦



Moosemen prepare for upcoming fall lineup

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

After a successful spring 2003 season that almost resulted in another USA Rugby South championship, the MTSU rugby team is gearing up for the fall season.

Besides getting ready for the fall season, head coach Tony Neely is also teaching a rugby class during the semester. He hopes to use the class to find new players and to teach people about the game.

"This is another way to raise awareness about rugby on campus," Neely said.

During the spring 2003 season, the Moosemen had another excellent campaign by finish-

ing with a 4-1-1 record. The Moosemen tied with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with the most points in the Division I Northern Conference of the USA Rugby South.

Both teams finished with eight points apiece. Last March, MTSU went to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to play in the Division I playoffs.

In the semifinals, the Moosemen shut out the University of Georgia 22-0 to advance to the finals against UNC. This was the fifth out of six years that MTSU went to the finals as a member in the south territory.

The game was also a rematch from earlier in the season when

both teams played to a 12-12 tie.

However, on a wet field, the teams played another classic match that has defined a budding rivalry between the two teams. The Moosemen had to play with one person down after one of their players was thrown out. MTSU held tough in the 18-12 loss to UNC.

After the season was over, four of the players were selected to play for the south side of the Collegiate National All-Star Championship. Those players were Mark Kane, Mike Renda, Charlie Bedford and Jonathan Bedford. The South Team went 1-1 in the tournament. Mike

See Rugby, 6



File Photo

The Moosemen lineup against an opposing team during a game last Spring.

Rugby: Moosemen season begins Sept. 6

Continued from 5

Renda was picked to join the All-American team, which goes to New Zealand.

"Every fall it's like a whole new year," Neely said.

This year, Neely will have a mix of returning players and fresh faces on the squad. Some of the returning players for the Moosemen include both Renda and Kane, and Kyle Patterson make his return to the team after a one-year absence.

The new faces include Eric Easterday, Parker Woodard and Chad Haynes. Easterday and Woodard come to the team from Brentwood High School, while Haynes went to Knoxville West High School.

"You really got a lot of new faces, and of course this fall is no difference," Neely said.

Sept. 6, the 2003 fall season kicks off with the Moosemen traveling to Tennessee Tech University.

The following week, the first match at the home pitch takes place against Vanderbilt. Sept. 20, the Moosemen go to Western Kentucky to take on their rugby squad. After an off week, MTSU plays in the Big Spring Jam on the weekend of Oct. 4 in Huntsville, Ala.

Oct. 11, it's an old school versus new school matchup when the current team takes on the alumni during homecoming weekend. MTSU plays Oct. 18 and 19 at home against Truman and Arkansas State, respectively, to finish the fall season.

For the spring 2004 season, the Moosemen will play in the South Division with UNC, University of Florida, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Georgia and Clemson University.

Right now, the team is still looking for more members to join the team.

Practice takes place on Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the field behind

Georgia: Blue Raiders go on the road

Continued from 5

his career as a starter. The 6-foot 3-inch Greene also led the SEC in passing efficiency last season (137.3).

Georgia quarterback D.J. Shockley could also see time in the game, but the sophomore is known for his running abilities rather than his passing. The Bulldogs also return receiver Fred Gibson, a favorite target for both quarterbacks.

If the first 55 minutes of last week's game are any indication, several Blue Raider defenders appear to be up to the challenge.

Safety Brandon Lynch turned in the best performance of his career, tallying nine tackles, along with an interception and a fumble recovery. Despite the loss, the Blue Raider defense held the Owls to negative yardage on six of their 14 drives, allowing more than eight yards on four drives.

While the Blue Raider defense will have to worry

about stopping one of the best offenses in the nation, the offense must improve from last week's game.

"We had seven penalties that just killed us. I've never been in a game that had that many, so we have to improve on offense," McCollum said.

"As poor as the offense looked, there were some bright spots. Both Don Calloway and Eugene Gross ran the ball well," McCollum added.

Calloway, who rushed for 84 yards, and Gross, who ran for 86 yards and one touchdown, must turn in similar performances for the Blue Raider offense to move the ball against a stifling Bulldog defense.

Kerry Wright also had an excellent game for the Blue Raiders last week from his receiver position, catching eight passes for 85 yards.

The Bulldog defense is led by last year's SEC Player of the Year, David Pollack. Pollack finished last season with more than 100 tackles and 14 sacks

and turned in another great effort against Clemson last week.

Special teams could also play a role in this match-up, as the Blue Raiders will have All-Sun Belt Conference punter Robert Billings, who missed last week's game with a knee injury.

Georgia returns kicker Billy Bennett, who set the school record for points last season with 130.

The game will also be a homecoming for several Blue Raiders. McCollum hails from Georgia, as do more than one third of the Blue Raider roster.

"It will be a special game, and also a tough one. But that's what you play this game for, to go out and play the best in America and represent your school. That's what you're supposed to do, and that's what we're going to try to do on Saturday," McCollum said.

Game time is set for 1 p.m. and can be viewed only on Pay-per-view. ♦

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Blue Raider senior looks for support

By Jerry Wilkinson
Asst. Sports Editor

From Southwest Mississippi Community College to Middle Tennessee, Andrico Hines is no stranger to college football.

Before coming to MT, Hines was named to the Mississippi JUCO All-Star team in 2000. His numbers at SMCC are the proof of a great quarterback in the making.

Not only does Hines provide MT with sports entertainment on Saturdays, but he also has to juggle classes, team meetings, practices and strenuous workout schedules.

Passing is not the only thing Hines can do. He can run the ball well. Last season, Hines rushed for an astounding 486 yards, the most by an MT quarterback since Marvin Collier. Collier ran for 594 yards in 1985. This adds an additional threat to the opposing defense.

"Practice has been great. We have been working out the kinks with our offense and defense," Hines said.

Many of the receivers have stepped up since the departure of Tyrone Calico.

"We lost two pretty good receivers last year in Tyrone Calico and David Youell, but I feel really good about our group in 2003," head coach Andy McCollum said.

"Hashem Joyner has had a great fall camp, and I like our young guys in Sam Williams, Pedro Holiday and Pierre Ingram," McCollum said.

"We look to be the deepest and most talented we have been, but they have to prove it on the field and play with consistency. When they have a chance to make a play, they need to make it," McCollum added.

Hines is also impressed by the running backs this season.

"Right now we have four running backs pushing each other each day in practice. They are all working really hard," Hines said.

"We've got to line up and play. I am excited about it. I think, number one, you've got a quarterback with one year of experience. That's a positive for us," McCollum said.

After a late 20-19 loss to Florida Atlantic last week, Hines will be looking to improve on aspects of the offense for the showdown with Georgia on Saturday.

"We have to put the loss to Florida Atlantic behind us because Georgia is a great ball club. We're looking forward as a team, to see how we play against Georgia," Hines said.

"We have to cut down on our mistakes offensively and fly around on defense. Georgia is an enthusiastic bunch on defense, and they execute on offense," Hines added. ♦

Photo by Steve Cross |
Staff photographer

AFC Champs head to Nashville

By Wes Wyrick
Staff Writer

The Titans have a unique second chance Sunday night as the reigning AFC champion Oakland Raiders pay their first visit to Nashville since 1999.

The Titans are looking for payback for last year's AFC title game where the Raiders defeated the Titans 41-24 in Oakland. Ever since the schedule came out, Titan linebacker Keith Bulluck has had his eye on this game.

"It's one of those games that you look forward to since the end of the [last] season," Bulluck said. "It's a great game to start off with."

The Titans come into this season in a much different position than in previous seasons — healthy. For the first time in years, quarterback Steve McNair is coming into the season at 100 percent. The only question he has is who to throw it to.

Derrick Mason established himself as the No. 1 receiver last year

with a solid season, but since the departure of Kevin Dyson, no one seems to be stepping up to be the number two man. The position is currently coveted by both Drew Bennett and Justin McCareins, who each had an excellent preseason.

The speed and potential of former Middle Tennessee receiver Tyrone Calico will make cornerbacks lose sleep, but for now, that talent is raw. He still needs polishing and the experience to be a solid receiver at the pro level.

The Raiders offer a serious threat to the receiver questions of the Titans. With a superb secondary anchored by All-Pro cornerback Charles Woodson, someone will have to step up to give McNair a second option other than Mason.

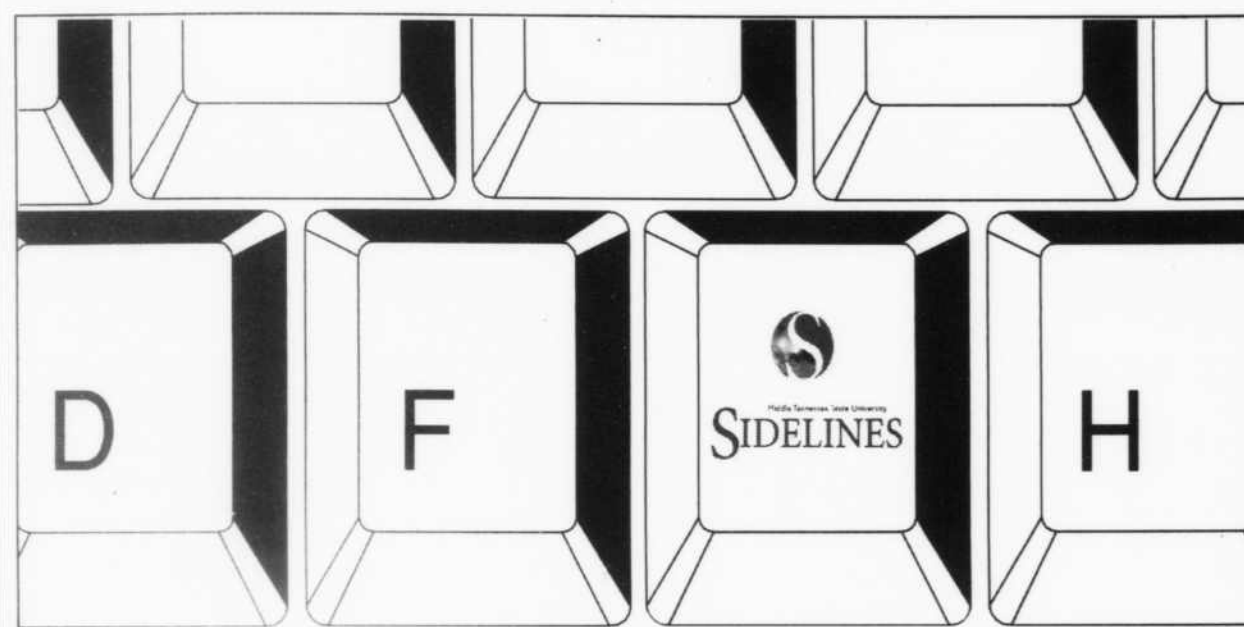
The Oakland offense features a high-powered west coast style that can score 30 plus points on any given night. Receivers Jerry Rice and Tim Brown are not just all-pro but all-world receivers, featuring more combined receiving yards between

them than any other receiving core in the history of the game. They'll be looking for support from fourth-year receiver Jerry Porter, who had a breakout year last year with 688 yards and a team-high nine touchdown receptions.

The Titans started last year poorly, going 1-4 out of the gate. Turning that into a winning season is a great accomplishment for any team, but to turn it into a division title and make it to the AFC title game is a feat. Running back Eddie George is hoping to change that slow start this time around, beginning with a little redemption against the Raiders.

"But how we started and where we ended up, we're really proud of that. You don't get a prize for that, but it gives us a foundation going into this year," George said.

The Titans begin their super bowl quest this Sunday in prime time on ESPN. Kickoff is set for just after 7 p.m. ♦



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Roommate needed to share 3BR condo, walking distance to campus. Rent \$250 month, plus 1/3 utilities and 1/3 deposit. Call John (615) 542-3295.

Seeking females only for a nice-sized room available in a 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Located 3 miles away from MTSU. Currently only two people are residing in this townhouse so there is more than one room available. Rent \$350/mo and utilities are divided among the number of people there. Call (615) 783-1336, or (901) 262-1734 after 4 p.m.

Need two female roommates/boarders for three bedroom house in Smyrna. Access to computer and pool. Fenced backyard, outside animals allowed. Daughter (4.0 GPA) senior at MTSU in house for possible transportation and tutoring. Furnished or unfurnished; private bath; laundry, kitchen privileges. All utilities furnished. DirectTV, phone, small deposit. References required. \$400/month (negotiable). Call (615) 223-7729 pr (615) 364-5690. Available Aug. 1.

Female roommate needed asap to share a 2 bed 1 1/2 bath condo on Bell St. Fully furnished with W/D and dishwasher. Rent is \$400 and includes all utilities. Call 931-473-7502 for more information.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

Room for rent, no lease or deposit. \$250 a month plus 1/4 utilities. Conveniently located within walking distance of campus. Call Tony or Jamie at (615) 867-3088.

Roommate needed to share a 3-bedroom house 5 min. from campus. Off-street parking. Large lot. Washer/dryer. Rent is \$300 /month + 1/3 of utilities. Contact Ryann at (615) 907-3994.

\$300 a month, includes all utilities, you rent your own room and share common living spaces (kitchen, living room, bath...). The house is located on a large farm (w/ a big front yard) off of 96 1-1/2 miles from I-24. A quick 15 minute commute in the morning traffic to campuses via 99. \$300 refundable deposit. \$300 on the first of each month, will gladly prorata August. For more information, call Wallace @ (615) 397-8243.

Roommate needed to share townhouse on Centerpointe Drive. 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, fridge, washer, dryer, dishwasher. \$200 deposit, \$348 month plus

1/2 utilities (electric, water, cable). (615) 419-3484.

Pets

Half-Siamese female cat FREE. Declawed, spayed, quiet, indoors, very sweet, does not like other cats. Good for single person. Call (615) 668-2014.

For Rent

Sublesser needed for 1 BR/1 BA in 4 BR/4BA at University Courtyard. \$0 deposit. \$395/month, utilities included. Move in Aug. 15. Call Lisa, (615) 828-6626.

One bedroom apartment. Walk to MTSU. \$395/month. 896-5017/812-1744.

Modern 2 bedroom Duplex in Downtown Woodbury. Quiet, private area. Washer/Dryer, Dishwasher, Ref, Stove. Waterfurnished, C/H, Bath & Half. \$450. 895-0075, cell, 4174009.

Upstairs apartment in home (all utilities paid). Digital cable \$40/mo. Prefer female nonsmoker. 3 miles from I-24 off Franklin Rd. \$500 monthly + deposit and proof of income/references. (615) 893-0806 or (615) 898-7981.

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Lady Raiders travel to IPFW tourney



The Lady Raiders work on serves during practice.

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders head to Fort Wayne, Ind., this weekend to take on three Division I schools in the Indiana Purdue-Fort Wayne Invitational volleyball tournament.

Friday and Saturday, Middle Tennessee will compete against Washington, IPFW and Ohio in the round-robin tournament.

"This tournament will be a step up from the competition we just played last weekend," head coach Lisa Kisee said. "There will be higher contact and a faster pace."

The Lady Raiders open their tournament schedule on Friday at 4:30 p.m. against Washington. The Huskies have become a force early in the season.

The team most recently rolled over Wisconsin 3-0, propelling Washington to the No. 23 spot on the *USA Today* national Top 25 poll. Wisconsin was ranked No. 17 at the time.

Even more alarming is the

style in which the Huskies have won their matches. Washington has not lost a set, winning all three of their contests 3-0.

Junior outside hitter Sanja Tomasevic from Yugoslavia, named the Pac-10 Player of the Week, fronts the Huskies attack. She leads the team in three categories with 54 kills, nine aces and 11 blocks on the season. Also fueling the team's success is freshman setter Courtney Thompson, with 127 assists for the season. The rest of the squad has a combined 17 assists.

MT faces host IPFW Saturday. The Mastodons have started the season with a 3-1 record, losing to Wisconsin-Green Bay in the championship match of Central Michigan's Super 8 Classic last weekend.

IPFW is coming off of a dogfight against Butler Tuesday night, which the Mastodons won 3-2.

Leading IPFW is sophomore Fabiana Souza of Brazil with 71 kills and 45 digs. Also contributing is senior Kirsta

Solberg with 51 kills and 47 digs.

The Lady Raiders' final opponent of the tournament is Ohio University. The Bobcats are struggling so far this season, managing a 1-2 record after playing three *USA Today* Top 50 teams in the Sun Devil Classic with losses to San Diego and Utah and a sole (upset) victory over host Arizona State. Seniors Laura Hageman and Lindsay Judice lead the Bobcats' attack with 37 and 28 kills, respectively.

"Ohio and Washington are the two tough ones in this tournament, but IPFW will be on their home court, but we are capable to really compete and beat them," Kisee added.

MT enters the IPFW Invitational with a 3-1 season record. The team's lone loss came Monday in a 3-1 decision against undefeated Georgia State.

The Lady Raiders' three wins have come from the College of Charleston Tournament with victories over TCU, Delaware

and host College of Charleston.

Leading MT's offensive attack are juniors KeKe Deckard and Dara McLean, each with 16 kills and four aces in the Georgia State loss. Deckard also contributed to the defensive struggle, producing 15 digs and five blocks against the Lady Panthers. Freshman Megan Sumrell added 32 assists.

In last year's IPFW Invitational, Wright State defeated IPFW, Marquette and Western Illinois to claim the tournament crown.

MT's three matches of the tournament will set the tone for upcoming Lady Raider contests, including the Purdue Tournament next weekend and the MT Invitational in two weeks when Appalachian State, Western Illinois and Murray State travel to Murfreesboro.

MT returns to Murfreesboro to face off against Belmont on Sept. 9, before heading to West Lafayette, Ind., to play in the Purdue Tournament. ♦

SBC squads head into second week of matchups

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt Conference will be looking for its first win during this weekend's matchups.

Last weekend, all eight of the SBC members lost in their openers against some of the top schools in the nation.

Utah State University, the newest member of the SBC, travels to one of the hallowed grounds in college football to take on the University of Nebraska from the Big 12 Conference. Nebraska comes into the contest 1-0 and ranked No. 24 in the Coaches Poll, and No. 23 in the Associated Press Poll, after an upset win over Oklahoma State University last Saturday.

Utah State is 0-1 after losing to Utah last Thursday, 40-20. The game starts at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, the earliest kickoff time in the school's history. It will be televised on Fox Sports Net.

The University of Louisiana-Lafayette welcomes former SBC member Louisiana Tech University on Saturday. ULL almost pulled a big

upset last Saturday losing only 14-7 to Southeastern Conference member, University of South Carolina.

The Ragin' Cajuns features last week's SBC Offensive and Special Teams Player in running back Travis Smothers and linebacker Pat Lamy. Smothers had 113 yards rushing in the game, and became the first ULL player to rush for over 100 in a game since Jerome Coleman had 159 on Oct. 20, 2001.

Lamy became the first person in SBC history to take a blocked field goal for a touchdown in SBC history. He took a USC blocked field goal 89 yards for the touchdown at the end of the first half to tie the game, 7-7.

Louisiana Tech lost their first game to No. 3 ranked Miami last Thursday. The game begins at 7 p.m. and will not be televised.

The other SBC television game is University of Idaho's home opener against the

University of Eastern Washington. Idaho is coming off a 25-0 loss to rival Washington State University. Currently, Idaho is on a five-game losing streak dating back to last season. Kickoff is for 6:30 p.m. Saturday on Fox Sports Northwest.

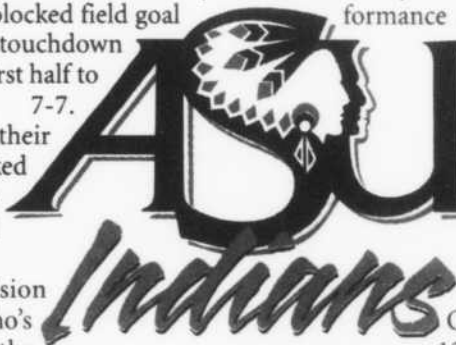
Arkansas State University plays their home opener against the University of Tennessee-Martin on Saturday. ASU is coming off a 26-11 loss to Big 12 school, which was Texas A&M. However, defensive back Jonathan Burke was named the SBC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against the Aggies. In that game, Burke had two interceptions and caused a fumble. The game begins at 6 p.m. and is not televised.

The University of North Texas, who is coming off a 37-3 loss to top-ranked University of Oklahoma, plays another Big 12 member, Baylor University,

at home. The two defending SBC Champion has their home opener beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

New Mexico State University is also coming off a blowout to a Big 12 school last Sunday. It came in the form of a 66-7 loss to the University of Texas. This week the Aggies play the University of Western New Mexico as their first game at home. The game starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday night.

The other game in the SBC is when the University of Louisiana-Monroe plays host to Stephen F. Austin University at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. ULM opened the season with a 49-7 loss to in-state rival Louisiana State University. ♦



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