



Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 35

Thursday, November 10th, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

Sunny
59/30

Average Price of Gas
in Murfreesboro:
\$2.20

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Longhorn Finals this weekend



Middle Tennessee will be treated to some intense rodeo action this weekend, as the Longhorn Finals rodeo invades Miller Coliseum.

One of the featured riders in the weekend's festivities will be Melissa Phillips.

Phillips, of Haskell, Okla. is no stranger to the world of rodeo. She grew up in a family that was familiar with rodeos, and subsequently developed a passion to work with horses and cattle.

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Road Rally tickets still available

North Carolina State Road Rally tickets are still available and are being sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. To purchase tickets, go to the Student Government Association Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 208.

Tickets, which are \$70, include hotel accommodations, transportation, the game ticket and a T-shirt. The trip will leave on Fri., Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. and return on Sun., Nov. 20 at around 2 a.m.

Greeks host financial seminar

The Greek organization Zeta Phi Beta will be hosting a lecture with guest speaker Amos L. Howard on why college students are broke.

The lecture will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Cason Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 121.

Students take the mic, freestyle tomorrow

Students will gather for "Murfreesboro's Own: Freestyle Friday" tomorrow, Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. in the McWherter Learning Resources Center Lecture Room.

To RSVP, contact Monica at (423)544-2302.

Students present Rocky Horror Show

MTSU theater students will present "The Rocky Horror Show" on Nov. 11-12 and 16-19 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theater. There will be a special midnight performance on Nov. 18.

For ticket reservations, call (615)494-8810.

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MTSU to host Veteran's Day event

Veterans, families, to be honored with picnic outside Forrest Hall

By Mary Rose Fox
Staff Writer

The tradition of honoring Veterans' with a holiday on November began in 1919, on the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed by the Allies and Germans in 1918, ending World War I.

To honor veterans, MTSU's

hosting the 24th Annual Salute to Veterans, on Saturday, Nov. 12, beginning at 11 a.m. There will be an MTSU and ROTC

Department-sponsored picnic for veterans, their families and guests outside of Forrest Hall, and they will be seated in a special section to watch the football game and a special veterans' salute at halftime.

Additionally, according to Student Government



Giles

Association President Paul Fulcher, the university will give a free dinner at the President's Home to the student organization that brings the largest group.

There will also be a raffle of Kanye West concert tickets and faculty parking passes.

But the focus remains on the veterans.

"I think MTSU sponsoring veterans is much better than them sponsoring Faith and Family," said senior Journalism and English major Daimon Dugger. He also said he thought it was a good cause.

The picnic will cost \$1 per

person, and they will also be accepting donations. Also during the picnic, there will be displays set up outside with representatives from the Army, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, and Navy, along with World War II re-enactors.

"This year, we will commemorate returning veterans from Hurricane Katrina, Iraq and Afghanistan," said Maj. Charles Giles, coordinator of the event.

After the picnic, there will be a ceremony in which the Joe T. Nunley Award will be given to Dr. Roger Washington Bouldin of

see Veteran's Day, page 2

The 24th Annual Salute to Veterans

Saturday, Nov. 12
11 a.m.

Veterans' memorial project reaches next phase; call for ideas to follow shortly

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

A committee heading an effort to construct a memorial honoring military veterans on campus has reached the design phase of their deliberations and will soon put out a call for funding and ideas.

Headed by political science professor Andrei Korobkov, the idea of a memorial was developed after Kenneth Ballard, an MTSU student with whom Korobkov had worked, was killed in the line of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The memorial committee includes faculty members Korobkov, assistant history professor Derek Frisby, Robyn Kilpatrick of the development office, political science professor Robb McDaniel, speech and theater professor Rebecca Frisby and Maj. Charles Giles. Frisby said the group is currently discussing a number of important factors that will influence the future of the memorial.

"The current plan under consideration is to hold an open contest for designs," Frisby said. "We would submit the criteria for the designs to the general public or to MTSU students in particular, and we'll go from there. The design of the memorial will sort of dictate where on campus it's placed, and the design of the memorial itself is dictated by time and money."

"Our next meeting is to discuss the criteria for what the contest will be and will be held before the end of the semester," Frisby added.

The future location of the memorial may currently be undecided, but Frisby said the committee has several areas in mind.

"We toured the campus several weeks ago to scout out locations for where the memorial could be located," he said. "We have to be aware of future construction and those kinds of things. Historically, we've been considering areas on the older side of campus with Kirksey Old Main and the Walnut Grove area. There are discussions for other places on campus, but that's all still up in the air."

Frisby said funding for the project would be drawn entirely from outside sources. However, the committee didn't foresee having trouble achieving their goal in time to have the memorial constructed by Veterans Day next year.

"The money for the memorial will have to be totally raised by fund-raising," he explained. "We have some initial goals of around \$15,000-\$20,000. If you look at the composition of the campus population, so many veterans are serving or working on campus that we think that we'll be able to raise the money."

Frisby, a former Marine and MTSU ROTC program graduate, emphasized that the focus of the memorial is to honor all the members of the MTSU community, not just students, who fulfilled their duty to their country and to reinforce a tradition of service, which he

see Memorial, page 2

Leader of the pack



Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

At yesterday's Spirit Rally on the Keathley University Center Knoll, Lightning sat atop a motorcycle that will be given away at MTSU's final home game on Saturday. Lightning joined students, administrators and athletic faculty at the rally.

Social science symposium comes to MTSU

Event gave students opportunity to present scholarly research papers in professional setting

By Reed Johnson
Staff Writer

Students from colleges and universities throughout Middle and West Tennessee were on MTSU's campus Nov. 8 and 9 to participate in the 14th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium.

According to the conference's director, Ben Austin, the event, which was free and open to the public, is sponsored by the sociology and anthropology department and gave students the opportunity to present scholarly research papers in a professional environment.

"We are trying to promote undergraduate scholarship," Austin said. "[The conference] is designed to provide students with professional research and presenting experience."

Though the majority of the students presenting papers were from MTSU, students from Tennessee Technological University, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Lambuth College and Georgia State were on hand to present their research papers throughout the

two-day event.

"We've had about 60 students presenting at the conference and about 200 people in attendance at the Tuesday sessions alone," Austin said. "The bulk of the presentations are from sociology and anthropology students, but it's open to students from different schools."

According to Austin, as part of the process for selecting those students who presented, the faculty organizers of the conference screened the papers and selected the best for presentation.

While the event was simply designed to serve as a forum for the exchange of intellectual and scholarly research and ideas, Austin is looking to reward the students for their hard work in the research process.

"[The symposium] has never been a competition," he said. "It's only an idea right now, but we've been talking about awarding scholarships. These kids work hard on these papers. They do a great job presenting and answering questions. These students are required to defend

see Symposium, page 2



Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Hugh Berryman gave the keynote address at the 14th Annual Social Science Symposium at MTSU Tuesday night, Nov. 8th. Berryman spoke on the difference between CSI and real crime.

GOP looks for its lost edge in reliably Republican Virginia

By Bob Lewis
AP Political Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — How could this happen in a state supposedly as reliably Republican as Virginia? A Democrat who objects to capital punishment, who had a clear record of backing gun control and who even boasted supporting a \$1.4 billion tax increase easily whipped a conservative Republican.

Tuesday's election returns suggest conservative dogma lost out to centrist, pragmatic government.

In a state that last supported a Democrat for president 41 years ago, Republicans routinely won with a pro-gun, anti-abortion, tax-slashing, liberal-baiting electoral formula. In 2000, the GOP owned every statewide office, both U.S. Senate seats and wide majorities in the Legislature and congressional delegation.

But as Democrat Tim Kaine's 6 percentage point victory over Republican Jerry Kilgore became apparent Tuesday

night, the GOP's bedrock conservatives were shocked to silence. Men and women wept and children huddled in prayer circles, eyes closed and heads bowed, as Kilgore's victory party became a wake.

"We've got some work to do," Linwood Cobb of suburban Henrico County, a member of the state Republican Party's governing Central Committee, said Wednesday. "We have to find ways to come up with better ideas and to energize our base. We have to be a party of ideas again."

Kaine not only won big in Democratic strongholds, he racked up astonishing victories in cities and counties where Republicans dominate, including Virginia Beach, home to religious broadcaster Pat Robertson.

The election proves that Virginia's electorate is not as reflexively right wing as some Republicans imagined, said Mark Rozell, a professor of political science at George Mason University.

"Much like the Democrats

had to rethink their dwindling status when they were running on gun control and abortion every election, you can't just appeal to the core of your electorate," Rozell said.

Ironically, it was a tax increase Democratic Gov. Mark R. Warner engineered in the name of fiscal prudence that drove the governor's job-approval ratings past 75 percent.

Warner beat the GOP at its own game in 2004 when he broke his promise not to raise taxes and proposed a \$1 billion-plus package of tax reforms. Warner convinced the public that without it, state government would remain perpetually in the red, public education and the state's prized public colleges would suffer, police layoffs loomed in terrorist times and the state's perfect bond rating would suffer its first blemish. So intense was public pressure that 17 House Republicans abandoned the GOP's anti-tax orthodoxy and sided with Warner in the tax battle.

If not for Virginia's unique

prohibition against consecutive terms for governors, Warner would have won a landslide reelection. His record and popularity were enormous factors in Kaine's victory.

"These are two centrists who've won convincingly by saying they're not going to kowtow to leftist dogma," said Steve Jarding, a government instructor at Harvard University who masterminded Warner's successful 2001 campaign.

Kilgore, by contrast, found no benefit in a last-minute campaign stop by President Bush, beset by low approval ratings and desperate for a victory.

At the White House on Wednesday, press secretary Scott McClellan dismissed suggestions Bush helped sink Kilgore.

"Any thorough analysis of the gubernatorial elections is going to show that the elections were decided on local and state issues and the candidates and their agendas," McClellan said. ♦

Bob Lewis has covered state government and politics since 2000.

Natural gas prices remain high

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

With the prices of gasoline steadily decreasing, other sources of fuel have not seemed to follow suit — specifically the prices of natural gas.

"It seems to be a very good time for those who control the natural gas," said Michael Corley, Middle Tennessee Natural Utility District general counsel. "These companies are also the same companies who sell gasoline, such as ExxonMobil or BP."

According to Corley, while companies bring in benefits from the high demand for natural gas, it negatively effects

other companies, like Middle Tennessee Natural Utility District, who buy and distribute gas to 19 counties in Middle Tennessee.

"We buy the gas at market prices from suppliers and then pass the direct cost to customers," Corley said. "Our utility district is non-profit, so we try to keep the prices as low as possible for our customer's benefits."

Corley explained that daily price of natural gas has not lowered in the past couple of weeks. The main reason is that a large supply of natural gas comes from the Gulf of Mexico, an area affected severely by recent hurricanes,

whereas petroleum comes from multiple supply areas.

"I think that the problem with natural gas prices is a little different than petroleum," Corley said. "This nation has made choices that have restricted the access to natural."

Another major reason noted by Corley why natural gas prices have not lowered is the high demand for it.

"It really is a two pronged problem," Corley said. "Typically, natural gas is purchased in the summer, when the prices are much lower, and stored underground until it is needed, however, with more people using electrical energy, which is fueled by natural gas,

to run things like their air conditioner, the storage supply has run low."

The other part of the problem is the lack of nuclear power plants to generate electricity without using natural gas. Because of the negative environmental implications of nuclear power plants, those resources aren't readily accessible around this area.

"The suppliers who get the fuel, then sell the fuel to the pipeline companies," Corley said. "We then buy the fuel from the pipeline companies at a higher cost."

Natural gas is major fuel supply for residents of some Middle Tennessee areas, other residential areas are not that confident in the fuel.

"Not many apartment complexes use natural gas," said Marisa Parker, College Grove Apartments manager. "Mostly for safety reasons."

The major safety hazard was the risk of fire that comes along with the large use of natural gas.

"Most apartments use mainly electricity. I read of some research done about the use of natural gas, and it was determined that it was not cost effective to us and was pretty much obsolete. Another factor included the foresight of increased gas prices." ♦

From Crime log, page 2

Monday, November 7 - 10:34 a.m. Beta Theta Pi on Fraternity Row Vandalism Over \$500

Complainant filed a report concerning vandalism to lights outside the fraternity house.

Monday, November 7 - 11:53 a.m. Sims Hall Vandalism Under \$500

Officer conducting Adopt-a-Cop foot patrol discovered a that a fire extinguisher had been discharged on the third floor. The officer filed a vandalism report concerning the incident.

Monday, November 7 - 3:56 p.m. Orchard Lot Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Victim reported that his vehicle had been involved in a hit and run incident in the parking lot.

Monday, November 7 - 7:10 pm. Student Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim came to the Police Department to file a theft report on items taken from an unlocked locker at the Recreation Center.

Monday, November 7 - 8:32 p.m. Student Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim filed a theft report stating he had some belongings stolen from an unlocked locker at the Recreation Center.

Tuesday, November 8 - 12:25 p.m. Baird Lane Lot Theft from Auto

Complainant reported that someone had broken out the back window on a dark blue Jeep Cherokee. The victim contacted a report was filed concerning audio equipment that was stolen from the vehicle.

Tuesday, November 8 - 6:04 p.m. New Library Building Assisting University Official

Library staff called for an officer due to a student suspected of looking at pornography on the library computers. Individual was cited to the dean for adjudication.

Tuesday, November 8 - 7:10 p.m. Student Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim came to the Police Department to report their credit cards stolen from an unlocked locker.

Tuesday, November 8 - 7:24 p.m. Nicks Hall Unlawful Entry - No Force

Victim reported that his room had been broken into and items had been vandalized.

Tuesday, November 8 - 7:55 p.m. Student Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that his credit card and social security card was stolen from an unlocked locker.

Tuesday, November 8 - 11:44 p.m. New Library Building Assisting University Official

Library staff called and asked for an officer to assist in dealing with an individual suspected of looking at pornography on the Internet. Individual was cited to the dean for adjudication.

Wednesday, November 9 - 12:12 a.m. Nicks Hall Theft Attempted

Officers responded to a call of theft in progress of golf cart. Suspects on cart abandoned cart and ran into a neighborhood. Officers gave chase, but were unable to locate suspects. ♦

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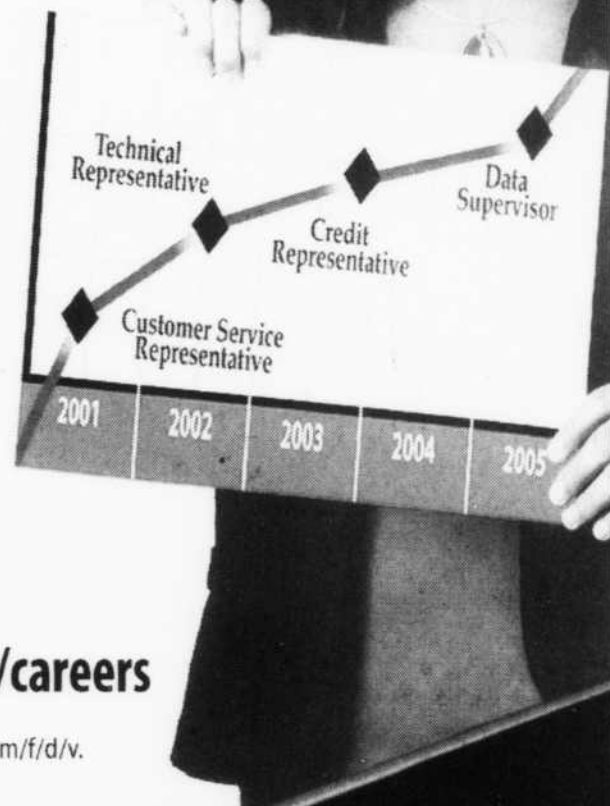
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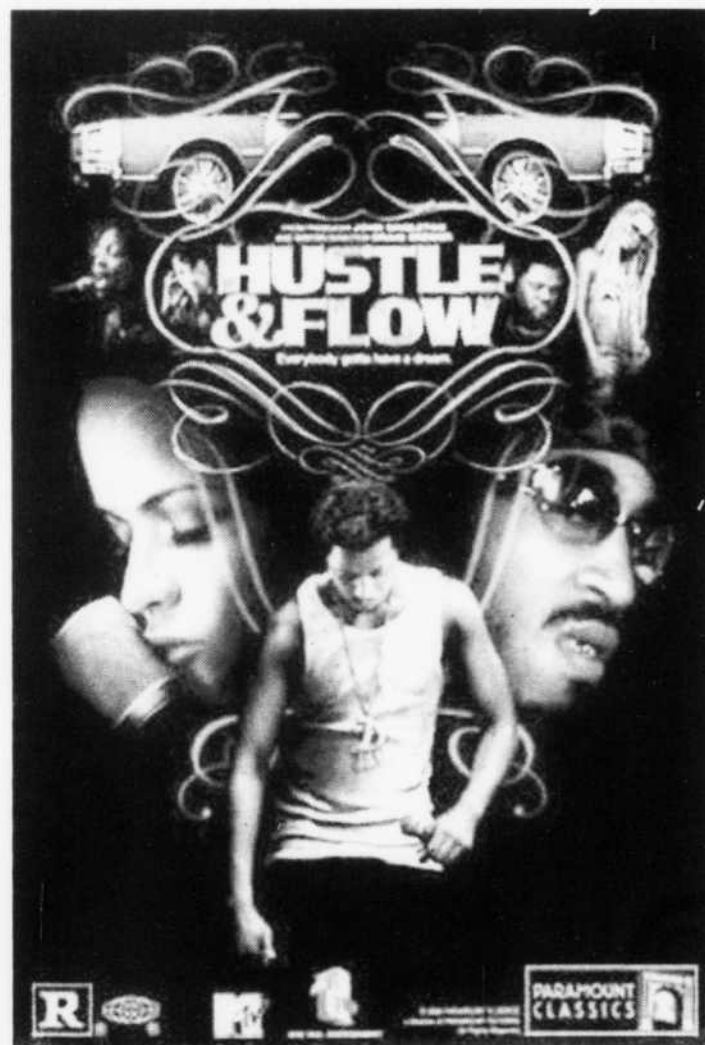
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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Democrats win elections in N.J., Va., Calif.

Democrats cleaned up big in off-year elections from New Jersey to California, sinking the candidate who embraced President Bush in the final days of the Virginia governor's campaign. They also turned back all four of GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to reshape state government.

Democratic Sen. Jon Corzine easily won the New Jersey governor's seat after an expensive, mudslinging campaign, trouncing Republican Doug Forrester by 10 percentage points. Polls in the last week had forecast a much closer race.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine won a solid victory in GOP-leaning Virginia, beating Republican Jerry Kilgore by more than 5 percentage points. Democrats crowded that Bush's election-eve rally for the former state attorney general only spurred more Kaine supporters to the polls.

In California, Schwarzenegger failed in his push to rein in the Democrat-controlled Assembly. All four of his ballot measures flopped: Capping spending, removing legislators' redistricting powers, making teachers work five years instead of two to pass probation, and restricting political spending by public employee unions.

Elsewhere, Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage, Maine voted to preserve the state's new gay-rights law, and GOP Mayor Michael Bloomberg easily clinched a second term in heavily Democratic New York.

State of emergency begins in France

PARIS (AP) — Rioters defied a state of emergency that took effect Wednesday, as they looted and burned two superstores, set fire to a newspaper office

and paralyzed France's second-largest city's subway system with a firebomb.

However, the number of car burnings — a barometer for the unrest — dropped sharply, suggesting the movement lost steam. Overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, youths torched 617 vehicles, down from 1,173 the previous night, national police spokesman Patrick Hamon said. Incidents were reported in 116 towns, down from 226 the night before.

President Jacques Chirac announced extraordinary security measures, which began Wednesday and are valid for a 12-day state of emergency, clearing the way for curfews after nearly two weeks of rioting that began in neglected and impoverished suburban neighborhoods with large Muslim communities.

The French capital and its suburbs, as well as more than 30 other cities, were covered by the state-of-emergency decree, according to a government bulletin published Wednesday. It empowers officials to put troublemakers under house arrest, ban or limit the movement of people and vehicles, confiscate weapons and close public spaces where gangs gather.

Towns included on the list stretched from Nice on the Mediterranean to Strasbourg on the German border and Le Havre on the English Channel, giving an indication of how widespread the unrest has become.

Wounded Jacksboro principal praised

JACKSBORO, Tenn. (AP) — Principal Gary Seale was shot while wrestling with a student who had opened fire in school and killed an administrator, then managed to get to the intercom and order a lockdown, helping to end the rampage, authorities say.

Seale was shot in the lower abdomen and Assistant Principal Jim Pierce was hit in

the chest Tuesday, authorities said. Both were in serious condition in intensive care at University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, spokeswoman Lisa McNeal said.

The administrators and a teacher helped wrestle the gun away from the 15-year-old student, deputies said. Assistant Principal Ken Bruce was shot in the chest and died at a LaFollette hospital, authorities said.

"This situation could have gotten much worse," said Mark Wells, vice chairman of the Campbell County Board of Education. "It did not because our staff followed the (emergency) plan in place."

No students were hurt in Tuesday's shooting at Campbell County Comprehensive High School. The 1,400-student school about 35 miles northwest of Knoxville was closed for the rest of the week, officials said.

The suspect, Ken Bartley Jr., was taken to a juvenile detention facility, Sheriff Ron McClellan said. The boy's family declined comment.

Attack kills five policemen in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide bomber detonated his car Wednesday near a police patrol in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing five policemen and wounding five others, officials said.

U.S. Air Force jets destroyed a building near the Syrian border Wednesday where al-Qaida insurgents hid weapons, the U.S. military said.

The attack occurred early in the day in the village of Bu Hardan near the cities of Qaim and Husaybah where U.S. and Iraqi troops conducted a major operation in the past four days.

"The terrorists were seen moving mortars and other small weapons into the targeted building," the statement said. "This weapons cache was direct-

ly linked to mortar attacks on Coalition and Iraqi security forces."

The statement said the raid destroyed the building and "all contents of the weapons cache."

Californians defeat Governor's proposals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a stinging rebuke from voters who elected him two years ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's efforts to reshape state government were rejected during a special election that darkened his prospects for a second term.

The Republican governor and former Hollywood actor, who likes to say he can sell anything, on Tuesday saw all four of his signature ballot proposals rejected.

The election pitted the once-dominant Republican governor against two of California's powerhouse political forces — public employee unions and Democrats who control the Legislature.

The unions spent millions of dollars to beat Schwarzenegger's propositions to limit the use of their member dues for political purposes, cap state spending, redraw legislative districts and restrict public school teacher tenure.

It was a sobering evening for a man once considered among the most popular politicians in America. The contest represented the biggest test yet of a faltering Schwarzenegger's leadership.

Justice Department mulls probe into CIA leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the CIA's request, the Justice Department is weighing whether to open a criminal investigation into the leak of possibly classified information

on secret prisons to The Washington Post.

A story the newspaper published on Nov. 2 touched on a number of sensitive national security issues, including the existence of secret CIA detention centers for suspected terrorists in Eastern European democracies.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the issue deals with classified information, said the CIA's general counsel made the referral to the Justice Department shortly after the story appeared last week.

The department will decide whether to initiate a criminal investigation. The leak investigation into the disclosure of covert CIA officer Valerie Plame's identity came about through the same referral procedure and led to a five-count indictment against the vice president's now former chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby.

Post spokesman Eric Grant said Tuesday the newspaper had no comment.

KFC plans to air TV ads if there is a bird flu outbreak

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — In coming days, KFC will have television commercials ready to reassure customers that its chicken is safe to eat if there is a bird flu outbreak.

The chicken chain said Tuesday it hopes the spots never have to air, but it's taking no chances in the face of a potential threat to business.

"We'll keep them on the shelf and hope not to use them," Jonathan Blum, spokesman for KFC's parent, Yum Brands Inc., said of the spots expected to be shot soon.

Kentucky Fried Chicken and its parent, both based in Louisville, have spent months planning a quick response in

case of bird flu outbreaks in its markets worldwide.

"We're keeping our fingers on the pulse of what happens day in and day out around the world," Blum said. "And we are taking action in terms of preparing for this in the event it becomes an eventuality in any market."

Pistons defeat Kings, 102-88

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Tayshaun Prince scored 25 points on 10-of-13 shooting, and the Detroit Pistons emphatically snapped an eight-game losing streak in Sacramento with a 102-88 victory over the Kings on Tuesday night.

Chauncey Billups had 16 points and eight assists, and Richard Hamilton added 21 points and six rebounds for the unbeaten Pistons in their first win in Sacramento since Feb. 26, 1996.

Ben Wallace had nine points and 14 rebounds as Detroit (4-0) extended the club's best start since 1996 with a remarkably proficient game against the Kings, who couldn't keep up despite big performances from newcomers Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Bonzi Wells in their regular-season home debuts.

Prince scored 19 points and hit three 3-pointers in the second half for the Pistons, who made a 24-4 run spanning the third and fourth quarters. Detroit scored the first 11 points of the fourth, sending home much of the sellout crowd.

Wells scored 16 points and Abdur-Rahim added 14 in the first game at Arco Arena in 21 days for the Kings, who were stuck with the NBA's last home opener for the second straight season. ♦

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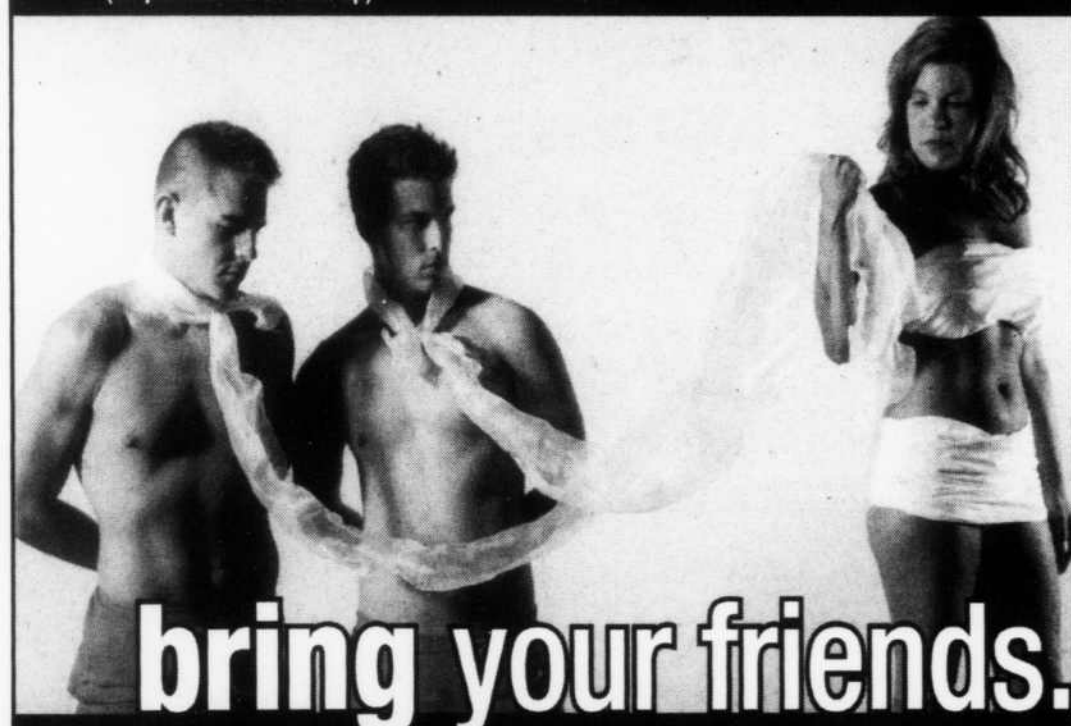
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Opinions

page 5
November 10, 2005

From the Editorial Board

Elections show lack of confidence; changes in government needed

In the elections held Tuesday, Democrats won races for governor in New Jersey and Virginia. California residents rejected Arnold Schwarzenegger's four items up for vote.

In Texas, a ban on gay marriage was approved, and voters in Maine agreed with the new gay-rights legislation. Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg was also re-elected in New York.

The two governors seats were previously held by Democrats.

In one sense, voting seems to be going as normal, but there are some things that should be looked at when considering the results of these elections.

Virginia is a Republican stronghold. The current governor is a Democrat, but it has been 41 years since a Republican presidential candidate has not been supported. Tim Kaine, the governor-elect, opposes capital punishment, supports raising taxes and supports gun control.

This is not a candidate expected to win in a red state.

It would be overreaching to say this round of elections shows growing support for the Democratic party, but it could point to a growing distrust in the government as a whole, and a distrust when it comes to the Republican party.

The response to Hurricane Katrina, the CIA leak case, the indictment of Tom DeLay and the investigation of Bill Frist could all play a part in bringing down the federal government's credibility. If the credibility issues are not resolved before the 2006 elections it could create an interesting outcome.

With some voters wondering who to vote for due to the problems within the government, it could be possible for third party candidates to take some small elections.

Voters upset with the party they typically vote for, but unwilling to vote for the other party's candidates, could find themselves looking elsewhere, or not voting at all.

2006 could be the year that a third party finally breaks through. If there are enough local, state and congressional offices filled by candidates not affiliated with a major party, it could give a small party the backing to begin gaining power.

The other possibility is that voters could forget the problems we have seen, and vote for the same party they typically do. The same people will be elected, and the problems and the possibility of changing the system will have passed us by, at least for a few years. ♦

Letters to the Editor Garages too expensive a solution

To the Editor:

This is in response to Trace McAlister's "Garages alternative to more lots." (Nov. 7). It seems as though he/she has forgotten that for MTSU to get a parking garage, it will cost money.

If MTSU is going to get a parking garage, our tuition will have to skyrocket. There is no other way for MTSU to raise the kind of money that it would take to build a parking garage and then be able to maintain it. It is much cheaper for MTSU to tear into the ground and pave it. Maintenance is cheap and it is easier for them to give us those fun parking tickets.

The only alternative that I have for students is to leave your house earlier, put on your walking shoes, and try to catch a bus that isn't already full. Students who are living on campus may want to invest in a tarp for your vehicle.

Alissa Seymore
Junior, College of Mass Communications

All sports deserve equal coverage

To the Editor:

I have been an avid reader of *Sidelines* ever since I transferred to MTSU. However, I have recently become very disappointed in your coverage of all the sports teams. How can you all pay so much attention to a team that is currently 3-4? Sure, they might be able to turn it around, but, right now, they are having a losing season.

Meanwhile, I attended my first volleyball game last Friday night. It was very exciting to see a sports team that has only lost 2 games in their entire season. However, without having to do some searching about their game results, I wouldn't know how their games turn out.

Football is given an eight page insert while other teams are just mentioned by the dates of their upcoming games. I am part of a project team for a public relations class. Our main goal is to increase attendance at volleyball games and especially for the upcoming championship tournament.

Please come out and support the winning team of Lady Raiders at the Sun Belt Conference Championship Nov. 17-19. Let's cheer them to victory and congratulate them for a winning season.

Chancie Miller
Junior, College of Mass Communication

V.A. care making modest steps toward improvement

Point

Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

My friend Bryce is a perfect example of a government mooch. He was born in India and adopted by American parents in Utah. He became a U.S. citizen upon that adoption. He graduated from a public high school in New Orleans, and went onto enroll and graduate from LSU in 2003, thanks in large part to the state's HOPE-scholarship equivalent. He even works at a pharmacy inside a Veterans Affairs hospital, and earns a healthy federal employee paycheck. His mother is an administrator at another location in Vermont, and his dad is a retired high school Biology teacher. However, this boy simply refuses to vote or follow politics.

This relates to the current situation of veterans care in our country. There are many veterans who were raised not to accept any type of government assistance. The care that is available to them goes wasted. I guess as a conservative, I shouldn't have a problem with unused government services. Veterans' care is one very critical exception to the rule here.

It is said that veterans make up a reasonable number of homeless people today. If those veterans have been honorably discharged, they should be going inside the V.A. Hospitals. I understand the backlog is now down from twelve months to 90 days. That's progress, but it's worse than the kind in Iraq today.

Bryce's grandparents are also worth noting here. His late grandfather used to own a very successful general contracting company in Clearfield, Utah. He and his wife were content with paying for their health care through the private sector. When Bryce's grandfather started suffering from severe heart problems, their medical expenses totalled over a million dollars. They were forced to sell their company and were no longer able to build "a house a week." Eventually, they swallowed their pride and entrusted the Salt Lake City V.A. Hospital with their care. Bryce's grandmother told

me, "I wish we would have been willing to do this ten years ago."

They told me they were raised not to accept any government assistance, even if you were a veteran in good standing with the government. The V.A. ended up paying for all of their heart pills, and they even took part in some free-market solutions to the backlog problems.

A caller to my radio show complained that President George W. Bush was neglecting veterans here in Murfreesboro. The student said that his own grandfather had to wait four months for an "immediate" appointment. I told him how the V.A. Hospitals under Bush have adopted a policy where they will let veterans go to doctors in the local area. The bills are sent straight back to the agency and are paid for completely. The only trade-off is that veterans may not be able to see the private doctor who is a family friend; they may be out of the assigned network of physicians. The student told me his grandfather had passed away a few years prior, and was unsure if that would have met his approval.

My own grandfather in Connecticut said that the free-market solutions have put a dent in the V.A.'s workload in his own life. He served in World War II. At the V.A. Hospital closest to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, his chart is traded with a local doctor in town. Permission's been given, of course, in an effort for an immediate appointment to take place. "The doctor's got all of my recent history right before him, and I don't have to pay for a thing," he said.

Veterans are getting the care they need. The system is not designed for people who claim to need a hip replacement, but can swing better than Tiger Woods. The department's budget deficit may be a billion dollars, but that's much better than how the Clinton Administration left it in 2000. The round of base closures Bush's people are proposing keep the military alive, while the ones of the past were meant to limit its growth and ability to fight and win war. ♦

Tim Hill is a junior journalism major and be reached at StuckInNewOrleans@yahoo.com.

Congress turns blind eye to veterans mental health

Are we really doing everything we should for our veterans?

This past year has seen some heavy criticism leveled at the Veterans Affairs healthcare system, especially when it comes to soldiers returning home from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. In an article, by Charles Ornstein, that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* last March, critics argued that the quality of psychiatric help for veterans has decreased significantly in the last 10 years.

Budget cuts have caused some V.A. hospitals to close some of their psychiatric services, despite protests from veterans and a steady rise in the number of veterans needing help. Untrained staff members are handling patients brought in because of psychiatric emergencies, and those whom the hospital can't help are being sent to private psychiatrists outside of the V.A. system.

Republicans have ignored requests from both sides of the aisle for months to increase the V.A.'s budget, so that when time came to approve the 2005 fiscal year, the system was still short by \$2.6 billion. Apparently, no one in Congress, or anywhere else, was paying much attention the number of soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that weren't in flag-draped coffins.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, which looks into how tax dollars are being spent, reported last fall that the V.A. didn't have enough information to know whether or not it could handle the increased demand for mental health services. So, instead of consulting with outside groups to find the best way to handle a rise in patients, they dropped the problem into someone else's lap.

Is this really acceptable? The V.A. is prohibited by federal law from cutting specialized treatment and rehabilitation for veterans with physical and mental disabilities. More soldiers are coming into the system with problems like post-traumatic stress disorder, but less money is being spent per patient on mental health.

War is an extremely traumatic experience, and soldiers can easily develop psychological conditions that may prohibit them from living normal lives after coming

Counterpoint

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

home from the battlefield. This has been especially true for veterans of Korea and Vietnam, who have been studied by psychologists for years and have been documented countless times. The buildup and action of the first Gulf War lasted mere months, and many soldiers who pushed Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychoses.

Why is it a surprise that our troops are asking for help on returning home? Did no one think that, after dealing with the strain of occupying and attempting to maintain peace and order in two countries with a combined population of 56 million people, some of whom don't like us very much and delight in playing psychological games with us, that no one would need to see a shrink?

It is a disgrace that we would think so little of the men and women who endanger their own lives to fight to make those of others safer and freer. All of them chose to serve in the armed forces. It is only just that we repay these brave individuals by ensuring that they can live without fear of dealing with mental instability.

This Friday is Veterans Day, when we remember everyone who has ever fought on behalf of this country. Throughout history, the people of the country have always stepped up to take care of veterans and their families, since before the United States existed. Why, then, should we be turning our backs on something that our veterans often need most badly?

We need to put pressure on Congress to do find out just how much the V.A. health system needs to do its job, and how to ensure that every cent is spent the best way it can. There is never an excuse to spend so little on those who have risked so much for us all. ♦

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

Flu media's latest attempt to sell stories with fear

Everyone should worry because 100 million people are going to die, and the life that we once knew will be gone forever. At least, that's what my friend David says he saw on the news regarding the bird flu pandemic.

If you don't know what's going on with the bird flu, you are missing out on the hippest watercooler conversation this month. And just in case you are not fully afraid, bird flu will now be called "the human flu pandemic." Saying human flu pandemic makes better headlines than the limp sounding bird flu.

The director of the World Health Organization, Lee Jong-wook, made a statement to 600 health experts that a pandemic of human influenza was inevitable. He went on to say a human flu pandemic hasn't happened anywhere in the world. The WHO is estimating the overall cost of this flu to be more than \$800 billion, and the casualties could be similar to the Spanish flu that caused the deaths of millions of people in 1918-1919.

This type of flu is found only in birds. To be able to spread from human to human, the virus has to mutate. That creates a larger question: how can you go about being fully prepared for a virus that has yet to exist?

Since the bird flu was first discovered in humans in early 2004, it has infected people in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. It has been linked to deaths of about 60 out of the 120 people reportedly infected. If those numbers haven't struck fear into the hearts of Americans, I guess the fear-pushing media has



Gagflex

Jason Johnson
Staff Columnist

n't quite done its job.

CNN has taken the cake for the most ridiculous fear story during this flu craze. Last Sunday, CNN's Web site ran a story with the headline, "Bird Flu on the Migration". The story went from how 300,000 birds were killed out of fear of bird flu, to how it can't be ruled out that bird flu caused the death of a 12-year-old girl last month. The wording would have been less effective had it just said that they couldn't confirm that anyone had died from the migration of bird flu.

However, apparently rationality is not the business of many mainstream news sources. When you think of all the possible fears that have been pumped into our society in the last few years, you imagine a world teetering on the brink of collapse. We've been threatened with SARS, terror attacks in many different forms, meteors hitting the earth, shark attacks and many other stories that have yet to affect the fact that minimum wage is still \$5.15 an hour.

Unless I am reading the *Enquirer*, why should I ever read a story about someone get-

ting attacked by a shark? Until sharks grow arms and legs, and learn to hitch a ride to Tennessee, I don't think I'll sweat a shark attack. These stories are eye catchers and serve no real purpose outside of shocking the audience into reading more.

If there is a chance to stoke the flames of fear, expect our government to reaffirm that the worst possible case is going to happen. The response to Sept. 11, 2001, clearly illustrates this point. They created the terrorism color chart, which may be the most useless fear tool created in modern history. What does a person do with that kind of information? Of course everybody knows when the color chart hits orange, we are supposed to go berserk, tape up our windows with plastic sheeting and hide under an old school desk.

The point of politicians to expand upon the fear agenda is to distract us from current issues at hand, and to implement a sense of loyalty to our government.

Now that we have all the information about the possibilities of a human flu pandemic, you might ask how we go about preventing such a horrible sickness. Well, you wash your hands, take your vitamins and try not to get sick. Or as my friend suggests, you can dig through garbage once a day to try to build up your immune system. Maybe that last one isn't such a good idea. ♦

Jason Johnson is a senior journalism major and can be reached via email at jj2n@mtsu.edu.

Sidelines

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Letters Policy

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

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Sidelines

Mailing Address
Middle-Tennessee
State University
1301 East Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

WANTED

Guest Columnists

Have an argument, bitch, gripe or complaint?

Write a column!

Columns must not exceed 600 words and must incite mass rioting (or hugging) in the streets!

Send submissions to
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Flash in the Pan

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursday 10	eggrollers, creeping cruds, and the young livers @ the boro 9:30pm
Friday 11	keller williams @ war memorial outformation and flat rock revival @ windows derailed, gear driven, and revolution machine @ wallstreet 9pm oppera @ the boro 9:30pm
Saturday 12	"the indie revolutionary off the record": a teach-in on how to make the most of your home or professional recording studio time @ treasure isle studios in berry hill 10am-6pm belize, lasalle, michael acree, and ray and the examples @ the boro 9:30pm
Sun 13	ben folds @ the ryman lenny, gratitude, the canvas spill, and sybris @ the exit/in 7pm
Mon 14	bright eyes, feist, and magic numbers @ the ryman dorothy mantooth, and the all starz @ hair of the dog 9pm
Tues 15	FEMA Evacuation Marathon. A catastrophe will be chosen at random. The first city to reach the Trail of Tears gets a casino. <small>untrue</small>
Wed 16	acoustic nights featuring lindsey wojcek, eric paslay, brandon, luke pruit, and acoustic revolution @ sweetwater alert the sky, the black six, carry-out special, death is a dialogue, and buried under broken glass @ the boro 9:30pm



If there is one thing lets me know that fall here, it is the return of pirates.

NEAT Pizza

the road to hell is paved with good

Neat Pizza is a new pizza delivery service in Murfreesboro run entirely by students. They make the pizza with their own materials and out of their own homes in their own kitchen ovens. But here's the best part, they deliver the pizza by bicycle! They'll also pick up anything else you need along the way including beer, cigarettes and strippers. (In Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, he speaks of strippers delivering pizza. That is a lie.)

My first reaction when hearing about this idea was that this was never going to work. There are four houses and eight people involved. They are open from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They also decline interviews. That's an inconvenience, but not a problem. They have a facebook group. It is a problem if you don't have a license to deliver the pizza. Let's pretend I didn't mention that.

Neat Pizza is going to have sell a certain number of pizzas to make a profit, because they are buying their own materials to make the pizzas. Hopefully, with good promotion and word of mouth, they will be able to do so.

Assuming Neat Pizza takes off, they are going to need more employees - employees who likely will not care as much as the creators. These new guys will slack, bitch about the tyrannical entrepreneurs (see "The Man") and steal food. Who is going to hold the new employees accountable, bosses on bicycles? Not likely.



Which brings me to my third point. They are delivering by bicycle! How many pizzas can you really deliver on a bicycle? Certainly not more than 2 or 3. And even that is a lot on a bicycle. If they planning on purchasing large neon signs that say "neat pizza" on the side of their bikes, they'll probably only be able to deliver a couple of breadsticks.

But the real threat is bike gangs. Bike gangs have sprouting all over Murfreesboro since Flash's satirical article about a bike gang named "The Huckleberry Fiends."

The moment one of these bike gangs spots several tasty pizzas on a neon bicycle, you can kiss goodbye to one of the eight founders Neat Pizza and to your pizza.

But perhaps its time to give practical business plans a swift kick in the nuts. These students starting their own business, that takes balls. Of course, they are going to make mistakes but that is how college students learn. I am reminded of another wacky idea called *Flash* that was full of misspellings good pizza intentions. *Flash* failed, but that was during a time of totalitarianism; this is fall.

Maybe they can buy a license once they make enough profit. Maybe they will realize that they need more employees to deliver more pizzas to more people, especially if they are riding bikes. We point out their faults because we are jealous that they are starting their own business. They are providing pizza to the public without hurting the environment. And they might have an advantage over other pizza delivery places because they stay open till 4 a.m. I hope that I can call at 3:30 a.m. and get a pizza before 4 a.m. That would be awesome. ♦

DRUNKEN MOVIE REVIEW

The Monster Hunter feels like three movies got beheaded and their heads were sewn together, but instead of spewing bile and rolling their eyes, they order a pizza and rent a movie. This movie has been released as *The Monster Slayer*, *The Demon Slayer*, *Natural Selection* and finally, *The Monster Hunter*. Though the movie stars David Carradine as an insane FBI agent/mystic that fights serial killers with awful acting, the whole movie feels like *Best in Show*. It's a genuine low budget flick but the actors are quirky enough to allow the audience to get lost in the multiple storylines. This is how *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* should have gone. If you don't believe me, watch *Episode III* with the audio



from *The Monster Hunter*. Every time you laugh, drink.



Silver Jews: Tanglewood Numbers

Discussed:

- I love you to the max! - What kind of animal needs to smoke a cigarette? - Time is a game only children play well. - God must be carving the clouds in to animal shapes.

Community Concern: Pirates!

by Alan Laidlaw

Friends, we have weathered Katrina, Rita, Bush, Scooter, Wilma, and Adam Corolla; all we have to worry about now are the pirates.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, pirates violently attacked a carnival cruise ship and simultaneously secured a deal for a new reality show on The Learning Channel named "The Pirate's Life."

The attack occurred near the Horn of Africa and involved grenades, rocket launchers and a radar shaped sonic device. (Side note: I take a lot of flak for making up articles off the cuff. I felt bad about for a while until Whoopi Goldberg and Stephen Glass intervened on my behalf. They told me that perjury is an affliction, like being dyslexic with

the truth. I want you know that sentence before the parentheses was entirely true. That is why I am going to repeat it again.) ...A radar shaped sonic device. Thankfully, the device was in the hands of the cheerful Carnival crew.

At first I thought that sonic device was actually Kathy Lee Gifford, but I was wrong, they fired her years ago.

Though the pirates were highly organized, the liner Seabourn Spirit evaded certain pillaging by out-maneuvering the two small pirate boats. The Seabourn Spirit recently installed the Long Range Acoustic Devise after watching an episode of *Star Trek*. The LRAD can point sonic blasts

of 150 decibels at any third world country. That is about twice as painful as a smoke detector alarm.

The carnival crew was obviously prepared. The guests remained nearly docile during the attempted invasion. After octogenarian Harry Bilbray was woken and told about the pirates, he became irate.

"I wanted to see some action," Harry said. "We've been preparing for months and now we've got nothing to show for it!"

Harry was quickly ushered away by a waiter in a sombrero.

Secretly, Carnival has been preparing for the pirates since 2002 by altering their activities to be more "combat oriented."

"There are climbing walls and those little tires you have to run through," said Esther Brooks, 73. "Its so exciting! I know how to assemble an automatic weapon! That's more fun than salsa night."

Carnival Cruise Lines owes its new slogan to their recent success. "We're an army of Fun!" says the brochure. But some guests like Harry Bilbray feel that they would have more fun with the pirates and are threatening to abandon ship.

"I'm sick of these Landlubbers!" said Harry Bilbray, referring to the salsa waiter in tight shorts.

The waiter responded, "It's just the Viagra coursing through his veins." ♦

IT CAME FROM THE FARK

Flash in the Pan scours the interweb in search of funny stories to amuse you, the readers. Fortunately for us, Drew and the rest of the Fark.com crew did our work for us. Thanks, Fark.

US takes control of Canadian garage doors, next ATM machines

Citizens of Ottawa, Canada no longer have problems with their garage doors randomly opening and closing.

This comes at the same time a US Army Land Mobile Radio System was shut down at the US Embassy.

The same radio system that was turned on at the same time the garage doors first started having problems.

The Embassy denies responsibility. Right...

Libby's Lurid Book in Demand

Amazon.com has introduced *The Apprentice: A Novel* to the American public.

Not to be confused with a badly-written transcript of a certain Donald Trump show, this apprentice is the brainchild of Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the chief of staff of Vice President Dick Cheney.

Always the champion of family values and whatnot, Libby's book is a sordid tale of an innkeeper apprentice finding himself in turn-of-the-century Japan.

One Amazon review of the book noted its "lavish dollops of voyeurism, bestiality, pedophilia, and corpse robbery." Gross.

For Sale: Island with Mysterious Money Pit, Bring Snorkel

Oak Island is up for sale, along with it the possibility of a windfall of a pirate treasure hidden beneath an elaborate safeguard system.

Think of this island as having the world's largest Ker-Plunk! game, but instead of dropping marbles into a bowl and everybody laughing, you're dropping yourself into a giant, watery pit and you're not getting out. Treasure hunters have spent millions of dollars and thousands of man-hours into cracking the secrets of the pit, proving once again that *Star Trek* isn't the only thing in this world keeping geeks dorky and unapproachable.

Alabama governor calls for boycott of Aruba, fun in general

Aruba isn't cooperating with the sovereign state of Alabama, and the governor's mad as hell.

Governor Bob Riley is calling for a boycott of the tourist destination made famous by Kermit the Frog's ode to Caribbean destinations on behalf of the family of 18-year-old Natalee Holloway, an Alabama native who went missing in Aruba on May 30. According to the governor, Aruban authorities have not fully complied with the investigation of Holloway's disappearance.

The governor declined the offers of Southern Baptist officials to help out with strategies on how to successfully boycott groups that offer exuberant amounts of entertainment and pleasure to the masses.

Native Irish Take Mobile Phone Obsession to the Grave

Ring... Ring...

"Hi, you've reached Steve's voice-mail. He's not in right now, because he's dead and all, but if you'd like to leave him a message, he'll probably get around to you at some point... Beep."

Fact 1: Irish tradition at funerals involves people being buried with their most precious possessions.

Fact 2: Ninety-four percent of people own a cell phone, making it practically an extension to one's hand.

Using Aristolian logic, one can infer that people who adhere to Irish tradition will be buried with their phones. And that they're green frogs. Because all frogs are green. ♦



Marks quietly leads Blue Raider offensive attack

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

What a difference a win makes.

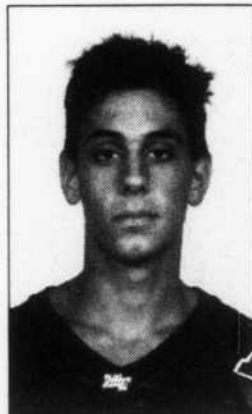
Middle Tennessee is back in the hunt for the Sun Belt Conference title and their first trip to the New Orleans Bowl after defeating Arkansas State 45-7 last Saturday.

Next on the schedule is current SBC leader Louisiana-Monroe (3-1 SBC, 3-5 overall). If the Blue Raiders can win out in the conference and have Louisiana-Lafayette lose a game, MT would have the edge to the New Orleans Bowl.

MT Quarterback Clint Marks said the focus is now set on beating the Indians and added that the Blue Raiders (2-2 SBC, 3-4 overall) won't think about anything else.

"In the back of our head we know we have a shot [to win the SBC], but we're not going to have a shot if we go into this game and not play the way we are and not prepare hard for this game and lose," Marks said. "We just have to take it one game at a time, [Monroe]."

Head coach Andy McCollum felt the same way. He acknowledged that while the Blue Raiders are back in the hunt for the title after taking care of ASU, the first win at home wouldn't matter if they don't take care of business this week.



Marks

"We just want to win games and win at home," McCollum said. "Monroe's coming to our place. Is [the SBC title] in the back of our heads? Yes. Do we talk about it? Yeah. Our goals are still in front of us. This conference could come down to a lot of teams with two losses in the conference. All we've got to do is continue working, take it one at a time, and play the way we're capable of playing."

Marks was named SBC Offensive Player of the Week for his performance on Saturday, when he completed 14 of 23 passes for 208 yards and three touchdowns.

"It's a nice honor," Marks said of the award. "I really give the credit to my offensive line, they really blocked great, and receivers, they made some really nice catches and made some plays. It was just a team effort."

Marks leads the league in completion percentage at 66.7, ranks second in passing efficiency and is fifth in passing yards in 2005. Marks will start the Louisiana-Monroe game with 4,482 career-passing yards and needs just 318 more yards to overtake Teddy Morris for fourth place all-time at MTSU.

Marks, who has passed for 200 yards in the past two games, said he's healthy heading into the final turn of the season.

"Physically I feel real well," Marks said. "After playing seven games, I have a few bumps and bruises here and there, but I feel pretty good. Nothing real serious."

But Marks wouldn't talk long about himself. His only worry comes this Saturday at 2 p.m.

"We still have a shot, although we don't want to look ahead," Marks said. "We want to take everything one game at a time, and this week it's Louisiana-Monroe." ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT quarterback Clint Marks leads the Blue Raider offense with a 66.7 completion percentage for the 2005 season. Marks is fifth in the SBC in passing yards, and will look to propel MT into a first place tie in the SBC on Saturday.

Predators break five-game skid with win against Oilers

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

The Nashville Predators needed a win Tuesday evening against the Edmonton Oilers to break a five-game losing streak and gain some momentum going into the long home-stand. An airborne goal by Predator Scott Hartnell would be the last punch Nashville would need to take a 3-2 win in front of a crowd of almost 12,000.

Perhaps the biggest factor in Tuesday's game was the physical play from both teams that kept the game scoreless until midway through the second period. Oiler Jarret Stoll scored his fifth goal of the season with 9:22 into the second period. Stoll's goal gave Shawn Horcoff his tenth assist and defensive star Chris Pronger his ninth assist of the season.

Nashville's Martin Erat would redeem himself in the third period after being placed into the penalty box for a four minute minor for holding the stick and unsportsmanlike conduct. Erat's goal with 3:44 into the third period tied the game 1-1 and gave Nashville some momentum for a possible comeback win; something the Predators had been unsuccessful in doing since their eight game winning streak.

The last two minutes of the third period were the most exciting, as Nashville's Kimmo Timonen pushed the puck in the net after several desperate attempts, and gave Nashville a



Photo courtesy of Nashville Predators.com

David Legwand and his Nashville Predator teammates recently ended a five-game losing streak by defeating the Edmonton Oilers, 3-2.

2-1 lead.

Rookie Jerred Smithson talked about his first NHL game and helping Timonen give Nashville the lead late in the third. "It was a mad scramble. I made a good play to get it on the net, and kept hacking and wackin' at it until Kimmo got it in."

Edmonton captain Ryan Smyth would answer the Predator goal with 59 seconds remaining to help Edmonton tie the game 2-2.

"When he scored [Ryan Smyth], I knew I had to remain calm and not let the goal get on my mind," said Nashville goaltender Tomas Vokoun. "I had confidence that my teammates would answer back."

The answer would be a late heroic goal by Nashville veteran Scott Hartnell with 22 seconds remaining in the third. Hartnell's goal helped Nashville seal a 3-2 victory thus

snapping a six game losing skid.

"The last few minutes were crazy," said Hartnell. "We had our highs and lows tonight, but fortunately, we were able to hear the music playing at the end."

Edmonton's loss allowed the Oilers to fall to 8-8-1 and Nashville to improve to 9-2-3. The Oilers will play on Friday at the Columbus Blue Jackets. Nashville will host Dallas on Thursday, while competing again Saturday evening against rival St. Louis. Predator coach Barry Trotz knows his team needed the win Tuesday to help his team gain momentum for the home stand. "We've gone through a period where things have not gone our way. You go 'ok,' could it happen one more time? We just need to stay in this mindset that if we go out there and play competitive every night, we can win." ♦

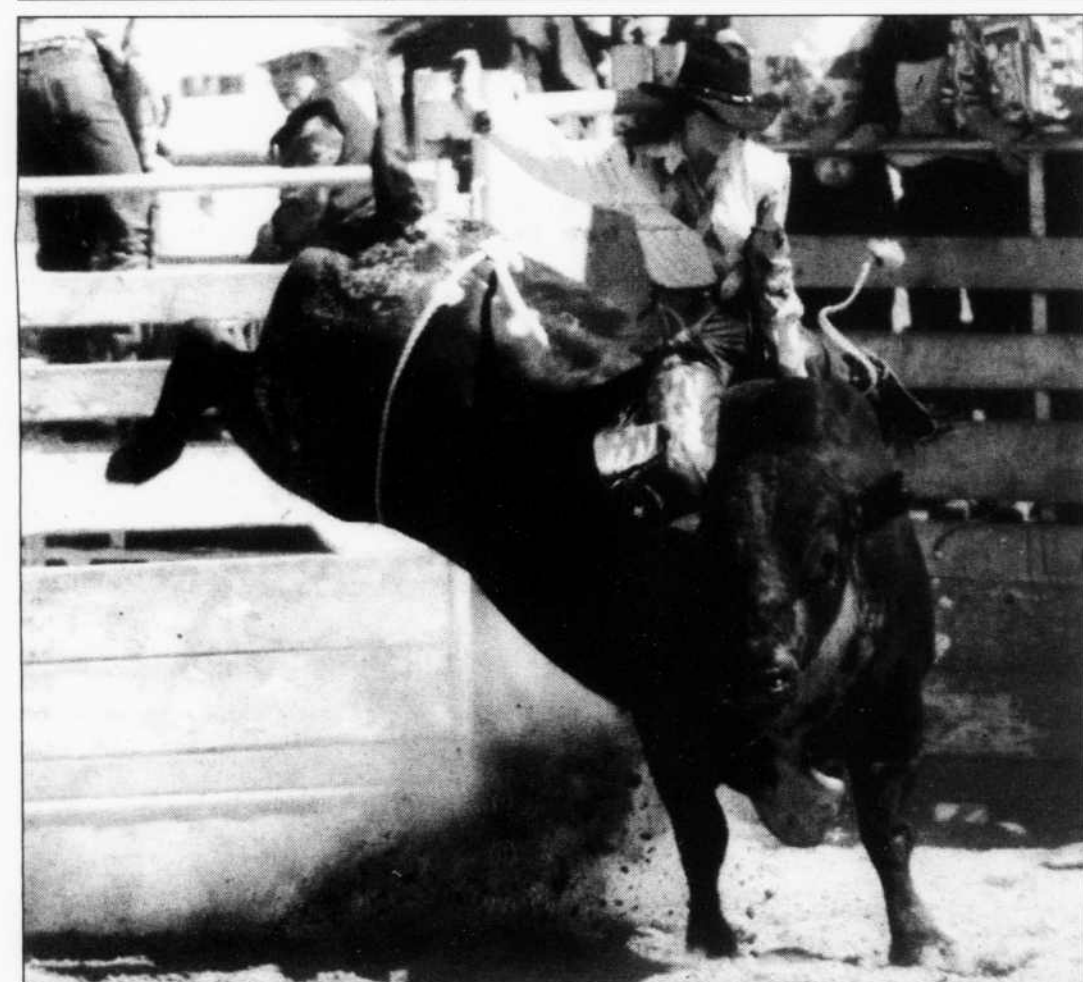


Photo courtesy of the Longhorn Championship Rodeo
Melissa Phillips, pictured above, is one of the world's only female bullriders. Phillips will be making an appearance in the Longhorn Finals rodeo this weekend in Murfreesboro.

Longhorn Finals this weekend

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee will be treated to some intense rodeo action this weekend, as the Longhorn Finals rodeo invades Miller Coliseum.

One of the featured riders in the weekend's festivities will be Melissa Phillips.

Phillips, of Haskell, OK is no stranger to the world of rodeo. She grew up in a family that was familiar with rodeos, and subsequently developed a passion to work with horses and cattle.

Phillips won her first trophy in cowgirls barrel racing at the age of six and began a lifetime of training horses.

Along the way, Phillips also became a rodeo secretary and developed a reputation as someone who never backed down from a challenge.

Following one rodeo performance, she stopped to visit with some bull riders who were expounding about how difficult a particular bull was to ride that night. Outspoken Melissa chimed in with, "As poorly as that bull bucked tonight, I could have ridden him."

Immediately, the bull riders loaded the bull in question into the bucking chutes, loaned Melissa needed equipment and invited her to ride him.

Not being one to turn down a challenge, Melissa, who had never actually ridden a bull before, climbed on board. The chute gate

opened and incredibly she rode the gyrating animal for six of the required eight seconds. A new career was started.

After months of practice rides she joined the Pro Women's Rodeo Assn. (PWRA) and at the end of her first season was declared the rookie of the year. She improved her skills so much that the next year she won the title of Women's World Champion Bull Rider.

Women riding bulls in the PWRA are allowed to hang on with two hands while men can only use one hand. Melissa prefers the single handhold.

While she will not be competing here for the Longhorn Finals rodeo title, she will display her abilities on a bull each performance.

The actual rodeo happens Nov. 10-12, beginning each night at 7:30 p.m. Thursday is Bargain Night with all seats priced at \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. Friday is Family Night priced at \$20 or \$16, but kids 12 and under and seniors 62 and over half of those prices. Prices for the final championships on Saturday are \$24 and \$20.

Tickets are sold on a reserved seat basis for all performances the year around and can be charged by phone at 615-876-1016 or 1-800-35-RODEO (6336) with only one six dollar service charge for the total order.

They are also sold at Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.com with normal service charges. ♦

Predators Quick Facts:

Edmonton's Michael Peca was scratched for a fourth straight game because of a concussion.

Nashville scratched Steve Sullivan (strained groin) and Scot Nichol (bruised foot).

The Predators announced earlier that forward Scott Walker will be out up to 10 weeks with surgery for a sports hernia.

Vokoun has faced at least 30 shots in each of his last eight games.

Volleyball team enjoys success, deserves credit

Sports Commentary



David Hunter
Staff Columnist

This week the best-kept secret in Middle Tennessee sports has its biggest match of the season against their regional conference rival. They will need your help by bringing your bodies and noise to the Alumni Memorial Gym.

The Blue Raider volleyball team has won all their matches this season, 25 to be exact, except for two.

Their last and only Sun Belt Conference loss came on September 23rd at Western Kentucky 3-0. This week is being billed as "Championship Week," but you could also call it Payback Week.

Tomorrow night, these

ladies will get their chance to settle the score and move into a tie for first place in the SBC East Division at 7 p.m. inside Alumni Memorial Gym.

It would be really fun to see the place packed with yelling and screaming Blue Raider fans, especially students. By the way, the game is free for everybody.

If you haven't been to a game all season, this is the one you should attend. This team deserves it.

I will list many reasons why this is a must-see match. MT head coach Matt Peck's team is loaded.

These have some of the best offensive players in the SBC with Andressa Lyra, Quanshell Scott, Ashley Adams and many others putting the ball in the right spot. They can do it the soft way with little speed, and the hard way with lots of force.

Alicia Lemau'u is one of the best defenders in the confer-

ence, including being named SBC Defensive Player of the Week last week.

Finally, Megan Sumrell is becoming the Jason Kidd of SBC volleyball by always putting her teammates in the right position to score the point.

This has been the major reason why this team has won 11 consecutive matches since that loss to WKU.

A win on Friday night would give the Blue Raiders momentum going into the SBC Tournament that will be held here.

It could give MT an edge if these two teams have to meet in the tournament.

If you are looking for something to do on Friday night, these ladies would love for you to come over to their place at 7 p.m. Ice cream and milk will be served at the gym and hopefully a Blue Raider victory along with it. ♦

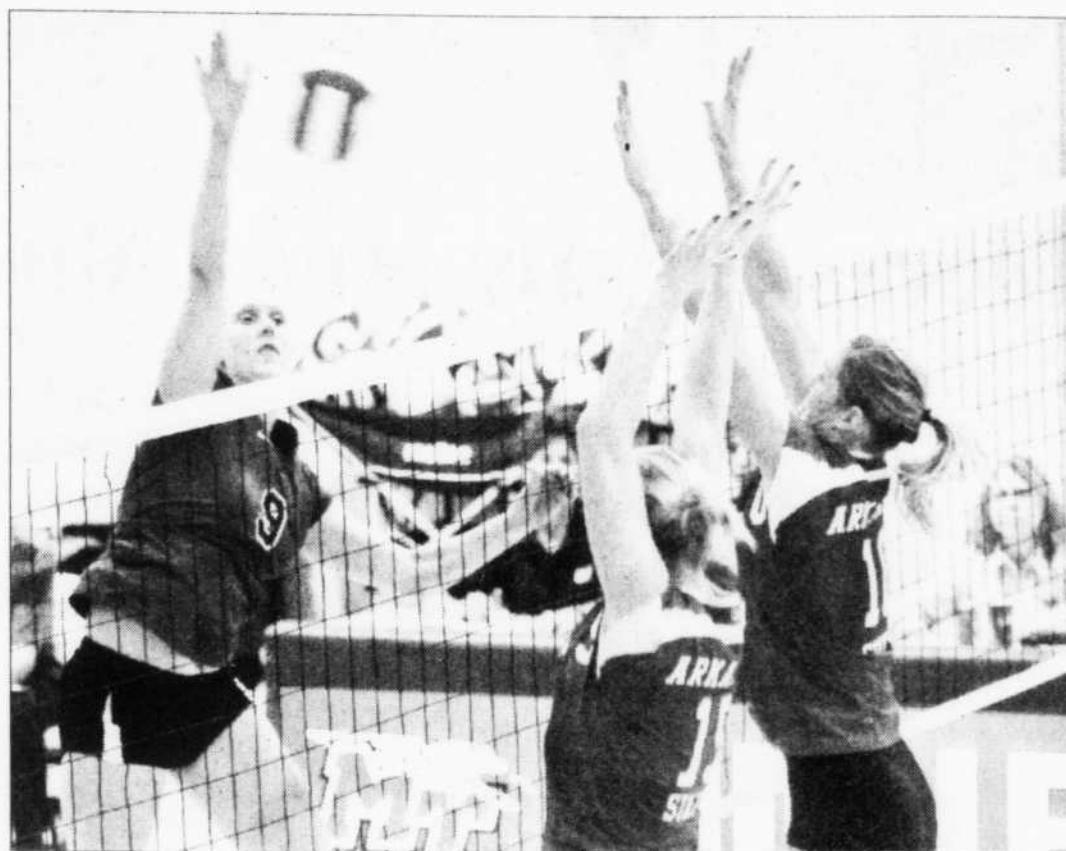


Photo by Jw Richardson | Chief Photographer

The Blue Raider volleyball team has enjoyed a stellar season, thanks in part to the play of Andressa Lyra, picture above attempting a kill during a home match against Arkansas State.

THE HUNT FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP!

FRIDAY 7PM

Volleyball vs.

Western Kentucky

Alumni Memorial Gym

SATURDAY 7PM

Football vs.

Louisiana-Monroe

Floyd Stadium

LAST CHANCE FOR FOOTBALL FUN THIS SATURDAY!



RALPH KING



GoBlueRaiders.com

• The Blue Raider defense has allowed the 9th fewest points and 22nd fewest yards in AMERICA this season! Come out and show your support!

• It's Senior Day and one lucky student will be riding home on a Bumpus Harley-Davidson motorcycle! Must be present to win!

• One lucky fan will also win the Phillips Bookstore Segway People Mover!

• The first 3,000 through the gate will receive an MT Rally Towel courtesy of Coca-Cola!

• U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and Tennessee Titans Cheerleaders will be at all gates collecting donations for Toys for Tots! Only new, unwrapped toys or cash donations will be accepted.

• And play a part in Middle Tennessee's 24th Annual Salute to Veterans!

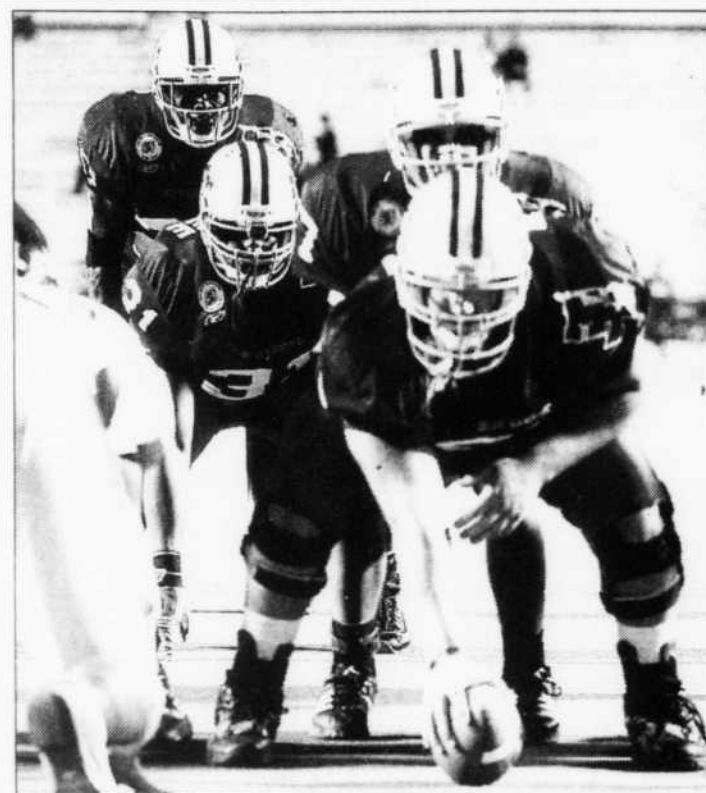


Photo by Jw Richardson | Chief Photographer

The MT offense will look to continue playing well in Saturday's contest against ULM. The game will be the final football home game of the season.

Blue Raiders play final home game

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee football will play its last home game of the 2005 season Saturday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders (3-4, 2-2) will face top-seeded Louisiana-Monroe (3-6) at Floyd Stadium. After last weekend's unbelievable defeat over Arkansas State 45-7, the MT football program is hoping to see the momentum of the contest continue in Saturday's contest.

MT trails the Indians by one game in losses. The Blue Raiders have outscored Louisiana in the last five meetings 40-7 in the third quarter.

Contribution to the win in last week's game was shared by junior quarterback Clint Marks and the defensive line. In order to snag a win against the Indians, both of these attributes must fall into play

during Saturday's match up.

Clint Marks played his best game of the year against Arkansas State, completing 14 of 23 passes for 208 yards and three touchdowns. He was also announced Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Week, recording over 200 passing yards in the past two games. Marks leads the league in completion percentage at 66.7 percent and is second in passing efficiency. He enters the game Saturday with 4,482 passing yards for the season.

The defensive line will have to step up in Saturday's game and measure up to the four forced three-and-outs against Arkansas State. MT held the top rushing attack to just 48 yards in the first half, and 85 total yards offensively.

The Blue Raiders take to the field Saturday afternoon against the Indians. Kickoff is set for 2:05 pm CT. ♦

Classifieds

Employment

Bahamas Spring Break Cruise! 5 Days from \$299! Includes meals, MTV/Celebrity Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Jamaica from \$499! Campus Reps Needed! Promo Code: 1-800-678-6386
www.springbreaktravel.com

Jam Band VINYL SOUP is auditioning for PIANO/ORGANIST for live and studio work. Must be able to sing backups.
www.vinylsoup.com 615-790-7578

HOLIDAY HELP! Good pay, start now and continue through holidays, sales/svc, all ages 18+, conditions apply. 832-8448
WORKFORSTUDENTS.COM

CORAD Healthcare is looking for PT Friendly Customer Service Rep. \$8 p.h. Flexible Hours, Paid Weekly Promotion to Pharmaceutical Sales Rep. Possible Fax Resume to 223-2816

NEED HOLIDAY CASH? AVON/Mark Sales Representatives needed! 50% earnings, flexible hours, work from home! Contact Jessica Davis (Independent Sales Representative) at 223-7036, 584-3415, or JessDavis86@aol.com.

IMMEDIATE HELP WANTED! Teaching positions at Franklin Child Care. Call: 615-794-9953 Fax Resume: 615-794-0920

Must have H.S. diploma or GED, 18yrs older.

For Sale

Southwest Airlines Rapid Rewards Ticket Expires January 14, 2006 Blackout dates: November 22-23, 26-28, December 23-24, 26-30, January 1, 2 \$250 obo. 898-2038

22" wheels - no scratches/curbs, lots of chrome, 235 series low profile tires, call for information. \$1750 obo cell 427-0589 leave message

1999 Oldsmobile Alero, 2-door, auto, all-power, mauve ext., tan int., good tires, very clean, very dependable. 112,950 k. \$3,200 615-355-6046

Brand new MA 10 inch sub-woofers in original shipping box. Never used, sell both subs for \$80. Call 615-898-3235/leave message.

Computer 1.5 GB Ram 1.1 GB Pentium 3 Processor, Win ME, 80 GB HD, 19 in. monitor 800 OBO or trade for laptop. 898-3689

'97 Grand Prix V-6, 109k, Red, 4-door, leather, CD, heat/ac, tinted windows, power everything, never been wrecked, maintained every 3,000 miles, \$3,800 obo. 615-424-2173

Washer and dryer set for sale one year old perfect condition. \$300 812-0414 ask for Saghar

Roommates

Roommate needed to share a house. \$300 + utilities; within 5 miles of MTSU campus, off S. Rutherford, next to Walmart. Any questions, contact: Eric Wright, ewright@mtsu.edu

Roommate needed: new 3 bedroom house, very nice/clean, broadband internet, cable tv incl. You pay NO utilities, \$400 all inclusive. \$200 deposit. Call 904-803-1058

For Rent

SMYRNA TOWNHOUSE JUST OFF I-24 GREAT FOR ROOMMATES!!!! 10 MINUTES TO MTSU. TWO BEDROOM, 2.5 BATHS, W/D CONN. PATIO. \$825 YEAR LEASE. PAUL 373-9739

Fully furnished house with two bedrooms off campus. Large one \$425.00 Small one \$200.00. Washer and dryer Cable and phone furnished. Four miles from MTSU. Rick Armstrong 337-2831

Sub-Lease

One bedroom at Campus Crossings. Blue Raider shuttle runs here. Fully furnished with bedroom suit. Contact Emily at 731-697-9292.

Girl roommate needed at Campus Crossings

South. Close to campus & Walmart, 3BD/3BA, completely furnished. Rent includes everything. If interested, call Morgan at 931-993-0467.

Brand new luxury apartment to sublet. Two bedrooms looking for 3rd female roommate to share 3BD/3BA, completely furnished. Contact Coleen at 443-629-6770 or email calledbluff@yahoo.com for more details.

3 bedroom/3 bath unfurnished apt for sublease ASAP at Campus Crossings South 405/month all utilities included call 615-653-9005

General

Looking for a Car: Call Hays Mitsubishi. We have First Time Buyer & College Graduate Plans for all your Automotive Needs. Hays Mitsubishi (615) 860-2500.

Students & Staff: Online Discount Pharmacy Will save you \$money. Most major brands, shipping same day as order, direct to your home address. Easier & less cost than driving (time & gas) to regular pharmacy! See at: www.consumers-discount.com/betterprices

FEMALES: PROTECT YOURSELF! Purchase "Mace/Pepper Spray" for only \$9.95 (\$6.50 shipping) for self-defense. Easy to carry in pocket/purse/backpack. *Type code word: Midtrent, into box on payment page - for 10% discount! see: Defense Products at: www.self-defense-andprotection.com

Policies

Sidefines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidefines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidefines office in Mass Comm, Room 269, or faxed to (615) 904-8193. For more information call (615) 904-8154 are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

Opportunities

Money: For College The Army is currently offering sizeable bonuses of up to \$20,000. In addition to the cash bonuses, you may qualify for up to \$70,000 for college through the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund. Or you could pay back up to \$65,000 of qualifying student loans through the Army's Loan Repayment Program. To find out more, call (615-890-1810).



Last Home Football Game

Win a Party at the President's Home

Greeks, Student Organizations, Residence Halls

Student group with the most people present at the game
will win a party at the President's Home.

Family & Friends may sign in with your group to win.

All participants must sign in at gate 4 prior to the
end of the first quarter to be eligible.

GRAND PRIZE

50 Kanye West Tix to overall Winner

**1st Place: Party at President's Home
and drawing for one week reserved parking at KUC.**

**2nd Place: 10 courtside Seats
at Basketball Game**

Winners for each category!

**Drawing for reserved parking at KUC for one semester
if more than 4580 students attend the game.**

**Harley Davidson
Giveaway**

2 White Parking Passes

Segway Giveaway



Leffew's Losers!

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

There's simply way too much chaos in the world of sports today.

Steroids here, cheerleaders gone wild there, and TO everywhere!

Lately, several times daily, I find myself actually refusing to believe that certain things are even occurring, because, more often than not, those things are so absurd.

Rather than have all 14 of my readers pinch me to make sure it's not all a dream, I figure I'll share a few of these things, which I'll appropriately call my "I refuse to's."

Enjoy.

I refuse to stop watching, playing or thinking about sports nearly every minute of almost every day. No matter how much my girlfriend hates it or my grades suffer, I'll continue to fantasize about the perfect pick-and-roll and diagram my intramural football team's simple post patterns. Sure, there are more important things in life, but they're not nearly as fun to daydream about.

I refuse to believe that there is not a God. No, I'm not trying to begin a holy war or ruffle feathers (even though I am a Christian). However, seeing the sunrise from a bass boat on pretty much any body of water in Tennessee should be enough proof for anyone that there is definitely a higher being.

I refuse to use my left hand when shooting a right-handed lay up.

I refuse to watch any sporting event without somehow relating it to a game I've seen, or a practice or game that I've participated in.

I refuse to believe that there aren't 30 men in the world who can be a decent quarterback in the NFL. Gus Frerotte, Kyle Boller and Brooks Bollinger should never step under center in the NFL. Ever.

I also refuse to acknowledge the fact that

there is no one on God's green earth who can stop Shaq. Sure, he's agile, hostile, mobile and humongous. However, the fact that no one in the entire NBA can even come close to stopping this guy really baffles me.

I refuse to enjoy the constant banter of Stephen A. Smith, Sean Salisbury, Tim McCarver, or Bill Walton. This also goes for anyone else on any network who gets paid to give their "expert opinions" on a sport that they never even played professionally. Walton and McCarver were good pro players, so I can cut them a little slack. Salisbury was a joke, and Smith somehow went from working Philadelphia newspapers to yelling at me on ESPN2. People this lucky also make me refuse to not puke when I think about how they have my dream job, so I'll move on.

I refuse to believe that anyone in history will ever play any harder than Pete Rose or Dennis Rodman.

I refuse to believe that anyone in history will ever be as stupid as Pete Rose or Dennis Rodman.

I refuse to believe that O.J. didn't do it and MJ didn't have a serious gambling addiction.

I refuse to acknowledge poker and spelling as sports. Both require a certain amount of strategy and those participating are extremely competitive. However, poker is played sitting down and any idiot can luck up and win money. Spelling is, well, spelling.

And finally, I refuse to accept any hate mail that I'm sure to receive following this column. ♦

Jon Leffew is a junior history major and can be contacted at jal3b@mtsu.edu.

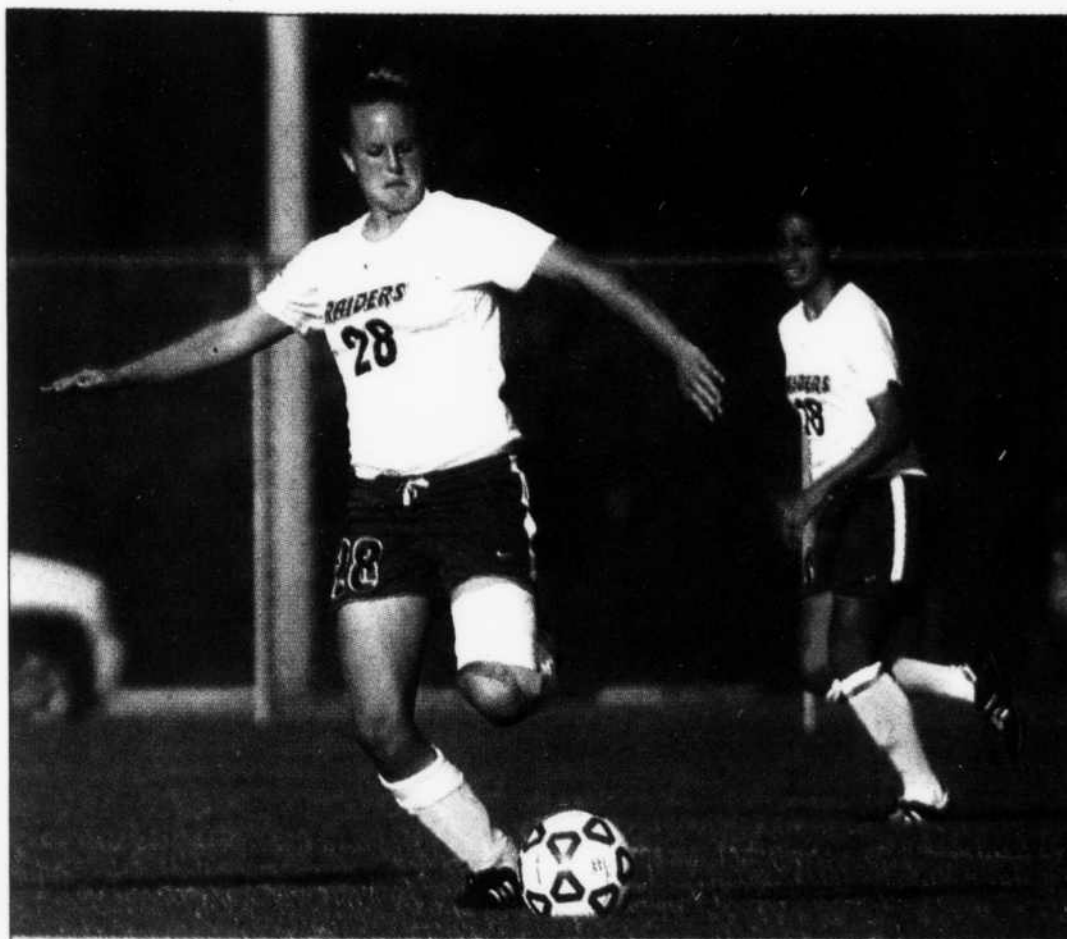


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Ingrid Christensen (28) and her Blue Raider soccer teammates ended their season in the SBC tournament earlier this week. The Blue Raiders were defeated 1-0 by South Alabama in the semifinals.

North Texas wins soccer title

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

After three long days of soccer matches, the winner of the Acropostale Sun Belt Conference soccer championships was finally revealed.

As the top seed in the SBC, North Texas stole the show as they defeated each opponent with grace and success, ultimately taking home the title of SBC Champions.

North Texas entered the tournament with only one thing on their mind: defending their championship title from last year. The Mean Green played their part in day one's match up against Louisiana-Lafayette, defeating the Rajin' Cajuns 3-2.

No. 5 seed Western Kentucky defeated No. 4 seed Denver 1-0, while South Alabama shut out Florida

International 3-0.

Middle Tennessee had its own shut out against Troy, winning the contest against the Trojans 1-0 to advance in the tournament last Thursday.

North Texas once again took a 2-1 win against Western Kentucky. As for MT, the Blue Raiders ended their season with a 1-0 loss to Southern Alabama in the semifinals.

"South Alabama is a good team and they [were] playing at home with their fans," said Middle Tennessee head coach Aston Rhoden to Media Relations. "We gave up an easy early goal and that, unfortunately, was the difference. We had our opportunities, there's no doubt about that. I think the last 20 minutes or so, we played in their half, but we couldn't get a goal. That has been one of the things that has hurt us this year, and it

came back to bite us."

North Texas and Southern Alabama took the field last Friday for the last day of the tournament. The Mean Green was ready and proved successful as they defeated S. Alabama 2-0 and claimed their title as champions.

North Texas' Heather Hutyra, a sophomore, was named Tournament's Most Outgoing Player.

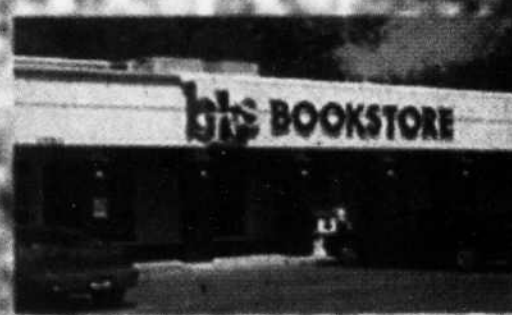
The Mean Green is now set to take on Southern Methodist University in the first round of the NCAA tournament Friday at 5 p.m. in College Station, Tx.

North Texas goes into tournament play 16-3-2. They defeated SMU 3-1 earlier this season in Sept. However, SMU leads the series 5-3-1.

The first round is set for Friday at the Aggie Soccer Stadium. ♦

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