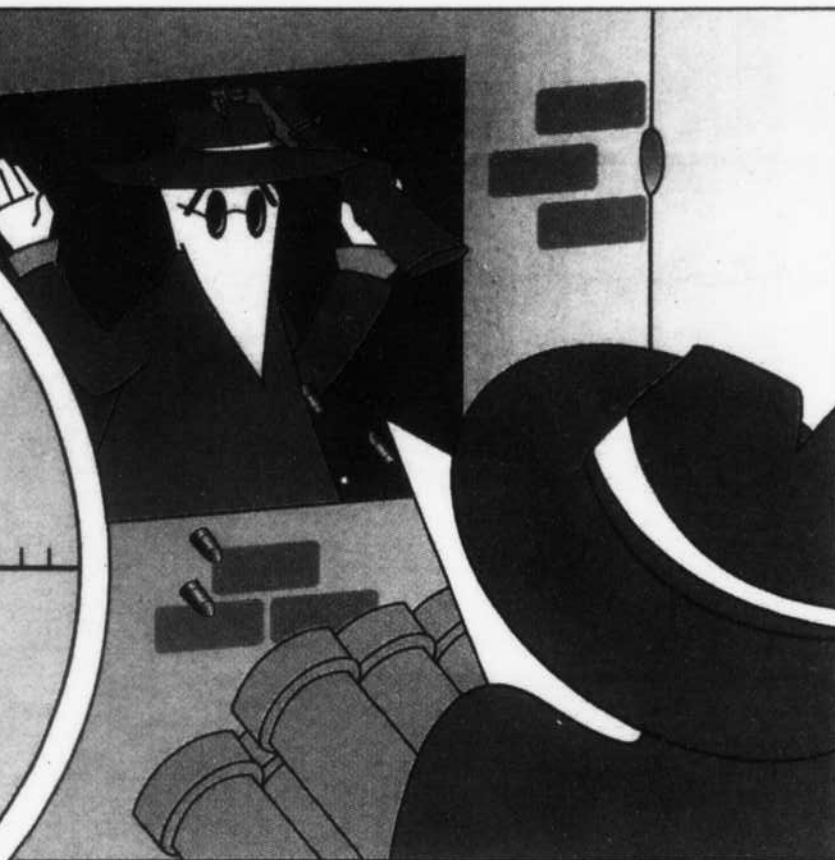


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# ELECTION 2004

Bucking the  
Political Trend:  
College students  
get involved

page 3



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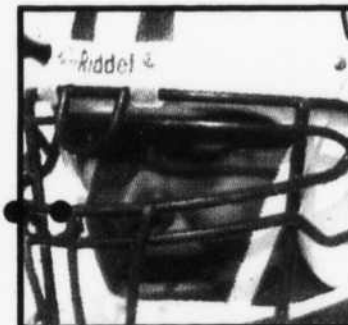
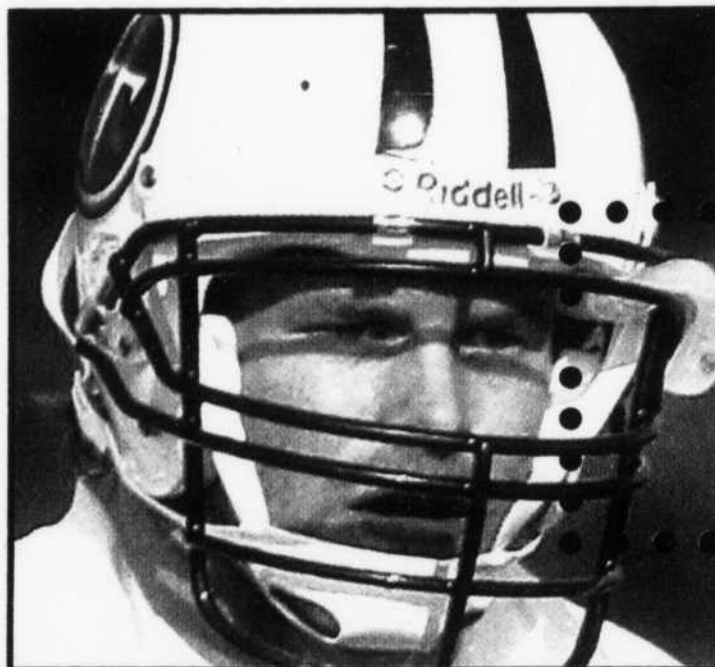
BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL EDITION

# SIDELINES

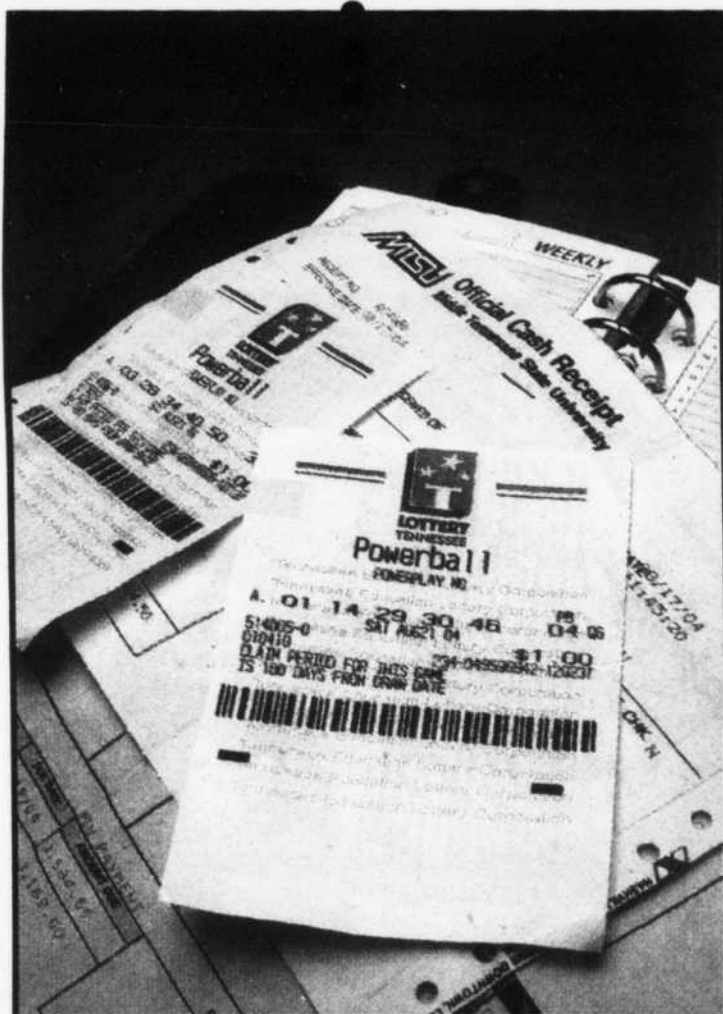
Back to School Special Edition

**Lottery scholarships lighten financial loads**

page 6



**The Replacements**  
page 37



**Kerry's foreign policy shaky**  
page 20

## News

Bucking the Trend

page 3

Welcome Week offers food and fun

page 4

Meet MTSU SGA officers

page 5

Sidelines Voting Guide

page 7

## Features

The Freshman 15

page 13

Campus jobs prove popular among students

page 14

Meet Murfreesboro

page 14

Dear Emily

page 15

Campus venues offer limited hours

page 16

## Opinions

Please use discretion in assigning textbooks

page 20

Journalists' liberal views affect objective reporting

page 21

Our generation loses when we're not involved in politics

page 22

Gov. McGreevey treated unfairly after announcing sexual orientation

page 22

Election reaping horrors of McCain -Feingold Act

page 23

Get involved, Blue Raiders

page 23

## [flash]

Politics of the Rich and Famous

page 24

Fall movies inspire deep thought

page 26

Upcoming releases cover a broad range of styles

page 27

Network execs chalk up fresh slate of Fall TV

page 28

Political books boost level of national discourse

page 29

Classifieds

page 31

## Sports

Large rookie class filling roster holes as camp wraps up

page 37

First and five: Quarterback spot up for grabs

page 38

Peveto hopes new scheme will help defense

page 38

Football attendance crucial to retain Division I-A status

page 39

Football Fan Day gears up supporters

page 40

Everything brand new for Lady Raiders

page 41

Newcomers quickly bond with Lady Raider veterans

page 42

MT's other 'football' team eady to top last season

page 47





By Kristin Hall  
Managing Editor

# BUCKING <sup>THE</sup> TREND

## Campus becomes hotbed for political activity



Besides the regular buzz of back-to-school activities, many students, faculty and organizations are gearing up for a heated presidential election in November.

Even for students not normally interested in politics, the campus will become a hotbed of activity – from party debates to mock elections – all designed to attract and invigorate a disengaged youth generation.

"Young people are really being left out of the political system in many ways, primarily because they are not organized and they're not pressuring the system at all," said David Ryfe, an assistant journalism professor who is teaching an Honors course titled, "Presidential Elections and the 2004 Election."

Some young activists on campus are bucking that trend and hope to involve as many students as possible in political activity.

Justin Owen, a junior political science major, is president of the growing Raider Republicans, which boasts 375 members.

"[After the 2000 election], people now realize that their votes do matter for the first time in a while," Owen said. "After Sept. 11, I think young people see now that politics do affect their lives and politicians can affect their lives with their policies."

His organization will be active this semester with a scheduled debate with the MTSU College Democrats, voter registration drives and a Kick-off to

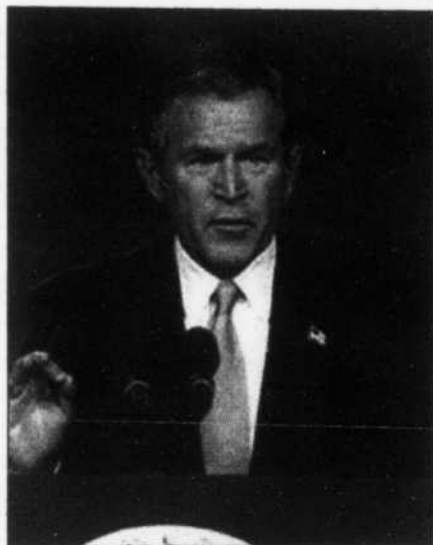


Photo courtesy www.whitehouse.gov

Victory event with Tennessee Republican Party Chairman Beth Harwell.

"Our big focus in this election is to register voters between now and October," Owen said.

On the opposite end of the political spectrum, the College Democrats, fresh from a trip to Boston for the Democratic National Convention, are also looking to attract new members to their organization.

"We went through a training program in which five of us learned very essential campaign skills and mechanisms on how to run a campaign and utilize the information on campus to involve students in a better organized structure," said Bobby Bush, vice president for the College Democrats.

While the College Democrats only have about 170 on the roster, Bush said



Photo courtesy John Kerry for President

that they have received lots of e-mails from new students interested in the organization and they have already started four new young Democrat high school chapters in the area.

"I imagine our roster is going to be growing enormously," Bush said.

Owen and Ryfe agree that there are many issues, namely economic ones, which affect the 18-30 age group that has consistently been the least likely to vote.

"The employment rate will affect them in the next couple of years, and I think the juniors and seniors, more so than other students, will focus on those issues," Owen said.

The problem lies in how the campaigns and the party platforms are attempting to attract young voters, Ryfe said.

"The parties and the news media

have had a very hard time conveying those issues in ways that young people find motivating to get involved in politics," Ryfe said.

As part of the American Democracy Project, Student Affairs is planning a week of political events designed for the college student in mind, which will include a mock election with real voting booths.

"Students, even MTSU employees, will be able to cast their vote for president," said Deanna Raffo from Student Affairs. "We may even have a couple of issues on the ballot."

Through an online discussion forum called Democracy Lab, Ryfe's students will be able to discuss relevant political issues with college students around the nation.

However, issues important to students like tuition hikes can only be changed in local elections.

"The only thing the federal government can do is provide funding and provide incentives, but as far as combating tuition hikes, that's a state issue," Owen explained.

With the presidential race being neck-and-neck at the moment, it is likely that swing voters like college-aged students can determine the winner.

"Everything is really polarized right now," Bush said. "We're not fighting for 50 percent of the country. We're fighting for that 6-10 percent – the independents, the soccer moms and the NASCAR dads."

Jason Cox and Erica Rodefer contributed to this story.

## Important Political Dates

Sept. 7-7:30 p.m. Kick-Off to Victory: Raider Republicans welcome the Tennessee Republican Party Chairman, Beth Harwell, to Jones Hall Building, Tennessee Room.

Sept. 13: Debate between Raider Republicans and College Democrats.

Sept. 14: Political Fair with the Tennessee Democratic Party, Tennessee for Fair Transition, League of Women Voters, Raider Republican College Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union and the

Constitution Party.

Sept. 15-16: Mock presidential election on campus.  
Sept. 16: Debate is held at the MT - Florida Atlantic game.

Sept. 26 - Oct. 2: Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* will be shown in the Kennedy University Center Theatre. Showtimes not yet announced.

# Welcome Week offers food and fun

By Melissa Coker  
Staff Writer

MTSU wants to welcome students old and new to the jungle of campus with a Welcome Week full of fun and games.

"We try to plan events that appeal to our students but that also provide a variety," said Becca Wilson, Coordinator of Student Development. "Welcome Week lets both new and returning students come together, meet each other and have a great time."

Wilson added that Welcome Week has been a tradition on the MTSU campus for many years in some form or fashion; however, in the past four or five years some major changes have been made. This semester's event actually lasts for two weeks, despite its name. The prime reason is the late school start date, but another is the strong effort to integrate Student Programming by bringing in a concert.

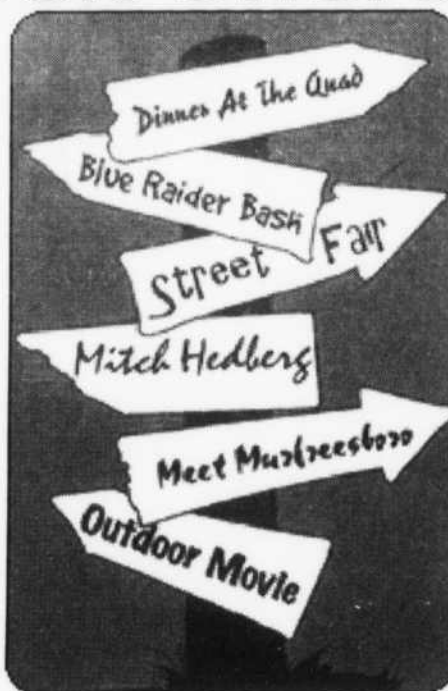
The Spin Doctors will perform on Saturday, Sept. 11. Some of the group's best-known songs include "Two

Princes" and "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong." The concert takes place at 8 p.m. in Murphy Center.

"I'm probably most excited about our new event, the Blue Raider Bash, and the Big Fat Blue Raider Cook-Off," Wilson said.

The cook-off will take place beside Cummings Hall at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9, where there will be games such as the pass, punt, kick, softball throw and soccer kick, according to Wilson.

Each time a student participates in a game they will be entered into a drawing. At the end of the evening there will be a number of winners drawn from



each event as well as a grand prize winner. Student organizations and faculty are encouraged to participate in the bake-off.

This afternoon there will be free ice cream from 12-1 p.m. at the Keathley University Center, and a Kick Off The Vote voter registration drive will be in the KUC courtyard. On Tuesday, Aug. 31, and Wednesday, Sept. 1, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., "Meet Murfreesboro" visits the courtyard

for local businesses to show students what they have to offer. On Thursday there will be a Nursing and Health Fair. At 8 p.m. comedian Mitch Hedberg offers up laughs in the Murphy Center.

"Get involved in something," Victory said. "This is where you will meet your closest friends, sharpen your leadership skills and complement your academics with your social life. Being involved is one of the most important things you can do while at MTSU."

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, will be the Volunteer Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the courtyard and the next day showcases a projected 100 student organizations with the same schedule, coordinated by the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service. Many of the groups represented will have free giveaways during the day.

"Each organization has a purpose and is more than willing to meet all students," Victory said. "Come out in between classes and during lunch to see what everyone has to offer."

Questions regarding Welcome Week should be directed to the Office of Student Development at 898-2454, or visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~stuaff/studev/welcome.htm>.

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# Meet MTSU's SGA officers

By Alex Miller  
Staff Writer

You don't know Tyler Smith. Or Kasey Talbott. Or Mandie Thacker. For that matter, you probably don't know any of the more than 30 elected members of the Student Government Association – not unless you're one of the 10 percent of students who bothered to vote this past spring.

Even in the best of circumstances, it is hard to learn who the representatives are and what they stand for, and MTSU's burgeoning campus of commuter students is far from ideal.

*Sidelines* feels your pain. In the interest of promoting a healthy campus democracy, *Sidelines* has compiled a list of the representatives – student senators and executive officers.

It should give you a rough idea of who represents you, what they have done during their time on the SGA and what their plans are for the fall semester. In this edition, the executive officers will be covered.

Jon Stewart, SGA president, is a senior who has been in student government for three years, last year serving as vice president.

He belongs to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He works for Scared Rabbit Records, MTSU's student record label, and he belongs to the Association of Recording

Industry Management  
Students.

He is proud of the SGA's support for last year's Road Rally and pleased that the SGA



Stewart

got so many people involved.

He wants to make the SGA more visible, to get feedback from

students "so students get the programs they want." He wants to see more professionalism in the SGA and school spirit on campus.

Jason Hooper, Executive Vice President/Speaker of the Senate, is a senior who has served on the SGA for three years.

He belongs to the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the Delta Tau Alpha and Gamma Beta Phi honor societies. He is vice president of the campus chapter of Order of Omega.

The SGA is always doing good things for the students, he said. In particular, he is proud of supporting legislation that would have abolished the plus and minus grading system.

Next semester he will "try to make the senators known on campus," he said, because, after all, the SGA is here for the students.

See SGA, 9

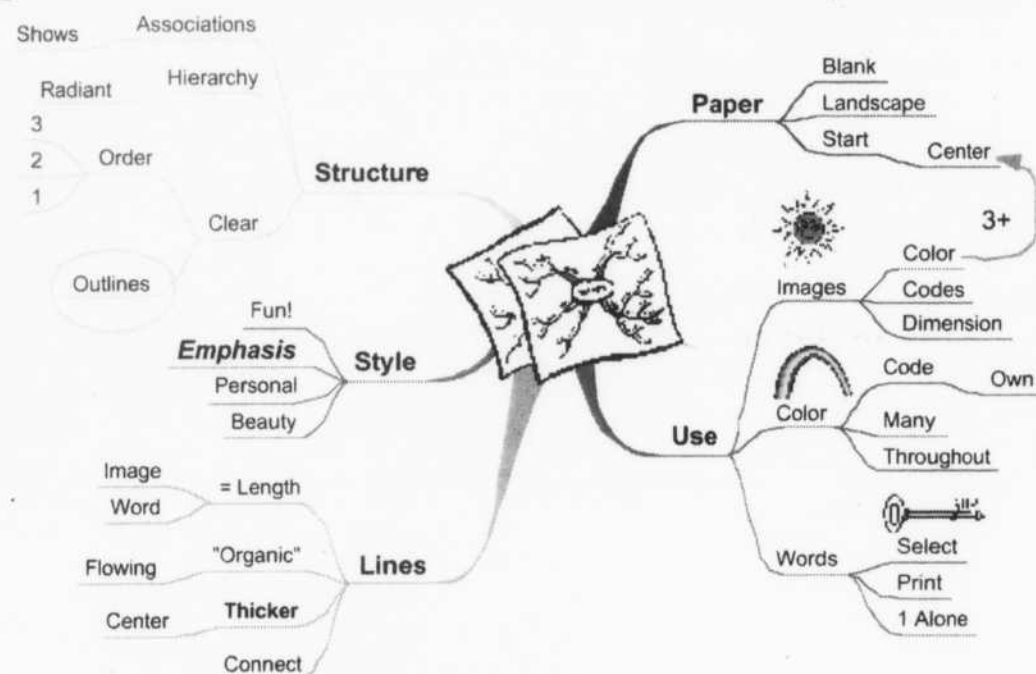
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# Lottery scholarships lighten financial loads

By Laura Lindsay  
Staff Writer

Unless students remain diligent, they will lose their HOPE scholarship, university officials warn.

David Hutton, MTSU financial aid director, said of those students who qualified for the scholarship last year, only 38 percent managed to keep it. Those who lost their scholarship did so because they did not complete 24 credit hours or did not maintain an unweighted 2.75 grade point average.

Eighty-five percent of this year's MTSU freshmen have qualified for Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship. Along with sophomores who completed the requirements last year, 4,000 MTSU students will receive at least \$3,000 each, totaling roughly \$13 million.

Through participation in the lottery, Tennessee has collected more than \$500 million and applied one-third towards the HOPE Scholarship. The scholarship is among the most substantial available to Tennessee college students.

"This is a good opportunity for students who have the grades to qualify," freshman Hannah Liggett said. "I am a little bit concerned with the pressure this will put on me because I don't know what to expect in college."

Hutton said the scholarship can help students tremendously, as long as they maintain the academic requirements.

"It doesn't sound hard to keep a B average, but in reality a lot of students don't have a 3.0. Biology, chemistry and math will really hurt the GPA," Hutton said.

Hutton also pointed out that only under specific circumstances can a lost scholarship be regained.

Only if the financial aid office grants permission for part-time status or withdrawal for medical reasons or significant hardships can a student recover the scholarship later on.

He said students should also be mindful of the requirements that might result in their having to return some of the money. Those who accept the full-time scholarship and then reduce to a part-time schedule during



Photo illustration by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

**Lottery scholarships will fund about \$13 million of costs for students.**

the first 14 days of class can only qualify for the part-time scholarship.

"We will have to adjust the award so you may owe money back," Hutton said. "But you still cannot drop below

six hours."

The grade point average for the lottery scholarship is calculated differently

See Lottery, 9

## spin doctors

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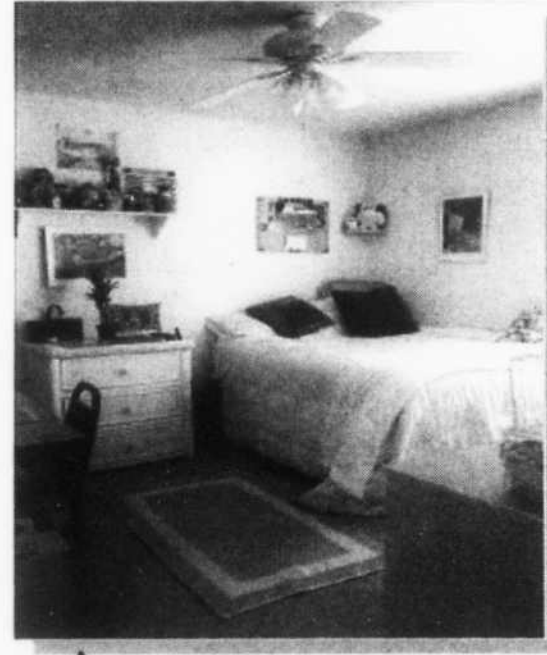
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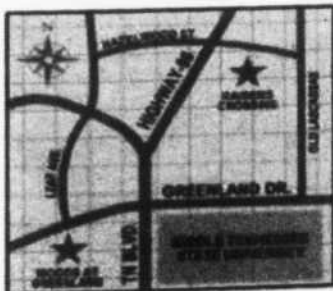
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# County, city merger under consideration

By Jason Cox  
Editor in Chief

An ad hoc committee of the Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission has recommended examining the possibility of establishing a metropolitan government in Rutherford County.

The new metro government would replace both the governments of the city of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, which would require both private acts establishing the city and the county, respectively, to be abolished.

However, the proposal is merely in its infancy at the moment. A charter commission would have to be appointed by both the Murfreesboro City Council and the Rutherford County Commission to study metro-

politan government. Ultimately, the proposal would have to be approved by the voters via a referendum.

Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg said that city residents who support such a merger on its face might be disappointed with the end result.

"I personally believe that the model for a metro government that the state of Tennessee provides doesn't allow for the differences people would like to see in a unified government," Bragg said. "The charter commission would resolve a number of the differences between the two govern-



Bragg

ment models, but the state prescribes the form metro government takes."

Bragg said the savings would come if some county offices were eliminated, but that offices such as sheriff, trustee, county clerk and court clerk would still be elected offices.

"There would be no fewer elections and possibly no fewer elected officials," he said.

Bragg cited Nashville-Davidson County as an example, saying that no costs were cut by merely merging the two governments under the guidelines the state has established for metropolitan government.

All of the individual municipalities within Davidson County, such as Goodlettsville, Belle Meade and Berry Hill, still retained their municipal governments, he said.

The only result was that annexations ended within the county, he said. In addition, Lynchburg and Moore County merged primarily to stop the city of Tullahoma from continuing to annex land within Moore County, Bragg said.

"The bad thing is some taxpayers would have to pay more," Bragg said. "The unification process would be disruptive, and county residents might fear they're being asked to pay for services they didn't always use," such as parks and recreational facilities.

Bragg said he saw very little duplication in government services that would favor merging the two entities. The city provides fire and police protection, solid waste management, parks and recreation

and other services that the county is not required to provide, while the county picks up schools, the sheriff's department, the jail and workhouse system and debt service.

Bragg said city council members and knowledgeable city residents will be considered for one of five appointments the city will make to the charter commission.

The commission would have a total of 10 members; the other five would be appointed by county mayor Nancy Allen.

Tennessee currently has three metropolitan governments: Nashville-Davidson County, Lynchburg-Moore County and Hartsville-Trousdale County. ♦

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# Lottery: Loans less needed

Continued from 6

than it is by MTSU. The university permits a student to repeat a course, allowing for an F to be replaced with an A and then calculated to a 4.0 GPA. However, the TELS program only considers the unweighted GPA. Therefore, an A wouldn't replace an F.

"Students may have to decide whether it is better to withdraw from a course or make a D or F in it," Hutton said. "Because a withdrawal doesn't figure into the scholarship's GPA requirement."

He advised students take about 15 credit hours so they can withdraw from a course and still maintain full-time status, but some students don't expect to drop to 12 hours.

"A lot of my friends are just taking 12 hours, but I am taking 15 since my requirement is just a 2.75," Higdon said. "I am comfortable with a busier schedule."

Hutton said this scholarship also benefits students in other ways. He said they may be taking out fewer loans and will probably work less at outside jobs. However, some stu-

dents said they still need the extra money from a job.

"I do expect that I will have to work because this money won't pay for regular expenses or parking tickets," sophomore Wes Merriman said. "I ... think the lottery scholarship might get the attention of people who don't know if they can go to school because they don't have the money."

While the HOPE Scholarship helps some students cope with rising tuition costs, Hutton said the availability of aid shouldn't lead to increased admissions.

MTSU has raised its acceptance criteria to control growth. Therefore, the university doesn't expect more than a 5 percent increase in admissions.

More information regarding the HOPE scholarship is available at [www.mtsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.mtsu.edu/financialaid) or [www.state.tn.us/tsac](http://www.state.tn.us/tsac). ♦

# SGA: Haynes, Wilson veteran SGA members

Continued from 5

Candice Haynes, Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs, is a senior who has served on the SGA for two years.

She belongs to the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. She is president of the campus chapter of the Order of Omega and belongs to Rho Lambda-Greek leadership recognition societies. She is the secretary general of MTSU's Model United Nations and recruitment director for the Raider Republicans.

While in the senate she supported the plus and minus grading system.

Next semester she will try to get campus parking lots to open earlier, plan the Road Rally and try to let students

know that the SGA is out there.

Lea Wilson, SGA Election Commissioner, is a senior who has served two years on the SGA.

Wilson wishes to be identified as a Rho Sigma, which means she is a recruitment counselor for all of the sororities on campus. To avoid a conflict of interest, Rho Sigmas don't reveal what Greek organization they belong to until after recruitment.

She supports canceling classes the day before Thanksgiving.

"Lots of students live off campus, far away," she said. "It is not fair that we have to travel on Thanksgiving." ♦

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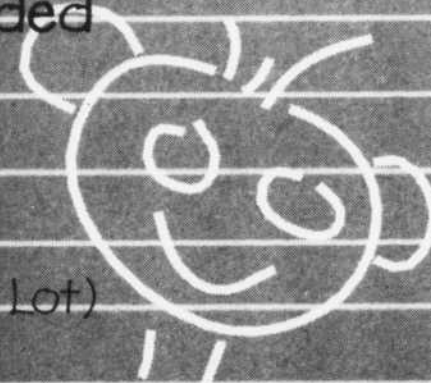
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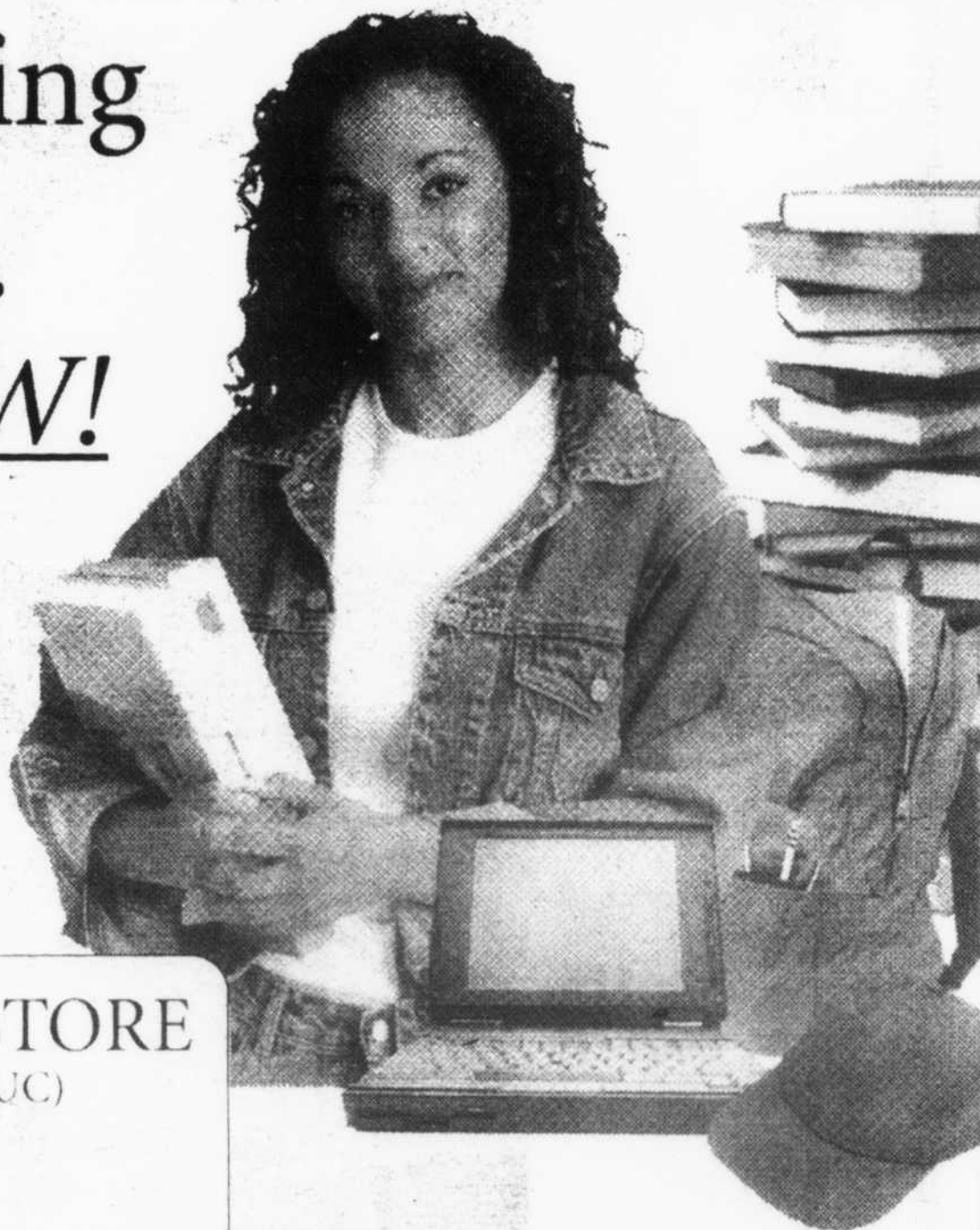


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# LIVING

13 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, August 30, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## The Freshman 15

Avoid packing on the infamous extra pounds during the first year of college

By Joey Hood  
Flash Editor

With the newfound college surroundings, many freshmen find solace in fatty foods. The weight gain commonly referred to as The Freshman 15 is not a joking matter.

Dietitians conclude that weight gain is a fact of life for many college freshmen as a means of coping with the high-octane world of exams, deadlines, heavy course loads and internships.

"Food becomes a way to exert control for many freshmen when they feel little control in many areas of their lives," registered dietitian Molly Kimball said via the WebMD web site.

"I work with young people all the time who have gotten into poor lifestyle choices and a disordered way of eating."

Fortunately for health-conscious freshmen, the experts have devised a plan for combating the dreaded Freshman 15.

The following plan pro-

vides a general guideline for maintaining a comfortable weight.

**Don't Skip Meals.** Dietitians promote a regular diet of breakfast, lunch and dinner as a way of squelching binge eating.

"Get into a regular pattern of eating," Kimball said. "Don't skip meals, and keep a healthy satisfying snack on hand (such as) peanut butter, cheese or fruit to help with cravings."

**Eat A Balance.** Students are also advised to regularly consult the food pyramid as means of obtaining an adequate balance of fruits, vegetables, meats and grains. A recent poll by the Produce for Better Health Foundation found that only 12 percent of Americans regularly consumed the recommended three to five daily servings of vegetables. Likewise, the government advocates two to four daily servings of fruit.

**Stay Active.** Coupled with wise eating habits, a customary exercising regimen is crucial in staving off the Freshman 15.

"Many kids who were active in sports programs in high school stop exercising altogether. That's terrible," Kimball said.

Experts advise exercising three to four times a week for a 30-minute period. The exercise routine should also center on physical activities that the student enjoys.

Trekking across campus is also highly recommended among dietitians.

"It is vital to stay out of the habit of driving across campus to go to class," Kimball advised.

**Be Realistic.** Specialists forewarn against the hidden psychological dangers of labeling certain foods as "bad" or "forbidden." When a person partakes in this association, the resistance against chocolate cakes and candies makes these foods only more desirable.

"Never say 'never' or always. People who successfully manage their weight give themselves permission to be imperfect," nutritionist Elizabeth Somer said. ♦



Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

## Campus jobs prove popular among students

By Michaela Jackson  
Features Editor

In a perfect world, money would grow on trees, apartment leases would be guaranteed, and students would be able to spend all of their time enjoying life and pursuing their dreams to their hearts' content.

Unfortunately, though, this is not a perfect world. There are bills like rent and utilities to pay, books to buy and a fantastically greedy money-eating machine called a car that never, ever seems to be sated with your hard-earned money. It always wants more.

In such a cruel and unfair world, finding and keeping a job to pay for these expenses is an inevitable pilgrimage that many must make. In the process, more money will be spent transporting you around town in search of your desired position, and transporting you to and from that position upon its being acquired.

Measureless time will be wasted driving and driving and driving. Harmful stress will be inflicted upon your fragile car, not to mention your even more fragile emotions. Traffic jams! Gas prices! Fender-benders! The horror!



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer  
**Senior Mariellen Cherry inflates a basketball in the Rec Center.**

In an effort to make life just a little easier, many MTSU students have opted to take jobs on-campus in such establishments as the Recreation Center, the Library, and the various dining halls.

According to Martha Turner, director of the Career and Employment Center, "the advantage of having an on-campus job is that it saves time commuting, as well as expenses." Additionally, Turner notes that "campus employers are more flexible," which is a crucial quality, but one often difficult to find in off-campus employers.

Turner encourages students to go directly to the department that they want to work in to seek employment opportunities, but notes that there are also non-exhaustive online listings at [mtsu.edu/~career](http://mtsu.edu/~career).

A perennially popular site for student employment is the Campus Recreation Center. Employing approximately 100-120 students during any given semester, the Rec fills positions in aquatics, outdoors, ropes course, the weight room and the front desk, according to Facility Coordinator Vonda Scott, who notes without hesitation that the weight room is the most requested job.

Although the Rec only pays minimum wage, students save in transportation costs and time.

Scott explains that the kind of students the Rec hires are friendly, outgoing and handle confrontation well.

Laura Dent, a senior math major, has worked at the Rec Center since her freshman year. She points to the "convenience of being on campus" as one of the more significant reasons that she has stayed so long. Additionally, she explains that she really enjoys the whole experience. She feels that working on campus helps her stay more connected with

See Jobs, 17

## Meet Murfreesboro



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

The Red Rose Cafe and Bistro is a popular place to hear a variety of local music.

## Local bars and restaurants that make the MTSU experience even more complete

By Joey Hood  
Flash Editor

Murfreesboro has an infinite number of college-friendly locales for the inquisitive freshman/transfer student. Whether you prefer boisterous nightclubs or tweedy cafes filled to the brim with Faust-reading intellectuals, Murfreesboro has got you covered.

Downtown Murfreesboro's Red Rose Coffee and Bistro accommodates the latter with its cushy Gen-X surroundings. Located at 528 West College Street, the Red Rose Coffee and Bistro carouses with cooler-than-thou indie rockers, the antithesis of Starbucks suburbia.

Bygone indie rock show posters adorn the Red Rose's paint-chipped walls. The coffeehouse has landed a considerable number of nationally recognized indie acts including Rainer Maria, The Light Wires, Lucero, Azure Ray and

Cursive.

"Downtown Murfreesboro and the Red Rose are the only places to go on a Friday night here in Murfreesboro," sophomore liberal arts major Seth Wood explained. "Once you get outside downtown, there isn't much to do."

To circumvent Murfreesboro's small town feel, the Red Rose offers a myriad of options.

Each Monday night, the Red Rose welcomes budding lyricists and songwriters with MTSU's RIM at the Rose series. Starring guitar-brandishing Recording Industry students, the weekly series is a learning experience for future singer-songwriters.

Of course, the Red Rose's expansive selection entices cappuccino-sipping hipsters as well. Popular drinks include 'The Mudslinger,' a richly blended mishmash of chocolate, caramel, almonds and vanilla. Humorous entrees abound as well with the 'crack-

uccino,' a high-wired jolt of triple espresso and gooey chocolate.

And if highbrow coffee drinking isn't your bag, venture over to The Boro Bar & Grill.

Across from the Murphy Center at 1211 Greenland Drive, The Boro Bar & Grill is a swanky neighborhood dive, and has amply served alcohol-craving denizens for 20 years.

This hole-in-the-wall pub boasts over 200 types of beer, including cloudy imports and red-blooded American favorites.

The Boro Bar & Grill also serves patrons a tempting array of greasy delicacies. The Boro Baker and the Cajun-style hot wings have become staples of the local student diet.

Outside of the typical bar cuisine, The Boro provides broad-reaching opportunities to Murfreesboro's untapped

See Local, 17



# Dear Emily



*Hey everybody and welcome back!*

*For this first Sidelines of the year, I want to do something a little different by giving a bit of general advice for success at MTSU. I've polled friends and classmates and racked my own brain to compile a list of our collective back-to-school wisdom.*

*Here's to a great year ahead of us!*

## Things We've Learned:

Enjoy each moment and each experience for what it is. Take advantage of your opportu-

nities. Don't take anything for granted because it will never happen again in exactly the same way.

Get involved! MTSU offers clubs and intramural teams for every kind of interest. Don't be afraid to try something new.

Stay on top of your schoolwork as much as possible. Keep track of tests and assignments and don't let them sneak up on you. Keep your syllabi and notes organized so you can find things when you need them.

Break out of your regular routine.

Check teacher ratings at [MTSureview.com](http://MTSureview.com) to seek out MTSU's best professors who will give you the most for your money.

Ask about student discounts at local restaurants and businesses. You might be surprised how many Murfreesboro establishments offer them.

Call your parents!

There are ways of avoiding outrageous textbook costs. Try buying your books used, sharing with a friend, or purchasing books from an online source such as [Half.com](http://Half.com).

Take advantage of all the activities that MTSU has to offer. Go to the SGA Road Rallies, the step show, pageants, Keathley University Center Theater movies, the fight song competition, the homecoming parade and the-

ater performances. Go see some of the shows and events you see advertised on flyers and with sidewalk chalk all over campus.

MTSU sporting events are free for students, so support the Blue Raiders!

To make friends easily in your classes, keep chewing gum with you and occasionally offer it to the classmates sitting around you. Seriously. College students love anything free, especially if it resembles food. You'll have friends for life – or at least for the semester.

Don't start skipping classes right away. Once you start, it becomes too easy and you'll use up your allotted absences before you know it. On the other hand, don't be afraid to skip class every now and then to enjoy a beautiful day!

Take advantage of free on-campus mail. Drop an encouraging note to a teacher or friend whom you appreciate.

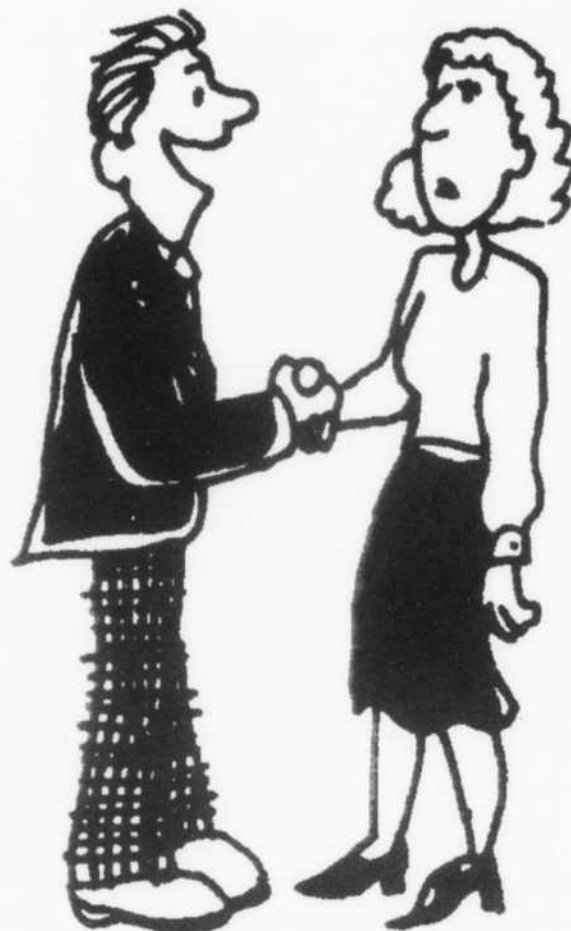
When possible, try to help classmates with little things, such as loaning out your notes. You never know when you may need help and people will return the favor to you.

Get to know your teachers. Participate in your classes. You'll get more out of them, and your teachers will be more inclined to help you if you've shown an interest in the class.

Take time to enjoy the little things. Sit under a tree and people-watch. Sit in the KUC and people-watch. Sit anywhere and people-watch.

And finally, get a journal. You will have many crazy experiences and meet plenty of interesting, diverse people while in college; record your thoughts and experiences so you can enjoy them later.♦

[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)



*Will you  
become  
a Peer  
Mentor  
to a new  
adult learner  
at MTSU?*

OWLs (Older Wiser Learners) members who have been at MTSU for a year or two and who are willing to help a new adult student get adjusted to college work and to MTSU may become Peer Mentors. There will be a training session to prepare you for this volunteer experience so you will know the responsibilities and how to be a good Peer Mentor.

Interested? Call the Adult Services Center to sign up for the training -- 615-898-5989.



# Do We Have Your Number?

**We want your correct telephone number  
for the 2004-2005**

**MTSU telephone directory which will be  
available on campus in October.**

If you're a full-time student (an undergraduate taking 12 hours or more or a graduate student taking 9 hours or more), you will be listed in this directory. A campus phone number will be given for residential students, the local number for others. If you provided some other number when you applied for admission (like your parents' or the number where you used to live), you can correct that number and your address by logging on PipelineMT and clicking on the Addresses link under WebMT, completing the Change of Address form ([www.mtsu.edu/records/addr.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/records/addr.htm)), or by going to the Records Office, Cope Administration Building 106, by Monday, September 13, 2004.

**If you do NOT wish to be listed in such a directory, you must notify the Records Office in writing no later than Monday, September 13, 2004. You can access the form online at [www.mtsu.edu/records/nonrelease.pdf](http://www.mtsu.edu/records/nonrelease.pdf). This form can be faxed or brought to Cope 106.**

Faculty and staff numbers also will be listed in the telephone directory, and numbers for University offices and a guide to services will be included.

## Campus venues offer limited hours

**By Audrey Scruton**  
Staff Writer

It's 8 p.m. Saturday night; do you know which buildings on campus are open?

The James E. Walker Library isn't. The Recreation Center isn't. Neither are any of the dining halls. For students wanting to use the weekends to prepare for class projects, work off their freshman 15, or grab a bite to eat, their options narrow when they try to accomplish these tasks on campus.

Christin Jackson, a junior electronic media journalism major, believes that extended Friday through Saturday hours would discourage many students from leaving campus every weekend.

"The more students stay on campus over the weekends, the less MTSU will be known as a 'suitcase college,'" Jackson said. "That's not the kind of label a university usually strives to have."

Senior Anna Rannells agrees with Jackson.

"Sometimes extra funding needs to be spent in the beginning to reap the big rewards down the road. If more facilities are open on the weekends, more students would probably stay, and that would provide better attendance at weekend athletic, artistic and community events," Rannells said.

The library, Rec Center and dining halls are not the only university facilities that close on the weekends. The post office in the Keathley University Center has no window service on Saturday. The Raider Xpress shuttle bus system does not run on the weekends, and Parking Services does not open on Saturday and Sunday. Computer labs in the residential halls and other buildings also alter their hours for the weekends.

According to several facilities on campus, student interest is one of the biggest factors in weekend closings.

### **McCallie Residential Restaurant**

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Friday ends at 6:30 p.m.)  
Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### **James Union Building Dining**

Monday - Thursday: 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: closed

### **Cyber Café**

Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.  
Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Saturday: closed  
Sunday: 2 p.m. - 2 a.m.

### **Keathley University Center Grill**

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Pizza Hut, Freshens open until 8:30 p.m.)  
Friday: 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday: closed

### **James E. Walker Library**

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - midnight  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. - midnight

### **Recreation Center**

Monday-Thursday: 6 a.m. - midnight  
Friday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sunday: 2 p.m. - 11 p.m.

### **Phillips Bookstore**

Monday-Tuesday: 7:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday: 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

"Opening other weekend days have proven in the past not to be worth the time and efforts to be open," said Earl Harris, director of Phillips Bookstore.

**See Venues, 17**



## Jobs: Working on-campus

Continued from 14

the campus community.

Another popular place for students to work is the James E. Walker Library. According to Joanne Minnick, who works in student hiring as a Library Assistant, an estimated 165 students are employed each semester.

Minnick also explains that students are hired by the Library based on their availability, dependability and punctuality. Additionally, while a resume and references are not required, Minnick does admit that they are appreciated. ♦

## Local: Area hotspots

Continued from 14

musical talent. The Boro's diverse musical tastes cover the genres of jazz, punk, hip-hop and southern rock with an unfettered ease.

If you are solely hunting for lunchtime options without the sleazy nightclub setting, the nearby La Siesta is a popular destination for nitpicky MTSU students, who are fed up with Campus Dining's abysmal health food scores. Located on South Tennessee Boulevard, La Siesta has an overabundance of thrifty lunchtime deals, which typically fall within the \$5-7 range.

Over on South Rutherford Blvd., New China divvies up substantial heapings of vegetarian options including Chinese restaurant staples like lo mein noodles, mushrooms and white rice. New China also attracts MTSU students with enticing promises of an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet for \$4.34 post-tax.

Whether you frequent lively nightclubs or grease-caked buffet lines, make sure you present your MTSU student ID. Most of the aforementioned restaurants offer discounts to cash-strapped students. ♦

## Venues: Closing early

Continued from 16

Budget and staffing issues are also high on the list of factors for closing so many buildings on campus during the weekends.

"Currently, Health Services' staffing or budget could not support opening on the weekends," said Richard Chapman, director of Health Services.

Several students see the need for weekend closings.

"It has to be very expensive to open and run a building even for only a few hours," comments Cary Porter, a sophomore elementary education major. "I can understand why the dining halls don't want to waste time, money and food fixing meals that students may or may not come eat on the weekends."

Many campus facilities,

such as Phillips Bookstore and Parking Services, do offer special extended hours at the beginning of the semester and during other special events.

"Some Saturdays we open, like Homecoming and Family Weekend, and for any other events where there might be lots of activity in the University Center," Harris said.

"There are so many facilities that MTSU has that other schools our size still can't even think about," Porter said.

Rannells keeps it simple.

"If students saw that they had more options on the weekends for completing classwork or finding entertainment, then more of them would stay and participate," Rannells said. "Keep it open, and they will come." ♦

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# Free Food!

Raiders for Christ (RFC) is a group of students united in the desire to put "Christ first" at MTSU. We are reaching up to God, reaching out to the world, and reaching in to support each other.

Picnic & Praise  
Monday, August 30th  
6:30 p.m. @ RFC

Lots of food, make new friends,  
praise time with Brandon  
Scott Thomas & Zoe group

RFC Fall Kickoff Cookout  
Thursday, September 9th  
6:00 p.m. @ MTSU Rec Center

Hamburgers, fixin's and  
homemade desserts

Live music from  
*Cool Hand Luke*

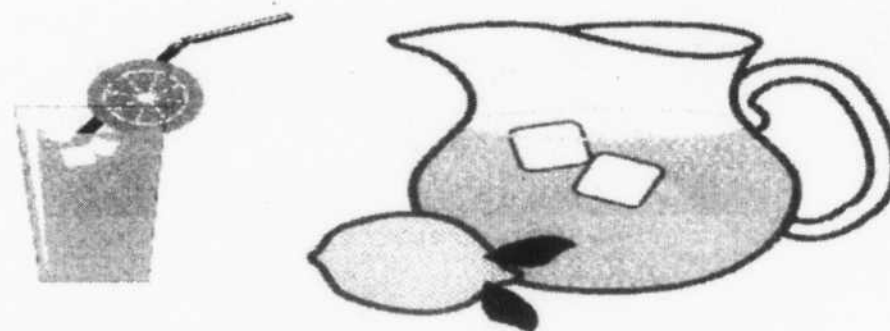


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2:00 - 6:00 p.m. each afternoon  
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Drop in and learn about the services we offer non-traditional and evening students through our student organization and the Adult Services Center.

# OPINIONS

20 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, August 30, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

## Please use discretion in assigning textbooks

We like to think that we use this little editorial space to shed light on injustices in our community. We point out a wrong so that it may be set right.

We assure you that today we offer no criticism. Think of this editorial as a request.

Our dearest professors, we beseech you in the name of honesty and frugality, do not assign textbooks you have no intention of using. It happens every year. We get up early so as not to miss out on the used textbooks. We go to class and the syllabus says we need the book. You even mention it in class.

But alas, come the end of the semester we find we haven't even opened our book. We've even talked to a few fine upstanding students who actually do all the required reading, and they have the same complaint.

Now, we know that sometimes this isn't the professors' fault. Sometimes professors are required by the department to assign certain books for their course. Unfortunately, they've designed the entire course without that particular book in mind.

There are two things that could be done to remedy this situation.

What we would prefer is this: if you are a professor and you are forced to put a book on your syllabus which you have no intention of using, go ahead and give us a hint that maybe we shouldn't buy that book. A simple wink or a nudge would do. We promise we won't tell on you.

Professors could assign work from these books. Mind you, we don't support this. This seems absolutely silly. There's no need to assign homework just to make us happy. If the student body finds out you are assigning more work just to appease *Sidelines*, well, that just wouldn't be good for us. ♦

## Kerry's foreign policy shaky

I've been trying to decipher John Kerry's foreign policy since he seized the Democratic presidential nomination. He has flipped, flopped and twisted in the wind depending on his audience at any particular moment, but I believe I understand the driving force behind the Kerry foreign policy.

It all came to light as I studied the reaction from Richard Holbrooke, Kerry's foreign policy adviser, to President Bush's announcement that he has ordered nearly 70,000 American troops home from Germany and South Korea.

Holbrooke said that he disagreed with the decision to bring these troops home because it displays more Bush administration unilateralism, costs the country money and will weaken our national security.

Examining these remarks, only one logical conclusion can be reached regarding Kerry's foreign policy: If Bush does something, it must be bad. We have heard for months on end now that the administration has no "exit strategy" for Iraq.

Apparently to Holbrooke and the Kerry campaign, an Iraq exit would be good, but a German exit is bad. Can anybody decode this nonsense?

### Common Sense



Randall Thomason  
Staff Columnist

A large majority of Democrats believe that Bush is the focus of evil in the modern world. If Bush cured cancer, they would be mad at him for not also curing AIDS.

Consider the analysis of the recent terror warnings announced by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge specifying threats to many of our financial centers.

As soon as Ridge announced intelligence showing that al Qaeda had pinpointed for attack the New York Stock Exchange, Democrats and the media began grumbling about the timing of the announcement and questioning whether this was a political ploy by the president. If no announcement was made, and an attack occurred, we would hear more inane cries that the president knew in advance of the attack and did nothing to stop it.

We have a president who

has solemnly obliged to protect each of us from outside aggressors and has waged an unrelenting war on those who seek to strike innocents again. On the other side, we have a candidate who bases seemingly all of his foreign policy ideas on the premise that everything Bush has ever done is dreadful.

If Kerry enters the oval office in January, radicals and terrorists in Iraq can go into hiding for the requisite year until Kerry starts taking our military personnel out. It's a green light for mayhem.

When you boil it down, this election is about a president who has shown that the United States can achieve great things versus a candidate who is too weak to be decisive on anything, has continually tried to undercut the country's effort to defeat terror and tells us it can't be done without the United Nations, France and Germany.

Kerry reminds me of an old Chinese proverb: "Man who says 'it cannot be done' should not interrupt man who is doing it." ♦

Randall Thomason is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at [rthomason@raiderrepublicans.com](mailto:rthomason@raiderrepublicans.com).

## SIDELINES

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



# Journalists' liberal views affect objective reporting

When the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press released a recent 2004 study, conservatives were once again correct: the media has an overwhelmingly liberal bias.

The Pew Research Center defines itself as "an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues."

The report stated "about a third of national journalists (34 percent) and somewhat fewer local journalists (23 percent) describe themselves as liberals; that compares with 19 percent of the [American] public in a May survey conducted by the Pew Research Center. Moreover, there is a relatively small number of conservatives at national and local news organizations. Just 7 percent of national news people and 12 percent of local journalists describe themselves

as conservatives, compared with a third of all Americans."

While there are almost twice as many conservatives as liberals in America, national newsrooms have almost a 5:1 ratio of liberals to conservatives. Fair and balanced?

Not even close.

Rich Noyes, of the Media Research Center wrote in his June 30 report, "The Liberal Media," "Surveys over the past 25 years have consistently found journalists are much more liberal than the rest of America. Their voting habits are disproportionately Democratic, their views on issues such as abortion and gay rights are well to the left of most Americans and they are less likely to attend church or synagogue."

While these reports clearly show a major problem plaguing the U.S. media, most newsrooms are lethargic or resistant

## Reality Check



Justin Wax  
Staff Columnist

to correcting the lack of intellectual diversity. Conservatives have not demanded a 33:19 ratio in newsrooms – they've simply asked for a level playing field. The left has been unwilling to oblige.

It should come as no surprise that Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity enjoy tremendous popularity with the American public when one reflects upon the gross ideological misrepresentation in American newsrooms. As Americans turn the dial to Al Franken or Rush Limbaugh, they expect to hear opinion

journalism. But when they flip through *The New York Times* or watch Peter Jennings and Dan Rather, they should not have to filter each story for liberal bias. Yet they do.

A very small percentage of the American population, perhaps unconsciously, wields a powerful weapon and uses it to advance its liberal agenda.

Along the way, newsrooms have sought to vanquish those opposing its own conventional wisdom – in subtle fashion, of course, perhaps by refusing to adequately cover a large group of Vietnam veterans opposing Sen. John Kerry or by ignoring another positive development in Iraq.

Still not convinced of a liberal bias in the news?

Consider a September 2003 report titled, "A Measure of Media Bias" written by Tim Groseclose and Jeff Milyo, graduate students from Stanford

University and the University of Chicago, respectively.

The graduate students conducted their research by scoring "various news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, the Drudge Report, Fox News Special Report and all three networks' nightly news shows."

The results, not surprisingly, revealed "a very significant liberal bias." The report axed the Fox-is-part-of-the-vast-right-conspiracy argument, concluding "Fox News Special Report is significantly closer to the center than all media outlets except the Drudge Report."

Newsrooms are long overdue in getting serious about intellectual diversity.

And Americans are tiring of The Biased Times. ♦

*Justin Wax is a sophomore history major and can be reached at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.*

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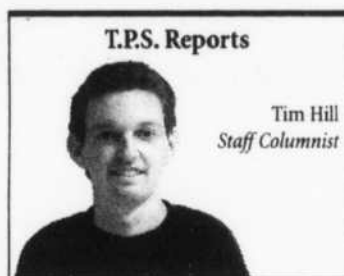
# Our generation loses when we're not involved in politics

If you are upset about the 7 percent tuition increase this fall, then you just might be responsible for it.

The members of the Tennessee Board of Regents are appointed by the governor – the same governor that people between the ages of 18 to 24 did not, in large numbers, help elect. Younger people were not supportive of either Phil Bredesen or Van Hilleary's campaigns for the state's top job.

This voter apathy is the real reason that the General Assembly cuts higher education funding and gives the Regents "no other choice" than to keep raising tuition on the rest of us.

Younger people claim they do not vote because they don't feel represented by the people who are elected. Let's not for-



T.P.S. Reports

Tim Hill  
Staff Columnist

get that those lawmakers don't represent them because they weren't elected by them.

Senior citizens vote heavily in almost all elections. While it is true that in federal elections the main issues for seniors consist of health care, retirement and veterans' issues, candidates know that winning the support of the elderly can make or break their campaign's success on election day.

Republicans and Democrats are both guilty of neglecting the views of the 18-

to 24-year-old crowd. Where is the real progress? Which office-holder in this country can stand up and say that he is a friend of the younger generation?

The answer to that question is found in Christopher Portman, a resident of Mercer, Penn. Chris Portman, at 19, became the mayor of his hometown in 2002. He won the Republican primary while he was still in high school.

He beat a 55-year-old town councilman and another 19-year-old candidate in the general election. He's not just there supporting a lower drinking age and the decriminalization of pot – he has a true vision for improving his town.

His day is broken up by morning classes at Westminster College, reading

to children at an elementary school after lunch and then heading to the mayor's office. His coworkers say that he often stays until 10 p.m.

Candidates and elected officials will not start to recognize our generation's contributions to the political debates in this country until we become as critical a voting block to them as senior citizens are.

Lame excuses, such as blaming George W. Bush and the Republicans exclusively, is the wrong way to tackle this issue.

It starts by understanding what's going on in the commu-

nity, seeing how your life and the lives of others are being affected by the policies that aren't working and then conveying your ideas in a fact-based, intelligent way to the people who do make the governing decisions of the day.

We must either get involved collectively as a generation, or we can pay the next tuition increase that may be even higher. ♦

*Tim Hill is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached at rth2j@mtsu.edu.*

## Gov. McGreevey treated unfairly after announcing sexual orientation

After admitting to an affair with a man, James McGreevey, the governor of New Jersey is being pressured to leave his office immediately.

McGreevey announced his resignation at the same time he admitted to the affair and announced that he is gay.

According to a report on CNN.com, a Rider University political scientist said that it was unfair to ask the governor to continue under the weight of the embarrassment.

While there are many debates in the realm of gay rights at the moment, I did not know that it spread as far as the ability to maintain a position in public office.

He chose to resign, but those around him cannot wait for him to leave.

McGreevey is planning on leaving his office on Nov. 15. With only three months left for the governor to be in office, what is it that has his fellow politicians yelling for him to leave now?

Some motivation to call for an immediate resignation



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden  
Staff Columnist

could be born out of hopes to replace McGreevey with a Republican. But why would fellow Democrats want to take a chance on having a Republican elected?

Could it be that the Democrats are afraid that this could hurt Sen. John Kerry's chances in the presidential election?

There are Americans who could decide that if this governor is a Democrat they don't want to be voting for another Democrat, but those are people who don't look at all the issues and the individuals.

So the only other reason to call for the early resignation of this governor is fear and close-mindedness on the part of this man's peers.

In a country that seems to have come so far in learning to accept others, and learning how our differences contribute to make us all better, this just shows how far we still have to go.

With such strong lines on the various issues that affect gay rights, it will be a while before the gay community reaches equality.

This governor is unique. He is the first man to share his sexual orientation at the risk of his career.

Hopefully McGreevey will continue with his original plan to remain in his office for the next few months.

Though his peers may not think he should be in office, he could leave the governor's office having made improvements to his state. ♦

*Sandi Van Orden is a junior journalism major and can be reached at slv2e@mtsu.edu.*

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# Election reaping horrors of McCain-Feingold Act

In the Bible, the apostle Paul tells the Galatians not to be deceived — man reaps what he sows. In regards to this year's presidential campaign, truer words were never spoken. First we had MoveOn.org comparing George W. Bush with Adolph Hitler. Then we had Michael Moore's cut and spliced "documentary" film about the president. Now we have the swift boat veterans claiming John Kerry didn't deserve his Vietnam service medals.

Will these outlandish attacks on both presidential candidates ever end? Where the candidates stand on real

## According To Who?



Juanita Thouin  
Staff Columnist

issues that affect Americans? Issues like porous borders that allow terrorists into the country; or legislators who buy votes with entitlement promises; or drug companies that spend millions of dollars on advertising, then turn around and charge sick Americans \$80

for a single pill.

These are the issues I want to hear about, but I won't. The reason is none other than the foolhardy campaign finance reform act passed in 2002. Once heralded as "the most sweeping changes in the country's campaign finance system since the Watergate era" by *The Boston Globe*, the bipartisan Campaign Reform Act has come home to roost.

Intended to remove union and big business money from politics, the law has instead opened a Pandora's box to defamatory accusations from groups and individuals answerable to no one. At least when the political parties themselves were slinging mud, we knew the candidate would eventually have to answer for out and out slander/libel. So chances were those attack ads held some element of truth. Now, it's anyone's guess.

So this campaign season — the maiden voyage of those "sweeping reforms" — we have less opportunity to know whether the hate speech is fact or fiction. During political debate regarding the McCain-Feingold act, supporters of the bill argued that candidates would have the legitimate

press as a vehicle from which to voice concern or raise issues. While those are lofty suppositions, I doubt their reality.

In his book, "Ambling into History," Frank Bruni, a *New York Times* reporter during the 2000 campaign, confessed the truth about election reporting. "Those of us in the news media plumbed new depths of disingenuous behavior," Bruni wrote, "zooming toward anything sexier than issues and then commenting sadly about the way in which issues were being eclipsed, pumping up the importance of something trivial and then marveling at how prominent it had become."

On Aug. 24-25, 2004, *The New York Times* published 25 campaign-related articles; only three came close to discussing issues.

Indeed, the United States is reaping what we sowed. We should have listened to finance reform critic Sen. Mitch McConnell when he prophesied, "the bottom line is that this bill does not take the money out of politics. It just takes the parties out of politics." ♦

Juanita Thouin is a senior journalism major and can be reached at [juanitathouin@hotmail.com](mailto:juanitathouin@hotmail.com).

# Get involved, Blue Raiders

## The Bottom Line



Trey Porter  
Staff Columnist

Welcome back, brothers and sisters of the MTSU congregation. Get proud, be loud and be blue. We have some work to do. Roll those sleeves up Blue Raiders; it's time to get involved.

A recent study of American colleges and universities found that nearly 80 percent of college freshmen who do not get involved in some capacity within the first 2 weeks of school end up trying to transfer or do poorly in their classes.

Our university boasts more than 200 clubs and organizations. Religious, Greek letter, campus recreation, cultural clubs and honor societies are all just waiting for you to make a difference.

Each of you has dual responsibilities — you have a responsibility to the academic community and the campus community. This college thing is a two-way street. You get out what you put in.

For those of you who didn't know, MTSU's football team is somewhat in the spotlight this year. The NCAA has tightened attendance policies and plans to enforce them this year. Go to the games and support your university. What is good for MT athletics is good for MTSU.

MTSU can give you many life-long experiences you can find nowhere else. But you can give nothing to MTSU if you are going home every weekend. The doors to this sacred place are wide open. You must take it upon yourself to leave it better than you found it. ♦

Trey Porter is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at [yellowcardsweep@yahoo.com](mailto:yellowcardsweep@yahoo.com).

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Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

## Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11

**The Basics:** The pudgy filmmaker's polarizing *Fahrenheit 9/11* provided months of relentless coverage and dogged editorializing from a plethora of mainstream news outlets. Whether you label *9/11* as the political activist's *The Passion of the Christ* or grand-scale manipulation from a dexterous propagandist, you cannot deny *9/11*'s record box office haul. Grossing \$21 million in its opening weekend (and on limited screens, nonetheless), *9/11* is a considerable factor in the upcoming election.

**Local Impact:** *9/11* was originally released on a single screen locally, tucked away in the catacombs of Regal Cinemas' Green Hills 16. Repeatedly cramped showings and sardine-packed standing ovations abounded, which prompted Regal brass to take note. However the local implications of the supposed Michael Moore movement is not clear. A recent visit to the filmmaker's official Web site ([www.michael-moore.com](http://www.michael-moore.com)) acknowledged lackluster support in the Nashville area for group meetups, canvassing and other activities related to the film.

## Your Vote, Your Country

**The Basics:** This freshly scrubbed upstart organization encourages citizens of every political persuasion to vote their respective conscience. But don't let the noncommittal posturing fool you. With noted conservative country stars at the helm, *Your Vote, Your Country* is a refreshing dash of deep-fried traditionalism.

The list of contributors includes bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs, Marty Robbins, Randy Travis and Josh Turner. **The Discourse:** "Your vote does count," Skaggs said during a recent press conference. "It's a God-given right and a freedom that we have in this country. And freedom is not free."

## The Corporation

**The Basics:** Furthering the timely trend of guerrilla documentaries, *The Corporation* generates thought-provoking fracas at the hands of corrupt multinational conglomerates — hence, the title. Unlike the high-pitched squawking of, say, *Outfoxed*, *The Corporation* intelligently argues the pitfalls of people-be-damned corpo-

rations. This Canadian-produced gem quietly illuminates the Bush-approved deregulation of corporate bodies without stirring the partisan ire and pandering to left-winged propagandists.

**Local Impact:** *The Corporation* fittingly served amicable audiences at Nashville's remaining indie moviehouse, The Belcourt Theatre. Expect The Belcourt to extend *The Corporation*'s limited release through Sept. 1.

## Punk Voter

**The Basics:** The edgy Punk Voter targets disillusioned youth with angst-ridden dissonance. Also, the organization concocts "Rock Against Bush" tours and compilations. Anti-Flag, Flogging Molly, Tom Morello and Midtown are just a few of the artists who have contributed to Punk Voter.

**Local Impact:** The new *Rock Against Bush Volume 2* compilation is available at local retailers. Visit the official Web site at [www.punkvoter.com](http://www.punkvoter.com)

With the November election looming around the corner, musicians have felt a moral obligation to lambaste a certain incumbent.

Artists as diverse as Bruce Springsteen, The Dixie Chicks, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, Bright Eyes, Missy Elliott, Neil Diamond and Laura Cantrell have contributed to various anti-George W. Bush causes.

Coupled with the release of politically themed documentaries in recent months, consumers of popular culture might feel inundated with a one-sided argument.

That being the case, I have attempted to seek both sides of the political debate in the world of film and music. Unfortunately for pop culture consumers, Hollywood caters to progressivism. Barring the obligatory red-blooded country musicians, most of the listed entertainment options are for blue states.

But whatever your political persuasion, dear reader, [flash] encourages you to read on with those mayonnaise-stained hands of democracy.

Without further ado, here's a hastily scrawled list of current pop cultural offerings, and ways to elucidate their messages (read: leftist-bent messages) in your local community.

— By Joey Hood, [flash] Editor

## Music Row Democrats

**The Basics:** The Music Row Democrats formed in response to the unfortunate Dixie Chicks debacle. And with 1,400 members, MRD trounces certain stereotypes of Music Row being a Republican-dominated spaghetti western. Once closeted liberal country stars like Hal Ketchum, Kathy Mattea, Emmylou Harris and Allison Moorer now revel in MRD's progressive goodness. **The Discourse:** "I grew up in Ireland and marched in political protests," Nashville-based folk-singer and MRD member Maura O'Connell said in a recent phone interview with [flash]. "There seems to be a real blasé attitude among American youth. What they should do is get involved with any organization, whether

Republican or Democrat."

**Local Impact:** On Sept. 1, the ever-affable O'Connell will perform at The Belcourt Theatre. Her onstage cohorts will include critically acclaimed songwriters Darrell Scott and Tim O'Brien. Tickets are \$17.50, and all proceeds benefit the organization.

## Lucy's Record Shop Reunion & Voter Registration Drive

**The Basics:** From 1992 to 1998, Lucy's Record Shop delivered independent music to the Nashville masses with a feminist slant. The cozy record shop inspired countless writers, artists and musicians. On Sept. 18, proprietor Mary Mancini, along with co-founders Don and April Kendall will keep the edgy spirit of Lucy's Record Shop alive with a reunion concert and voter registration drive at The Belcourt.

**The Discourse:** "As I was getting more and more into election-year politics, I kept reading how the 18- to 30-year-old age group is one of the most disenfranchised in the country," Mancini said.

"So we thought, what can we do to make sure that young people don't take their democracy for granted?"

## Outfoxed

**The Basics:** Robert Greenwald's ruthless dismemberment of the Fox News Channel reads like a journalism professor's wet dream. Monitoring the day-to-day melee of FNC's alleged Republican bias, the makers of *Outfoxed* argue that Rupert Murdoch's media war-horse is nothing more than a well-oiled publicity machine for the Bush Administration. With FNC's blatant editorializing from a cavalcade of conservative talking heads, the makers of *Outfoxed* have sound justification. However, curt finger-pointing and repetitive accusations weaken the effectiveness of *Outfoxed*'s argument. Despite intimate sound bytes from Walter Cronkite, *Outfoxed*'s disjointed tone will only further alienate FNC viewers.

**Local Impact:** After a one-night-only showing at The Belcourt, those interested in *Outfoxed* must now bug local retailers for digital versatile discs or visit [www.outfoxed.org](http://www.outfoxed.org).★



# Fall movies inspire deep thought

By Forrest Sanders

Whether you're relishing fond memories of the wide-eyed Puss in Boots or trying to forget Ms. Berry's smearing her face with catnip, the summer movie season is making way for more introspective films of the upcoming fall season.

With the Oscar bait that's sure to come in the next few months, you will probably want to pick up your brain from wherever you left it at the beginning

of the summer. These fall films might make you think, if only just a little.

Early in the fall lineup is a film that does not stray far from the summer blockbuster formula.

*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* is a homage to the Flash Gordon-esque pulp fiction serials of the 1930s.

With actors shot entirely in front of a blue screen, *Sky Captain* is a stunning achievement for Kerry

Conran, a first time director who created the entire digital world of the film from the confines of his apartment.

Though *Sky Captain* promises to be high on style, you will be more likely to find substance in an upcoming slew of Oscar contenders chronicling the lives of legendary icons.

While Oliver Stone is set to bring the epic story of Alexander the Great to the screen, Martin Scorsese has his own Howard Hughes biopic slated for a fall release.

Stone and Scorsese look to be in a heated battle for Best Director, but in another Oscar category, several actors have been generating some early buzz.

In a film blessed by Ray Charles himself before he died, Jamie Foxx seems to be doing a bang-up job of portraying the fiery rock and roller in the upcoming *Ray*.

If Jamie Foxx can exceed mere impression, he may just find himself in a Best Actor category hosting some familiar company.

Two of last year's nominees, Johnny Depp and Bill Murray, are both anticipated to be Best Actor contenders for their performances in *Finding Neverland* and *The Life Aquatic*, respectively.

A film that you'll probably hear little about until the Oscar nominations are announced, *The Motorcycle Diaries* is the Spanish-language story of doctor-turned-revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Based upon his memoir, *Motorcycle Diaries* follows the 23 year-old Ernesto and Alberto Granado in their personal odyssey, riding across 10,000 kilometers of



Photo provided by Paramount Pictures

The enchanting Gwyneth Paltrow and her co-star Jude Law emote in *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*. The film opens on Sept. 17, and has garnered a tremendous amount of pre-Oscar buzz.

South American soil on a rickety 1939 motorcycle.

The film, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival, is an early favorite to take home some Oscar hardware on Feb. 27.

Of course, all this talk of Oscars is nothing but speculation.

The only certainty is that the fall box office belongs to the kiddie flicks. *Shark Tale* boasts an impressive roster of celebrity voices in a story of fish caught up in the mafia. Admittedly, the bar has been set pretty high for under-the-sea animation in the post-*Finding Nemo*

era, and this fall *Shark Tale* will be pit against Pixar's own sure-to-be-awesome bumbling superhero movie, *The Incredibles*.

Just think, after this batch of movies, we'll have arrived at semester finals and (more importantly) the Christmas movie season.

On that note, I think I'll be skipping *Christmas with the Kranks* (though *Polar Express* looks promising).

In the meantime, no matter what your taste in film, the fall of 2004 has you covered. ★

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## Upcoming releases cover a broad range of styles

**By Andrew Young**

This has been a great year for music so far. Long awaited albums and strong sophomore sets abound, and the rest of this year will be no exception. Here are just a few anticipated upcoming releases:

**Bjork** – *Medulla*: Bjork's fifth album is built almost entirely on vocals. Traditional instruments and beats are given the heavenly, with processed vocals, human beat-boxes and

an assortment of guest vocalists rounding out the compositions. (Aug. 31)

**Jill Scott** – *Beautifully Human: Words & Sounds 2*: The reigning queen of Philadelphia soul releases her second album this month, and it is sure to be every bit as good as her first. The first single "Golden," a soulful and positive number, is already in heavy rotation on MTV. (Aug. 31)

**Green Day** – *American Idiot*: Green Day's first original album since 2000's *Warning* is slated to be a "punk rock opera." The uncensored title track video can be previewed on the band's official Web site at [GreenDay.com](http://GreenDay.com) (Sept. 14)

**Brian Wilson** – *Smile*: The long-awaited release of the Beach Boys' lost mas-

terpiece is finally seeing the light of day. Only it's not the original 1968 sessions, it's a re-recorded version of the album featuring Wilson's touring band, who have

been playing *Smile* live in concert halls across Europe this past year. (Sept. 28)

**Joss Stone** – *Mind, Body and Soul*: The 17-year-old British soul singer releases her first album of original material this fall. From the sounds of it so far, the new material is very similar

to last year's *Soul Sessions*. (Sept. 28)

**Interpol** – *Antics*: Put away your Joy Division records, kids. Interpol returns with their uniquely derivative brand of morose rock. Your fine student radio station, WMTS-FM 88.3, should have the single in heavy rotation right now. (Sept. 28)

**Johnny Cash** – *American V*: This was the album that Cash was working on before his death. *Unearthed*, a planned box set of unreleased material, is in the works for next year. (Sept. 28)

**Elliott Smith** – *From a Basement on a Hill*: Elliott Smith's final album is due for release around the first anniversary of his untimely



**'Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds 2'**  
Jill Scott  
Release Date:  
Aug. 31



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**See Music, 30**



# Network execs chalk up fresh slate of Fall TV

By William Fancher

Well, here we are. Autumn is upon us, and with it comes the new television season. It is an ancient pagan tradition, in which Old Man Network peddles his wares for the masses to embrace. Sure, most of the time there's nothing but tired copies of stuff we already have, but there's occasionally something good if you dig deep enough. Let's have a browse.

**NBC**

*Father of the Pride*  
Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

This computer-generated cartoon features the voices of John Goodman and Lisa Kudrow, and chronicles the lives of the animals in Siegfried and Roy's magic show. After Roy's mauling last year, this show came close to never airing. Unfortunately for us, it's not close enough.

*The Contender*  
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Sixteen young boxers get a chance to fight for \$1,000,000. Sugar Ray Leonard teaches them how to box, and Sylvester Stallone teaches them to stop or his mom will shoot.

*Joey*  
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Matt LeBlanc's *Joey* moves to Los Angeles to live with his sister, played by Drea de Matteo from *The Sopranos*. Yes, it worked for *Frasier*, but it sure as hell didn't work for

*Archie Bunker's Place*, *The Tortellis* or *After MASH*.

**CBS**

*Listen Up*  
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Jason Alexander, George Costanza himself, returns to television as, well, George Costanza in this fictionalized version of the life of ESPN commentator Tony Kornheiser. Malcolm-Jamal Warner, a.k.a. Theo Huxtable, co-stars as, well, the black guy.

*Center of the Universe*  
Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

CBS is trying to lure viewers by packing all of its new shows with as many big TV names as they can. This one stars John Goodman, Jean Smart, Diedrich Bader, Olympia Dukakis and Ed Asner.

*CSI: NY*  
Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

Gary Sinise wins the award for the most redundant character name as Detective Mack "Mac" Taylor. Because CBS is getting into *Law and Order* ter-

ritory with this spin-off, NBC has responded with a show called *Medical Investigation*.

**ABC**

*Complete Savages*  
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Mel Gibson produces this family show, starring Keith Carradine as a single dad raising five unruly teenage boys. Each episode is three hours long and in Aramaic.

*Wife Swap*  
Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

Settle down, everybody. This show is actually about two women who must take care of each other's family for a week. Fox ripped off this show and aired their version, *Trading Spouses*, this summer.

*Desperate Housewives*  
Sundays at 8 p.m.

A desperate housewife (played by Brenda Strong) kills herself and, from the afterlife, watches her husband and her housewife friends (played by Teri

See TV, 30

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# Political books boost level of national discourse

By Marie Patrick

[flash] Editor

Continued concerns about American foreign policy and the hoopla surrounding the upcoming election made such prosaic summer releases as *American Hubris*, *Unfit for Command* and *The 9/11 Commission Report* unlikely bestsellers.

Heaps more political books, scheduled for release between now and November, may satisfy — or surfeit — Americans' appetite for politics.

Following are a few titles of interest.

**Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib**

Seymour Hersh  
(Sept. 13)

As a reporter for *The New Yorker*, Hersh has written scores of critiques on the current administration's (mis)handling of terrorism and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This collection of pieces is sure to read like a why-Bush-should-not-be-reelected handbook.

**Will They Ever Trust us Again?**

Michael Moore  
(October or November)

Moore provides introduction and commentary for a collection of letters from American soldiers serving in Iraq.

Conservative bloggers across the nation are already convinced that the letters, which undoubtedly criticize the war, are fraudulent.

lent.

**America the Book: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction**

Jon Stewart, with the writers of the *Daily Show*  
(Sept. 20)

From America's leading fake news source comes a satire exploring the peculiar history and character of American-brand democracy.

Besides relieving some pre-election tension, this book just might explain what makes our form of government so swell.

**The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty**

Kitty Kelley  
(Sept. 14)

Yet another unauthorized biography that is sure to sell

like issues of *The National Enquirer*, Kelley's latest details the guarded personal lives of the Bushes and examines how the influential family has gained and maintained wealth and power over the last 100 years.

**How to Talk to a Liberal (If you must)**

Ann Coulter  
(Oct. 5)

For the politic-lit junky, Coulter is required reading. Nearly everyone, regardless of his or her political convictions, will find this collection of her kooky columns entertaining.

**The Fall of Baghdad**

John Lee Anderson  
(Sept. 23)

Centering around Iraqi citizens' statements about

Saddam Hussein and about the war, this eyewitness account of Baghdad pre-through post-invasion is reportedly non-partisan.

However, the ghastly photos featured in the book may lead a few fainthearted war supporters to doubt the ultimate worthwhileness of Operation: Iraqi Freedom.

**Veering Right: How the Bush Administration Subverts the Law for Conservative Causes**

Charles Tiefer  
(September)

In a polemic unlikely to present any claims liberals haven't accepted as fact and conservatives haven't dismissed as paranoid fantasies, law professor and

See Books, 30



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**WALDIES  
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Continued from **Music**, page 27

death.

*From a Basement on a Hill* was nearly completed before Smith died, and was originally intended as a double album, but this posthumous release has been pared down to 15 tracks.

No word yet on what will happen with Smith's other unreleased material. (Oct. 19)

**Fatboy Slim** – *Palookaville*: Dance music's foremost practitioner of plunderphonics returns after a four-year absence. The first single, which can be previewed on [www.astralwerks.com](http://www.astralwerks.com), is a remix of Steve Miller's *The Joker*, featuring Bootsie Collins. (Oct. 5)

**Ted Leo and the Pharmacists** – *Shake the Sheets*: The follow-up to last year's much-lauded *Hearts of Oak* continues Leo's tradition of writing soulful, yet hard-edged indie-punk. The debut single is available for download at [www.lookoutrecords.com](http://www.lookoutrecords.com). (Oct. 19)

**The Mars Volta** – *Frances the Mute*: At-The-Drive-In spinoff The Mars Volta prepares its second album for release this fall.

A double-vinyl edition of *Frances the Mute*, complete with a 12" single, is planned for release at the end of Nov. No further details are available at this time. (Nov. 23) ★

Continued from **TV**, page 28

Hatcher and Felicity Huffman) react desperately. Commercials try to give it a vibe like *Twin Peaks*, only, you know, more desperate.

**FOX**

*The Billionaire*

Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Rich man Richard Branson takes a group of "young entrepreneurs" around the world and makes them do whatever he feels like making them do. I can't tell if there's a prize at the end of this one, or if it's just an exercise in cruelty.

*The Next Great Champ*

Fridays at 7 p.m.

Fox got the jump on NBC

with this rip-off of *The Contender*, which won't be on the air until sometime midseason. Oscar de la Hoya is the celebrity coach here. At least he's easier to understand than Stallone.

*American Dad*

Sundays at 8:30 p.m.  
(midseason)

*Family Guy* creator Seth MacFarlane is at it again with this cartoon about the family life of a CIA agent. He has a wife, two kids, a sarcastic alien and a goldfish who speaks German. New episodes of *Family Guy* also premiere on Fox in 2005. ★

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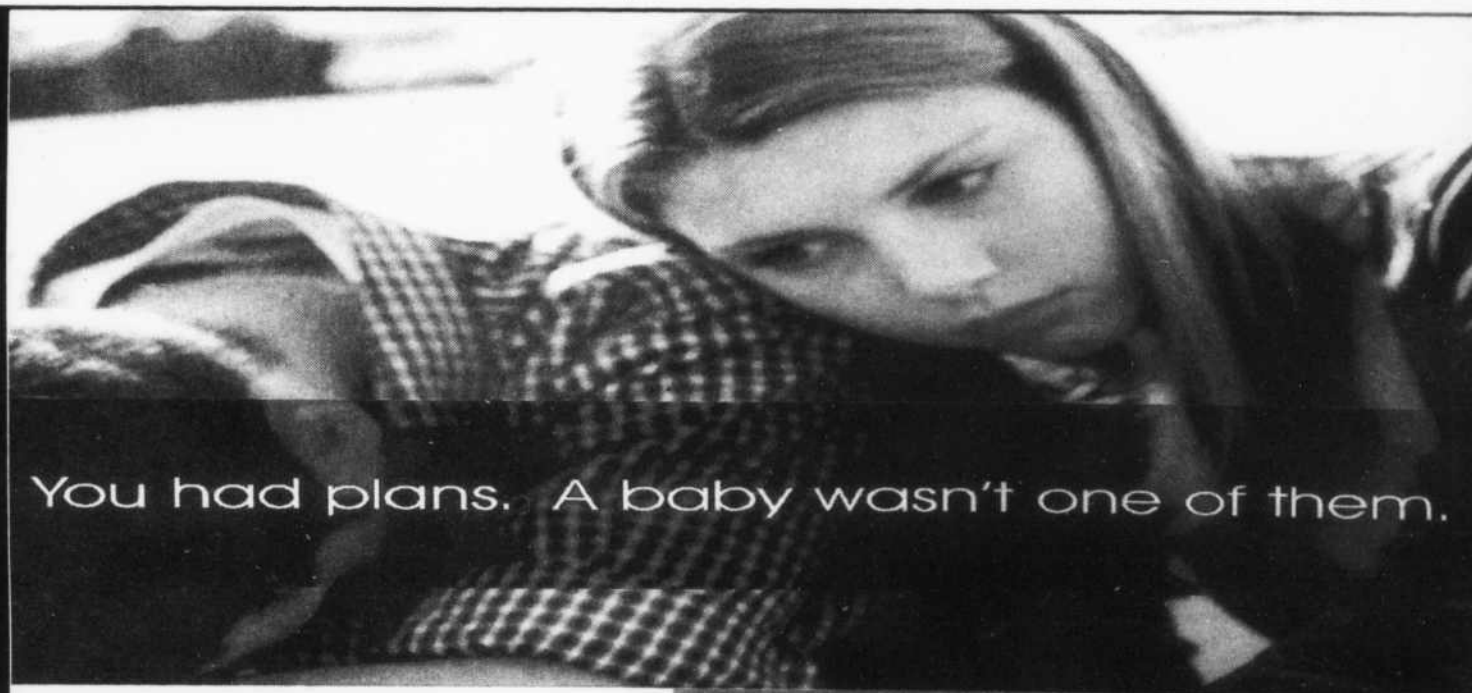
Continued from **Books**, page 29

former Solicitor of the House accuses President Bush of aiding conservative groups and big businesses by undermining the law and manipulating Congress and the media.

**Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left**

David Horowitz  
(September)

From the same publishing house that brought us *Unfit for Command* (Regnery) comes a book specifically for those not yet convinced leftists hate the United States. In it, Horowitz draws spooky parallels between radical Muslims and American liberals. ★



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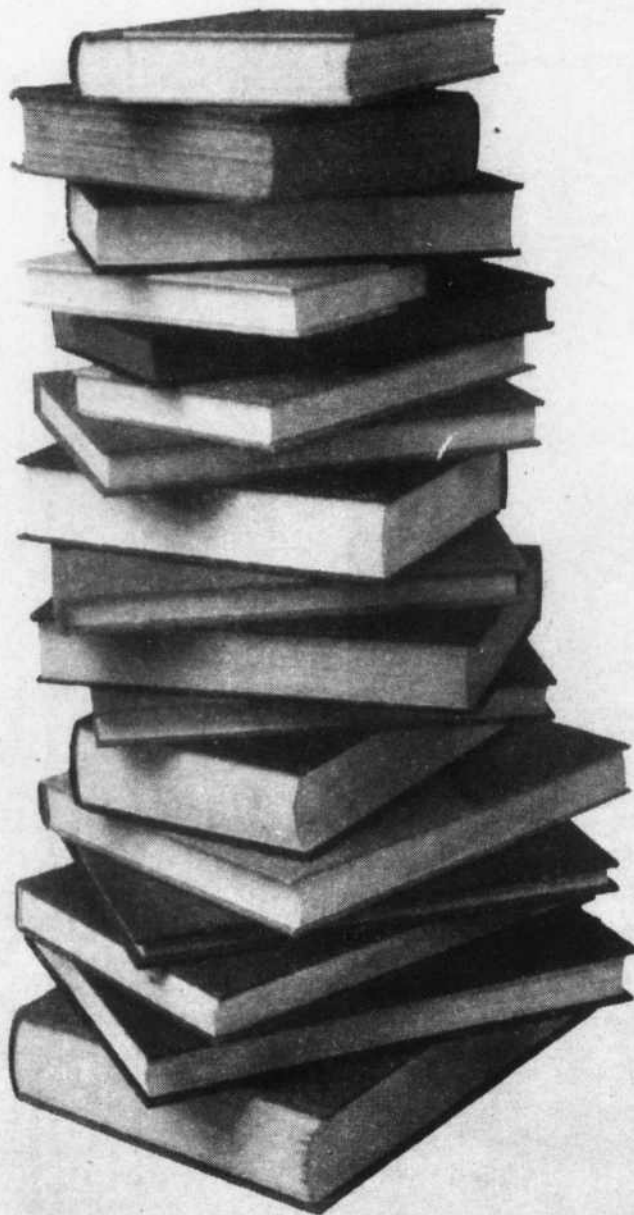
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# SPORTS

37 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, August 30, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## The Replacements

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

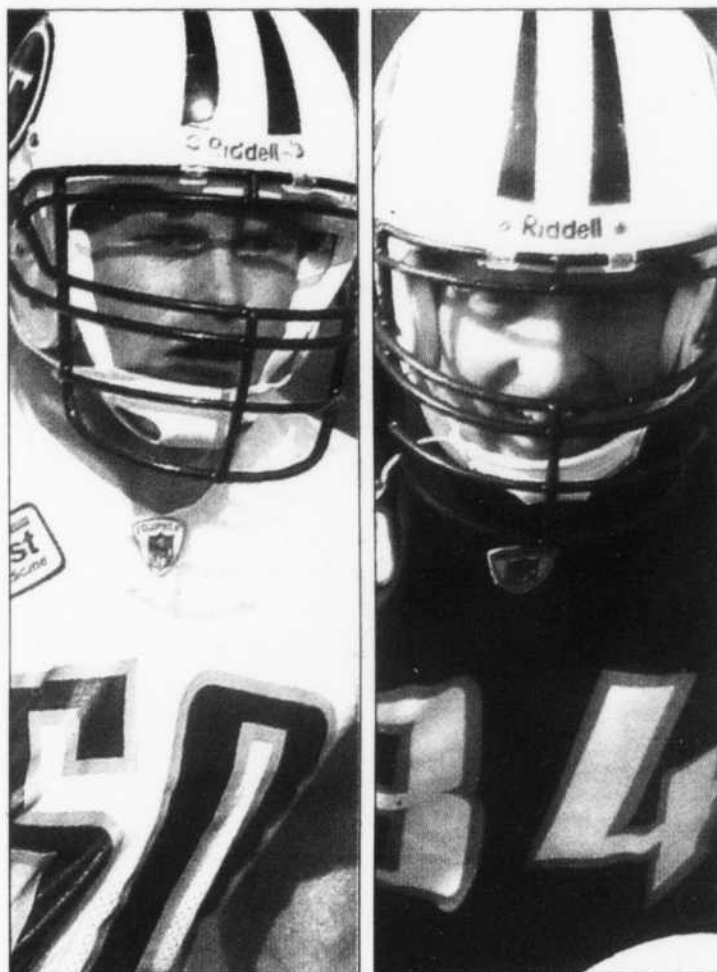
When Eddie George left Nashville six weeks ago, fans obsessed over the Titans' running game — until Chris Brown started breaking tackles and bruising defenses this preseason.

But there are other holes to fill on this year's squad. Frank Wycheck, the fourth tight end in league history with more than 500 receptions, retired in January. Then in three consecutive days in March, Jevon Kearse left for Philadelphia, defensive tackle Robaire Smith went to Houston and wide receiver Justin McCareins was traded to the New York Jets for a second-round draft pick.

And that list doesn't include linebacker Peter Sirmon's season-ending knee injury sustained in training camp.

Those moves increased the roles of current Titans and gave some rookies a greater chance of making the squad. The most active position beside running back has been tight end, where Ben Troupe, the team's top draft pick, has been battling practice-squad member Dwayne Blakley and seventh-rounder Sean McHugh for the third spot behind veterans Erron Kinney and Shad Meier. Blakley and McHugh have been so impressive that the coaching staff is considering keeping both of them.

"This is the most depth we've had since I've been here," Titans head coach Jeff Fisher said. "Blakley has had a great camp and Sean is doing good things having not really played that position before. It's a good group of guys and we have some tough decisions to make, but in years past we were



Photos by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

**Linebacker Rocky Boiman (left) and tight end Shad Meier will both be starters heading into Opening Day.**

loaded at receiver and we kept them all, so who knows? We may keep five tight ends."

Although his job is secure, Meier has also had a busy training camp while adjusting to his new role as a starter.

"This is the first year that I've actually been pushed," Meier said. "I'm not saying I wasn't pushed behind Frank and Erron, but I was the younger guy coming in here for my first three seasons. When you're third on the depth chart, you don't know if you're going to get 50 reps a game or 10."

At wide receiver, Jake Schifino and Drew Bennett will see expanded roles, but former Middle Tennessee standout Tyrone Calico has garnered most of the attention in training camp. Calico has switched from the X receiver to the Z receiver in the Titans' offense, meaning he will see more of the deep routes that often went to McCareins and Bennett last season.

The move has paid off in the preseason, as Calico leads all Titans receivers with eight

**See Titans, 45**

## Large rookie class filling roster holes as camp wraps up

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

The prevailing notion in the Tennessee Titans' most recent draft seems to have been that quantity equals quality.

Although the Titans did not have a first round pick, they had a league-high 13 selections that helped fill holes left by departing free agents.

As training camp came to a close, the staff was optimistic about this year's draft class.

"It's a different crop," Titans head coach Jeff Fisher said. "It's easier to evaluate, I think, because there are many

more of them. We have 13 picks, so you have a better opportunity to see improvement there. But it's a different group and they all have their unique positions and unique qualities and unique things to offer."

The Titans' top pick came in the second round, where they chose tight end Ben Troupe from the University of Florida. Troupe caught 39 passes for 638 yards and six touchdowns as a senior last season, but struggled a bit during training camp.

Troupe refused, however, to

**See Rookies, 39**



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

**Rookie tight end Ben Troupe was drafted by the Titans to help replace Frank Wycheck, who retired in January.**



# First and five: Quarterback spot up for grabs

By Jonathan Hutton  
Staff Writer

There are plenty of interesting battles for playing time heading into this week's game against the University of Florida, but the one most noticed is the competition at quarterback. Currently, all five quarterbacks on the roster are scholarship players, and all have the ability to be the signal caller this season.

Andrico Hines graduated in May, leaving the spot up for grabs. This leaves head coach Andy McCollum with a tough decision to make before the Sept. 4 season opener at Florida.

The preseason favorites to take over under center are returning players Clint Marks and Josh Harris, who both saw an ample amount of playing time last year.

Redshirt sophomore Marks is coming off a 2003 season in which he was 41-for-63 for 593 yards and seven touchdowns as a backup. Marks started against New Mexico State and Idaho, leading the Blue Raiders to their first two victories of the season.

On the first play from scrimmage against NMSU, Marks connected with receiver Kerry Wright for a touchdown en route to a 35-18 Homecoming victory.

Marks, whose hometown is Fort

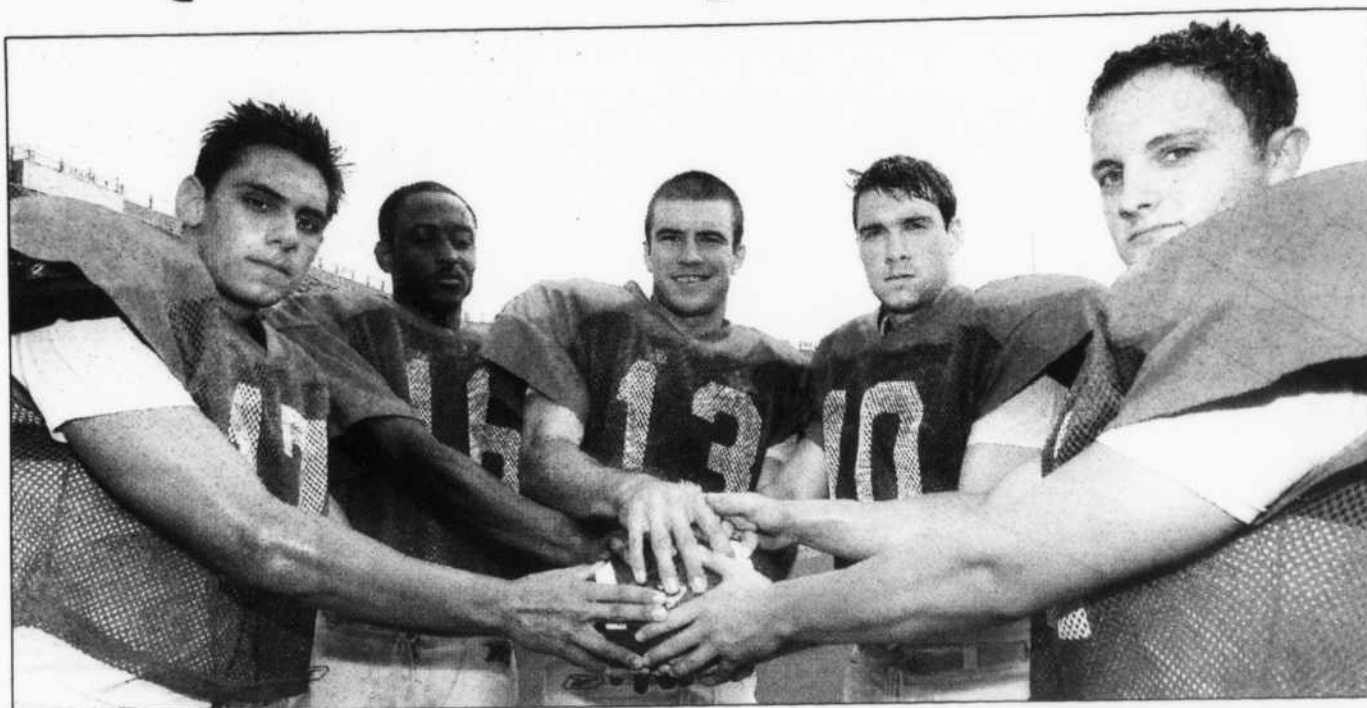


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

From left to right: Clint Marks, Josh Harris, Sam Hunt, Patrick Jackson and Joe Craddock IV all have a shot at getting their hands around the ball at quarterback this season for the Blue Raiders.

Myers, Fla., hopes he gets the opportunity to start.

"I have a lot of family and friends coming to the game so it's going to feel good to go home and play some football," Marks said.

Junior Josh Harris played in four games last year, completing 60.4 per-

cent of his passes.

Harris, who also saw playing time as a backup, came off the bench to throw for 284 yards and four touchdowns in a 57-51 four-overtime loss to Louisiana-Lafayette.

Harris has been taking snaps with the first string during summer practice

and adds more of a mobile ability to scramble out of the pocket than the others.

Harris says no matter who starts, it's all about improving on last season.

"The experience we had last season

See Battle, 44

## Peveto hopes new scheme will help defense



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Senior linebacker Alvin Fite will lead a Blue Raider defense that finished next-to-last in the SBC last year.

By Ron Moses  
Staff Writer

New defensive coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto will bring changes to the defensive side of the ball this year at Middle Tennessee.

Last year MT played a 3-3 stack scheme on defense. This year, the Blue Raiders are switching to a 4-3, and putting more men on the line in an attempt to better stop the run.

"Our goal on defense is to control the line of scrimmage," Peveto said. "We are going to be able to squeeze and stop the run. I think the defense we use will be able to let us do that."

With more people on the line of scrimmage, the Blue Raider pass rush should force opposing quarterbacks to be under more pressure. This added pressure to the quarterback should in turn help a revamped secondary make some big plays. Peveto has added new zone concepts and has stressed the importance of a pass rush.

"The best pass defense is a good pass rush," Peveto said. "Kevin Fouquier has done a hell of a job with the defensive line. If the quarterback

is having to get the ball off in less than four seconds, life gets pretty easy for the secondary."

The biggest question mark on the defense is the youth and inexperience present throughout the defensive backs. The core group of defensive backs consists of either redshirt freshmen or junior college transfers, with the exception of Danny Tolbert and Kevin Copeland, who each saw limited action last season.

But the youth of the secondary isn't the biggest challenge for this year's defense. The biggest challenge for this year's defense will be the adjustment to a brand new system. The team has been faced with two new systems this year. First, Mike Collins came in and had his system in place for the upcoming season, but after six weeks he departed from the team for Louisiana State and Peveto and his staff had to insert a completely new system in two weeks.

Despite all the adjustments and lessons they've had to learn and re-learn, many players say that this is the best thing for the team.

See Defense, 42

# Football attendance crucial to retain Division I-A status

By Jon Blankenship  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's Division I-A football status could be in jeopardy if the team fails to draw an average of at least 15,000 fans per home game this season.

Under a new rule approved on Aug. 5 by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, all Division I-A schools must draw an average of 15,000 fans to each home game or risk losing their Division I-A status.

In an Aug. 6 article published in *The Tennessean*, chairman of the board and University of Kansas chancellor Robert Hemenway said that any school that doesn't average at least 15,000 fans at home football games this season will receive notice from the NCAA that its Division I-A status is in jeopardy.

Schools that do not reach this goal will not lose their status immediately, but will have 10 years to comply. If the school fails a second time in that 10-year period to average 15,000, then it would be put on a restricted status that prevents any postseason play.

Furthermore, a team on restricted status would be required to average 15,000 for two years to reacquire complete Division I-A status. Schools that fail this mark risk being dropped to a lower tier of NCAA competition.

These new rules could put a strain on smaller schools in conferences that struggle to draw a large number of fans to its football games.

Since moving up to the Division I-A Sun Belt Conference in 1999 from the Division I-AA Ohio Valley Conference, the Blue Raiders

have averaged more than 15,000 fans only once, with an average of 17,857 in 2001. They have failed in every other year to average above 13,000, but are not alone in the conference. Four other teams in the conference — Utah State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and Idaho — also did not average 15,000 fans per home game last year.

Many promotions are in place to boost ticket sales and community awareness for the upcoming home season, which opens on Sept. 18 against Florida Atlantic.

Aaron Todd is directing Operation: Full House II for the season opener. Todd led the original Operation: Full House last year that set the new single game attendance record at Murphy Center. The

See **Attendance**, 42

## Rookies: Impressing vets

Continued from 37

attribute any mistakes to being a rookie.

"You don't want inexperience to be an excuse," Troupe said. "When the play is called, we should know just to go out there and execute. Any time you have to think before the play, it's already 11 against 10. You should just be able to react and not have to think."

Titans veterans were mostly complimentary of the newcomers, and some relished the opportunity to lead by example.

"It's a good feeling for them

to look up to you, to ask questions and feel like you're in a leadership role," tight end Shad Meier said.

"I think as a group they're all really coming," linebacker Rocky Boiman said. "They got their first taste of action [against Cleveland] and it was kind of hectic, but I think they've done a good job working on things and their corrections and trying to get in there and make plays."

Unfortunately, today may be some rookies' last day as Titans. Rosters are trimmed to 65 players tomorrow. ♦

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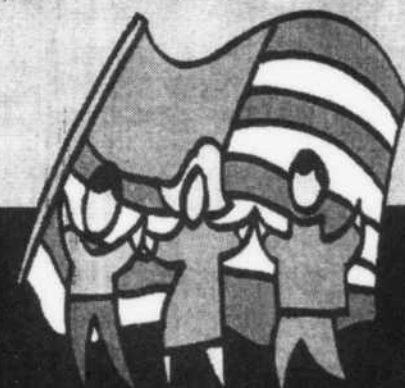
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# Football Fan Day gears up supporters

By Karen Throneberry  
Staff Writer

Despite the threat of rain, a large crowd of all ages showed up at Floyd Stadium to show their support at the Blue Raider football "Fan Day" on Aug. 21.

The day started with a 77-play scrimmage. The defense showed their abilities and held the offense to no points scored.

During the scrimmage the defense collected six sacks, eight passes were broken and forced the offense to lose yardage in four tackles.

"We did good this morning, and [we] are excited and ready

for the season to begin," said third-year kicker Paul Wheeler.

"The defense played with a lot of intensity today," head coach Andy McCollum told MT Media Relations. "They were flying around, making plays and were very competitive. I thought the secondary did a good job of keeping everything in front of them and I liked the tenacity we showed up front."

MT's most dedicated fans crowded at the stadium for opportunities to gain autographs from all the players and coaches at the third annual Fan Day. The fans also took advantage to take pictures

with their favorite Blue Raider, get their faces painted and enjoy rides.

Conversations overheard included many fans discussing who was going to be the team's starting quarterback.

There was no doubt that all who attended are looking forward to the home opener against Florida Atlantic, on Sept. 18.

Free soft drinks, hot dogs, posters and schedule cards were available to fans, and the 2004 football media guide was also for sale.

Yard signs were also given to those who purchased season tickets.

The Blue Raider cheerlead-

ers and Lightning also made appearances at the festive event.

"We came from Spring Hill for this event," Nancy Dodd said. Nancy and husband, David, brought their son Bryson to get autographs of all the players and coaches.

"With two weeks before the season opener against Florida, we have plenty of time to make any adjustments needed to the team," McCollum said.

The first game is scheduled for Sept. 4, when MTSU will hit the road to compete against Florida. To buy tickets, contact MTSU by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU or visit <http://goblueraiders.com/vantage>. ♦

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There are now online payments available through September 2 at 2:00 pm at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga>. Cash and checks are taken in the SGA office in KUC 208 through September 7 at 12:00 pm. There are limited spaces available for sign-ups. For any questions please contact the SGA office at 898-2464 or e-mail Candice Haynes at [cmh2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:cmh2b@mtsu.edu). To find more information on this trip go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga>.

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- Staying at the Riverside Hilton on the French Quarter.

### Saturday, September 25:

- 1:00 pm - Leave for game
- 6:00 pm - Kick-off
- After game - return home



# Everything brand new for Lady Raiders

By Ron Moses  
Staff Writer

The upcoming season is full of new additions to the Middle Tennessee volleyball team. Not only are the Lady Raiders welcoming a new coach in Matt Peck and his focus on spreading out and versatility, but the team is also developing a new attitude toward winning.

"They don't know how to win," Peck said of his new team. "They had a lot of close matches last year that they didn't win. They have to learn how to win, and do what it takes to win. We have to learn to give 110 percent for all of our matches, and if we have four or five people on the court doing that, we are going to win a lot of matches this year."

Peck comes from North Alabama, where he guided the Lions to a 33-7 record and an NCAA Division II National Championship last season. Peck went 291-41 in nine seasons at UNA.

Two key players returning this season to help the Lady Raiders improve upon last season's 14-19 record are Dara McLean and KeKe Deckard. As the only two seniors on the squad this year, these two are going to be expected to step up and take a leadership role. Deckard broke the school record for kills in a career with 1,494 last year. McLean started 26 matches and played

in all 33 last year for Middle, and she tied for first in service aces with 46.

"It's a big change from last year," McLean said. "Everybody is working hard and competing — it's fun. The main difference is the feel of practice and the attitude of the players. Everybody is excited to be here."

"We want to shock everyone; we want to show we are a completely different team," she said. "Our main goal is to win the conference, nothing less."

Along with the improvement of all of the returning players this year, Peck has been impressed with the play of Quanshell Scott, a freshman from Bakersfield, Calif., who recently suffered a minor injury but returned to practice last week.

"She will be a major contributor this season," Peck said.

The team has suffered from a lot of soreness early this season, which has hurt Peck's ability to push the players the way he would like, but the play of freshmen such as Tara Mikuzis and former Blackman High School star Lindsay Sisco has impressed the coaches thus far.

With the new season come new attitudes, new coaches and new challenges for the Lady Raider volleyball team. When asked to sum up all the changes the team has undergone, Peck said one word: "Exciting." ♦

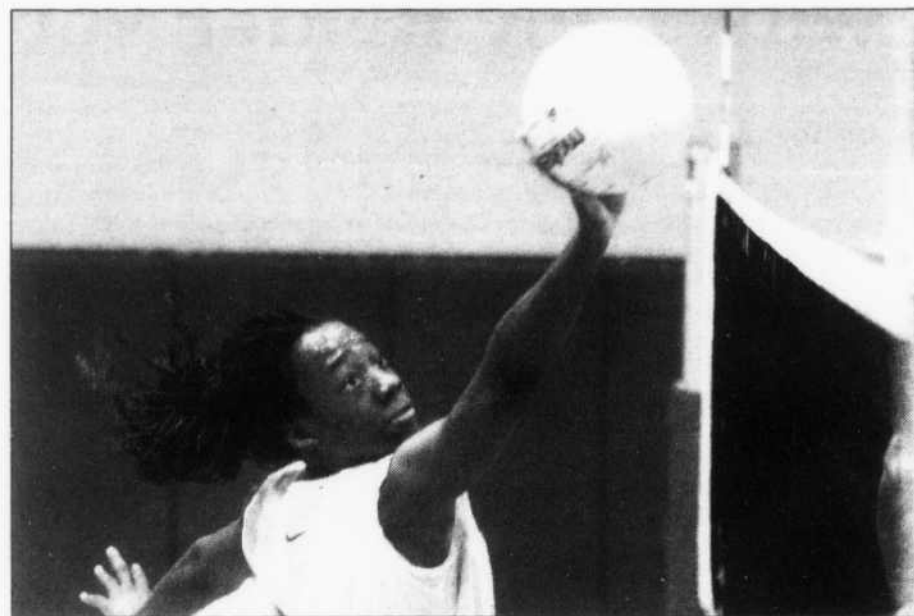


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Newcomer Quanshell Scott impressed Peck during practices this fall.



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# Newcomers quickly bond with Lady Raider veterans

By Jori Rice  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team is getting ready for the 2004 season with a brand new head coach and several fresh faces.

"The new players are great, and they are adjusting really well," Dara McLean said. McLean is one of two returning seniors to this year's squad.

Former Blackman standout Lindsay Sisco has enjoyed her experience with MT so far.

"I like the team and coaches," Sisco said. "It's hard to adjust to college from high school, but I

am getting into the system. I like playing with the best."

Other players are also enjoying their first year as Lady Raiders. Tara Mikuzis, a four-year letter winner at Joliet Township High School in Shorewood, Ill., chose MT mainly because of the staff's friendliness.

"The coaches are so nice; they made me feel welcome," Mikuzis said. "I was ready to sign with them from the start. They are intense and fun. It is good to be a part of this program."

Quanshell Scott, a freshman from

See Recruits, 45

## Attendance: Must increase

Continued from 39

Blue Raider Athletic Association is also promoting the team and selling tickets.

As of Wednesday, only 5,100 season tickets had been sold, but Director of Ticket Operations John Brooks said sales are picking up.

"We're not where we were last year, but we are really close, and sales have picked up the last couple of weeks," Brooks said. "But we need to sell a whole lot more."

Brooks also added that the

number of tickets sold is important, but the number of fans that show up at the turnstiles is the deciding factor.

Past attendance numbers were exaggerated because the athletic department was responsible for counting the number of tickets sold instead of the actual number in attendance. Under new NCAA rules this year, schools must hire an outside auditor to determine the final attendance figures.

MTSU Athletic Director Boots Donnelly could not be reached for comment. ♦

## Defense: Hopes 4-3 is key

Continued from 38

"We have been talking about bringing in the 4-3 for the two years I have been here," said senior linebacker Alvin Fite. "I have always liked the 4-3. I think bringing it in this year is a good thing for us. I think some of the younger players come in with more experience in the 4-3."

This year's defense has plenty of goals, including

improving on third downs and controlling the red zone. But the main goal of the defense is the same as that of the entire team: to win the conference and go to the New Orleans Bowl.

"We have to win games," Peveto said. "We have to win games and get to New Orleans. If we have done that, we have had a successful defensive year." ♦



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October 30 - Homecoming game

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## Battle: QB rotation may solve issue

Continued from 38

will help, but we're looking for a whole new ending than last year, a better outcome, and we're just looking to have fun," Harris said.

Behind Marks and Harris, redshirt freshmen Sam Hunt and Patrick Jackson and true freshman Joe Craddock have also had good offseasons, making the coaching staff's decision even harder. Despite what many believe to be a distraction, McCollum is glad to have a lot of options at quarterback.

"It's a great situation," McCollum said. "We'll start narrowing this situation down and seeing which direction we want to go. Josh and Clint are competing hard right now, and I think both of them could go in the game, and you have Sam Hunt who is getting better everyday."

"[Marks and Harris] have been in games," McCollum said. "They understand it. But they still have a lot of work to do. We'll see which one is going to be the best player to get us in the end zone and take care of the football."

There is a good chance that Blue Raider fans could see a quarterback rotation somewhat similar to last year until MT can find a consistent starter. McCollum's ultimatum was clear: the player to make the right plays early and put points on the board will hear his number called Saturday. ♦

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## Titans: Defensive line will look radically different

Continued from 37

catches for 110 yards and one touchdown in two games.

"I'm more focused this year than I was last year," Calico said. "I'm more accustomed to the offense, and I feel more comfortable. This offense is versatile, so you have to work on every aspect of your game, but [now] I tend to get more deep routes in."

On defense, Rocky Boiman will take over for Sirmon at left outside linebacker. Boiman was confident he could fill in for the team's second-leading tackler last season.

"I just have to step in and do a good job like he [Sirmon] did and help us win," Boiman said. "Obviously I've had more practice time, but as far as preparing, I've always tried to prepare to the utmost, so there's nothing really different in that."

The defensive line will look vastly different from last year. Kevin Carter will move from end to tackle this season, and

Albert Haynesworth and Rien Long will also see increased work. Defensive end Carlos Hall will take up the familiar role of coming in for Kearsse — except this time, he'll be doing it for an entire season.

"My role has picked up," Hall said. "It's gone from coming in on third downs to playing every down. I just have to prepare myself to be in good shape for the season and be ready to play a whole lot of plays."

Rookie ends Antwan Odom and Travis LaBoy will likely see playing time as well, but LaBoy had a rough camp that included an injured groin and a mild concussion.

Regardless of their positions, the Titans who will see expanded roles would likely agree with Meier's goals for this season.

"I just want to come in and be a dominant force," Meier said. "I want to be intense, provide a spark ... and have some fun." ♦

## Recruits: Enjoying practice

Continued from 42

Bakersfield, Calif., is Mikuzis' roommate and is having fun with the team.

"Everybody cannot believe I left California for Tennessee, but to me it's not a big deal," Scott said. "Everybody is great. I am glad I chose MT."

The newcomers this season will be a vital part of rebuilding and regrouping the Lady Raiders after a disappointing 14-19 season, but so far they seem to be ready for the challenge.

"There is no stress," Scott said. "It's fun meeting new people, and having the chance to gain knowledge is a wonderful thing to go through." ♦

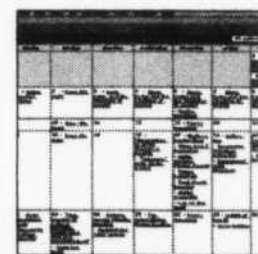


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# MT's other 'football' team ready to top last season

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

Aside from all the talk about that team over in Floyd Stadium, there's another Blue Raider squad that is also looking for a successful football season of sorts.

The Middle Tennessee soccer team is coming off its first Sun Belt Conference Tournament win last season and an unbeaten spring season. Fifteen letterwinners return this year as the Blue Raiders begin their quest for their first conference title.

"Our attack will be more potent than that of last year," head coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "We now have speed, strength, creativity and strong mental toughness in all our forwards. We have to work toward building on those strengths."

Those forwards include captain Laura Miguez, who currently holds MT career records in assists and points and is tied for first in career goals, and Rebecca Rodriguez, who led the team with 12 goals as a freshman last season.

Newcomer Courtney Dunlap, who owns the Tennessee high school scoring record with 184 goals, will likely add to the offensive production of the front line.

At midfield, All-SBC selection Claire Ward and returning starter Rachel Holmes will lead a group that includes Debs Brereton, a transfer from Northeastern State. Brereton showed her offensive prowess with both goals in a 2-0 exhibition win over UT-Martin on Aug 21.

"It was very important to get that win under our belt and play well as a team," Brereton told MT Media Relations afterward. "As for me scoring two goals, it's the best I could think of because I'm really looking forward to the season after starting on such a high note. Hopefully it will continue through the season. I feel much more confident now, plus I've proven to my teammates that I can do it."

Senior defender Jessica Northcutt also earned All-SBC preseason honors and was named to the All-Sun Belt First

Team last season in her first year as a defender. The defense is the most unchanged group from last year and includes former Franklin High standouts Katy Rayburn and Sara Wolhueter.

Defense has been a focus for Rhoden and his team throughout fall practice, and Rhoden was fairly pleased with his team's shutout performance against UT-Martin.

"We spent the first five days of preseason working on defense, so it was good to have all the defenders and goalkeepers play well and not give up any goals," Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "Defensively, the team played fairly well. We definitely have a long way to go, but we played well in spurts."

The squad opened its schedule at Mississippi State last Friday and also faced Ole Miss yesterday. Results were not available at press time. ♦

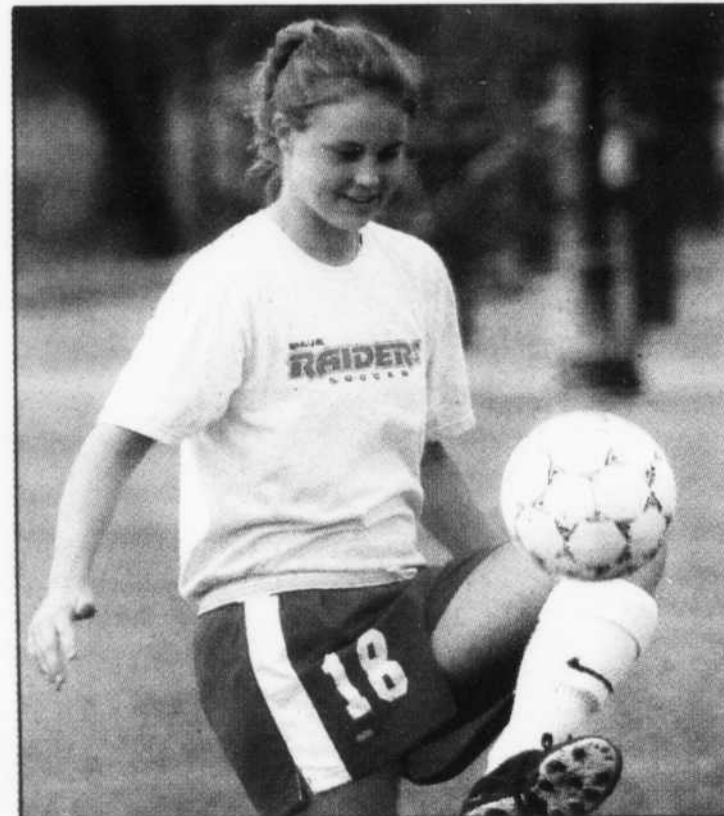


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Defender Jessica Northcutt dribbles during practice.

## Online Sports Coverage

For staff writer David Hunter's preview of Sun Belt Conference soccer teams, visit [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com) and click on "Sports".

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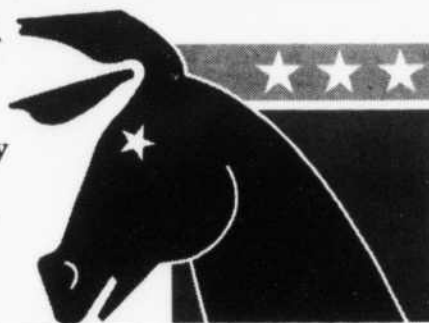
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