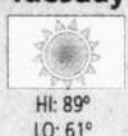

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SIDELINES

Economics conference looks to future

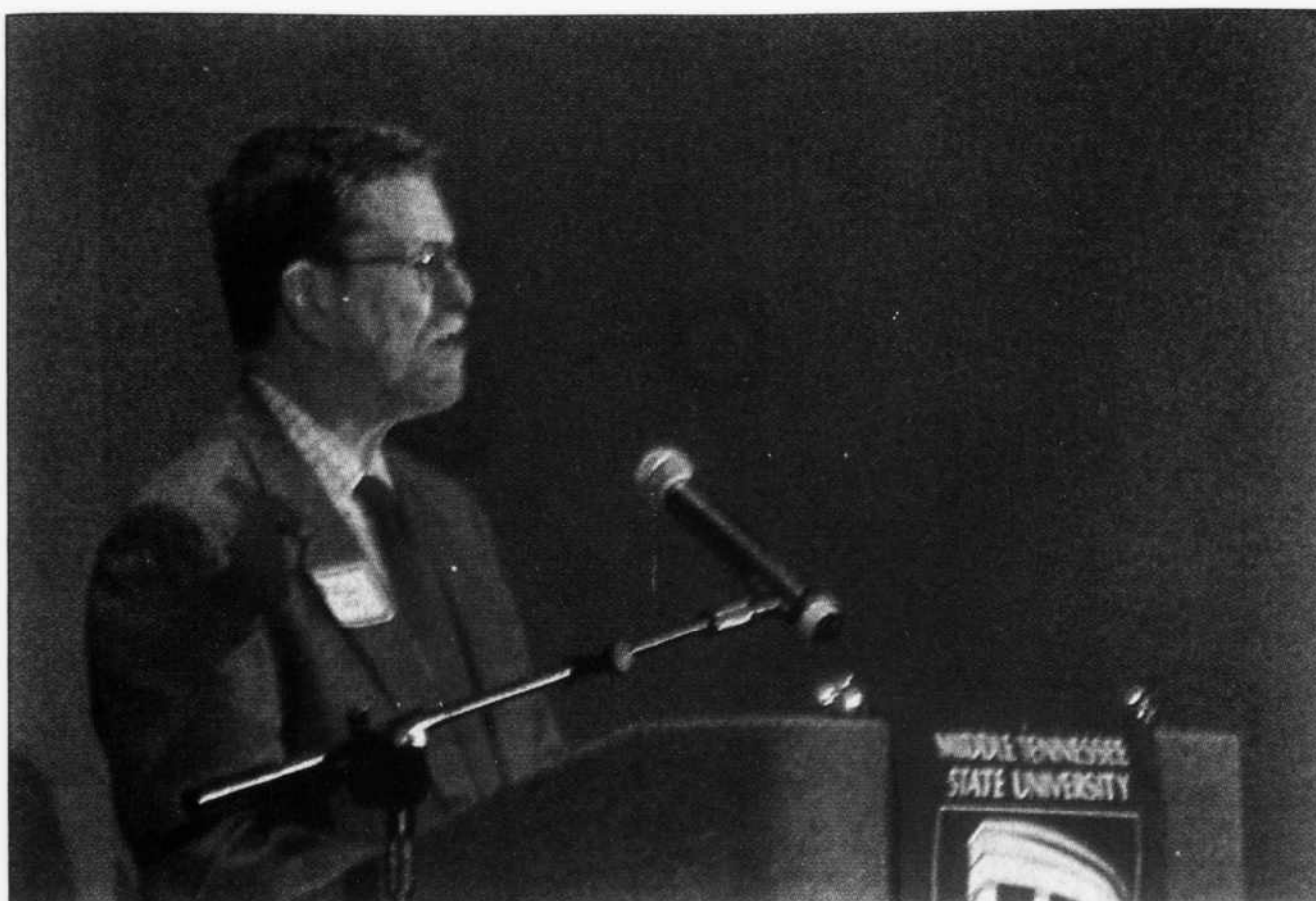


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

William Poole talked about the impact of federal regulation on the economy during his speech as this year's guest at MTSU's Economic Outlook Conference.

By Amanda Cooper

Contributing Writer

William Poole, president of the Federal Reserve Bank for St. Louis, was this year's featured speaker for the Economic Outlook Conference Friday in the Tennessee Room of James Union Building.

Poole deviated from the "analysis" aspect of the conference to give his opinion about federal regulation of the economy.

"I'll not say much about the outlook. Others are better qualified than I to discuss that subject," Poole said. "My topic is how the [federal government] adjusts policy when the economy departs from the central tendency outlooks."

Poole's speech on "data dependence" emphasized his thoughts on inflation, the Federal Reserve and the limited accuracy of most economic forecasts.

Poole expressed the disadvantage of the use of long-term data reports on the economy. He said when the federal government uses these reports, often times they backfire and hinder inflation and the economy as a

whole.

"The Federal Reserve is constantly evaluating the situation in the markets and trying to adjust the intended federal funds rate to produce a satisfactory equilibrium in the economy," Poole said.

In order to keep the inflation rate low and stable, adjustments are constantly made to the federal funds rate. Poole stated he believes citizens are "properly interpreting incoming information to make fairly accurate short-term predictions for today's economy."

The conference tries to give an overview of the economy while advocating limited regulation of the economy by the federal government. The audience for the annual conference includes business owners, executives, bankers, local politicians and academics who are interested in the regional and national economy.

David Penn, director for MTSU Business and Economic Research Center, reported last year in his annual analysis of Middle Tennessee's

See Economics, 4

Lecture studies health issues

By Josh Hudson

Contributing Writer

Forming better methods of assisting victims of natural disasters is the topic of Monday's Honors College lecture.

Cheryl Ellis will deliver the lecture, entitled "Natural Disasters: A Public Health Perspective," touching on the repercussions of these events in the communities in which they occur and address how response times to these disasters can be cut down.

"I believe a united front should be formed dedicated to developing good methods to respond to disasters," Ellis said. "Over 40 countries are experiencing crises due to natural disasters, and only the Public Health sector is prepared to deal with them."

Where the medical and mental health communities tend to focus on the individual, public health takes a step back and looks at how the entire community deal with the situation.

Ellis also plans to cover the epidemiology associated with natural disasters, saying that it is the primary topic in the public health field.

Lack of shelter, contaminated water and food supplies can all lead to the outbreak of infectious diseases in a population. Providing victims with basic necessities and sufficient medical treatment can be very difficult in the hazardous areas hit by the disasters.

In addition to this, Ellis will approach the subject from a

mental health perspective.

Victims of these disasters suffer debilitating stress that leads to many emotional, physical and cognitive reactions that can further complicate the disaster and response time. Mental health is often overlooked in these events, but is just as, if not more crucial to address than anything else.

Ellis also hopes to broaden people's views of natural disasters, addressing events that are not typically covered in American media.

"When most people think of natural disasters, they think of hurricanes like Katrina or the tsunami in the Indian Ocean," Ellis said. "But they usually do not think of droughts, a serious issue in Africa."

There are also countries in South America where the temperature has dropped so low it has been declared a natural disaster, Ellis said.

"Politics gets in the way most of the time when it comes to dealing with natural disasters," Ellis said. "For instance, the events in New Orleans were mostly man-made, as money to rebuild the levees in the ninth ward was typically spent elsewhere."

Ellis received her doctorate in public health education from the University of Tennessee and holds two master degrees in biology and community health education.

The lecture will be delivered at 3 p.m. in room 106 of the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building Monday, Oct. 2nd.



Ellis



SGA senators talk with students about campus frustrations

By Geoff Brashear

Staff Writer

Student Government Association Senators tried to meet their constituents in an effort to improve communication on campus.

Wednesday, Sept. 27th and Thursday, Sept. 28th, SGA set-up booths in the Keathley University Center for senators representing the College of Liberal Arts, undeclared majors and senators at-large. Another booth was set up in the Business and Aerospace Building for students in the basic and applied sciences.

The booths were meant to create an open forum that would inspire the exchange of ideas between students and their senators, for the senators to get feedback about the campus and to inform students about current issues.

"I would like to see legislation on safety on campus and honoring MTSU veterans, as well as those who were killed in action," Ryan Richards, senator at-large, said.

One of the reasons for the booths was for senators to talk to students about the referendum to increased student fees, which will go to pay for the new student university center.

Brad Rich, senator for College of Liberal Arts, said the new center would be located behind Jim Cummings Hall.

The university has already started construction on new fields off of Main Street for the rugby teams and other activities, Rich said.

The construction off East Main Street will be a sports complex including new fields for use by student groups, like the rugby team and any other sports club, or students who just want to use it, Richards said.

It is part of the process of expanding MTSU to match its present and future growth, Richards said.

"In the long run, it will put MTSU up on a level with more prominent schools and attract more people to

MTSU," Rich said.

"I support it because it will make [MTSU diplomas] worth more," said Courtney Ledford, senator for College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

By 2009, MTSU will be reaching somewhere around 30,000 students, so the need to begin the expansion process is dire, Richards said.

Ledford wanted to inform students about the legislation she is trying to pass that would eliminate chalking and tagging on sidewalks and buildings on campus.

Chalking is often used by student organizations, local music bands and sometimes for profane graffiti.

"I would like to better enforce the laws against chalking and tagging, and possibly fine venues for the bands' graffiti. There are places in the KUC to post flyers and announcements. I want to make our campus look good," Ledford said.

The possibility of expanding the use of Raider Funds or flex dollars off campus at local restaurants has also been expressed to the senators.

The idea to use Raider Funds and flex dollars off campus has been discussed with great interest in the past. Unfortunately, it was found to be unfeasible for MTSU at this time. The cost and technological investment and resources required made it impractical, according to Rich.

The booths also gave senators a chance to talk to students about the number-one problem on campus - parking.

"We're constantly hearing about parking - and we know it's bad - but it's [a] huge issue. We are working on better bus routes to make it more efficient," Rich said.

While there is no immediate solution to every problem facing students, the senators are taking ideas and complaints to try to improve student life for current students as well as future students.



Ledford



Rich

Study shows past summer second warmest on record

By DeAndrea Mack

Contributing Writer

A recent study done by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration shows that this past summer was the second warmest summer on record in the continental U.S. This year's January-to-August interval was the hottest ever to be recorded on the continent.

Cindi Smith-Walters, professor and co-director of the MTSU Center for Environmental Education, believes that these findings, along with rising temperatures around the world over the past century, are further evidence of global warming.

"[Throughout] the entire 20th century, our average global temperature increased by a little over one degree Fahrenheit," she said, adding that scientists have predicted that "by the year 2100 our tempera-

ture will increase by anywhere from 3 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit."

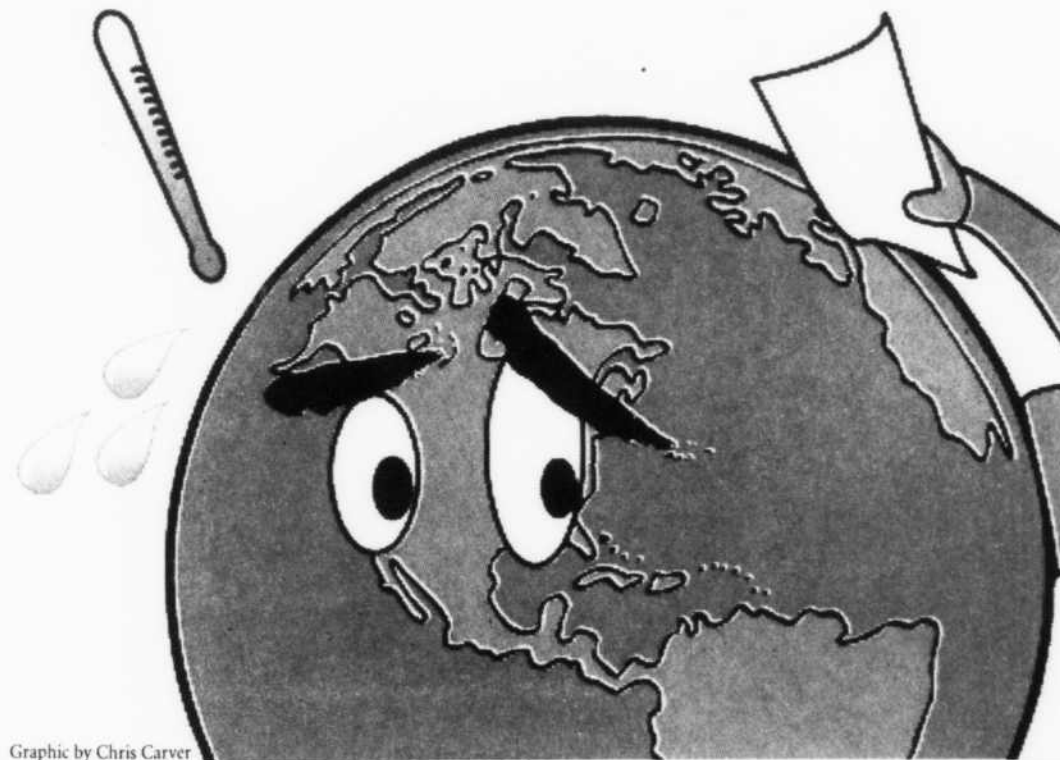
Smith-Walters said she believes that global warming is partly a result of "human activity adding excessive greenhouse gases to the atmosphere."

Among the measures humans can take to lessen the output of greenhouse gases, Smith-Walters noted driving less, buying energy-efficient machines, and "reducing, reusing, and recycling" our resources.

"Research is looking at all sorts of guidelines including greenhouse emissions and how much of that is man's influence," said Dennis Feltgen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service and Public Affairs.

Smith-Walters is among many environmental experts who warn that global warming could impact

See Global, 4



Graphic by Chris Carver

SGA Homecoming Candidates

Queens not profiled:

Chelsea DeBerry
Jasmine Walthall
Lizzie Miller
Mary Avent

(More Queens Profiled on Page 3...)

Name:
Meagan Flippin
Major:
Public Relations
Classification:
Senior



Flippin

Reason you chose to run for homecoming queen:
I was honored to be nominated by my sorority to run for Homecoming Queen.

Best thing about MTSU:
Although MTSU is the largest undergraduate university in the state, the atmosphere of the MTSU community is a close-knit one and I believe that students don't feel like they are "just a number," like most students do at universities of our size.

Worst:
I would love to see more students and community members make MTSU their "one and only" school to support.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I have been an Blue Raider fan my entire life. My parents both graduated from MTSU and my dad was a four-year player for the MTSU football team. As long as I can remember, I've been attending MTSU athletic events and been involved with MTSU through my family. I've tried to give back to MTSU everything it has given me over the past 21 years through dedicating myself to service, school spirit, and involvement within the university community. I hope that I have been able to make a positive impact on the university and the community, and I feel that I have a unique, unconditional commitment to MTSU.

Extracurriculars:
SGA Vice President; Associate Director of Up 'Til Dawn; President of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority; Activities Director for Panhellenic Council; Blue Belle; Student Orientation Assistant; MTSU Homecoming Committee; Intramural Athletics

Name:
Elizabeth Pinnix
Major:
Broadcast Journalism and Television Production
Classification:
Senior



Pinnix

Reason you chose to run for homecoming queen:
I am running for homecoming queen because I bleed blue. I love MTSU, I loved it long before I enrolled and I will love it long after I graduate.

Best thing about MTSU:
My favorite thing about MTSU is that there is always something around campus to get involved with, no matter what your interest.

Worst:
The worst thing about MTSU is the lack of teachers. The MTSU student body at has grown so quickly that there are not enough qualified teachers hired to teach the core classes.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I am hardworking, grateful and loyal and my years at MTSU will not be forgotten and though I may be graduating in May, MTSU will see me for many years to come because I plan to support and give back to MTSU.

Extracurriculars:
MTTV; Alpha Chi Omega; Homecoming Committee; Aids Quilt; Up 'Til Dawn; Alternative Spring Break; Raiders for Christ; Give Kids the World; Domestic Violence Shelter; Reading is for Winners; Make a Wish Foundation; United Way.

Name:
Marshall B. Farmer
Major:
Management
Classification:
Senior



Farmer

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
It seemed like it would be fun and would also be a great honor.

Best thing about MTSU:
My favorite thing about MTSU is that it has the potential to be a powerhouse school in the southeast.

Worst:
Students need to have more fun here. College should not be just a bothersome commute combined with learning. College should be a center of learning, living, laughing, and just plain having a good time.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
Really in truly there is nothing. All the candidates are very involved in a lot of areas of this university and each one contributes equally in his or her own way.

Extracurriculars:
U.S. Marines (Former Active Duty); PIKE; Student Judicial Board; NSCS; Raider Republicans; Soccer; Flag Football; Weightlifting

Name:
Aaron Gaston
Major:
Business Management
Classification:
Senior



Gaston

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
I am running for Homecoming King to represent my fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha

Best thing about MTSU:
My favorite thing about MTSU would have to be the

diversity of the school.

Worst:
What I think needs improvement is the involvement of the students in regards to political issues on campus.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
Tenacity, open mindedness, and congeniality.

Extracurriculars:
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., SGA Senator, The Mentor Program

Name:
Will Fancher
Major:
Marketing
Classification:
Senior



Fancher

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
I'm emotionally crippled and desperate for acceptance--the same reason anyone runs for anything.

Best thing about MTSU:
Me

Worst:
My Opponents

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I'm on the radio (Tuesday mornings at 10 on 88.3 WMTS Murfreesboro). And I've never solicited a prostitute.

Extracurriculars:
WMTS, Student Programming, Theatre, Harry Dean Stanton Fan Club, International Congregation of Rogues, Roustabouts, and Cads (ICRRC), Oprah's Book Club

Name:
Andrew Cox
Major:
Electronic Media Communications
Classification:
Junior



Cox

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
It started out as me and my roommate having some fun doing something different, but now I hope that I can truly encourage people to live for something greater than themselves, to see that there is more than just this world, and that even a simple smile in passing can brighten someone's day tremendously.

Best thing about MTSU:
My amazing friends that I get to struggle through and enjoy life with.

Worst:
Parking! No, I would like to see the campus come together for a common purpose. Be it sports, service, or just to love one another.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
That's a hard one. It's tough analyzing myself truthfully. I consider myself a God fearing guy trying to be a gentleman in a world that resists everything a gentleman would stand for.

Extracurriculars:
I am involved with RUF campus ministry. I play soccer for Blue Crew intramural soccer team. I participate in Guys and Dolls Swing Dance Club evenings. I am a devout member of Davidangel.net.

Name:
Steven Rohall
Major:
Marketing
Classification:
Senior



Rohall

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
I was nominated by my fraternity to run

Best thing about MTSU:
Tailgating for football games

Worst:
We need a top of the line Student Union

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I am extremely friendly and good looking

Extracurriculars:
Sigma Alpha Epsilon, really really good looking people association

Name:
Nicholas Lee
Major:
Philosophy
Classification:
Junior



Lee

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
I am running for Homecoming King because I am tired of it. I am tired of it when a student (especially incoming students) think the only way to have fun, make friends, and make a difference is to join a Greek organization. I do not Greek bash because they do many good things. I run because I want to prove that the rest of us can do good things too.

Best thing about MTSU:
The best thing about MTSU is how it is a HUGE campus with a cozy feel. If you want to, you can become extremely social, active, academic, or anything else you want because of the organizations and level of student activity provided. That, and the coziness makes MTSU plain beautiful.

Worst:
The worst thing is the sense of apathy that many people have because they think one must be Greek to make a difference.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
The other candidates are either A) Running for Greek Life, or B) doing it just for the fun of it. But I see this as a chance to make a difference and I think we should make the most out of it.

Extracurriculars:
I am Vice-President of Pro Life Collegians, a member of Mock Trial, teach self-defense to bring down the assault/rape instances on campus, and work 36 hours a week.

Name:
Erik E. Stevenson
Major:
Recording Industry Management



Stevenson

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:

Running for homecoming king or queen allows you the opportunity to bring light to some of the things that affect OUR community. It may seem so superficial but the potential king and queen has the chance to shed light on important issues.

Best thing about MTSU:
MTSU's has giving me the opportunity to meet an eclectic group of people that make this university great.

Worst:
MTSU needs to understand and develop a better concept of community.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I feel that I am a man of intelligence, class, and style. I feel that is a result of me being molded by the MT experience.

Extracurriculars:
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., President of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Multi-Cultural Affairs Mentor, Chapter Coordinator for CEO, U.S. Army enlisted soldier of the 332nd Medical Brigade with Specialist rank.

Name:
Kell Harvey
Major:
Concrete Industry Management
Classification:
Senior



Harvey

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:
I am running for homecoming king because I feel like I can represent every student on the MTSU campus.

Best thing about MTSU:
My favorite thing about MTSU is the feeling of being home and meeting true friends that will be a part of me for the rest of my life.

Worst:
Making improvement starts with setting goals and reaching them. I believe that we should set higher goals as a student body and come together to reach these goals regardless of which organizations we are a part of or not a part of. If we all pull together then the sky is the limit for Middle Tennessee State University.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
For two years of my college life I went to school and worked. My junior year I decided to join a fraternity. Having seen both sides of college life, I have learned from every experience and used that knowledge to make me a stronger person.

Extracurriculars:
Vice President of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity; Intramural



Name:
Chassen M. Haynes
Major:
Business Finance
Classification:
Junior



Haynes

Reason you chose to run for homecoming king:

I believe that I represent MTSU in a very positive way. I am privileged to have been involved in many diverse organizations throughout my career here, and I feel that this will affect them positively. Furthermore, this would give me a chance to give something back to those organizations that have helped me in countless ways.

Best thing about MTSU:
Our Student Government Association. I had the chance to go to Texas A&M as an SGA Senator this past spring, and everybody was impressed about how things run at MTSU.

Worst:
The thing that upsets me the most is the lack of student involvement. I feel that people who do not become more involved miss out on many opportunities that MTSU offers.

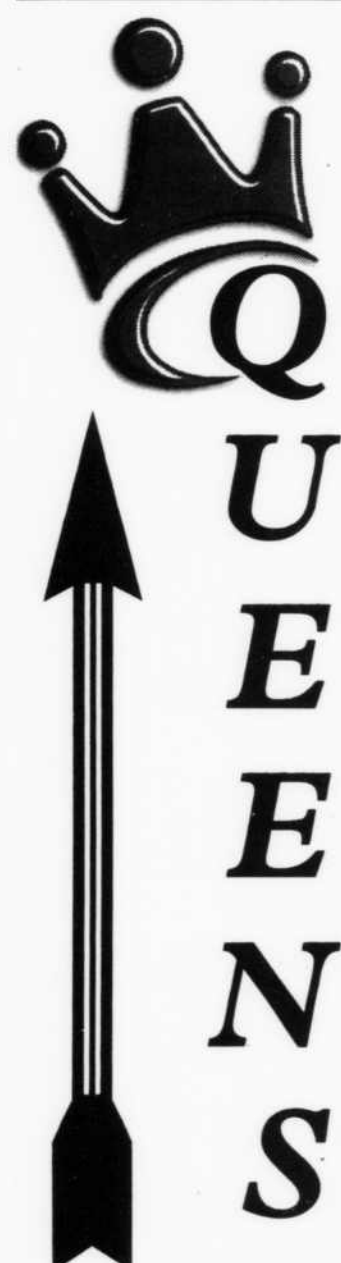
Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:
I believe that I am a very caring and driven person. I am not just involved in many organizations, but I am also a leader in these organizations. Whenever I am in charge of something, I set my mind to it and make it as big as possible. I also have a very caring heart, and I believe everybody has the potential to do big things.

Extracurriculars:
Sigma Nu Fraternity; Co-Fundraising Chair, Homecoming Chair; IFC Asst. Recruitment Director; Up 'Til Dawn - Corporate Sponsorship Chair; MTSU Homecoming Committee; Chili Cook-off Chair; Raider Republican; Vice President; Raiders for Christ MTSU Academic Appeals Committee; MTSU Student Advisory Board; National Scholars Honors Society; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Cronos & Colitis Foundation of America Member

Kings not profiled:

Dustin "Ox" Heiland
Jose "Crazy Curls" Becton

Profiles compiled by Amanda Cooper
Contributing Writer



SGA freshmen candidates

Here's a closer look at 19 of the 32 Freshmen Senate candidates.



Mandie Morgan
Political Science

If I were elected senator I would "help improve student life on campus at MTSU. So many students perceive parking to be an issue at MTSU, however I believe that the administration has already realized this is a problem and have taken several steps to improve it."



Carla M. Fields
Broadcasting

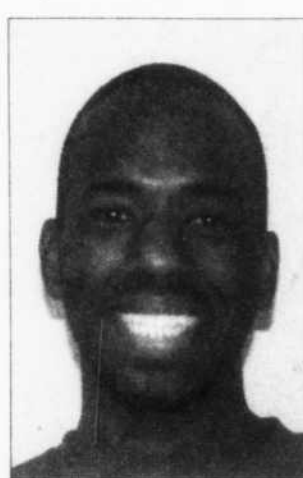
If I were elected senator I would "make sure all of their concerns are voiced to the SGA, as well as the senate to ensure that they have the best education possible."

Will Ridley
Pre-Law

If I were elected senator "I would represent everyone in the freshman class to the best of my ability. I [will] improve life by promoting more student services. I would be open to suggestions from other students."

Kerri Gass
Broadcasting

If I were elected senator I would "do whatever I could to make this the most fabulous four years of your life."



Jason Gerald
Business Finance

If I were elected senator "I would do my best to enhance the freshman quality of life on campus through weekend social events, more accessible peer tutoring, a motion for two-ply toilet paper in the bathrooms and, most importantly, getting rid of that rancid smell by Peck Hall."



Kayla Gaines
Biology

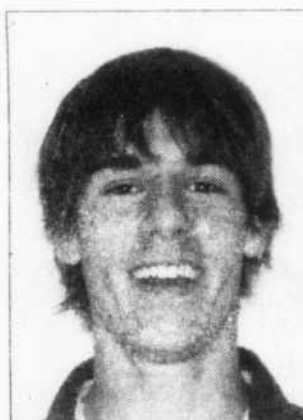
If I were elected senator I would "strive to meet every ones needs. I would work to make the freshman class more attentive to on campus activities like football games and other events."

Hunter Barry
Electronic Media Journalism

If I were elected senator I would "dance my Senatorial Victory Jig. It is a festive jig which dwarves the Macarena and the Funky Chicken Dance in comparison and is the envy of seven of the nine richest kings of Persia."

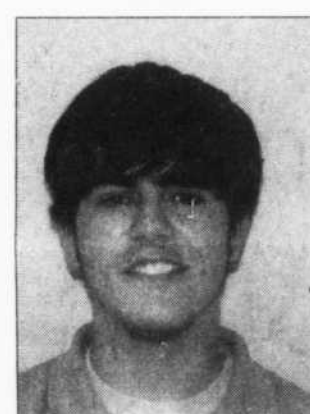
Shayna Taylor
International Relations

If I were elected senator I would "get a pool table and more ping-pong tables put in the Rec Center as have been suggested by freshman students. I would also like to get the washer and dryers in the laundry rooms free of charge as well all know college students aren't right and need clean clothes."



Wil Shults
Public Relations

If I were elected senator I would "best represent the wants and needs of the freshman here at MTSU."



Kristopher Robinson
Political Science and Public Relations

If I were elected senator I would "attempt to follow through with any requests or recommendations of any fellow freshman."

Dera Shelton
Broadcasting

If I were elected senator I would "pledged to provide everyone an equal voice within the student government association. By listening to the comments and concerns for my fellow students, I would work to bring about the appropriate change."

Casey McNeely
Undeclared

If I were elected senator I would "do everything in my power to make freshman year the best year for everyone!"



Jonathan Williamson
Political Science

If I were elected senator I would "listen to my freshman peers in order to enhance the total MTSU experience."



Jerika Hale
Aerospace

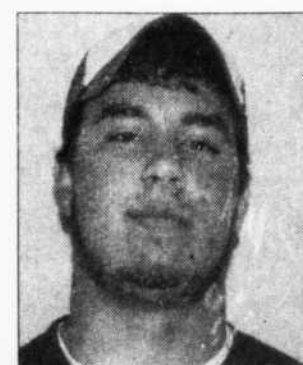
If I were elected senator I would "do my best to be the voice of the freshman class and help to engage the freshman in all aspects of MTSU activities."

Jessica Turri
Electronic Media Communications

If I were elected senator I would "try to get more people involved in the student body. I would push my fellow classmates to take a stand and to participate more here at MTSU."

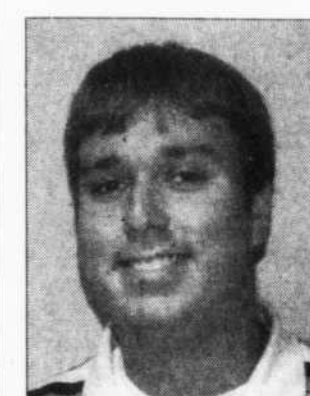
Nicole Carver
Psychology and Social Work

If I were elected senator I would "do my best to help all freshman voice their opinions and become involved in some way on campus!"



Brain Walsh
Business Finance

If I were elected senator "I would be completely dedicated to my position, as well as to the needs of my class. I would promise to always be available to attend all meetings and activities."



Neil McCormack
Electronic Media Production

If I were elected senator I would "work to find solutions to the problems this university faces, such as parking and overcrowding. By using long-term solutions that would carry over far into the future."

Felisha Cook
Family and Consumer Science Education

If I were elected to senate I would "be sure the students wants and needs would be recognized. I would try to get out on campus regularly to speak with other freshmen about their concerns or opinions and what changes or new things they would like to see on campus."

Queens: More profiles

Continued from 2



Lynn

Name: Laurie Lynn

Major: Organizational Communication

Classification: Junior

Reason you chose to run for homecoming queen:

As an MTSU student I am seeking the opportunity to represent all aspects of student life.

Best thing about MTSU:

While I am getting an education to prepare for my career, I am not missing out on my youth and having a fulfilling college experience.

Worst:

I suppose the worst thing about MTSU is that so many students go home on the weekends making it difficult for those that stay here to be able to build relationships with a wide variety of students.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:

I am 100% independent, and I don't feel like I am any better than any other student here just because I am running for Homecoming queen.

Extracurriculars:

Alpha Chi Omega, MTSU dance team, Band of Blue, Phi Eta Sigma, Greek Life programming board, student worker.



Estes

Name: Liz Estes

Major: Philosophy and English

Classification: Senior

Reason you chose to run for homecoming queen:

To represent the school spirit of the artisans, musicians, volunteers, tutors and activist that enrich this diverse campus and community.

Best thing about MTSU:

My favorite things about MTSU is the enthusiasm expressed by professors and students in the liberal arts departments about the preservation of the value of education.

Worst:

The main concept that MTSU needs to improve upon is the celebration and recognition of our diverse student body and the collective efforts of the student organizations that challenge political and social ideologies.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:

Charisma, spunk, eccentric, well developed epistemological values, courage to think outside of the box or the circle and the nerve to challenge hegemonic normatives by the system in the system.

Extracurriculars:

Mentor for Southern Girls Rock n' Roll camp; President's Commission on the Status of Women; English tutor in the Developmental Writing lab; DJ at WMTS; Students for Environmental Action



Rickman

Name: Bess Rickman

Major: Chemistry (Pre-Pharmacy Concentration)

Classification: Senior

Reason you chose to run for homecoming queen:

As a senior, I have had the opportunity to participate in three years worth of Homecoming festivities. I've witnessed how the entire campus and community come together to celebrate what it means to be an MTSU Blue Raider.

Best thing about MTSU:

It has become quite obvious to me that MTSU is one of the most diverse campuses around. I love the fact that our student body has so many opportunities awaiting them on campus.

Worst:

Lack of school spirit and enthusiasm for MTSU. I would like to see both students and faculty have more pride and regard for our Blue Raider tradition.

Characteristics that set you apart from other candidates:

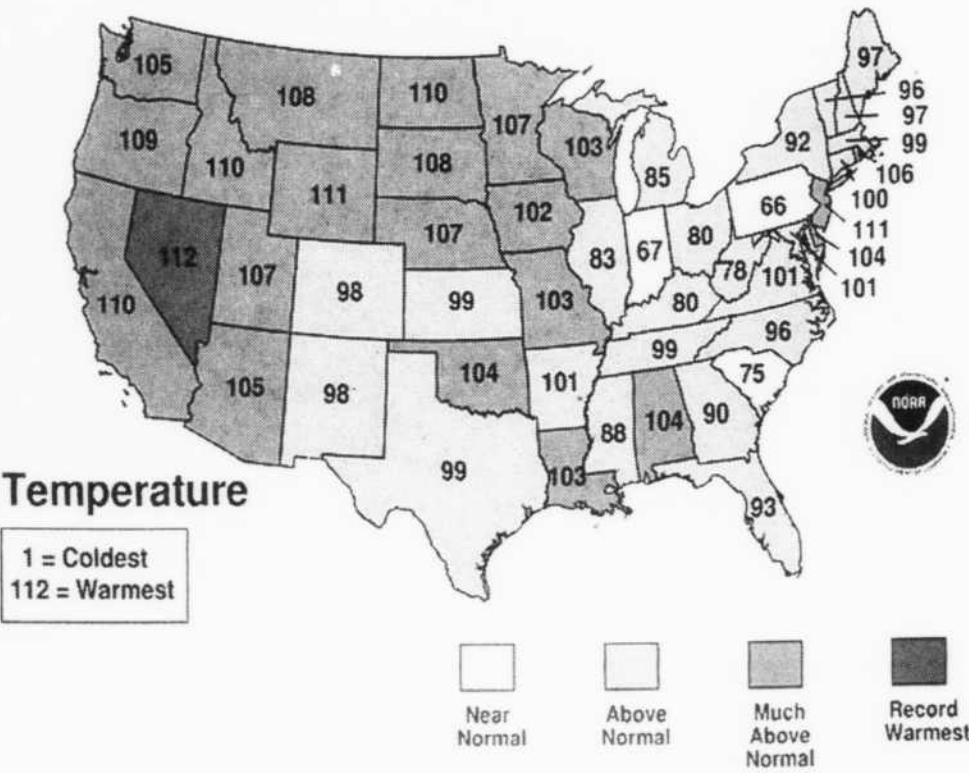
To be quite honest, the majority of the candidates for Homecoming Queen have the same qualifications and have been equally active on campus. However, I do believe that my involvement on campus has been widespread and not merely focused in one organization.

Extracurriculars:

Alpha Omicron Pi President, SGA Senator, Panhellenic Council, Greek Life Programming Board, CUSTOMS

June-August 2006 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Graphic courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Economics: Annual conference comes to MTSU

Continued from 1

economy that Tennessee ranked as the 10th-highest state in personal income growth last year and also saw the largest increase in non-farm employment.

With international corporations including Nissan and Dell making their homes in Middle Tennessee, new job opportunities have been abundant.

"Thirteen hundred white-collar jobs were brought to Tennessee by Nissan," Penn said. "This is a good place for headquarters."

More locally, Penn praised the improvement of retail development, saying it was the "biggest thing in Rutherford County."

In reference to the growth in retail, Penn spoke of the Stones River Mall expansion and the Gateway complex.

The economic impact of Bonnaroo Music Festival was also discussed. "Fourteen million was brought in by business revenue and \$400,000 in tax revenue," Penn said.

Also, a part of the conference was the ceremonial awarding of the Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award, which went this year to local entrepreneur and business man, Mark Pirtle.

During his acceptance speech, Pirtle encour-

aged conference-goers to get involved with MTSU.

"If you get involved," Pirtle said. "You will quickly find that you are the greater recipient."

Donald Ratajczak, regents professor of Economics Emeritus at Georgia State University, compared his forecast from last year to what actually happened, and he found that he was correct on most of his predictions.

Ratajczak's new predictions included \$55 a barrel for oil, which will rise in hurricane season, gas prices staying between \$2.25 and \$2.50 a gallon, the Federal Reserve continuing to be in restraint, shortages in health care and that as the economy continues to slow down so will inflation.

Ratajczak said the increased inflation will also impact college tuition.

"Although the inflation risks are beginning to deflate, [college] tuitions have overtaken hospital fees as the biggest source of inflation," Ratajczak said.

The Economic Outlook Conference 2006 saw a higher turnout rate and a more diverse group of business-minded individuals than the past year. Next year, Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, hopes to get more students and faculty to attend and interested in the economic growing points of their area.

Global: Second warmest summer on record

Continued from 1

our planet not only by causing changes in climate, but also altered weather patterns and changes in the length of the seasons. The results could be a rise in sea level, flooding and other subsequent changes that would threaten plant and animal species. Some land areas would no longer be livable for people.

However, according to John Christy, professor and Director of the Earth Systems Science Center at the University of Alabama, such predictions are blown out of proportion.

"The earth's surface temperature is risen. The real question is how much and why," Christy said. "People think that global warming equates to

human warming, and that's unfortunate."

He contends that additional factors are at play in the ecosystem, including "natural variability, the way the ocean works, the way the sun works."

Christy does not feel that enforcing limitations on how much carbon dioxide people put out will solve the problem.

"Energy grants us longer and healthier lives," he said. "Even if you were concerned about a threat, these proposals won't make any difference anyway."

Christy said that climate changes happen, with or without humans on the planet, "How much of it is due to humans is an open question, I think."

Songwriting divas to speak on campus

By Jonathan Wiley

Staff Writer

Divas divine will be the guest at the next Nashville Songwriters Association International meeting Tuesday.

The songwriters who will be attending the NSAI meeting "Nashville Songwriting Divas In Round" are Lisa Carver, Shelly Fairchild and Stephony Smith.

All three of these songwriters have had numerous hits. "It's Your Love," "Perfect Love" and "How Was I To Know" were written by Smith while Fairchild wrote "You Don't Lie Here Anymore."

"All three songwriters are still very active in the business," said Trisha Fogle, member of the NSAI and senior recording industry management major. "We had to

switch dates with another company. We asked to switch because Lisa Carver has a CD release party in Los Angeles on the 18th of October."

Carver has had cuts by Willie Nelson, Julie Roberts, Tim McGraw, Shelly Fairchild and Jessica Andrews. She was also the 2001 Grand Prize Winner for the John Lennon Songwriting Contest. Students who attend will be able to ask many questions to the three songwriters.

"It's going to be very informal," Fogle said. "They're going to speak and talk about their careers. It is a question and answer session the whole time. If they feel more comfortable they might play some songs."

The NSAI chapter of MTSU is the first and only college chapter.

The organization was founded in 2001 with the help of Hal Newman, assistant professor of the RIM department. The NSAI group officially recognized the MTSU chapter in 2003.

"Corri Peck, our events coordinator, she knows the ladies," Fogle said. "She asked them if they would be willing to come out and speak on their songs."

All students regardless of major are welcome to attend the meeting with the three songwriters. The meeting will be free to attend. Students are encouraged to ask any questions they may have about songwriting to the three songwriters.

The event will take place in Room 104 of the Mass Communication building Tuesday night.

Royal Rules for Kings and Queens

Homecoming court election facts

* There are 11 men running for king and 9 women running for queen for homecoming.

* Voting will be held from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5 on Pipeline, and the court will be announced Friday, Oct. 6.

* A meet and greet of the candidates will be Oct. 3 through Oct. 5 in the Keathley University Center, where most candidates will have a table set up.

* The court is formed with the 10 candidates who have the most votes, 5 girls and 5 guys.

* Currently the only duties of the king and queen are to ride in the parade, walk on the field during the game and represent their organizations.

* To qualify for court, candidates must have completed 60 hours and have a 2.0 grade point average.

* The Student Government Association is working on possibly putting together a program for them to be more involved for next year, though.

* The king and queen will be crowned at the Homecoming game Nov. 4.

Information courtesy of Ben Hall, SGA election commissioner and junior marketing major.

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Continued from last column

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OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board Sidelines' top 10 resolutions for upcoming SGA campaign

If *Sidelines* were to run for Freshman Senate we would promise to you, our loyal readership, we would be the best senator newspaper ever. We would faithfully uphold the ideals and practices of our university and student body and encourage all types of student growth and stuff.

Below are our top priorities for the university:

Our first order of business would be to establish a "no final exam" policy. Any teacher caught giving final exams would be immediately beheaded and then fired.

Second, we would promise to eliminate all grades 'A' through 'I' and require a pure pass / fail grading system. In addition to this new system, the only way to fail would be to attend every class.

Third, we would expand the Wiser-Patten Science Building and convert it into a parking garage, that may only be used by Greeks.

Fourth, we would allow men and women to live together on the same floor or in the same room, if they wish.

Fifth, no more greasy fast food. Instead, we demand a premium steak house to be supplied by the Tennessee Livestock Center, located next to Scarlett Commons.

Sixth, flex dollars will apply to aforementioned steak house.

Seventh, football game attendance will be mandatory. Anyone caught skipping will also be beheaded and then expelled.

Eighth, unfortunately, thanks to the Tennessee Board of Regents, the campus will have to remain a "dry" campus. However, exceptions will be made for freshmen, football players and Greeks.

Ninth, anyone caught wearing University of Tennessee, Knoxville apparel will be subject to interrogation, cavity search, incarceration, public humiliation and torture. They will then be issued a fine.

Tenth, we will convert Sidney McPhee's presidential house into a nightclub whose cover will benefit the lowering of student tuition and help provide funding for the new student center.

Subsequently, we will also hold a raffle of Lady McPhee's hat collection to assist the poor souls who have already lost their HOPE.

We are qualified for this position because we have been active on the MTSU campus for a number of years and have done a lot of things.

Unfortunately, the above resolutions are obvious satire. Running for any student senate might only seem to benefit a student's resume, but it should be taken seriously and goals should be realistic. Good luck to all.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Attack opinions, not opinionated

Beliefs are powerful.

They are so powerful, in fact, that wars are fought in their name, countless lives are relentlessly taken for their sake and people are shunned daily just for owning one.

What is life without belief, though?

During each humdrum daily activity, we develop an opinion – which gas station we prefer, which person we find attractive, how we like our coffee. In the absence of belief, there is only mediocrity and, without disparity, our country would just be kind of creepy.

However, if we celebrate opinions, why then are we so quick to attack what is different from our own?

I have met my share of irresolute people. To be safe, they never firmly uphold one thing to be true and, instead, float from one idea to the next in the hope of approval.

I have also met several wannabe dogmatists who, without fully understanding the implications, act out the part wholeheartedly – be it for the sake of a parent, a friend or personal qualifications. Both are equally irritating. Rather than being eager to learn and construct their own set of beliefs, some people opt to hide behind a mask.

The concept is kind of tempting – there is nothing easy about voicing a conviction. Naysayers will obstinately lurk in the shadows. Every revolutionary change our world has encountered had its opposition; in the absence of the liberty to criticize, we would revert from



Kvetch A Break

Sarah Lavery
Staff Columnist

our unique Democracy to a culture of silence. As an American, the right to personal belief is one of our most dearly beloved liberties.

It's tough to simultaneously applaud strong convictions while completely opposing what is different. Who decides what is good and bad? I, too, am guilty of falling into this trap. It would be unfair to advertise a completely open mind if you are still quick to judge what opposes your truth.

In the dictionary, "open-minded" is defined as the antonym for "opinionated." Why can't we have both?

We are only in college, after all. Looking back at what, 10 years ago, I held as absolute truth proves how much I've shifted, learned and matured. If we emerge into the world a tabula rasa, collecting and shaping our belief system as we age, then why are we already tearing each other apart in our 20s?

Shouldn't we be sharing and constructively criticizing our peers rather than hatefully attacking one another?

I have a strong aversion for people who are

narrow-minded. On the other hand, I also have an aversion for uber-conservatives, Adam Sandler and wannabe Playmates. I cringe at the sound of anti-gay propaganda and the need for prayer in schools. I have strong convictions. So who am I to talk?

There is a fine line, though, between disagreement and personal attack – a line that is so often crossed.

We should learn to censure the belief, not the believer.

Had I been born with ultra right-wing parents, I am sure I would be singing a different tune. Given that our beliefs are not sent down from the sky and instead have definitive roots, I see that there is no use attacking the advocate. It has the same effect as cheesy "Yo-mamma jokes"; little is gained but a chunk out of the bully's decorum.

All of our beliefs have contributing sources, and thus, we are always altering, subtracting, and adding to our own doctrines.

An opinion is an opinion, whereas a fact is a fact. This nursery-rhyme-esque statement seems difficult to comprehend for some. Though beliefs are shaped from chosen truths, the two are not to be disguised for the other. It's a dangerous intermingling.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at scl2s@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

True Christians do not blame Jews

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Valerie Mitchell's Sept. 27 letter to the editor ["Jewish role in crucifixion misconstrued"] which was itself in regards to Sarah Lavery's Sept. 18 column, "Anti-Semitic bigotry unacceptable."

The story of the Jews killing Jesus being "made up" is a "half truth." It was not just the Jews but both Jews and Gentiles, not just one group of people.

There are two reasons people blame the Jews: Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest at the time, and the fact that people are uneducated about the crucifixion. Caiaphas was envious of Jesus, which is stated in Mark 15:10, "For he knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of envy."

Pilate, the Roman governor, found no fault in Jesus and wanted to let Jesus go, but the people, who were stirred up by the chief priests, wanted Jesus to be crucified.

Now let me say now, the people were both Jews and Gentiles. Therefore, it is not a matter of the Jews killing Jesus but people in general.

The Gospel of John was not written out of hatred. God himself chose 40 men to write the Bible, and God did not tell one of his writers to write a book that showed any kind of hatred towards his chosen people.

It is sad that someone chooses to defend his or her religion by down-grading someone else's religion.

The people who usually make the remarks, "Jews killed Jesus," have not studied the Bible and have no right to make these remarks. This also means that these people who say this are not Christian and should not be labeled as a Christian.

I am a Christian, and one of my beliefs is that Jesus' death is a result of all people, not just Jews.

It is a sad day when people believe that the Bible is being used for bigotry and prejudice, when it should be used for guidance and love.

Andrew Halford
Freshman, College of Business

Intramural sports deserve coverage

To the Editor:

I have a suggestion that *Sidelines* should start covering the Intramural football games and probably even all of the different intramural sports, as well.

A lot of people participate and come to watch the games. All that would be needed would be a section with standings and schedules for the different leagues, pictures of the different champions, and maybe even a game of the week if possible.

It wouldn't take much more than talking to David Tippet at the Rec Center to find most of the information about games and results. It is just a suggestion that I think a lot of people would like to see in *Sidelines*.

Matt Flynn
Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Respect humor's place in classroom

Here's a question worth thinking about: when is a joke more than just a joke?

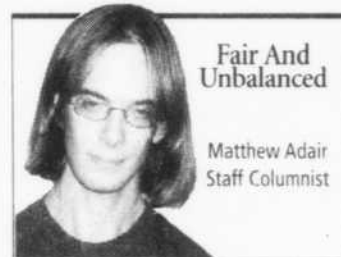
People often talk about how we have become overly sensitive and constantly afraid of offending those around us.

"Political correctness," originally meant as a way of understanding and respecting the differences between individuals, has grown into a monstrosity of fear, a paranoid sense that every comment we make may be construed out of context as an insult towards someone we didn't mean to harm.

Consider the following: Mr. J, a high school teacher, is a very popular and well respected figure among his students. He has worked in the school system for many years and has proven himself to be a both a good teacher and a man of integrity who has the utmost respect for his students.

He feels comfortable in the classroom, and speaks casually to his students, joking with them as he shares knowledge, making them feel that both they themselves as well as the time they are spending in school are important.

One day, a student in Mr. J's classroom overhears him joking with another student. It's humor built on double entendre, the sort of comments that teenagers snicker at because, while they know the teacher intends the innocent meaning, their minds instantly jump to the bawdier one. Everyone laughs and finds the



Fair And Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

joke funny, especially as student and teacher often turn these comments back on one another.

The student overhearing the joke goes home and, one way or another, their parents find out about class that day. Now, the parents aren't amused. They go to the principal at Mr. J's school and complain that Mr. J was speaking inappropriately to his students. The principal goes to Mr. J, who admits that he did say such things.

The principal, doing his job, reports the matter to the school board, who suspends Mr. J for a week without pay for "conduct unbecoming of a member of the teaching profession."

Now, all of the school personnel involved did what they were supposed to do, in this scenario. Mr. J was honest and up-front about what he said, and the principal and the school board worked together to calmly settle matters and discipline their teacher. No further complaints are sent to the principal, and the world calms back down again.

Why, though, would it get itself worked up in the first place?

There has been a great deal that has been said in recent months in

Tennessee about the relationship between students and teachers. A few teachers have been removed from the classroom for becoming too intimate with their pupils, so the topic of sexual harassment has been foremost on the minds of many administrators.

Here in Rutherford County, the county school board ran a workshop on preventing sexual harassment this past summer in the hopes of preventing a similar situation from happening here.

There is a great deal of difference, however, between those cases and the example I've given above. What we must understand is that, when a teacher harasses a student, it is often a matter of power. Even if the student consents to the relationship between them and the teacher, the teacher exercises power because they are the older, authority figure.

It is this fact that endangers the student and makes such a relationship harmful.

On the other hand, a situation like what I described above is not one of a teacher wielding power over a student. It is one where the student and teacher are, for the most part, equals, speaking to one another as though they are friends. Both parties are able to exercise control – the teacher can command authority when they need to discipline students, while the student is able to speak to the teacher on a one-on-one basis, knowing that their words will be heard by the teacher.

It is a relationship not of domination, but one of respect.

There are things that probably should not be said in the classroom.

However, teachers like 'Mr. J' – an example modeled after a teacher I know – understand that, while there are rules and standards governing their behavior, the best way to relate to students and communicate with them is to speak to them on their own terms. A good teacher will usually know where to draw the line between good-natured needling and remarks that are unwanted and inappropriate. When they make a mistake, they admit to it and remind themselves of that boundary.

It falls to us, then, as citizens who depend on the public school system, to understand and respect those teachers who are able to walk that line successfully.

It is a difficult one to walk, and undertaking the effort to do so is the sign of a teacher who is dedicated to their profession and who sees their students for what they are – human beings. It is up to us to ask questions, to think before we act, and to see beyond appearances to actual intentions.

After all, sometimes a joke is more than just a joke.

Sometimes, it is enough to get someone to listen.

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

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FEATURES

Monday: Campus & Community

Religious groups keep open-door policy Communication within, among faiths cited as key

By Mary Rose Fox

Staff Writer

Although the differences amongst world religions can seem endless, there's one thing that the religious organizations on campus all have in common – they're open to anyone.

"We're all pretty open here," said Jessica Bradford, co-director of the Catholic Center. "We've had people that aren't Catholic come and hang out here. The more the merrier."

Even with their different beliefs and backgrounds, religious groups at MTSU all have a common goal to educate students about their faiths.

"We try to do two big things: One is to clear up misconceptions about Christianity and Christ," said Britt Pettigrew, local leader of Campus Crusade for Christ. "I think a lot of students have questions. We try to tailor to college students and to those that want to grow in that [spiritual] relationship."

Not only are the groups open to anyone, but they also encourage participation from non-members.

"The MSA was created for two purposes: To assist the Muslims on campus and have a support system for one another, and also to educate non-Muslims about Islam," said Roxanne Jenkins, vice president of the Muslim Student Association.

The MSA was created at MTSU shortly after Sept. 11 in hopes that non-Muslims could see what the religion is really like.

"We realize people will have questions, and at times will demand answers," Jenkins said.

None of the groups have more than roughly one hundred active members.

"Roughly four out of five students raised in the church stop going when



Students in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry hold their weekly worship and devotional service. Several religious groups on campus have regular services.

they hit college," Pettigrew said, adding that those numbers made it difficult for the organization to find members. "I think college is a time when students are really searching."

In order to achieve more diversity and to get more students involved, the groups have made efforts to work together. With 30 active members, MSA is currently coordinating with Hillel, the Jewish organization on cam-

pus, to have a joint celebration of Ramadan and Yom Kippur.

Other interfaith projects include Raiders for Christ, a Church of Christ-sponsored organization, teaming up with other Christian ministries last semester and going around campus, picking up trash from every dorm. Campus Crusade holds a monthly prayer session in which leaders of all the Christian campus ministries are

invited to prayer together.

Despite the religious prejudices around the world, the groups on campus are able to understand social religious issues without being judgmental. In the wake of Pope Benedict XVI's speech that incited Islamic protests across the world, Jenkins said that most Muslims just wanted an apology.

"The part about Islam was unnecessarily harsh, and he must now take

responsibility for his actions – as will the Muslims that overreacted to it," Jenkins said, adding that the violent protests were not widespread. "It is unfortunate that the media only cares to see and report what it wants."

Catholics on campus came to the same conclusion.

"[The pope] said it, and he shouldn't have said it," Bradford said. "No matter what his meaning was, some took it one way."

To help better understand global and religious issues, the groups try to focus on open discussions.

"We have discussions over God's law versus human law," Bradford said about the Catholic Center's Christian Night Life discussion group. "We even watched parts of an episode of 'House' because there was an issue of euthanasia. Then we did a discussion of euthanasia and where [the church] stands."

Raiders for Christ also encourages communications both amongst their members and beyond.

"We'll sit in the lounge and we'll just have random conversations," said Alesha McPeak, RFC member.

"They range from just off the wall, crazy, funny stuff all the way to serious religious conversations," RFC member Drew Hill added.

The RFC's next project is to move the discussions onto campus. Members want to move one of the couches in their center to an area in Walnut Grove.

"We hang out on couches in the lounge in the student center, which is off-campus, so we're trying to get the couch onto campus so they can meet other people," Hill said. "We just want to take the conversations we have here and move them over there."

How to get involved now

By Sarah Russell

Contributing Writer

Sitting in a newly painted meeting room of the fraternity house he calls home, Chassen Haynes talks candidly with a fellow brother about the upcoming week of Rush events that begin that night. He sighs as he admits he has an "all-nighter" full of studying ahead of him once Rush events are finished.

One look at his list of involvements on campus would make anyone wonder how Haynes finds time to sleep at all. But as he sits casually in his chair with the morning sun shining in on his sandy blond hair, Chassen seems rested even though he has been awake studying long before most of us hit our snooze buttons this morning.

Chassen hands over his previously prepared list of campus activities, which seems endless. In addition to his positions within the Greek community as co-fundraising chair for Sigma Nu Fraternity and assistant recruitment director for the Interfraternity Council, Haynes shows interests in a broad range of activities. The lineup: Up 'til

Dawn, Homecoming Committee, Raiders for Christ, Raider Republicans (of which he's vice president), Academic Affairs Committee, Student Advisory Board and various honors societies.

Chassen doesn't seem to pass up any opportunity to get involved.

Just reading the laundry list of Chassen's commitments on campus could make anyone feel overwhelmed, but Haynes seems to handle his busy schedule as if it were nothing out of the ordinary. So how does Chassen manage to find time to for his activities, class load, and free time? The answer is simple.

"My planner," he quickly replies. "I make sure I set aside time for myself, whether I want to be alone or go have a good time. But I have to ask myself, 'Can I have fun, or do I have to get this done?'"

His willingness to put obligations ahead of free time is one of the many qualities that helped Chassen excel from the beginning of his involvement on campus. One might assume that campus leaders like Haynes have been proactive their whole lives, with involvement begin-

ning in grade school.

For Haynes, however, his enthusiasm for involvement didn't start until he graduated from a small private high school and joined the diverse atmosphere at MTSU.

"I didn't plan on joining anything when I came to college, but my sister (2004 Homecoming Queen Candace Haynes) was involved and I got to know some of the fraternities on campus," Haynes said. "Then I decided to run for SGA Business Senate during the spring semester of my freshman year."

Haynes says that his involvement in the Student Government Association as a freshman furthered his interest in other organizations.

"I had a lot of fun learning how to write legislation and I realized that every student has a lot of power," he said. "Once I was in SGA, people started asking favors of me and I became involved in several organizations from there."

Although the average student may not feel capable or willing to balance a long list of commitments as well as school and a social life, Haynes emphasizes the benefits that come from get-

ting involved. Learning how to work with college students as well as business professionals, making worthwhile connections, learning proper business etiquette and developing relationships with school administration and faculty are just a few of the positive side effects of getting involved in student organizations.

"I don't think people realize the incentives for getting involved," Haynes said. "I have had one-on-one conversations with both [football head coach Rick] Stockstill and Dr. McPhee. I also get to talk to [Vice Presidents for Student Affairs] Dr. Fitch and Dr. Glenn on a weekly basis. It's a great way to make connections."

Jacqueline Victory, director of Student Organizations and Community Service, agrees that involvement on campus can greatly enrich a student's college experience.

"Students learn a lot of information in the classrooms, but being involved in student organizations gives them a chance to apply what they learn," she said. "You get the chance to meet people with similar interests and make connec-



Greek Life, including fraternity Rush Week, is one way to get involved on campus. For more information, stop by the Student Organization office in KUC 326.

tions with other students."

Victory also emphasizes the positive effect involvement can have on a student's professional future.

"Your GPA is a very small portion of your resume," she says. "Employers want to know your experience, and involvement on campus provides examples of what you are capable of doing."

MTSU has a broad range of activities to become involved in. With over 300 student organizations registered on campus, nearly everyone can find something they are interested in. Whether your hobbies include

capture the flag, classic films or break dancing, there is an organization at MTSU that meets your interests.

The easiest way to get involved is to visit the Student Organization portion of the MTSU Web site or go to the office in Keathley University Center, Room 326.

"I really encourage students to find something to be a part of," Victory says. "Whether it is joining a student organization, getting involved as a resident assistant for housing or even if it's just going to the football games, you are still contributing to the MTSU community."

Horse show puts controversy to rest

By Stacy Carr

Contributing Writer

Amidst a shadow of controversy over their beloved industry, those involved in the International Grand Championship Walking Horse Show last week at Tennessee Miller Coliseum were determined to move past it and make the show a success.

"That was a bad situation, but it is something that we are working through," horse trainer Spencer Benedict said as he prepared his horses in the three-day event. "Like every other business, we have a couple of obstacles, but we are going to get through it."

The Shelbyville show ended without crowning a World Grand Champion for the first time in 68 years after a horse owner was caught bribing trainers to leave the competition.

That wasn't the end to the nightmare, however, as a rabies scare forced officials to send 4,002 letters to 34 states as well as Germany and Canada warning horse owners, trainers and spectators to seek medical treatment if they had contact with the infected animal.

With those recent obstacles in mind, officials at the International were mindful of the added importance of last week's show.

"We take precautions at every show," said Mark Ferrar, who han-

dles public relations for the International. "Every horse is inspected. The winners are re-inspected before they leave. We take precautions at every show with every horse so that no rules are violated."

While every state has different rules, each horse is required to have a Coggins Report, which tests the horses for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). EIA, which is transmitted by bloodsucking insects like horseflies, has no cure and cannot be easily detected without the Coggins test.

The testing process helps avoid unhealthy horses being transported over state lines and entering competitions.

Of course, disease prevention and rules processing were likely far from the minds of most attendees at last week's show, which ran from Thursday to Saturday. This year's event marked the 28th annual celebration of the show, which has sent five International Grand Champions to be crowned World Grand Champions.

For most of the horses, that means this show is their biggest opportunity to strut their stuff – after a heavy amount of pampering, of course.

"[The horses] are treated better than you and I are," Benedict said. "We give them a bath everyday and feed them twice a day. They work about 15 minutes and the rest of the time they rest."

Thanks to that special attention, it's not hard to see why the animals become quick friends of the whole family. Many of the horse owners mentioned the importance of family in raising and showing the horses, and they shared stories of learning to ride and care for horses as early as they can recall.

"It's a family event," said Torey Kelley, owner and trainer of horse Pushovers Dreammaker. "It's for the kids to have fun more than anything."

And while prize money is nice, those at the International all know exactly what draws them to the competition: love for the horses and the camaraderie associated with raising them.

"Here in Middle Tennessee, it's in everybody's blood," said Tommy Hall, the Executive Director of the Walking Horse Association. "People enjoy people in the business – they're all friends."

The International Grand Championship Walking Horse Show is about far more than horses. It is a way for families and friends to come together to share a love for the same hobby and way of life. As a new International Performance Horse Champion is crowned, another proud parent awaits a victory to be shared by all.

GRADUATING?

~ *Not Returning to MTSU?*

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing CANCELLATIONS for the Spring 2007 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2006 semester. The deadline for submitting CANCELLATIONS for prepayment refund is Monday, October 16, 2006. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline. For additional information contact Housing and Residential Life, 615-898-2971.

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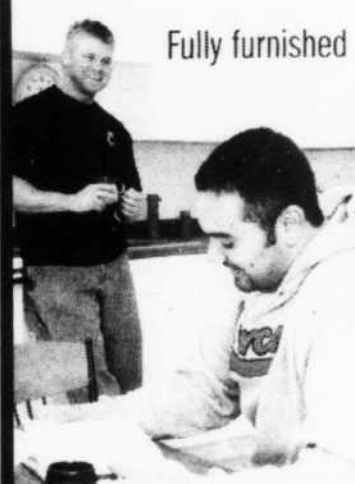
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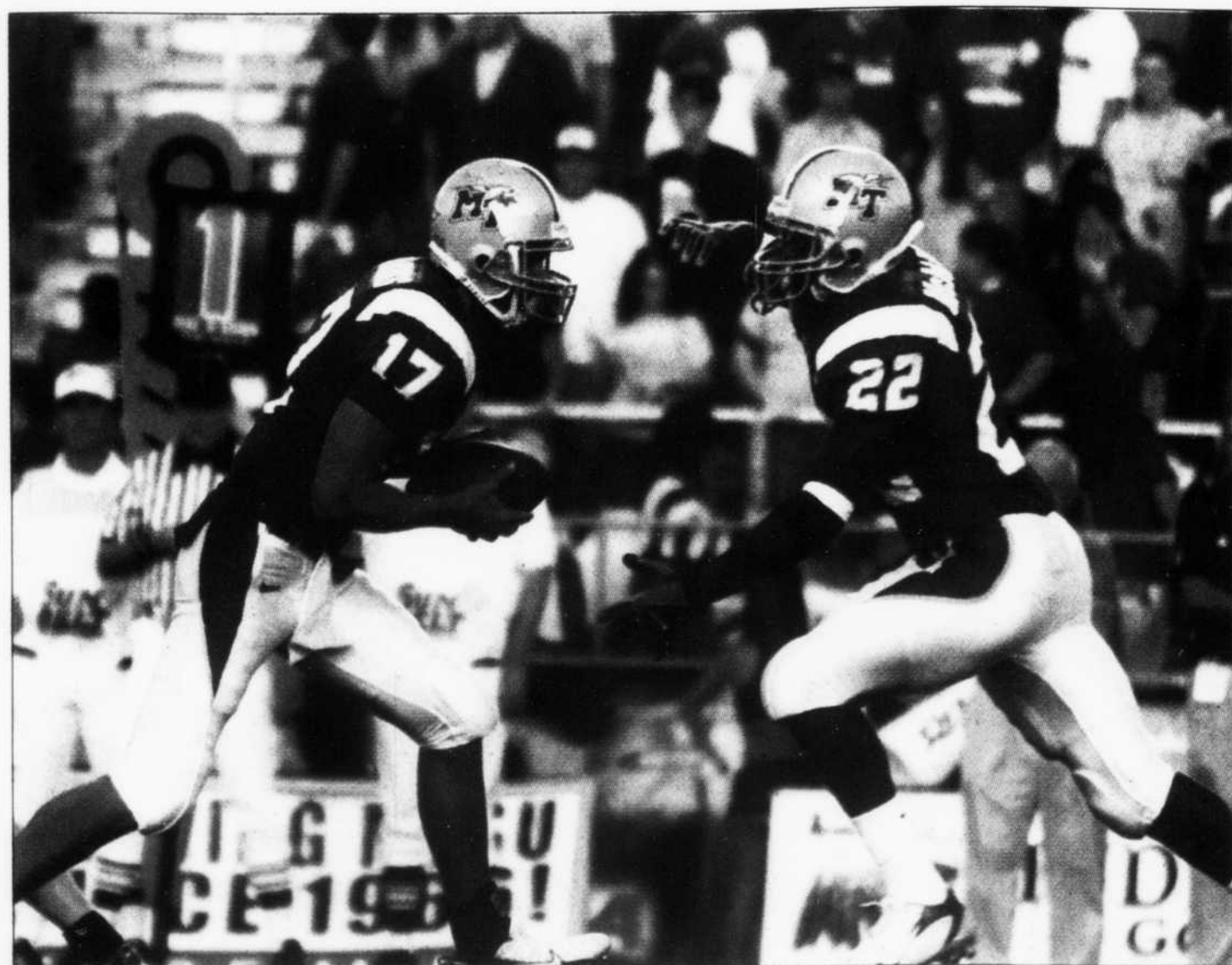
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SPORTS



Senior quarterback Clint Marks (17) hands the ball off to DeMarco McNair, who rushed for 59 yards and one touchdown in MT's 44-0 shutout of TTU earlier this season.

File Photo

MT routes UNT

By Rickey Brooksher
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (3-2, 2-0 Sun Belt) shut out North Texas (1-4, 1-0 SBC) 35-0 Saturday night on the road. MT looked strong from the beginning when J.K. Sabb forced a fumble recovered by Jon Harris on NT's first drive and the MT offense didn't hesitate scoring a 15-yard touchdown by Eugene Gross. UNT couldn't move the ball against the tough MT defense.

On their next possession, Gross put more points on the board with a leaping 1-yard touchdown. MT's defense continued to flourish with another turnover, this time an interception by Jon Harris. When MT got the ball, they drove it again inside UNT's 36-yard line.

They pressed their luck, however, and failed on a fourth-down attempt, giving the Mean Green crowd energy. The Blue Raider defense answered the call, though, and forced a three-and-out to end the first quarter.

Going into the second quarter, MT had all the momentum on their side and tried to take advantage of the struggling UNT team. After a couple of punts to start the second quarter, the Blue Raiders took the ball 61 yards on their second drive of the quarter and scored again. Clint Marks passed the ball to Bobby Williams for a 4-yard touchdown, making the score 21-0. MT took that lead into halftime. MT's defense held UNT to only three first downs the entire first half.

The second half started with drives ending early forcing punts for both teams. Then, with 9:04 left in the third quarter, MT caught a break with another interception, this time by Reggie Doucet. MT started the drive on their 22-yard line and drove the ball all the way to the 1-yard line, where DeMarco McNair took the ball in for a touchdown.

The score would stay 28-0 going into the fourth and final quarter.

The fourth quarter proved to be no different than the previous three quarters. On the Blue Raiders' second drive of the fourth quarter, they started on their 20-yard line. MT drove the ball downfield, eating up the clock and getting first downs. They finally put the ball in the end zone with a Desmond Gee 2-yard touchdown. The drive was 15 plays, 80 yards and took 9:33 off the clock. That was the proverbial nail in the coffin for the Mean Green team. The Blue Raiders shut out UNT 35-0.

This game does wonders for the Blue Raiders' confidence, to beat a North Texas team that has beaten them in close games year after year in such a convincing fashion. It's their second shutout in three games, but this one is particularly impressive because it's the first time since 1981 that North Texas has been shutout, and their first time ever being shutout in the Sun Belt.

MT held the North Texas offense to 103 yards in the

game, while forcing three turnovers. Jamario Thomas was one of the top running backs in the nation last year, but he presented no problem for the Blue Raiders' defense.

The offense had its best game of the year Saturday. They didn't turn the ball over the entire game, and they dominated time of possession 40:41 to UNT's 19:19.

As a team, MT rushed for 212 yards and had 366 total yards of offense. Clint Marks completed 13 passes out of 18 attempts and had 154 yards with a touchdown. Eugene Gross came back in this game with 88 rushing yards and two touchdowns. DeMarco McNair and Desmond Gee also contributed with a combined total of 121 yards and two touchdowns.

MT improves their record to 3-2 and 2-0 in the Sun Belt Conference. The Blue Raiders meet Louisville Friday at LP Field in Nashville in an ESPN2-televvised game.

Perfect play by MT in win



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

DENTON, Texas – This weekend I flew with the team to Denton, Texas to witness, hands down, the best game I have ever seen of the Blue Raiders play. After repeated misspellings in *Sidelines* of UNT's hometown, I joked all weekend that, win or lose, my headline would be "There's no I in Denton." But if anything, it should read "There's No I in MT." The Blue Raiders defined teamwork against the Mean Green of North Texas and, in case you didn't know, that effort helped them destroy their would-be rivals 35-0.

In their first four games, the Blue Raiders were plagued by mental errors. Even their winning efforts saw dropped balls, avoidable sacks and a multitude of turnovers. But all those mistakes of the past were quickly erased by the silver and blue on a hot Saturday night at North Texas. Clint Marks and the Blue Raider offense played flawlessly, and the MT defense was just as solid. They dominated almost every single statistic by two-to-one or more.

The night started ugly for the Mean Green and it stayed that way, with Woody Wilson being swarmed and sacked on both their third and fourth plays of the game. The second sack, by J.K. Sabb, was brutal and knocked the ball several yards from Wilson's hands. Jonathon Harris recovered the ball for MT and the tone for the game was set. Four plays, 26 yards and less than two minutes later, the Raiders scored their quickest touchdown of the season.

J.K. Sabb led a staunch defensive effort that only allowed the Mean Green inside MT territory once late in the game. In the 40 total plays UNT only managed to gain 103 yards on the night. Due to a bizarre twist that led MT to defer both kickoffs, the Mean Green placekicker didn't take the field once all night.

Clint Marks and the previously maligned Blue Raider offense turned the game into a coming-out party, managing to out gain UNT by 263 yards. Marks looked sharper than he has all season with 13-of-18 passing for 154 yards, no picks and a touchdown. Beyond the stats, he was incredibly confident behind center.

"When you have a running attack like that it always helps the quarterback," Marks said after the game. And he was all smiles when I asked him about the ratio of three runs for every pass.

"It could be 18 [runs] to one [pass] – as long as we win I don't care." After the game, phrases like 'conference win,' 'one week at a time,' 'mistake free' and 'hard work' resonated as if they were an echo of Stockstill himself. But this isn't a team that merely repeats the coach's words verbatim. These guys really believe in his philosophy. J.K. Sabb, after admitting that UNT was a "monkey off their back," focused single-mindedly on the same stat that every one else did: 2-0 in the Sun Belt.

So far, MT is the early favorite in the SBC. In three out of their five games, they have allowed six points or less. Two of those games were conference wins. The composure handed down from this new staff is apparent. A team that squandered every opportunity in the past played to their fullest potential Saturday and looked as impressive as they ever have. The scariest thing is everyone agrees they can still get much, much better.

At the close of the game, with less than a few thousand North Texas Fans remaining, the lights quickly dimmed and it was announced there would be a postgame fireworks show. MT scheduled our fireworks this season against Tennessee Tech, a game we were sure to win. Maybe UNT was a little too overconfident. Maybe they just like fireworks. Either way, the light show went mostly unnoticed. The few remaining fans barely looked up on the walk to their cars. They had already seen more than enough fireworks on the field.

Softball beats Motlow State in doubleheader

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider softball team beat Motlow State 1-0, 4-3 in a doubleheader Friday night at Blue Raider Field.

Middle Tennessee's offense was a little sluggish against Motlow State after shelling Belmont with 15 runs last week. The games were played in the same format as last week, with both teams playing five innings and with free substitutions.

Blue Raider senior Melissa Weiland was the only one who scored for MT with a solo shot in the bottom of the second inning to win 1-0. Freshman Lindsey Vander Lugt won her second shutout of the fall season, allowing only two and striking out two batters.

MT defense gave up two errors, but calmed down to blank Motlow State. Motlow State's Brittany Lopeman hit a single and Jami McNeely reached after a fielder's choice. Morgan Whitt grounded out to the pitcher and advanced the runners to second and third base.

The defense came alive once Sally Gale hit a liner to MT shortstop Shelby Stiner, who threw the ball home to get Lopeman out at the plate. Catcher Katie Meilke saw the runner trying to advance to third. McNeely was thrown out at third for a double play. That was the final play of Game 1.

MT only recorded three hits in game one, as sophomore Martha Davis and Whitney Darlington both had doubles.

Game 2 went into extra innings as the game was

tied 3-3 after five innings. Motlow was the first to score off on Middle Tennessee this season, as Blue Raider sophomore Samantha Floyd got the call to the mound.

Floyd struck out Gale, but freshman catcher Jessica Ives let the ball get away from her. Gale reached first on a pass ball, and stole second, ultimately scoring on an error by the Blue Raiders.

The Blue Raiders answered with Davis leading off with a single and a two-run homer by Stiner, to put MT up 2-1. Darlington scored another run during the second inning after walking and stealing second and third base. Motlow's defense committed an error in which Darlington scored from third to make the score 3-1.

Motlow tied the game up in the fourth inning when Motlow's Duwana Poore hit a double, scor-

ing two runners. Floyd was replaced as the Blue Raiders' pitcher in the fifth inning by by Lindsey Vander Lugt, who shut out Motlow State. After two strong innings, Vander Lugt received her third win of the fall season.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Ashley Cline walked and Kristine Reed was thrown out on a sacrifice bunt. Cline moved over to third, putting her in scoring position. Floyd singled to bring Cline home for MT's fourth win.

Floyd finished with 10 strikeouts and allowed three hits. She only allowed three runs and walked two. Vander Lugt struck out five batters in two innings. MT plays its last home game and two RBIs.

MT starts its last home game of the fall season Thursday, Oct. 5. They play against Trevecca Nazarene at 5:30 p.m.

Women's soccer team continues to dominate SBC foes

By Ebony Pugh
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's soccer team (9-2, 3-0 Sun Belt) took on rival conference opponent the South Alabama Jaguars Friday, bringing home the victory with a score of 8-0. The Raiders continue their winning streak, making Friday's win the 17th consecutive win at Blue Raider Field and 10th consecutive win overall.

South Alabama has won five out of their last eight games against MT, but the Blue Raiders returned the favor to give USA their worst loss of the season. The score matched the Jaguars' previous worst loss in history when they played Miami-Ohio in 2000 and suffered an 8-0 beating.

"Of course, we expected to win the game because we expect to win every time we step on the field, that's why you train and prepare; however, an 8-0 win never would have entered my mind against a team of South Alabama's caliber," Middle Tennessee head coach

Ashton Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "It speaks volumes as to how our team is playing and the confidence with which they are playing. To our credit, the girls came out tonight and were very professional in their approach. They just took care of business."

Before their defeat at the hands of the Blue Raiders, the Jaguars had a record of 4-6. The Blue Raiders used their nationally-ranked scoring offense to their advantage in this game. Although the offense played a role in the game against South Alabama, the defense played a larger role. Erynn Murray, Courtney Fortner and the rest of defense contributed to the win as well, not letting the Jaguars score a single goal.

Mary Zapapas was named Offensive Player of the Game, and Katy Rayburn earned Defensive Player of the Game honors. Zapapas scored the first goal of the game, giving the Blue Raiders the lead over South Alabama. In the end, Zapapas also led the team with two assists and two goals.

"It was nice to be back home and playing in front of our fans,"

Zapapas told MT Media Relations. "We are playing with a lot of confidence and this team has meshed well. I think that's the key to our success."

Zapapas has enjoyed a breakout rookie campaign with eight goals and three assists to date.

The game was a deadlock, with both teams being unable to get anything going on offense before Blue Raider freshman Zapapas managed to score on a pass from Rodriguez. After that, MT was unstoppable as Rodriguez fired a shot into the corner of the net. MT was leading 4-0 by the half.

Other key players were Holly Grogan, who scored two goals for her seventh career multi-goal game, and Kala Morgan, Rebecca Rodriguez, Kim Farrant and Kathrine Andresen with one goal each.

The Blue Raiders will take on Arkansas Little Rock Friday, and Arkansas State Saturday on the road. For more info about MTSU soccer scores, stats and schedule info please visit www.goblueraiders.com.