

'Silent Witness' exhibit informs MTSU students

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

The MTSU's Women's Center and Alpha Chi Omega sorority have come together to present the Silent Witness Exhibit in honor of October's Domestic Violence Awareness.

"One in four women will be abused domestically in the United States," said Deb Johnson, executive director of the Domestic Violence program at MTSU.

The exhibit uses tall, wooden silhouettes of people to tell the real-life tragic stories of victims murdered as a result of domestic violence. Blood red T-shirts are also displayed with more true stories of abused victims printed across the bust of the shirts.

"The Silent Witness Exhibit makes it personal for people," Johnson said. "It catches people's attention in the way that fliers or e-mails cannot. Seeing those silhouettes while you try and eat lunch or study gets the point across without any words at all. It's easier to see the issue and how it can affect anyone at any time."

The Silent Witness National Initiative began to promote the importance of domestic violence in the 1990s and is in all 50 states in some form.

"MTSU has been involved with this program for many years," said Terri Johnson, the director of the June Anderson Women's Center at MTSU. "The Alpha Chi Omega sorority sponsors the domestic violence campaign, which is fantastic, and we have worked with them to get this exhibit together."

"Domestic violence affects families, communities, and societies," Terri Johnson said. "When people see these stories on those silhouettes and are touched by them, it makes it real to them. They read it and it hits them, 'wow, this woman was actually my age.'"

To further advocate the importance of the issue, the June Anderson's Women's Center and the student organization, Women 4 Women, are presenting a play entitled "It's Love, Isn't It?" at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25 in the Keathley University Center Theater.

See Violence, 4

New Miss Black and Gold assumes her throne

By James Perry
Contributing Writer

Alpha Phi Alpha held their 22nd annual Miss Black and Gold Pageant last Thursday evening in Tucker Theatre.

"I feel that this year's pageant was one of the most successful that my chapter has sponsored," said Trenton Poynter, senior liberal studies major and coordinator for the pageant. "The lovely contestants did an outstanding job in representing brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and most of all they rightly portrayed the African American females of MTSU with their amount of talent and beauty."

The theme for this year's pageant was the "The Egyptian Goddesses of the Golden Reign." The contestants were Sha'Niece Cooper, Tiffany Gray, LaSheena Allgood, Carla Field, Dione Johnson, Natalie Ellis, LaKita Haywood, Julia Martin and Bianca Lambert.

This year's winner, Dione Johnson, received a trophy, sash and tiara along with a scholarship sponsored by the fraternity. In addition, Johnson is being sent to represent the MTSU chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha in the Miss Black and Gold District Competition.

The first runner-up award went to Julia Martin and LaSheena Allgood received the award for second runner-up. Johnson also won the award for most talented with her singing display of an operatic flair.

Contestants were judged starting from the initial interest meeting back in September. Then after weeks of poise and choreography, training the nine contestants had approximately three weeks to prepare for the swimwear, talent, formal wear and question portions of the pageant.

Also acting as a coordinator and mentor to the contestants was last year's pageant winner, LaShan Matthews.

"It has been an honor to serve as Miss Black and Gold for this past year," Matthews said. "This experience has given me exposure to several opportunities since my crowning. I have enjoyed fellowship with these ladies and the brothers of Alpha, I absolutely adore all of them."

The first national Miss Black and Gold Pageant was held in 1976 in New York City. The pageant was then deferred following the first event to be reinstated during Alpha Phi Alpha's 1982 General Convention in Los Angeles.

This year's pageant featured the Black National Anthem by Natalie Wathow, followed by a dance performance showcasing the contestants, choreographed by Victoria Howard.

Other performances in the pageant included a selection from the MTSU Gospel Choir, singer Dorian Lee and a dance from the now former Miss Black and Gold LaShan Matthews.

The event filled Tucker Theatre and was estimated to have a turnout of over 500 people. Jeremy Simpson, sophomore electronic media communications major, and Shayna Stewards, senior EMC major, hosted the night.

Dione Johnson will be representing Alpha Phi Alpha as she competes in the Miss Black and Gold that will be held at the fraternity's district convention in Murfreesboro Nov. 17 and 18.



Photo by James Perry | Contributing Photographer
Dione Johnson (above) was crowned as the 22nd annual Miss Black and Gold last Thursday. Contestants (left) competed for the title of Miss Black and Gold at Tucker Theatre in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Center.

Students to compete for MT Idol notoriety

By Fre'Drisha Dixon
Contributing Writer

Twelve students were recently chosen to compete in this year's "MTSU Idol," a talent competition similar to "American Idol."

The competition will be broken into two rounds. The first will be held Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theater. There will be three judges, similar to "American Idol." One of the judges will be last year's "MTSU Idol" winner, Allecia Allen.

"Besides the scoring sheet, I will be looking for vocal ability and stage presence," Allen said. "I want the performers to feel what they're doing and I want to feel it also. I don't want them to just get up there and go through the motions. It has to come from the heart."

The other two judges have not yet been chosen but Jessica Broom, chairwoman of the Fine Arts Committee, said that it would be two men, similar to the "American Idol" judging format which features male judges Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell.

"This will definitely be a great show. We have 12 talented students that will be singing genres such as country, R&B, pop and blues, just to name a few," Broom said. "This will be a good way to showcase the talent at MT."

The 12 finalists who will compete Oct. 20 are Brianna Black, Dianne Bugg, Cody Rollins, Dorian Lee, Jamie Somers, Stephanie DuVentre, Ashley McGowan, Steven Hulbert, Steffany Pugh, Alexis Webber, Melody Kitchen and Whitney Rogers.

"Last year, over 300 people showed up for the competition each night," said Greg Feiling, coordinator of Student Unions and Programming.

Tryouts for "MTSU Idol" were held earlier in September, and about 40 students showed up to prove that they had what it took to get to the next round, Broom said.

The judges narrowed the list of 40 down to 12 based on voice, appearance, professionalism and stage presence.

Broom said she is hoping for an even greater turnout this year.

The final round will be held Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the KUC Theatre.

The competition is free of charge and open to the public.

Former MTSU professor awarded Nobel Peace Prize

Staff Reports

A former MTSU professor was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work assisting the poor in his home country of Bangladesh.

Muhammad Yunus, who was an assistant professor of economics from 1969 to 1972, received the award for making small loans to the poor from the Grameen Bank, which he founded in 1976.

According to the Nobel Norwegian Committee, Yunus's work was deserving of the prize because it advances democracy and human rights by developing economics and social responsibility from below. Assisting large populations in breaking out of poverty will allow for lasting peace, the committee stated in a press release.

In an interview with Adam Smith from the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, Yunus said poverty is an artificial creation which can be solved if those in need are given the right opportunities.

"The only thing we have to do is to redesign our institutions and policies, and there will be no people who will be suffering from poverty," Yunus said.

"So I would hope that this award will make this message heard many times, and in a kind of forceful way, so that people start believing that we can create a poverty-free world."

After his time at MTSU, Yunus became head of the Rural Economics Program at the University of Chittagong in Bangladesh, where he launched a program to provide banking services to the rural poor. With assistance from nationalized commercial banks, the program was able to expand until it became an independent bank in 1983.

Today, 90 percent of the bank's shares are owned by those who borrow from it, while only 10 percent belongs to the government.

Helping the poor to raise themselves out of poverty is no longer a theoretical issue, but has become a reality with Grameen Bank, Yunus said.

"People come out of poverty every day. So it's right in front of us what happens and it can be done globally, it can be done more forcefully, we can organize more things to go with it," Yunus said.

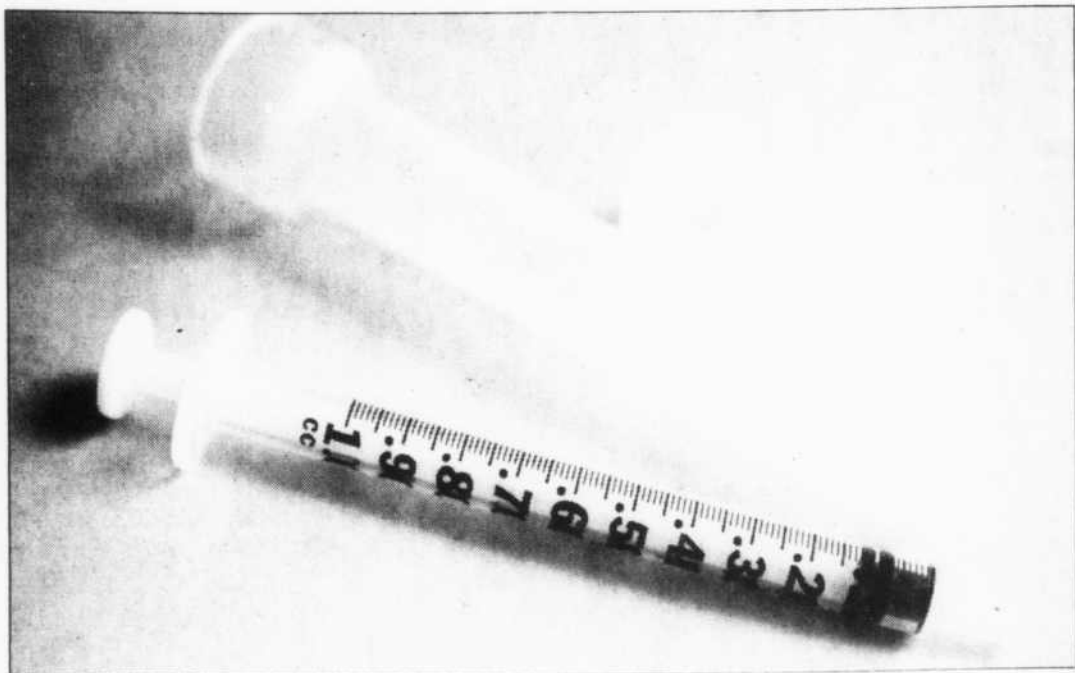
"People can change their own-lives, provided they have the right kind of institutional support. They're not asking for charity, charity is no solution to poverty," Yunus received a doctorates in economics as a Fulbright Scholar from Vanderbilt University in 1969.

Half of the \$1 million awarded for the Nobel Prize went to Yunus while the other half went to the Grameen Bank. Every year, the Nobel Foundation awards prizes for physics, medicine, chemistry, literature, economics and peace.

"We didn't do anything special," Yunus said. "All we did was we lent [money] to the poor people, and that makes the trick. That makes the change."

One other person in association with MTSU won the award in 1986. James M. Buchanan, who received a degree in 1940, was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work in economics.

MT Student Health Services offers cervical cancer vaccine



By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Student Health Services is trying to educate women regarding certain high-risk types of the Human Papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer, in light of the new vaccine they have been offering since the beginning of the semester.

Though Health Services first received the HPV vaccine, Gardasil, several months ago, there have been no vaccinations administered, said Lisa Stephens, a women's health nurse practitioner for Health Services.

Cervical cancer is caused by certain high-risk types of HPV, according to literature for Health Services. In the United States, there were 10,370 new cases of cervical cancer and 3,710 women died from the disease in 2005.

"Most women don't know that HPV causes cervical cancer," Stephens said.

Education is the key to fighting the virus, she said. Students should gather information regarding the vaccine to make an informed decision before they receive it.

When students come to Women's Health, it is typically the

first time they have heard of the HPV vaccine since it is new, Stephens said.

When a woman is infected by HPV, her body can usually fight off the virus on its own. However, if the high-risk virus stays in a woman's body, then it will slowly change the cells, turning them into cervical cancer. Pat Spangler, medical director of Health Services, said.

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus, but it does not take risky behavior for a person to become infected. Rather, a singular contact with a person who has the virus is enough to spread the infection, and condoms are not effective against preventing it, Stephens said.

"[Gardasil] is not a vaccine to prevent a sexually transmitted disease, it's a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer that happens to be caused by a disease that is sexually transmitted," Stephens said.

High-risk HPV can be detected in women through abnormal pap smears. Though men are carriers of the high-risk virus, they are not susceptible to its effects, as far as research has shown. Currently, there is no test available at this time for men, Spangler said.

Men still show symptoms of

the low-risk HPV virus through genital warts, similar to those of women. Also, if a woman has had a low-risk infection in the past, then she should still get the vaccine for the high-risk virus, Spangler said.

"The Human Papillomavirus has over 100 identified subtypes, and you can get either cervical cell changes from the virus or genital warts depending on the subtype that is transmitted," Stephens said.

Gardasil is administered in three shots. The first at the present day, the second, two months later and the third shot four months after the second, Spangler said.

The cost of the shots is \$130 for each at Health Services, so the total vaccination costs around \$390 dollars, he said.

"All HPV infections are not totally stopped with this vaccine," Spangler said. "It's about 70 to 75 percent effective against the high-risk HPV."

The vaccine recommendation is for females 9 to 26 years of age, but it is not yet approved for men.

Women can receive pap smears and the HPV vaccine at Health Services in the Women's Center.

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IN THEATRES OCTOBER 20

E-sports becoming a more competitive face of gaming

Interactive play often boasts high winning stakes, big business

By Danielle Elisabeth Madsen
U-Wire

"Drafting," "co-op," "e-sports" and "ping" are just a few terms that would make a non-gamer do a double take. However, a whole lot more than lingo bonds what gamers call their community. Gaming has become more than entertainment, gaining the status of an electronic sport, or "e-sport," as it has become more competitive.

Texas State University computer information systems senior Kyle Daughtry is president of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, which held a "Halo 2" tournament Friday.

"The 'Halo' tournament was a good way to bring in funds, have fun and let people know we are an organization on campus and that they are welcome to join us," Daughtry said.

"Halo 2" is a first-person shooter video game that revolves around genetically enhanced supersoldiers fighting to save the world from destruction. It drew around 60 competitors and was divided into two sections, single competitors and two-member team competitors. The two-member teams got to show off their skills on two large monitors for all the spectators of the event to join in the action.

Exercise sports science junior Elliott Babcock won second place in the "Halo 2" competition with his partner Logan Field, undecided sophomore.

"I don't even own an Xbox, so winning second is pretty impressive," Babcock said.

However, video games are not the only thing Babcock plays. He also is part of the Texas State baseball team.

"Video games are fun, but you can get distracted by them pretty easily as a college student. You have to pick and choose your time to study and do other stuff you need to do. I am a student and baseball player first and I play video games in my spare time," Babcock said.

Although gaming is considered to be male-dominated, the number of female gamers is increasing.

"I like 'Halo 2' because it has pretty sweet game graphics and everyone plays it so it's the best multiplayer game out there," said Megan Foreman, communication design sophomore. "A lot of guys are surprised when I know what I'm doing, like one time I used the word 'frag,' which means a kill."

As gamers grow in number, so do the demands concerning the video games themselves.

"Video games are pushing the limits of technology to new levels. Gamers have high standards and they need more power for applications. There is always a demand for bigger and better," said Justin Ploof, computer information system senior and AITP Vice President of Operations.

Unlike "Halo 2" where players use consoles or game systems such as Xbox, Ben Nepveux, history and political science junior, is a personal-computer gamer, with a specialty in the game "World of Warcraft."

"World of Warcraft" requires a lot of time and sometimes receives a lot of criticism in the gaming community," said Nepveux.

"World of Warcraft" is a massively multiplayer online role-playing game that allows thousands of players to come together and battle against the world and each other while undertaking quests in a different land of adventure.

"We are generally discriminated against and people perceive us as not socializing, but we are not always in a dark corner playing. We get out and do stuff. E-sports just take practice and time just like any other skill or hobby," Nepveux said.

Nepveux is a professional gamer and member of the Cyberathlete Professional League, which means that he travels to compete for money in gaming tournaments. The CPL has been a driving force in the adaptation of video game competitions into a professional sport.

"One summer I went on a road trip with friends competing in tournaments and we won around \$8,000 that was divided between us," Nepveux said.

The CPL has given out more than \$3 million in prize money since 2006.

There are also professional e-sports teams, such as the American team CompLexity, that compete nationally in games such as "Counter Strike."

"I play with my good friend who is on team CompLexity. He has been to tournaments in Paris, Brazil and China," Nepveux said.

Many retailers have profited from the growing popularity of video games, such as Wal-Mart.

According to the Interactive Digital Software Association and NPD Funworld, the industry's data clearinghouse, Wal-Mart sells 25 percent of the computer and video games purchased annually in the United States, a share worth \$1.58 billion in 2001.

Treyvor Leneer, undecided junior, previously played football for Texas State and enjoys playing football in video games as well.

"There is a stereotype that if you play RPG games, you are a nerd, and if you play sports games you are not, but I play both," Leneer said.

With the popularity of video games on the rise, AITP hopes to meet that demand with tournaments that will also provide a beneficial and interesting fundraising strategy.

"We are a group of business-related people ... that provide a community that works together with professionals in information technology to grow in our success," Daughtry said.

"The 'Halo 2' tournament was such a success that we would like to hold one like this on a monthly basis, maybe not 'Halo,' but 'Madden 2007' or 'Guitar Hero,'" Ploof said.

CRIME BRIEFS

Tuesday, Oct. 10 – 8:44 a.m.
Kirksey Old Main Building
Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that her bicycle was stolen.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – 11 a.m.

Sigma Nu House – Greek Row
Theft Over \$500

Complainants reported at the police station that their son's wheelchair was stolen.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – 1:13 p.m.

MTSU Campus
Simple Possession and Causal Exchange of Marijuana

Keith Powell, 21, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was issued a dean citation of simple possession of marijuana.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – 9:16 p.m.

James E. Walker Library
Theft Under \$500

There was a theft of a cellular telephone with the possibility that the suspect is using the phone.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – 12 p.m.

Greek Row
Leaving Scene of Accident

Someone called advising one of the lights posts had fallen in front of Beta and Sigma Nu House. Officer on the scene advised it was on of the new small streetlights. Emergency

maintenance was notified. The electricity was turned off on the light and maintenance advised that they would fix it in the morning. The suspect that knocked over the light did not meet the officer at the scene. The fraternity told the police station that he was on his way. The suspect was advised that he had 22 hours to come and give his information or he would have warrants taken out for leaving the scene of the accident.

Thursday, Oct. 12 – 10:13 a.m.
James Union Building
Simple Assault

Female victim stated she was assaulted by a black male while walking from her class at Peck Hall to her car that was parked in the Bell Street lot. Victim stated that the suspect was a black male approximately 6 feet tall, slim build, wearing blue jeans, a blue hoodie and white tennis shoes.

Thursday, Oct. 12 – 10:44 a.m.
Keathley University Center
Theft Under \$500

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to his books being stolen.

Thursday, Oct. 12 – 8:04 p.m.
Business Aerospace Building
Leaving the scene of an accident

A parked black Pontiac

Firebird was struck by suspect's vehicle, a red Ford F-150.

Friday, Oct. 13 – 5:48 p.m.
Greenland Drive
Driving On a Suspended License

Jonathan C. Newman, 20, of Nashville, Tenn., was driving on a suspended license.

Saturday, Oct. 14 – 2:21 a.m.

Corlew Hall
Simple Possession of Marijuana

Desk assistant called and advised that he caught a group of individuals smoking pot in dormitory. Subject confessed to smoking marijuana and turned over the drugs. Housing also confiscated a "grinder."

Saturday, Oct. 14 – 7:52 a.m.

Deere Hall
Harassment – Threatening Telephone Calls

A report was taken of harassing telephone calls.

Sunday, Oct. 15 – 5:53 p.m.

East Main Street
DUI 2nd Offense

Fridie A. Cox, 44, of Bloomington Springs, Tenn., was pulled over for following another vehicle too closely. The driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Cox was arrested with a DUI, violation of implied consent and violation of open container.

Faces in the Crowd

Laura Stitt, sophomore, theater major was outside of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building, Wednesday, wearing a colorful costume.

What is all of this?

A costume sale.

What are you wearing?

I don't know random stuff from the past.

Why are you selling the costumes?

To raise money on the costumes that we know that we will never need again. Plus they make really great costumes for Halloween.

How long are you going to be selling?



Today and tomorrow (Wednesday and Thursday).

Is this going to be your costume, and if so what are you going to call it?

Yes I think it will be, but really don't have a name yet.

Compiled by Faith Franklin, Staff Writer

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New 'Cocaine' energy drink sparks conflict

By Lauren McCormack
U-Wire

The name and contents of the new, controversially named energy drink Cocaine have prompted Sheetz, Weis Markets and other businesses to ban the product from their shelves and sparked a lawsuit against its "immoral trademark."

The energy drink, which is manufactured by Las Vegas-based company Redux Beverages, declares Cocaine is 350 percent "greater than the Bull," likely referring to Red Bull, the leading energy drink. Redux Beverages also claims drinkers will experience no sugar-low crash after consumption.

Redux Beverages said on its Web Site, www.drinkcocaine.com, that the company didn't want to "beat around the bush," with a less intense name. The company goes on to explain that although it has chosen the name Cocaine, the makers in no way endorse the drug.

James Kirby, the co-founder of Cocaine, could not be reached for comment by press time.

A Cleveland State University law class and its professor Mickey Davis filed an opposition with the U.S. Trademark Trial and Appeal

Board Oct. 10 against Redux Beverage's trademark request for the name "Cocaine," which was filed in March. They are representing two clients, Americans for Drug Free Youth and Progressive Intellectual Property Law Association.

The lawsuit is based on the Lanham Act, which protects against immoral trademarks, Davis said.

"My students would like to stop the registration [of Cocaine as a trademark] and see if the law applies," he said. "If anything is an immoral scandal, it has to be this stuff."

Redux Beverages has 40 days to respond, and has yet to file an answer or contact Davis, his students or the lawyers involved in the case, Davis said. Request for the Cocaine trademark was preliminarily approved by U.S. Patent and Trademark Office after it was filed in March.

Some businesses in State College are skeptical of the beverage, especially those that would have the opportunity to sell and promote the drink.

"We had a lot of options we could go with and had no reason to promote a product with that kind of connotation," Bob Ferraro, head of cold drinks at

Sheetz, said.

Tony Sapia, owner of Tony's Big Easy Bar and Bistro, felt that it had a "weird name" and said he would not carry the product because of its name and competition with Red Bull. "It's the name of a narcotic and is bad for business," Sapia said.

Experts in the food science field were skeptical of Cocaine's contents.

Manfred Kroger, former Pennsylvania State University professor of food science, said drinking the "super-charged soft drink" is like downing three cups of coffee.

"My analysis is that it's a hyped-up product envious of Red Bull, bending over backwards to capture a market," Kroger said. He said calling it an energy drink is fallacious.

"The only energy in this drink comes from two teaspoons of sugar," according to the supplement facts from the official Web site. "The caffeine and energy are mislabeled on the site," he said.

Currently, the drink is only available in New York and California, though samples are offered on its Web site and Myspace.com.

Violence: Silent Witness

Continued from 1

"It is a great match with the Silent Witness Exhibit," said Terri Johnson. "It brings the silhouettes to life. It's open to the public and I strongly encourage everyone who can, to come. There will be an open discussion after the play, which will only be about 30 minutes long."

The Silent Witness Exhibit and the play are a few of many events the Women's Center sponsors on campus. The center also has a free legal clinic for those who might need aid in an abusive situation. It

is available to all students, faculty and staff on campus.

The center also aids the Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro with the drive to provide items to families who have been the victims of abuse. Donations can be made in the Women's Center in room 206 in the James Union Building. Items such as bandages, paper towels, diapers, etc. can be donated to help abused citizens in the community. There are several hotlines that can be called if counseling, legal aid or just an ear to listen is needed.

The exhibit can be seen on the second floor of the KUC from Oct. 23 to the 25, then in the Alpha Chi Omega chapter room in the KUC.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

MT Election boasts high voter-turnout

The MTSU Student Government Association experienced its highest voter-turnout from 2003 to present. The total voter-turnout for this year's fall SGA election and referendum was 4,707 votes. It surpasses the previous record set in fall of 2005 by 170 votes.

Large voter-turnouts seem to be for elections where there's a fee increase on the ballot, Ben Hall, election commissioner for SGA, said.

The two elections with the highest turnout were fall of 2005 election where an \$8 increase was proposed and this semester's election with a proposed fee of around \$100. Usually, voter-turnout in the spring is lower than the fall.

Hall said he would like to see the same turnout for this coming spring election as this fall's voter-turnout.

Solidarity hosted counter recruitment booth

Solidarity met outside the Keathley University Center to conduct a counter recruitment information campaign against Army ROTC at MTSU's invitation to military recruiters to educate students about their tuition reimbursement program last Thursday before fall break.

Solidarity's intention,

according to member Ashley Renner, was to tell students about the recruiting techniques used by the military and to a balanced position to enlistment that in contrast to the recruiters.

"Military recruiters present one side of the story," Renner said. "And they are hired and paid to make the military look good."

ROTC, who had reserved the booth two months in advance, invited other military recruiters including the Army and Tennessee National Army Reserve. Major Chuck Giles, from ROTC, said the recruitment went well with 30 students filing out applications with many more just stopping to talk.

MTSU to increase retention at Gov. behest

Bob Glenn spoke at the Senate Faculty meeting Oct. 9 about an initiative to raise the graduation rate from the current 49 to 55 percent. Governor Bredesen recently insisted that all Tennessee public institutions reach and maintain a 55 percent retention rate.

Glenn's plan focuses on creating a stronger connection between freshmen and faculty by restructuring CUSTOMS, is the orientation that introduces students into their first semester on campus.

"All departments lose about

half their freshmen in the first year," Glenn said. Members of the Faculty Senate responded enthusiastically to the proposed changes in CUSTOMS, but were concerned that wouldn't be enough to increase retention. A sub-committee was established to hear all the concerns at a later time.

MTSU's retention rate has become a key issue since Gov. Bredesen announced his plan to only put money into community colleges and allow universities to rely on tuition increases for any additional dollars.

MTSU Foundation receives \$1 million

Bob McLean donated \$1 million to the MTSU Foundation to be used by both academic and athletic programs. McLean, philanthropist and alumnus, presented the check to President McPhee during the Oct. 6 Football game against Louisville Cardinals.

Part of the money, according to MTSU News and Public Affairs Office, will go to fund the new MTSU baseball stadium.

It has not been determined that academic programs will get the rest of the money.

McLean, who graduated from MTSU with in 1972, has donated \$1.5 million in 2002 that went to purchase 54 Steinway pianos.



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Marketplace of MTSU

Continued from last column

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board System of small loans makes big changes in Bangladesh, not here

One of the most prestigious, international awards was recently won by a former MTSU professor for his work on eliminating poverty in Bangladesh.

By making loans to the impoverished masses of his home country through a bank he founded 30 years ago, Muhammad Yunus has encouraged peace on an international level. At least, so say the committee who awarded him the Nobel Prize. Through this somewhat simple act, Yunus is instituting a new philosophy that could, and hopefully will, have far-reaching effects.

"Poverty in the world is an artificial creation," Yunus stated in a recent interview with the Nobel Foundation.

How true this is. If not for the necessity of currency, there would be no poverty. As obvious as this sounds, it has taken this long for someone to recognize the fact and make progressive steps toward changing it. This system of placing more trust in fellow human beings, regardless of financial standing, also embraces our inherent beliefs as Americans.

This notion of self-reliance and finding one's own financial success is indoctrinated in our constitutional ideals as Americans. But oddly, no such institution as the one Yunus implemented exists here.

Would it not be great if such a system could be brought to the United States where it would benefit us college students?

Ok, maybe this system would not work so well here. Face it, \$100 is going to make little difference in day to day life for an American, where as in Bangladesh, it could mean the difference between life and death.

New machines provide chances for tampering

With senate elections on Nov. 7 fast approaching, it is once again time for all voters to mentally prepare, research their candidates and make informed decisions. We do this under the assumption that American democracy will flourish with the involvement of its citizens. As evidenced by the 2000 Florida Presidential recount, which had a margin of less than 100 votes, every vote counts.

However, nobody wants to think about what could go wrong. What if I get a flat tire and can't make it to the polls? What if my registration is expired? What if my vote isn't counted?

The last one may seem to be a stretch, but it is actually more likely than the average voter may realize. This upcoming election is groundbreaking in that the new electronic voting machines will be used far more widely than in any previous election.

Why doesn't anyone see a problem with this?

The survival of any republic depends upon a healthy balance between government and citizenry. The government must be just fearful enough of its people, and the citizens must be just skeptical enough of the government. It has even become somewhat of a pop-culture joke to say, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

Anyone who hasn't been living under a rock for the past 200 years knows that voter fraud is a fact of American life. Why, then, would citizens leave themselves open to further manipulation?

There are assurances; that these machines are tamper-proof, that they will be instant and exact in their accounting, that justice has finally reached the voting system. However, in the digital age, everyone knows that anything digital can be cracked. How hard would it really be to mess with an electronic voting machine?

Perhaps a computer virus, one that drops every 10th vote for a certain candidate, or, more frightening, a "power outage" that wipes out an entire polling place. To myself, a mere newspaper columnist, there are at least a million ways to screw around with these supposedly perfect machines. What could a skilled hacker do?

Think back to the 2000 presidential election. Think about Florida. Think about Katherine Harris, a rogue Republican ideologue too far to the right for the mainstream Republicans. She oversaw the recounts, which dragged on long enough for the Supreme Court to grant George W. Bush the win.

When the results came back, it was revealed that Gore had actually won the popular vote, and that an inaccurate counting process had tainted the entire election. Anybody for an electronic voting machine?

Here's the problem. In a conventional lever machine, the votes are registered by holes punched into cards, which are then sorted and counted. In the new-fangled electronic machines, there is no such paper trail.

Sure, the punch cards are imperfect, but at least there's a way to go back and see if the actual paper records by each voter substantiate the reported numbers.

Something as important as the presidency of the United States of America can come down to the informed opinion of just a handful of people in one state, and there will be no paper trail.

You simply can't trust your politicians. The Republicans blocked an amendment that would have required a paper card, and the Democrats blocked one that would require a photo ID to be presented.

Katherine Harris is a Republican example of voter tampering; the Kennedy's are an example of the Democratic variety. One of the urban legends surrounding John F. Kennedy's assassination is that the Chicago mafia instigated it because they had rigged votes for the Kennedys, only to be snubbed later on.

What's worse is that people seem to think, "Well, if the government says so, it must be fine."

You wouldn't hire Martha Stewart as your stockbroker, so why would you trust a politician to count your vote?

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Breach of 'Contract' may cost Republicans

The November mid-term elections are just around the corner, and it looks like Republicans may lose the majority held in the House since 1994. 15 seats are all Democrats must claim in order to make Nancy Pelosi, who has vowed to "drain the swamp" of Republicans, Speaker of the House.

To understand why Republicans will most likely lose at least 15 seats this November, Americans must look at the last 12 years of Republican actions in Congress.

Republicans in 1994 drew up a "Contract with America." In that contract, Republicans promised to drastically reduce the size of government, promote lower taxes and focus on welfare reform, among other initiatives. This "Contract" certainly put then-President Bill Clinton on the defensive.

After the embarrassment of the Clinton administration, Republicans gained control of the White House by electing George W. Bush in 2000. "Contract with America" slowly moved out of the picture and Republicans got comfortable with their power and majority.

Republicans now are fighting uphill battles all over the country to maintain control of the House – and the Senate to a lesser extent. Republican leadership slacked off, and sinking in now is the reality that Republicans could



Tenacious E

Matt Hurtt
Staff Columnist

lose at least 15 seats.

Republicans promised to decrease the size of government, while spending more and more each year. Republicans suggested accountability in Washington, while hiding the scandals of their own members. Republicans pledged social security reform, while failing to make any major reform at all.

Not only did Republicans fail to achieve the goals of the "Contract with America," but they also failed to maintain the trust of the American people. Now, those same people who voted Republicans in power in 1994 are wondering where it all went wrong.

Why did Republicans breach the "Contract with America?" Why did they not actively seek to expose and correct misbehavior within their own party? Why, now, is the moral majority forced to accept potential defeat this November?

Power. Republicans became comfortable with their power and refused to maintain their promise to Americans. Republicans became comfortable with their power and refused to correct misbehavior within their own party. Republicans became comfortable with their power and now we must accept the consequences.

This truth is most evident in Tennessee's own U.S. Senate race. The Republican Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist, is stepping down, so it should be an easy race for Republicans, right? Wrong. Whereas, three months ago, former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker was significantly ahead of Memphis career politician Harold Ford, Jr., they are now dead even at around 44 percent.

Negative attack ads on both sides have dramatically reduced interest-level of the voters in Tennessee. It seems like Tennessee voters are selecting the lesser of two evils this time around.

It looks like Republicans may lose control of the House this year. All we as voters can do is hope they learn their lesson in time for the 2008 elections.

Matt Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Convince 'illegals' to demand better pay

To the Editor:

The problem: illegal immigrants are in Tennessee and we must find a way to get them to stop coming. The solution: Liberate the minds of the immigrants. Make them think like legal Americans do.

In Tennessee no legislation to deport illegal immigrants will ever pass. Why? It's because Tennessee farmers and employers use illegal immigrants and prefer illegal immigrants to American workers. Why? Simple. An illegal Mexican is willing to work for a fraction of the pay that an American is willing to work for. This is not news to anyone. Any Tennessee voter with their eyes open can see that's the root of the immigration problem.

So what's the solution? Well, the problem would go away if we could convince Americans to accept the pay illegals will accept. If a white man who speaks decent English will work for a dollar an hour, an employer will hire him over the Mexican man who speaks no English, and the Mexican man would have no way of making a living in the United States; thus, he would go back to where he came from, or never come to begin with. That's never going to happen.

Thanks to the marvelous principle of minimum wage, Americans expect decent pay. They have a right to expect decent pay. But a farmer or employer also has a right to hire his own workforce, and the cheaper he can get his labor, the better. We'll never convince Americans to accept a lower rate of pay. So it seems the dilemma will go on unsolved into eternity. Unless, of course, we can convince a Mexican man to demand the pay that would be given to a white man. Liberate the minds of the illegals. Educate them on our driving force behind Affirmative Action. "See that American man across the field, doing the exact same job you're doing, Mexican man? He's making four times the money you are. Why don't you and those like you demand that The Farmer pay you what he pays that American?"

When The Farmer, or any employer, can find no illegal immigrant who will work for less pay than an American who speaks decent English, who do you think he'll hire? The American who speaks English, of course! Then, all our American jobs currently being filled by illegals will be filled by Americans, and the illegals will stop coming because there will be nothing for them to come to.

There's your solution, Tennessee. Run with it.

Lauren Street
Freshman, College of Liberal Arts

Professor's critique of article well-deserved

To the Editor:

You know, people never cease to amaze me. I would personally like to applaud your newspaper for its "Letters to the Editor" column, although I personally believe that everything else published on your pages is a waste of completely good rain forest. I think it is wonderful that you allow individuals associated with this fine institution the ability to voice their opinions. Although I may not personally agree with what someone says or believes, I personally hold tight to the belief that if someone wants to speak up and make themselves out to

be an idiot, then they should be allowed to.

Which brings me to the opinion letter sent in by Jason Cox, ["Professor's attack on student uncalled for," Oct. 12] in which he gave Professor Louis Haas the up and down about being too mean to a student.

He felt that it was unprofessional for Haas to go so far as to attack the student by saying that she needed to drop out of college and go back to grammar school. I would personally like for poor sensitive Cox to hear from someone who has had Haas as a professor.

Haas is the very definition of class, and although his teaching methods can be conceived as wacky, they work. Haas treats all of his students with respect and dignity, and nothing of this sort ever happened to any student of his I am aware of. To fully understand Haas' lashing out in his letter, you must first realize the passion he has for writing and grammar, which his class hinges upon. To achieve a passing grade for Haas' class, you must be concrete in your comprehension and usage of the writing process. When someone in class failed to meet his requirements, then he met with them on his own personal time and helped them.

Now, I think it is important to realize that this article that Haas criticized ["Administrator considering move to Arkansas State U," Oct. 5] was not one to be turned in for a grade. Instead, it was intended to be an informative article that conceivably should have been well-written. Truth is, the article was horribly written, and anyone with a high school diploma could have seen the many grammatical errors that abounded in her text. I personally laughed until I cried when I read Haas' response, and I feel that it was more than justified due to one simple fact: when you assume the job of writing for a newspaper, journal, etc., then you also assume a certain standard to which you should perform. Plain and simple, Amy D'Andrea's article failed miserably at upholding that standard, unless of course she were writing for a second-grade newspaper. Any backlash she received for her atrocious display of grammar was well-deserved, whether it came from a student or a professor or from the pope. Deal with it.

Finally, Cox decided to take a shot at Haas' credibility as an author by pointing out that it has been six years since he last had a work of his published. Well, my suggestion to Cox is to take a look at what Haas has published and he will find scholarly works that are well-written and informative. The reason for the long publication absence is that Haas chooses to write grammatically correct, informative pieces that are helpful to those interested. He holds himself to a standard that produces timely and thorough pieces; works that appear to have been written during a drug-induced coma do not interest him I am sure. In short, Haas prefers quality over quantity.

Cox must be the model liberal Democrat, because he certainly cares about the little people. However, had he not so hastily decided to take up arms against Haas, he might have read the D'Andrea article himself. Then he probably would have reflected the same sentiments as the rest of the educated world. How about he does us all a favor and does a little less writing and little more of the charity work he seems to be so involved in... Has he considered trying to save the whales?

Glenn Suggs
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

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FEATURES

Thursday: *Technology*

Shakespeare goes digital

NotePods make procrastination even easier

By Stacy Carr | Staff Writer

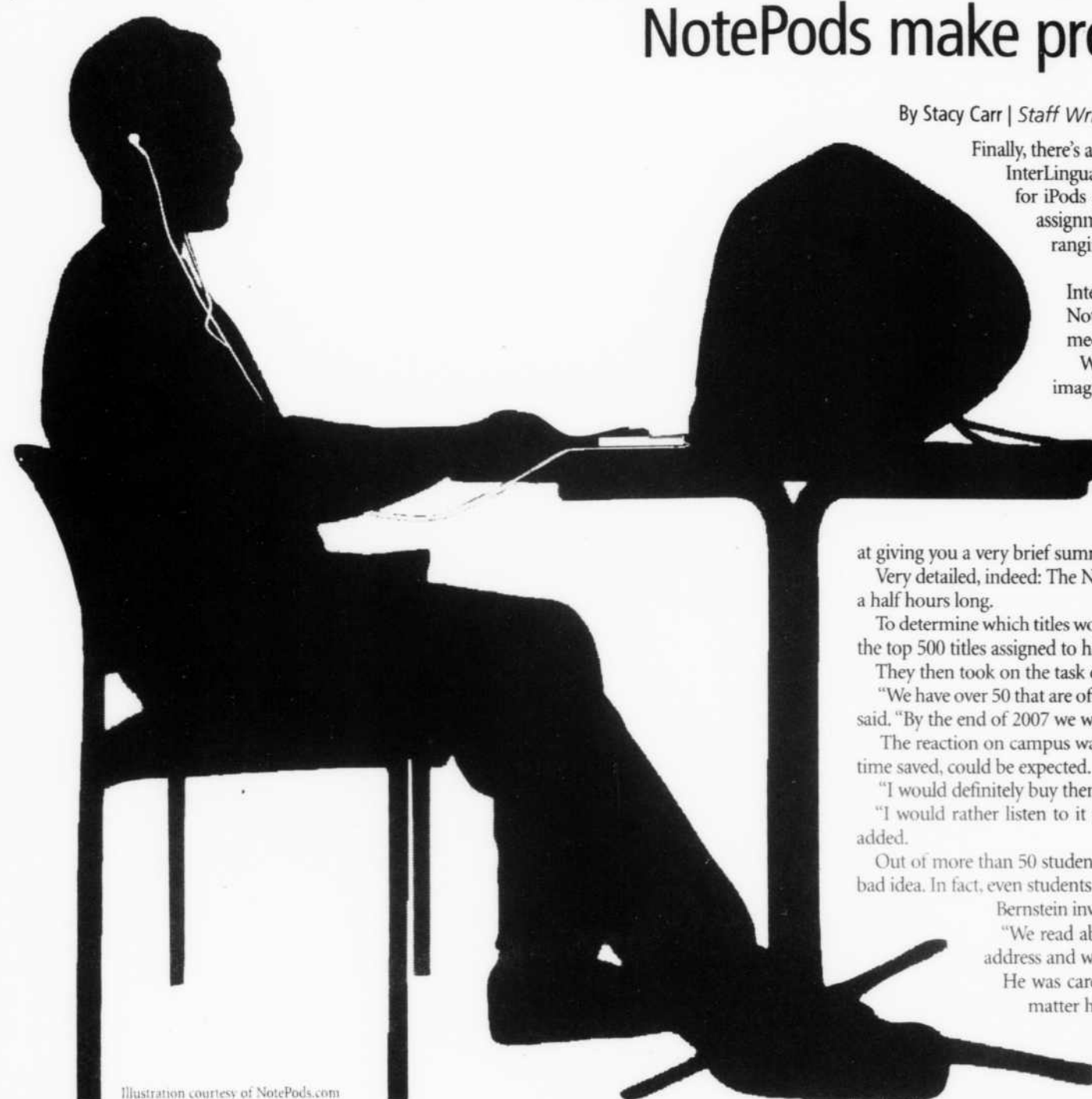


Illustration courtesy of NotePods.com

Finally, there's an excuse to use your iPod in class – sort of.

InterLingua Educational Publishing has launched NotePods, a line of audio downloads for iPods and MP3 players designed to help students get through those tough reading assignments. The downloads are essentially condensed versions of classics by authors ranging from Shakespeare to Tolstoy.

"iPods and MP3 players are a new medium," said Jack Bernstein, President of InterLingua Educational Publishing when explaining the reasoning behind NotePods. "We want to be in the forefront of educational material for this new medium."

We've all been there, frantically sifting through "Jane Eyre" while trying to imagine what the teacher is going to ask on the test. In the past, students have turned to tools like CliffsNotes or SparkNotes in those night-before-the-test times of need.

Now, though, students can listen to – according to Bernstein – more complete summaries of countless works while driving, working out or sitting in the courtyard.

"What we did is something different," Bernstein said. "CliffsNotes are good at giving you a very brief summary and analysis. Our approach was to just give a very detailed summary."

Very detailed, indeed: The NotePods summary of Herman Melville's "Moby Dick," for example, is two and a half hours long.

To determine which titles would be part of the NotePods offerings, InterLingua did Internet research to find the top 500 titles assigned to high school and college students and ranked them in order of popularity. They then took on the task of starting at the top of the list and producing the summaries.

"We have over 50 that are still being done and another 50 that are done and in editing," Bernstein said. "By the end of 2007 we will have 300 titles."

The reaction on campus was overwhelmingly positive toward NotePods, which, considering the potential time saved, could be expected.

"I would definitely buy them!" sophomore chemistry major Taylor Black said.

"I would rather listen to it than read the CliffsNotes," freshman foreign language major Jennifer Bryant added.

Out of more than 50 students surveyed from various majors and classes, not one thought NotePods were a bad idea. In fact, even students without MP3 players said they downloaded the summaries onto their computer.

Bernstein invited student feedback on www.notepods.com, asking for emails and suggestions.

"We read absolutely every note," he said. If you want a response, then put in your e-mail address and we will make sure to respond. We take everything seriously."

He was careful, however, not to encourage students to rely solely on the summaries, no matter how helpful it might be.

"To be politically correct, the students should read the book, and use this as a reminder," Bernstein said.

Sure, we'll say, as we toss "Hamlet" under the bed and plug in our headphones. We'll get right on that.

MTSU students, staff flood online video sites

By Andrew Johnson
Staff Writer

If you've attended any of the Middle Tennessee home football games this fall, you might have witnessed the dancing skills of an older man in front of the student section in Floyd Stadium.

He's called "Middle's Dancing Man," and while his dances may or may not be tasteful, they certainly display school spirit and bravado.

Even if you haven't attended any football games, you can still see him dance on YouTube.com, by searching for "Middle's Dancing Man" (see box at right). The video was recorded during the first MTSU football game against Florida International University on Aug. 31 and exhibits this anonymous man shaking his rear and even stepping up on the rail for a couple of moves. The crowd seems to enjoy it, and the security guards certainly aren't interested in stopping him.

"Bradley Lambert, the director of Internet Services, shot the video at the game as a means of promotion for MTSU athletics," said Mark Owens, director of media relations for the MT athletic department. "The fact that he caught this man dancing on tape was pure coincidence."

The success of video networks – and the content on them that can give people like Middle's Dancing Man instant fame – has skyrocketed, as YouTube has become the fourth-most popular social networking Web site, according to U.S. Web audience data from Hitwise Inc. MySpace and Facebook remain in first and second places, respectively.

That sort of traffic attracted Internet search giant Google, which bought the rights to YouTube on Oct. 9 for \$1.65 billion from owners Chad Hurley and Steven Chen. That move has shone an even brighter spotlight on online video content.

The Dancing Man has become so popular on YouTube that one student who works for the athletic department, Russell Luna, has started two groups on Facebook dedicated to him: The Official

Dancing Man Fan Club and its global partner, The Official MTSU and Florida Atlantic Alumni Memorial Gym.

"The Facebook group was designed as a gateway to check out the video on YouTube," said Luna, a sophomore electronic media communication journalism major. "I think it helps get more people involved in MTSU athletics because it shows the dancing man having a good time."

The Dancing Man has also been seen at basketball and baseball games.

Lambert has also put together highlight videos from each football game on YouTube. Those videos contain not only the best MTSU plays from each game, but also pre-game festivities, including grilling food, moon bounces and sometimes even a bean-bag toss.

The videos also can be found on <http://www.goblueraiders.com> by clicking on the "Football" page and then on the multimedia archives section.

Lambert posts videos under the name "lambomb" on YouTube and has posted a video depicting a women's volleyball game between MTSU and Florida Atlantic at Alumni Memorial Gym. In the game, a girl spikes the ball over the net and hits the MTSU mascot, "Lightning" right between the legs. This replays the same spike over and over again, once in slow motion with sound effects.

Luna has appropriately created another Facebook group as a gateway for that video, called "Watch Out, Lightning!"

Individual students have also taken advantage of the Internet by posting videos of their own. Jeremy Justice, a resident of Cummings Hall during the spring semester of 2005, posted a video on <http://video.google.com> on May 5, 2005, displaying a water-sliding game on the fifth floor of the dormitory hall.

Jeremy and his friends covered the hallway with shampoo and water and succeeded in sliding down the floor with several bed mattresses. Subsequent attempts are made to slide down the floor, some being more successful than others. Basically, it's four minutes

and 15 seconds of a bunch of college kids having fun while Michael Jackson's "Beat It" plays in the background.

In addition to humor, YouTube forces politicians to watch every word that comes out of his or her mouth and every move he or she makes. If politicians slip up at all and someone has a video camera handy, then those mistakes can potentially be viewed by millions of people easily.

According to a *Washington Post* article entitled "Politicians caught on Internet candid cameras," Senator George Allen, R-Va., received bad publicity when he pointed to a black man with a video camera and referred to him as a "macaca," otherwise known as an African monkey and sometimes thought of as a racial slur. Although the man was a "tracker," a hired cameraman working for Allen's opponent James Webb, it nonetheless made Allen appear a racist.

Despite its success, YouTube has been the target of copyright infringement by major music labels and motion picture companies. YouTube recently signed a content licensing agreement with Universal Music Group, thus avoiding a lawsuit with the world's largest recording company.

The video-sharing network also struck similar deals with CBS, Sony BMG, and Warner Music Group, giving the site unprecedented legal access to thousands of music videos and other music-related content.

Co-owner Hurley emphasized that YouTube is committed to balancing the needs of the fan community and the copyright holders, according to an article in the *Washington Post* entitled "YouTube strikes content deals."

YouTube successfully avoided the same types of lawsuits Napster was subject to by negotiating with media companies. It remains to be seen if Google's control over YouTube changes the format of the Web site by restricting access or providing more options for users, but the site certainly remains a hit for the MTSU athletic department and the student body as a whole.

MTSU videos on Web

From MT Idol tryout videos to class assignments, there's no shortage of videos from our fair campus on video sites like YouTube and Google Video. Some, however, defy explanation. Of course, that doesn't mean we don't encourage you to see them ...

"Lunchbox's Funeral"

(<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=315270310300039046&camp;q=MTSU>): Apparently exam week puts more stress on our little gilled friends than we may have originally thought. For one goldfish, last spring was just too much. We have to ask, though: Isn't a funeral in a dorm bathroom somewhat sacrilegious?



Football Fans Pucker Up

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBeyAnJLQQA>): Who follows the thought "Hey, we're on TV!" with, "I have the irresistible urge to kiss the guy next to me!"? Well, the guy in the middle does. We're pretty sure everybody – and we do mean everybody – is grossed out by this.



Middle Tennessee's Dancing Man

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVVGyKqDXHE>): This has all the makings of a cult following – or maybe just a couple of Facebook groups ("The Official Dancing Man Fan Club" and "The Official National Dancing Man Fan Club"). This guy should have his own stage during the halftime show.



Slip N Slide on the 5th Floor of Cummings Hall

(<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5197212294062190214&q=Slip+Slide+Cummings>): We fully support the RAs who allowed this to happen under their watch. The real question now is: How do you top this? We anxiously await the sequel.



SPORTS

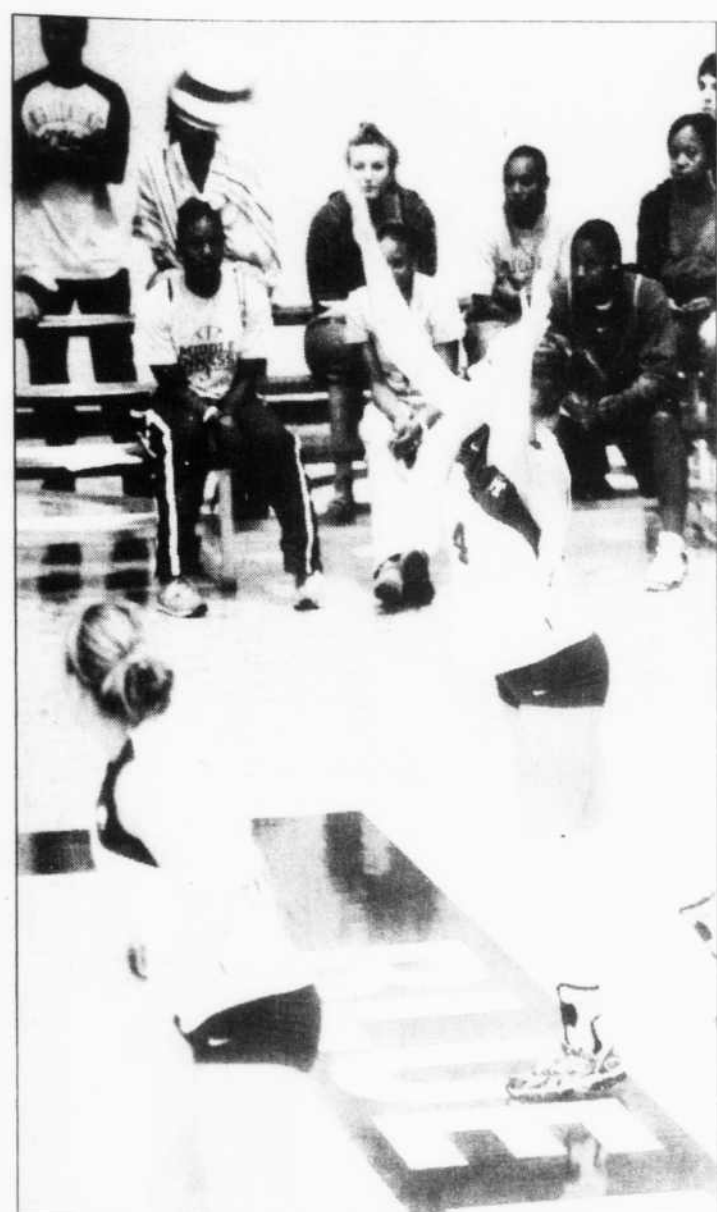


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Senior Megan Sumrell gets set to return the volley from Western Kentucky.

MT falls to WKU, shuts out FIU, Florida Atlantic

Tuesday, Oct. 17

WKU 3

MTSU 2

Sunday, Oct. 15

FIU 0

MTSU 3

Friday, Oct. 13

FAU 0

MTSU 3

Next Game vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Oct. 20

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team fell to Sun Belt Conference rival Western Kentucky 3-2 (28-30, 30-26, 30-32, 30-27, 10-15) Tuesday at Alumni Memorial Gym.

With the loss, MT (16-6, 7-2) moved into a second-place tie with Florida International and gave WKU (19-7, 8-1) sole possession of first place in the SBC. MT has lost three straight games to WKU dating back to last season, not including the SBC finals. The Blue Raiders fought back, but three costly attacking errors and a ball handling error by Leslie Clark gave the final match to WKU.

MT tied the match up at two games as the Blue Raiders were able to get Hilltopper Jenny Gideon to commit an attack error. In the final game, WKU tied MT at 8 before Hilltopper

Megan Argabright and Gideon clinched the game.

Blue Raider sophomore Ashley Adams led both teams with 22 kills and committed five errors on 55 attacks with an attacking percentage of .333. Jessica Robinson had 16 kills and Quanshell Scott had 13 kills. Alicia Lemau'u had 20 digs for the first time this season and Clark had a career-high 60 assists.

Sunday the Blue Raiders beat Florida International 3-0 (30-26, 30-21, 30-28) as MT held another opponent to shutout. After winning the first game FIU started to rally before committing five attack errors and handing the game over to the Blue Raiders after their 15th service error. The Blue Raiders shut out their fourth SBC opponent and record their 12th shut out of the season.

"All weekend we have been talking about what we needed to do to be in this position," head coach Matt Peck told MT Media Relations. "Now we are there and have to get the job done to reach our goals."

MT's attacking percentage was .338 and the Blue Raiders committed only 14 errors. Adams led the Blue Raiders with 15 kills and one error on 22 attacks. Ashley Asberry had seven blocks.

"I told the players in a timeout that I believed we could come back and win the game," Peck told MT Media Relations. "I believed in them and they just had to believe in themselves."

Friday the Blue Raiders

See Volleyball, 8

SunBelt Conference Preview

Teams gear up for conference play and hunt for coveted SunBelt title

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Oct. 18

Louisiana-Lafayette (3-2, 0-0 SBC) at Florida Atlantic (2-4, 1-0 SBC) (ESPN 2)

ULL beat Memphis two weeks ago and played Sun Belt Conference foe Florida Atlantic yesterday. The Ragin Cajuns are flying high with three straight non-conference wins, including a 31-28 against Houston, who beat ULL the last four times.

Now, halfway through the season for many other SBC teams ULL will have played their first conference game last night. The last time these two schools met, ULL lost 28-10 to FAU. This is the second meeting for these two schools since FAU moved to the SBC last year.

FAU beat Southern Utah 32-7 as Owls running back Charles Pierre got his first 100-yard game. He rushed for 103 yards against SUU, the first time this season an FAU back has rushed for 100 yards. FAU has not done that since last year when running back Ivory Edgecomb rushed for 112 yards against North Texas.

Oct. 21

Middle Tennessee (3-3, 2-0 SBC) at Louisiana-Monroe (1-5, 0-3 SBC) 6 p.m.

With its open date out of the way, Middle Tennessee will play its third SBC game against a tough ULM team. MT is coming off a 44-17 loss to Louisville two weeks ago and has had plenty of time to prepare for the

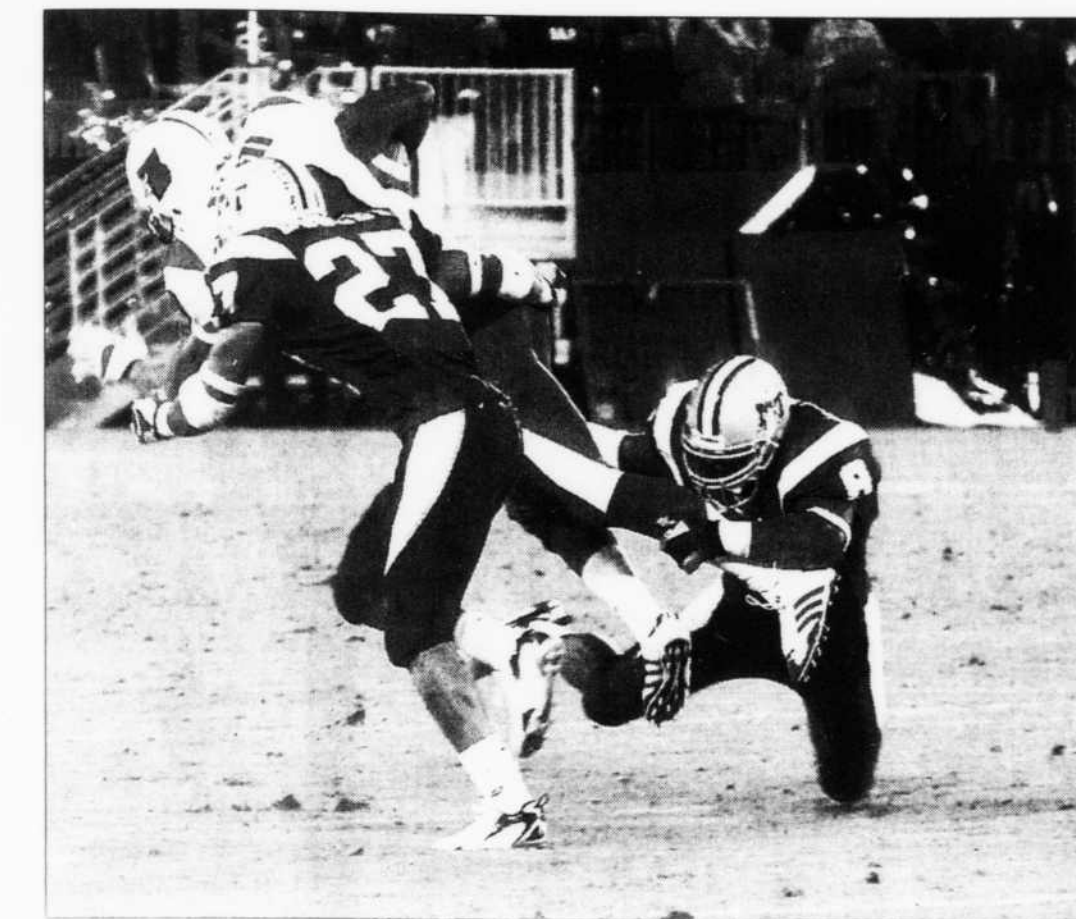


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Senior Safety (8) Jonathon Harris and (27) corner back Reggie Doucet tackle a Louisville player during the Louisville game.

Warhawks. Last season MT lost to ULM 34-31 and ULM will be hoping to do just the same this weekend.

The Warhawks lost their SBC opener against Troy, 24-19, after Troy quarterback Omar Haugabook passed for 246 yards and running back Justin Brooks ran for a couple of touchdowns. Haugabook was 27-of-40 with three interceptions. ULM almost outgained Troy 390-407. This is the seventh meeting between these two teams since 1999, and MT is 4-2 against ULM in those six meetings. This will be the first time The Blue Raiders will be playing in Monroe, La. for the first time since 2001.

North Texas (2-4, 1-1 SBC) at Arkansas State (4-2, 2-0 SBC) (ESPN Regional) 6:05 p.m.

UNT was the only school that had not played any overtime game in I-A until they played

FIU two weeks ago. The 5-0 score was the lowest halftime lead for UNT and opponents have outscored UNT 48-12 in the first quarter this season.

Last week ASU got their 100th win at Indian Stadium. Their next goal will be to win their next five games to reach 400 victories for their program while winning the SBC title. ASU beat Memphis 26-23 for the first time in 10 meetings to beat ASU's oldest rival. Indians quarterback Corey Leonard threw for 219 yards and executed a 53 yard Hail Mary pass to receiver Patrick Higgins to win the game. Higgins had two touchdowns in the game.

Recap of last week games

Oct. 8

Arkansas State 26, Memphis 23

ASU set up the Memphis Tigers on their last drive of the game with a Hail Mary pass into

the end zone. After a replay by the officials, they ruled the play a touchdown to give ASU their third straight non-conference win over Memphis. Memphis struggled to move the ball, as quarterback Martin Hankins was 13-of-28 with 215 yards passing on the night. They only managed 127 yards rushing in 31 attempts. ASU rushed for 168 yards with 262 yards of total offense against the Tigers' weak defense.

Miami (Fla) 3, Florida International 0

After an extra point attempt by the Hurricanes, a brawl broke out between the teams, and four days after the fact the first meeting between these two schools will be their last. Miami and Florida International had 13 players ejected from the game. FIU earlier yesterday

See Preview, 8

Taking stock halfway through the season

By Rick Stockstill

Contributing Columnist

As we begin the second half of our football season, I would first like to thank the students and faculty that have enthusiastically supported our team and attended our first three home games. I hope everyone realizes how important you are to the success of our program. We can't do it without you and I hope that you will continue to support the Blue Raiders.

Our team is 3-3 and tied for first place in the Sun Belt Conference with Arkansas State. I like the way we are playing football right now. I believe you win games by being disciplined and not turning the ball over. We are the least-penalized team in the conference and second in turnover margin.

We are not committing those stupid penalties, which show a lack of discipline or a selfish play. The quickest way to lose a game is by putting the ball on the ground

in turnovers (like we did at Oklahoma). The last two games we have done a great job of protecting the ball.

I want us to act like a "winner" in everything we do. We are going to be accountable for everything. We want to be just like you (the non-football player), except for four hours a day when we have to go to practice. We are going to represent this university in a first-class manner.

We play Louisiana-Monroe this week on the road. They are a very dangerous team, as they are 1-5 but have lost four of those games by a total of 13 points. They beat us last year and they are the defending conference champion. We will have to play with the same intensity, focus and enthusiasm as we have the last two weeks for us to win this game.

They have a very athletic quarterback that is very good both throwing and running the football, and their defense is the fastest we have seen so far this year within our conference games. As always, the kicking game will play a big part in the outcome of the game.

Right now we are flying around and playing at a high-speed tempo. Our guys are really playing together as a team. As the old saying goes, "It's amazing what

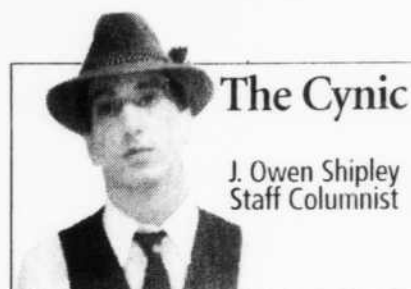
you can accomplish when nobody cares who gets the credit." Each week we have different individuals or different segments step up and have big impacts in the game. If we continue to play as a team and not a bunch of individuals, we will have a chance to be successful.

We are getting great leadership from everyone on this team, especially from our seniors. There is nobody on this team that has ever experienced a winning season at the college level. Our seniors want to go out as "winners," and the rest of our team is doing everything they can to send them out on a positive note.

We as a coaching staff are determined to build this program into one that every Middle Tennessee fan, student and alumnus will be proud to call "my school." We have a long way to go, but I feel we have made a lot of progress in my first 10 months as the head football coach.

Again, thanks for all your support, and you are in for an exciting ride as we strive to take Middle Tennessee football to the top.

Rick Stockstill is the head coach of the Blue Raider football team.



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Read on, sports fans, classmates and creepy guy in the KUC who doesn't want that cute girl in the pink MT sweats to know what you're really looking at. Read on Mom, former teammates and complete strangers. A conference game awaits!

As of Oct. 19, MT has played only two conference games out of six, but the schedule is about to get a lot more mean-

ingful. In their final stretch, the Blue Raiders face only one non-conference opponent.

So get your pom-poms ready, run over to Citgo and buy that \$5 MT car flag you'll lose the first time you want a cigarette, and fire up your radio to 106.7 The Fan. The chase for the New Orleans Bowl has officially started.

The first opponent in this conference stretch is Louisiana-Monroe. The Warhawks are a season-ending 1-5, but don't count out teams with no future. Look to Vanderbilt, a team with NO shot at the SEC (in this century or any other) who knocked Georgia all the way out of SEC East contention.

In the last four games in this series, MT has averaged 37.5 points to ULM's 26.5

Half-points aside, I don't see ULM scoring more than seven against this Raider D. And I don't expect the Warhawks' improved defense (four of their five losses were by less than a touchdown) to hold MT to less than 24.

In other words, I'm saying that all signs point to an MT win on Saturday.

And not just a 7-6 win, ala FIU. I'm predicting a North Texas-like game – and I don't mean a 35-0 score. It was the discipline and poise they used to pick apart the Mean Green (who should change their name to something more honest, like the Somewhat Perturbed Puce) that made that game a rout.

As the coaches have come to understand their players better they have made terrific adjustments, like putting Damon

Nickson on special teams and rotating the running backs so opposing defenses are never really prepared for which type of runner they will face.

In much the same way, the players had to completely re-learn how to play their positions based on the new staff's philosophy. With such a dramatic change in personnel, it's not uncommon for teams to need a rebuilding year. In fact, it's expected. But if there is one thing I've learned, Stockstill's Raiders aren't satisfied with meeting expectations.

After starting a little slow, to say they have exceeded all expectations in their last two games would be an understatement of Shakespearean caliber. And yet, when quarterback Clint Marks talks about the growth on offense, his repetitive respons-

es remind me of the robot from "Lost In Space," only instead of shouting "Danger!", he chants the word "better" like he's reading a stalled teleprompter.

The thing is, he isn't just being original. He's not monosyllabic by nature. It's just that simple to him. They're getting better. Every player I run into not only speaks as if he buys into all of Stockstill's buzzwords – he actually plays that way. It's expected for coaches to use rhetoric, but it's exceptional that the team adopts it as their own.

If, as Clint Marks says, MT really is understanding their new offense better, passing better, blocking better, and catching better, come 6:30 Saturday night Louisiana-Monroe will be glad this game isn't televised.

Raiders set to clip the Warhawks' wings

Thursday Night Intramural Sports

SOCCER

SORORITY / WOMEN'S LEAGUE 8-9 p.m.

Alpha Omega (W)	Default	Chi Omega
Lady Agents (W)	Default	ZETA
Alpha Chi Omega 2	VS.	Lady Agents 1

CO-REC A LEAGUE 10-11 p.m.

Blue Crew 8	VS.	Hot Pockets 3
SuperFreaks (W)	Default	C-Town
RUF 1	VS.	Azzuri 1

FLAG FOOTBALL

MEN'S B LEAGUE 8 p.m.

Da Bears 35	VS.	The Odoyles 27
H.C. Tigers 18	VS.	Team Extreme 6
Flying Purple Cobra 25	VS.	Alpha Omega (#1) 0

MEN'S A LEAGUE 9 p.m.

FBI 13	VS.	Stumpy's 6
Dem Whyte Boyz 25	VS.	The Team 0
Blue Falcons	Default	Bootleggers

MEN'S B LEAGUE 10-11 p.m.

Big Blue Wreckin Crew 28	VS.	Better Than The Titans 13
Outlaws 14	VS.	Love inya Mouth 7
RUF 2 35	VS.	Beer Battered Fish 7
Shake n Bake 20	VS.	Prime Time 0
BTS (Win)	VS.	Free Agents (Forfeit)

For your intramural sports scores and rankings, go no further than your *Sidelines* newspaper. If you would like your scores or highlights in the paper, please e-mail us at slsports@mtsu.edu.

Preview: Sun Belt Conference

Continued from 7

handed out suspensions to 18 players to be served during the Alabama game on Oct. 28. On the other side of the ring, Miami handed down the suspension of safety Anthony Reddick, who was suspended indefinitely. The Hurricanes will add to a growing list of suspensions by both schools.

Things came to a head after UM wide receiver James Bryant caught a five-yard touchdown pass. He drew a penalty flag for 15 yards after pointing to the FIU bench and bowing to the crowd. Once the Hurricanes made the extra point, an FIU player ran into holder Matt Perrelli and it was from there that pushing turned to punches being thrown by both sides. FIU has an open date this weekend and face off against Alabama in Alabama on October 28.

Volleyball: MT falls to WKU

Continued from 7

defeated Florida Atlantic 3-0 (30-22, 30-18, 30-24) as four players hit double figures in kills. Adams and Asberry both had 11 kills, and Robinson and Scott both finished with 10 kills. Clark finished with 47 assists and Ashley Vaughn finished with 10 digs. MT's attacking percentage was .339 for the series and the Blue Raiders held FAU to a .163 percentage.

"The shutouts have been huge for us," Peck told MT Media Relations. "We got a bunch of them on the road and I expect to see a few at home."

Middle Tennessee continues its Sun Belt Conference home schedule against Louisiana-Monroe on Friday at 7 p.m. and Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday at 5 p.m.

The Blue Raiders' last home game of the season will be Sunday against New Orleans at 1 p.m.

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