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An editorially independent newspaper

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Enrollment peaks at 20,150, then falls

Increases in admission standards considered

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Enrollment exceeded 20,000 briefly until Thursday – the last official purge day – in which it fell to 19,991 – still 974 more students than this point last year.

The 3.12 percent increase is

both positive and negative, said Sherian Huddleston, director of records.

"It's good because that's what we're here for – for students to get an education. It says a lot about our programs, our institutions and our location," she said.

But Huddleston admits hav-

ing mixed emotions, since such an enrollment increase strains the university's limited resources.

However, she believes such an increase is not surprising.

"It's not a sudden increase," she said. "We've had a gradual increase over the years."

Bob Clemen, vice president for

Student Affairs, says the enrollment increase is "generally good," but that it does have its down side.

"It reflects public confidence in the institution," he said.

At the same time, he agrees with Huddleston that such a large student population can place stress on the university and students themselves.

To remedy the problem,

Glenn believes a systematic increase of admission standards – not a total enrollment cap – might be helpful. He believes more students should begin their higher education at community colleges, then move on to four-year institutions to study their core curricula.

MTSU's administrators are considering raising standards.

"We've only just begun to

talk about what's to be done on our campus," Glenn said.

In fact, the Tennessee Board of Regents is currently considering raising admission standards at all of its four-year institutions. Official MTSU semester enrollment numbers will not be released until a census is conducted the 14th day of the semester, Sept. 2. ♦

Cigarette sparks fire scare in KUC

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

A discarded cigarette left smoldering in the mulch outside Keathley University Center was the culprit of a fire scare Wednesday.

An anonymous caller reported the incident, which the Murfreesboro Fire Department responded to at approximately 10:49 a.m.

According to Captain John Goad the caller reported smelling something burning – which actually turned out to be the smoldering mulch that never erupted into flames.

"There was incense outside," Goad said. "That's why they were getting two different scents."

Goad believes the caller might be an employee of Phillips Bookstore.

Though she smelled smoke, Mary Bone, who works in Phillips Bookstore, did not see flames or smoke at any point when she went outside to check.

She said she did not know who phoned the incident in.

Earl Harris, bookstore director, could not identify the caller either.

"I've asked around. I can't find anyone in the store who did the actual calling on that."

"That particular thing has happened several times in the store and employees up front seem to just ignore it because they know what it is," Harris said.

Harris offered his own explanation of the events.

"I think there's an ashtray that sits pretty close to the doors out in front of the building and pretty often a cigarette gets into the mulch and the smoke is drawn in by the vents in this building," he said.

The firemen poured a gallon of water onto the cigarette to be sure it would not flame up in the heat and wind, Assistant Fire Chief Allen Swader said.

The matter was then turned over to campus police. ♦

Camp hones leadership skills



Photo provided

Participants in MTSU's first-ever Lightning Leadership Camp engage in a trust exercise on wires.

'Storm trackers' learn teamwork, self-reliance

Lindsey Turner
News Editor

While most students were cramming last-minute laziness into their final days of summer, 60 freshmen ventured into the outdoors to find the leaders hiding inside themselves.

These freshmen, called Storm Trackers, were the participants in MTSU's first-ever Lightning Leadership Camp.

The campers, along with faculty and upperclassmen called lightning leaders, packed their gear Aug. 15 and headed to the Joe C. Davis YMCA Outdoor Center on the shore of Nashville's Percy Priest Lake.

There, they pitched their own tents and had the opportunity to tackle out-

door challenges such as a giant swing, alpine tower and high and low ropes courses.

Gina Poff, a coordinator of the camp and MTSU director of Student Development, said the camp is a way for students to meet new people, build confidence and hone leadership skills.

Emily Buttrey, a lightning leader, said although she doesn't consider herself an outdoors person, she had a good experience at the camp.

"I really enjoyed getting to know the campers and see them grow and become leaders," she said.

The campers divided into groups – all named for on-campus buildings – and competed in events for prizes. They also performed skits and songs to help educate each other about the MTSU

campus and traditions.

Rebecca Cox, a freshman pre-law/Spanish major from Franklin, was happy with her experience.

"I would do it again," she said. "Every student should have to go. It was an amazing team-building experience."

Cox's group – Camp Corlew – won the boat regatta in which they had to make a boat out of cardboard and duct tape that would support two passengers. They won \$50 in flex dollars to add to their meal plans.

"I would be so lost (on campus) right now if I'd not gone," Cox said. "I really hope to be a [Lightning] Leader next year."

Marcus Fritz, a political science

See Camp, 2A

Harassment lecture to open series

By Lisa Thomason
Staff writer

"Urgent Issues! Red Light" is the theme of the 2001 Fall Honors Lecture Series. The theme will focus on some of society's most pressing issues and is sponsored by the University Honors College.

The first speaker of the series will be Jackie Gilbert of the management and marketing department. She will be addressing the problem of sexual harassment. Her lecture will examine the issue from a busi-

ness perspective.

The issue of sexual harassment has received attention in recent years. Gilbert said that monetary benefits awarded in lawsuits involving sexual harassment involving 597 percent from 1991 to 1997 and that the average settlement is now over \$200,000.

"Sexual harassment is no longer a feminist issue; it is a financial one," she said.

Gilbert plans to include many aspects of sexual harassment in her lecture, including the two major categories of quid

pro quo and hostile environment.

She also will examine the areas that sexual harassment may affect a business.

"Organizations may find it difficult to recover from the tarnished image, financial drain and public relations nightmare caused by a claim of sexual harassment," she said.

Gilbert said that men and women tend to view sexual harassment differently. This gender difference, a supposition known as the "reasonable woman standard," also will be

addressed during her lecture.

Gilbert also will include a section covering actions businesses can take to mitigate their liability. The section will explain differences in appropriate and inappropriate training of employees and management.

Gilbert is a member of the Honors Council and is part of the Honors faculty.

The Honors Lecture Series meets each Monday from 3:00-3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A.

All lectures are free and open to the public. ♦

Sexual Harassment Hotlines

These groups and agencies deal with sexual harassment on the job or in school settings.

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24 hour Hotline: (901) 274-7477

9 to 5: National Association of Working Women
1-800-522-0925

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
1-800-669-EEOC

Equal Rights Advocates
415-621-0672

Syracuse mandates random dorm assignments

By Whitney Kummerow
Daily Orange (Syracuse U.)

(U-WIRE) SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Seeking to end certain stereotypes and to create more diverse residence halls, a Syracuse University Senate act now mandates randomly selected rooms for incoming students.

This year's group of freshmen are the first to be affected by the act, which was passed in December 1999.

Last spring, new students lost the opportunity to decide their future housing at SU.

To promote diversity among residents, new programs such as the "No Place for Hate" campaign will be a promoted in all residence halls, said Eric Nestor, Flint Hall's residence director. T-shirts and posters will soon flood campus and floor meetings in support of a program

designed to support students.

"Our big focus is creating an avenue for students to develop diverse background, where we can support everyone," Nestor said.

While administrators hope to bring diversity, they plan to destroy the labels associated with each residence hall.

In particular, USen deemed Brewster, Boland, Flint and Day residence halls as centers of student stereotypes, said David Kohr, director of housing.

For years, students have dealt with the labels associated Mount Olympus or in the "ghetto," as the Brewster/Boland Complex has commonly referred to.

"Twenty years ago, it wasn't so bad," said 1982 SU graduate Jim VanNorstrand, referring to his freshman residence hall, Brewster. "But even then, many

students were afraid to live in the ghetto."

Those decades did little to change the stereotypes with which VanNorstrand dealt. But while he witnessed a residence hall that did not always live up to its reputation, some see the labels fading.

Many students agree. The stereotypes left impressions on students throughout their stay on campus and it has affected their opinions on the new housing policy.

Rigaud Noel, a sophomore political science major and Day Hall resident adviser noticed the need for random housing placements and more diversity programs last year.

"Stereotypes were a big problem," Noel said. "Day Hall wasn't that diverse."

"Since the university prides off of diversity, it's good they're

doing things like random housing to promote it."

Paolo Passas, a senior film major, questioned whether the stereotypes would be shed with the simple measure of random assignments.

"The stereotypes won't stop, they'll just relocate," Passas said.

Greg Goldstein, a senior advertising and finance major, lived on the Mount and said his freshman year and said his experience matched up to the stereotypes.

His younger brother, who moved into Day Hall on Wednesday, knew nothing of the stereotypes and did not have a preference of housing, the older brother said.

"You learn a lot once you get here," Goldstein said. "I was pretty clueless too."

Many freshman wish they still had the chance to choose,

but for different reasons than USen and many upperclassmen believe. The shortest distance to classes, better dining halls and the distance to the Carrier Dome attracted students such as Chad Hage, a freshman in the School of Management.

"I'm clueless about stereotypes on campus," Hage said. "I just want to know which dorm has the farthest walk to class. And I didn't want to live in the place they call the 'ghetto.'"

Lisa Quirk, another freshman unaware of stereotypes, was more concerned with being surrounded with kids who will help her study habits at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She chose to live on a floor with a learning community in Sadler Residence Hall. When asked whether she cared about random housing,

she responded: "It's a dorm room. No."

Transfer students also have to deal with the lack of choice when it comes to rooms. James Graham, a transfer student to the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, moved into Shaw Hall with little knowledge of the building and its reputation.

"It doesn't matter," Graham said. "Incoming people don't have preconceived notions."

While hopes are high for the new policy among many SU community members, no one knows how things will work out. "We want to create an environment of acceptance, diversity and celebration," Nestor said. "We hope to build new traditions for Flint and Day. But we won't know the student population and how things will work out until they get here." ♦

Alumnus' transplant scheduled for Thursday

Staff Reports

MTSU graduate Greg Maupin will receive a kidney transplant Thursday at the Vanderbilt Transplant Clinic, thanks to his former teacher Mary Nichols.

Nichols - Maupin's television-production professor at MTSU 10 years ago - was inspired to donate a kidney because of the long waiting

list for cadaver donors.

"I don't look at it as giving up a kidney," Nichols told the *Daily News Journal*. "I have something that could save his life."

Maupin, 36, received a liver transplant in 1990. The medication he took to prevent his body from rejecting the liver caused double kidney failure.

After he recovers from the

major surgery, Maupin hopes to return to MTSU to continue his studies. According to Nichols, he is planning to be a teacher in the elementary or middle school level.

On the Greg Maupin Foundation's Web site, www.cafes.net/gregmaupin-foundation, visitors can track the progress of the surgery as well as participate in a silent celebrity auction. ♦

Increase in students brings more diversity

By Julie Finley

Daily Mississippian (U. Mississippi)

(U-WIRE) OXFORD, Miss. - The University of Mississippi has a good problem. That's the word from the Ole Miss administration regarding the increased number of students on campus this year.

"The message is loud and clear that there are unusual opportunities for students and Ole Miss," Chancellor Robert Khayat said. "It is a unique university with a high quality academic experience."

Having more students on

campus brings in more opinions and increases the learning experience, Vice Chancellor for Student Life Thomas Wallace said.

"We have a greater pool of diversity and increased numbers of students available for organizations," Wallace said. "There are positives. The challenge is to plan and have an infrastructure for increased enrollment."

Sparky Reardon, dean of students, said the problems will work out.

"The frustrations we've experienced this week are much like the problems we face each

year. At the beginning," Reardon said. "The university and its people are fairly resilient. There are challenges, but the benefits far outweigh them."

The most obvious benefit may be the financial aspect of having more tuition dollars. Johnny Williams, vice chancellor of administration and finance, said several factors determine the actual amount of money the university will receive, depending on whether a majority of the students are in-state or out-of-state.

Final numbers cannot be determined yet since final enrollment totals are not in. ♦

Camp: Students learn independence

Continued from 1A

major from Chattanooga, said he didn't actually expect they would be camping outside at night.

"It was a little more extreme than what I expected," he said, "but it was still fun."

Fritz said the campers learned how to be independent but to work with others as well.

Tysha Batts, a communica-

tion disorders major from Chattanooga, felt it was a good experience as well.

"It was geared toward building cohesiveness and trust," she said.

MTSU is not the only university with a program of this nature, Poff said. Texas A&M and Vanderbilt both have similar programs for students.

MTSU's program cost an estimated \$40,000, which came

partially from a \$50 registration fee. The remaining cost was covered by Student-Affairs funds.

The Lightning Leadership Camp was open to the first 100 entering freshmen who returned their registration materials. It is possible next year's camp will be open to all students, instead of just freshmen. ♦

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Class meets on Mondays from 3-5:40 p.m.

The instructor for the class is the newest professor to join MTSU's journalism faculty, award-winning former reporter and editor, Wendell Rawls. Mr. Rawls joins the faculty after a distinguished career at the Tennessean, The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In 1976, Rawls' investigation of atrocities inside a Pennsylvania hospital for the criminally insane won him the Pulitzer Prize. This investigation became the subject of his 1977 book, Cold Storage.

For information on the class, please call Dr. Richard Campbell in the School of Journalism at either 898-5980 or 898-2814.

U. Texas-Austin student among mayoral candidates

By Celina Moreno
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - Daniel Nazar, a government and radio-television-film senior at the University of Texas, is one of several people hoping to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Kirk Watson, who plans to enter the state attorney general's race next year.

Watson announced Aug. 14 that he would be stepping down after an elected replacement is sworn in.

The City Council voted Thursday to hold a Nov. 6 special election to choose Watson's successor, whose term will expire June 15, 2003.

Although the official date to file candidacy is Sept. 6, potential candidates must file their appointment of a campaign

treasurer with the city clerk's office before fund raising.

Nazar, 20, and former council member Gus Garcia are two of five people who have filed.

All six City Council members already had their campaign treasurer designations on file, said Deputy City Clerk Rose Fickel.

However, several council members have said they will not run against Garcia, including Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman and Councilman Daryl Slusher. Other members have cited personal reasons as to why they will not seek candidacy.

Only Councilwoman Beverly Griffith has not announced whether or not she will run.

While he does not expect to win the race, Nazar said he will run like he's going to succeed.

"I have very strong political convictions," he said.

"There are things that I want done enough that I am willing to undergo a full campaign to get them heard. Hopefully, that will show my motivation."

If elected mayor, Nazar would hope to create a watchdog group to monitor the Austin Police Department for abuse of power.

"[APD] should have to answer to the people it's supposed to serve," he said.

Calling himself an "environmental libertarian," Nazar said he wants to fight Austin's deforestation in a realistic manner.

He also wants to work to revitalize East Austin.

"On one side of I-35 there are businesses and everything looks nice, but driving just a few blocks you can see the differ-

ence," he said. "The city should provide for all areas, and not just where the money is."

Garcia also wants to ensure that the future of Austin is inclusive of everyone it represents, campaign manager Paul Saldana said.

If chosen to finish Watson's term, Garcia would become the first elected Latino mayor in Austin.

The nine-year city council member has spent almost 40 years in local politics and was the first Latino elected official to serve on City Council.

Garcia and his opponents will have 28 days from Oct. 9, the last filing date, to campaign for the special election, compared with the 45 days candidates have in normal municipal races.

Saldana said the shorter

amount of campaigning time will work to Garcia's advantage because of his proven record in public service, including his experience as mayor pro tem.

But Nazar said despite the respect he holds for Garcia, the veteran politician is ingrained into the political system and "the city needs a fresh voice."

Saldana said Garcia is the best candidate to continue Watson's term.

"If a young person wants to take that on, by all means more power to him," Saldana said of Nazar. "But I don't think anyone is more qualified than Gus, and I don't think that there is anyone better to replace Watson from a historical standpoint and from a standpoint of continuity."

If elected, Nazar would put his college education on hold.

He is currently enrolled for the fall semester but said he hopes to take off from school on Nov. 7, the day after the election.

Nazar, the operations director for KVR-TV and a former Daily Texan columnist, said he hopes for support among the UT community, adding that the University is a very politically charged campus.

But low voter turnout, especially among younger people, is a problem Nazar said he wants to help fix. "I'm hoping to encourage students to be heard. If they have an opinion, they should express it in whatever way they can," said Nazar, who carries with him a blank sketchbook where citizens can write what they hope to change about Austin. "I'm doing it by running for office." ♦

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WELCOME WEEK 2001

Welcome Week was extended to two weeks this year to feature even more events where students can get free food and entertainment. The first week featured free moving services, a street fair, outdoor buffet, karaoke, free movies on the lawn, softball tournaments, Jell-O eating contests, human fooball, a climbing wall, loud music, more free food, games and information fairs were just some of the events the first week of Welcome Week offered.

The second week will kick off tomorrow with Meet Murfreesboro from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Courtyard, where students can learn about Murfreesboro businesses and merchants. Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the KUC Courtyard, the first Raider Rally of the year will feature the Grammy-award winning Baha Men. Thursday, the Blue Raiders face off against the Vanderbilt Commodores.

(Below) President Sidney McPhee helps students move into their dorm rooms as part of We-Haul, a program provided by on-campus organizations during Welcome Week.



(Above) Saturday Night Live cast member and comedian Darrell Hammond laughs it up in Murphy Center. The show was free to students.



(Left) Members of the women's soccer team play some human fooball at the President's Picnic Aug. 20. The picnic also featured free food, a climbing wall, music by the Band of Blue and The Nationals.

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From the staff

Administrators not prepared for enrollment increase

Has anyone else noticed the extra 1,000 or so people running around on campus and filling up the classes and parking spaces?

You wouldn't think on a campus of 19,000 that a 5 percent increase would be so noticeable, but when every halfway decent parking space and it takes 45 minutes to find a parking space, it catches your attention.

(We'd like to take a moment of silence right now for anyone who got "purged" from the system for missing the confirmation deadline. Hope you enjoy those underwater basket weaving classes that you were forced to sign up for since there was nothing left to take.)

Not that we don't welcome these new students to our school. We're always happy to share - it just seems like there's not enough to go around anymore - not enough classes, not enough professors and certainly not enough parking spaces.

Everyone was projecting all summer that we'd top 20,000 students this year, and enrollment numbers were consistently 4-5 percent higher this summer than at the same point last year.

So why wasn't the administration prepared for the 20,000 that would descend on campus come Aug. 20?

Why, for instance, were there construction crews on one of the main entrances to campus (off Greenland Drive) the very first day of classes? As if traffic weren't bad enough without the additional frustration of road construction.

The university should have waited another week or two to start the construction instead of doing it during the busiest week of school. Give us a couple of weeks to get adjusted and then people will start dropping classes or skipping and parking will become a whole lot easier.

And don't try going anywhere around campus during the peak hours of classes. All the traffic lights around campus will have lines backed up as far as you can see.

Many administrators will be quick to blame parking problems, lack of professors and lack of classes on budget constraints. That's an unsatisfactory excuse, since even Homecoming is planned several months in advance.

So, class, what can we learn from all of this? Be prepared and anticipate problems, especially when you've got the futures of 20,000 people riding on your decisions.

Whining in the aftermath

Banging on My Drum



Social revolutions are funny things. Great ideas for radical changes are proposed, popularized and finally implemented. Then, after the dust settles, all of the ideology's devotees step back and look perplexed when they find that since their revolutionary dreams were implemented, a whole slew of new problems arise.

Such is the case with women's rights. Late last century, the relationship between men and women build up of resistance to

many millennia of sexist oppression came to a head, and suddenly men were faced with the argument that they were not the great protectors and family rulers they thought they should be. The degree of criticism the male gender received ranged from small-scale constructive to outright demonization.

Some men were pissed. In the early 1990s, Rush Limbaugh coined the term, "Femi-nazis" to describe women who were adamant and assertive about feminist issues. The term and its connotations won the approval of many men living in a generation so suddenly confused about the new gender roles. Male chauvinism became a culturally acceptable practice once again. Enter *The Man Show*.

Show.

In what has been described as the "Men's Movement," American men have made attempts to "re-claim" what they see as lost territory. Some seek solace in the "Women Belong in the Kitchen" school of thought. Others work to balance their perceived role as noble Silverback gorillas with a modest respect for women's rights and abilities.

Still, other men seek their sexual identity by returning to their primal roots, congregating in the wild to bang on drums and dance together in hopes of getting in touch with the "masculine mystique" (reportedly with great success).

In the ruins of a shattered social structure only now beginning to rebuild

itself, men are in apparent need of guidance. The past tells them that they should treat women as property, and the present often puts the blame on them for the crimes of their forefathers.

Where do men turn? If one agrees with John Stoltenberg, a writer specializing in modern gender roles, men must realize that their role as the dominant sex is nothing more than a "cultural delusion." Only then can they truly know themselves and their relation to the world at large.

As a young man preparing to enter a working society, I am naturally concerned as to what my role should be. Like many others, I long to shed the shameful skin of my sex's past, but I am hesitant to run naked and howl into the woods to do so.

With age-old traditional values arguing into one card and a progressive-minded social conscience arguing into the other, perhaps we as a gender would do best to listen to Jeff Ott, an uneducated, occasionally-homeless San Francisco punk rocker.

In his poorly-written and cheaply-published zine, *My World*, he says that "A man should be mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally available to his partner, his children, and his community. A man should strive to nurture his family and his community. A man should seek his gender identity by living responsibly and respectfully. A man should abandon the notion of 'power over' and embrace the notion of 'power of.'" ♦

Time is not on our side

On the Real



By: Shawn Whitsell
Flash! Editor

"Time waits for no man." "Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today." "Tomorrow isn't promised."

These statements are all sayings that we've heard before. In fact, they've become so cliché that their meanings have been somewhat watered down.

Because we hear sayings like this so often, we begin to take their meanings for granted. But it is very important for us to understand the truth that these sayings represent.

Allow me to get a little personal. The year was 1995, and I was 16 years old. Sixteen is a very important age because you can get a driver's license. Well, my mother gave me her very first car - an ugly, grey 1984 Chevette that

had been broken down in our driveway for some time. I had always hated that car because it always broke down, it was loud, it smelled like exhaust when you got out of it and the heat didn't work in the winter. It was just terrible. But once it became mine, it suddenly turned to gold. I didn't care what the car looked like because it got me from point A to point destination. I drove that old car as if I was pushing a Benz or something.

Well, my mother kept telling me that the car was not yet dependable and needed a lot more work done on it before being driven around. I did the "OK Mama" thing but continued driving it.

One Friday night I came in and my mother told me that my grandmother had called. I knew what my grandmother was going to say, and I really wasn't prepared to deal with it. So, I picked up the phone and searched my brain for an excuse not to call her back. I glanced at the clock, noticed it was about 9:30 p.m. and decided that it was too late to call.

"I'll just go see her in the morning," I told my mother. I hung up the phone, chilled out for the night and eventually fell victim to the Sandman.

I had every intention of going to see my grandmother the next morning, but morning never came. Well, actually, morning did come, and it brought death with it.

I was awakened when my mother's tear hit my face. She woke me up because my grandmother was being rushed to the hospital.

On the way to the hospital, I cried and prayed like never before. I begged God "please don't take my grandmother away from me." But I guess it wasn't in His will because when we arrived at the emergency room, we learned that she had passed.

After the instant shock and sadness that I felt when I heard of her passing, other emotions started to haunt me. The first was disbelief. I thought, "Grandma can't be gone. I've never known life without her. There are still so many things I need to tell her. I didn't get a chance to see what she

wanted when she called me last night."

The second stage was guilt. I blamed myself for not calling her back. That was probably the most guilt I've ever experienced in my life and it took me a while to get over it. Even today, sometimes I think about how things would have been different if I had just called her back. I would have heard her voice one last time, I would have felt her smile through the phone just one last time. I would have heard her say, "Come by and see me sometime baby," just one last time.

Later, I realized that I had to stop blaming myself. I had no idea that it would be my last opportunity to tell her how much I loved her or how she's been a firm tree in my life.

I also realized that with death, we're never ready. It comes when it comes and most of the time it catches us off guard.

However, the biggest lesson I learned was not to take time (if not promised because it's not promised). There's no guarantee that I'll even live to see this column published so it's important for me to do all

the things I need to do when I need to do them.

We all procrastinate but let's all try to work on that. I'm not saying you have to do everything today. I'm just saying that when you have the opportunity to do something, whether it's something simple like telling your father you love him or something major like taking a trip around the world, take it because it just might be your last chance.

As for my grandmother, I found peace in my memory of her voice, the way her hugs felt, the way she praised Jesus the day I was baptized, the day she told me to treat my woman right, the way she didn't take any mess from anyone, the way her cornbread tasted, the way she would stand up and clap when Kentucky scored a basket, the day I sat at her feet and soaked up all our family history from her, the way she kissed me on the cheek, the way she loved her family.

I knew my grandmother was going to tell me to keep my butt out of that car until was it was properly repaired so I never even sat in it again. ♦

SIDELINES

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I swear there is only ice in my drink

The imaginary superhero



So, I'm guessing that you assumed from the title that this article was going to have something to do with drinking. Well, guess again, my friend. You all know what they say about assuming things, and yes, I have just managed to make an ass out of you

and me by using the same tactics that many others in our society tend to use - misleading advertising.

The inspiration for this article came to me while attending an event during Welcome Week. I was given a flier about the event that was going on and by everything written on the flier it seemed like something I would want to check out. So a friend and I went to this event only to discover that they had somehow forgot to mention its main influence on the flier. Had I known this important fact, I would not have even bothered

attending.

After contemplating this cunning tactic, I began to think of how often that our society bamboozles us. More specifically, I thought about how often businesses use advertising gimmicks in order to sell their product, and how often we weak-minded Americans make a mad rush to buy it. Does looking at Britney Spears half-naked really make the Pepsi taste better? Did you even notice the Snickers people crunch stuff is kind of nice, but I've never once purchased

a Snickers Crunch.

Do businesses have no faith in their product? Is it not good enough to sell itself, or must it be sugar-coated so it will get the attention and popularity that they feel it deserves?

I have to say I see where the advertising companies are coming from. They just want to sell their product by any means that they have to, so it is our own fault if we are too stupid to realize that we purchased it based on false pretenses.

As a general statement, we Americans tend to want things to be fast and

easy. Why think for ourselves when we have others telling us what to think, believe and spend our cash on?

So that may be a bit dramatic, but you get the point. It's glaringly obvious that there are always going to be obstacles trying to distract us from the main idea, and sadly enough, people are always going to tell the least amount of truth that they have to.

Our mission, if we choose to accept it, is to learn to read between the lines. Even the ones that aren't always there. ♦

Playing God requires self-examination

Out of Leftist Field



Ever wish you could be omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent? Sure you do. I had no idea how much fun and educational controlling people and their atmospheres could be until I got a computer game called *The Sims*. When I first installed

the game and began the tutorial, it seemed so intricate and difficult. But then I played it and kept playing it until 3 a.m. It was amazing.

Seeing those little people walk where I told them, listen to what I dictated and shower when I chose was more than mind-boggling. It was a narcissistic high.

Now I have a village with miniature soap operas going on in each house.

Peg and Al Bundy live with their two teen-agers across the road from a bungee-jump instructor

married to a paranoiac (who recently almost ruined their marriage by having a lesbian affair with the woman next door; they tried to have a baby to patch things but social services came and took it away because it was neglected).

Just down the lane, a creepy scientist does experiments in the dark on his hamster.

And then there's the courting couple who never get along. All they do is eat pizza and watch television. Imagine that.

And I have four other neighborhoods filling up

with more dysfunctional, pixilated families.

Creating little worlds and personalities is tons of fun and an excellent way to dictate the drama in my recreational life. Sure, it means I'm not playing the violin or going to the opera, but it's one heck of a lesson in human relations and sociology.

If a video game can be a vehicle for learning (and what can't?), then this game has taught me that balance is essential to a comfortable life.

I have to find for my sims a balance between socializing, hygiene, com-

fort and hunger that is much like the balance I create for myself every day.

If I neglect one little detail, the sims' overall happiness is affected.

As pathetically nerdy as that sounds, it is actually a good lesson for people like me - who think neglecting fun and socializing won't negatively affect me.

Some people will read this and think I am a vegetable head that needs some culture. That's OK. I can't expect you to understand until you've had the power of multiple lives in your hands. ♦

FEATURES

6A ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, August 27, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Greek Fest filled with highlights of Greek life



Photo by Leslie Fike | Staff

Sigma Chi recruits play volleyball during Greek Fest at the Recreation Center.



Photo by Lindsey Turner | Staff

The Greek organizations supply pizza and drinks to members and recruits Wednesday.

By Leslie Fike
Features Co-Editor

Amongst stacks of pizza boxes and tubs of soft drinks, prospective Greeks mingled with current members of the Greek organization at the annual Greek Fest Wednesday night, which is held every fall semester at the Recreation Center.

The event allows recruits to

find out more information about recruitment and Greek life, and it gives members a chance to welcome each other back for another fun-filled year.

"It's a good understanding for girls and what it would be like for rush week," said Abby Sappington, a junior and member of Chi Omega sorority.

Students interested in going Greek talked to members of the

various sororities and fraternities offered at MTSU and signed up for Recruitment Week.

Other students who felt this semester is not their semester to go Greek or are not quite sure if Greek life is their cup of tea took advantage of the party atmosphere by competing in volleyball or dancing to the tunes of disc jockey John Ward, of Rockin' Robin's DJ's.

The Greek Fest is not a last-minute party.

The Panhellenic Council and International Fraternity Council begin planning the event in January, according to Emmy Hickman, the panhellenic recruitment director.

The funding for Greek Fest is provided by application and joining fees of new members, as well as money raised by both

councils.

Despite all the planning, however, some students leave disappointed.

"I didn't realize it would be a social gathering," said Lisa Boatman, a junior majoring in journalism.

"I expected to learn more information about the sororities."

Although there were varying

expectations of what Greek Fest should entail, the majority seemed quite satisfied with the evening's events.

"It's a little warm, but it's nice," said sophomore Chris Childers, a member of Sigma Chi. "It's pretty much the same as last year." ♦

Risque Renee

Where do you stand with your better half

Hi, I am Risqué Renee bringing you steamy hot, blunt answers and stories on sex, love and relationships. I promise to drop the truth as hard or as soft as you like it. Remember, it takes two to tango, so e-mail me or call with questions and comments on male or female issues. I promise to respond to all comments and questions by the next issue. Before we go any further, if you can't take the heat of the topic...

DROP THE PAPER NOW!

If you're still reading, then let's get down to sex, love and relationships.

Today we will define the five different positions one must play in the so-called SLR game. Find your position and see if you already knew your classification. This way you can tell if you are misled.

Do you know where you stand? (You're either one or the other)

* **Prospect** - is an open position. You never know if you are being hunted while you are hunting. With this being the case, everyone is a prospect, even if you have someone. A word of

advice to all prospects, fresh breath goes a long way, and those days you want to leave the house hoping no one will see you...go back! You are a prospect; someone always sees you.

* **Temps** - a position that is clearly stated to you in the beginning. One that can be terminated at any given second without notice. (Example: you can stop receiving late night visits from your "temp" and cancel them on the spot. Now you ask, is that fair? Yes. Why? Because they're a "temp".)

* **Part-timer** - this position is self-explanatory. Sometimes you belong to them, sometimes you don't. You know the types - when you go together Tuesday through Thursday and break up Friday through Monday. This position is typically for the

undeclared.

* **Full-time (without benefits)** - this position is best described as working overtime without being paid. That is why you need to get pissed off and add on some benefits or drop this position and find two good temps until a permanent position

with benefits become available. Don't be a fool, play the fool.

* **Permanent (with full benefits)** - this is a high maintenance position. However, it's also the most rewarding position if you like monogamous relationships. Some of the benefits are: (1) the King/Queen respect, (2) the easy access, (3) the formal introductions, (4) the gifts greater than those from Dollar Tree and the list goes on. One of the sweetest gifts is your chocolate treatment becomes unlimited and untamed. Leaving you craving more chocolate at your disposal. This is now available at your disposal.

Now that you have reviewed each position, acknowledge where you stand. If you do not like your status, exchange it! From experience, I can tell you it's easier to play the game if you know the rules and let your prospects know the rules. This way you are not liable for unwanted feelings while you're sowing your seeds. You also should note



Photo provided

Risque Renee will knock out your questions on love, sex and relationships.

that every seed you sow you shall reap. It's like karma baby - 360 degrees back at you.

Contact me at risque_re@hotmail.com

WHAT IS THE WILDEST THING YOU DID THIS SUMMER?



"I went to Florida."
Tala C., Franklin, Tenn., freshman

"I went to an anime convention in California."
Amber "Desposed," Antioch, Tenn., freshman

"I was attacked by a group of children while in the Helen Henry costume at Chucky Cheese."
Nazra H., Antioch, Tenn., freshman



"I made out with two girls at the same time, and one of them had a boyfriend."
Chris B., Hendersonville, Tenn., freshman



"I went to Vegas at Studio 54, and I drove through Watts in California. That was kind of scary."
B.J. Hall, Columbia, Tenn., junior



"I got over my ex-girlfriend of five years because I was suicidal. I got my life together and found the Lord."
Delvin C., Chattanooga, Tenn., senior



Graduate returns for speech and theatre

By Lisa Bess
Staff Writer

Engaging in arguments or discussing opposing points requires skill. A person involved in debate must be quick to think and act, as well as be a great orator.

On stage or simply in a crowd, a communicator exercises great acting abilities while performing to get a point across to the people.

Greg Simerly has been named director of debate for MTSU's speech and theatre department.

Simerly received his bachelor of arts degree from MTSU and his master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he coached for four years.

The team ranked first in the nation for two years while he was coach. The first year he coached at SIU the team received second place in the Cross Examination Debate Association Newcomers competition.

In 1997, he was inducted into the MTSU Debate Hall of Fame.

Prior to becoming MTSU's director of debate, Simerly was director of debate and an associate professor of Idaho State University.

He was able to bring the

team up from its national debate debut in the 70th position to the 20th position.

Simerly's responsibilities as director of debate will include coaching, directing debate research and practice and tournament travel.

"My goals are to first have broad-based participation for all majors, and second, to shoot for regional and then national success," Simerly said.

Currently, MTSU's debate team is ranked 69 out of more than 200 teams in the nation. Simerly says he plans to improve this ranking as well as rebuild the debate team.

Simerly will recruit from six to eight students to participate in the 14 to 18 debate tournaments held throughout the country.

Students aren't required to have experience in debate. However, they are required to work hard and set aside time for practice.

Russell T. Church, chairman of the department of speech and theatre, says he is excited to have Simerly join the department's staff and anticipates that Simerly will help improve the team's national ranking.

"Greg has coached national championship teams at other universities," Church said. "He has one of the best win-loss records in the debate, and I will

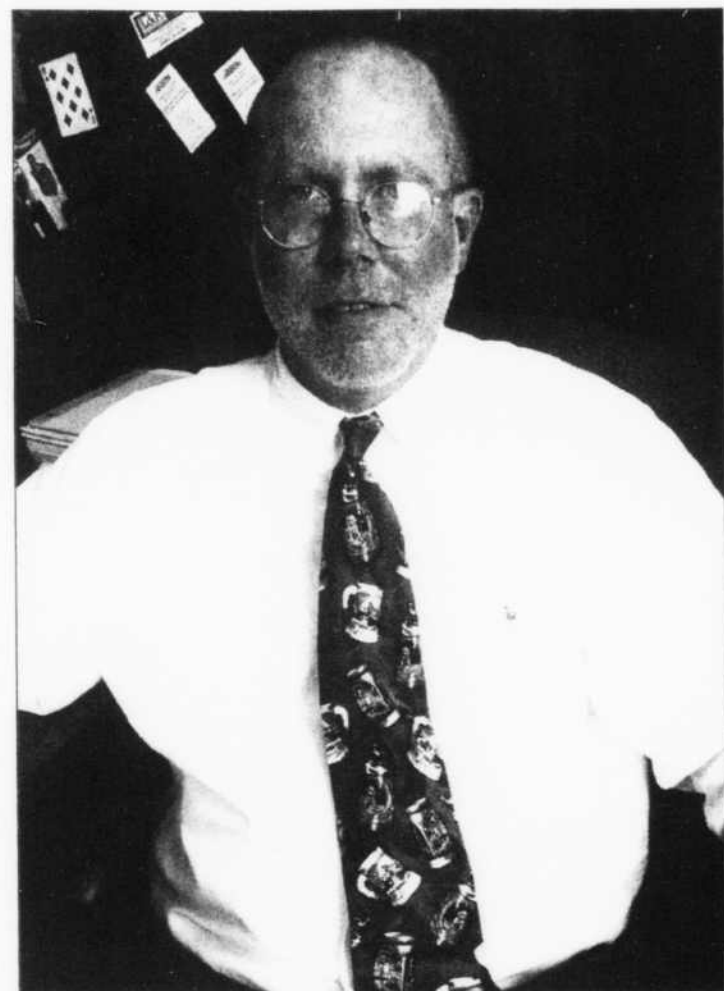


Photo by Leslie Fike | Staff

Greg Simerly is the new MTSU debate coach

predict that he will likely produce a championship here at MTSU as well."

Simerly succeeds Mike

Krueger, former MTSU debate coach, who recently relocated to Hollywood, Fla., to attend law school. ♦

Catch the Mummy before the Mummy catches you

By Stephanie Saujon
Staff Writer

What comes to mind when you think of Brendan Fraser? *Monkey Bone*? *Encino Man*? *George of the Jungle*?

Yeah, me too, which is why I waited for *The Mummy* to come out on video before I bothered to watch it. But I was surprised. The effects and action were good enough to redeem the cheesy dialogue and unbelievable plot, so I mindlessly enjoyed myself and came to the conclusion that Brendan Fraser might not be so bad after all.

The Mummy Returns is much the same as the first movie. Stephen Sommers, who wrote and directed *The Mummy*, doesn't take many chances in the sequel. The film takes place 10 years later, after everyone has had time to calm down and forget about Imhotep, the rags-wrapped resurrected nightmare. Of course, Fraser's character, Rick O'Connell, manages to get caught up in another mummy

attack, this time with Imhotep and his long-dead lover, Meela. The colossal wall of sand with the creepy face makes another appearance, as does Rachel Weisz as Fraser's on-screen wife.

I'm sure all you wrestling

fans out there already know that Dwayne Johnson ("The Rock") makes an appearance in the film as the Scorpion King.

But don't get too excited. He doesn't have much of a part. There also are some half-naked Egyptian chicks scattered throughout the film, which may have something to do with the PG-13 rating.

So if you need some effortless entertainment and you like special effects, go see *The Mummy Returns*.

It's showing at the Keathley University Center Theater Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. It's only \$2, and you can't beat that.

It comes out on video Oct. 2, but then it would cost you \$4 to rent. So you'd actually be saving money in the long run.

CAMPUS EVENTS

By Leslie Fike
Features Co-Editor

Monday, Aug. 27

Circle K International is holding an international meeting today in Keathley University Center, Room 324 at 6 p.m. Free food will be provided, and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~circlek or e-mail circlek@mtsu.edu.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

The Urban Music Society meets in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 150 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

For more information, contact Shawn Whitsell at 898-4121 or e-mail ums@mtsu.edu.

The Presbyterian Student Fellowship is hosting a "PSF Primetime" at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information, contact Rich Zeigler or Mary Sigmon at 893-1787 or e-mail PSFMTSU@yahoo.com.

International Programs and Services invites everyone to its monthly coffee hour in the James Union Building's Hazelwood Dining Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to meet international students and faculty members in a relaxed atmosphere.

Thursday, Aug. 30

Campus Crusade for Christ will be holding their weekly meeting, CRU, every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Learning Resource Center, Room 221. For more information, contact Mike Lipscomb at 896-9299 or Eric Rodgers at 848-6741.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

The MTSU Debate team is hosting an open house in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building, Room 220 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the team is invited to stop by and meet current members and coaches.

FREE

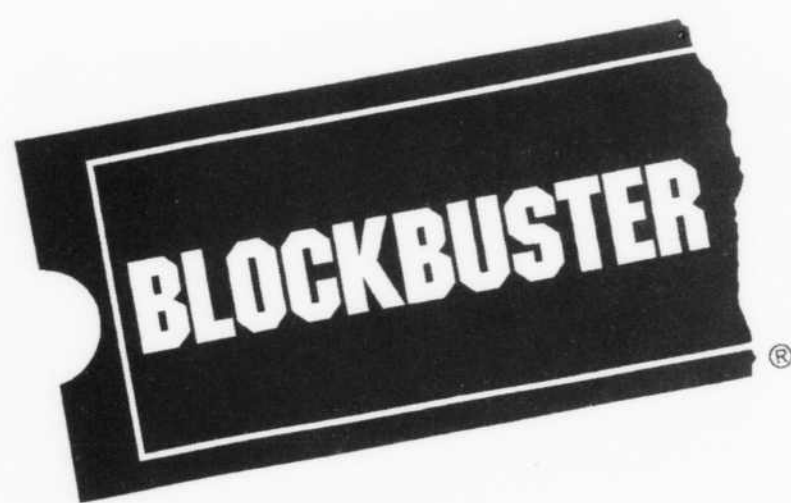
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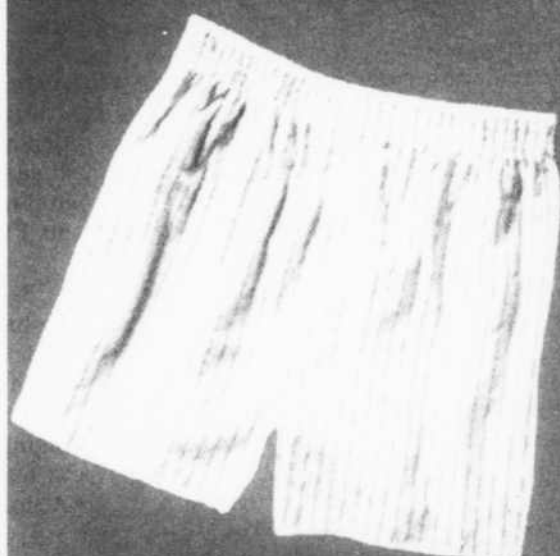
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Dec 7

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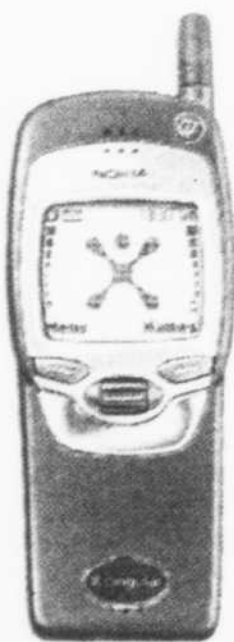
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Brazelton signs with Devil Rays

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

Dewon Brazelton became a millionaire Saturday.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays drafted Brazelton as the third pick in the 2001 Major League Baseball draft.

Brazelton signed a four-year contract worth \$4.8 million, including a Sept. 1 callup. He will be in uniform Saturday night for the Rays game against the A's at Tropicana Field. The majority of Brazelton's money (\$4.2 million) is in the form of a signing bonus.

"I think everybody won in these negotiations. I don't feel cheated and they don't feel cheated," Brazelton said. "Tampa Bay told us what they could do and we made it work for us. At some point I'll prob-

ably break down in tears. This is something that I've wanted since I was in little league. It's a dream come true."

Brazelton enrolled for his senior year at MTSU Friday, Aug. 17, but never attended any of those classes. If Brazelton had attended class, the Devil Rays would have lost all rights to him and he would have played his senior season for MTSU. He would have then re-entered in the 2002 draft.

"I just want to get my ducks lined up in a row," Brazelton said in *The Tennessean*, explaining his reason for enrolling in classes. "I'm not going to be left out in the cold."

Devil Rays Scouting Director Dan Jennings asked Brazelton not to attend his classes so Tampa Bay would

have more time to negotiate a contract with him.

"We don't want to hold Dewon out of class too long," said Bo McKinnis, Brazelton's financial adviser in a recent article in *The Tennessean*.

It looked as if Brazelton would come back to Middle Friday. After looking over the teams final offer, McKinnis contacted Tampa Bay intending to end negotiations. However, the Rays wanted to continue.



Brazelton

"We got the last offer and we didn't like it," Brazelton told *The Tennessean*. "We just made a decision to go back to school and back into the draft. When we told them, I guess they really believed it because the ball got rolling."

The majority of the Devil Rays front office became involved in negotiations. Jennings was the chief negotiator.

"I never had any doubt of our ability to get it done or the kid's ability to want to get it done," Jennings said. "It was a case where it seemed like each and every day or every other day, we agreed on one aspect of the contract and finally moved forward and completed the rest."

Brazelton could become the 19th player to make the jump straight to the major leagues,

should the Rays choose to put him directly into majors as opposed to starting him out with one of their minor league affiliates.

"I just think the whole package of the person, the stuff and the desire is going to let this guy potentially get on the fast track," Jennings said. "Everything is there for Dewon to try and move this thing as fast as he wants to. His ability speaks for itself."

Brazelton hasn't pitched to a hitter in three months. He had been running and throwing long toss, but stopped working out two weeks ago due to stalled negotiations.

He has indicated he will probably need a couple of weeks before he would be prepared to pitch in a game. He also understands that he might not get to pitch when he

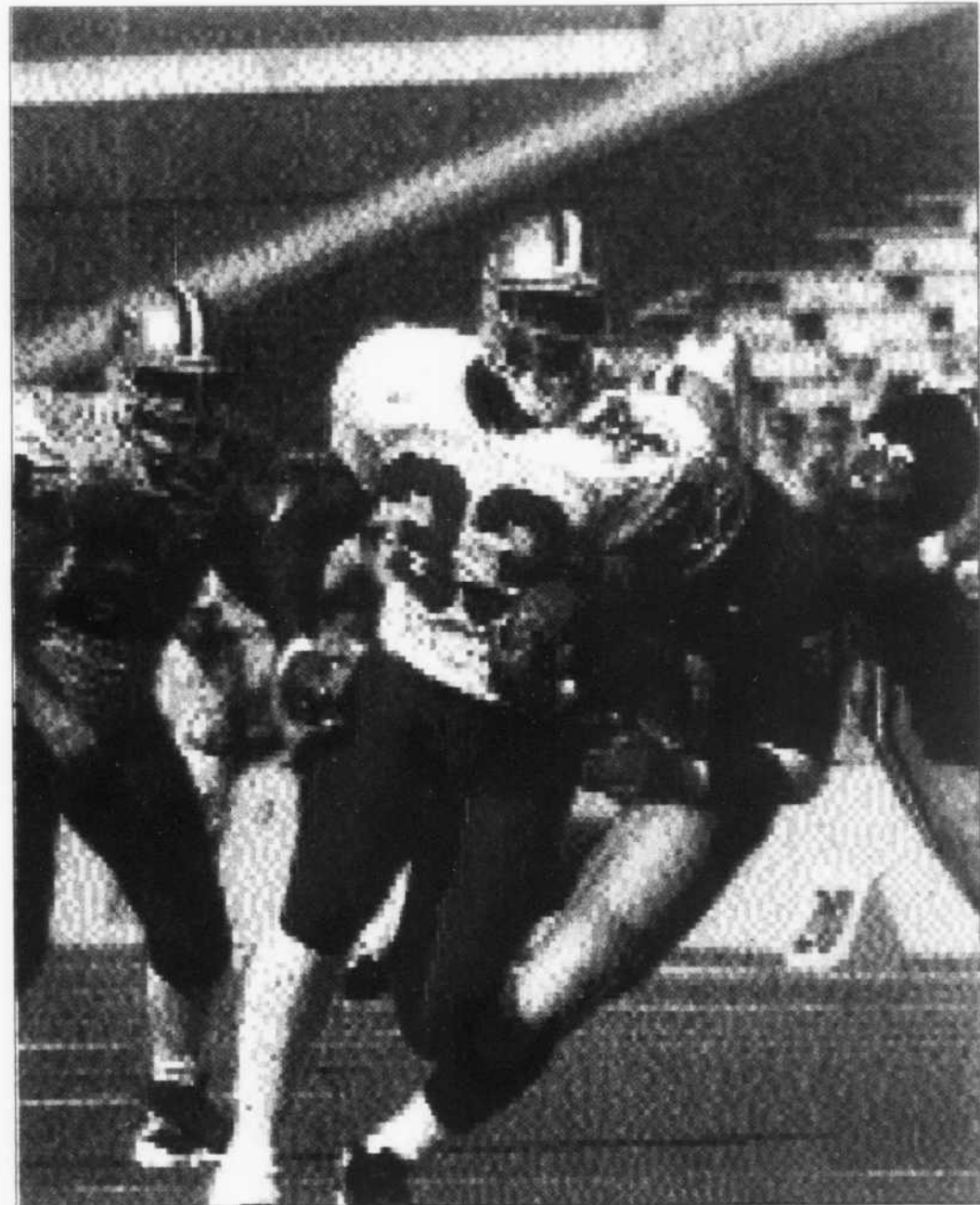
arrives in Tampa Bay.

"I'm not going up there to be their No. 1 starter or anything like that," Brazelton said. "It will help me adjust to the lifestyle of being in different cities so often. Then, next year in spring training when I'm trying to make the team I'll know what to expect."

Brazelton racked up a 13-1 record and a 1.44 ERA in his junior season as a Blue Raider. In 14 starts, he posted 10 complete games, striking out 148 in 119 innings while walking just 22. He also posted a 6-0 mark with a 0.65 ERA for Team USA last summer.

The Rays have now signed 13 of their first 15 draft picks from this year's draft, including eight of the top 10. ♦

MT set to play Vandy Thursday in Nashville



By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider football team and their fans have started the countdown to perhaps the biggest game in school history.

On Thursday night, Middle Tennessee will renew its natural rivalry with Vanderbilt for the first time since 1956.

This game has big implications for Middle as well as Vandy. Vanderbilt has long been known as the Southeastern Conference's worst team. A loss to a relatively new Division I-A team could mean coaches jobs.

Some might say the Blue Raiders don't have as much to lose in this game, but this game could determine how the rest of the season will go.

This game is not just a chance for MTSU to play a SEC team and pocket some big money. It is much more than that. With a win, Middle can gain much needed support from students and start the season off right.

Adam Rittenberg, a writer for espn.com, puts the game in perspective this way: "This game is a chance for a team from the newly formed Sun Belt Conference to prove that it's more than an early season doormat for major conference teams. A win and Middle Tennessee, previously a Division I-A independent that posted a surprising 6-5 record in 2000, would be on the right track toward the school's first conference championship and bowl appearance."

Middle Tennessee returns all of its starting receivers from last season, along with 1,000-yard rusher and Sun Belt Conference preseason Offensive Player of the Year Dwone Hicks, quarterbacks Wes Counts and Jason Johnson.

Also in the backfield for the Blue Raiders are Reshard Lee, senior Jamison Palmer and Don Calloway. Lee was named the top prep athlete in Georgia for 1999. Palmer is returning from season ending knee surgery. Calloway racked up 500 yards rushing last season.

The receiving corps is deep as well with explosive receivers Tyrone Calico and Kendall Newson leading the way. Calico is the second all-time leading receiver in school history and had the nation's top pass reception last season against Mississippi State. Newson is an All-American candidate and Middle Tennessee career leader in receptions and yards. He has gone 32 straight games with at least one catch.

"This is an explosive offense and now we all have a full understanding of it," Johnson said in a *Daily News Journal* article Sunday. "If you look back at last season it was usually the turnovers and little things that stopped us. Other people really never did consistently. We were our own worst enemy at times."

The offensive line is one question mark for the Blue Raiders. Middle lost four

starters from last season including current Tennessee Titan Barry Hall. MTSU will, however, have tackle Brandon Westbrook who was named preseason all-Sun Belt Conference.

Coaches don't seem to be worried about the lack of experience on the offensive line.

"Those guys have worked hard, not only during fall camp and preseason, but all spring and summer," said MTSU coach Andy McCollum in the *DNJ*. "We will be bigger and more athletic up front but we still have to play games together and get better as a unit. I'm pleased with their progress to this point."

Along with a new coordinator, the defense has changed schemes. Instead of playing a 3-4, the defense will play a 4-3. This will lead to more blitzes from the line.

The defense will look to improve upon the 390 yards per game it surrendered last season with the most talented group since going to Division I-A.

"I believe you will see our defense being much improved this season," said end Tanaka Scott, a unanimous preseason All-Sun Belt Conference pick, in the *DNJ*.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm and all of the players are excited about the new scheme. It fits our personnel."

Kickoff for the Vandy game is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30 at Vanderbilt Stadium. ♦

Football travels to Vanderbilt

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

Students and fans in Murfreesboro are so excited about the Vanderbilt/Middle Tennessee football game Aug. 30 that they have decided to literally run to the game. Student Affairs, athletics, the MTSU Foundation, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Chi Omega are sponsoring an event called "Take it to Vandy" Raider Relay.

The event is intended to gain support for the Blue Raiders leading up to the pep rally in Centennial Park in Nashville between 5 and 5:15 p.m. the afternoon of the game.

The relay will begin at 10 a.m. on Horace Jones Field at Floyd Stadium on the campus of Middle Tennessee. The first runner will line up in the "slot back" behind an offensive line of Blue Raiders. The ball will be hiked and handed off to the runner who will proceed to run out of Floyd Stadium and on to Greenland Drive Patrons interested in viewing

the start of the relay are encouraged to convene on Jones Field at 9:30 a.m.

Each runner will run one mile lasting between six and ten minutes per mile. The runners will be part of a caravan that includes police escorts from Campus Police, Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Laverne and Metro Police Departments - two Ford Excursions donated by Two Rivers Ford in Nashville - and a Raider Xpress bus donated by MTSU.

The caravan will make a right turn on Clark Avenue from Greenland Drive. It will then proceed to intersection of Memorial and Clark and take left onto Memorial Parkway. The caravan will take a right on Lokey Avenue, and another right onto Broad Street. Broad Street, which doubles as Murfreesboro Road, will take the caravan all the way to Nashville.

Organizers will have a press waiting area at the Laverne City Hall beginning between 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Media will have access to previous runners and a view of

the relay in progress.

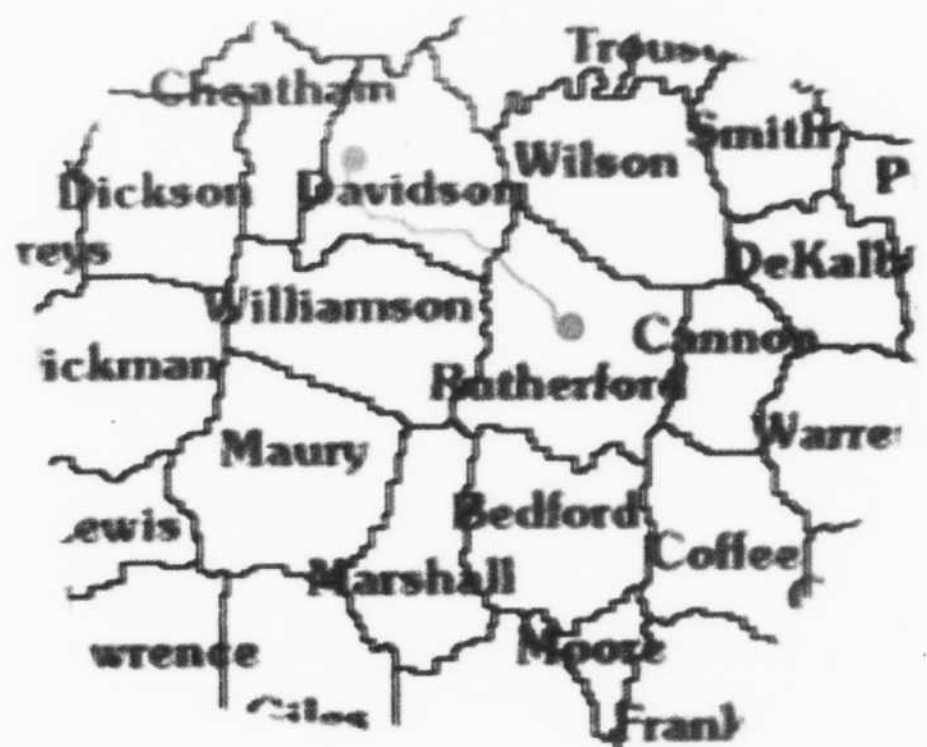
Once the caravan reaches Nashville, it will take a left onto Nolensville Road and a right into the fair grounds on Wedgwood Avenue. The route will proceed past Belmont University and take a right on Natchez Trace.

The final leg of the relay will take the caravan past Vanderbilt Stadium and across West End Avenue into Centennial Park where the pre-game pep rally will begin upon its (the caravan) arrival.

Upon arrival of the caravan, the "game ball" will be presented to President McPhee. McPhee will complete the journey for the "game ball" by presenting it to the Middle Tennessee football team as it leaves the field following warm-ups at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Groups can enter as many teams as they wish of two people each to run one mile each between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. until all spaces are filled. To sign up a team and for more details, call Drew Schultz, 615-494-8717, or e-mail blueraiderrun@yahoo.com. ♦

Take it to Vandy Relay Route



SPORTS

Dollars and Sense

Four years, \$4.8 million, plus a major league call-up.

That's the contract that former Blue Raider Dewon Brazelton signed to join the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Brazelton, picked third overall in June, went 10 weeks with tediously slow negotiations between Bo McKinnis, Brazelton's financial advisor, and Dan Jennings, director of Tampa Bay scouting.

As a bargained tactic, Brazelton enrolled for classes last week in hopes of bringing a deal to the table. But Dewon didn't step into a classroom, so hello South Florida sunshine. Bye-bye Middle Tennessee winter.

The best pitcher in school history made a choice. Instead of returning to a team that won 41 games in 58 attempts and a Sun Belt Conference crown last season, he'll pitch for a team that's won only 47 games out of 130 played this season and will constantly bat-

tle to be the worst team in the American League. Why? I guess he's got \$4.8 million reasons.

Brazelton better not look for his supporting cast, he'll go blind. Tampa Bay as a team is anemic. Ben Grieve is the team's leading hitter with a .248 average. This team couldn't hit water if they jumped out of a boat.

Speaking of hitting water, that's exactly what every team from Seattle down to the Little League team from Apopka, Fla. does to the current Tampa Bay pitching staff. Thank the heavens that this team doesn't play at Pac Bell Park, because the game would turn into a swim meet in McCovey Cove with as many bombs (166) as opposing teams hit off the Rays.

Jennings is so desperate for pitching he'll project Danny Almonte (the Little League's version of Randy Johnson) to be in the starting rotation next

season. Now that's building for the future!

The lowest earned average on the team is 4.66 and no pitcher on the staff has 10 wins with 32 games to go in the 2001 season. Actually, the mascot fits. Other than Marlins — which coincidentally also reside below the .500 mark — the Devil Rays will constantly stay in the dark depths of their division.

The Detroit Tigers saw their dilemma 10 years ago. There were three teams in their division that were willing to buy championships. So they petitioned the league to move to a more friendly market, the AL Central, where only the



By R. Colin Fly
Senior Staff Writer

Brazelton, Rays played more than the game of baseball

White Sox and the Indians have periodically high payrolls. That stuck newcomer Tampa Bay in the richest division in baseball.

Pedro Martinez, Andy Pettite, Roger Clemens (for three AL East teams), Mike Mussina, Pat Hentgen, Orlando Hernandez, Hideo Nomo, Jason Johnson . . . and so on. Plus the hitters...oh the hitters... Manny Ramirez, Carlos Delgado, Nomar Garciaparra, Derek Jeter, Carl Everett, Bernie Williams. At least there's a balanced schedule in the AL . . . wait, that changed this season too. Now the Devil Rays get to face Baltimore, Boston, New York and Toronto up to 17 times each season. Can you say L? As of Sunday, TB (Tampa Bay, not tuberculosis, which is how baseball fans view the franchise) is 17-40 against the East.

Ah, but the Devil Rays, always hopeful. Signing

Dewon doesn't solve their woes...it won't even be a building block for the future. Tampa Bay dumps salary quicker than a Pedro fastball.

And the hopes of a franchise can't be placed on one arm (see Boston Red Sox). Even if Dewon blows away major league talent (Ben Sheets, USA pitcher couldn't for Milwaukee), he can only pitch every fifth day. Winning two of every three starts, that may add an additional 10 or 15 wins to the organization. If you added those to today's standings, the Devils Rays would only be 16 games under .500.

Brazelton had the option to stay put another year with a chance to move to another organization with deeper pockets.

Dewon has unlimited potential and unlimited upside. He said he never needed money and he could live without another year. He

could have had one more year of youth and low pressure.

At his press conference on draft day in Tullahoma, I asked Dewon about the financial struggles of the Devil Rays.

"They've got deep pockets, they're not in any trouble."

But obviously the Devil Rays track record of salary dumping says otherwise and the fact that they undercut an incredible talent with a low salary.

My friends from the University of South Florida say baseball couldn't have made a worse mistake by placing a franchise in Tampa Bay.

Dewon didn't have to make an equally bad one. ♦

Dollars and Sense appears every other Monday in Sidelines. R. Colin Fly can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu or at 898-2816.

Sun Belt foe losses college football season opener

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Louisville coach John L. Smith has been disgusted by how his team has been practicing lately.

He wasn't much happier after the Cardinals' first game.

Louisville held New Mexico State scoreless in the second half to win 45-24 Thursday night in college football's season opener, the John Thompson Foundation Challenge Classic.

"We could've played much, much better," Smith said. "If we go to the practice field and we don't have a sense of emergency, that's exactly how we're going to play. I'm disappointed, to say the least."

Michael Brown and Devon Thomas returned fumbles for touchdowns, Dave Ragone threw three TD passes, and Louisville scored four touchdowns following New Mexico State turnovers to win despite the Aggies' 544-373 edge in total yardage.

Smith was afraid the Aggies' option running attack might dominate his young defense, and it did. New Mexico State rushed for 407 yards and held the ball for more than 37 minutes.

"Hopefully, we can learn from this," Smith said. "Our defensive tackles and ends got hammered."

The Aggies led 24-23 at halftime and were marching for another score early in the third quarter, but Kenton Keith fumbled a pitch from quarterback K.C. Enzminger at the Cardinals' 19. Brown, a linebacker, picked up the ball and ran 81 yards untouched down the sideline with a convoy of teammates.

"We had some momentum, but after halftime, we were a little too excited," New Mexico State coach Tony Samuel said.

Louisville defensive end Michael Josiah blindsided Enzminger and forced another fumble on New Mexico State's

Louisville 45,
New Mexico St. 24

next possession. Thomas, a defensive end, recovered at the Aggies 39. A minute later, Ragone hit Deion Branch for their second scoring connection of the night, a 16-yard touchdown.

The Aggies were driving again early in the fourth quarter, but Enzminger fumbled on a sweep. Several players had chances to recover before Thomas scooped it up and ran 87 yards for another score. The Aggies didn't threaten again.

"We did some good things, but we gave the game away," Samuel said. "Take away the

two defensive runbacks, and we would've given them a game."

Ragone, the Conference USA player of the year in 2000, finished 18-of-31 for 272 yards. Branch, Louisville's top receiver last season, tied a career high with two touchdown catches.

Not even Ragone escaped Smith's criticisms after the game.

"Ragone could've played much, much better," Smith said.

Keith rushed 22 times for 137 yards for New Mexico State. He left in the third quar-

ter with a left shoulder injury.

Louisville appeared on its way to an easy win, building a 14-0 lead in the first seven minutes.

Ragone completed his first four passes and easily drove the Cardinals 65 yards in nine plays on their opening drive. Henry Miller scored Louisville's first touchdown on a 2-yard run with 10:39 left in the first quarter.

Two plays after an Aggies punt, Ragone found Branch on a deep crossing route for a 44-yard touchdown.

The Aggies' sluggish start, holding the Cardinals to just four first downs the rest of the first half. Their running game started clicking, too.

Keith had a 12-yard touchdown run and New Mexico State killed the first 4 1/2 minutes of the second quarter with a 15-play drive to the Louisville 3. Aguinaga kicked a 21-yard field goal with 10:23

left in the half to cut the Cardinals' lead to 14-9.

That's when the miscues started haunting the Aggies.

Dewayne White recovered Keith's fumble at the New Mexico State 11 and J.R. Russell made his first career catch in the end zone a minute later for a 20-9 Cardinals' lead.

Keeon Johnson finished another long Aggies drive with a 3-yard touchdown run with 3:33 left in the half.

Louisville's best drive of the second quarter ended with Nathan Smith's 26-yard field goal, but Enzminger hit a wide-open P.J. Winston in the end zone in the half's final minute for the tying touchdown. Aguinaga's extra point gave the Aggies their first lead.

Keith had 109 rushing yards at halftime, and the Aggies had 302 total yards to the Cardinals' 216. ♦

Point for Point

By R. Colin Fly

Here's a point for point comparison of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Blue Raiders that could have helped Brazelton make his decision.

Comparing...	Tampa Bay	Middle Tennessee	Advantage?
Weather	Sunny and pleasantly warm, year-round	Sunny and pleasantly warm, two weeks a year	Tampa Bay
Friends of the Program	Baseball groupies	Sororities	Middle Tennessee
Best Clubs	Ebore City (Trust me, if you don't know, you gotta go)	Umm... 527 West Main St.. that closed, Oxygen? No that closed...	Tampa Bay
Other Pro Sports	Buccaneers (win with defense), Lightning (win with luck)	Titans (win with defense), Predators (win with luck)	Push
Recreation Activities	Jump in the Gulf of Mexico	Jump in the Stones River	Tampa Bay
Coaching Stability	Two skippers a year	Coach Pete!	Everyone wins with Coach Pete!
Monetary Value	\$1.2 million a year	one full scholarship a year	Tampa Bay
Roommate	Nick Bierbrodt	Kyle Sparkman	Did someone say "beer"?
Miles from Tullahoma	652	44	Middle Tennessee

Well, Dewon made the right choice, at least from a point for point breakdown, winning 4 to 2. That's all for this week, I've got to tip the bellman, Earnst Byner.

New RB puts premium on faith, academics

By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

When Vince Lombardi originated the Packer code, which is God, family and football, Middle Tennessee tailback Reshard Lee wasn't around, but he certainly listened.

According to Lee, who hails from Brunswick, Ga., God is the foremost authority in his life. It sounds like one of those things that all football players are supposed to say, but Lee said, "God is first, because without him nothing would be possible."

Most people will play that off like it's just a hackneyed cliché. Actually, Lee has been engrossed in religion since his birth. Coming from a family of 12, his father Charlie paid the bills by being a full-time minister.

Faith in God is one way Lee was able to cope with the off-the-field problems he has faced throughout his life. Maybe the most adverse situation was when his son was born. Because he plays college football, he is unable to spend the time he wants with his son. The fall two-a-day practices and the classes keep him away. He knows however, in a few years if he keeps working hard he has the

ability to take his skills to the next level. In which case, he would be able to provide for all of his family.

"I want them to have a better life. My parents have struggled, I want to give them more," Lee said.

Coming out of high school Lee was one of the most highly touted recruits in the state of Georgia. Unfortunately for him, he was unable to play his first year because of inadequate grades. That's when most teams dropped him, but not Middle Tennessee.

"I was recruited by every school I can think of," he said. "Coach Mac (Andy McCollum) made me feel like family. I believe God has a plan for everyone. There's a reason I am here."

That warm fuzzy feeling didn't continue very long once he came on campus. Lee soon learned the hardships of having to practice and study and make grades, and be barred from playing Saturday.

"Watching the team practice made me feel like an outsider," Lee



Lee

admitted. "When someone takes something away that's so important in shocks you."

Finally, after some motivating by the coaching staff and other important people, "the light flicked on" for Lee. Lee understands that he has tremendous talent on the football field, but without grades in the classroom, the football field will have to wait.

"I always pushed academics aside in high school, but Coach Fedora and Coach Mac really pushed and pushed."

Lee is one of those kids people talk about that does terrible in high school, but gets to college and excels in the classroom. Although it took a while to get started, Lee has done just that.

When given an opportunity to brag about his grade point average he just looked up, smiled and said, "It's high."

"Reshard has grown up tremendously. He's always had a lot of talent, and he's always been a good person and now he's fought through the academic problems," McCollum said. "I look forward to seeing him on the game field."

"I want to give the Blue Raiders everything," Lee said. "If we become more of a family, there's nothing we can't accomplish." ♦

View from the top

The Vanderbilt fans are talking bowl games and winning seasons, so you know what that means, football season is upon us.

You can tell the seasons of the year, by listening to the Vanderbilt fans and their talk. In the summer it's bowl games and winning seasons, and during the fall it's basketball and new football coaches. It's a tradition as old as I am, and it wouldn't be football season

without it.

Back in 1999, the former MTSU athletic director who bolted for North Carolina State and the first sign of trouble here in paradise scheduled the Vanderbilt Commodores to open the 2001 season. I have had that game circled since I first found out. Well, finally, it is right around the corner.

The wait has been agonizing. Everyday I'd wake up before work and check GoBlueRaiders.com just to see

if any news had broken on the football team here at the university. I watched the count-down on the web site. I have read virtually every Middle Tennessee article I could



By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

get my hands on, and why? Because we open with Vanderbilt.

Earlier in the summer, the fans of the tarnished Gold and the faded Black were a bit humble. It was shocking. Maybe they had come to their senses, but no, it was just a tease. The closer the game has gotten, the more confident they have become. Now, it's a foregone conclusion that Vandy will win in many of their minds. All of the local media has jumped off the

Middle Tennessee bandwagon, except for Blake Fulton of 99.7 WTN.

I have truly had football fever like never before, and it's just getting worse. On Friday, Aug. 17, I loaded my dorm down with several boxes of clothes that I haven't worn in three years, then I went to football practice. I didn't have any articles to write. I just wanted to watch football. The media outlets in the area have been talking about it or writing about it. This

will be a great game, and it could be the biggest win in MTSU football history if the Blue Raiders win.

This Thursday, I should get my fix of football, at least until the weekend. I love it, mid-week football. Does it get any better than this? I think not. The only thing that could make it better is a victory Thursday. Sure, MTSU is an underdog, we all know that, but that's why they play the game. ♦

'Volleytime' set to begin tonight at Murphy Center

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team will hold its ninth season of Volleytime this fall.

Volleytime is a volleyball league for children from four to 11 years old.

The league begins today and will run each Monday through Oct. 1. The session lasts one hour, beginning at 6 p.m.

Volleytime provides instruction on the basics of volleyball. Children are taught things such as proper positioning of hands

for bumping a volleyball.

This league is meant to teach the essential basics and to spark an interest in volleyball with children. The fact that most people start volleyball late in Tennessee is a major reason for the league.

"I believe the league has had a positive effect on many children who have attended this league for the past four years," head volleyball coach Lisa Kisse said. "They have a very good understanding of the game and truly enjoy the sport

of volleyball."

There is a \$20 charge for the six-week league. The charge includes the six nights of teaching, a T-shirt and a waterbottle for each child.

Registration is tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

Parents can obtain a registration form from www.goblueraiders.com to register early.

Anyone with questions can call Kisse at 898-2230 or her assistant, Tara Miller, at 904-8346. ♦



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NFL Preview 2001

A weird and wild guide to the upcoming season

By Associated Press

The Baltimore Ravens are confident - arrogant, even - about their chances of repeating as Super Bowl champions. The New York Giants chuckle at skeptics who write off their NFC title as a fluke, awaiting a chance to prove them wrong.

In Denver, Nashville, Oakland, Miami, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, St. Louis - even in Jacksonville, Green Bay, Minneapolis and Hempstead, N.Y. - there are Super Bowl hopes, some more realistic than others.

And some can dream, because five of the last six Super Bowl teams were .500 or worse the previous season.

But dreams appear done in Dallas, where Troy Aikman was forced into retirement by concussions and the new starting quarterback, rookie Quincy Carter, is still being taught the basic skill of taking snaps.

"If you can't get that done," coach Dave Campo says, "it's hard to do anything else."

As usual, there are several new elements to this season, and there will be even more newness next year when Houston rejoins the league and the NFL is split into eight four-team divisions.

There are new stadiums in Pittsburgh and Denver, new coaches with the Jets, Chiefs, Browns, Redskins, Bills and Lions.

Herman Edwards of the Jets

is the fifth black head coach in modern NFL history and the third active one. Dick Vermeil returns to Kansas City two years after "retiring" following St. Louis' surge to the Super Bowl.

Butch Davis, the former Dallas defensive coordinator and University of Miami coach, now leads the downtrodden Browns. Former Chiefs and Browns coach Marty Schottenheimer went to Washington to fix the mess created by the ill-advised spending of owner Dan "The Fan" Snyder.

Marty Mornhinweg takes over the Lions under former linebacker and TV analyst Matt Millen. And former Tennessee defensive coordinator Gregg Williams is head coach in Buffalo.

None of those teams seems to be a Super Bowl contender, but who knows in an era when St. Louis went from 4-12 to a championship and Baltimore from 8-8 to the top?

So anyone can go into camp these days with high hopes - even Dallas, where owner Jerry Jones predicted the Cowboys would go 10-6.

But training camp wasn't quite the same this year, not after Aug. 1, when Corey Stringer, the Minnesota Vikings' Pro Bowl right tackle, died of heat exhaustion, the first such death in NFL history.

The Vikings say they are motivated by Stringer's death: "He's with us, even though he's

not with us physically," quarterback Daunte Culpepper says.

The death overshadowed the usual camp run of season-ending injuries, such as the torn knee ligament that sidelined Jamal Lewis and crippled Baltimore's running game, the most solid part of its offense last season.

There's also a possible early disruption: a threatened lockout of game officials by the owners unless the officials agree to a new contract by opening day, Sept. 9.

One clear trend: Just about every one of the 31 teams is stronger on one side of the ball than the other.

Look at the last two championships:

Baltimore had a dominating defense, but an offense so weak it went five games in midseason without scoring a touchdown. Trent Dilfer, who took over at quarterback for Tony Banks and went 11-1, was not re-signed and didn't find a team until he signed with Seattle three weeks ago.

On the other hand, St. Louis had one of the best offenses in NFL history en route to its title. Last year, though, the Rams slid to 10-6 because the defense allowed a league-high 471 points.

"The system almost forces you to build where you're already strong," says Bill Polian, president of the Indianapolis Colts, a team that excels on offense but is shaky on defense.

"If you have good skill players as we do, you have to keep the rest of your offense intact."

So the Colts, who feature Peyton Manning, Edgerrin James and Marvin Harrison - one of the NFL's top pass-catch trios - have spent most of their money re-signing offensive linemen and tight ends to support the stars. But they'll have four regulars on defense who have never started an NFL game.

The Rams are doubling that: They could have eight new defensive starters.

The Ravens entered camp with an excellent shot at repeating. Quarterback Elvis Grbac, signed from Kansas City, is at least two levels above Dilfer and Banks. Coach Brian Billick was confident enough to allow HBO to bring its cameras into the secret nooks and crannies for a running series on training camp.

But then Lewis and right tackle Leon Searcy went down and the seemingly upgraded offense was downgraded again. The Ravens were forced to sign Terry Allen, a 33-year-old running back who is close to double figures in knee operations and is probably good for no more than a dozen carries a game.

"People don't understand the way this team works," Ravens tight end Shannon Sharpe says. "We're motivated entirely differently than everyone else. Adversity only makes us stronger."

Among other contenders with strong defenses but average offenses are the Giants, Eagles, Saints, Bucs, Dolphins and Titans, who fell a yard short of sending the 2000 Super Bowl into overtime.

The contenders who figure to score in bundles and can only hope to stop other offenses are the Rams, Colts, Broncos and Raiders, where Jerry Rice has been forced to end his Hall of Fame career because San Francisco didn't have cap room to keep him.

Add the Vikings to that group, although it might be a stretch to call Minnesota a contender after it lost running back Robert Smith to retirement and three Pro Bowl offensive linemen to free agency over two seasons.

Still, any team with Culpepper throwing to Randy Moss and Cris Carter can't be discounted, even one that lost the NFC title game 41-0 to the Giants last season and didn't improve the defense.

At the other end, there's Dallas, which might be in worse shape than when Jerry Jones bought America's Team in 1989, hired Jimmy Johnson as coach and went from 1-15 the first year to three Super Bowl titles by 1996. Things are so bad that the first 0-16 mark in league history isn't out of the question.

There's no Herschel Walker to trade for draft choices. The salary cap prevents the Cowboys from trying to deal

Emmitt Smith to, say, the Ravens because Smith's salary would put the Ravens zillions over the \$67.4 million limit. Smith enters the season just 1,560 yards behind Walter Payton's career rushing mark of 16,726, but that's a tough chase on a team against whom defenses will stack eight men up front.

"It's strange. I've played with the likes of Michael Irvin, Charles Haley, Tony Tolbert, Kevin Smith - a lot of great football players," says Dallas safety Darren Woodson, one of the few premier players left. "To see us go from that to what we have now - they're not the same players."

But back to picking a Super Bowl winner.

Start with the premise that none of the teams that has been there the last three seasons will come back. You could make a case that Green Bay and Denver might reprise the title game they played in 1998.

But... Give the AFC title to Miami as Jay Fiedler matures at quarterback. In the NFC, can Donovan McNabb and a defense get the Eagles there? Can New Orleans become the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its home stadium? Maybe.

On a limb, Brett Favre is healthy. If he remains so ...

Packers 22, Dolphins 20. ♦

Manning shows up to practice wearing brace

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The blue brace on Peyton Manning's right knee was not a pretty picture Sunday at the Indianapolis Colts practice.

But it was a welcome relief. "I was pretty fortunate," Manning said. "That is the type of play where you can be hurt pretty seriously. The thing that I thought saved me was that, when I followed through, I was on my toe instead of being planted. If I'd have been firmly planted, it might have been worse."

Fortunately for the Colts, Manning survived the scare Friday night's 28-21 exhibition loss to Minnesota with just a couple of nicks - a slight sprain of his right knee and

what Manning called a sprained right ankle.

Coach Jim Mora reiterated that as a precaution, Manning, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, will not play Thursday night in the Colts' preseason finale at Cincinnati.

And Manning, who has never missed a start in a pre-season, regular season or post-season game, agreed.

"I feel like I could play if I needed to, but right now, you have to rest up," he said. "I'll do some things this week."

Injuries are not something Manning is accustomed to.

He did not miss a start in high school or college before joining the Colts, and his streak of 48 straight starts is

second-longest among quarterbacks. Green Bay's Brett Favre has started 141 straight games.

Manning's health has been so good that, other than the five-day contract holdout his rookie season, Manning said he had missed practice only one other time - during bowl week of his senior season at Tennessee.

"I had a perfect practice streak going for three years," Manning said. "So I wish I would have been out there today. If it was the regular season, I probably would have been."

As it was, Manning threw during some drills Sunday but spent most of the practice

throwing on the side and padding.

The injury occurred just before halftime Friday when Vikings defensive tackle Chris Hovan spun away from rookie guard Ryan Diem and rolled into Manning's right leg. The leg bent awkwardly and Manning immediately reached for the knee.

Manning finished the drive, then returned for the second half in street clothes, with ice wrapped around his knee and ankle.

Neither Manning nor Mora thought the hit warranted league action.

He was being blocked and he was trying to sack the quarterback, which is what he's

supposed to do," said Mora, a former defensive coordinator. "He just kind of fell into him."

Initially, Manning wasn't as worried about the knee as he was the ankle.

Following the game, Manning said the ankle was stiffer and causing him more pain.

When the Colts returned to Indianapolis on Saturday, Manning had an MRI, which revealed the sprained knee and sent the Colts into a precautionary mode.

"I was very pleased with that," Mora said of the diagnosis. "We talked to the doctors the night before and they told us they thought it was a mild sprain. When I saw Peyton

yesterday, it didn't seem too bad, but he won't play this week."

Manning will be replaced by backup Mark Rypien, who signed with the Colts on July 31 after being out of football for three seasons.

Rypien, who has had two impressive performances in the first three games with the Colts, said he can use the work.

"It's a chance for me and Billy Joe (Hobert) to get some work, and we need it," Rypien said. "It's unfortunate what happened to Peyton, but we're fortunate it happened in a circumstance where he can take a week off." ♦

Memphis Grizzlies new home just off Beale Street

Associated Press

MEMPHIS - A \$250 million arena for the NBA's relocated Grizzlies will be built just a half-block stroll from the Beale Street entertainment district, the mayors of Memphis and Shelby County announced Wednesday.

"This is going to spread out the growth of Memphis," Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton said.

The 18,500-seat arena also will be within easy walking distance from the historic Peabody Hotel, the city's new downtown baseball park and Peabody Place, a major new entertainment, shopping and business center.

Much of the site now is taken up by vacant green space and a large parking lot, which should speed land acquisition, Herenton and county Mayor Jim Rout said at a news conference.

Negotiations with land owners to buy their properties will begin soon, they said. The mayors also said they expect the

NBA

arena to be finished in about two years, as originally planned.

Until then, the Grizzlies are to play at the Pyramid, a 10-year-old downtown arena that is home to University of Memphis basketball.

The new arena will be about a half-block south of Beale Street.

A new four-acre park will tie the arena to AutoZone Park, the home of the Triple A Memphis Redbirds.

"That will help the city's need for green space in the downtown area," Herenton said.

He said the arena is expected to spur the growth of the city's core downtown area to the south toward the South Main

Historic District.

In recent years, that district has been attracting art studios and apartments to renovated turn-of-the-century buildings.

The district also is home to the National Civil Rights Museum and the city's newly renovated train station, Central Station.

Beale Street is known as "the birthplace of the blues."

"The opportunities for further development in the south area are enormous," Herenton said.

The new arena is being financed mostly by the taxpayers, primarily through sales tax rebates, government-backed bonds and hotel and car rental taxes.

The Grizzlies are to make their first appearance in Memphis in a preseason game at the Pyramid on Oct. 9.

Their move from Vancouver to Memphis ends a 30-year search by the city to land a major professional sports franchise. ♦

Titans waive seven players, trim roster to 67

Associated Press

NASHVILLE - The Tennessee Titans ridded themselves of one of their two players named Chris Sanders, waiving the rookie quarterback from Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Sanders, the quarterback, and receiver Chris Sanders both had their full names on their jerseys in the first three exhibition games. Sanders, the quarterback, lost his bid to unseat Billy Volek for the No. 3 slot.

The Titans also waived punter and kicker Jason Witczak, defensive lineman Donovan Arp, offensive lineman Chris Valletta, receivers Marshaun Tucker and Steve Neal and running back Rafael Cooper.

Tennessee also placed offensive tackle Adam Haayer on injured reserve for the season. The sixth-round pick recently had surgery to repair his knee.

That leaves the Titans with 67 players on the roster going into Tuesday's cut to 65. ♦

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Martin could be first woman to play D-I game

Associated Press

Ashley Martin is not trying to make a statement for all womankind, nor is she hoping to break open football's gender doors.

The only point the Jacksonville State kicker is trying to make is the one that comes after a touchdown. Martin could attempt at least one extra point in the I-AA Gamecocks' season opener next week against Cumberland.

The NCAA doesn't keep records, but Martin apparently will be the first female to play in a Division I game.

"That's not what it's about at all," the 5-foot-11, 160-pound

sophomore said. "That would be like I'm making a statement, and that's not the case. I've got a job to do, and that's what I'm focusing on."

That attitude prompted Jacksonville State coach Jack Crowe to ask Martin, a starting midfielder on the women's soccer team, to try his sport last spring.

That — and the knowledge that Tennessee transfer Steven Lee was the only kicker on the roster.

Then-assistant coach Mike Bobo told Crowe that Martin had kicked for two years at East Coweta High School in Sharpsburg, Ga.

"I met her and told her right off the bat if I ever needed a kicker, I was going to come get her," Crowe said. "She said, 'OK.'"

Said Martin: "I thought it would be fun."

With the soccer team practicing outside his office window, Crowe found himself watching Martin at work.

"She's out there, first and foremost, because of her intangibles, not just because she's got a great leg," Crowe said. "She's confident, decisive and bold in her actions."

Crowe bristles at the suggestion that this is a gimmick or publicity stunt. But the atten-

tion it's generated hasn't hurt either. Martin is featured on a team T-shirt with the logo "Battle of the Sexes."

Crowe said Martin will kick at least one PAT in next Thursday's opener — provided, of course, Jacksonville State scores a touchdown. He describes it as "a contingency plan" in case something happens to Lee.

The only woman to score in a college football game is Liz Heaston, who kicked two extra points for then-NAIA Williamette University in Salem, Ore., in 1997.

Kathy Klop is believed to be the first woman in uniform for

a Division I game. She never got into a game for the Louisville Cardinals, though.

Katie Hnida suited up for two games for Colorado in 1999, but she didn't play, either.

Heather Sue Mercer was cut from Duke's team in the summers of 1995 and 1996, and she won \$2 million in a discrimination lawsuit against the school. In June, the university appealed the amount of the award but not the verdict.

Now, it's Martin's turn, and she's a reluctant trailblazer.

After the game against Cumberland, Martin will fly to a soccer tournament in Missouri. Since her scholarship

is for soccer, she will only be available for a maximum of five football games.

Martin has made 20 of 22 PATs against a live rush during fall practices. In high school, she was 2-for-4 on field goals and made 79 of 92 extra points.

Crowe makes it clear that Lee is his starting kicker. The sophomore left Tennesse in a bid for playing time, and he's not about to yield it now.

"That's the way it is for everyone. They've got to earn it," said Lee, a sophomore who went 29-for-32 on field goals in high school. "I don't mind her getting a shot at kicking at all. We're out there competing." ♦

Texas Christian puts up fight, loses to Cornhuskers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Season openers at Nebraska are traditionally one-sided affairs.

The Cornhuskers usually spend the first Saturday of the fall moving up and down the field at will against an over-matched opponent, running up scores like 76-14 and 64-21. Saturday against TCU, Nebraska actually needed its defense.

"They kept us in the ballgame," coach Frank Solich said after the No. 4 Huskers got by the Horned Frogs 21-7 in the Pigskin Classic.

Nebraska's "Blackshirts" limited TCU to just 186 total

yards and six first downs. The Frogs had the ball in Nebraska territory just once in the second half, and that was only because the Huskers fumbled a punt return. The performance was encouraging for the Husker defense, coming off one of its worst seasons in decades.

"I think first games you never know quite how you're going to respond," defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said. "While we're not saying 'Hey, we've arrived,' I think we're making moves in the right direction. I was really pleased with the effort and our focus."

The game was a lot closer

than anyone expected, including the Cornhuskers. Since shutting out Baylor 13-0 to start the 1990 season, the Huskers had scored at least six touchdowns in every opener except 1994, when they beat West Virginia 31-0. Last year it was a 49-13 win over San Jose State. The year before Nebraska beat Iowa 42-7.

The Huskers looked on their way to another rout after going 70 yards in six plays on their opening possession for a 7-0 lead on Thunder Collins' 6-yard run. Nebraska scored again two possessions later and put together a 98-yard touchdown drive late in the third

quarter. But for the rest of the day, the Huskers struggled to move the ball.

Fifteen of Nebraska's 68 plays resulted in negative yards.

"There were a couple of drives in that ballgame that showed them they have the potential to move the football the length of the field. But certainly there has to be a lot more consistency," Solich said. "We had a pitch here and there and a few other things, but there was no consistency."

There was even less success for TCU's offense. Other than one broken play that resulted in TCU's only score - a 67-yard

pass from Casey Printers to Matt Schobel in the first quarter - the Frogs never approached the end zone.

"It's kind of disappointing they got that. You always want the shutout. But seven points is not too bad, so I guess we'll take it," tackle Jeremy Shuchta said. "It feels great to shut somebody down like that, but it's too early in the season. You don't want to get complacent."

But it is a good start for a defense that allowed 322 yards and more than 19 points per game a year ago.

"I will give Nebraska a lot of credit. They played really well on defense," said Gary

Patterson, in his first season coaching TCU. "We have a lot of younger players and after the initial shock we settled down and played hard. I think, given a chance, they will be a good team."

Most of the offense Nebraska did manage to come once again from Eric Crouch, who became the school's career leader in total yardage with 69 rushing yards and 151 yards passing. That gave him 5,510 for his career. Tommie Frazier held the previous mark of 5,476.

Crouch also scored on a 1-yard run that put the Huskers up 13-0. ♦

Wisconsin beats Virginia, questions remain for Badgers

MADISON, Wis. (AP) - Brooks Bollinger went to the hospital. Matt Schaub went in the tank.

Bollinger suffered a contusion on his liver in Saturday's Eddie Robinson Classic, and Jim Sorgi replaced him to lead No. 22 Wisconsin to a 26-17 win over Virginia (0-1).

Schaub was yanked after he threw two interceptions that Wisconsin (1-0) turned into a quick 10 points in the second quarter.

Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez said Bollinger's status

was day to day. He spent Saturday night at a local hospital and was expected to remain there until Monday.

Before he was hurt, Bollinger was ineffective as Wisconsin tried to run the spread offense. He was constantly on the run when he dropped back to pass and was just 5-of-13 for 41 yards with an interception.

Sorgi had already replaced Bollinger twice when the starter went out.

Still, Sorgi wasn't much better until Wisconsin went back

to its traditional running game and got away from four-receiver formations. He finished 5-of-11 for 150 yards with touchdown passes of 78 and 38 yards.

After running for just 82 yards out of the spread, the Badgers' running game came alive in the second half as well. They finished with 228 yards rushing as Anthony Davis ran for 147 yards on 24 carries in his college debut.

Sorgi led Wisconsin to two wins last season while Bollinger was out with injuries.

"I'm the backup quarterback until the coaches tell me otherwise," Sorgi said. "My job doesn't change. I'm out there to make plays."

Alvarez got a scare with Sorgi as well. Third-string quarterback Scott Wille had to come in to run a play after Sorgi was temporarily shaken up. Sorgi also was hit hard on the 78-yard touchdown pass to Lee Evans and came up holding his arm.

"I wasn't crazy about seeing him lay there," Alvarez said.

Virginia coach Al Groh kept

his decision on who to start at quarterback a secret before kickoff. But he pulled Schaub after he committed several costly mistakes that Wisconsin turned into 10 points during the second quarter.

Schaub was picked off twice, both times throwing the ball right into defenders' hands.

On the first, Ben Herbert intercepted the ball at the line of scrimmage and returned it to the 18. Jerone Pettus then ran around the left end for a 16-yard touchdown.

Schaub then threw the ball

right to linebacker Nick Greisen, who returned it to the 7 before the Badgers had to settle for Mike Allen's field goal.

Schaub was 3-of-10 for 24 yards and the two interceptions, while Bryson Spinner was 10-of-22 for 154 yards and two touchdowns.

While Groh wouldn't say who his starter is, he did pay Spinner a compliment - sort of.

"He got us 14 points. That's what a quarterback is supposed to do." ♦

Wheeler's mother plans to sue Northwestern

CHICAGO — The mother of Northwestern football player Rashidi Wheeler said Friday she hopes the NCAA and universities around the country will learn from her son's death.

Linda Will, who filed a lawsuit against Northwestern, head football coach Randy Walker and other athletic department personnel Thursday, said asthmatics can be competitive athletes but that college sports programs must be better prepared to respond to potential emergencies.

Will's lawsuit seeks damages, but she said Friday she also has other goals.

"I hope that there will be a lot of education, that people will understand that asthma is

not a death sentence," Will said. "It doesn't mean that you can't compete and participate in sports."

She said she believes a lawsuit is the only way to guarantee change. Of her son, she said: "He managed his asthma. He had a problem that day and that problem was not addressed."

Wheeler, 22, a senior safety, collapsed and died during a pre-season conditioning drill on Aug. 3. Bronchial asthma was listed as the cause of death.

Wheeler's family has made a number of allegations: That there was no ambulance or oxygen on the scene that day to respond to Wheeler's attack, and that an on-field phone wasn't working; that there were too

few experienced trainers on hand; and that staff initially believed Wheeler was suffering from heatstroke or hyperventilation and provided him a bag to breathe into.

Also, the lawsuit alleges that the voluntary summer workout was actually mandatory for players and that Northwestern violated NCAA rules by not having an adequate emergency plan.

Will said that Wheeler attempted to communicate the gravity of his situation that day, but that staff waited up to 40 minutes to call for an ambulance.

"When it's clearly stated that, 'I can't breathe, I'm dying,' what's it take to make a red flag

go up?" she said. "Let's get some help, let's take this seriously."

Northwestern, which has promised a thorough investigation of the incident, said it was "disappointed" that the lawsuit was filed.

"But it does not alter the university's sympathy for Rashidi's family for their loss," Northwestern spokesman Alan Cabbage said. "It is our hope that by working with the NCAA, medical experts and other appropriate groups, we can help ensure that tragic incidents such as this do not occur."

Will said that reports Wheeler had had about 30 asthma attacks while at Northwestern are "grossly exaggerated." Still, she believes train-

ers knew of his condition and should have more quickly diagnosed the problem the day he died.

Toxicology tests on Wheeler's body showed he had the banned stimulant ephedrine in his system when he collapsed, but the Cook County coroner said it had nothing to do with his death. The federal Food and Drug Administration has launched an investigation into the death.

Will's attorney, James Montgomery, said that issue is irrelevant, as are questions about whether Wheeler was properly treating himself before his death.

"He brought credit to the university's football team and

when he had a university-sponsored practice on the field on Aug. 3, they had an obligation to take care of him, they had an obligation to get medical care to him," Montgomery said.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages, although Montgomery said they would be based in part on Wheeler's potential earnings from a possible pro career. He said at least three NFL teams had been scouting Wheeler, and that "it appeared he was well on his way" to the pros.

Wheeler started last season, but was listed in the team's press guide — printed before his death — as a backup at strong safety this year. ♦

Woods wins 7-hole epic playoff for NEC World Golf over Fuyrk

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Tiger Woods tapped in his 2-foot birdie putt on the seventh playoff hole Sunday and raised both fists over his shoulders like a heavyweight champion, a fitting pose after such an epic battle.

He and Jim Furyk traded heroic shots and great escapes in a sensational duel at the NEC Invitational, which started early to avoid the rain and looked like it might never end.

"It was a war," Woods said. "Neither one of us gave an inch. It was fun to compete like that, where you were tested to absolute utmost."

Woods emerged the survivor, ending his winless summer in style.

After exchanging pars for six extra holes, Woods hit a wedge that landed next to the hole and spun back to 2 feet for a birdie putt to win the NEC Invitational after the longest PGA Tour playoff in 10 years.

"It was just shot for shot," Woods said. "Not too often do you get a chance to have your emotions and your intensity and your level of competitiveness at that high of a level. That's the ultimate. Win or lose, to be out there in that environment is pretty cool."

Furyk held a bunker shot to save par on the first extra hole and extend the playoff.

Woods escaped from the trees with a fortuitous ruling and a brilliantly played bump-and-run from about 50 yards to save par, then made another great recovery around the trees two holes later.

"Now I understand why most of the golfers are gray and balding," Woods said.

Furyk had three chances to win with birdie putts from about 12 feet, one of them catching the inside of the right lip.

"I didn't lose it from tee to green," Furyk said. "I lost it on

the greens. I should have made more putts."

A pressure-packed playoff that lasted two hours ended in a conventional manner — a wedge from Woods into 2 feet for his first victory since the Memorial Tournament in early June that ended talk about what's wrong with his game.

He had gone five straight tournaments out of the top 10, the longest stretch of his career. His victory squelched suggestions from Phil Mickelson that the PGA Tour player of the year award is up for grabs.

"I know that I'm playing a little bit better," Woods said. "The swing changes I've made are starting to take shape."

It was a heartbreaker for Furyk, who started the final day with a two-stroke lead and battled Woods to the bitter end.

"I don't feel like I let anyone down today," said Furyk, who closed with a 71. "I played well enough to win. I thought I won

the tournament a couple times today, and I thought I lost it a couple times."

Woods, 25, won for the fifth time this year and the 29th time in his career, tying Jack Nicklaus for the most PGA Tour victories before turning 30.

He won the NEC Invitational for the third straight year, making him the first player to take three straight tournaments at fabled Firestone Country Club, a course on which Nicklaus used to dominate.

Woods, 7-1 worldwide in playoffs, now has won four of the eight World Golf Championship events that count toward official money. The \$1 million payoff — his sixth winning check worth at least that much — pushed him well past \$25 million for a career that began five years ago Monday.

"We both gave it absolutely everything we had," Woods said. ♦

Japan rallies past Apopka, Fla., 2-1

SOUTH WILLIAMSSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Tokyo Kitasuna rallied for two runs its last at-bat for the second straight game and beat Apopka, Fla. 2-1 Sunday night to win the Little League World Series.

Nobuhisa Baba hit a line drive off the shortstop's glove in the bottom of the sixth and final inning, driving in two runs and giving Japan its fifth Little League World Series title.

On Saturday night, Tokyo won the international championship in the bottom of the sixth on a two-run homer by Atsushi Mochizuki that gave it a 2-1 victory over Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

Tokyo (5-1) had just three hits against Florida and both runs were unearned.

Masayuki Itoh and Yuusuke Nomura both reached base on errors by third baseman Zach Zwieg in the sixth inning. Both advanced on a fielder's choice,

then came home on Baba's line drive to left. The throw from the left fielder was cut off near the mound and there was no play at the plate on the winning run.

Japan's last title came in 1999 when Hirakata, Osaka beat Phenix City, Ala. 5-0.

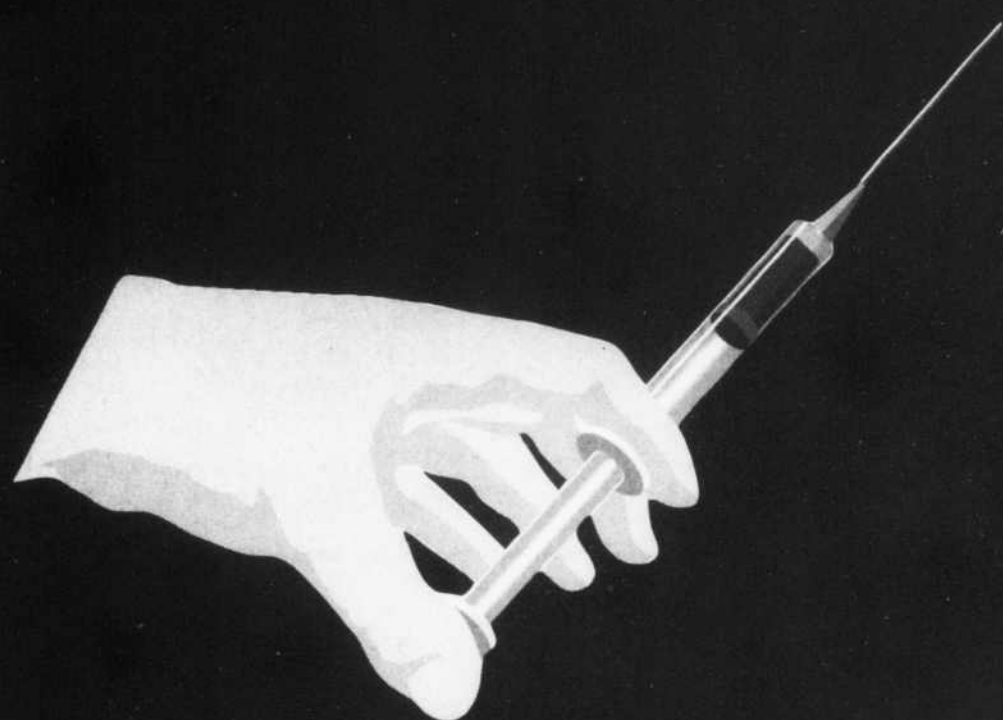
Apopka (4-2) was the seventh Florida team to reach the title game, but no team from that state has ever won.

Apopka upset the Orlando Paulino team from the Bronx, N.Y. 8-2 Saturday to win the U.S. championship game. The Bronx had won the earlier meeting over Apopka when left-hander Danny Almonte threw just the third perfect game in Little League World Series history.

Mochizuki (2-0) was the winning pitcher, while Justin LaFavers (2-1), who had all eight of his strikeouts in the first three innings, took the loss. ♦

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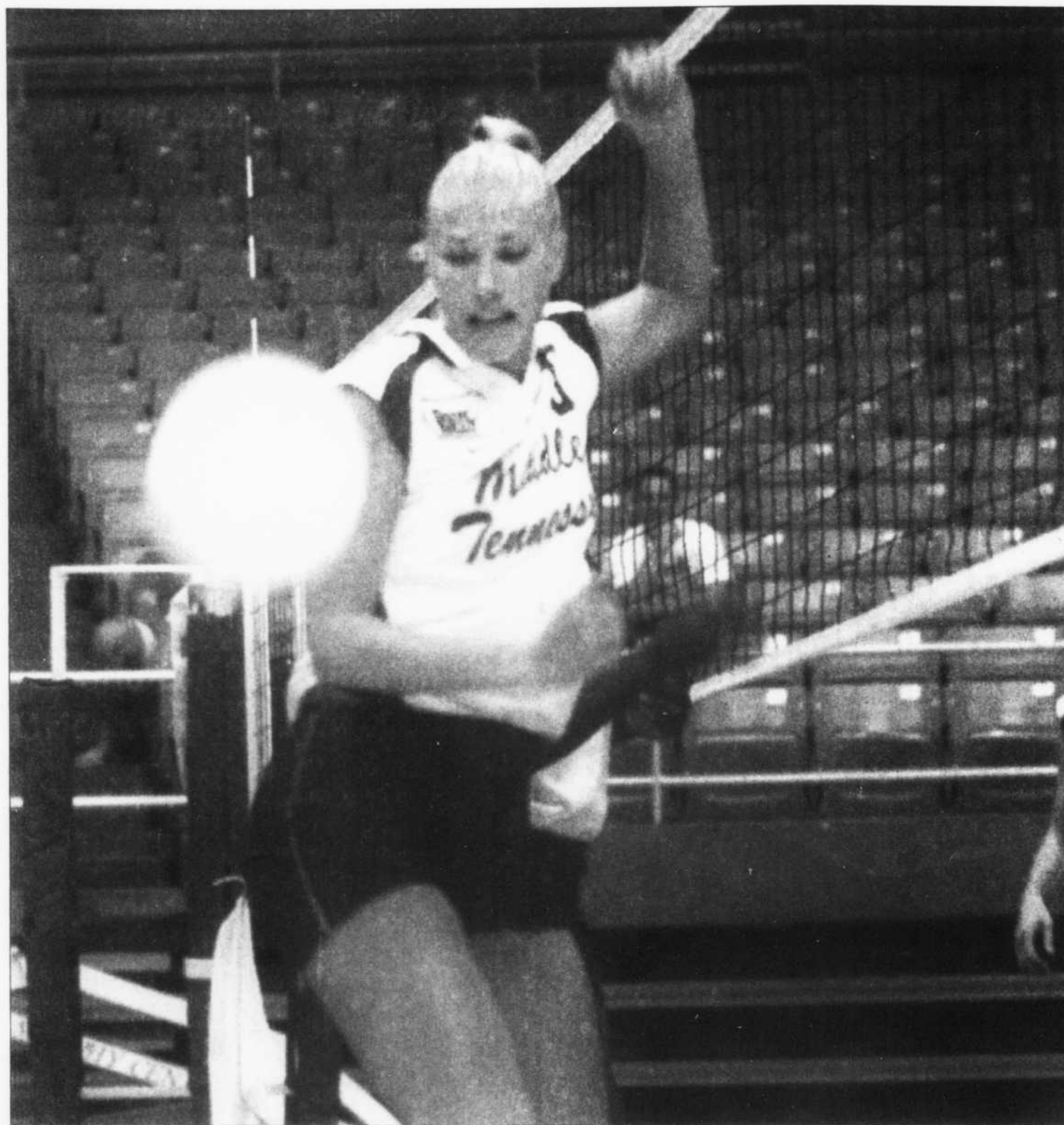
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Alumni Game cancelled due to new rule



Volleyball co-captain Katie Thiesen tries to get to the ball during what ended up as an intersquad match Saturday.

Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider volleyball team was supposed to play an Alumni Match, its one and only exhibition game before the regular season begins Saturday.

However, due to NCAA regulations and a new Sun Belt Conference rule the game was not played.

"If the season starts either the Saturday, Sunday, or Monday before Labor day then the Alumni Game cannot be played," explains Diane Turnham, MTSU Compliance Coordinator.

The Alumni Game rule isn't the only rule to change. In fact, there are several rule changes this season. The biggest change is that all games will now be rally point which means there are no longer sideouts, so there is a chance to score on every serve. Games will also be played to 30 points now instead of 15 with the exception of the fifth game if needed. That game will be played to 15 points.

Other changes are in serving and out-of-bounds rules.

Turnham used the following example to explain further.

"With basketball, most years the team can't start

practice until Oct. 15, but this year they are allowing teams to start on the 13th."

The alumni still came into town and played against each other only. The Alumni were also treated to brunch Saturday morning.

"There are players who were there when I coached," said Turnham who had two coaching stints with the Lady Raiders, most recently the three years before coach Lisa Kisee's arrival.

Meanwhile the Lady Raiders played an intersquad match with players switching around regularly.

Coach Kisee said she felt her team played very well during the first match.

"A lot of the players today that played didn't get to play their normal positions so they were a little bit inconsistent," Kisee said.

However, Kisee and Turnham are excited about this year. "I think we are good defensively this year, but we are not clicking as yet offensively," Kisee said.

Middle Tennessee begins its regular season schedule on the road with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Tournament Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. The first home match is Sept. 18 against Belmont. ♦

Lady Raiders home opener Sept. 18 vs. Belmont

CoachAndyMac.com opens with 35 members

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

Blue Raider football fans have a new outlet to get the latest and most inside information on their team. Administered by Mark Owens, director of Media Relations at Middle Tennessee, and the coaching

staff, CoachAndyMac.com provides true Blue Raider fans "an inside look at Blue Raider football," Owens said.

"My intentions," McCollum said, "are to bring Middle Tennessee football fans, alumni and supporters a unique behind-the-scenes look at our program."

Owens got the idea after

seeing a similar website from his alma mater Virginia Tech.

"Virginia Tech is one of the only other ones doing it (coach's website)," Owens said. And success has come early as Owens reports 25 subscribers in the first three days of operation.

"The main purpose," however, Owens says, is to "raise

money for the assistant coaches". The money comes from a subscription fee of \$40. The \$40 gives the fan a one-year subscription to the website.

One of the features found on the website is the Daily Reports. Head coach Andy McCollum reviews that day's practice and posts his com-

ments on the site. Other tidbits of inside information can also be found in the *Daily Reports*.

Other features include "Barlow's Body Shop", a forum for head trainer Bobby Barlow to inform fans about health issues and proper training tactics - "Mr. Rogers' Powerhouse", that shows

which players have been working out and how they did it - "Film Room", which will feature coaches' observations on opposing teams. "Travel Squads", "Depth Charts" and the latest on "Recruiting" can also be found on the site to give the above average fan an advantage heading into the weekend. ♦

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