

Court date set for football players

Student body has multiple reactions to pending outcome

By Emily Cavender
Staff Writer

A fall court date has been set for two MTSU football players arrested in July on charges of underage drinking and handgun possession.

The Blue Raider offensive linemen Franklin Dunbar, Jr. and Darrell Howard will appear in General Sessions Court Oct. 2. They were arrested July 23 after a fight broke out at Elk Lodge on Halls Hill Pike.

The impending trial has not affected the morale of the team, according to head football coach Rick Stockstill.

"We disciplined them on the information that we have at this point," Stockstill said. "It's not something that we're taking lightly in any form or fashion."

Mark Owens, who handles media relations for MTSU football, said Dunbar and Howard's reprimand included running laps beginning at 6:00 a.m. As of now, they will be playing in today's game against Florida International.

Stockstill doesn't think that the incident will have an "ill effect" on the team's ability to perform, and that they will be moving forward as planned for the 2006-2007 season.

As previously reported by Sidelines, a party at Elk Lodge started become disorderly around 1:40 a.m., and gunshots were fired. The arrest took place at 3:04 a.m. in the parking lot of Neely's market.

Deputy W. Lehw, from Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, found a loaded .40-caliber handgun on the passenger side of the car Dunbar and

Howard occupied.

According to the police report, Dunbar was also charged with disorderly conduct after not submitting to the officer's demands, and the report stated that a witness saw a black male walking to the trunk of a white compact car before the shooting occurred. Neither Dunbar nor Howard have been implicated in the shooting.

Four other, non-MTSU students were also arrested on gun possession during the incident, said Travis Smith, media director of Crime Stoppers.

Howard told Sidelines previously that the gun did not belong to him or the driver of the car, and that "nobody owned up to it so we all ended up in the holding cell."

Feelings are mixed from the faculty and student body on how to handle the situation with the players.

"The football people are just part of regular society. There's a certain percentage of regular society who make mistakes. The football players are just under a microscope," said Dr. Dave Whitaker, the director of the Horse Science Center.

Senior journalism major Geoff Brashear said, "I guess it's a good thing they were caught. If they broke the law they broke the law and they should be punished. What's a football player doing with a gun?"

Zane McKee, a senior in electronic media management said, "It's unfortunate but I would withhold punishment until the courts decide."

Junior recording industry major Jillian Scott agrees that the players should be punished. "I do think they should be on a restriction until the trial. I think that they shouldn't be allowed to play until the results of the trial."

"They're supposed to be ambassadors for MTSU. They should be better representatives. Because of what they represent for us they should be held to higher standards," said Chris Jones, a senior Horse Science major.

Dunbar is a sophomore from Waycross, Georgia and Howard is a sophomore from Covington, Georgia. They will both be playing in tonight's game against Florida International in Floyd Stadium at 6 p.m. and will continue to play until the trial and the final verdict.

The game is free to MTSU students and faculty with their student id. For ticket information call the MT Ticket Office at 615-898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU.

The incident at Elk Lodge is still under investigation.



Photo by Brandon Pernel | Chief Photographer
Seth Meyers performed for a crowd in the Murphy Center Wednesday night as part of Week of Welcome.

SNL comedian draws laughs on campus

By Catherine Cowan
Contributing Writer

As part of MTSU's Week of Welcome, Student Programming arranged to have comedian Seth Meyers of Saturday Night Live perform Wednesday, Aug. 30 in the Murphy Center. The event was free of charge for students.

Many of MTSU's students and staff were very excited to see such a high profile comedian performing on campus. Some of them are fans of Seth Meyers, while others are longtime SNL viewers. Many students went for a little comic relief from the hustle and bustle of the first week of school.

Jennifer Holder, program council chair, explained why Student Programming chooses a comedian every year for welcome week. "We usually try to book a comedian every year; it's been really successful in the past. A lot of students are stressed out from starting new classes, and many of them are away from their families for the first time, so it's a good break for them during this hectic time."

Student Programming allowed the students to decide the entertainer for Welcome Week. "We had several polls in the KUC outside the grill, and the response was really good for Seth Meyers," Lena Miller, student coordinator of New Student Orientation, said.

According to Holder, it was not as difficult as one might think to book such a high profile comedian. Student Programming

contacted different agents, and they offered different packages with various performers and prices.

"Meyers' agent knew we were looking for comedians and made an offer, and Seth Meyers was less expensive than the top two choices," said Holder. It cost \$15,000 to bring him to MTSU. "I know that sounds like a lot of money, but it's actually a really good deal, considering past performers have cost much more than that."

According to Holder, it cost \$25,000 to bring Ricky Smiley, and \$40,000 for Sinbad.

There was plenty of excitement surrounding last night's show from both students and staff.

"I'm a huge Seth Meyers fan. I plan on going to the show, and all of the students I've talked to plan on going as well," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life. "Since I worked on the Kerry campaign, I guess I've got a soft spot in my heart for Seth's portrayal of John Kerry during the 2004 election."

When asked if she would be attending the event, an enthusiastic Public Relations major, Tiffanie Reyes, said, "Sure. I am very excited about Seth Meyers Show, and I will be present. I watch SNL occasionally and think it is great, a big-name comedian is coming to MTSU. I don't really have any [favorite] characters. I just enjoy watching him. He is so funny."

One long-time Meyers fan, Casey Carroll, a freshman chemistry major, said, "I'm very excited. I've watched Seth on SNL for a while now and remember when he was just a featured player. I love SNL."

Murfreesboro transit system needs a name



Photo courtesy of Sterling Communications
The city of Murfreesboro is holding a contest to name its new transit system, set to open in 2007. The grand prize will be a \$400 gift certificate to Stones River Mall and a bus pass for a year.

Contest to determine new transit system's name

By Brittany Washburn
Contributing Writer

The city of Murfreesboro is giving residents a chance to participate in the community by holding a contest to name the new public transit system that is set to open in 2007.

The "Name that Ride" contest began yesterday and runs through Sept. 15.

A \$400 gift certificate to the Stones River Mall and a free pass to ride the transit system for a year are the grand prizes for winning the contest.

The contest winner, who will be chosen by a panel of citizen judges, will also be the first to ride the new transit system.

The second and third place prizes will include a year's bus pass and \$200 and \$100 Stones River Mall certificates, respectively.

"Name that Ride" is designed to get the community involved in finding a name for the transit system, said Bob Nugent, public transit director for Murfreesboro.

Nugent was hired last February to begin

designing a city transit system, which has been evolving since 2000.

"We are not looking for a name like 'Murfreesboro Area Transit System,' Nugent said in a press release. "We are looking for a name that is a little more fun, a name that works when it is splashed across the side of our vehicles."

According to Nugent, many cities have use acronyms for the name of their transit system, but Murfreesboro is looking for something more unique. Also, the name should aid in the creation of a graphic logo.

Sterling Communications was hired by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to market transit projects across Tennessee, including the new system in Murfreesboro.

"We want to have significant MTSU student participation," said Terri Sterling with Sterling Communications.

The transit system will start with limited service but will expand as the demand grows.

Each contest entry must be submitted on an official entry form and are available at the Murfreesboro City Hall, Linebaugh Library, and several other locations. For more information, visit the Murfreesboro city government website.

MTSU holds annual welcome dinner for Japanese students

Participation, interests grows for Japan-U.S. program

By Andy Harper and Dana Owens
Campus Life and Community

Tomorrow will be the annual Japanese welcome reception for Japanese foreign exchange students MTSU students taking Japanese-themed classes.

"We have done this for about ten years," said Kawahito Kawahito, director of the MTSU Japan-U.S. program.

The event itself is a two-part celebration with a formal reception in the Business and Aerospace Building SunTrust Room and a get-together following the reception at Kawahito's house.

"The event includes a mix of exchange students, independent Japanese students not in a study abroad program and any student taking a Japanese language or history course," Kawahito said.

"An exchange student is an agreement student, a two way flow partnership of universities who come for a set amount of time to study," Kawahito said. "Independent students are foreign

students studying at the university to earn a degree, they are just normal international students."

This semester, MTSU will welcome nine Asian foreign exchange students from three different schools including universities in the Philippines and South Korea, Kawahito said.

"Japan is one of the top destinations for MTSU students," said Jennifer Campbell, director of International Education and Exchange. "It's one of our most popular programs and countries."

There are currently three programs at different universities in Japan including Kansai Gaidai University, Saitama University and Nagoya Guikin University. At the moment, there are six students from Japan studying on campus and seven MTSU students in Japan this semester, Campbell said.

The first part of the night will be formal, with a few introductory speeches while the second half will be about students meeting people in the community who are supportive of the program, Kawahito said.

"I think the first part of the night will see about 30 people," Kawahito said. "It is the second part at home that is about 80 people, many who are members of the community."

The mix will be about 60 percent MTSU students taking

Japanese courses, 20 percent exchange students and 20 percent community guests, Kawahito said.

"He is just phenomenal with Asia and getting MTSU rooted with exchange programs," Campbell said.

Kawahito is a great catalyst for bringing Japanese studies to MTSU by using his personal contacts and experience to secure MTSU spots in some of the best universities in Japan, said Campbell.

It has been really important that we establish strong relations and make our guest students feel as welcome and independent as possible, Kawahito said.

"I think [the success of the exchange] is because we have a strong summer program in the College of Business," Campbell said, adding that afterward, students wish to learn more about Japan.

In addition to the exchange programs, MTSU also offers a study abroad with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies as well as Kawahito's business program in May, Campbell said.

The welcome reception will be in the SunTrust Room of the BAS tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. with another reception following at Kawahito's house. All students involved with the Japan-U.S. program or taking Japanese related courses is encouraged to attend.

Volunteer fair gives students chance to reach out to city

By Andy Harper
Campus Life Editor

Students will be able to research a variety of volunteer opportunities, ranging from domestic shelters to mentoring, at the volunteer fair next Tuesday.

"This is an excellent opportunity for students to find out about different organizations and to start fulfilling volunteer requirements," said Matt Demonbrun, graduate assistant for Student Organizations and head of the Volunteer Fair.

Organizations attending include the Boys & Girls Club, Circle K and Up 'Til Dawn. A number of clinics will also be present, including the Pregnancy Support Center, the Primary Care & Hope Clinic and the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center.

Volunteer requirements may include service hours for different clubs, particularly for many fraternities and sororities, Demonbrun said.

"We do have a lot of fraternities and sororities that come and volunteer at the club," said Amy Jo Hamrick, representative from the Murfreesboro Boys & Girls Club.

"We have done the fair for the last two years and it usually works well," Hamrick said. "The students are great resources and we have so many different jobs they can do."

The various jobs include coaching baseball, helping the children with homework or with the computers and even sharing hobbies with the children like baton class, Hamrick said.

"We do have certain requirements which include a student volunteer to work, at minimum, 20 hours a semester," Hamrick said. "We do this because we want the students to be committed to the kids and we want to really be

committed to our volunteers."

The main object for many of the participating organizations is to use the fair as a recruitment tool, Hamrick said.

"We primarily want to recruit people and teams to help raise money," said Jeanne Jodoin, senior microbiology major and executive director of Up 'Til Dawn.

"It's a great way to get involved and fill your time with so many great causes who need it," Jodoin said.

The fair itself can also provide a great source for networking and meeting new people, in addition to giving back to the Murfreesboro community, Demonbrun said.

"The Circle K has a lot of opportunities for students to get involved with community leaders and establish networks because the club is mentored by professional adults," said Becky Ward, president of Stones River Oakland Kiwanis.

The Stones River Oakland chapter of the Kiwanis club is the sponsor of the MTSU chapter of Circle K. The MTSU chapter has existed since 2000, Ward said.

"I think it is important for student to get involved in community service because it allows them to get a well-rounded college experience," Ward said. "It helps them to enrich the community in which they live, as well as give back to the college community."

The first meeting of Circle K will be next week in the Keathley University Center and prizes will be given away, Ward said.

"A perk for new recruits and to help up our involvement is that any person attending the first meeting will have two-thirds of their dues paid for by the Kiwanis," Ward said. "Which means, to become a member, new students will only have to pay

\$10."

"This really is a great time to go out and get involved, to really have fun and get involved, especially for incoming freshman," Demonbrun said.

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Eight simple rules for avoiding the imminent 'freshman 15'

By Kathy Adams

U-Wire

AUSTIN, Texas - As classes start, students will begin the semester and come one step closer to earning their degrees, four years of life experience and, quite likely, a few more pounds than they came with.

Love handles can be an unfortunate side effect of the hectic schedule higher education inspires. Beginning with the imminent "freshman 15" first-year students must wrestle, the habits students develop in their first year away from home can have lasting effects on their long-term physique and overall health.

As much as students want to stay healthy, the lifestyle changes most exercise regimens and diets demand are often beyond the scope of what students can squeeze into their free time outside of school, work and extracurricular activities.

However, University of Texas health, diet and fitness experts say staying healthy and keeping the pounds off doesn't have to be a time-consuming activity. There are small changes students can make that can have a significant impact on their health.

1. Put escalators, elevators and buses out of business

While the oh-so-convenient shuttle system can be a tempting prospect when faced with a class that seems halfway across Tennessee, but is really just a few blocks away, bypass taking the bus. Those 10- to 15-minute spurts of physical activity can help keep the extra pounds from piling up, said Janine Kudelka, assistant personal training coordinator for UT's RecSports.

Kudelka, who earned her bachelor's degree in

kinesiology from UT in 2001, also said taking the stairs rather than the elevator or escalator can make a difference in the long run. Kudelka also suggested parking farther away from your destination to add a few extra minutes of exercise by walking or biking the rest of the way. This should be an easy step for MT students because parking is so limited on campus anyway.

"It's a good, easy way of getting cardio and staying healthy without even thinking about it," Kudelka said.

2. Eat several smaller meals rather than a few large ones

A big mistake students make is not making time to eat. So when they finally do sit down for a meal, they end up overeating, Kudelka said.

"One key thing is try not to get too hungry, because when you get really hungry, you grab whatever's fast. And whatever's fast is usually not good," she said, referring to convenient, yet nutritionally deficient, fast food.

If you don't have time to sit down to three meals a day, which is the case for busy students, eat several small meals every three to four hours, she said. It's a good start to make sure at least two out of three meals eaten during the day are healthy, she said. It's also important that these meals contain protein, fat and carbohydrates, she said.

Students should carry around "healthy snacks that can keep them satisfied until their next meal, so they don't overeat at their next meal," said Brandy Shih, nutritionist for UT's Division of Housing and Food Service.

Shih and Kudelka suggested snacking on peanut butter with celery or crackers, fruit, light popcorn, yogurt or nuts for healthy snacks. These

types of snacks will also keep students fuller longer than unhealthy snacks, such as chips or candy bars, they said.

3. Work out at home

While a full session at the gym may be out of the question for students juggling school, work and other obligations, short at-home workouts are a more feasible alternative, Kudelka said.

She suggested students work out in their dorms or apartments using their own body weight to do push-ups, lunges and other exercises that don't require special equipment.

4. If you must eat out, make healthy choices

Although health and fitness experts agree that those who want to stay healthy and lose weight should avoid fast food, sometimes it's the only food available on hectic days or during travel. When this is the case, it's important to make the healthiest choices possible.

This has been made easier recently by fast food restaurants adding healthier menu choices in the wake of widespread criticism for the unhealthy lifestyle their foods encourage, Shih said.

She said it is possible to eat healthfully at restaurants, "but it takes a lot of constraint not to buy the burger just because it's there and it tastes great."

Instead, she recommends ordering a salad without heavy dressing or cheese. Grilled chicken sandwiches and baked potatoes without a lot of high-calorie toppings are also good choices.

In addition, most fast-food restaurants post nutritional information online, so busy students can use this information to make informed choices.

Other ways to minimize the calories while eating include removing fattening condiments, ordering a kids' meal or sharing a meal, according to Helpguide.org, an online health publication for those with active lifestyles. Fries, sodas and fried foods, such as fried chicken nuggets, should also be avoided, according to the Web site.

5. Schedule workouts

Students should schedule exercise time just like they schedule classes, Kudelka suggests.

"[A workout] doesn't have to be hours like students think," she said. "Twenty to 30 minutes is better than nothing."

When fitting a short workout into the day, it is important to get your heart rate up, Kudelka said. Cardio exercises, such as running, biking or working on the elliptical trainer, can achieve this goal. However, when doing cardio exercises, you should not be breathing too hard to carry on a conversation, she said.

If weight lifting during a short workout, only major muscle groups should be targeted to maximize efficiency, she said. These groups include the legs, back and chest, she said. Also, students can complete one to two repetitions with weights if they're short on time. Three repetitions are not necessary to have a good workout, she said.

If possible, students should also eat within 30 minutes of working out, Kudelka said. Important nutrients are depleted during workouts, especially protein and water, which are needed to rebuild

muscles, she said. In addition, the metabolism is working at a faster rate and burns food more efficiently during this time period.

6. Switch from cola to water

With as much as 250 calories per beverage, sodas can make a big impact on students' health. While water is the best alternative to sugary sodas that offer no nutritional value, diet sodas are also a good choice, Shih said.

"Sodas and juices can be a huge ordeal, because it's a huge amount of empty calories," she said. "Diet is a really great option. Soda companies have been working hard to make their diet drinks taste better."

For example, Coca-Cola offers Coke Zero, which lacks the aftertaste of artificial sweeteners, and 7-Up offers 7-Up Plus, a mixture of soda and juice with extra vitamin C and only five to 10 calories.

7. Minimize late-night snacking

The on-campus markets are bustling around 10 p.m. with students picking up ice cream, cookies and energy drinks. However, Shih said this late-night snacking should be avoided.

"Generally, if we're studying late at night, it's not 'cause we're hungry, it's 'cause we're bored and procrastinating," she said.

For this reason, late-night snacking should not become a habit since the body doesn't need the extra energy from food while sleeping, Shih said. However, if you're truly hungry, you shouldn't deny yourself a light snack, she said. Yogurt, fruit or those foods suggested in tip No. 2 are the best options.

8. Don't get stressed out

In addition to diet and exercise, stress can play an important factor in students' health, according to Jordan Price, a social work intern at the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Price, a social work graduate student, said mental health starts with taking care of the body, including getting enough sleep, eating a healthy diet, drinking enough fluids and exercising.

"Those things actually make a huge difference," Price said. "If you're body is tired, it can't function, and the first thing it does is get stressed out."

To avoid unnecessary stress, Price said it's important to know your energy limits and how much sleep you need each night. Then schedule studying and other obligations within this time frame.

"It starts with planning a study schedule and sticking to it," he said. "And always resisting the temptation to break the schedule you're setting for yourself when your buddies call and want to do something."

He suggested taking short breaks while studying by closing your eyes and "zoning out" for a few minutes or doing breathing exercises, slowly inhaling and exhaling deeply.

"Just like closing your eyes and for a minute or so zoning out and thinking about something you want to think about," he said. "Allowing yourself to do that without feeling guilt for it."

If you get overwhelmed, it's important to have friends to talk it over with, even if it's just to rant about your problems or spend time away from studying, he said.

Plan B approved for over-the-counter sale

By Lynsi Burton

U-Wire

PULLMAN, Wash. - The Food and Drug Administration ended a heated three-year argument Thursday.

Debate has raged among politicians, interest groups and even within the FDA regarding whether the emergency-contraception medication Plan B should be sold over the counter.

However, after two FDA-commissioner changes, multiple delays and two FDA resignations, the agency approved the over-the-counter sale of Plan B to people 18 and older.

It is slated to be available without a prescription in November.

Plan B, also known as the morning-after pill, is intended to prevent pregnancy after a contraceptive fails or after unprotected sex, according to the FDA Web site.

It halts the release of an egg from an ovary, and may prevent the merging of the sperm and egg. If an egg has been fertilized, Plan B can stop the egg from implanting in the womb.

Plan B contains levonorgestrel, a synthetic hormone used in birth-control pills for more than 35 years.

The medication must be taken within 48 to 72 hours of unprotected sex, said Nadine Shon, a nurse at Washington State University Health and Wellness Services.

Plan B has been available for prescription since 1999, and the first application for its over-the-counter availability was submitted April 2003. That December,

two FDA advisory committees jointly voted 23-4 that Plan B should be made accessible over the counter for all age groups, according to a National Public Radio online report. The same day, the committees voted 27-1 that the medication could safely be used by all age groups.

But the FDA itself didn't approve Plan B, citing inadequate information on adolescent use and questioning whether age limitations could be enforced, according to its Web site.

Since then, Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., have announced intentions to block a vote on nominations for a new FDA commissioner until a Plan B decision was made. Now that it has been approved, Murray and Clinton said they will drop their holds on the most recent nominee, Andrew von Eschenbach.

Because Plan B has been scientifically approved for women of all ages, proponents of over-the-counter Plan B availability were disappointed over the age restriction of 18.

"It's a disappointment to us that the FDA went against its own scientific judgment," said Jet Tilley, director of public policy at Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest, based in Spokane, Wash. "There is no science to back up that younger people should not have access."

Tilley said scientific evidence shows Plan B is "safer than aspirin."

Emily Campen, vice president of Voices for Planned Parenthood in Pullman, Wash., said minors should have non-

prescription access to Plan B because the younger demographic is the most at risk.

"They don't have the proper knowledge to go through the channels to get a prescription," Campen said.

Minors have less access to transportation and are less likely to go to their parents for help, she said.

Tilley said the term "over the counter" is deceiving with regard to Plan B's availability. Rather, it will be available "behind the counter," she said.

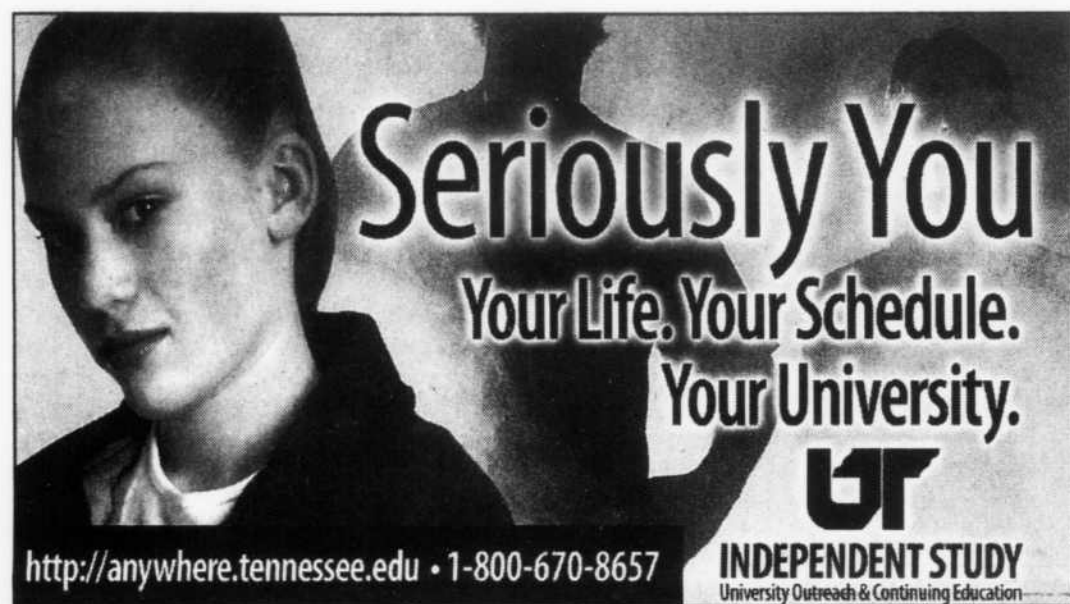
"You will not be able to pick it up next to the aspirin," Tilley said. "It's primarily because of the FDA's insistence of requiring prescriptions for those [younger than] 18. They will have to show I.D."

Nonetheless, supporters of nonprescription access to Plan B said they are happy about the FDA's decision.

"We think it's a great idea," Shon said. "If women choose to use Plan B, they should have the option of not getting a prescription. It's not practical for women [to need a prescription] when doctors' offices are closed."

Campen said the FDA decision is a "huge step forward." Before Thursday's decision, the problem with Plan B, Campen said, was that women who couldn't pay for the prescription would have to wait days for paperwork, by which time it would be too late to take the medication.

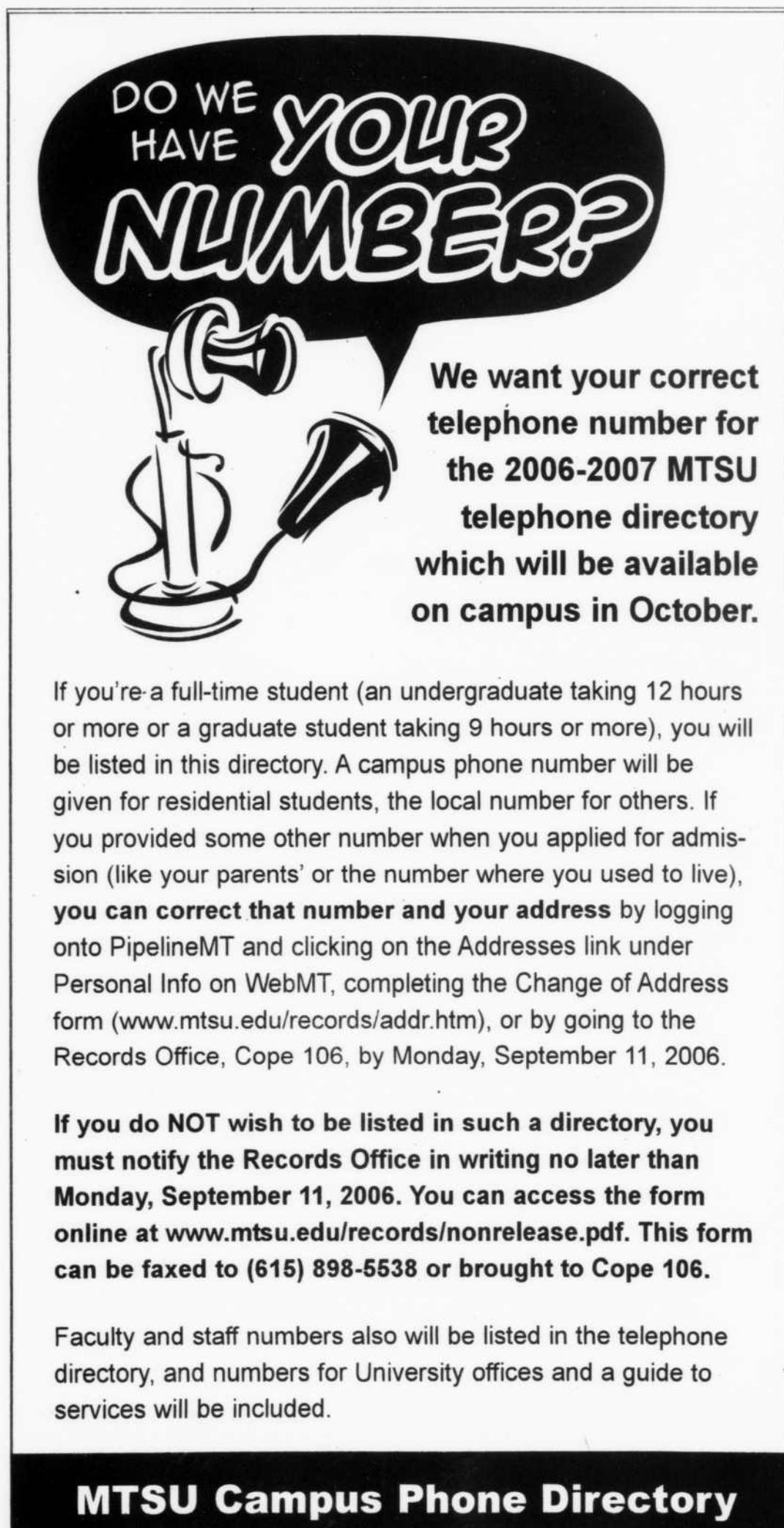
Tilley said women can obtain prescriptions for Plan B through Planned Parenthood at a cost of \$40.



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We want your correct telephone number for the 2006-2007 MTSU telephone directory which will be available on campus in October.

If you're a full-time student (an undergraduate taking 12 hours or more or a graduate student taking 9 hours or more), you will be listed in this directory. A campus phone number will be given for residential students, the local number for others. If you provided some other number when you applied for admission (like your parents' or the number where you used to live), **you can correct that number and your address** by logging onto PipelineMT and clicking on the Addresses link under Personal Info on WebMT, completing the Change of Address form (www.mtsu.edu/records/addr.htm), or by going to the Records Office, Cope 106, by Monday, September 11, 2006.

If you do NOT wish to be listed in such a directory, you must notify the Records Office in writing no later than Monday, September 11, 2006. You can access the form online at www.mtsu.edu/records/nonrelease.pdf. This form can be faxed to (615) 898-5538 or brought to Cope 106.

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

MTSU Campus Phone Directory

CRIME BRIEFS

August 21-12:26 p.m.

Fairview Building – Old Bell Air Ch?

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to some vandalism done to the building, and advised that there was some writing on the walls.

August 22

9:00 p.m.

Scarlett Commons Apartment # 6

There was a theft of a silver necklace.

August 23

7:12 a.m.

Davis' Market

William A Fann, Jr., 41, Murfreesboro, Tenn. was cited for registration violation.

4:33 p.m.

James E. Walker Library parking lot

There was a hit and run traffic accident.

August 24

2:32 p.m.

Murphy Center

A theft was reported from the Murphy Center of LCD projector and AMX touch

panel. The cost of the theft was over \$1,000 with an estimated amount of \$8,910.00.

6:01 p.m.

Pi Sigma House – Greek Row

In the first floor bedroom smoke was seen, and officer was advised that someone was contacting maintenance for smoke alarm. The officer reported that everything was ok.

August 28

9:23 a.m.

Greenland Drive Lot B

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to someone side swiping her vehicle.

11:05 a.m.

Greenhouse Lot

Subject called and requested an off in reference to someone hitting her vehicle.

2:35 p.m.

Boutwell Dramatic Arts

Karen Ann Williams, 41, Winchester, Tenn., was given a citation for registration violation.

5:48 p.m.

Peck Hall

The Blue Horse Shoe monument was painted lime green on the south side of Peck Hall. Officer Wortman reported to the scene.

6:49 p.m.

Faulkinberry Drive

Subjects were acting suspicious were stopped and checked for student status. Both subjects were not students and were not affiliated with any groups. The subjects stated they were looking for women to meet. Neither of the subjects had identification. The officer was given consent to search the subjects found rolling papers and "shake" on the floorboard of the vehicle. The officer decided that there was not enough to issue citations and escorted the subjects off campus.

August 29

2:46 p.m.

MTSU Police Department

Subject came to the station to fill out a report in reference to a hit and run.

Free Internet offers not always safe

By Meaghan Geraghty

U-Wire

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio - Few things in this world are ever totally free, and services that don't require payment should leave consumers skeptical about the motivation behind such offers.

Yet with software companies, such as Skype, that saturate the Internet with free offers and catchy slogans like, "With Skype you can talk to anyone, anywhere, for free, forever," it's no surprise many students accept the temptation and download the free software.

Bowling Green State University senior Jennifer Nelson is one student who takes advantage of free software because to her downloading comes as second nature.

"Of course I download -- who doesn't?" wondered Nelson.

But rather than wondering why more people aren't doing it, people should question what the motivation is behind these companies.

Kent Strickland, Information Security Officer at the University, has doubts about the software.

"Potentially, free software of any kind can be problematic ... any kind of file sharing has [the] potential of introducing risks to computers," Strickland said.

In his eyes, companies which offer free software such as Skype, Limewire and Kazaa, may be motivated to do so as a way to

build individual resumes, gain initial popularity for the company or express political beliefs about limiting software.

Either way, with no revenue from free services, companies are left with little incentive in creating strong security measures in the software they offer, Strickland explained, thus they open the door for online attackers.

He believes that when consumers opt out of paying for software, they may be getting a whole lot more than what they expected, as well as putting their personal information and computers at risk.

"When free peer-to-peer shared software is installed, online attackers have greater access to personal information, often without the person even knowing their information is at risk," Strickland said.

As Strickland's warnings were later noted to Nelson, she exclaimed, "Oh good God, I'm [going to] be paranoid."

As a user of skype, as well as many other online companies offering free software, Nelson reflected, "it's no wonder there are no strings attached [especially] as a capitalist society, there is always a string."

Although Nelson won't stop downloading in the future, she did communicate her new found awareness to the risks.

"Now I am going to consider the source ... and try to stay away from peer-to-peer sharing," said

Nelson. "Students should think about how much their sharing -- whether they know it or not.

In fact, even corporations such as Microsoft, which have incentives to create well-designed software to keep online attackers from accessing its customers' personal information, faces challenges to design features that keep up with the changing tactics used by online attackers, explained Strickland.

The fear, Strickland says, is that when companies offer free software, they may be sloppy in maintaining the high levels of security necessary because they have little incentive to spend the time and

energy required to do so. Therefore, they offer software which may be poorly tested, designed and with little proof of the integrity of details such as the software's module abilities.

Even though these companies encrypt the information being shared, that alone does not keep the consumer safe.

Strickland said that once online attackers have broken into the network (through weak security) they set their computers to respond to specific commands. Unfortunately, many times these commands record the key strokes of the individuals, recording passwords, credit card numbers and

other information, which is then sent directly to the computer of the online attacker.

Cindy Fuller, communications coordinator for the office of the CIO agreed with Strickland and further noted if students are to decrease their chances of being a victim of identity theft they must be self-directed in seeking information on the risks.

"It all goes back to awareness and responsibility," Fuller said.

Fuller said people must keep themselves aware of the inherent risks as well as make responsible choices.

Furthering Fuller's position on awareness, Strickland made sug-

gestions for students to keep them safer from online attackers.

"Resist the temptation to download software you don't absolutely need," he said.

Also, once students install their computers, Strickland advises turning off additional, unneeded software services, enabling firewalls, seeking out necessary patches and setting personal security settings.

"The more we interact with technology, the more we are at risk," Strickland said. "All technology has dual uses. It amplifies both the good and, [unfortunately], the bad."

National SAT scores see largest decline in 31 years

By Whitney Gruenloh

U-Wire

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, Ohio - The College Board recently released its average 2006 national SAT test scores, showing the largest decline in combined test scores in 31 years. This year also marked the first time the new format of the exam, featuring higher-level math questions, a writing section and the omission of analogies, was administered.

The national average scores dropped five points in critical reading and two points in the math section according to College Board data.

However, Caren Scoropanos, spokesperson for the College Board, said the decline in scores is not related to the new format of the exam.

Scoropanos said the decrease in scores could be explained by a variety of factors; however, she speculated that the decrease may be due to a reduction in the

average number of times students took the exam.

"This year, there were three percent fewer students taking the test more than one time," she said.

Scoropanos added that when a student takes the SAT for a second time, their score generally rises by about 30 points.

"So, therefore, [students that only took the exam once] did not benefit from the thirty-point gain," she said. "So when you average that in, that accounts for a lot of the decline."

While the Commonwealth espoused some of the highest scores in the country, ranking 10th among all 50 states and the District of Columbia, its average scores decreased as well.

According to the College Board's data report, Virginia showed a decline of four points in the critical writing section and a one point decrease in the math portion.



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Plan B acceptable contraceptive, a safe alternative to abortion

The issue of Plan B is certainly a touchy one, which we here at *Sidelines* felt the need to poke and prod.

The greatest debate comes from whether the morning after pill, taken after intercourse to prevent impregnation, is a contraceptive or a form of abortion.

The fact is, though the sperm has penetrated the egg, a zygote or cluster of cells, which will split to eventually form a fetus, does not form for up to 4 to 5 days. Plan B, on the other hand, must be taken within 72 hours. Though the cell has undergone changes at this point, it has yet to become more than one cell, and therefore, cannot be considered alive.

Even if the beginning of life is viewed to be at the earliest point at which cells begin to divide, Plan B still preempts this stage.

We believe that this stage is more like foreplay—rounding the second base if you will—and therefore cannot be viewed as abortion.

In regards to the age requirement debate, Plan B is currently only available to women 18 years or older. However, if it is viewed as a contraceptive, it should be available as easily and as freely as condoms.

Yes, this includes vending machines in dirty, gas station bathrooms.

Plan B can even be viewed as a method to prevent abortions. It may also be a good option for people who oppose abortion due to religion or other ideologies.

The whole point of Plan B is to induce a menstruation period and can even prevent the merging of sperm and egg. The egg, which is no more than a single undeveloped cell, is not destroyed, merely expelled. It is hardly different than a monthly birth control pill, perhaps even safer and more reliable.

According to Jet Tilley, director of public policy of Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest, "There is scientific evidence showing that Plan B is safer than aspirin."

Therefore, we believe Plan B is not only a safe alternative to birth control and more reliable than condoms, but also a viable solution to the great abortion debate. Though it may be no miracle drug, to someone, somewhere, it will be the best option to prevent an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy.



Karr's claimed connection to murder case petty, selfish

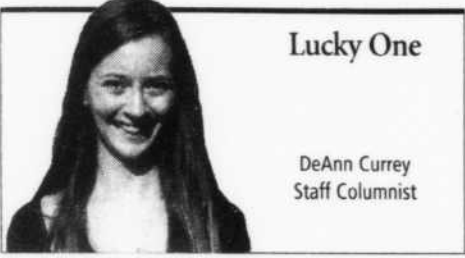
It has been almost 10 years since we first heard the name JonBenet Ramsey. Now, her name appears daily due to the recent arrest and release of a man suspected of being her killer.

John Mark Karr, a former schoolteacher, was arrested over a week ago after being flown back into the United States from Thailand. In an interview which took place prior to his return to the United States, Karr claimed to have been with Ramsey when she died and that her death was an "accident." When asked if he was innocent he reportedly replied, "No."

Though Karr "confessed" to having been sexually involved with the beauty queen, and to have been with her at the time of her death, DNA evidence indicates he did not commit the crime.

Why would anyone lie about committing such a horrific crime? Why would you want to have your name linked to one of the most well-known murder cases in the United States when they did not do it?

Gary Harris, spokesman for the Karr family, said in an interview with MSNBC, "He's a dreamer. He's the kind of guy who wants to be



Lucky One
DeAnn Curry
Staff Columnist

famous."

That may be the reason Karr claimed he killed Ramsey a decade ago—to have his five minutes of fame. I think this was a publicity stunt on Karr's part, though I am not sure how claiming to have killed a child beauty queen could possibly have any positive effect on his name or future. Until the real murderer is found, Karr's name is going to be linked to this unthinkable crime.

Claiming to have killed an innocent child is definitely a way to make you "famous," though I don't think it is the kind of fame that I would want to be attached to my name. If my name is going to be recognized, I want it to be for something that I have accomplished, rather

than a crime I have claimed to have done.

There is something unsettling about Karr and the fame he has brought on himself. I am not saying that he is guilty of murder, but I do have my doubts. He seems too at ease with the media currently surrounding him and the situation as a whole. It almost seems as if he planned on bringing the Ramsey family some sort of hope, only to have it taken away.

Harris also said that Karr has been "obsessed with the case for a long time." This raises a red flag in my mind, because Karr is also currently being charged for child pornography in California. A grown man being obsessed with a young girl's murder is unusual, especially a man that claims to have been in love with her.

I believe, by claiming to have been a part of this infamous crime, Karr has chosen a petty and selfish way to bring unnecessary attention himself and the Ramsey family, who have already suffered enough in the last decade.

DeAnn Curry is a senior Mass Communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.

This issue features a guest column provided by the College Democrats. Never fear, a column by a representative from the Raider Republicans will follow in a later issue.

Letter to the Editor Columnist's choice of words offensive

To the Editor:

I don't know if you know this, but in your Aug. 30 edition of *Sidelines*, there is an article by a contributing columnist, Paul Bryant Fulcher, "Words of wisdom for incoming freshmen."

In his column, he advises incoming freshmen of a few harmless things, which is just fine in the spirit of upperclassmen giving advice to the new students. My complaint is that in the article, he says "Don't be a porch monkey."

I don't know if the editing staff at MTSU is aware that the term "porch monkey" is a racial slur. It is a derogatory phrase for African Americans. As an African American student, I am appalled by the fact that such a phrase appeared in our university's newspaper as opposed to a Klan meeting's newsletter. I expect that there will be some sort of apology, and I realize that the staff of the paper themselves are not at fault, but I think there should be some steps taken to avoid things like this in the future.

Jennifer Blake
Sophomore, Speech and Therapy

College Democrats work hard to better campus, community

Today, college students are not pleased with their current situation, and the open-ended sophistry that goes back and forth between political pundits only exacerbates these feelings. Here on our campus, the College Democrats have answered the call for sound, aggressive and effective representation of their peers. Under the incredible leadership of the newly elected executive board, comprised of experienced and hard-working political people, the College Democrats have been rolling full-steam ahead toward their goals for this year.

The College Democrats are highly involved in many issues, both state and local. One issue that has been on their agenda is the minimum wage. With inflation rates soaring, and with the minimum wage remaining at the stagnant figure of \$5.15 an hour, along with the Tennessee Federation of College Democrats,

we have moved aggressively to try to fix this cataclysmic imbalance in our economic system. A full-time college student struggles to carry the heavy, but required, load while still trying to make ends meet with this miniscule and unmerciful figure. Thanks to the insistence of hundreds of students across the state, as well as to our assertive Democratic elected officials in the Tennessee Legislature, increasing the minimum wage is now a major household conversation. These efforts have forced the discussion of its contents during the legislative sessions.

The College Democrats have also remained loyal to their staunch opposition towards the Raid on Student Aid. With the drastic hike in tuition, college students will now be receiving even less financial aid to pay these titanic amounts. The College Democrats are highly opposed to this measure, and are working to

show others what students are thinking.

Lastly, the College Democrats have been working tremendously hard in trying to get Democrats elected this fall. Many of our officers and members are personally working on state and local Democratic candidate's campaigns. The College Democrats work hard in many ways, but the ever-exciting grassroots have always been their stronghold. This fall, with big name candidates such as Harold Ford Jr., and Governor Phil Bredesen, the College Democrats will be working in overdrive in order to facilitate a sweeping victory across the state. With our new generation of leadership, our beloved America will once again move in a more positive direction.

Antwain Leach is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at atat12g@mtsu.edu.

Take advantage of technology to fight high textbook prices

By Gabriel Okolski
The GW Hatchet

WASHINGTON - As students prepare to return for another year of school, disproportionately high textbook costs remain a pertinent issue. While a number of studies have blamed publishers for driving up book costs for several years, little has been done to reverse this trend for America's college students.

Last January, a State Public Interest Research Group report that found that American textbooks cost, on average, 20 percent more than textbooks in the United Kingdom. A 2005 Government Accountability Office study found that the price of classroom materials increased at twice the rate of inflation over the past 20 years.

Recent studies have echoed those findings. The Student Public Interest Research Groups, a union of campus advocacy organizations, released a report this month that blamed publishers for releasing frequent new editions and extraneous CD-ROMs, both of which they

said contributed to higher costs. Adding to the growing public cognizance of this issue, Congress called on a federal advisory panel to investigate high textbook prices. The panel, whose hearings begin next month, will release its results in May.

While the federal government has only investigated the issue, some states have taken the matter into their own hands. Virginia now mandates that professors must acknowledge textbook prices in writing, and proposals in New York and Maryland would eliminate state sales tax on textbooks. Local measures are a step in the right direction, but will do little in the short term to alleviate the financial burden.

Though any permanent solution to this issue seems long-term, there are several steps that students, faculty and administrators might consider in order to confront high textbook costs. Some students already purchase their books through online retailers offering books at significantly reduced prices. Additionally, online vendors will often buy books back at higher prices, allowing students

to recuperate some of their initial investment.

Part of the answer may also lie with faculty. Professors are sometimes unaware of the steep costs of the readings they assign for class. Some faculty members may also list a copious amount of books on a syllabus, only to pick a few selected readings from each. These professors should consider seeking the readings or ones similar to them online.

Our university provides excellent technological resources to students and faculty alike, but it often seems that some of the faculty is unaware or unable to use the available technology. If a professor uploads only a syllabus or class description online, the significant investment made in this technology goes to waste.

It is also important that administrators acknowledge that some faculty are still not using online resources in place of costly printed materials. Though faculty are trained to use technology for classroom use, increased communication on the possible benefits and savings from computer-based learning aids would benefit students and save money on books.

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FEATURES

Outdoor adventures, campfire bonding

By Emily Duck & Casey Phillips
Contributing Writer & Features Editor

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, watching monkeys in Costa Rica and skiing in the Rocky Mountains.

These are just a few of the ways MTSU students can enjoy themselves while bonding with each other on the many trips – or outdoor adventures – offered by the Recreation Center's Outdoor Pursuits Program, said Tim Scott Pruett, the coordinator of the Rec Center's challenge course who has taken students on trips to Costa Rica, Peru and other locations.



Photo submitted by Tim Scott Pruett
Half a dozen participants in MTSU Outdoor Pursuit's trip to Costa Rica pause to touch paddles on the Pacuare River. Outdoor Pursuit staff said another trip is planned for Spring Break next year.

"You can have some experiences with people and develop some relationships out there that you would never have because there's so much going on with school, work and projects," Pruett said. "What I can tell that [students] tend to appreciate and get out of it is the interaction that occurs outside of suburbia."

"It's great to get people away from the hectic schedules, the traffic and crowding."

When students return from the trips – which can last anywhere from a day trip for rock climbing to eight days for the Spring Break trip to Costa Rica – they have often forged lasting relationships with one another, he said.

"When students and faculty come back from a trip, that's the most often noted highlight of the trip – the interaction with other people," he said. "A lot of people thrive on that [interaction], and that's the most common reason for going. You can't beat that you – you can't put a price tag on that."

Even if the person at the other end of the rope is a complete stranger, it's hard not to develop a bond of trust with them if they are the only thing standing between a safe trip up a cliff face and a 40-foot fall to the ground, Pruett said.

Student prices are discounted and range from \$15 for daytrips to \$45 for overnight trips. Prices are slightly higher for non-students, Pruett said.

After paying the fee, which covers transportation and equipment usage, students are only required to bring their food and the clothes they intend to wear, said Josh Stone, the Rec Center's adventure trips coordinator.

"People have come to recognize the value of our trips," he said. "We cater to the students, and we know they are on a limited budget. We're a service to the students, and they benefit from investing in something new."

Shorter trips are held several times during a semester, but once or twice a year, the Rec Center hosts longer trips to areas like the Appalachian Trail or to international locations, Stone said.

"Last year, we took 86 students to Steamboat Springs, Colo.," he said. "You get the full Colorado experience. They ski, snowboard and get lessons that are really cheap. It's a great trip – you can't beat it."

In September, students can begin signing up for an interest list to take part in the Costa Rica Spring Break trip, which has proved a perennial favorite. Final prices haven't been finalized but should be available by October, Pruett said.

The outdoor pursuits program encourages anyone with an interest to take part in the smaller trips, but for more involved excursions, prior athletic experience is recommended, he said.

"For some activities like the Inca Trail hike [in Peru], you obviously wouldn't want to go where you'll be hiking at 14,000 feet if you're not in good shape. It doesn't require you to be in fantastic physical condition, but it does require you to be somewhat mentally and physically prepared."

For the more dangerous or complicated activities, a little coaching is recommended. To help students learn the ropes so they don't get tangled

whatever, whether rock climber, paddler or biker," he said.

What often starts as a student taking advantage of services the Rec Center offers evolves into participating on the trips as a way to experience their chosen activity on a more advanced level, Pruett said.

"Taking the first step and coming to the indoor climbing wall is a great example because you don't have to do anything but bring your student ID in the door to participate," he said. "The next step, other than just coming back more often, is to take the belaying clinic and learn to manage the ropes for somebody while they're climbing and learn a little bit about the basics of rock climbing, too."

Most trips are limited to 10-15 people, though larger trips can accommodate groups of up to 20 on the charter buses used to reach the locations. Although some trips struggle to fill those seats – often leading to more cancellations than Pruett would like to see – students tend to sign up for most spots on the longer trips, particularly the international travel opportunities, he said.

Although the trips may sound like just a fun way to escape campus for a while, they serve a dual purpose by bringing students who don't

Many of people also take part in the trips as a way to exercise without necessarily having to schedule a regular time to do so, Pruett said.

"For the students, if they don't have any great appreciation for nature, it's just fun to get out there with other students," he said. "Then again, when you take people into the woods, a lot of them will react differently and be different than you expect them to."



Photo submitted by Tim Scott Pruett
Participants in MTSU Outdoor Pursuit's trip to Peru pause at 12,000 feet in front of the Andes' Warmi Wanusa Pass. Around a dozen students participated January in the program's first trip to Peru.

Although most of the trips, particularly Ocoee River whitewater rafting, are popular, most participants don't return a second time, Pruett said, adding that roughly 1/2 to 3/4 of trip participants are newcomers.

"There are a few students who come back from time to time," he said, "but our trips are so diverse and there's so much to do on campus that we don't really have a core group of people who come back again and again."

Students aren't the only ones who take part in the trips, though. Faculty members regularly go along – something Pruett said he encourages as a way to help students interact with their teachers outside of a classroom setting.

"Faculty and staff come on our trips quite often – I wish more came, but I always appreciate it when there a couple or several faculty or staff on our trips," he said.

Just because a trip is over, doesn't mean the friendships are. In addition to regular parties where would-be photographers share the trip pictures, Pruett said he regularly receives calls from students after they've graduated who tell him the trips helped them establish bonds of friendship they maintained long after returning.

"I've found that people who go on a trip as freshman will come back two or three years later and say 'You know, I still keep touch with so and so that we went on that trip with,'" he said. "You'll find that people develop relationships on this trip that last them throughout their entire time at Middle."

If You're Interested...			
	Date	Event	Cost
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	12-13	Kayak Roll Clinic	\$30/\$35
	16-17	Whitewater Canoe/Kayak	\$12/\$16
	23-24	Ocoee Rafting	\$45
	30-1	Ocoee Rafting	\$45
October	3-4	Kayak Roll Clinic	\$12/\$16
	7	Rock Climbing	\$15/\$18
	10	Sport/Lead Climbing Clinic	\$10/\$15
	13-17	Fall Break Rock Climbing	\$100/\$120
	24	Belay Clinic	\$8/\$10
	27-29	Mt. Biking	\$30/\$35
For more info, visit: http://www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/Outdoor/schedule.html			

in them, the Rec Center has clinics scheduled to help students learn to belay for rock climbing and paddle and right rolled kayaks, Pruett said.

"The clinics are a great way to take that progression from interested, non-experienced participant all the way up to avid participant of

normally engage in group activities or exercise into the great outdoors.

"You don't have to be an adventurous guy or girl – you don't have to be a rugged, outdoor person – to go on these trips," Pruett said. "Skill level is a non-issue."

New students learn to cope, how to find Cope

By Katy Coil
Contributing Writer

From finding parking and locating classes to handling schedules and dealing with living in a new environment, adapting to the college lifestyle can be a major challenge for new students.

Courtney Stump, a freshman psychology major, said she found it difficult being away from her family. So far, the worst part of being away from home is "not having anyone to hug."

"I'm serious – I like hugs," she said. "I'm close to my family, and I miss my sister."

In addition to separation anxiety, Stump said she has had a few problems getting used to classes.

"It's completely different from high school, but it's the same too," she said. "The [building] acronyms were hard."

So are classes.

"Classes are longer, but the sizes are about the same for me," she said. "Classes are more in depth than they were in high school. Writing papers is going to be an obstacle for me [because] I don't write papers very well."

So far, she has avoided difficulty with one common problem, though.

"I haven't had any parking problems," she said. "I just park my car, and I can get anywhere on campus. I was here for Girl's State and early for ROTC, so that's helped me learn."

Others haven't been as lucky. Freshman Spencer Mohead said parking was just one of the problems he has encountered.

"Parking has been the hardest," he said. "I have to get here forty five minutes to an hour ahead of time to find a place, and then it's hard to get to class."

"Beyond that, it's just college itself. No one yells to wake you up in the morning. No one tells you to do your homework. I have to use three alarm clocks because I keep turning them off in my sleep. Dragging my butt out of bed is going to be the hardest obstacle and keeping up with my schedule."

Freshmen aren't the only group of newcomers to campus. Many of the new students transferred from another school, including junior business major Mamiko Tokida.

Mamiko transferred from a community college and said she notes differences between the two schools, especially the size.

"It's just big, but I don't think anything is hard on me," Tokida said. "Everything is here: coffee, library, housing – everything. The community college I used to go to was small, [but MTSU] is big and there are many people."

To help smooth the assimilation into campus life, the Student Affairs Office spends hours helping new students with their problems. Bob Glenn, the Vice President of Student Affairs and his staff work to help find answers to a

plethora of new students' problems.

"Students call our office with questions about financial aid, related to registration, to housing [and] to parking," he said. "We try to find the answer on a case-by-case basis."

"We help them find what they need to know, to get where they need to get, to get connected to the right office, or person and to help them

Dragging my butt out of bed is going to be the hardest obstacle ...

Spencer Mohead
Freshman

find who they need to talk to."

Dr. Glenn stressed that the Staff at the Student Affairs Office is there to help students.

"The main advice I have is to be patient," he said. "When you have questions, go to someone and ask. Don't wait for your problems to get too large for you to handle. Start when they are small. Give us a chance to help figure them out."

THE NEED TO KNOW...

New to MTSU? Confused by something on campus? Sophomore electronic media communications major Daniel Gaylon offers these tips he learned through his first-year experiences:

- **Learn to see the teacher as more than an instructor:** "You have to realize that he or she is here to help create more of a learning environment for you."
- **College is not high school, so don't treat it that way:** "[I realized college] was about what I wanted to learn, my expectations for myself and how I can meet those expectations by using every opportunity I have."
- **Give it time because it gets easier:** "Get through the first two weeks. Everything is fine by then. Don't judge your freshman experience by the first two weeks. It takes a month for you to find your niche."
- **And hard as it may be:** "Don't worry about parking."

SPORTS

Blue Raiders hope for revenge, positive start in season opener

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee opens the 2006 season this evening against Sun Belt Conference opponent Florida International. The Blue Raiders wrapped up last season with a 35-31 defeat at the hands of the Golden Panthers. MT hopes to exact a bit of revenge and get out of the gates quickly. Who has the advantage?

When FIU runs

The Golden Panthers may end up hurting from the loss of tailback Ben West, but the real Blue Raider killer last year was sophomore A'mod Ned, who burned MT with a 20-yard scoring run late in the game to cement the outcome.

Ned returns along with a number of young backs, including probable backup Julian Reams, who boasts explosive track speed. The group is talented, but lacking in game experience.

The Blue Raiders lose four starters from a unit that ranked 17th nationally in scoring defense last season, but linebacker J.K. Sabb, who led the team in tackles last season, returns along with senior Justin Rainey, who moved quickly up the depth chart with a strong spring.

Neither unit is being counted on to win the game, but MT's run defense will do a decent enough job of shutting down the FIU rushing attack.

Advantage: MT

When FIU passes

The Golden Panthers will live and die by the performance of senior quarterback Josh Padrick, who earned second-team Sun Belt honors last season. Padrick is a great talent that needs to cut



The Blue Raiders face off in a contest against Florida International tonight, hoping to redeem a loss at the end of last season.

down on interceptions (11 in 2005)

FIU has a solid number one receiver in Chandler Williams, but no one has stepped up as a second option. The Golden Panthers' tight end corps is one of the league's best, led by senior Samuel Smith.

Cornerback Bradley Robinson anchors a relatively strong Blue Raider secondary. The key to success for MT will be whether or not the defensive line, namely Sean Mosley and Erik Walden, can apply consistent pressure on Padrick.

Advantage: FIU

When MT runs

The success of the rushing attack in this game will go a long way towards determining just how successful the Blue Raiders will be this season. The coaching staff has been raving all summer about Eugene Gross, and the senior tailback will have plenty of eyes following him after a strong offseason.

Gross will handle the majority of the load, but junior DeMarco McNair may see some action. The Blue Raiders need more depth at the position and hope that another option emerges as the season progresses.

The Golden Panthers run

defense begins and ends with SBC Player of the Year candidate Keynovis Bouie. He is surrounded by plenty of experience in Alexander Bostic III and James Black.

MT needs a big game from Gross, and FIU is counting on the same from Bouie. Keep an eye on this matchup.

Advantage: Even

When MT passes

Sure, Clint Marks is a solid quarterback, but who is he going to throw to? After a few seasons of relying on the pass, it seems as though MT head coach Rick Stockstill will shake things up a bit. Marks knows that this season will likely define his career as a Blue Raider, but to succeed he'll need to make better decisions.

Pierre Ingram is the best of a nondescript group of receivers. Junior Stephen Chicola is a big target at tight end and has become a handy safety valve for Marks.

One of FIU's weaknesses is the secondary with the loss of stand-out free safety Nick Turnbull. The cornerbacks are adept at deep coverage, but a passer like Marks can frustrate the Golden Panthers with a never-ending sequence of short balls to Chicola.

The Golden Panthers feature a strong pass rush that, if turned loose, could cause poor judgment from Marks.

Advantage: Even

Special Teams

FIU has been terrible in kickoff coverage, disappointing in the return game and shaky in the kicking game. Kicker Chris Patullo takes over after punting last season, and freshman Dustin Rivest will handle the punting duties.

All-Sun Belt selection Colby

Smith returns to take care of field goals and punts, while Paul Wheeler will kick off. Smith has limited range but is solid from shorter distances.

The Blue Raiders also struggle with returns and coverage. Don't expect a big play from either side on a kickoff.

Advantage: MT

Coaching

FIU's first and only head coach, Don Strock, has impressed with a relatively smooth transition to Division I-A. The Golden Panthers overachieved last year, and some credit has to be given to the youthful and energetic coaching staff.

Unless you've been living under a rock for the last several months, you've heard about Stockstill and

his brand-new staff. The crew hopes to usher in a new era of Blue Raider football, and early returns have been favorable. Still, one wonders if the former South Carolina assistant fully understands what he's gotten himself into.

It's tempting to pick otherwise, but you can't argue success versus potential.

Advantage: FIU

Intangibles

FIU benefits from the fact that it defeated the Blue Raiders in the last game either team played. Still, a Thursday night season opener, a strong projected crowd and the prospect of a fresh start give MT a

See Rematch, 8

Advantages:
• Passing
• Coaching
Our Pick:
MTSU 24,
FIU 21

Advantages:
• Special Teams
• Home Opener
Our Pick:
MTSU 24,
FIU 21



Sunbelt notebook: 2006 holds change

Stockstill only new coach in conference this season

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Last year the Sun Belt Conference crowned its first champion not named North Texas as the Arkansas State Indians beat out Louisiana-Monroe for the conference crown. In 2006, there will be many more changes in the conference, including the addition of instant replay and a new name for ULM, which will now carry the name Warhawks after losing a battle with the NCAA over its previous nickname, "Indians."

The Gridiron: Several key quarterbacks will return this season to the Sun Belt, including four Davey O'Brien candidates: Clint Marks (MTSU), Josh Padrick (Florida International), Jerry Babb (Louisiana-Lafayette) and Omar Haugabook (Troy). There are 26 all-conference players returning, including nine of the 22 selected for first-team honors last season. FIU and UNT will lead the pack with five returning all-conference selections.

Taking Stock: Blue Raider head coach Rick Stockstill will be the only first-year head coach this season in the conference; Stockstill comes to MTSU after spending two seasons as the recruiting coordinator at South Carolina.

Ragin' Offense: Louisiana-Lafayette returns seven starters, including running back Tyrell Fenroy, who averaged 254.3 yards a game in the nation's sixth-best offense last season.

TEAM BREAKDOWNS:

Arkansas State Indians

Head Coach: Steve Roberts (69-61-1)
2005 Record: 6-6 (2005 Sun Belt Conference Champions)

Returning Starters: 6 offense; 9 defense
Game of the Year: Nov. 25 at UL-Lafayette – This game could determine who is crowned the 2006 SBC champion.

Offense: The biggest concern for Arkansas State will be replacing Nick Noce, who threw for 2,052 yards last season. Travis Hewitt and Corey Leonard will share time at quarterback this season. Although the Indians may lack a depth in the offense, they will rely heavily on full-

back Oren O'Neal to block for tailback Chris Easley. All-conference Tanner Jenkins will be the leader for the offensive line. ASU returns four receivers, including leader Patrick Higgins, who caught 28 passes for 358 yards.

Defense: The Indians' strength will be their nine returning starters on defense. Defensive end Brian Flagg and linebacker Deverett Wade will be rising stars for the team this season, while leading tacklers Tyrell Johnson (112 tackles) and Khayyam Burns (89 tackles) will be manning the attack.

Special Teams: Ryan Hoorman will be the expected starting kicker this season after Eric Neihouse graduated in 2005.

Notable Quote: "You know their will to win and you know how they've prepared to be successful. It eases your mind a little bit, but they haven't been exposed to a game atmosphere before. It will be new to them. Hopefully they'll be calm and won't get too anxious, won't get too much adrenaline flowing that causes them to make mistakes." – ASU head coach Steve Roberts (Jonesboro Sun, Aug. 29)

Florida Atlantic Owls

Head Coach: Howard Schnellenberger (128-107-3)

2005 Record: 2-9
Returning Starters: 8 offense; 7 defense
Game of the Year: Nov. 25 vs. Florida International – Regardless of what happens during the season for the Owls, the FIU game means everything. If the Owls win, it could spoil a possible New Orleans Bowl bid for the Golden Panthers.

Offense: The Owls had another disappointing season in their very young football program. Although recruiting is improving, the team is still going to find it difficult to compete with their Sun Belt counterparts. The team is unsure on a quarterback, but speculation is that Sean Clayton (329 yards passing, 1 TD, 1 INT) will get the nod. Sophomore Frantz Simeon (18 receptions, 274 yards, 2 TD) will be the leading receiver alongside Casey McGahee (23 receptions, 269 yards, 1 TD). Lineman Aaron Sanchez should be one of the best blockers for the team after returning from an ankle injury last season. Nello Faulk and Ryan

Wischneski will be key to helping utilize the running attack with Charles Piere (517 yards, 3 TD) and Dilvory Edgcomb (295 yards, 1 TD).

Defense: Although the defensive line will be a concern, the Owls are looking for Kris Bartels (82 tackles), Cergile Sincere (70 tackles) and Andre Clark (62 tackles) to lead the attack. Troy Pindell will be the key defensive back.

Special Teams: The Owls will be relying on newcomers to replace punter Mike Brown and kicker Daniel Kennard.

Notable Quote: "We prefer to play teams better than us. At this time in our lives, we can play those teams and the loss won't kill us. The thing is, we must get a lot out of those games, and if we do, the results will be plain to see." – FAU head coach Howard Schnellenberger (Charlotte Observer, Aug. 29)

Florida International Golden Panthers

Head Coach: Don Strock (15-29)

2005 Record: 5-6

Returning Starters: 5 offense; 6 defense
Game of the Year: Aug. 31 at Middle Tennessee – If FIU fans want to win the Sun Belt title, they will need to prove it against the Blue Raiders on Thursday. A win against the Blue Raiders at Floyd Stadium will not only shock Blue Raider fans, but also finally prove that FIU is no longer a I-AA team playing in a I-A conference.

Offense: It's certainly easy to say that FIU has one of the best quarterbacks in the league. Last season, Josh Padrick threw 221 completions for 2,461 yards and 13 touchdowns. Padrick also has his returning top wideout Chandler Williams, who led the team with 870 total yards in receptions. Tight end Samuel Smith is also considered one of the best in the conference and will look to become a potential receiving threat. After the dismissal of Ben West, running backs A'mod Ned and Julian Reams will carry the bulk of the load for the Golden Panthers.

Defense: FIU's defense is now under the direction of former MTSU coordinator Kevin Fouquier, who helped lead the Blue Raiders to one of the top 30 defenses in the nation last year. The Golden



File Photo

MT and the rest of the Sun Belt will be chasing the Arkansas State Indians, current conference champions. The Indians are the first team to win the championship other than North Texas. UNT and FIU, MT's opponent tonight, both have five returning all-conference selections.

Panther defense has six of their seven tackle leaders returning from last season, including Keynovis Bouie, who is considered to be one of the best linebackers in the nation with 118 tackles in 2005. If FIU can capitalize on their opponents' mistakes, this might be a breakout season for the Golden Panthers.

Special Teams: Senior Chris Patullo will handle kickoff duties for FIU, while red-shirt freshman Dustin Rivest will be manning the punts.

Notable Quote: "You feel growing pains, but organizing the whole thing is the most gratifying thing." – FIU head coach Don Strock (Miami Herald, Aug. 28)

Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns

Head Coach: Ricky Bustle (17-29)

2005 Record: 6-5

Returning Starters: 7 offense; 8 defense
Game of the Year: Nov. 25th vs. Arkansas State – This game is the one that

could clinch the Ragin' Cajuns a Sun Belt title. This team is the media favorite and with the return of several talented players, they should be. This will be the year Bustle's team should rise to prominence in the Sun Belt.

Offense: The Ragin' Cajuns have one of the most high-flying offenses in all of college football. The return of running back Tyrell Fenroy (1,053 yards, 12 TD) and quarterback Jerry Babb (859 yards passing, 3 TD, 3 INT) will give the team the capability to spread out their offense. The Cajuns will return several key offensive linemen in Deon Wallace and Chester Johnson.

Defense: With eight defensive starters returning and the addition of junior-college transfer Korey Raymond, the Ragin' Cajuns may have the best defense in the conference this season. Cornerback Anthony Hills and linebackers Mark Risher (59 tackles) and Brenton

See Sun Belt, 9

Blue Raiders have a beach style party for season opener

Activities to include island-style food, music and swimming pool in the stands of Floyd Stadium

By Ebony Pugh
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to go to a beach party but haven't had the time or the money to go to the beach? Well, Blue Raider fans, MTSU is having an event that you will definitely want to attend.

MTSU football will open their season tonight by taking on Florida International at a game dressed up as a Beach Bash. Admission to the game is free with a valid student ID.

"People may be wondering where the title 'Beach Bash' came from, but it only seems to be an appropriate title while playing a school from South Beach Miami," said Brad Smith, assistant director of marketing and promotions for the Athletic Department.

"We really encourage people to come out and enjoy the activities leading up to the big game," said Greg Feiling, a Student Programming coordinator.

There will be activities for Blue Raider fans of all stripes in Walnut Grove from 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. today.

Activities will include a surf simulator, aqua massage, the chance to make your own sandals, a 'water bomb' (similar to a dunk tank) and a booth where fans can get their faces drawn on trucker hats for the game.

"These events are not only open to students, but to the general public as well, so we encourage everyone to come out and have a good time," Feiling said.

Hungry fans will also be able to get a bite to eat in Walnut

Grove before the game.

"The food also has an island theme," Smith said, referring to the 'Cheeseburgers in Paradise' that will be available at the bash.

As kickoff draws near, the Blue Raider football team and coaches will take the Raider Walk through Walnut Grove before entering into the stadium for the night's contest.

Even at the game, you will not just be watching the Raiders take on FIU. You will also be enjoying a beach-style party.

"Throughout the game there will be island-style music, beach balls in the crowd and an 18-foot pool in the stadium in Section 1," Smith said.

Yes, you read it right; there will actually be a pool in the stadium.

There will also be a number of prizes given away throughout the game. To be eligible to win the prizes, students must be members of the Rowdy Raider organization, which students can sign up to join at Gate 4.

"We try to have giveaways during these games to get students more involved," Smith said. The prizes include white parking passes and a Blue Raider scooter.

WHEN YOU GO...

Freshmen will be welcomed to MTSU at halftime of tonight's football game vs. Florida International by University President Sidney McPhee.

Freshmen will be invited onto the field immediately following the performance of the band.

Rematch: MTSU knocks helmets with FIU

Continued from 7

decided edge here. The game-day atmosphere has rarely been more vital than it will be this evening.

Advantage: MT

The skinny

We've been here before, but now there's a new supporting cast. The Blue Raiders have lost four straight home openers, and a repeat would be debilitating to the program. Last year

MT entered the crucial home opener against North Texas full of energy and hope, and walked out with a deflating setback that all but dashed any hopes of a first SBC crown.

The story here is the coaching staff and fan support. The Golden Panthers have no special motivation to be pumped for this contest, and thus have less pressure resting on them. The Blue Raiders have a lot riding on this one, and it seems everyone is anxious to see what Stockstill can do.

The game will be a close affair, with early

Marks miscues leading to easy FIU points. Gross will carry the team on his back, however, and Smith will knock in a late field goal to send the fans home happy.

The pick: Middle Tennessee 24, Florida International 21

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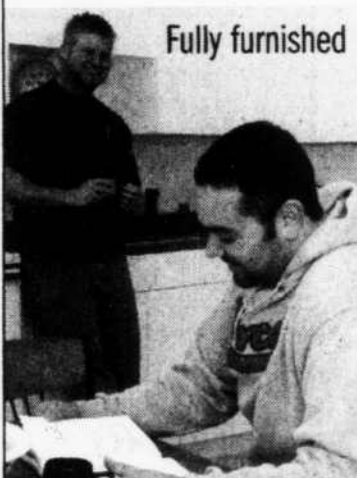
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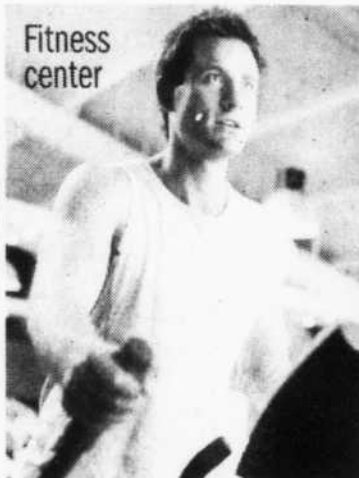
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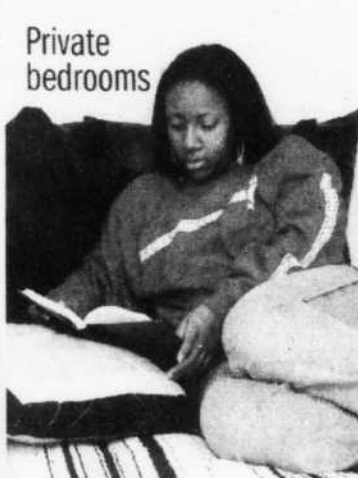
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Sun Belt: 2006 season preview

Continued from 7

Burkhalter (53 tackles) will all return to their roles defensively after starting last season. Special Teams: Tyler Albrecht will take over the reins as kicker this year, and Brit Framel returns as the punter.

Notable Quote: "It was hard to watch two other teams playing on that field." -- ULL quarterback Jerry Babb, referring to last season's New Orleans Bowl, which was played on ULL's campus last year (Associated Press, Aug. 28).

Louisiana Monroe Warhawks

Head Coach: Charlie Weatherbie (56-87)

2005 Record: 5-6

Returning Starters: 7 offense; 5 defense

Game of the Year: Oct. 14 vs. Troy -- The Warhawks' first true test in the conference schedule comes against a talented Troy team. If ULM can pull out a win, it might help propel them to a better-than-expected season.

Offense: The offensive line will be the bread and butter of the newly-nicknamed Warhawks. The line returns all five starters, but the rest of the offense is almost brand-new. Larry Shapley, Kinsmon Lancaster will take over as quarterback and will try to lead his team with only running back Calvin Dawson returning as an offensive specialist. The Warhawks will struggle to adjust to finding new wideouts to fill gaps from their four lost receivers.

Defense: Although the defensive line will have new starters, the secondary is full of veterans. Kevin Payne (87 tackles) and Chaz Williams (46 tackles) will lead the secondary, along with prospect Greg James.

Special Teams: Ragan Walters will return to the team after hitting six field goals last season. The Warhawks will rely on defensive back

Kevin Payne as the punter for the team.

Notable Quote: "We've got to take care of the ball on offense and try to limit the mental mistakes that we make; then we just need to go out and execute." -- ULM quarterback Kinsmon Lancaster (The News Star, Aug. 28)

North Texas Mean Green

Head Coach: Darrell Dickey (39-55)

2005 Record: 2-9

Returning Starters: 9 offense; 7 defense

Game of the Year: Sept. 30 vs. Middle Tennessee --UNT has never lost to the Blue Raiders and will try to extend their streak at Fouts Field in Denton. A win here could catapult Darrell Dickey's squad to the top of the Sun Belt ranks.

Offense: Offensively, the Mean Green should be in great shape. The combination of sophomore quarterback Daniel Meager (941 yards passing, 4 TD, 8 INT) and running back Jamario Thomas (361 yards) will be difficult to stop for several Sun Belt teams. Matt Phillips (448 yards passing, 4 TD, 5 INT) will also receive time at the quarterback position. At wide receiver, Johnny Quinn (591 yards, 5 TD), Joel Nwige (255 YDS, 1 TD) and Brandon Jackson (225 yards, 2 TD) all return. Offensive lineman Dylan Lineberry will be a force to reckon with.

Defense: The linebacker corps is the strongest for the Mean Green, led by Maurice Holman (113 tackles). Defensive end Jeremiah Chapman (61 tackles) and defensive back Aaron Weathers (113 tackles) will play vital roles in the defensive attack.

Special Teams: The Mean Green will rely on punter Truman Spencer, who averaged 38 yards per punt last season.

Notable Quote: "After hitting each other and practicing against each other, it's rejuvenating to go against someone else's plays and get

ready for a game. Our players are very excited." -- UNT head coach Darrell Dickey (Dallas Morning News, Aug. 29)

Troy Trojans

Head Coach: Larry Blakeney (119-60-1)

2005 Record: 4-7

Returning Starters: 10 offense; 4 defense

Game of the Year: Oct. 28 vs. North Texas -- This could be the game in which Troy establishes itself as a contender for the New Orleans Bowl. A win would give coach Blakeney's squad some confidence going into the game against the Ragin' Cajuns the following week.

Offense: New offensive coordinator Tony Franklin should have a relatively easy first year with 10 returning starters. The Trojans may use two quarterbacks: Carl Meadows (974 yards passing, 6 TD, 10 INT) and Julian Foster (797 yards, 5 TD, 4 INT). Every receiver from last season returns, including Smokey Hampton (572 yards, 2 TD) and Gary Banks (293 yards, 2 TD). Kenny Cattouse will lead the running back trio, and the offensive line will return three starters, including Rob Austin.

Defense: Defense will be the big question entering the 2006 season for the Trojans. Returning only four starters will be difficult, but Sherrod Martin (78 tackles) leads the defensive attack. Newcomers such as lineman Chris Bradwell and junior-college transfer Darius Jackson will have opportunities to contribute immediately.

Special Teams: Troy will look to returning kicker Gregg Whibs, who nailed 11 field goals last season.

Notable Quote: "We're trying to hammer reps a few more times. We're trying to get things to a point where they work perfectly every time." -- Troy head coach Larry Blakeney (Birmingham News, Aug. 25)

'Stock' aims for bowl game trip for Blue Raiders

By Trey Jensen

Contributing Columnist

The turf won't be the only thing new at Floyd Stadium this year. After a veritable free fall from the days of New Orleans Bowl expectations, MTSU made the decision, albeit a year or two late, to go in a different direction with the football coaching staff.

A better decision could not have been made. Rick Stockstill was named head football coach this past spring, and no coaching move in recent memory has come with loftier expectations and the general excitement that Stockstill's has.

"Stock" has worked with several of the most prolific minds in the college game today, including Steve Spurrier, Tommy Bowden, and Lou Holtz. He also played quarterback for Bobby Bowden at Florida State, and Stockstill says there are several similarities between FSU's growth period during his playing years and MTSU's current maturation.

"Coach Bowden was always honest with the players and the media, and that's what I'll bring to MTSU," he said.

As has been proven in countless other coaching situations (think Bowden at Clemson, Stoops at Arizona, and the ridiculously loaded Bill Walsh-era 49ers staffs of the 1980s), coaching talent rubs off.

"The main thing I learned from Coach Spurrier was to stay on an even keel," Stockstill said. "Last year, [Spurrier] had the same attitude when we started 3-5 as after we beat Tennessee. You would have thought the Florida game (in which Spurrier returned to the school he coached for more than a decade) was just a spring scrimmage."

Being surrounded by excellence begets further excellence, and MTSU should expect nothing less than that.

Usually, coaches are given a two-to-three year grace period to put their talent and system in place before they are put in the perennial pressure cooker that is the NCAA coaching carousel. However, the window of opportunity for the Blue Raiders seems to be open for 2006 and not much beyond until Stock's recruiting classes start to reach maturity.

In Stock's previous pass efficiency-obsessed schemes, he has always had a quarterback with solid decision-making skills and a quick release. He inherits one with those same skills in senior Clint Marks, who will benefit tremendously from a coach who has more offensive plays than "Run Left," "Run Right," "Run Middle" and "Chuck It."

Marks has had issues over the past two seasons with interceptions, accumulating more than 20. However, his completion percentage in 2005 was nearly 70 percent.

"The main thing I tell Clint is that he doesn't have to make the throw to win the game -- he just doesn't need to make the one that loses it," Stockstill said.

Stockstill's prowess should cut down on Marks' problems and allow tailback Eugene Gross and friends to make an impact in the backfield.

Stockstill is also blessed with four players listed by Great Blue North as potential pro prospects: Marks, Gross, tackle Germayle Franklin, and linebacker J.K. Sabb. All four give MT a strong core and a winning attitude.

"Clint [Marks] and Germayle [Franklin] bring a great deal of leadership to the team. They work hard and never miss a practice or workout," Stockstill said of his senior leadership. "The only issue with those four key players is that they are all seniors, as in they only have one year left here."

With fairly inexperienced players behind his leaders, Stockstill needs to win now to establish himself for the future.

"We don't have a lot of depth anywhere except running back," Stockstill said.

Rivals.com named Stockstill one of the top recruiters in the country in 2005, but winning would add a great deal to the appeal of Murfreesboro.

"MTSU isn't a hard product to sell," Stockstill said. "We have a great academic institution with a lot of majors to choose from. We're also in a great location; we can fly recruits in and out and Rutherford County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country."

However, athletic prestige is arguably the largest factor for most recruits, and if Stock can milk six or seven wins out of this year, his tried-and-true recruiting strategy will have a chance to shine.

"If you work hard and are honest, recruiting isn't difficult. It's about working hard," Stockstill said.

The 2006 schedule is also tilted in the Raiders' favor. With one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the country and the hardest in the Sun Belt, MT will get better as the season goes on. With national powers Louisville, Oklahoma, Maryland and South Carolina on the slate, the less-than-stellar Sun Belt should seem like a cakewalk. Since only conference games count towards the race to the New Orleans Bowl, facing those juggernaut programs can only be beneficial to the team.

In most conferences, there is a team that most fans bank on being at the top of the standings. In the Sun Belt, however, no team like that exists. Fox Sports projects the winner of the league to be 7-5, while predicting that six teams will reach five wins.

The extreme parity in the Sun Belt means one thing: all seven conference games are winnable. Assuming the Louisville, Oklahoma, Maryland, and South Carolina games are losses and the Tennessee Tech game is a win, that leaves the Blue Raiders anywhere from 6-6 to 8-4, which would certainly put MTSU in the heat of the Sun Belt title race.

The layer of talent in place, although thin, leaves the door wide open for a winning 2006. In fact, anything less than .500 will be a disappointment. The likely result, although a smidge optimistic, is 7-5.

If the team can resolve some depth issues and overcome inexperience on defense, there is no reason Stock and Co. shouldn't punch their collective ticket to New Orleans this December.

Trey Jensen is a freshman Mass Communications major. He can be reached at lhj2b@mtsu.edu.



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refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a pre-paid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.



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