



SIDELINES



Volume 74, No. 9

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

University celebrates Founder's Day

Amanda Virgillito
Staff Reporter

Those who attend this year's Founder's Day Celebration — themed "A Step Back in Time" — will have the opportunity to experience Middle Tennessee Normal School as it was in 1911.

According to university officials, this year's events will be more entertaining than previous years. Visitors can expect a brief history lesson through photos, music, food and surprise guests.

The goal of this year's Founder's Day is to provide "a first person historical view" of what Middle Tennessee Normal School was like in 1911, according to Founder's Day activities coordinator Kippy Todd.

Festivities begin Friday at 9 a.m. with a complimentary breakfast consisting of ham and sausage biscuits, fruit turnovers, fresh fruit, juice and coffee. The program starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Alumni Center with remarks from President James Walker. Charlene Harb will play music from the time period, and surprise guests from the time period will be seen among the crowd. Visitors will also have the opportunity

to enjoy a photo display that captures student life of the time.

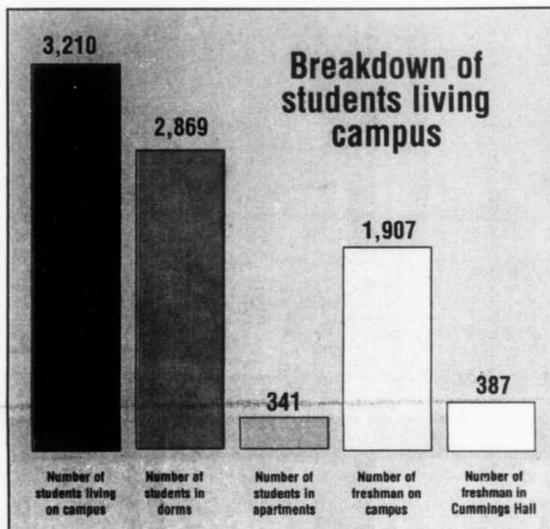
The Middle Tennessee Normal School had a mere 125 students and 19 faculty members when it was founded on its original 100 acres. The school provided a two-year program to train teachers. In 1925, the school progressed to a four-year teachers' college and offered a Bachelor of Science degree. By 1943, it became a state college and finally reached university status in 1965. Presently, MTSU resides on 500 acres with over 18,000 enrolled students and a faculty of over 700.

Parking is available along Tennessee Boulevard and at the Tennessee Livestock Center off Greenland Drive. A blue route Raider Xpress bus will run about every fifteen minutes to Kirksey Old Main from the Livestock parking lot.

University officials are hesitant to provide detailed information concerning the festivities because they want the activities planned to remain a surprise. They encourage all students, faculty and staff, as well as the general public, to attend. ■



Photo by Randy Janoski
Cornelia McMahan, second from left, looks over old photos recently with MTSU President James Walker, right. McMahan is the daughter of Tom H. Harrison Sr, who donated 80 acres between Main Street and Greenland (then Hall's Hill Pike), where MTSU is now located. With her are relatives Steve Harrison of Murfreesboro and Pam Riddle of Manchester.



Graph by Jennie Treadway

Administration voids over \$127,000 in parking citations

David Figueroa
Staff Reporter

With the support of Parking Services, the administration approved a blanket void of all parking citations from the first day of classes, Aug. 19 to Sept. 4.

"The administration apologizes to the students, faculty, staff, and the office of Parking Services for the difficulties they have endured," said Dr. Duane Stucky, vice president of Finance

and Administration. "The administration commends the staff of Parking Services. Their job is usually difficult, and it became impossible."

According to Parking Services, the voiding will include all 4500 citations, totalling more than \$127,000. The voiding includes all non-permit, wrong-permit, disabled, and fire lane citations.

"The administration decided to void all tickets due to the lack

of adequate parking during the morning hours," explained Connie Hagberg, Parking Services manager.

"This fall, additional morning sections were added to meet the needs of students and faculty. As a result, the peak student population in class at any one time increased from 5,606 to 6,338 students, or 13 percent," said Stucky. "Consequently, parking demands exceeded supply, and many students, faculty, and staff

simply had no place to park."

"For persons wanting a refund for tickets that have been paid, they should write a brief memo to the MTSU Business Office, Cope Administration Building, Rm. 105 and request a refund," said Hagberg. "They should include their name, address, Social Security number, any ticket information they may have and state the amount they

See CITATIONS, page 3

Housing for the New Millenium

New apartments will offer more features to students

Dustin Schrimpscher
Staff Reporter

Construction of 104 new campus apartments on Second Street two months ago.

According to the department of housing and residential life, designs for new on campus housing reflect the needs of today's students.

Debra Sells, director of housing and residential life, said the garden-style apartments will each offer two bedrooms, four private bedrooms and a full-

size kitchen and living room. "We're not able to build these new apartments for less than off campus housing," Sells said. "Cost [to students] will be comparable to that of off campus housing such as University Terrace on Old Lascassas Hwy."

Sells said several factors will make the new on campus apartments attractive to students: each resident will sign an individual license agreement, financial aid can go toward license agreement fees and a payment plan will be offered for students with no financial aid.

"These apartments will feature multiple electrical outlets, often missed by students in older on-campus housing," Sells said. "The new housing

will also provide direct access to the university computer network in each bedroom."

"Like most new buildings on campus, [the new apartments] will be constructed with Ethernet capabilities," added John Schmidt of the Office of Information Technology. "As long as students have a computer powerful enough to run the necessary software, they will have the same capabilities as on campus computer labs and faculty offices."

The university has not yet determined what fees, if any, will be tied to Internet access.

Another advantage to the on campus

See APARTMENTS, page 3



Photo by Katie Wise

Record breaking Raider crowd attends inaugural game. See page 8.

Freshmen enjoy benefits from new specialized housing

Shawn Whitsell
Staff Reporter

The change came when a committee made up of deans, students, advisors and the director of admission decided that something needed to be done to enhance the academic success of MTSU students. Cathy Crooks of University Housing is the chairman of the committee that leads the first year experience project.

The program provides students with such perks as a classroom and a tutoring located in the dorm. University 101, which is a course to help students adjust

to college life, and other lower division courses are held in the classroom. Not only is there a tutoring center in the building, there are also tutors on every floor and an academic advisor who holds office hours in the building. Crooks said that instructors are often very pleased with the help and support they receive from the staff that are there to assist them whenever necessary.

The are many purposes for having a dorm such as Cummings. The services provided there for academics will help them to become stronger students. The residents are also able to meet new people who are freshmen just like them-

selves.

"It's a first year experience, living and learning hall. The main purpose of these living and learning programs are to help students feel like they belong to a community," said Crooks. "It helps students make the transition easier."

Jason Wendler, the resident director of Cummings Hall, is really pleased with the first year experience dorm.

When you put freshmen together in one place, they tend to form stronger bonds than they would in a dorm with both freshman and upperclassman, he said.

Wendler added that the resident assistants have been instructed to do long-

term activities that will impact the lives of the residents, rather than just have fun activities such as pizza parties.

"It's a good first experience," said Jessi Kline, a chemical engineering major from Smyrna, Tenn.

Kline added that she has had a great time meeting people, referring specifically to the time when everyone was "bonding" in the lobby while watching "Titanic."

"It's a good community," Kline said.

Kline also stated that it can be a hassle when guys try to sneak on the girls floor because they bang on the doors hoping someone will hear them and let

them on the floor. Although there can be hassles, Kline said for the most part it is very interesting.

"It's cool because you get to meet a lot of people," said Lera Nash, an accounting major from Camden, Tenn. She added that the experience was very educational.

The first year experience dorm is actually the second theme dorm at MTSU. The first was the honors living and learning center, opened in Wood and Felder Halls in 1997.

Crooks said that if the first year experience dorm project goes well, there may be similar projects in the future of MTSU. ■

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SPORTS

The Raiders tame the Tigers, and Mark McGuire sets new world record. See page 8.

FEATURES

Aviation Days are this weekend. See how MTSU is involved. See page 6.

WEATHER FORECAST



THURSDAY
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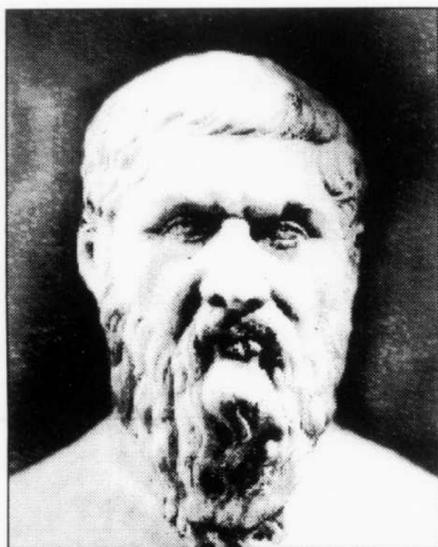


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Under the tutelage of Socrates, Plato wrote that his greatest lesson was learning how to save at Maurices.



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ON CAMPUS

To submit an announcement for On Campus, come by the James Union Building Room 308.

Thursday, Sept. 10
Omega Phi Alpha Sorority will hold rush at 7:30 p.m. in room 313 at the KUC. Omegs Phi Alpha is a national service sorority and encourages any student who wishes to get involved on campus to join. The rush meeting will feature light refreshments and speeches from the chapter officers.

Friday, Sept. 11
MTSU will hold a Founders Day celebration between 9 - 10 a.m. in the Alumni Center. The celebration will be a return to those days of Middle Tennessee Normal School and will feature breakfast and speech from President Walker.

Saturday, Sept. 12
The Law School Admissions Test prep course will be held on campus. The sessions will cover test-taking strategies, topics and review questions. For more information or to register, call the Division of Continuing Studies at 2462. Call 2670 with questions about exams and exam dates.

Sunday, Sept. 13
The Law School Admissions Test prep course will be held on campus. The sessions

will cover test-taking strategies, topics and review questions. For more information or to register, call the Division of Continuing Studies at 2462. Call 2670 with questions about exams and exam dates.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
Student Placement will hold Career Day from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Murphy Center track. For more information, please call Martha Turner at 2500.

Thursday, Sept. 17
The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) will sponsor its first-ever "Cut! Party! Mixer" at 6 p.m. The SPJ invites any student who majors or minors in journalism to come and watch (and make fun of) Journalism - themed movies. For more information and directions call Lisa or Angie at 904-8380.

Sept. 18, 19, and 20
The Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) is offering a basic motorcycle rider course for riders who want to learn the correct and safe way to operate a motorcycle. The class will meet Friday, 6-10 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m.-

5 p.m., Sunday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Class size is limited to only 12 students. To register for this course, call DCS at 898-2462.

Continuing
The deadline to register for the Professional Secretaries International Certified Professional Secretaries Exam is Sept. 1. For more information, call Lisa Grubbs at work at 904-3467 or at home at 273-2871.

Open library instruction classes at Todd Library continue until Sept. 1 in room 101 of library. For more information, call Sharon Parente, user services librarian, at 2817.

The deadline for student organizations to submit organizational report forms and activity fee applications is on or before Sept. 4. Organizations not requesting funds must have their organizational report forms completed on or before Sept. 21. The forms are due in KUC 122, and are currently available in KUC 122 and KUC 306. The forms also will be available at the organization sessions scheduled for this week and next week.

'Sidelines' always welcomes new writers, photographers, graphic designers and artists. Come by the JUB (310) or call 898-2336 for more information.



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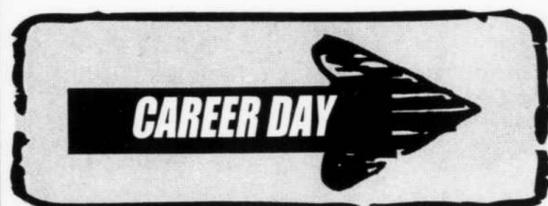
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Murphy Center Track, 10am - 3pm

APARTMENTS

continued from page 1

apartments will be plentiful parking.

"There will be a parking space for every bed," said Bill Smotherman, director of construction administration. "It's great they did it that way."

According to Sells, parking services may utilize a new approach to manage these 416 new parking spaces.

"We have not finalized discussion with parking services but currently, only residents in the new apartments will be able to park in that lot but those students will not be allowed to park anywhere else on campus," she said.

According to Deborah Roberts, director of the administrative services office of vice president for finance and administration, the University Traffic Committee has discussed this but has not made a recommendation.

"This will hopefully be discussed and officially recommended during the traffic committee meeting on Monday,

Sept. 14," Roberts said. "Once it has been recommended and approved, Parking Services will then make plans for this to happen."

As an auxiliary department, the department of housing and residential life receives no funding from either MTSU or the state, operating solely from funds collected from resident fees.

The last residence halls constructed at MTSU were Ezell and Abernathy Apartments, built 1973. They were not poorly designed, Sells said, but were designed for students of that time period.

"In '73 it was very much the norm that siblings shared bedrooms. Now most students have never shared a bedroom before," Sells explained.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, housing and residential life will host a Furniture Fair in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Vendors will bring samples of furniture which students will be able to evaluate. Student response to the furniture options will be noted when the final furniture choice is made.

Baptist Church at 217 N. Tennessee Blvd. from Sept. 3 to May 10, 1999. The bill for this extra parking totals \$47,500.

This new lot will add 225 spaces to the green and white parking roster. Coupled with the 88 spaces added to the gravel lot near the Rec Center, 50 spaces next to Ezell Hall, and the 502 other spaces that will be available around campus in the near future will bring the parking space total to 6,728 spaces for both green and black parking decals.

CITATIONS

continued from page 1

paid."

"Although refunds will be made expeditiously as possible, those who submit a request should expect the process to take a few weeks," said Dollie McCallie, a bursar in the Business Office.

The university has taken action to correct any future need for bulk voiding of parking citations. Parking Services has contracted the use of the Middle Tennessee

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

4 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Editorial

What a difference \$47,500 makes.

Last summer, the deacons of Middle Tennessee Baptist Church decided to tow the vehicles of MTSU students who parked in their lot, saying they did not like the loud music, trash and squealing tires that came with allowing students to park in their lot.

This year, with MTSU officials anxious to find a solution to the bigger-than-ever parking problems, the church agreed to once again allow students into their lot during certain times. Parking services will police the lot to make sure that only people with green or white passes use the 225 "new" spaces.

However, fewer fingers are pointed at the church for banning parking last year or for receiving so much money to allow parking again this year, the blame should be placed on the right shoulders.

It is the fault of every student who played their radio too loud, dumped their trash in the parking lot, left their car sitting too long or otherwise didn't respect the church's ownership of the lot. If the proper respect had been shown to the church, they never would have banned parking last year, and the university would not be expected to pay so much this year.

That's right new students. Last year it didn't matter what color parking tag was on a car or if there was one at all. The church deacons only asked students to respect their requests for available spaces during service times and peace and quiet during other times.

In exchange for the respect they deserved, they let students park in the lot for free.

Don't blow it this year. Throw your trash in a garbage can. Turn down your radio. Move your car when parking is not allowed on the lot. Parking spaces are hard to find. Don't make it harder by forcing the church to ban student parking again.

Respect the fact that the church deacons banning student parking last year was inconvenient, but it was perfectly within their rights. It also will be within their rights if they decide not to allow parking anymore after their contract with the university expires next May.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



Don't quit on capitalism just yet

The Washington Post

What's frightening about the world's current economic troubles is a sense that rules we thought we understood don't seem to apply now. Until a few months ago, we thought we knew what a developing country had to do to join the ranks of the wealthy. We thought we knew how a communist country could transform itself into a capitalist one. The general understanding was that as the world became more connected, it also would become more prosperous.

Now, with Russia and much of Asia having crashed, with Eastern Europe and Latin America imperiled and with much of Africa going backward, the certainties of

only a year ago seem far from certain.

Malaysia last week shut the door on the global economy, as its autocratic leader withdrew his currency from international circulation and fired the deputy prime minister who had pushed hardest for openness and liberalization.

"The free market system has failed and failed disastrously," Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed declared.

Russia's effort toward liberalization of industry and more state control. Even Hong Kong, until now the world's most ardently free economy, spent billions of government dollars to prop up the local stock exchange — an intervention that free marketeer Milton Friedman bluntly labeled "insane." Looking around his stricken neighborhood, it's not

hard to understand Mahathir's retreat. But it's important at a time like this not to draw more lessons than the facts provide. Not everything we thought one year ago, in other words, now has been proven wrong.

Yes, this is a time for humility. Yes, the International Monetary Fund's doctrinaire opposition to any controls on capital, even on short-term movements, may have been mistaken, and its initial efforts at Asian rescue may have been misguided in key respects. But much of what Asia did in the past 30 years — investing in health and primary education, welcoming outside investment, eradicating poverty — was correct, and it is still, quite likely, enduring. Much of what Eastern and Central Europe have accomplished in a few short years has

been not only heroic but absolutely on track.

If the mistakes that have been made have a common thread, it was the emphasis of economic solutions over political ones. In Indonesia, it was believed that economic growth would, in its own time, overcome the obstacles of autocracy and corruption.

In Russia, it was hoped that macroeconomic stability and privatization would foster the middle class that would, in turn, insist on rule of law, contract sanctity and the rest. In both cases, the sequencing didn't work. A lot of rethinking needs to be done. But many of the goals and principles were right, and they shouldn't all be thrown overboard in a panic. ■

'Old-Girls Network' aims to elect woman as President

Knight-Ridder News Services

Brace yourself. Only three-quarters of a century after women began to vote, a bunch of them are drumming up support for something shocking: women running for president.

You read that right. They're talking two, three females — maybe more — at a time. The idea is to create a climate in which women running for president will seem routine; the specific goal is to elect a woman president either two, six or 10 years from now.

Cooked up by an "old-girls network" of activists and academics, the White House Project wants to go

well beyond the fizzles and feints of the

past. Remember the long-shot campaign of Democrat Shirley Chisholm in 1972, the White House Project preferred to let George McGovern lose 49 states? Then there was the coast-to-coast barnstorming by Democrat Pat Schroeder pre-1988, followed by her angry won't-run speech and the fiasco with Michael Dukakis.

Under this new project, which has \$2 million collected or pledged so far, the chance of a woman president wouldn't come up only every 16 years or so. Nor would it ever rest on

whether one woman — Elizabeth Dole, say — decides to smile through 1,000 chicken dinners. With multiple women in the field, the candidates would be more likely to be judged on their substance, not their novelty or their fashion sense.

The project's media blitz in magazines will start several weeks from now. Readers will be asked to choose five favorites from a list of 20 women with strong qualifications for the White House. On Election Day, the project will ask the same question of women emerging from the polls in a dozen states. (Sorry, Pennsylvania and New Jersey aren't included this time.) Opinions also will be

taken via the Internet and a "900" number. The goal is to get people excited about the idea of a woman president and spotlight the credentials of particular individuals.

One key to this project's success is the quality of its list — which will be unveiled Sept. 27. Organizers say it won't be limited to politicians but will range into other areas such as business and academe. That makes all kinds of sense. If columnist Pat Buchanan can wake up one morning, look in the mirror and see the right stuff, why can't Phyllis Schlafly? If Steve Forbes can stroll out of a magazine office and become a serious candidate, why couldn't, say, Oprah

Winfrey emerge from a TV studio?

It's important that the list of 20 women cover the ideological spectrum. (The project's board ranges from liberal Democrats to moderate Republicans.)

This project could get people talking about male-female differences in issue priorities and leadership style. The conventional wisdom suggests, for example, that rising public concern about education and lessening concern about crime bode well for women candidates. Some project backers hope that public revulsion at Washington — from the president's character to both parties' special-interest bondage — will incline voters to try

something new.

The making of the president in 2000, 2004 and 2008 will be a chain reaction of initiative, money, strategy, ideas, stamina, spin and dumb luck. It's good to see a cadre of women trying to get their sisters into the game. ■



SIDELINES

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Government suffering from intelligence lapse

The Washington Post

The United States reserves the right to strike back against terrorists, and rightly so. When it can, the government seeks to bring suspects to justice and try them in courts of law, with evidence openly presented; such a process is under way in connection with the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

But sometimes, as President Clinton said in explaining U.S. missile attacks on targets in Afghanistan and Sudan, it's not possible to play by those rules.

Whether in prospective self-defense or in response to what amounts to acts of war,

U.S. military action is justifiable.

But in exercising that right, you don't want to get your facts wrong. That is why the possibility of an intelligence failure in the choice of targets in Sudan is so awful to contemplate.

At this point, we certainly do not know that chemical weapons or their precursors were not being produced at the Sudan factory; and there is no question that Sudan's regime has harbored and encouraged terrorists.

But enough questions have been raised, and the administration's story has been often enough revised, to warrant further inquiry.

In the beginning, you may recall, the

administration alleged a close intelligence link between anti-American terrorist Osama bin Laden and the Sudan factory.

Now it seems far less sure of such a connection. U.S. officials depicted the factory as secret and closely guarded; in fact, it has now been established, it was rather lightly guarded, visited by engineers from many countries, well-known to the public. The administration didn't know that the factory produced useful medicines.

But no one now disputes that, whatever else it does, the plant was making anti-malaria drugs and other valuable and innocuous pharmaceuticals.

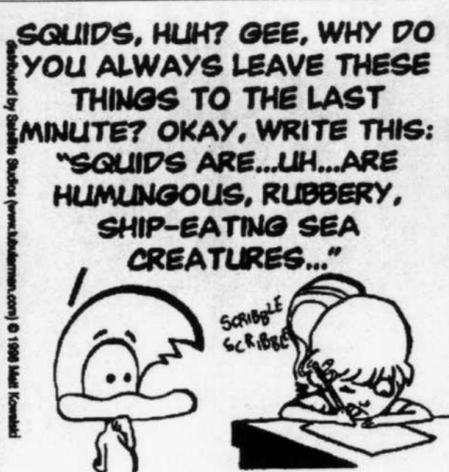
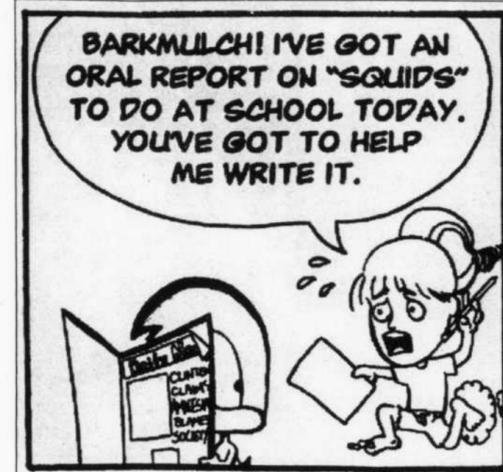
The U.S. decision seems to have been

based on the evidence of a single soil sample, obtained from outside the factory, that contained more than a trace of a precursor of the deadly VX agent. That may be compelling.

But how could the CIA not have known more about the factory — not have known what so many ordinary citizens apparently knew? Some officials reportedly pointed to a search of the factory's Internet site that listed no products for sale.

We can only hope that, if the administration could speak more openly, it could make a more-persuasive case. At a minimum, there is room here for congressional intelligence committees to inquire further. ■

SPADE PHILLIPS



In religion and politics, will attacking gays attract followers?

Martin Marty
Los Angeles Times

"Hate the sin. Love the sinner." That's the slogan, some say the battle cry, in the raging Homosexuality War.

"Sin" is suddenly a political term. "Sin" is what both Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, call homosexuality. The Bible is very clear on this," adds Armey. Green Bay Packer defensive lineman the Rev. Reggie White agrees. We must fight it. He does so by promoting antigay advertisements in the form of appeals for ex-gay ministries that will "cure" the sinners.

In "One Nation, After All," social scientist Alan Wolfe found that homosexuality is now the most divisive issue on the scene, the one most in need of urgent address. Many have long asked why this is a perplexing issue. But since it will soon play a part in determining who gets elected, what laws are passed and whether we can survive cultural crises, we have to ask another question: Exactly why now has it reached this point?

Religion inspires homosexuality wars. Jewish communities are tense. Christians are plagued by prejudice and dispute. The bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion recently voted 526 to 70 for a nonbinding but unbending line against gay rights and rites in the church. Homosexual acts are "incompatible with Scripture." The United Methodist Church's highest court has just ruled that denominational law forbids the blessing of same-sex unions. The Presbyterians this summer put the always simmering issue on the back burner for a year

rather than risk seeing it boil over.

The Lutherans would like to do so next year. Denominations fear upheaval, schism, loss and — if they scourge homosexuals — much grief.

Wars need two sides. Pro-gay and lesbian parties in the ministry, seminaries and congregations of Catholicism and mainstream Protestantism are vocal, and even the evangelicalism that produces troops for the antigay cause includes some advocate groups. They will be active politically, too.

We hear them arming with argument: The Bible calls divorce sin far more often than it hits homosexual activity. Yet not a few evangelical ministers who are divorced and remarried blithely attack an activity seldom condemned in Scripture. Why?

The pro-gay Christians point out that hundreds of laws against sins in Leviticus and Deuteronomy go ignored. Consistent biblical literalists would have to excommunicate any evangelical man without facial hair who eats shellfish or has intercourse with his wife "while she is in her menstrual uncleanness." Why not push these punishments in U.S. politics?

In the New Testament, we keep hearing that Jesus is silent on the subject, as is everyone else — except Paul, who wrote one disputed complex passage and two clear condemnations in catalogs of sins that would not all stir politicians today.

The Episcopal Church activists here, smarting under their Anglican bishops' ruling, will keep affirming gay life styles. When they read surveys that locate prejudice in the churches, they charge the church ought to be the first place to fight it, in the name of Christ. They call for fresh biblical interpretation to counter selective literalism in lawmaking and church life.

To the point of why homosexuality is the obsessive hot issue just now, one gets some quick suggestions. Yes, there is backlash against gay militants.

Yes, media now present and affirm homosexual lifestyles. Yes, homosexuals are gaining acceptability and homophobia is less respectable than before.

But we have to look deeper for the roots in religion and hence in politics.

Religions have always had problems dealing with sexuality. Two words, "sex" and "authority," define disputes that plague everyone from the pope to the evangelicals. Catholicism and other churches now deal positively with many expressions of sexuality, but are unsettled about others, and are torn over this one.

Current conflicts in religion and politics help answer, "Why now?" Armies need recruits. The stalemated abortion wars stimulate few new partisans. But entrepreneurs can exploit homosexuality. Ralph Reed, former head of the

Christian Coalition, himself nervous about how well the issue will play, comments on Janet L. Folger. Reed calls her "an ideological entrepreneur" — she knows how to pick hot issues early. Folger's Center for Reclaiming America is the nerve center behind controversial "pro-ex-gay" newspaper ads.

Folger and her allies raise passions that rouse partisans on both sides to get involved.

National and denominational parties need causes to fight about. Their movements may have gods, but they certainly need devils. This conflict that threatens to pull parties and denominations apart also curiously holds them together, at least temporarily, as they contend for control.

Here's another reason: In our time, as people seek and fear freedom, they concentrate on sexuality — the zone of conflict on which all are expert.

What is closer to me than my sexual dimension? Who is more nervous about any unfamiliar and thus threatening ways of life? Conversely, who is more ready for liberating change than I — if I want to change?

It may be that the large majority who now duck for cover or head for the sidelines when militants fire away will find a voice. It should be that, as the uncertain majority of heterosexuals get to know and love their gay and lesbian fellow-believers, they will be more empathetic, less ready to use slogans. It may even be that the "hate the sin, love the sinner" crowd can come to the point of realizing that loving the sinner begins with listening to him or her, and hearing, as if for the first time, his or her witness as citizen and believer. Then constructive action might begin to follow. One hopes. ■



Herrick & Taylor

by William Herrick, Associate Professor, Aerospace



'Smart' guns dumb idea

Susan Glick
Los Angeles Times

Suddenly, everyone from gun control advocates to big-city mayors to the manufacturer of Colt firearms is talking about using futuristic technology to make guns safer. Their idea is to encourage the design and sale of "personalized handguns" that can be fired only by their owners. Ideas for such guns include a computerized chip that recognizes the handgun owner's fingerprints and a radio transponder that would detect a special ring worn by the user.

Proponents argue that such technology, also known as a "smart gun," would stop the misuse of firearms by children and render stolen weapons useless. It certainly sounds promising. Upon closer examination, however, it becomes clear that smart guns are a dumb idea.

Smart guns would have no impact on the majority of gun deaths and injuries in America. Suicide is the nation's leading cause of firearm-related death, but people can still shoot themselves with their personalized guns.

The vast majority of homicides, the second-leading cause of gun deaths in the United States, take place between people who know each other. Again, personalization of weapons would have a limited impact.

Even in unintentional shootings, the category in which the proponents of personalization see the greatest benefit, many cases involve victims who are wielding their own guns. So, even if the technology worked perfectly, this space-age gun would only live up to its name in a small fraction of instances.

Statistics on firearm ownership reveal another shortcoming to the smart gun panacea. A Police Foundation study published last year found that while only one-quarter of American adults owns a gun, 74 percent of these owners have two or more guns. Furthermore, 68 percent of handgun owners also own at least one rifle. Therefore, smart guns would be effective only if owners disposed of all other firearms.

Finally, even if gun owners do replace their current stockpile of handguns with personalized weapons, in many cases they would simply be exchanging one

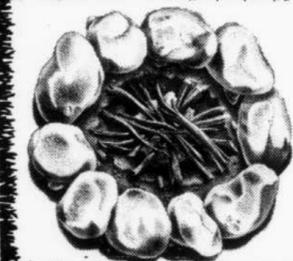
problem for another.

The Police Foundation survey found that more than 77 percent of handguns now possessed by private individuals hold fewer than 10 rounds of ammunition, reflecting the fact that most of these handguns are revolvers. Because most guns produced today are larger-caliber pistols with 10-round magazines, gun owners who switch to personalized guns would generally obtain a pistol of greater firepower and capacity.

Widespread purchase of smart guns might, therefore, greatly increase the lethality of the nation's private gun stock.

Instead of distracting ourselves with gee-whiz technology that is years away from fruition, we should address the real issue now. Guns are exempt from every federal health, safety and consumer protection law.

If handguns were held to the same standards as every other consumer product in America, they would likely be banned, not "personalized." Enforcing such tough safety standards may not sound as glamorous or as easy as building James Bond weapons, but it would certainly save more lives. ■



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FEATURES

Smoke, fire, blast gets Pood touch



Special pyrotechnic effects like this one will be part of the Tennessee Aviation Days Air Show at Smyrna Airport Sept. 12 and 13.

Photo by Elliot Pood

RATV professor helps with special effects for Air Show

Vickie Gibson
Staff Reporter

There will be plenty of smoke and noise when the Tennessee Aviation Days Air Show returns to Smyrna Airport this weekend with big name aviation pilots and plenty of unusual aircraft. MTSU's Dr. Elliott Pood, RATV professor and part of the Toro Bomb Squad, will be among those making extra smoke and noise through pyrotechnic special effects.

Pood has been involved in ground-based pyrotechnics for eight years. While he has always been interested in aviation, it was while he was working on a documentary about the Smyrna Air Show eight years ago, that he was invited to tag along with one of the professional explosives experts, Ron Gilbert of Hermitage Explosives in Nashville, during

the next day's effects.

"I happened to be in the right place at the right time," said Pood, who attends air shows all over the country.

The Toro Bomb Squad act involves 10 to 12 aircraft with special effects simulations that are carefully planned and rehearsed. Pood said the initial rehearsals are time-consuming but once they have the act down, the same act is repeated at various air shows throughout the country. Pood said the pyrotechnics crew he works with will be involved in effects for many of the acts at Smyrna's show.

While from the audience's view it will look as though the explosions are very close to the aircraft, they actually are not. "We know where they are going to fly and they know where the pyrotechnics are going to be," he explained. "The two shall not intermingle."

The professor is also involved in work with the Confederate Air Force in Texas. That group keeps old American military aircraft flying, he explained, "sort of a living museum."

Pood said he has always wanted to fly and is now working on his pilot's license.

His involvement with air shows has allowed him opportunities to fly many different types of airplanes such as a P-51 Mustang, B-17 and Japanese Zero fighter.

His interest in aviation has led him into several other projects. Last year, he was director, producer and editor of a 30 minute television program for Armed Forces TV. The program, filmed at Offutt Air Force Base, was to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Air Force.

Pood is also a member of the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club, which sponsors the annual air show with the Donelson-Hermitage Rotary Club. He serves on the planning subcommittee of the air show. "It takes a lot of time and a lot of people to pull off a successful air show," said Pood, who also said there are many people at MTSU involved in the show through the Rotary Club and aerospace department. "This is totally public service. Everyone is putting a lot of time in without any compensation. The university makes it possible for us to do this kind of stuff."

Faye Johnson, president of the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club and

associate professor of sociology and anthropology at MTSU, is one of those putting a lot of time into the air show.

Murfreesboro's chapter of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), headed by president David Swindler, will also be involved with the show.

MTSU's aerospace department will also be participating in the show, along with various student organizations such as Future Airport Executives. The restored deHavilland DHC-2 airplane, known as the Beaver, will be on display along with other aerospace department aircraft.

Headlining the show will be Nashville native Bob Hoover, considered a living legend in aviation. Hoover, who flew the chase plane when Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in October 1947, will perform an Aero Commander Strike in which he does numerous aerobatics and maneuvers ending with 10 minutes of stunts with both engines shut down.

Hoover learned to fly at Nashville's Berry Field. A dinner and reception honoring the 60th anniversary of his first solo flight will be held there on Thursday.

The air show's other acts include: Tora

101, a replica of the famous Japanese Zero fighter vs. The Gunfighter in a recreation of a classic dogfight by Doug Jackson and retired USAF Brigadier General Reg Urschler; Les Shockley's Super Shockwave Jet Truck driven at over 300 miles per hour by Ken High; The Avenger's drug awareness program by Larry Green; Airshow Alliance International jet and comedy acts with aerobatics by Bill Davis, Jack Ellel and Kathy Ellel; and the world-renowned Warbirds flying vintage WWII aircraft.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children in advance and \$12 for adults and \$6 for children at the gate. A family pass for two adults and up to four children is available for \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. Advance tickets are available through Ticketmaster at 225-9600 or at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information about the air show, call Jim Walton at 443-3279 or Steve Dix at 895-2529. Proceeds go to support many community causes through the Rotary Clubs, including aerospace scholarships at MTSU. ■

At 33, astronomer is the 'Star of the Keck'

K.C. Cole
Los Angeles Times

MAUNA KEA, Hawaii — In the thin air of Mauna Kea's summit, 300 tons of glass and steel pirouette as silently as a ballerina. A mile below, marshmallow clouds turn sunset pink. The red glow of still-active volcanoes on the far side of Hawaii's Big Island gleams through the overcast.

With a horrible crunch, the world's largest optical telescope drops its two jaw-like hatches one at a time, opening its twin throats to drink in starlight.

The Keck telescope is ready to receive the universe.

Waiting in the control room to catch the faint stellar messages

written in light from the far reaches of the cosmos is the astronomer whom the telescope operator calls "the star of the Keck." She's not what you think.

Looking too youthful to be a tenured professor, she wears a "lucky sweater" in bright primary colors and munches Oreos and Chips Ahoy — the standard fuel for astronomers facing long, cold nights.

At 33, UCLA's Andrea Ghez already has changed the way astronomers think about starbirth. Now, she has put 25 years of speculation to an end by providing the best evidence yet that a massive black hole sits at the center of the Milky Way. She presented her results at a talk in August at

Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Ghez first shook up the astronomical community with her discovery that most newborn stars appear to be twins. Astronomers have known since the 1970s that roughly half the stars in the universe come in pairs. What was unclear was whether they were born double, or teamed up two by two later in their evolution, like animals on Noah's ark.

While still a graduate student, Ghez found that the youngest infants in the stellar family are more likely than older stars to be twins. That means, she said, that stars are probably born double.

The discovery has posed a major problem for astronomy because it contradicts the prevalent theories of how stars form. The theories

describe a single star condensing out of a glob of interstellar gas. As the gas collapses under the force of gravity, a star is born. Those theories do not provide any good mechanism to explain the formation of double stars.

"The (current theory) very nicely produces our sun and planets," she said. "But it only produces single stars. Nature produces doubles. Single stars might be harder to find than we thought."

Her discovery also raises the question of what happens to all the missing partners of the solitary stars like our sun? "That, we don't understand," Ghez said.

It is to figure out puzzles of this sort that astronomers come to Keck. But this sky-high lookout comes

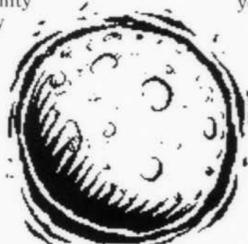
with a downside. At 13,800 feet, there's only half the normal supply of oxygen, and human brains don't function at full speed.

"I don't think as well up here," Ghez said. "If I'm working on the instrument, conversations in the background annoy me. I can't do two things at once."

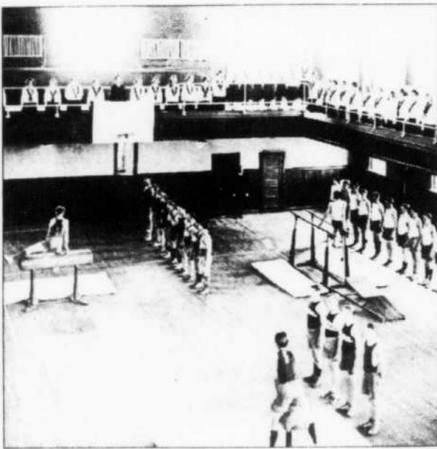
Time is so precious on Keck that one cloudy night can wreck a research project.

"Sometimes you feel like a project is cursed," she said. "If you have only one night, and that night is lost. ... There's too much to do in too little time."

As the Earth whirls beneath the sky, different stars come into view. So Ghez comes ready with a laundry list of things to look at. ■



A look back at how things have changed



Physical education classes in the early 1940s were quite a bit different from today's.



Home economics classes were offered in the basement of Kirksey Old Main years ago.



Middle Tennessee State University has undergone many changes over the past 87 years. These pictures from the early years of Middle Tennessee State Normal School tell the story.

From 125 students, 19 faculty on a campus of 100 acres in 1911 to over 18,500 students, over 700 faculty on more than 500-acres in 1998, MTSU keeps growing.

While the numbers have changed, so has the appearance of the campus. Construction of new buildings and other improvements continue to bring a new look to MTSU.

Special thanks to Jim Neal of the Albert Gore Research Center for these archive photos.

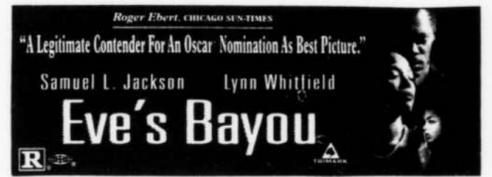


The MTSU Band of Blue has come a long way since this photograph was taken in the Kirksey Old Main auditorium during the school's early musical years.



Faculty and students pose on the steps of Kirksey Old Main in October 1911, soon after Middle Tennessee State Normal School opened. Old Main was one of five original buildings on campus.

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September 14

Dr. Kevin Smith, archaeologist at MTSU, will present a slide lecture entitled *Treasures from the Past: Tennessee's History Through Archaeology* at 7pm in the Murfreesboro City Hall. The presentation will cover recent exciting archaeological discoveries at sites dating from 1780 through the late 1800s across Tennessee.

September 16

Scott Jones, archaeologist with DuVall & Associates, Inc., will present a slide lecture entitled *Prehistoric Mississippian Sites in Middle Tennessee: The Diminishing Record* at 7pm in the Murfreesboro City Hall. Mr. Jones will explain the role and necessity of salvage archaeology in the discovery and preservation of prehistoric cultures with emphasis on Mississippian sites (ca. 1000-1450) in Middle Tennessee.

September 21

Georgia Dennis, MTSU Special Events promotions coordinator and anthropology major, will present *Native American Medicine: Richer Than We Can Imagine* at 7pm in the Murfreesboro City Hall. This anthropological overview will draw information from a variety of resources, including archaeology, oral tradition, and ethnographic and botanical research.

All events are

FREE and OPEN to the public.

For more information about lectures, call 898-2551. For information about Tennessee Archaeology Awareness Week, please call 898-5958.

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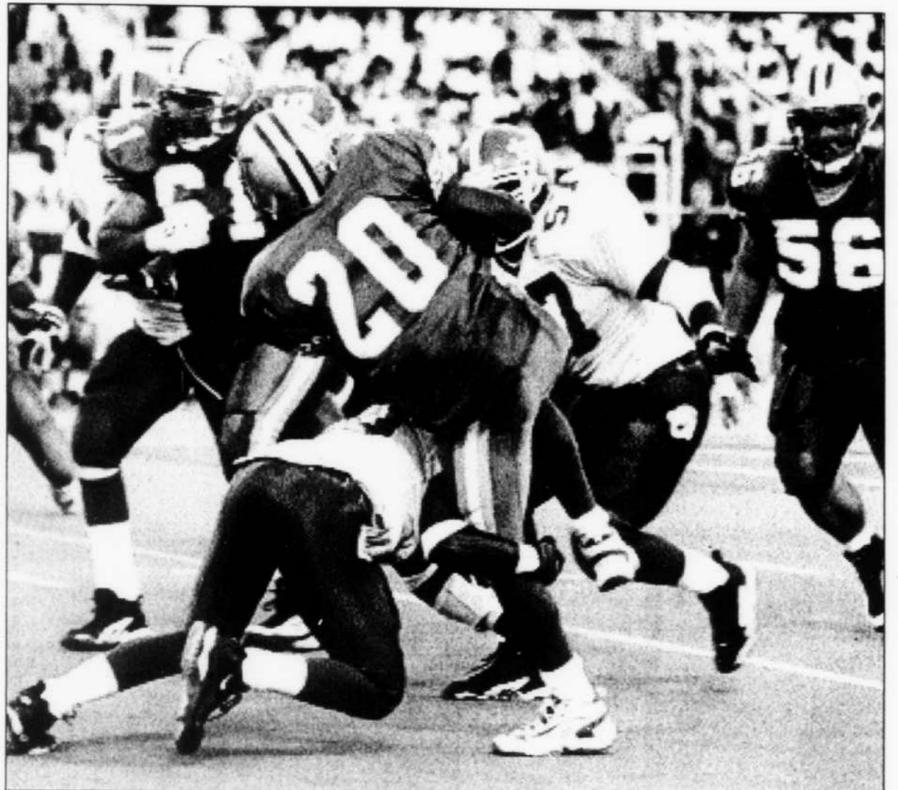
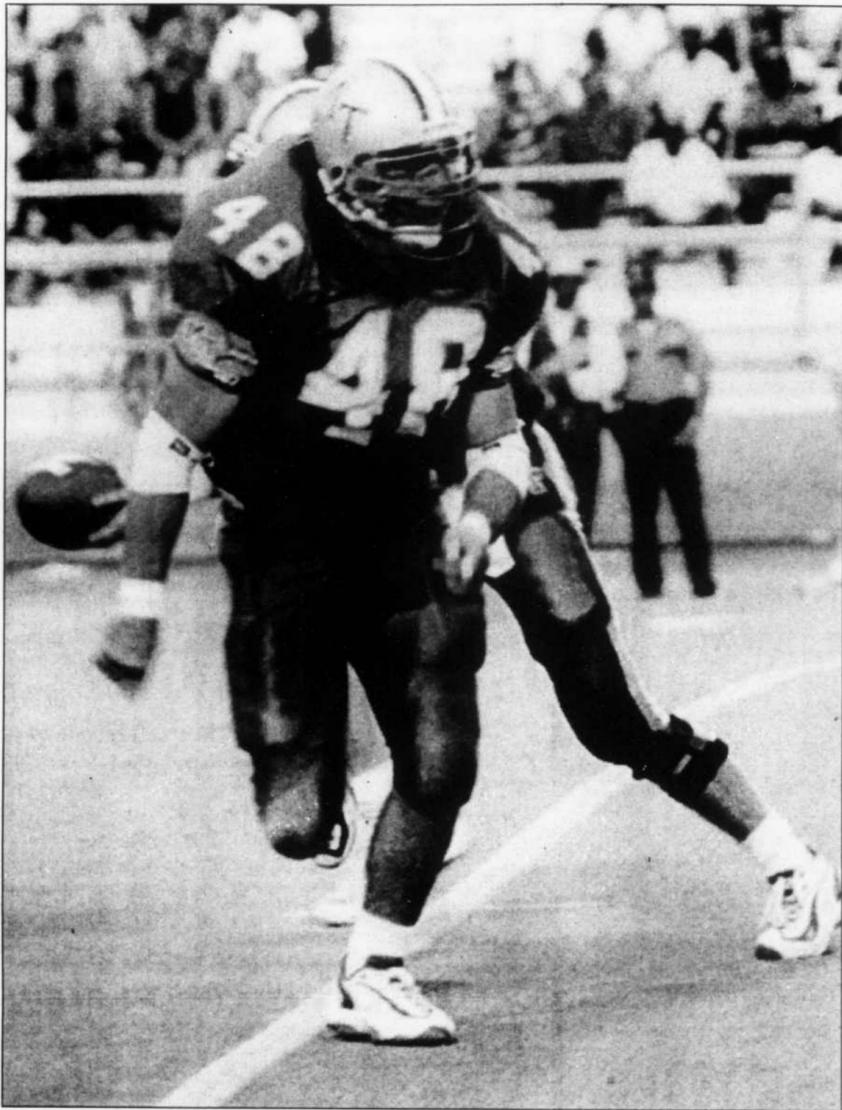
Murfreesboro, TN



Raiders 28, Tigers 27



Raiders rush to victory



Above: Toren Kirtsey's (#20) yards rushing broke the Raider's all-time school record of 250, set by Vince Hall on Sept. 22, 1984, against Morehead State.

Photos by Derrick Wilson

Left: Known as a tough physical player by Coach Boots Donnelly, Eran Miller, 48, a junior from Antioch, has made a smooth transition from linebacker to fullback.

R Colin Fly
Staff Reporter

A tailback who broke the all-time single game rushing record in his first game, an opposing offense that threw for over 400 yards, and a record attendance to watch the first game in newly-renovated Floyd Stadium — sounds like a fairy tale, right? The Blue Raiders proved Saturday night that the visions of one man to move a team into the elite class of football powers could be a reality, with a 28-27 win over Tennessee State.

The game started with a drop and a bang. As people began to fill in from the tailgate party in the Greenland Drive parking lot, an electric feeling entered the stadium. From the new press box and tower to the additional seating, Floyd Stadium looks and feels like a big time stadium. The excitement inside got underway when three brave souls parachuted into the stadium. Then, the ROTC cannon erupted, followed by a fireworks show. An announced crowd of 27,568 — an all-time OVC record — was ready for action.

The Tigers received the opening kickoff and on the first play from scrimmage, junior quarterback Leon Murray found senior wide receiver Tyrone Butterfield for a 50-yard pass play, taking the ball deep into Blue Raider territory. However, MTSU sophomore linebacker Kenrick Whitehead forced a fumble two plays later and sophomore linebacker Keith Pauldo rumbled 31 yards to the TSU 44. Despite MTSU red-shirt sophomore tailback

Toren Kirtsey carrying the ball six times for 73 yards, the game was scoreless after the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, the Tigers struck. The Blue Raiders sent an all-out blitz to pressure Murray and a soft screen developed. The Tigers' Calvin Davenport caught the screen pass, side-stepped an MTSU defender and bolted for a 52-yard touchdown.

The Raiders had an answer. Kirtsey made two phenomenal plays and capped a three-play, 48-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown. The Raiders, not to be outdone, marched back down the field using several key third down conversions leading to Murray's second touchdown pass of the night.

Middle got the ball back and with 55 seconds left in the half, Judd Moore — who had been named MTSU's starting quarterback earlier in the week — was hit by a backside blitz. He lasted just one more play before leaving with a severe shoulder sprain.

"It looks like we possibly lost Judd with a shoulder injury," said head coach Boots Donnelly. "He took a heck of a shot from a blitz from the backside. That is a shame because he is such a hard worker and he wants to play so badly."

The momentum did not swing away from the Blue Raiders, though, as the first pass by second-string quarterback Jimbo Rozar connected with Sulecio Sanford for a 56-yard touchdown. At the half, the game was tied at 14.

Middle opened the second half with the ball, but did little and punted on fourth down. The

Tigers quickly regained the lead 21-14 on another Murray-to-Butterfield pass for 13 yards.

Kirtsey now had the weight of the team on his shoulders and moved the ball more like a fullback than a halfback, ending the quarter with 149 yards. Rozar was having trouble moving the ball, passing for only 14 yards after his first-play touchdown pass. Donnelly made a change. Red-shirt freshmen quarterback Wes Counts relieved Rozar with under a minute to play in the third quarter.

In the first drive of the fourth quarter, the Raiders were faced with a decision on fourth down and a yard to go on the Tigers' 49. The Tiger cornerbacks jammed in tight, the safeties cheated up and in one blaze of speed, Kirtsey broke to the outside. A key block sprung Kirtsey 49 yards and gave the Raiders new hope and a tie game to work with at 21-21.

TSU had an answer all night. Murray marched the Tigers back down the field and threw his fourth touchdown of the night, this time to Corey Sullivan for 13 yards. However, the Tigers were penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct and the extra point attempt was now a 35-yard kick instead of a 20. Freshman kicker Gabe DeLong missed the extra point, sticking the Tigers at 27.

The Raiders knew this would be their last drive. With the game on the line, the Raiders excelled. Counts played poised, handling the pressure like any great quarterback, and Kirtsey provided the knockout punch. A 13-play, 78-yard march — including four completions by Counts and capped by Kirtsey's

third touchdown of the night — tied the game at 27. The ensuing extra point by Keegan Ray put the Raiders up 28-27 with 2:23 to play.

The Tigers would not go quietly. Murray once again led the Tigers down the field. With four seconds left on the clock, DeLong's 41-yard field goal attempt sailed left, giving the Raiders a narrow 28-27 victory.

"We had a chance, particularly there late, when they missed the extra point. It was a big miss that gave us a big lift and some life to take one in," Donnelly said.

When the dust settled, Kirtsey had broken the rushing record set by Vince Hall in 1984. He eclipsed Hall by a single yard, ending the night with 38 attempts for 251 yards and 3 touchdowns.

"From the offensive line to the receivers and the running backs, we all did what coach asked of us," Kirtsey said. "We played together as a team and I think that was the difference in the game. We stayed together and came out with a victory."

"I think he has a chance to be a pretty good back," Donnelly said. "He did not mind tucking inside or taking it outside. Having to live up to expectations coming out of the University of Georgia, I thought the young man looked good."

Murray for TSU also set a record for most passing yards against the Blue Raiders with 445 yards on 30 of 49 attempts. He also threw for four touchdowns.

The Blue Raiders take to the road to face Division I-A Illinois this Saturday in Champaign. ■

Illini look to end losing streak against Raiders

R Colin Fly
Staff Reporter

The Blue Raiders have a daunting task facing them entering into week two of the college football season. Division I-A is the big time and MTSU will taste what it is like this Saturday against a Big Ten opponent, the Fighting Illini of Illinois.

The Fighting Illini come off their worse season in school history. Losers of 18 in a row, including a disappointing loss last week to Washington State, the Illini now look to rebound from their worse losing streak in school history against

MTSU. The strengths of the Illini are the offensive line and at tight end. Also, the passing game has made significant improvements which does not look promising considering the Raiders gave up 445 yards through the air last week to TSU. Senior quarterback Mark Hoekstra will lead the Illini on offense. While he has not put up impressive numbers, he has been solid completing 53 percent of his passes. Four starters return to the offensive line from last year. The line averages over 297 pounds.

However, Robert Holcombe is gone. The all-time University of Illinois rushing leader ended his outstanding



collegiate career last season. This is the major weakness in the Illini scheme.

"We're not going to be able to replace Robert Holcombe in one position, we'll have to replace him with the entire offense, getting more production from our quarterback, wide

receiver, tight end, and running back positions," said Coach Ron Turner.

The strengths of MTSU remain in the running game as well as the offensive line.

Toren Kirtsey might once again prove to be the difference in a win or a loss. His school record 251 yards last Saturday made heads turn not only here, but also in Champaign, IL. While the Illini look for a way to stop Kirtsey, the Raiders must focus on settling the quarterback controversy and making a more proficient passing game. Kelverick Green's ankle should be healed and he should be conditioned enough to relieve some of

the load off Kirtsey, who carried 38 times Saturday.

The weakness of the Raiders is the secondary.

"We give up way too much [yardage], but we can get that straightened out," said Coach Boots Donnelly. "They will listen better and be more attentive."

The key to victory for the Blue Raiders is to stop the passing game, while moving the football consistently on the ground. If they accomplish that, the Illini will have to look elsewhere to find their first win in almost two years. ■

McGwire makes baseball memorable

Mark Purdy
Knight-Ridder News Services

Now that Mark McGwire has done it, sent the 62nd home run of the summer he has personally owned over yet another fence that couldn't hold him, maybe we can all finally make that confession. Can't we?

As hard as we tried to keep up the old hate against baseball, tried to keep tasting the bile that still gurgled up in acid reflux from the strike of 1994, McGwire would not let us do it.

He made the taste disappear. If that is too sentimental for you, then too bad. How were you feeling Tuesday night when McGwire made history? What were you tasting? It could not have been bile. He made America love the game again.

Sure, the homer he hit against the Chicago Cubs' Steve Trachsel, the ball almost kissing the top of the left-field fence before clearing it, will be the one everyone remembers the most. It will be replayed for your grandchildren and their grandchildren. But this event was not a one-nighter.

It lasted an entire season. That was the best part.

He made America love the game again. When all is said and done, that will be McGwire's biggest contribution to a sport that seemed bent on self-destruction.

McGwire made us once more love the smell of leather, the smell of a worn-out cowhide mitt with oil rubbed into it, with root beer spilled on it, with dust rubbed into it. Anyone who has ever played baseball or softball, boy or girl, is familiar with that smell.

Mark McGwire brought back that odor to our noses. He did it all summer long.

If you were lucky enough to catch his act at any stop across the country this year, you know what it was like. Just by the murmur of the crowd, you could sense when he was on deck. And after a home run, after the initial impact bomb of screams and shouts, there was an audible stir for 10 minutes.

It was the best sports show of 1998, by far. And as much applause as McGwire received for No. 62, someone should note that the 61 others weren't a bad show, either.

McGwire did not send the customers home grumbling. He took his swings every night, unless the pitchers threw him garbage. Otherwise, he made contact - not just with the pitch, but with the country's collective sense of "Oh, wow." Or whatever that sense is called.

He made America love the game again. If Winston Churchill had made a speech

about baseball, he would have made it about McGwire and his home runs. He hit them into the streets. He hit them out of the parks. He hit them by the oceans. He hit them in the desert. He hit them in all four time zones. Heck, he even hit one out the back door of one stadium.

That happened in June. It was during batting practice, to be sure, but it's still a great story. As McGwire took his pregame hacks at the new retractable-domed Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix, the big fella launched one over the left-field fence, and the ball bounced off a catwalk and sailed out a large sliding panel door that had been left open to facilitate an early-evening breeze. It landed on the sidewalk and rolled down the street.

No one ever found the ball. That might have been the most shocking thing of the chase, actually, considering the focus on how much any ball touched by McGwire would be worth. But he even handled that correctly, announcing up front that he would not pay for the record ball.

He made America love the game again. He would trade bats or jerseys or maybe a glove - a glove with that familiar smell - for the ball. He would not pay.

Maybe it would have been different when he was younger. Some of us were there his rookie season, in 1987. He was a kid barely out of college at USC, but he had 28 home runs by the Fourth of July. Naturally, the name of Roger Maris came up. McGwire, cooperative but nonplussed, would shrug whenever it happened.

"I'm really not a student of history," he explained.

He is now. The gods of baseball were nice enough to allow McGwire, 34, to break the record at a much older age, when he understood and could appreciate what he was doing. In turn, he could help us appreciate it.

Hitting a baseball thrown at 90 mph is probably the toughest thing to do in sports. Hitting it 450 feet is even harder. McGwire turned it into an art form.

He made America love the game again. He made the cheap seats fashionable once more. This might have been McGwire's most stunning achievement.

In professional sports these days, the marketing departments push the luxury boxes and expensive close-up seats, the ones that cost thousands of dollars in special fees. McGwire made it cool to buy a \$5 or \$6 ticket out there in the boonies. A kid could bring his glove to the park and sit in the last row and still have a chance to catch a souvenir.

When the Cardinals visited Minnesota, the Twins sold all 7,000 seats in the left-field stands and, as a gimmick, gave each

ticket buyer a hard hat - for "protection."

Funny thing is, the people needed them. It's doubtful you will see more raucous pileups at the start of this football season than you saw in the scramble for McGwire's home-run balls the past few weeks.

And it will continue. The focus has been on No. 62, but the most important ball will be the last home run McGwire hits this season - what will it be, No. 68 or No. 70? - because that will be the new number some young strong player shoots at in the year 2015 or so.

He made America love the game again. He brought the art of discussion back to baseball. This was another impossible thing he did. People who usually spent August debating the backup-quarterback situation for the 49ers were talking baseball.

Oh, did the debates fly. Was it tougher for him than for Babe Ruth? (Yes, probably because of night baseball and the far more grueling travel schedule.)

Or did McGwire get a break because of expansion pitching? (Probably, but on the other hand, Ruth didn't face every great pitcher of his generation, either, because African-American players weren't permitted to be major leaguers.)

Good debates. Fun debates. Did Maris have more of an advantage because Mickey Mantle batted behind him in the Yankees' order? (Of course.)

Or did McGwire have more of an advantage because, with the Cardinals out of the playoff hunt so early, he could more or less swing away every time at bat? (Sure, but who cares?) Was the pressure on McGwire the same as on Maris? (Yes, but at least McGwire kept his hair.)

Even the difference of opinions about the body-building supplements taken by McGwire did not really take an ugly turn. The arguments were reasoned and civilized, maybe because at heart, no one really wanted to root against McGwire.

He made America love the game again. In St. Louis this summer, a newspaper story reported, a truck driver heading across the country had been listening to McGwire's exploits on radio. Passing through town, the trucker decided to pull off on a side street near the stadium and left it running with the air conditioning on so his dog wouldn't die. The driver then went into the stadium just to watch batting practice.

"I hope nothing happens to the truck," the driver told a reporter from Scripps-Howard News Service. "But I really do want to see this guy hit."

We all did. And we weren't disappointed. He made America love the game again. Show the replay once more, please.

Cleveland Browns back in 1999 for record price

Christopher K. Hepp
Knight-Ridder News Services

CHICAGO - The new Cleveland Browns now have an owner. He helped move the old Cleveland Browns out of town. He paid a record price for the new franchise.

After a day of wrangling behind closed doors, the NFL's 30 team owners agreed unanimously Tuesday night to invite credit-card mogul Alfred Lerner and his partner Carmen Policy into their exclusive club.

The entry fee? \$530 million.

The NFL will give \$54 million back for stadium costs, making the bottom line \$476 million. Still, the expansion Browns are easily the most expensive sports team in U.S. history, surpassing the \$350 million Rupert Murdoch paid for the Los Angeles Dodgers earlier this year.

The Browns also are the most expensive NFL franchise ever. When Texas businessman Red McCombs bought the Minnesota Vikings last summer, he described his winning bid as worth "north of two hundred million dollars." The \$40 million debt of the Vikings' previous owners - which McCombs agreed to pay as part of the deal - brought the estimated purchase price close to \$250 million.

The Lerner/Policy bid for the Browns exceeded the bid of the second place bidder - the Dolan group - by about \$30 million.

Lerner, whose net worth was estimated at \$2.5 billion by Forbes Magazine last year, is chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Corp., the firm he spun off from a Maryland bank and built into the nation's second-largest credit card issuer.

Policy, the former president of the San Francisco 49ers, will be a minority partner with him.

"Our job now is to give Cleveland the best team we can," Lerner said in a telephone news conference after his

winning bid was announced.

Cleveland has been without a football team since the 1995 season ended. That is when Brown's owner Art Modell received permission to move the team to Baltimore. That team is now the Ravens.

The move astounded the city and much of sports world since Cleveland had loyally sported

the Browns throughout the franchise's history.

In response to the outcry from fans, the NFL promised to put a team back in Cleveland and allow it to retain the Browns' nickname and its signature orange-and-brown team colors.

The finalists came down to Lerner, Howard Milstein, a real

estate developer and part owner of the New York Islanders, and Cleveland attorney Larry Land

See **BROWNS**, page 10

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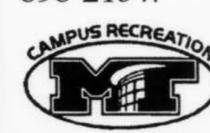
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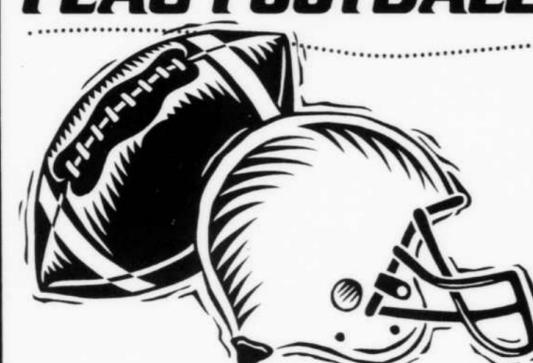
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BROWN
 continued from page 9

brother Charles Dolan, founder of Cablevision Systems Corp. The Dolans were partnered with entertainer Bill Cosby and former football coach Don Shula, both of whom would hold a minority stake in the team.

A fourth bid by Bart Wolstein, a developer, was deemed insufficient for consideration, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said. Lerner, 65, had been considered

the front-runner ever since his bid was endorsed by Cleveland Mayor Michael R. White. His chief obstacle had been Modell, his former friend and business partner.

Lerner had been instrumental in helping Modell put together the deal that took the original Browns to Baltimore.

Both men took tremendous public heat in Cleveland for the team's abandonment of the city. Anonymous death threats eventually moved Lerner to hire a

body guard and install bullet-proof glass in his black Mercedes.

Over time, Lerner, apparently hoping to rehabilitate his local image, began to distance himself from Modell and the move to Baltimore. That action angered Modell who has since broken with Lerner and had made it a personal crusade to stop his bid for the Cleveland franchise.

Yesterday, Modell was one of a number of owners who supported the Dolan group's bid over Lerner and Policy, Tagliabue said. According to Tagliabue, there was five hours of discussion among the owners and four ballots before an owner was finally selected.

The rules for the vote required that at least 23 of the 30 owners support the winning bid. Throughout most of the day, the support was split about two-thirds for Lerner and one-third for the Dolans, he said.

Lerner's bid had been recommended to the owners by the league committee which reviewed the bids, Tagliabue said.

As the meeting, which began at 1 p.m., continued throughout the

afternoon and into the early evening, Tagliabue said, there were recommendations from some owners that the vote be delayed until the following day or even later.

He said there was concern that should the selection not be made by the end of yesterday, it would be increasingly difficult to field a team in Cleveland by 1999.

Much of the discussion dealt with "the need to launch the franchise this week, the urgency to be in place by the 1999 season," he said.

Ultimately, even as Lerner was still short of the votes needed to win the bidding, Modell asked the group to make the vote unanimous for his former business partner, Tagliabue said. They did, but for one abstention, by the Oakland Raiders.

Asked about his move later, Modell said he did it for the "good of the league."

Lerner, when asked about his relationship with Modell, struggle for a few moments and then settled on a short answer: "It's fine, it's fine." ■

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