

2010 HOMECOMING EDITION

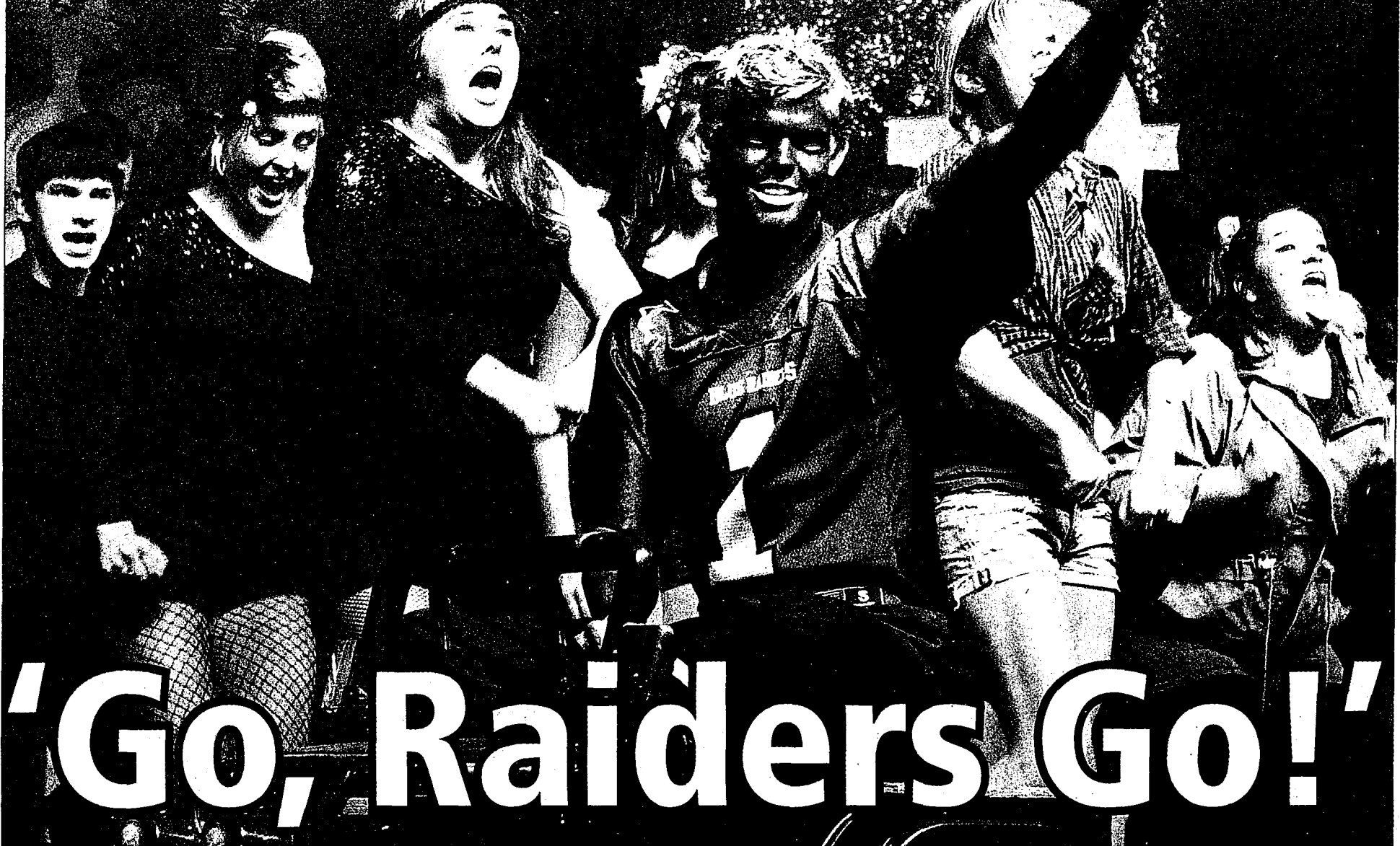
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2010

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 87 NO. 13



'Go, Raiders Go!'

Fight Song kicks off Homecoming, boasts new school spirit champions

By MARIE KEMPH
News Editor

The members of Chi Omega Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity chanted their way to a Fight Song victory Wednesday.

An estimated 2,000 members of the MTSU community came to enjoy Fight Song, which was held at the Murphy Center, and last night's competition is the first of five events the Student Government Association is hosting as part of the annual Homecoming festivities.

"I've been attending Fight Song for 10 years, and each year, I've been amazed by our students' talent and creativity," President Sidney McPhee said, referring to the dance and skit routines that the competition groups choreograph and perform during Fight Song.

Six competition groups, consisting of 21 Greek organizations, competed in Fight Song.

"It was my first time participating

in Fight Song, and I had so much fun," said Sira Ndam, a junior majoring in political science.

Ndam, who recently transferred from Vanderbilt University, is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She was one of several sorority members who joined forces with members from the Sigma Nu Fraternity, Kappa Sigma Fraternity and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., to compete in last night's Homecoming event.

"It was so exciting - just wonderful," Ndam said.

Kappa Delta, Sigma Nu, Kappa Sigma and Alpha Phi Alpha tied for second place with Alpha Omicron Pi Women's Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Third place was awarded to Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, Sigma Pi Fraternity and Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Kappa Alpha Order, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., competed



Photos by Chris Donahue, staff photographer. Members of Alpha Delta Pi perform with Sigma Pi and Alpha Tau Omega during the annual Fight Song on Wednesday. The group placed third in the competition.

as a group. In addition, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity also joined in on the festivities.

"The turnout for this year's show was amazing," SGA President Brandon Batts said. "It's always nice to see [MTSU] students come out and be excited to support campus events."



File Photo. Members of the Student Government Association gather for their weekly meeting Sept. 30 to discuss several proposed pieces of legislation.

SGA discusses name change

By TODD BARNES
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association passed a resolution last week that will open discussions on changing MTSU's name from Middle Tennessee State University to the University of

Middle Tennessee. The Senate voted 41-6 with five abstentions on Resolution 08-10-F. According to the legislation, The SGA is officially taking a "stand," and is pursuing discussion between the students, faculty, alumni and the governing bodies of MTSU in regards to

a possible name change. At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley is the sponsor of this legislation, and said he believes MTSU is entering into a new era of academic excellence and the university would progress even further being known as the "new MT."

SGA, PAGE 2

University gears up for 'Bright Lights, Blue City'

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

A variety of campus and community organizations plan to participate in Homecoming festivities this week, according to Student Government Association event organizers.

This year, the SGA has chosen "Bright Lights, Blue City" for the 2010 Homecoming theme, said Donald Abels, director of the SGA Homecoming Committee.

While Homecoming at some universities is primarily a Greek

event, MTSU welcomes everyone to participate, Abels said.

"I think sometimes Greeks are the most visible at Homecoming," said Jackie Victory, director of the office of Leadership and Service and an advisor to the SGA Homecoming Committee. However, Victory said that Homecoming presents a great opportunity for students to express their school spirit.

"When you leave MTSU, you don't want to be like, 'Oh, I got a degree,' you want to be happy about where you went to get

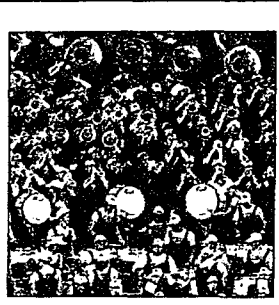
your degree," Victory said, adding that Homecoming was something that brings MTSU alumni back to campus.

One of the big events the SGA is organizing, Abels said, is the Chili-Cook-Off, an annual event where student organizations, restaurants and alumni and friends can enter their homemade chili.

"It is a competition, but it's a healthy competition," Victory said. "We are looking for people to have a good time. This is a way to celebrate MTSU."

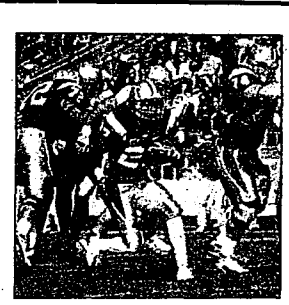
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MTSU's Band of Blue creates family dynamic, increases band members
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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Check out full coverage of the Homecoming festivities and Saturday's game.

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MTSUSIDELINES.COM

THURSDAY FORECAST

SUNNY
NO THREAT OF RAIN
HIGH 74, LOW 42

Homecoming festivities begin

HOMECOMING FROM PAGE 1

The cook-off will be held tomorrow at the Murphy Center Forrest at 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 and will be available at the event. Proceeds from the event will go to Habitat for Humanity, Abels said. A corn hole competition will be held during the event.

Last year MTSU alumna Adriana Holt won first place, Lambda Sigma won second place and Tau Omega was the peoples' choice, according to an article in the Oct. 25 issue of *Sidelines* last year.

This year's Homecoming Parade is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, and will begin at Maney Avenue, continue down Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard and end at the Alumni House on Greenland Drive.

Between 50 and 60 groups are planning to participate in the parade, Abels said, including fraternities, sororities, students organizations and local businesses.

Lane Davies, an MTSU alumni and television actor, will serve as the Grand Marshal for the parade, according to MTSU's website.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council is presenting its annual Step Show as part of the Homecoming festivities, Abels said. The Step Show will be held tomorrow in the Murphy Center at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 at the Ticket Office, Gate 1A of Floyd Stadium, and for \$15 tomorrow, according to the Office of Greeks Affairs website.

The SGA is also hosting a Horseshoe Competition today at the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center at 5 p.m., Abels said, adding that the event is meant to represent MTSU's mascot Lightning. About 20 campus groups are competing in the event, Abels said.

In the end, organizers said that Homecoming was about building appreciation for MTSU.

"It's easy to be a student that just comes to class, but it makes your experience at MTSU a thousand times better if you get involved on campus," said Chelsea Goodwin, assistant director of SGA's Homecoming Committee.

The Homecoming game against Louisiana-Monroe will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at Floyd Stadium. Tickets are free for students with a valid MTSU ID, general admission tickets are \$8 and sideline reserve tickets are \$18.



Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer
Members of Alpha Chi Omega cheer on the participants of Fight Song in a crowded Murphy Center on Wednesday. The event kicked off Homecoming week.

LOCAL EVENTS

Off Campus

Concerts:
An Evening with Nicholas Zumbro
Presented by the Murfreesboro Symphony
Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
Tickets: \$50

Sister Hazel
Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Wildhorse Saloon
Tickets: \$70

Muse Mayhem!
Oct. 22, 6 p.m.
The Muse

Tickets: \$7
Nightlife:
Karaoke Contest
Oct. 21, 9 p.m.
Coconut Bay Cafe
FREE

Outdoor Events:
Ghost Tours and Haunted Hayrides
Oct. 22, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sam Davis Home
Tickets: \$5

Stones River Bicycle Tour
Oct. 23, 9 a.m.

Stones River National Battlefield
FREE

Fiddlers Grove Fall Festival
Oct. 23, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fiddlers Grove Historic Village
Tickets: \$5

Great Pumpkin Festival Night Under the Stars
Oct. 28, 4 p.m.
The Discovery Center
Tickets: \$4

Sports:
Predators vs. Penguins
Bridge Stone Arena

Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Titans vs. Eagles
Oct. 24, 12 p.m.
LP Field

Events Policy
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mtsu.edu or slnews@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with *Sidelines* or MTSU.

CRIME BRIEFS

Vandalism
Oct. 14, 9:15 p.m.
Rutherford Parking Lot
A complainant reported that someone had written a message on his or her car.

Alcohol
Oct. 15, 12:57 a.m.
East Main Street
Angela M. Petry, 22, was arrested for driving under the influence of an intoxicant or drugs and violation of the implied consent law.

Vandalism
Oct. 15, 1:18 a.m.
Greek Row
Someone reportedly poured water on audio equipment inside of the Sigma Chi fraternity house.

Assault
Oct. 15, 12:02 a.m.
Alumni Drive

Vandalism
Oct. 15, 12:22 a.m.
Greenhouse
A complainant reported his or her vehicle had been keyed while parked in lot outside of the building.

Traffic
Oct. 15, 7:17 p.m.
Rutherford Boulevard
Daniela Margarita Mendez-Contreras, 23, was issued a state citation for driving without a license, financial responsibility and failure to obey traffic control device.

Theft
Oct. 15, 9:11 p.m.
Alma Matter Drive
A purse was reportedly stolen from the parking lot.

Vandalism
Oct. 18, 9:53 a.m.
Greek Row
A complainant reported the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house had been vandalized.

Theft
Oct. 18, 3:54 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
A bicycle was reportedly stolen from the bike rack from in between Felder Hall and the library.

Vandalism
Oct. 19, 12:30 a.m.
James E. Walker Library
A mirror was reportedly damaged while parked near the library.

Weapon
Oct. 20, 12:50 a.m.
Alumni Drive
Officers stopped a vehicle for speeding and discovered that the passenger had a 3-foot sword inside of the car, which had been purchased at a craft show. The sword was confiscated for a policy violation, and the student was issued a dean citation for the violation and a campus citation for speeding.

University could get new name

SGA FROM PAGE 1

"Things are changing, times are changing, the school is changing," Mosley said. "It may be time to possibly step into that next era of our school, and I think that includes a name change."

By "era," Mosley said MTSU will be turning 100 years old on Sept. 11, 2011, and it would be the perfect day to unveil a new name that signifies the university's ideology of progression.

Mosley said that the University of Memphis, formerly known as Memphis State, used the name change to bring a different con-

notation to the university, and MTSU should follow suit. The benefits MTSU would incur from the name change are a boost in athlete recruitment and an increased sense of school pride from students, Mosley said.

"I think the greatest benefit would be the caliber of students and faculty we would pull in," Mosley said.

Mosley's primary focus is changing the name. However, he said he is not opposed to changing the school colors or mascot if the students support it.

"If students were to say that they wanted to pursue a mascot or color change, I would be willing to look at that as well," Mosley said. "But, the thing that I'm focused on right now is the name change."

Although many students have MTSU memorabilia, such as clothing, school supplies and other trinkets that boast the printed "MTSU" name on the merchandise, these items would become relics of MTSU's journey into a new era, Mosley said.

"I think the beautiful thing about that would be those items would become timeless classics," Mosley said. "I don't have anything that says 'Middle Tennessee State College' or 'Middle Tennessee State Normal School,' and I would love to have those articles of history."

This is only the first step in the journey for this legislation. The fate is left to SGA's hierarchy of officials. The legislation is now at the hands of SGA President Brandon Batts, in which he will

have the power to pass the bill along to Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs, for next passage. He could also veto a specific line of the bill and that would send it back to the senate. Nevertheless, the senate has the power to override any veto between both officials by a two-thirds majority vote.

If the legislation does pass entirely, the name change would be phased in over a three-year period to accommodate changes in university signs, stationery and other areas sponsored with the label "MTSU."

To read more, visit us online.

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The Christian Organizations of MTSU do not endorse/engage in name calling, vindictive argumentation, or hateful speech. We do whole heartedly acknowledge Jesus as God's own Son who died as a payment for our sins. We accept the Bible as ultimate truth, and firmly hold to 1 Peter 3:15 "always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you with gentleness and reverence".

There are extremists everywhere in the world. Please do not attribute the actions of the extremists to other organizations.



SPORTS

Raiders declare war on ULM

By ALEX HUBBARD
Staff Writer

In a Homecoming match up of Sun Belt Conference rivals, the Blue Raider football team will look to kick off the second half of the season on a positive note against the Warhawks of Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday afternoon.

ULM (3-3, 2-1 Sun Belt) is coming off an impressive come-from-behind win against Western Kentucky University last weekend and has won three of its last four games.

Meanwhile, MT (2-4, 1-1 Sun Belt) has had back-to-back blowouts courtesy of Georgia Tech and Troy in its last two games in which the Raiders were outscored a combined 84-27.

ULM comes to Murfreesboro billed as a young team with lots of talent and potential. Halfway through the season, ULM has dropped contests to ranked opponents University of Arkansas and Auburn University, while cranking out wins against Florida Atlantic University, Southeastern Louisiana University and WKU. Their only Sun Belt loss came in a 34-20 decision at Arkansas State.

"They are a very athletic team with a lot of speed," Head Coach Rick Stockstill said. "They are not very big in size and stature,

but they are fast and play hard. They are not a team you can pinpoint a weakness that they have."

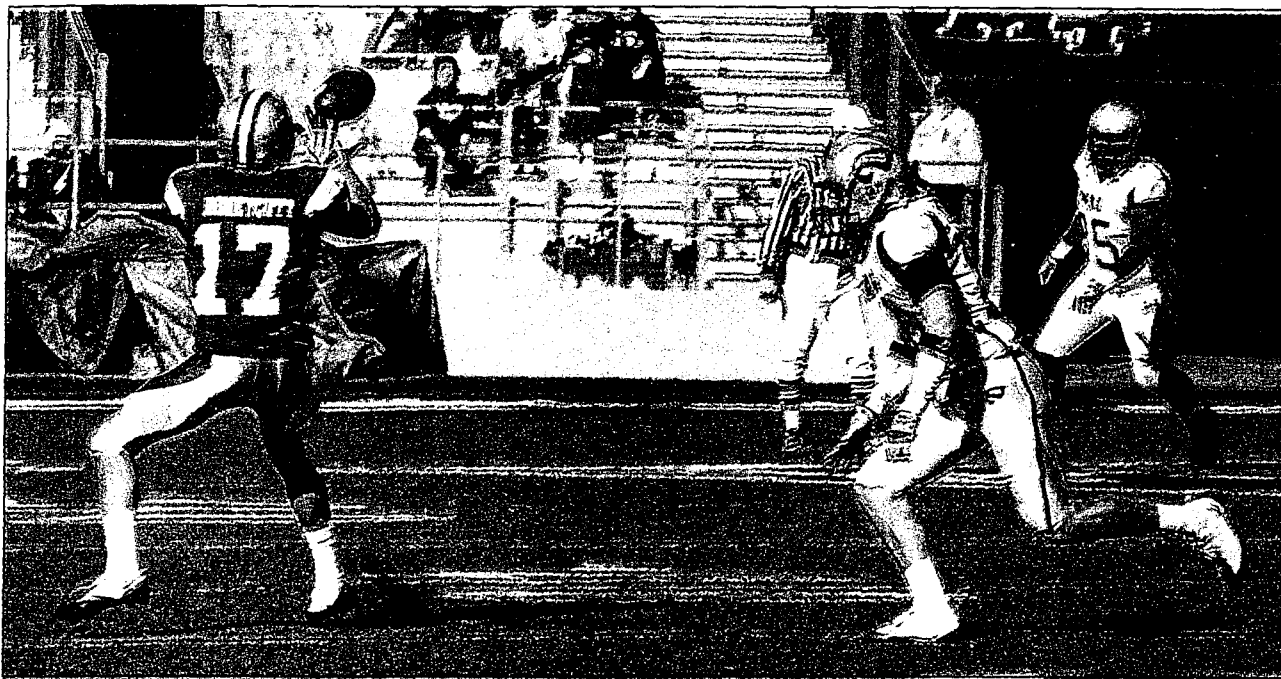
The ULM offense is led by freshman quarterback Kolton Browning, who has passed for 200 yards in five straight games at a total of 1,284 yards - the most by an ULM quarterback through six games in 17 years.

"He has done a good job, and they have done a good job coaching him," Stockstill said. "He is a smart player who has protected the ball well. He was on the team last spring, and it is not like he has only been in this offense for six games."

The key for MT's defense will be disrupting Browning's flow and timing, something that defensive tackle Dwight Smith finds challenging.

"Sometimes it seems like he does not have anything going on back there," Smith said. "He might have two guys coming at him, and he will make a perfect throw and not even think about getting hit."

The Blue Raiders approach the midpoint of their season with considerable disappointments behind them and challenges ahead. Their four losses, though, can all be largely accredited to one statistic, turnovers. The Blue Raiders have turned the ball



File photo
Alumnus Patrick Honeycutt catches a pass during last year's Homecoming game against Western Kentucky University.

over 19 times in six games at a cost of 79 points for their opponents.

Against Georgia Tech, MT committed six turnovers, which led to 28 of the Yellow Jacket's 42 points.

"We talk about it every day," Stockstill said of the turnovers. "That is how you win and lose. We have to get that corrected."

ULM marks the first of six straight conference contests for MT, which will carry them through the end of the season.

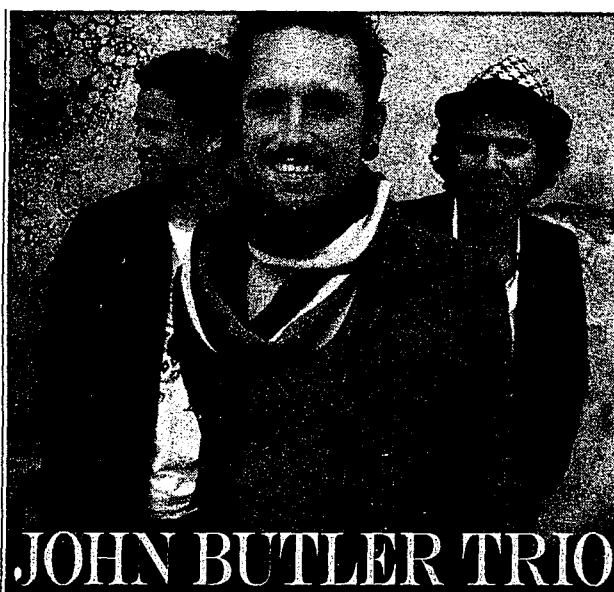
Stockstill, however, is focused on one game at a time.

"You never want to look too far ahead," Stockstill said. "We have to have tunnel vision the rest of the

way which is something you need in this profession. As soon as you start thinking, you have three games left and you have to do this and that, you stub your toe."

That doesn't mean that MT would not like to see a repeat of last season's stretch run, in which they rattled off six straight wins. To accomplish the same thing, offensive lineman Mark Fisher points to what worked last season.

"We got better every week," Fisher said. "We did not think, if we win six, we will go to a bowl game. We just stayed focused and paid attention to each game and each detail."



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Put your best face forward for Homecoming



"Lightning Stardust"



"Kiss of Blue Raider"



"Couples MT Pride"

By ROZALIND RUTH
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Everyone can wear blue and silver for Homecoming, and it is a good way of showing school pride during the game, but what if fans want to step it up a notch?

Next to dressing up in a homemade MT Lightning costume, face painting is the best way to show off your Blue Raider pride.

Whether it is a small symbol on the cheek of the face - so cute for women and

girls - or blue all over the face, neck and belly - totally awesome for dudes - everyone can show their own style through different designs.

Face painting is always greatly appreciated - in any form. But, here are a few general tips, and a couple of designs, to inspire the masses to paint their face like winners:

Always use washable paint; tempera paints or water-based paints will wash off well. Greasy makeup, like the kind often

found in Halloween make-up kits, also fares well for the game, and can be used later for holiday dress-up. These sorts of paints are also inexpensive and easy to find in the Halloween section of any store.

Always, always, always check to make sure that the paint is nontoxic. Skin absorbs what on it, especially if it is left on there for any amount of time. Never get paint near someone's eyes or mouth. If that happens, douse with water until clean.

Be sure that paint is applied to a clean face, and make sure to clean it off at the end of the night. Moist wipes work wonders to get the bulk of the paint off, but be sure to follow up with warm soap or facial cleanser after using the wipes.

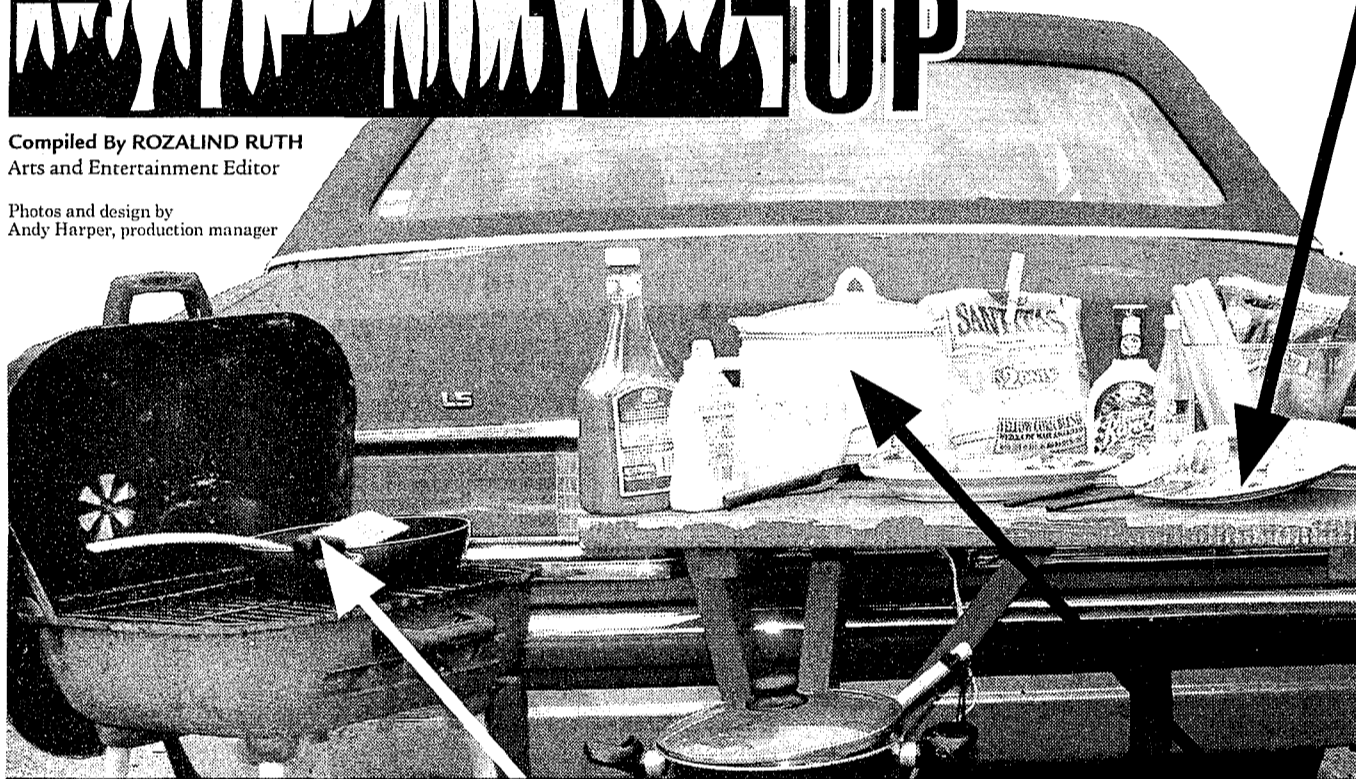
The most important part of game day is to have fun showing school spirit. Go Blue Raiders and go face paint!

Photos by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Design by Andy Harper, production manager

SPICED UP Tailgate Edition

Compiled By ROZALIND RUTH
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Photos and design by
Andy Harper, production manager



Blue-Country Boil



What better way to intimidate Louisiana-Monroe than by preparing one of their regional dishes and do it well? This low country boil is easy to make in one pot and fun to eat.

Things you need:

- Crab boil seasoning
- 5 pounds red skinned new potatoes
- 12 ears of corn - cut in half
- 4 pounds of andouille sausage - pre-cooked
- 3 pounds of jumbo shrimp - uncooked

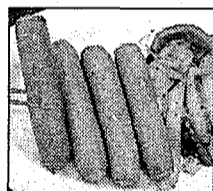
Add 1 ounce of crab boil seasoning for each gallon of water and bring to a boil. Place potatoes in a pot and cook for five minutes or until soft.

Add corn to the potatoes and boil for another five minutes. Place sausage and shrimp in the pot and cook for two minutes.

Drain the liquid and place contents into large bowl or clean cooler. Toss with Cajun seasoning to taste.

Secret to Perfect Bratwurst

These German beauties are perfect for the avid tailgater. Don't ruin your pre-game experience with dry, tasteless wieners on your bun. Try this trick the night before and enjoy the sensation of a perfect brat.



Things you need:

- Bratwursts
- Large bottle of a dark beer of your choice
- Green bell peppers
- White onions

The night before the game:

Empty the bottle of beer into the pot and add water if needed so that the brats will be fully covered with liquid. When the mixture comes to a boil, drop the brats into the pot and kill the heat. When the pot's contents are cool, place everything into a sealable container. Grill brats the next day.

Always use tongs, never a fork! If the brats' skin is pierced, they won't maintain their juicy goodness. With a separate pan, sauté green peppers and onions with garlic salt and olive oil, and toss in teriyaki marinade. Place brats in the vegetable mixture and serve.

Tastes-Just-Like-Chicken-Wing Dip

This delectable dip is the perfect alternative to messy wings. It's easily made ahead of time or on-the-spot during a tailgating event. It's easy, cheesy and good!



Things you need:

- 3 cans shredded chicken
- 1 block of cream cheese
- 1/2 a cup of ranch or bleu cheese dressing
- 1/2 a cup of hot wing sauce
- 1 1/2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese

Place all ingredients into a slow cooking pot until melted. Serve with celery sticks and tortilla chips.

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MTSU FIGHT SONG

Just in case you don't know the words, here is the MTSU Fight Song. Learn it, love it or at least be able to fake it while cheering at the Homecoming game Saturday.

Blue Raiders ride on to vic-t'ry
Never failing in the fight
Upholding honor and tradition
Of the name that's held most high
M-T-S-U marching onward
This will be our battle cry
For the one, true pride of the Blue
M-T-S-U Raiders Ride!

Sidewords will be back next week with an all new puzzle. In the meantime, enjoy our special 2010 Homecoming Edition and the answers to last week's puzzle.

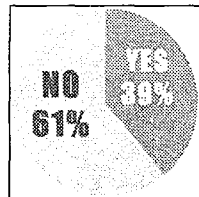
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Oct. 14 Solution

ARE YOU PSYCHED-UP FOR THE HOMECOMING GAME?

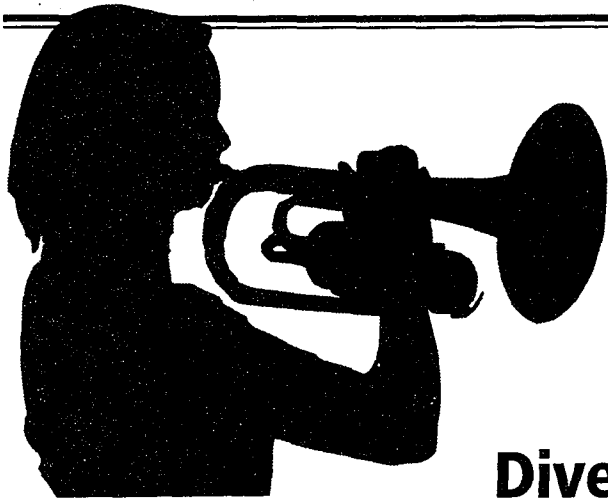
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FEATURES



DOES EDUCATION JUSTIFY BUYING A SMART PHONE?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.



Marching to the beat of MTSU

Diverse group of students shows MT pride

By REBECCA BROWN
Staff Writer

The Band of Blue is a home away from home for many students with an interest in music.

"We're a big family," said Jessica Graves, a senior majoring in history and one of the band's two drum majors this year.

Graves said she has met countless people through band, including her best friends.

Chris Salt, a graduate student in the College of Business and president of the band, agrees that being part of Band of Blue has given him the opportunity to make friends with people he wouldn't have met otherwise.

"I don't know what college would've been like without it," Salt said.

Brett Mell, a sophomore majoring in history education and a mellophone player in the band, agrees that band plays as big a part in his personal life as it does in his schoolwork.

"Band is more than just a 1 o'clock to 2:45 class," Mell said.

This year's band is the largest in the history of MTSU. Membership has increased from 320 people to 367 just in the past year, making it the largest college marching band in Tennessee.

This impressive number is due to the fun, relaxed atmosphere of the band, which shows in its performances. The Band of Blue's halftime show is what Craig Cornish, the director of Band of Blue, calls a "potpourri of ideas." It consists of upbeat songs that engage the audience.

"It's geared toward good-time music," Cornish said, "[and] having a good time at the game."

Hayes Harbaugh, a junior majoring in instrumental music education and a member of the Band of Blue drumline, believes that the modern approach is what sets it apart from other college marching bands.

While other bands rely heavily on past tradition, the Band of Blue is good at "keeping up with the times" with a balance of classic and contemporary music, Cornish said.

For instance, during its halftime show, the band plays and dances to "Cupid Shuffle," a popular hip-hop song from 2007. Other songs from the show include "Love Shack," "Shake Your Groove Thing" and "YMCA."

"As opposed to [the audience] looking at us, it's us trying to entertain the audience," Graves said.

Game day for Band of Blue members is tiring but fun. Before the football game even begins, the band members rehearse and then perform during the Raider Walk.

In the stadium, the band plays music before and after performing the halftime show. This schedule is lengthened on the day of the homecoming game, which includes the parade in the morning.

Away-games for Band of Blue mean early mornings. Band members usually arrive at the school around 6:15 a.m. to leave for out-of-town games. Due to a limited budget, the whole band isn't able to attend every away-game during the season. There's a smaller pep band being taken to some games.

One of the biggest events for the Band of Blue is the Contest of Champions, the oldest consecutive high school marching band contest in the United States. The competi-

tion is held at MTSU every year on Oct. 31.

Jennifer Stembridge, the university band coordinator, handles most of the logistics of the competition. On the day of the competition, Band of Blue members assist with competing bands and contest viewers, in addition to performing its show twice.

It has become tradition for the Band of Blue members to wear Halloween costumes to the competition, which is entertaining for them, the crowd and competing high school bands.

Band of Blue members usually keep their costumes secret until the day of the competition. They like to compete with each other to see who comes up with the most outrageous setup.

Last year, the two drum majors coordinated as Kanye West and Taylor Swift, and they re-enacted the celebrities' notorious encounter during the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards.

Band members believe the Contest of Champions is one of the reasons for the Band of Blue's consistently increasing membership. High school band members who attend the competition are able to see how much fun the band members have together.

This convivial atmosphere can be seen in the band video yearbook that is made each year by the band historian and shown at the annual band banquet.

"The video shows the whacky, funny stuff," said Emily Jones, a junior majoring in music education and a tuba player in the Band of Blue.

The band emphasizes having fun, but they also work hard.

They rehearse for an hour and 45 minutes, three times per week, which Cornish said is less than any other college band in the U.S. This is to allow band members time to be involved with other campus activities, as well, he said.

"We try to make it easier for students to be in band, make good grades, maybe be in a fraternity or a sorority, maybe have a job, maybe all of the above," Cornish said. "We

subjects outside the school of music.

Cornish said he recruits for the band by visiting high schools, where he speaks with students and guest-conducts their ensembles. He also meets with new university students interested in marching band during each CUSTOMS session.

The students who chose to join the marching band attend band camp the week before fall classes

begin. There are no formal auditions for Band of Blue – it is open to all students.

"We'll take anybody that wants to be out there and wants to work hard," Cornish said. "Ability level is not what we worry about: we worry about work ethic, we worry about dependability, we worry about responsibility, [and] if you can do those things, we'll teach you how to be a good performer."

All of the Band of Blue members are enrolled in at least one music class – Music Ensembles 3100: The Band of Blue Marching Band – although it does require significantly more work than the average one-credit-hour course.

But students aren't part of Band of Blue for that single credit hour. They don't get paid, and

Blue
M T S U

they don't receive a tremendous amount of praise or recognition. "They're doing it because they love MTSU," Cornish said. "They love performing"

want them to be able to do all that and still be in band."

Most of the Band of Blue members are involved with at least one other activity on campus. In fact, only about 40 of the band's 376 members are music majors; most are majoring in

Photos and illustrations by Jay Bailey, photo editor
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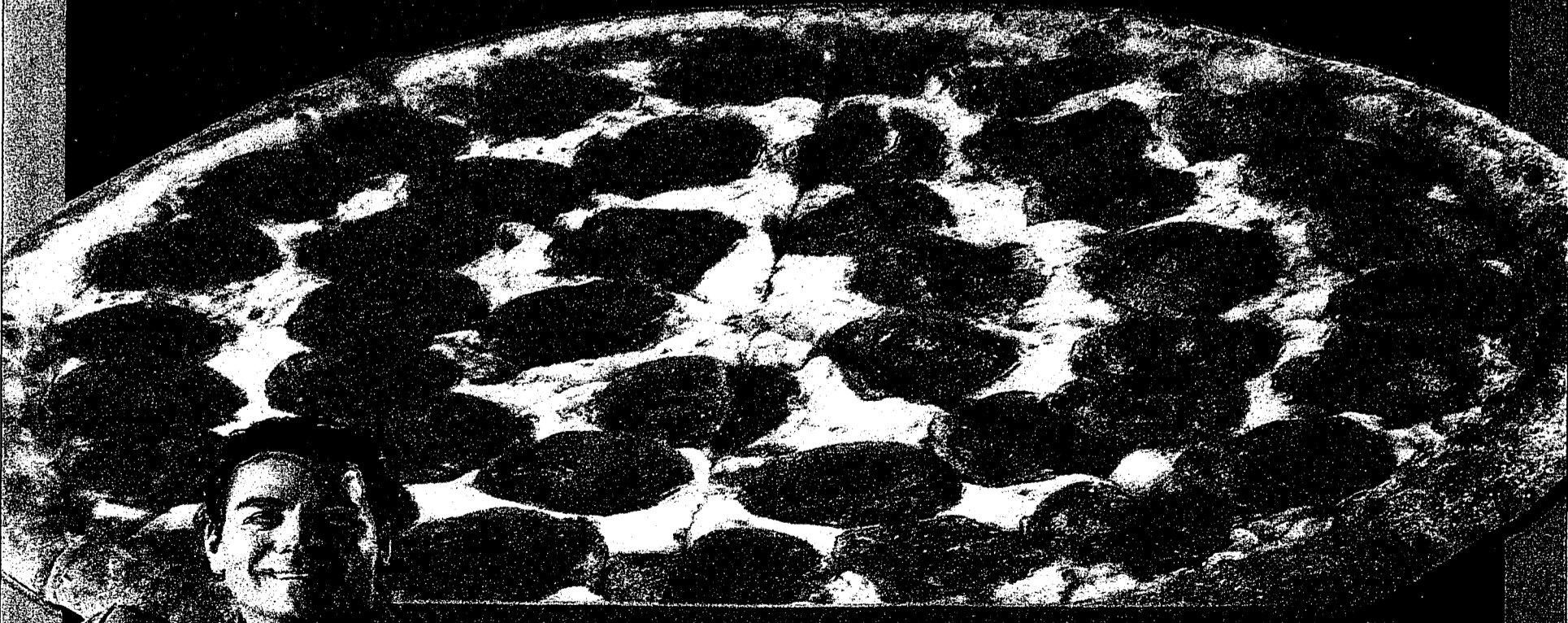
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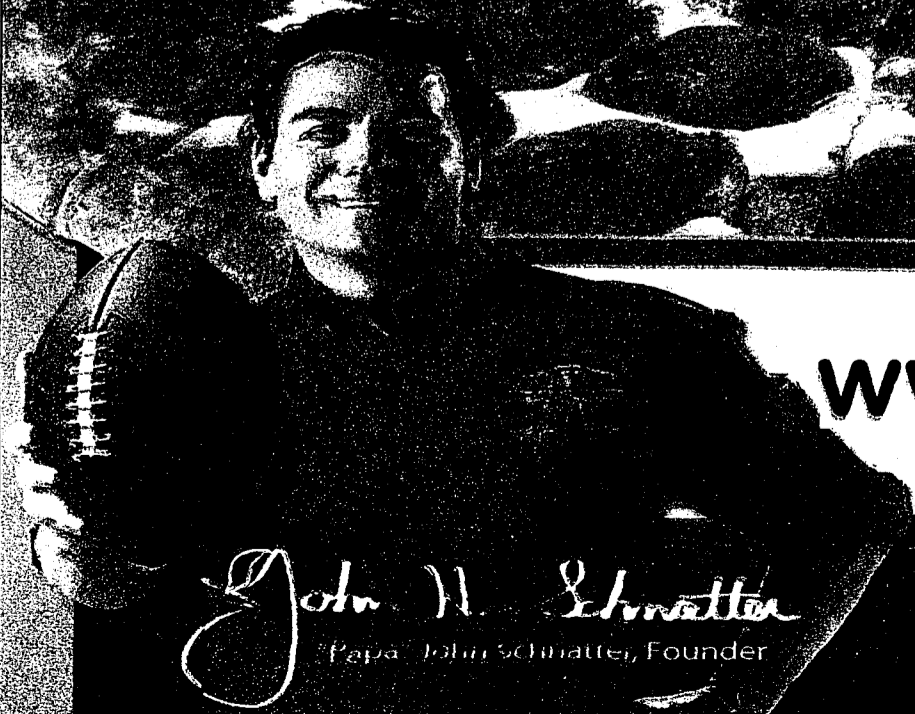
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OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

Football terms necessary for Homecoming

I wish I could hear the MTSU Fight Song at the game this Saturday night. That's my favorite part of every football game.

Homecoming has a broad base of events in which one can participate. There's a skeet shoot, a chili cook-off, a parade, the Baby Raider Ride Contest, a couple of rugby games, tailgating, the crowing of our Homecoming King and Queen elections and a football game. Welcoming back former residents and alumni of an institution is the current staff and student body's platform to show what we're currently passionate about.

Guests will be all over the campus possibly asking for directions and picking up our student newspaper and enjoying the sights and sounds of college life once again.

During two different leases



Aimee Schmittendorf

How does this make you feel?

that I've signed in Murfreesboro, I've had the pleasure of living with in three blocks of the Floyd Stadium. The parking is atrocious, but the activities, sounds, smells and flavors of Homecoming are worth every block you walk.

Because I know very little about the game of football, I decided to look up "Common Football Terms to Know" from

dummies.com. If you're like me, you'll be reading *Sidelines* while either at the game or at some point on campus during this bustling tradition. Before you decide to sit on it or line your hamster's cage with it, these terms may come in handy if you are not a connoisseur of this sport de la coliseum:

Down: a period of action that starts when the ball is put into play and ends when the ball is ruled dead, meaning the play is completed.

End zone: a 10-yard-long area at both ends of the field – the promised land for a football player.

Fumble: the act of losing possession of the ball while running with it or being tackled.

Interception: a pass that's caught by a defensive player, ending in the

offense's possession of the ball.

Kick off: a free kick – the receiving team can't make an attempt to block it – that puts the ball into play. A kickoff is used at the start of the first and third periods and after every touchdown and successful field goal.

Punt: a kick made when a player drops the ball and kicks it while it falls toward his foot. A punt is usually made on a fourth down when the offense must surrender possession of the ball to the defense because it couldn't advance 10 yards.

Return: the act of receiving a kick or punt and running toward the opponent's goal line with the intent of scoring or gaining significant yardage.

Sack: when a defensive player tackles the quarterback behind

the line of scrimmage for a loss of yardage.

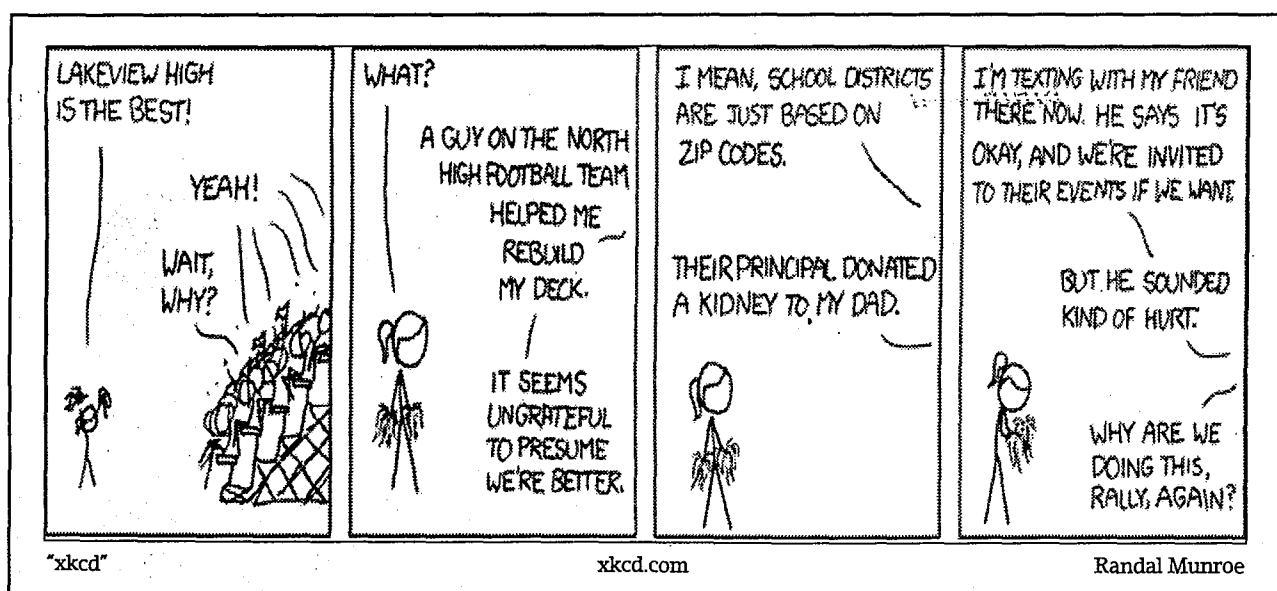
Touchdown: What we want!!! This is when the team scores and is worth six points. A touchdown occurs when a player is in possession of the ball and crosses the plane of the opponent's goal line, or when a player catches the ball while in the opponent's end zone, or when a defensive player recovers a loose ball in the opponent's end zone.

Saturday's MTSU vs. Louisiana-Monroe football game will kick off at 3:30 p.m. Per collegefootballpoll.com, we are projected to win! Go Blue Raiders!!

Aimee Schmittendorf is a senior majoring in public relations and the opinions editor for *Sidelines*. She can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.



COMICS



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The walking regimen pushed onto MTSU students has become more excessive than before. Walking is a wonderful way to lose weight! MTSU has opened the door for students to walk more by eliminating another green pass parking lot.

The parking lot beside the University Honors College has now become a white pass parking lot only, as many of us found out on the first or second day of school. I realized this thanks to the nice blue note left on my vehicle.

We can now walk farther than before. Who would want to park close to the John Bragg Mass Communication Building or the James E. Walker Library when we can all walk? Now there is more time to

contemplate the dread of going to class. Who needs five minutes when you can have 20?

MTSU has really taken a step to better our enrolled students physically. A parking lot that was once full of eager students rushing to learn is now half empty of those who are eager to teach. I feel we will all benefit from this decision. I'm hoping to lose 5 pounds over the semester by carrying my books a farther distance.

I hope everyone is as delighted as I am for this change. We will all have a healthier but more strenuous year!

Anslay Owens is a junior in the College of Mass Communication. She can be reached at afo2c@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

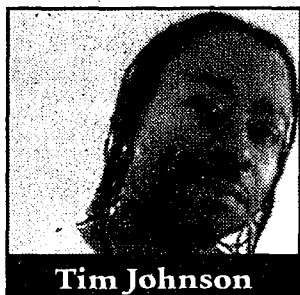
Democrats look for strategy to revamp base

With the 2010 midterm elections approaching, dissatisfaction with the performance of both parties has been the sentiment among the voting public, especially for President Barack Obama and the incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2008, Obama impressed many voters with his promises of "hope" and "change," and that he would bring a more mature, post-partisan – and transparent style to Washington, D.C., but none of these has been the case.

But the Obama administration has been successful in bringing on more spending that has led to higher debt, an abandonment of the free market, a failed stimulus, bailouts, a hostile takeovers of big companies, banks and the financial industry, and a worldwide "apology tour."

In addition, his admin-



Tim Johnson

The Virtual Truth

istration has pledged more than \$400 million of financial aid to a Hamas-led Palestine, which hates the United States to no end, and passed a health care bill that the majority of Americans clearly do not like.

Obama won over a large number of independent voters who expected big things by way of "hope" and "change" only to be disillusioned with empty promises. As a result, the president is back on the college tour giving personal pep

rallies to fire-up students on college campuses, hoping to gain the youth's vote for more of the same old "hope" and "change" policies that have failed during the past two years.

Wait a minute – on the campaign trail didn't he say that the same old policies of the past administration didn't work? So this means we should not vote for the same failed policies of the current administration again, right?

So how did Obama and the Democrat Party's leadership abuse their political clout and personal goodwill with the American people?

For starters, how about borders, language, culture, abortion, taxes and debt, all of which are pressing issues with constituents. As president, Obama swore to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and do-

mestic. It the federal government's job to secure, protect and defend our borders; yet, this administration endorses illegal immigration and tries to sue any state that enforces federal law because it refuses to take action.

Then there are taxes, which are ridiculously high for income-earning Americans. Corporate taxes continue to skyrocket causing some companies to shut down operations and move overseas. This then causes American workers to get laid off and unemployed for lengthy periods of time.

Tim Johnson is a senior majoring in political science and Spanish. He can be reached at tj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

To read more, visit us online.



Parking is a Problem



Due to the construction of a new Education Building and Student Union Building the parking lot beside the University Honors College has been reallocated to faculty and staff parking only. *Sidelines* has noticed that regardless of the time of day, the lot is almost always empty. So, we have decided to continue to run a photo of the parking lot that is timestamped until the problem is addressed.

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