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Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

Religion forum to promote better understanding

MTSU will sponsor "Living With Our Religious Differences" tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

The forum is sponsored jointly by the Division of Student Affairs and the Campus Ministers Association and will provide information on Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

MTSU art professor Lon Nuell will make a presentation on Judaism; the Rev. Timothy Jones, Episcopal chaplain for MTSU, will be speaking about Christianity; and Imam Abdullah, a cleric at the Nashville Mosque, will be speaking on Islam.

John Ferguson, a religious freedom specialist at the Freedom Forum in Nashville, will offer a conclusion from a constitutional perspective.

The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, call News and Public Affairs at 898-2919.

Dances and hymns to be performed tomorrow

The University Dance Theatre performers will perform at the Women's Chorale concert at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Wright Music Building Music Hall.

The dancers will perform three dances to Franz Schubert pieces; the Women's Chorale will perform traditional hymns as well as songs from *West Side Story* and a musical interpretation of a poem by Morten Lauridsen.

The concert is free and open to the public.

College Republicans will sponsor roundtable

The College Republicans will hold a roundtable discussion tomorrow from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S118.

The lead guest will be state Representative Donna Rowland, R-Murfreesboro. She will discuss state government issues and the political system in Tennessee.

Free food from Fazoli's will be provided, and the roundtable is free and open to the public.

For more information, call David Figueredo at 898-3563.

Writers in the Round to spotlight civil rights activist

The Tom T. Hall Writers in the Round Symposium will spotlight Will D. Campbell, a civil rights activist, graduate of Yale's divinity school, amateur country musician, preacher who does not attend church and author of 16 books.

Authors Vince Staten, William Carter and Leslie Satcher also will be on hand to share memories and writing tips. The symposium is at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building and is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the event.

For more information, call News and Public Affairs at 898-2919. ♦

Achievement award nominations due

By Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

The deadline is drawing near for Career Achievement Award nominations.

The Career Achievement Award is presented to a faculty member who has demonstrated profound, sustained and high-

quality contributions in the areas of teaching, innovation, publication and research/creative activity, as well as service to the university, community and the education profession.

The award is new and was implemented just last year.

In order to choose a recipient, President Sidney McPhee

appointed a committee suggested by the Faculty Senate to weed through nominations.

The committee was established to recognize an outstanding faculty member who is a great teacher, has made contributions to his/her profession and is involved in the university. The committee consists of two

faculty members from each college.

The candidates for this year's award must meet several requirements before becoming eligible to receive the award.

Nominees must be full-time faculty members with a minimum of 10 years of service to MTSU at the rank of full profes-

sor or 15 years full-time service to the university.

In order to become a candidate at all, professors must be nominated by a minimum of five individuals, at least three of whom must be full-time faculty or academic administrators.

See Award, 2

Elevator project hits snag

By Lindsey Turner and Patrick Chinnery
News Editor and Opinions Editor

Complications in a campus elevator project have resulted in an indefinite and expensive delay.

While digging the elevator pit on the first floor of the James Union Building, construction workers discovered a spread footing not drawn in the original building plans — an obstruction that made it impossible to install the pit in the same space.

Jim Creekmore with Nashville's Southeast Contractors, the construction company responsible for the work, said complications are common when re-modeling older buildings such as the JUB, which was built in 1952.

"When you re-model older buildings, you run into things that will cause delays that were not foreseen," Creekmore said.

Apparently, he said, the original designer had left the footing out of the building plans. It wasn't discovered until the crew dug right into it. Instead of cutting the footing, the architect, Maxwell Johanson Maher, and university officials decided to shift the location of the elevator, Creekmore said.

The process of moving it will put the project over its original budget, said Patti Miller, director of Campus Planning.

Together, the JUB and Cope Administration Building eleva-

tor projects originally received \$40,000.

Miller said the university needs at least \$13,000 to \$20,000 more to complete the project, but the Tennessee Board of Regents will be asking the state for \$50,000 — enough to cover any other unforeseen expenses that may arise in both projects.

Jerry Preston, head of facilities for the TBR, said he fully expects the state to comply with the request for money and confirmed he will ask for \$50,000 tomorrow.

Any leftover money will be used to fund other projects in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, he said.

Jay Wallace, administrative coordinator of Construction Administration, said the project will resume as soon as re-designing is done and should be complete by Dec. 1.

Creekmore said his company will resume work as soon as additional funding is acquired.

"We are waiting for a design-order," he said. "Once we get the go-ahead, we figure it will be three months (until completion)."

Though it too has faced minor complications, the Cope project could be done in two months, he said.

The two projects began in late summer to increase accessibility for disabled students in accordance with ADA regulations, but both have fallen months behind schedule due to complications. ♦

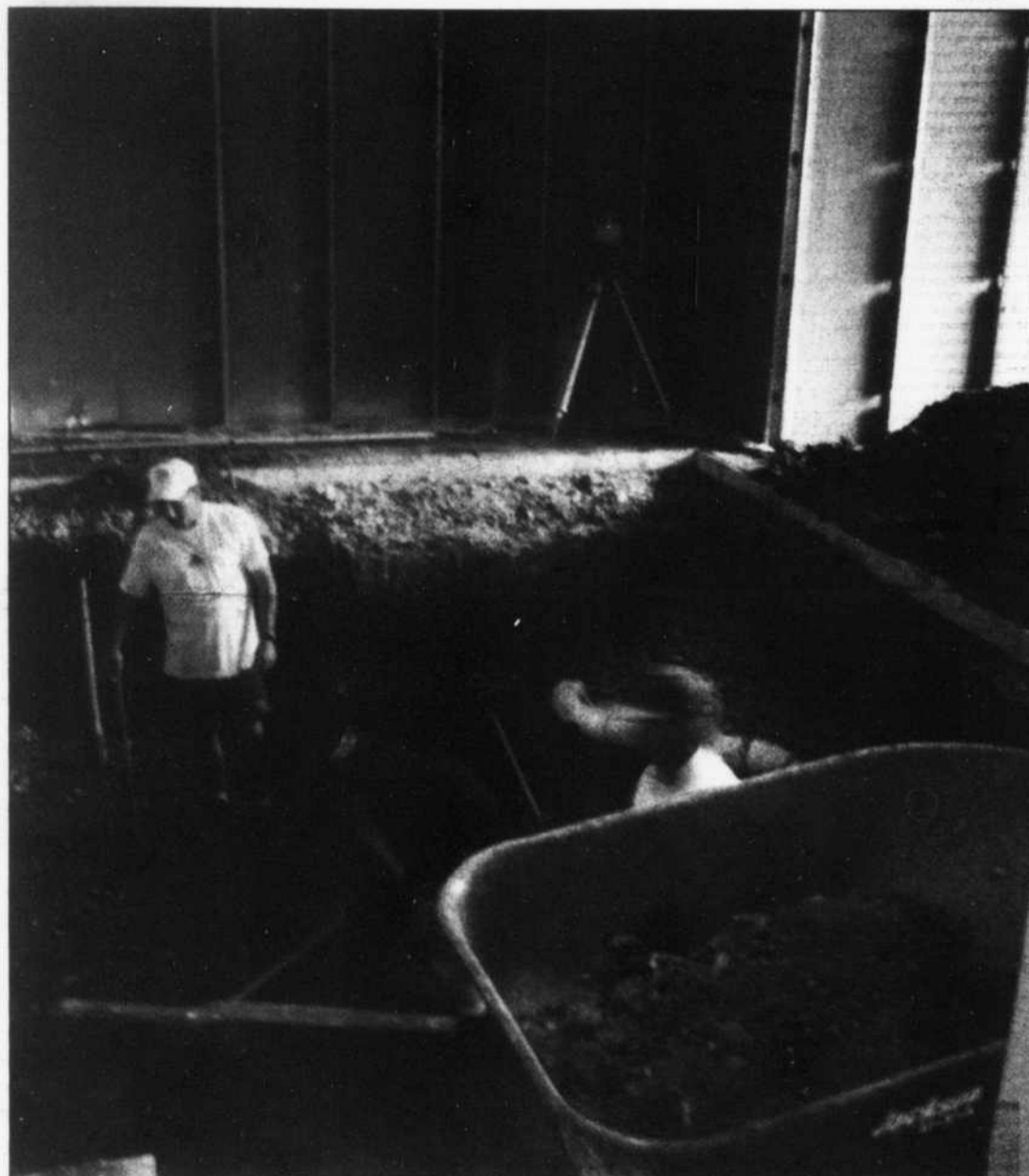


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Construction workers dig what will eventually be the elevator pit in the James Union Building. Work stopped recently because a foundation footing was discovered, complicating construction and prompting architects to make new elevator designs.

University 1010 class raises \$3,000 for disaster relief fund

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

Joining in a nationwide effort to show support for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, Cathy Crooks' University 1010 class raised and donated \$3,000 to the Twin Towers Fund.

The class joined together Sept. 13 and planned a bake sale to be held on the Knoll in front of the Keathley University Center. The students baked their own cakes, brownies and cookies, and a local Kroger donated baked goods, thanks to efforts by student Lindsey Huffman.

For more than four hours Sept. 17, the students sat outside the KUC and collected money.

"Everyone was there," student Ashley Loveday said. "There wasn't one student who didn't help out. It was really cool to see our group come together and help with the tragedy."

"Many people wanted to give but didn't have the money," said student Sarah Calk. "Some students even asked if we accepted Raider Funds."

"Some students couldn't give



Photo by Alayna Strickland | Staff

Cathy Crooks' University 1010 class raised \$3,000 for disaster relief efforts in New York and Washington, D.C.

blood," said Brandon Smith, "so this is how they helped. We even had people give money and not take any food."

The bake sale raised \$500, and Loveday's father donated another \$1,000. The Nissan plant in Smyrna then matched their donations, which brought the total to \$3,000.

Loveday's father, Kent, owns Riverside RV Park in Sevierville, Tenn.

"I'm Chaplain here (for the residents of the park), and each Sunday we collect an offering for someone in need. This particular Sunday I said that whatever was given, the park would match it. The total was \$500, so we gave \$1,000. It's great to help, even if it's in a small way."

Chad Crane, a student in the class who works at the Nissan

See Donation, 2

First-ever Holiday Festival to sponsor cancer research

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

To help in the ongoing fight against cancer, the MTSU Relay for Life team is hosting a Holiday Festival.

The festival will be held Saturday in the Alumni Memorial Gym from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will offer a variety of handmade craft booths, including jewelry, pottery, wooden and hand-painted items, floral arrangements and scrapbooking.

"We're really excited about it. It's just all coming together," said Deborah Roberts, director of Administrative Services and the team captain.

Concessions will be available for shoppers to buy, thanks to team members who will be baking and packaging snacks and Jr.'s Foodland, a local grocery store that donated hot dogs for the event.

While some money is needed for supplies, most of the profit from the sales goes to the American Cancer

Society to fund research, awareness promotions and support sessions for cancer patients.

Another booth will be designated for accepting donated leisure reading and children's books. Since copyright laws don't allow them to be re-sold, even for fundraising purposes, they will be given to the ACS.

Because the festival is designed to attract people of all ages, face painting and balloon animal booths will be available for the young at heart and children alike.

The sale of space to almost 20 craft vendors is encouraging to the team, considering this is the opening year for the festival.

"We hope this will be the first of many to come," said Kathy Kano, Business Office account clerk.

The festival is a forerunner to the Relay for Life, a 12-hour walk-a-thon designed to raise money for the ACS. The event has been held on

See Festival, 2

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Award: This year's nominations due Nov. 1

Continued from 1

"It is a rigorous process," said Deborah Gentry, director of Special Projects. "A criteria must be established."

The faculty member who receives the Career Achievement Award also receives a \$5,000 stipend from the MTSU Foundation. "In other words," Gentry said, "\$5,000 with no strings attached."

The recipient also is honored in front of his or her fellow faculty members and usually receives a gift of recognition.

"We appreciate the opportunity to do something that recognizes the outstanding contributions that MTSU faculty make to the university and the community," said Bill Jones, this

year's foundation president. "My hope is that this award will honor those teachers."

Last year's Career Achievement Award recipient was Phil Mathis, professor of biology.

Mathis is a long-standing member of the MTSU faculty as well as a member of the National Association of Biology Teachers and the Tennessee Association of Science.

"It was great," Mathis said. "I was honored in front of my colleagues, and I'm pretty grateful to the MTSU Foundation."

Mathis was presented with the award in August and was the very first recipient.

"When you win, you feel two things," Mathis said, "excited that you've won and then you sort of have the feeling maybe

someone else deserved it too."

This year's nominations for the Career Achievement Award may be sent to Academic Affairs in the Cope Administration Building, Room 119.

All nominations must be turned in by Nov. 1, and students who are interested in nominating a faculty member may go online to submit a candidate.

The MTSU Foundation began accepting nominations for the award last month from full-time MTSU faculty, academic administrators, alumni and students.

To access the online nomination form, go to MTSU's main home page a www.mtsu.edu and select the faculty tab.

For more questions, contact Gentry at 898-5142. ♦

Festival:

Continued from 1

the campus intramural field for the past two summers and inspired administrative staff and their family and friends to form one of the many nationwide individual teams.

The reasons for getting involved run especially deep for Kano and Roberts, who both have close relatives with cancer.

"My mother was diagnosed [with cancer] two years ago, and that has been my motivation to get more involved with the [Relay For Life]," Roberts said.

Roberts has advertised in the *Daily News Journal* in hopes of getting the community involved and researched community events to ensure that no other craft fairs fell on the same day.

The team has already begun planning for future events, which may include going to Outreach Steakhouse this spring.

The restaurant holds special lunch hours at a fixed cost, with a large percentage going toward various charities. ♦

Donation:

Continued from 1

class who works at the Nissan plant, told the class the company would match the donations.

"We had discussed as a class earlier in the semester about participating in a community service project," Crooks said. "The events in New York and Washington fell into place at the right time."

"Our class met on Tuesday right after the attack. That day, we talked about the whole attack and processed how we felt about it and let our emotions out," said Jackie Brito, another student. "The next class was Thursday, and that's when we decided to do something about it. Everyone talks about helping, but we decided we were going to do more than just talk about it."

"Dr. Crooks was wonderful, too. Even though this was a student's idea, and student led, there is no way we could have done it without her," Loveday said.

"Everyone helped out. There wasn't anyone in the class that didn't participate. I wish there was more we could have done."

The donation was made through Nissan and the Bank of America. For more information on financial donations, contact the Bank of America at 1-800-999-1642. ♦

News e-mail

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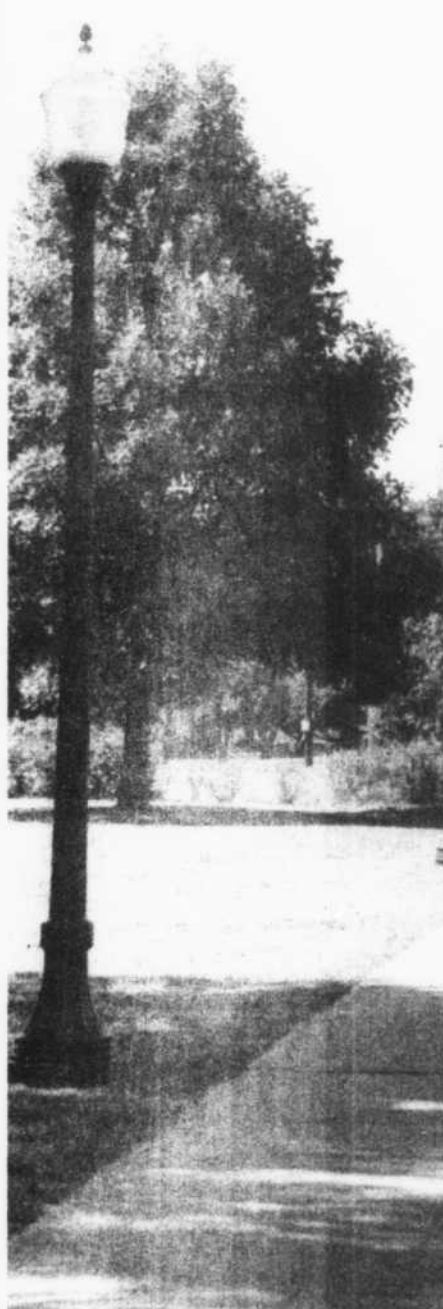
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Graduating? Not Returning to MTSU?

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing cancellations for the Spring 2002 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will no longer be taking additional classes, and for those students who will not be returning to school at MTSU for the spring semester. The deadline for submitting cancellations for pre-payment refund is October 15, 2001. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU.



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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

SIDELINES ♦ 3

From the staff Step back and think before you speak

Around 300 B.C., Buddha said, "Angry speech is painful: blows for blows will touch thee."

While spoken more than 2,000 years ago, these words still hold true, particularly in times such as the ones we live in today.

Anger is swirling around our country and its people. If we let it, it will manifest and grow within us like a cancer.

This is the closest to chaos most of us have seen our nation suffer through. When the temptation to make a strong statement or declaration out of anger arises, we must have the self-discipline to take a step back, breathe and put things in perspective.

When one speaks out of anger, it is very often irrational, hurtful, spiteful or at least rash. Taking time to look at the big picture and the ramifications of such statements can make the difference between offering a balanced, valid opinion or saying something hurtful that one may regret later.

Too often, friendships and partnerships are lost or irreparably damaged due to a hot-headed conversation that was probably born out of irrational thinking ruled more by emotions than by the balance of emotion and logic.

This isn't something that pertains only to the terrorist attacks and the subsequent attacks upon Afghanistan. The prevalence of these events in our daily lives merely made this a hot topic for discussion and argument.

Irrational speech happens all the time, be it over a debate about the politics of the Taliban or over one's roommate leaving their clothes all over the floor.

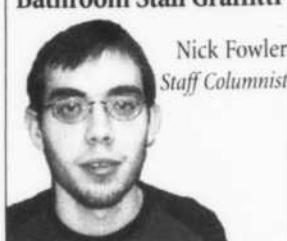
One of the roles college serves is learning how to get along with people. Volatile people tend to end up with a rotating cast of roommates, co-workers and friends, simply because they allow anger to overwhelm them.

For people like this, the most difficult battle they will face in all their encounters is the battle with themselves and their tempers.

The key to rational thought and speech is perspective. Take time to look at the big picture of your life and the world, and you may well see that your hot topic is not worth the sacrifice of your bond with the other person. ♦

Joe: Doing drugs, killing babies

Bathroom Stall Graffiti



It seems Joe has written an essay to help out Sidelines, as readership has been down lately. He thought he might add a little controversial spice to the opinions page. I take no responsibility for his opinion. Here is what he wrote.

In an effort to single-handedly increase the readership of Sidelines, I have decided to write the most thought-provoking,

inflammatory, morally devaluing and irresponsible essay ever. Into the gutter we go.

Fascism is the best idea ever. The elite few, such as myself, have not only the right but also the duty to use the weak and dumb masses for their own personal gain. The elite created society, they are responsible for its progress and they alone deserve the rewards of society.

Drugs should be legal, for they keep the masses docile. As the world has become increasingly civilized, the masses have become more neurotic. The people have excess leisure time which inevitably leads them to

contemplate their own existence. Naturally, they misinterpret their purpose in life and become insane.

A few focused drugs will keep them focused on the pattern in the carpet rather than their own life. The drugs also allow them to comfortably socialize which will inevitably lead to casual sex, but more on sex later. Remember, kids, use drugs. Use lots of drugs. Tell your drug dealer Joe sent you.

Casual sex in my fascist state will be encouraged. Of course, breeding among the general populace will not be allowed. The masses cannot be allowed to breed uncontrollably or they would prove a threat to the

elite. Mandatory visits to the abortion clinic by all women will keep the population in check.

Yes, kids, I'm not afraid to kill the babies.

What about the religious right? The religious zealots won't stand for killing babies. As if I would allow religion in my fascist state.

Organized religion wants control of the minds of the masses. Well, I claim dominion over the minds of the masses. The pope can't have them for they belong to me now.

That's right kids, we're smoking crack, killing babies and burning churches this week.

Enough with liberalism

and democracy, for it's time to put human civilization on the fast track to success. While we, the elite, allow the common man to wallow in his vices, we will be taking the next step in human evolution.

We will genetically engineer our children to be supermen, physically and mentally supreme to all others. The poor and dumb will be slaughtered and fed to cattle.

What else do you kids want? I've given you sex, drugs, murder and supermen. Don't you see that fascism is the answer to our problems?

Vote for Joe, dictator of America. I am the workingman's hero. ♦

Staff misrepresented Monday

Atypical Woman



I almost quit Sidelines Sunday. I believe in freedom of speech. I'd like to think I'd fight to the death for all civil liberties. I also believe in social responsibility, in actually educating oneself before spouting out views that are supposed to be representative of a source people depend upon for news, entertainment and scholarly debate. I'm sad to say Monday's issue of Sidelines failed in that regard.

If it had been a lone columnist's voice, I would have gritted my teeth and simply written a counterpoint. I would not have insulted the columnist's motives or character. At least not in writing. But Monday's staff consensus (the column to the left), "Yesterday's bombings: They asked for it," literally leaves me shaking, even as I write this.

A counterpoint

From Monday's consensus: "Our fair nation has been more than accommodating by providing warning of the attacks and by caring for a population that is guilty by association."

The Afghans are hardly "a population guilty by association." Since 1996, they have been held captive by the Taliban, a regime that runs not by popular will, but by force. I wrote even before the attacks of Sept. 11 of the Taliban's oppression using a corrupt version of Islam. The Taliban have imposed severe restrictions upon Afghans, including the banning of entertainment, beatings and death sentences for "sins" like premarital sex and adultery (rape victims not excluded), as well as the complete elimination of women's rights.

Women are not allowed to work, receive an education, go out alone in public or receive adequate healthcare. They must at all times wear a burqa - a long, heavy garment that covers the entire body, including the face. If a woman is caught violating one of these rules, she may be beaten, imprisoned or killed.

Add to the Afghans' oppression drought and civil war, and you have a struggling, destitute population barely able to survive, much less fight its tyrants.

To those who believe that Afghans unoppressive of the Taliban should have simply left by now, imagine fleeing from these tyrants while starved, impoverished and oppressed by

the streets. If you are female, add being weighed down with a burqa while several malnourished children (no birth control allowed) cling at your legs. Be sure to bring along a close male relative. Otherwise, you might get a limb broken, run over or shot in the street by those who you believe you can so easily escape.

Bush made an ultimatum to the Taliban. Hand over Osama bin Laden or we'll bomb. But the Afghan people had no say in the Taliban's decision. As prisoners, they should not be punished for their oppressor's decision. The Afghan citizens are no more guilty by association than the Jews were during World War II.

"We are providing for their welfare by airlifting tons upon tons of supplies to refugee camps."

To pass off U.S. rations as adequate humanitarian effort is ludicrous. Where was the United States when the Taliban overcame the populace and ultimately put them in a situation where they would need rations? Oh yes - the United States helped put the Taliban in power by funding them to overthrow the Soviets! Where was the United States when the Taliban completely yanked human rights from half the population? When surrounding countries closed their borders to fleeing Afghan refugees (happened long before Sept. 11)? No, we didn't see fit to "help" them until we bombed them, and even then just to save international face so other countries wouldn't think us too hardhearted.

Dropping off packages of food into Kabul will do little good when everyone's hiding in the desert from the blasts. If the United States truly wants to help the Afghans, it would work to find another way to stop the Taliban and bin Laden. Yes, it would take more time, but arguments that immediate action was needed to avoid further hits on American soil are foolish. Are we're any safer now than we were before?

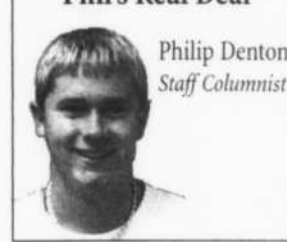
"They should have fled to the areas of Afghanistan controlled by the Northern Alliance."

That's a lovely thought. After all, as we have all learned from Westerns, the Taliban are the ones in the black hats and the Northern Alliance in the white.

The Northern Alliance is no better than the Taliban - just another faction of an extremist regime that relies on a corrupt version of Islam to rule by tyranny. Its differences from the Taliban are no more distinct than the differences between Gore and Bush in the last election. They would treat their populace, especially women, no better than the Taliban.

Here's news: Smoking will kill you

Phil's Real Deal



My uncle was always more than an uncle to me; he was a best friend. We would do everything together. I loved fishing, hunting and laugh with him. He was loved by many and is now missed by all. He passed away on my birthday in 1994.

The image of him still

remains in my memory. He always had a smile on his face and a cigarette in his hand. He died of lung cancer.

This is a common tale for families all around the world today.

More and more people die of cigarette-related diseases every year. In the 2 million annual deaths in the world, 430,700 are attributed to cigarette use according to the American Heart Association.

The Surgeon General's Warning was placed on the cigarettes because it is known they are dangerous.

Do you really wish to

die like this? Gasping for a breath in your lungs but finding no air to breathe. Coughing blood up until you have no more blood to cough. That is exactly what happened to my uncle.

It can be said that most people smoke because they think it's cool. They believe their cigarette in hand. But how many movies have you watched where the beautiful woman looks at the man and says, "I love the taste of cigarettes on your lips when we kiss?" It makes your teeth yellow and your breath repulsive.

Cigarettes are not only

unattractive, but they are extremely expensive. Let's say you smoke a pack a day. On average, you are spending around \$2,160 a year.

Now think of what you could do with an extra \$2,160 a year. As a college student, you find yourself lacking money all the time. Use the money for your future, not for a habit that will slowly kill you.

There comes a time in your life where you have to sort out your priorities by looking at the facts. You have probably already heard all the facts I have spoken of, yet you continue to smoke. You can lie to

yourself thinking that it won't happen to you, and it may not.

Why take the chance? Is your life worth that much of a risk?

My aunt just recently died from lung cancer, and my dad threw his cigarettes down. I have lost three family members, including my grandpa, to cigarettes. Don't let your loved ones lose you the same way.

You have a whole life ahead of you filled with promise.

Now make a promise to yourself to save your life by throwing the cigarettes down. ♦

SIDELINES

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I must strongly disagree with the views of 63 percent of the Sidelines staff. While the U.S. actions against the Taliban may be justified, what Sidelines has called for is not. Justifying killing innocent people by claiming they should have left by now is a horrible defense.

The people of Afghanistan could not have known what was going on. Remember these people have no phones, television, radio, newspapers or other means to get

outside information.

Secondly, they are not guilty by association. Only 15 percent of the Afghanistan people support the Taliban. But the Taliban's military rule forces them to comply with the Taliban. It is inappropriate to justify our actions by claiming we are helping the refugees.

If I kill your family and then help you recover from destroying your house, I doubt you would say my actions were all right. Indeed, they would not be.

Finally, many Americans signed petitions calling on Bush to condemn the Taliban before Sept. 11, claiming it was a regime hostile to world peace. But Bush chose to ignore this.

Now it has resulted in thousands of innocent people's deaths.

Let the United States seek out the Taliban, but let us not take it out on the people of Afghanistan.

Abbie Hayden

FLASH

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

sidelines

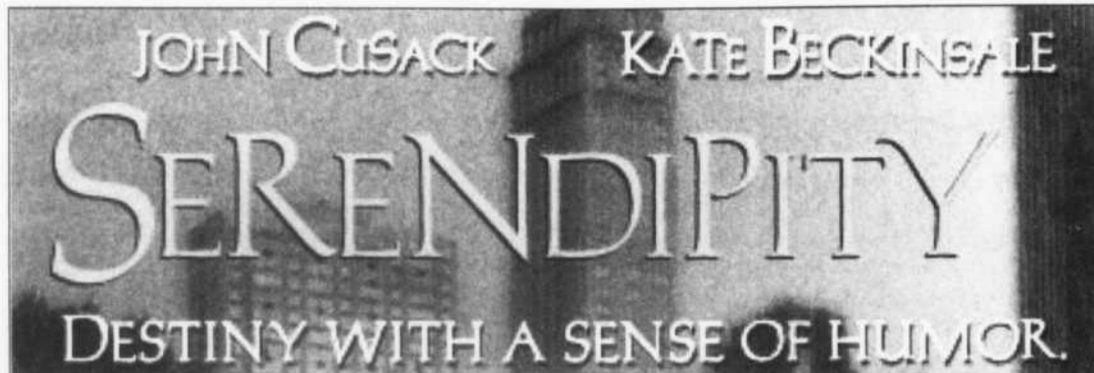
'Serendipity' fated to win over viewers

By Zachary Hansen
Staff Writer

Does everything happen for a reason? Is there such a thing as fate? Is there really one specific person out there for everyone? The new film *Serendipity*, starring John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale, provides possible answers to all of these questions.

Jonathan and Sara meet in New York City on a perfectly gorgeous snowy night a few days before Christmas. They both grab the same pair of gloves at a department store, thus beginning two hours of extraordinary coincidences. Or perhaps they're not coincidences after all.

The two go on to have a lovely evening together, but, unfortunately, each has a significant other. So, they decide Sara will write Jonathan's name and phone number on a \$5 bill, which she will promptly spend. She, in turn, will write her information in a book and sell it to a used bookstore. If either one of them comes across the



other's object, then they will know that their love was meant to be.

The film picks up a few years later, and the two of them, both about to be married, re-evaluate their relationships while still thinking of each other.

The film goes on to follow Jonathan and Sara, each with best friend in tow, on a wild goose chase across New York looking for each other. *Serendipity* is full of the types of moments in which one arrives on scene just as the other is leaving, inducing many a groan in the audience as they just miss one another again. It would be unfair to give any more details

regarding their experiences because they are often surprising and very funny. Although it's obvious how the movie will end, what happens along the way is entertaining enough to make the film stand out from the barrage of similar comedies that are released.

Quite often in the film, the frustration of their missed opportunities gets to be a little much. I found myself wishing they would finally just meet each other again and live happily ever after, because in a film like this, of course that is going to happen.

If the characters weren't played so well and the movie

didn't have such a heartwarming sweetness about it, I might have found myself getting a little angry. However, the film does include these things, and so the unbelievable plot falls into suspension of disbelief, and I was able to sit back and enjoy the movie.

While the film falls at times into the romantic comedy clichés we know so well, this is a case in which everything else is done so well, that the missteps can be forgiven. The film is funny, the characters well-played with lots of romance and enough sentimentality to be adorable but not cheesy.

Sure, *Serendipity* is at times



Photo Provided
Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack take a trip with destiny in the new romantic comedy, *Serendipity*.

overdone, but the amazing number of "coincidences" are never made out to be supernatural or overly fantastic. Though surely rare, the plot is made to be significantly unbelievable. Of course, the events of this film

aren't the kind of things most people experience on a regular basis, but isn't it nice to think that as long as fate gives a hand, they're still possible? This sense of hope is what makes *Serendipity* such a winner. ♦

Mary declares 'No More Drama'

By Shawn Whitsell
Flash! Editor

The Queen of Hip Hop/Soul, Mary J. Blige, dropped her fifth studio album (not including *What's the 411 Remix* and the live disc *The Tour*), *No More Drama*, to rave reviews Aug. 28.

Spearheaded by the Dr. Dre-produced first single *Family Affair*, *No More Drama* is a celebration album for Mary and the fans who are willing to travel with her into a new, happier space.

This time around, Mary takes a different, more introspective approach to addressing the struggles that she's lived through. She talks about her trials, shares what she learned from those situations and how she came to be the strong, intelligent woman she is today.

Standout tracks are *Family Affair*, where Mary tells partygoers to "leave your situations at the door/ when you step inside, jump on the floor;" *Crazy Games*; *Testimony*; *Love*, where Mary revisits her rhymin' skills; and *Where I've*

Been featuring hip hop "scorpion" Eve, where Mary partially reveals the story behind the scar over her left eye.

Arguably the best track on the album is the Neptunes-produced track *Steal Away*, featuring Pharrell, where you get Mary singing about running off with the man of her dreams over a track that perfectly complements her raw, heartfelt vocals. *Steal* is classic Mary J.

Mary, known for her deeply personal music, has always been able to make fans feel what she's saying, and on *PMS*, Mary sings "my lower back is aching... and I'm feeling really bitchy." Only Mary could pull this off.

The album is a bold and refreshing effort from this Yonker's "round the way" girl. Mary appears to be perfectly comfortable with experimenting with new sounds and techniques. She also seems fine sharing with fans the more conscious, more spiritual Mary while at the same time giving us the same plain ole' Mary we've all come to know and love.

No More Drama is definitely a far leap from her previous efforts, especially *My Life*, but it's still a Mary J. classic in its own right.

Although *No More Drama* isn't her best effort, it's great to see that Mary has finally achieved the happiness that she cried out for on *My Life* in the track *Be Happy*.

No More Drama is a bold statement that solidifies that Mary is definitely a legend in her own right. ♦



Photo Provided
Mary J. Blige's fifth studio effort, *No More Drama*, boasts of a new, more introspective Mary.

INSIDE THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT



By Luke Burke

'Survivor' moves to Africa

The popular reality television show *Survivor* is back for a third season. This time out, the 16 contestants will outplay, outlast and attempt to outwit one another in perhaps the most treacherous environment yet — Kenya's Shaba National Reserve in Africa. Besides the usual shelter, temperature and food concerns, the tribemates will contend with some nasty "malaria-bearing insects," killer crocodiles and other hungry predators looming in Kenya.

This season's cast will range from a 23-year-old bartender from Tennessee to a 46-year-old dentist from Florida. This time around, the oldest contestant is a 57-year-old retired school teacher from New York. *Survivor* premieres tomorrow night on CBS.



Doherty punished for misbehavior

Former *Beverly Hills, 90210* star Shannon Doherty will be picking up trash, weeding or possibly gardening in sunny California after a Southern California judge ruled the star must serve five days in a work-release program as part of her punishment for a drunken-driving arrest last December. The sentence — the minimum possible — was handed down Oct. 2 by Ventura County Judge Charles Campbell who could have had 30-year-old Doherty locked up for two days. Although Doherty was not present in court for the sentencing, Deputy District Attorney Ian Morse says the former *Charmed* star will perform light to medium duty in addition to her three years probation term, \$1,500 in fines and the series of alcohol awareness classes she must attend.

In May, Doherty announced she was leaving her hit WB series after three seasons amid reports of dissension on the set between her and a co-star. This marks the second time Doherty has been ejected from an Aaron Spelling show. She was booted from *Beverly Hills, 90210* in 1994.

Janet Jackson cancels European tour

Citing safety concerns, Janet Jackson decided to cancel her European concert tour, which was scheduled for November and December. Jackson said she agonized over the decision. The superstar says she feels her European fans are among the most loyal, and she was very excited to share the "All For You" tour with them. "Like most people, the events of September 11 have troubled me enormously, and I remain concerned about the foreseeable future. ... If anything happened to anyone on this tour, I could never forgive myself," Jackson stated in a press release.

The 35-year-old singer is considering re-scheduling the shows for next year. Shows that were postponed or canceled in the United States this year due to an illness Jackson struggled with during the start of the tour will go on as they have been re-scheduled. Some sources say she may even add U.S. tour stops now that the European tour is canceled. Countries that will miss out on Jackson's "All For You" tour are Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. ♦



P. Diddy lives the life

When you're as big of a star as P. Diddy, no request is outlandish. Being such a high profile entertainer, Puff Daddy and his crew travel extensively across the country. But before arrival at any planned destination, the rap mogul sends a very detailed description sheet to his hotel with explicit directions on the rights and wrongs of pleasing Puffy. At the top of the list is the direction that a catering representative must be available at all times and that all food and ice should be inspected for hair. The star requests Lever 2000 or Zest soap only, and no stay is complete on P. Diddy's list unless he has the proper drinks — two gallons of fresh squeezed orange juice and apple juice, two cases of Tropicana Twister, two cases of Hennessy Cognac, one bottle of Cristal Champagne and a bottle of Don Perigon.



Local Entertainment Events

New Music Conference hits Nashville today

The inaugural Nashville New Music Conference begins today at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Nashville. The conference, which will last through Sunday, was founded by various established members of Nashville's independent music scene and will give up-and-coming artists and executives a chance to learn more about the business.

The conference will feature mentoring sessions, workshops and panels that will focus on various aspects of the music industry. There also will be talent showcases that represent various genres of music for participants to enjoy.

Keynote speakers are Wendy Day, founder of Rap Coalition; Jim Griffin, CEO of Cherry

Lane Digital and founder of Evolab; and rock musician Pat DiNizio.

The conference will kick off today with a party at BMI at 5:30 p.m. BMI is located at 10 Music Square in Nashville.

If you are interested in registering for the conference or signing up to volunteer, go to the official Web site at www.2nmc.com. The Web site also has information on specific times and locations of all events.

Center for the Arts to present King's 'Misery'

The Murfreesboro Little Theater presents Stephen King's *Misery* at the Rutherford County Center for the Arts Thursday-Sunday and Oct. 18-20.

Misery is a tale of a wound-

ed male author held hostage and tortured by a crazed female fan. The play stars Wayman Price and Sandy Berg and is directed by Shane Lowery.

All shows will begin at 8 p.m. with the exception of Sunday's matinee, which will begin at 2 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students and children. All tickets will be \$5 Thursday night.

Benefit Concert to be held at Sebastian's

Neo and The Harvey's will perform Thursday at Sebastian's starting at 9:30 p.m. The concert is a benefit for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

For more information, e-mail Tak at takeshik@mind-spring.com ♦

Call from
the
Pressbox



J.P. Plant
Staff Writer

Forgetting the Titans

The mighty Titans are simply not mighty anymore. Problems reign in Tennessee's 0-and-3 camp. The best team in the NFL over the past two seasons joins Buffalo, Dallas, Washington and Detroit as the only winless teams.

Memo to local hospitals: beware of numerous injuries from falling off bandwagons. Nobody loves a loser, unless you are a Cubs fan. And the Titans are losing. But why?

Winning teams execute. Penalties, missed blocks, misreads, missed tackles and dropped passes all have plagued the proud franchise. But what is so glaring is the little things that were a fixture to past successes.

The 'little things' are presently absent. At the center of it all is the overrated offensive line. Respected deserved? Yes, it was last season when Brad Hopkins and ironman Bruce Matthews went to the Pro Bowl. This season is different, and it's as simple as not executing. Does age play a part? Well, only Matthews himself can answer that one.

Evidence to the lack of performance by the offensive line lies in Eddie George's numbers. The third leading rusher during the last two seasons is averaging just better than 50 yards-per-game, resulting in more pressure on the passing game. Oh wait, there is no passing game, thus the huge dilemma.

Other teams simply don't respect the Titan's ability on offense. Therefore, defenses like Baltimore's put eight and nine defenders in the box to stuff the run. Thus, more pressure on the offensive line. And I've already discussed their performance.

On defense, the phrase 'depleted secondary' doesn't begin to describe the difference from last year's unit. By halftime Sunday, strong safety Blaine Bishop was the only starter left from last year's team. Pro Bowl cornerback Samari Rolle is out three to four weeks with a bruised spinal cord. Marcus Robinson, the Titans' longtime free safety, was cut in the off-season and now plays in Seattle. His replacement, Bobby Myers, is on the injured reserve list. Cornerback Denard Walker signed with Denver, and his replacement, DeRon Jenkins, used to be the Ravens' third corner.

Do the Titans still have a chance to make the playoffs? Only five teams in NFL history have done so following a 0-and-3 beginning. And of those five, only the '92 San Diego Chargers actually won a playoff game.

In other words, the Titans' chance at making the playoffs is about as good as the Buffalo Bills falling for the 'homerun throwback' again. However, if you've seen the Bills this season, the Titans might have another miracle in them. ♦

Call from the Pressbox appears every Wednesday.

MT prepares for season

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

Most sports fans are thinking about football at this time of year, but Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson has other things on his mind — like building a championship baseball team.

Fall practice began Sept. 4. As practice begins, Peterson is trying to put together a team that looks to repeat its Sun Belt Conference championship.

The Blue Raiders lost 10 seniors to graduation and two juniors to professional baseball. Like any veteran coach, Peterson knows they must go on for the Blue Raiders.

"We are coming off two consecutive regional seasons," Peterson said. "A time when six players are now playing professional baseball. We are coming off losing the third best player in the world. We are in a life-or-death process, and we are living."

Fall practice is a 30-day period during the fall semester that allows Peterson and his assistants time to evaluate new and

returning players.

The Blue Raiders go through defensive drills, batting practice and intersquad games. Fall practice is the first chance for the Blue Raider coaching staff to see their team in action. Peterson is quick to note that fall practice is all about evaluation.

"In the fall, we evaluate walk-ons and new guys to see how they fit in," Peterson said. "We also evaluate new guys to see if they have gotten better and if they are ready to take on a leadership role. We are trying to get the right guys in the right positions and evaluate every possible scenario in the fall to be successful in the spring."

Fall practice is important in getting the Blue Raiders ready for the spring season. Without fall practice, the Blue Raiders would be unprepared.

"Fall practice is huge in order to get ready for the spring," Peterson said. "As coaches, we have to win practice everyday. If we don't, our players will not be able to win games in the spring."

The Blue Raiders will rely

heavily on newcomers this season. MT has 12 freshmen on the fall roster, along with six other newcomers with junior college or Division I experience. Peterson expects the freshman to contribute right away.

"Freshmen contribute every year at MT," Peterson said.

"Last year, Chuck Akers, John Williams (Freshmen All-American) and Troy Harp all saw action as freshmen. There will be freshmen in the line-up this year."

Peterson and his staff know that it all starts in the fall. Without a productive fall, the spring will be much harder.

Fall practice concludes with the annual Blue-White World Series, a best two out of three series that places team members against each other in an intersquad match-up in a game-like atmosphere.

After fall practice, the Blue Raiders will begin individual offensive and defensive work, along with conditioning and weight lifting until the end of the fall semester. ♦



File Photo

MT is getting ready for the season with fall practice.

Middle Tennessee wins Sun Belt contest



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Emily Carter tries to gain possession of the ball while avoiding a collision with the oncoming player. Carter had a goal and an assist in Sunday's 5-1 win over ASU.

LaDuke scores 3 goals in win

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee soccer team won its third straight match, beating Arkansas State 5-1 in Jonesboro, Ark., Sunday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders (6-4, 2-1 SBC) overcame an early 1-0 deficit to win their second straight conference match. The victory was the third win away from home in a row this season for the Blue Raiders and head coach Scott Ginn, setting a new school record for consecutive road victories.

The Indians (2-9, 0-4) took a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute when Rachael Reese scored on an assist from Sheri Riser. MT goalie Emily Shrum shut down ASU with one save in each half.

Laura Miguez tied the score at one in the 26th minute on an unassisted goal, her second of the year.

Danielle LaDuke then gave the Blue Raiders the lead for good with her first goal of the day in the 43rd minute on a long breakaway.

Jenny Cox fed Emily Carter

in the 61st minute for Carter's fourth goal of the year. Miguez assisted on LaDuke's second goal of the day in the 64th minute. Then Carter hit LaDuke with a pass for LaDuke's final goal of the day in the 75th minute of play.

The Blue Raiders dominated the match in the second half, taking 15 shots to ASU's four and six corner kicks to none for the Indians.

"We Indians well today and got another victory. We started off a little slow, but it was good to see us overcome the early deficit and play well in the second half," Ginn said. "Our freshmen have really stepped up, and right now, our entire team is playing well and just need to keep that going."

LaDuke picked up her third straight hat trick with three goals against ASU.

MT returns home Friday and Sunday, playing Denver and North Texas. Friday's match starts at 4 p.m. at the Blue Raider Soccer Field, while Sunday's kickoff is set for 1 p.m. vs. North Texas. ♦

Blue Raider Notebook



By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

North Texas has a week to limber themselves up for what promises to be a high aerobic workout against the Middle Tennessee football team this Saturday in Denton.

A week after scoring the Floyd Stadium turf with 70 points and 128 total points, the Blue Raiders take an intimidating offensive arsenal against another Sun Belt Conference opponent. This will be the Mean Green's first opportunity to see the Blue Raider show.

Blue Collar Workers:

What can be said about a unit that provides the protection for a team that leads every offensive category in the Sun Belt Conference. Their individual names aren't normally found in print, but this unit provided the wall for MT to collect 70 points and for quarterback Wes Counts to collect numerous records in the win over Idaho.

Big D:

The Blue Raider defense looked tenacious in the first half against Idaho, holding a highly touted offense to 10 points. But the bend but don't break motto the MT defense seems to live by was shattered in the second half. Fortunately, a few key pieces came together. Linebacker Michael Woods and safety Jonathan Shaw came up with momentum and, possibly, game-saving interceptions in the second half, allowing MT to walk away from home with a win.

All-American Watch:

Dwone Hicks refuses to leave the national spotlight without a fight. He showed Idaho why his name is linked with various collegiate awards with a 169-yard performance and three touchdowns. He needs nine more touchdowns to break the MT career record of 44 held by Joe Campbell. Kendall Newson was unusually quiet against Idaho but did pull in six receptions for 63 yards. His streak of games with at least one reception is still intact at 37. ♦

Blue Raider defense will re-group for North Texas game

Commentary by David Hunter
Staff Writer

Saturday night I witnessed something I have never seen before in college football.

Middle Tennessee beat Idaho 70-58 and no basketball season has started yet. This game broke two NCAA records, one for most points combined by two teams (128) and the other for most points scored by a losing

team (58). The game even got talked about on an ESPN college football show.

I am wondering what happened in the second half. There were a lot of people that figured at halftime the game was over with the Blue Raiders up 42-10, and most of the fans made an early exit. They missed out on a piece of history.

As the second half started, the game turned into something like an Arena Football

game, except the game was outside and the field was 50 yards longer. The game was back and forth going up and down the field for both teams.

The Blue Raider defense had a hard time getting anywhere near Idaho quarterback Brian Lindgren who finished 49-71 passing with five touchdown passes. He had two interceptions in the game, one late in the game that gave the game back to MT. Jonathan Shaw picked off

the pass at the Blue Raider 1 with 7:26 left in the 4th quarter, and returned it to the Blue Raider 38.

On the next play, Hicks outran the Vandal defense and took it 62 yards for a touchdown. The MT offense worked like a scoring machine with Wes Counts, going 23-28 with six touchdowns and 459 yards passing. Dwone Hicks rushed for 169 yards and three touchdowns, and Tyrone Calico

caught five passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns. The offense had 685 total yards on the night, but Idaho had 760 total yards on offense and still lost.

The MT defense will be ticked off about this performance. They will be watching film of what happened. Everybody will be questioning how they can get to the quarterback.

Last week, the offense did not play well against Louisiana-

Lafayette, but in this game, they got it going again with their performance.

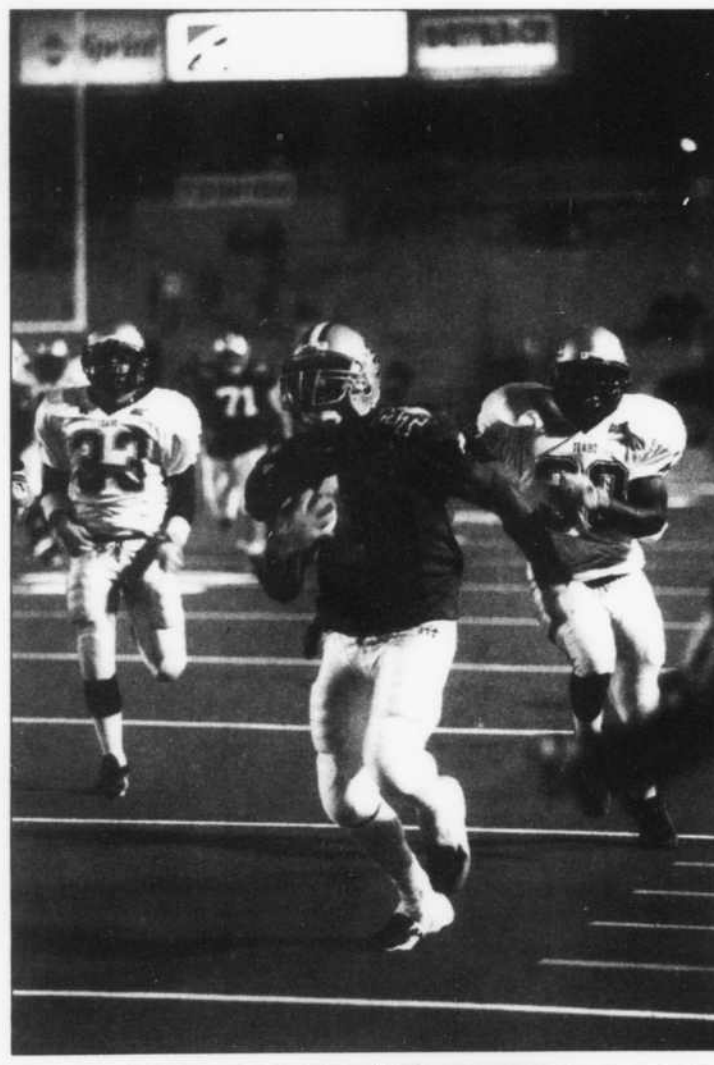
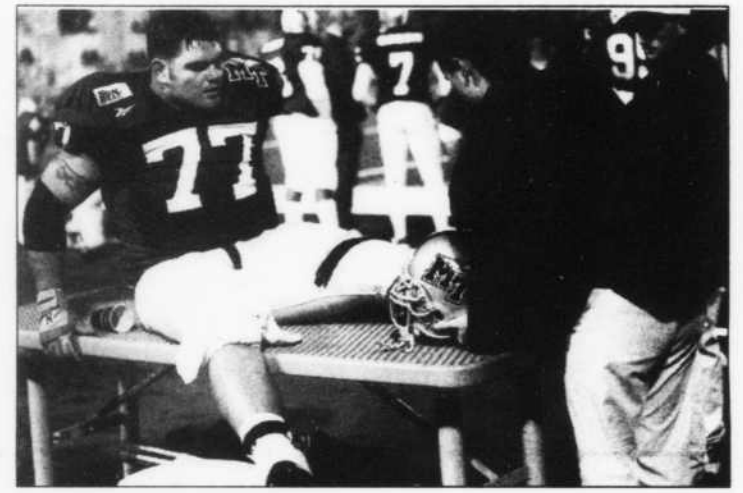
The defense will do the same. They will go to practice, fix their problems and take care of business against North Texas. The Mean Green will look like the Weak Green after Middle Tennessee pays them a visit.

History was made Saturday, but Middle Tennessee's defense will make sure history will not repeat itself. ♦



Middle Tennessee beats Idaho 70-58

The Blue Raiders faced off with their biggest Sun Belt Conference opponent Saturday at Floyd Stadium. The crowd was the second largest home attendance at Floyd Stadium. The Blue Raiders jumped out to a 42-10 halftime lead and held on for the victory. Several NCAA and school records were broken in the match-up, and Wes Counts set records for completions, passing yards and touchdown passes. MT remains undefeated with the win.



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- Have some media experience (on or off campus work applies, in any print or broadcast medium)

To Apply:

- Submit an application
- Write a 1,000 - 2,000 word essay on:
"What is the value and longevity of virtual reality television?"
- Submit a copy of your transcript
- Submit three to five samples of your work, six copies of each (short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

Applications will be available in the JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed. Interviews will be held December 7th, 1 p.m. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.



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