



Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 41

Monday, November 28, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

Strong Storms
67/42



Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro:

\$1.91

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

MT, outgoing coach win Palladium at Troy

The Middle Tennessee defense propelled the Blue Raiders to their fourth win of the season in a 17-7 battle for the Palladium at Troy University on Saturday night.



McCollum

see page 7

Getting past road rage

Road rage and those who exhibit it are a new kind of road hazard drivers have to face these days.



see page 5

Human trafficking topic of forum

Forced labor and human trafficking will be discussed tonight at the Modern Day Slavery forum in the Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Room at 7 p.m.

Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. is hosting the forum, and light refreshments will be served.

Santa Claus available tomorrow for photo-op

All students can have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus for \$5 per picture as a fundraiser for Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society.

Pictures will be taken tomorrow from noon until 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center.

Coffee shop extends hours for shows

E. Spresso Shelf will reopen from 7-10 p.m. starting tonight.

Coffee will be \$1 a cup tonight and tomorrow night. Singer/songwriter Jeff Phiffer and Alyssa Bonagura perform Thursday night at 8 p.m.

The shop is located on Vine Street in downtown Murfreesboro, behind Bank of America.

Consumer use tax fileable online

Online shoppers, mail-order customers and out-of-state bargain hunters can file their consumer use tax online, according to the press release from the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

The consumer use tax is the state's counterpart to the sales tax.

"Electronic tax administration is one of the department's top priorities," said Commissioner Loren L. Chumley.

The tax can be filed at www.tennesseeanytime.org/usetax/demo.

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Developer moves conference center site

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro is expecting a new conference center and hotel to break ground in spring of 2006, but not at the site originally intended by the city. Chris Shofner, the city's public information officer and grant writer, said at the beginning of last year, the city reserved 25 acres of land specifically for a hotel and conference center.

The city then sent out national advertisement for a company to build the hotel and conference center, getting about 70 responses and then narrowed it down to four companies. In the end, John Q. Hammons was chosen to build.

"Hammons just had more to offer than the other companies," Shofner said. "Not only did he want to develop himself, he also offered to pay a quarter of the cost for the conference center."

In a letter to Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley, Hammons described his monetary contribution for the conference center.

"Costs to construct and equip the conference center are estimated at \$22,000,000," Hammons wrote in the letter. "I will agree to pay a portion of the conference center costs, not to exceed \$4,375,000."

Shofner said with recent national disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Rita, as well as the increase of petroleum

prices, the cost of the hotel - which had been originally set around \$35 million - increased to around \$55 million. Because of this, Hammons decided to move the hotel location to something that better suited his needs.

"The hotel location will move closer to the interstate, near Thompson Lane," Shofner said.

The letter also quoted other price estimates, including the construction cost of the hotel to be between \$50,000,000 and \$53,000,000. It said that the construction would be completed within 24 months.

The hotel itself would include a 3-story atrium lobby entrance with 9 floors of hotel suites, a pool, health club area, 3-meal dining facility and

room service."

The letter also said that with the enormous size of the establishment, Hammons envisioned a staff requirement for a hundred full-time employees.

"Another request from Hammons was to change the hotel from a Marriott to an Embassy Suites," Shofner said. "It is actually more expensive to build an Embassy, but the revenue will be about the same. It will also attract a different clientele, a category of younger professionals."

In the letter, Hammons said he would pay an additional million to the city to change the hotel flag from a Marriott to Embassy Suites.

see Hotel, page 2

'Tis the season...



Melanie Nichols, Woodbury resident and MTSU parent shopped for toys at Walmart Sunday.

Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Increasingly, open meetings law violated, case tally report shows

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) - Government officials in increasing numbers are violating Tennessee's open meetings law, a tally of reported cases shows.

The count - 45 suspected offenses reported in the first 10 months of this year, 39 in 2004 and 31 in 2003 - also shows those same violators apparently don't think taxpayers and the public care.

The 45 percent increase in violations over almost three years are only those that have been reported, said Frank Gibson, executive director of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, which conducted the count. The coalition was created in 2004 to protect and improve Tennessee's public access laws. Members include the Tennessee Press Association, the state's major daily newspapers, the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, The Associated Press and Common Cause of Tennessee.

The increase in suspected public meeting violations comes a year after the coalition conducted a statewide audit of public record compliance by local governments. That survey showed about one-third of government agencies denied access to public records.

Tennessee's open meetings law ranks in the bottom five among U.S. states, Gibson said, because "they are not enforceable. Before a citizen can even get an answer as to whether a meeting is covered by the Sunshine Law ... they have to go to court."

Tennessee's Sunshine Law carries little punishment, such as requiring public re-enactments of some public decisions made in secrecy, and the General Assembly is exempt from the open meetings law.

In the wake of the Tennessee Waltz corruption scandal, a legislative ethics panel has proposed extending the open meetings law to all meetings of the General Assembly when a quorum of lawmakers is present. The measure is part of broader ethics reform package that lawmakers are expected to consider in a special session in January.

But the coalition report shows repeated problems with open meetings law compliance at the local level.

The Savannah (Tenn.) Courier in August 2004 reported the Hardin County Commission approving a \$28 wheel tax on first reading at a meeting held with no advance public notice of any tax vote. Voters later reversed the wheel tax approval in a referendum. The commission, after providing required public notice, voted again and approved a wheel tax.

So who cares if the open meetings law is violated?

Rick Hollow, an attorney for the Tennessee Press Association, said everyone should care. "If we let one violation go along unchecked, and then we add another and another, we will have squandered our rights," Hollow said.

see Sunshine Law, page 2

Award-winning songwriter to speak

Rodney Crowell's songs performed by Willie Nelson, David Ball

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Songwriter Rodney Crowell will speak at the Nashville Songwriters Association International meeting tonight at 7 in the Mass Communications Building, Room 103.

Crowell is the recipient of the ASCAP Creative Achievement Award and winner of a Grammy award.

"Rodney Crowell has had his songs sung by many artists including Willie Nelson, David Ball, Devon O'Day and Kim McLean," said Angelo Marade, a psychology graduate student and member of the NSAI MTSU chapter.

"I have eleven solo records and a greatest hits package to show for my efforts as a record-

ing artist," Crowell's Web site says. "Along the way, I produced Rosanne Cash's first five studio albums, Guy Clark, Beth Nielsen Chapman and a handful of others. I was also lucky to have several hundred versions of my songs recorded by an assortment of artists ranging from The Grateful Dead to Andy Williams."

"We are very grateful to Rodney for giving us his time," said Hal Newman, recording industry professor and NSAI area coordinator. "He is taking time away from his work to speak to these aspiring songwriters out of the generosity of his heart."

"This is really a big deal for us," Newman said. "Rodney is considered one of the heavy weights of the industry."

NSAI school chapter was started with the aid of the NSAI, he said.

"I'm a member of the NSAI," he said. "I figured that the students that were really interested in songwriting could benefit greatly from the people in the

see Crowell, page 2

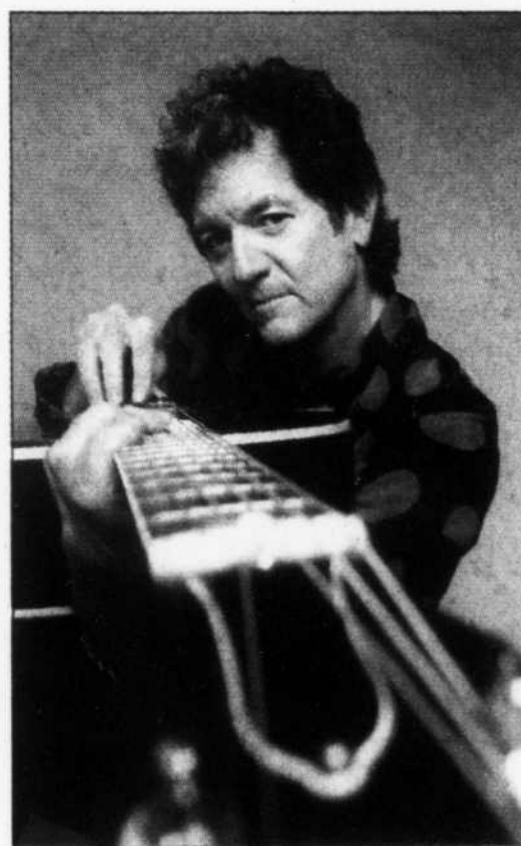


Photo courtesy Commotion Public Relations

Rodney Crowell speaks to the Nashville Songwriters Association International tonight at 7 in Mass Communications Building, Room 103.

Repaving, curb improvement continues on Rutherford Blvd.

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Repaving of Rutherford Blvd. from Church Street to Broad Street will continue for at least a week and a half, officials say.

The project includes repaving the street, improvement of the curbs and a re-striping of the lanes, said Rick Templeton, director of the city street department.

"We will not be adding any additional lanes with this project," Templeton said.

However, students are not thrilled with the improvement project.

"It seems like any other construction they are doing," said senior recording industry management major Kevin Karin. "There is just going to be more traffic moving a lot slower."

The project, said inspector for the Street and Sign Department Brad Beavers, was initially started due to the amount of traffic accidents prevalent in the area.

"Traffic will also remain at two lanes," Beavers said. "Occasionally, there will be a flagman directing traffic, but usually only

see Construction, page 2

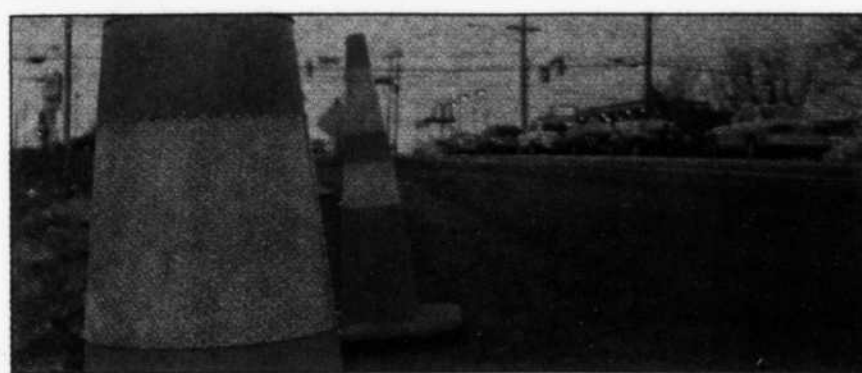


Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

City officials expect road work to continue at least another week and a half on Rutherford Boulevard between Broad Street and Church Street.

World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Sunnis arrested in plot to kill Saddam investigator

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi police arrested eight Sunni Arabs for allegedly plotting to kill the judge who prepared the indictment of Saddam Hussein, authorities said Sunday, the day before the ousted leader's trial for crimes against humanity resumes.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark arrived in Baghdad to help the defense but might not be allowed in court Monday when the first of up to 35 prosecution witnesses take the stand.

Tight security surrounds the proceedings, which are restarting after a five-week recess in a specially built courtroom in the heavily guarded Green Zone. The precise starting time was not announced due to fear of attack by both Saddam's supporters and opponents.

The eight alleged plotters from Iraq's Sunni Arab minority were apprehended Saturday in the northern city of Kirkuk, police Col. Anwar Qadir said.

He said they were carrying written instructions from a former top Saddam deputy, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, ordering them to kill investigating judge Raed Juh, who prepared the case against Saddam and forwarded it to the trial court in July.

Earthquake in southern Iran flattens villages

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An earthquake with a magnitude of at least 5.9 shook a sparsely populated area of southern Iran on Sunday, flattening seven villages, killing 10 people and injuring 70, officials and state-run television said. The tremor was felt as far away as Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Heidar Alshvandi, the governor of Qeshm, was quoted by state television as saying rescue teams were deployed to the affected area, and people in the wrecked villages moved quickly to safety.

Another provincial official, Ghasem Karami, told The Associated Press that high casualties were not expected

because the area was not heavily developed.

Tehran's seismologic center said the quake was of magnitude 5.9, but the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said it had a magnitude of 6.1. A magnitude-6.0 quake can cause severe damage.

Iran's seismologic center said the epicenter was in the waters of the Persian Gulf between the port city of Bandar Abbas and Qeshm Island, about 940 miles south of Tehran. The USGS said the quake was 35 miles southwest of Bandar Abbas, which has about 500,000 residents.

Two congressmen injured when vehicle overturns

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A military vehicle carrying three congressmen overturned on the way to the Baghdad airport, injuring two of them, the U.S. Embassy said Sunday.

Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., was airlifted to a military hospital in Germany for an MRI on his neck, and Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., was sent to a Baghdad hospital for evaluation, said Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Ga., who was also in the vehicle but was not hurt when it overturned Saturday.

Murphy is "bumped and bruised, but in good spirits," his chief of staff, Susan Mosychuk, said Sunday. He will return home from Germany as soon as he is cleared by doctors, she said.

Skelton spokeswoman Lara Battles said she believed Skelton was also doing well. She declined to comment further.

The politicians were riding in a convoy that was driving in the middle of the road, a common practice used by the military in Iraq to deter oncoming motorists. Shortly after dark, an oncoming tanker truck refused to yield, the embassy said in a statement.

Senator suggests Bush look to "fireside chats"

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Sunday suggested that President Bush

use an FDR-style presentation to update people on progress in the war in Iraq.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., recalled that during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt often went on the radio in "fireside chats" to explain to the nation in detail the conduct of the war in Europe and Asia.

"I think it would be to Bush's advantage," said Warner, who served in the Navy during the war.

"It would bring him closer to the people, dispel some of this concern that understandably our people have, about the loss of life and limb, the enormous cost of this war to the American public," he said.

Bush plans a speech Wednesday at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., on the fight against terrorism.

The Senate voted 79-19 on Nov. 15 to urge the Bush administration to explain publicly its strategy for success in Iraq and to provide quarterly reports on policy and military operations.

Chinese city restores water after shutdown

HARBIN, China (AP) — Running water returned to this northeast city of 3.8 million people Sunday, ending a five-day shutdown blamed on a chemical spill that embarrassed the government and highlighted China's mounting environmental problems.

However, officials warned that what was coming out the tap in frigid Harbin still was too dirty to drink.

Water service started returning to this provincial capital shortly before 6 p.m. after the government said toxins spewed into the Songhua River by a chemical plant explosion had returned to safe levels.

Residents said service did not resume in some areas for several more hours.

"When that running water came back on, it was a completely wonderful feeling. It's been four days since I had a shower," said grinning taxi driver Cao Sijun, 46.

Local television showed the governor of Heilongjiang

province, where Harbin is located, drinking a glass drawn from the tap in a Harbin family's home after service resumed.

But the government warned the public that supplies lying in pipes for five days were too dirty to drink, although safe enough for housecleaning and laundry.

Another 'Time' reporter asked to testify

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second Time magazine reporter has agreed to cooperate in the CIA leak case and will testify about her discussions with Karl Rove's attorney, a sign that prosecutors are still exploring charges against the White House aide.

Viveca Novak, a reporter in Time's Washington bureau, is cooperating with Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, who is investigating the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity in 2003, the magazine reported in its Dec. 5 issue.

Novak specifically has been asked to testify under oath about conversations she had with Rove attorney Robert Luskin starting in May 2004, the magazine reported.

Novak, part of a team tracking the CIA case for Time, has written or contributed to articles in which Luskin characterized the nature of what was said between Rove and Matthew Cooper, the first Time reporter who testified in the case.

Shoppers crowd stores but spend only modestly

NEW YORK (AP) — The 2005 holiday shopping season got off to only a modest start over the Thanksgiving weekend as consumers responded initially to aggressive discounting and then retreated.

"There was a lot of hype, a lot of promotions and lot of people, but the results were on the lukewarm side," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, estimating that the weekend's sales results were down from a year ago. He said heavy markdowns forced retailers to sell more goods in order to meet sales targets.

Analysts said there was heavy shopper traffic early Friday when stores opened even earlier than usual for the day after Thanksgiving, offering deep, deep discounts. When the early-bird specials were over, consumers lost their enthusiasm.

"If you give Americans a bargain, they will get up whatever time to take advantage of it. But I don't think this weekend turned out to be as big as retailers hoped," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, based in Charleston, S.C.

Harry's 'Goblet' gobbles \$54.9 million at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A boy wizard and a country-music legend outclassed a flurry of box-office newcomers over Thanksgiving.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" took in \$54.9 million over the three-day weekend to remain the top movie, while the Johnny Cash film biography "Walk the Line" stayed in second place with \$19.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

For the three-day Thanksgiving period, "Goblet of Fire" grossed \$81.3 million to lift its 10-day total to \$201.1 million, while "Walk the Line" took in \$27.6 million, raising its 10-day total to \$54.7 million.

The two films paced Hollywood to a healthy holiday weekend. If estimates hold when final numbers are released Monday, it would be the second-highest gross ever for the five-day Thanksgiving period at \$218.3 million, beating last year's haul by 3 percent but finishing behind 2000's record \$232.1 million.

That was a boost for the slumping movie business, which has had attendance running 8 percent behind last year's.

American's win big at gymnastics contest

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — With four gold medals, four silvers and a bronze, the American women's gymnastics team was on top of the world

Down Under.

Led by Nastia Liukin, Chellsie Memmel and Alicia Sacramone, the American women produced their best performance in a world championships, winning nine out of 15 medals.

The trio took the top two spots in the balance beam and floor exercise finals on Sunday, adding four medals to the Americans' gold-silver finishes in the all-around and uneven bars finals, and bronze medal finish on vault.

"I can't find any other word, it was just very spectacular," said former Soviet Olympian Valeri Liukin, the father and coach of Nastia. "It's amazing."

"We are a very strong unit right now, and this is a real team. That's what makes us strong, we help each other."

China apologizes to Moscow for toxic spill

HARBIN, China (AP) — Visiting Premier Wen Jiabao ordered local leaders to clean up toxic benzene by Sunday night from the river that provides water for this northeast city, where residents spent a fourth day Saturday without supplies in freezing weather.

The foreign minister, meanwhile, delivered an unusual public apology to Moscow for possible damage from the spill on the Songhua River, which is flowing toward a city in the Russian Far East.

Beijing's show of care and contrition was almost unprecedented and represented an effort to restore its damaged standing with both China's public and Moscow, a key diplomatic partner.

The government said benzene levels in the Songhua near Harbin were dropping. But it said running water would not resume until 11 p.m. Sunday, a full day after originally planned because of a chemical plant explosion, setting off panic-buying of bottled water in this city of 3.8 million people. ♦

State Republicans, Democrats prepare for '06 special election

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — State Democratic and Republican party leaders say they plan a battle for the East Tennessee state House seat formerly held by Chris Newton, who resigned and pleaded guilty to accepting bribes.

"We're putting a significant effort into this," state Democratic Party Chairman Bob Tuke said.

State Republican Party Chairman Bob Davis said party leaders will work to keep the seat in GOP hands.

"Let's just say we're going to be actively involved in this race, but I'm not going to give out our game plan," he said.

Tuke said Democrats will rally around their candidate and campaign heavily in the district.

Newton, a Republican from Cleveland, is the only one of five current or former lawmakers to plead guilty after being charged in May in the ongoing federal public corruption investigation code-named Tennessee Waltz.

Newton resigned from his House seat on Sept. 1 and pleaded guilty later that month to accepting \$4,500 in bribes.

Democrat Sally Love was appointed by the Polk County Commission to fill Newton's House District 22 seat. She is the lone Democratic candidate in Tuesday's special primary election for the seat.

There are five Republicans seeking their

party's nomination for the seat on Tuesday.

The winner will face Love in a special election Jan. 12.

Both parties expect to put significant effort into what might normally be considered a fairly insignificant race.

Republicans control the state Senate 17-16 and want to take control of the House, where Democrats hold a 55-45 advantage.

"I don't think I'd call it a litmus test. That's a really tough district for Democrats," Tuke said. "I tell you what, if (Love) does win that seat, it looks really good for us."

The statewide interest in the Tennessee Waltz case and interest in toughening state ethics laws has brought the fight for Newton's old seat undue attention, Eric Armstrong, chairman of the Bradley County Democratic Party, said.

The special election is unlikely to be an indicator of how the 2006 general election may go, he said.

"It'll be hard to glean anything statewide from it," Armstrong said. "I think it's just a peculiar race with its own peculiar dynamics."

Davis also said it's unlikely the special election, coming amid a focus on ethics, will be a predictor of the general election.

"It's important certainly, but a year from now is a long time," he said. "There could be other issues on the table of importance by this time next year." ♦

Driver fatigue possible cause in wreck of Greyhound bus

Two fatalities and numerous injuries result after bus overturns, hits tree

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A Greyhound bus ran off a freeway, overturned and slid at least 100 yards on its side before hitting a tree Sunday, killing a pregnant woman and a man who were aboard, authorities said.

Authorities said driver fatigue may have contributed to the crash. The previous night, the driver had traveled from Fresno to Los Angeles, then left Los Angeles shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday. He had been on the road for about four hours when the bus overturned.

Dozens of passengers among the 44 people aboard the San Francisco-bound bus were hurt, at least seven of them with major injuries.

Four survivors were trapped in the wreckage and had to be rescued with hydraulic equipment, while some of the most

seriously injured were airlifted to hospitals, authorities said.

Faro Jahani, 50, of San Francisco, and Martha Contreras, a 23-year-old Santa Maria resident who was seven months pregnant, were killed, said Lt. Dan Minor of the California Highway Patrol.

Seven other people suffered major injuries, four had moderate injuries and 31 had minor injuries after the bus went down an embankment along Highway 101 in Santa Maria shortly after 7 a.m., said Santa Barbara County Fire Capt. Keith Cullom.

Minor said a preliminary investigation gave no indication of mechanical problems, and the bus driver didn't appear to have been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

"We do have reason to believe that driver fatigue may have been a significant factor,"

Minor said.

The bus drifted off the freeway about three miles from its intended off-ramp and came to rest on its right side a few feet down an embankment after striking a eucalyptus tree.

Both northbound lanes of Highway 101, one of the state's major corridors, were shut down after the accident and remained closed until mid-afternoon as the California Highway Patrol investigated. The closure caused a backup that stretched for two miles, officials said.

Santa Maria, which was in the media spotlight this year during the four-month child molestation trial of singer Michael Jackson, is about 75 miles north of Santa Barbara.

Three buses were sent to Santa Maria to pick up passengers able to continue the trip, said Kim Plaskett, a spokeswoman for the Dallas-based bus line. ♦

Be our eyes and ears

See something going on? Tell us about it. Call the news desk at 898-2336.

R. TIMOTHY HOGAN

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Opinions

page 4
November 28, 2005

From the Editorial Board

Hey teacher, leave those kids alone

Sex, body ink and piercing: not necessarily your typical high school newspaper content, but not exactly the type of stories that should cause a recall of a month's worth of strenuous work.

The Oak Ridge High School monthly newspaper *Oak Leaf* had all 1,800 copies commandeered due to "hidden content" from parents.

The reason given by the principal was that the paper featured an story about birth control and another concerning tattoos and piercing - the previous article containing a picture of an anonymous student that had a tattoo but whose parents were unaware.

The advisor of 17 years to the *Oak Leaf*, having reviewed the student publication before production, saw no promotion of pro-promiscuity propaganda; only a story that would assumable generate a few letters to the editor.

The actions taken by the principal to seize the newspaper were in no way illegal, but they were extreme. Taking a harmless story about birth control that spends the entirety of the text quoting monotonous figures and percentiles gives little cause for school wide controversy.

The comment Oakland Ridge High School Principal Becky Ervin made to the press expressed her concern that children as young as 14 would be reading the newspaper. But if the 'birth control' article content was accurate, already 34 percent of ninth graders are sexually active - so the little kids would not be reading anything they have not already done or do not already know about.

Sex aside, other reasoning given for a rousing game of capture the news, was the tattoo and body piercing article and the promotion of hiding information from students' parents.

Logic would dictate that withholding the paper was more of an attempt to keep parents out of the loop rather than the publication of an anonymous photo of some student's tattoo.

The unnamed student and his or her tattoo seems more like a personal problem that should be dealt with in a family and not by punishing a hardworking high school newspaper staff, a dedicated advisor and an entire school that expects to see the fruit of a month's labor.

Legal or not, taking away a collaborated effort of many because one might not agree with content on a personal basis is a pretty cruel and unusual form of punishment. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Film festival off to excellent start

To the Editor:

As the President of GLOBAL (Getting Lost Outside Boundaries And Limitations), I would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped make our first-ever International Film Festival a success. Not only did we raise money to help support our new organization and promote GLOBAL, we really contributed to MTSU student life by showing films from different countries.

The turn-outs were really great each night, especially on Tuesday, despite the tornado watch. The dedication of our student body to such an enriching event was great to watch.

As our first event, our members did a phenomenal job of promoting the Film Festival on campus and on-line, and of course, thank you to Angie Feeney for coming up with the idea. The staff and faculty at MTSU really helped us through the planning process, offering valuable advice and suggestions. It truly is comforting to know that we have the support of MTSU behind us.

Expect great things from GLOBAL in the coming semesters. We are here to promote a strong international community at MTSU, and with the help and support of our student body, we can make every international event a success.

Amanda Ryan
GLOBAL President

Coverage of show unprofessional

To the Editor:

I read the article "MTABJ paid to move event" on Nov. 17th, and was shocked. There was little research done in this article. Just from the comments of the few, a sweeping gesture was made that effected more than just the people discussed.

I am a theatre major who was the stage manager of "The Rocky Horror Show" and I am a black woman. The claim that the department I have been a part of for more than four years is racist is quite a grand statement to make without having the proper evidence.

Would it have been too simple to assume that this was just a miscommunication between the MTABJ and Tucker Theatre? As for copyright laws, all you need do is go to the Samuel French Web site or look at the copyright laws written within federal law for artistic programs.

The theatre department receives the temporary rights for a show only for the run. The company that rents the show out has rules, including copyright rules, that must be followed; this includes copying, photography, videotaping, etc. In order for someone to take photos they have to request permission from the department who will request permission from the company. It is a courtesy to have the permission of the actors before taking a picture during a live performance. Within our fire announcement before a show, we specify there is to be no photography, so you did disregard the rules of our theatre. This does not bring any repercussions, but is disrespectful and shows a lack of professionalism.

To the assumptions that the Theatre department could cancel one of their shows, and that we don't need the money; how would you know that? The Theatre Department at MTSU is one of the most unrecognized and poorest departments in the university. Did you look at the statistics for the amount of how much money this department makes a season?

I understand the writer is given freedom of speech in the First Amendment. You wrote your article, and I am glad that you did so. It only further proves that you can't believe everything you read. In dealing with a subject as touchy as racism, I would think a journalist should know they should approach it carefully covering all sides, but that is of no consequence.

Thank you for this article. It has increased my awareness, and further proved the importance of not only being good at what you do but being thorough, because this is a prime example of what journalism should not be.

Amber Ileene Curry
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

'No room in inn' for Falwell's holiday holy war

'Tis the season to... wage holy war?

It is, at least for thousands of evangelical Christians, including the practically infamous Rev. Jerry Falwell.

The pastor, who became the laughing stock of much of the country after questioning the sexual preferences of children's television characters, has gathered up his troops and declared open season against secularism.

He even has an inspiring name for this operation: the "Friend or Foe Christmas Campaign."

Cheerful, isn't it?

Falwell isn't alone in his crusade.

Organization after organization are calling up their members - and their lawyers - to stand ready to attack at the slightest sign that some town might not be able to put up a Nativity display on its square.

The Liberty Council, an evangelical legal group, has even compiled a list of "grinches," a sort of "naughty or nice" list for the Bible Belt set. On top of the list are the American Civil Liberties Union, the perennial thorn in the side of the evangelical movement, and Target, which has supposedly banned the phrase "Merry Christmas" from its stores.

Their foes are, naturally, up in arms over matters. Leaders from groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State are calling foul, saying they aren't trying to erase Christmas from the holiday season. A spokeswoman for Target expressed that any accusation that the chain is "anti-Christmas" is absurd and incorrect.

The response, of course, just adds fuel to the fire. Both sides are ready to sue one another senseless. And for what? To decide what school-children can sing in the classroom when they're putting up decorations? To see whose imagery can sit in front of the county courthouse?

It seems that, in all of the rush to fight for what they're celebrating, evangelical Christians are forgetting just what it is they're celebrating.

The week that Christmas falls on is the darkest and, in a normal world, one of the coldest weeks of the year for us in the Northern Hemisphere. Nights have stretched to their longest length, and the North Pole - and, thus, everyone on this half of the planet - is leaning as far from the sun's rays as it can. Ancient humans gathered together around fires in ages long past in order to keep from freezing to death. As we survived long enough to



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

realize that the days begin to get longer again, we began celebrating on that cold, dark week to try and hurry along the return of warmer weather.

As we began to organize religions, we continued to hold onto what we later named the Winter Solstice as a time of celebrations. All political reasons aside, it seemed only appropriate to the early Christians to mark the birth of Christ on a day when light was beginning to try and return to the world.

The common thread through all of the hands that this time of year has passed through is that it was meant for celebration, good-will and cheer. To this day, regardless of what holiday we observe, the end of the year is meant to be

marked with
friend-



ship, giving, reflection and merriment. It may not always work that way, but the idea of what the holidays should be is something we all carry with us.

It seems worth noting that "animosity" and "legal action" don't appear anywhere in the previous lists.

As U.S. citizens, we all have the right to observe our faiths without fear of persecution. We should never have to fear putting displays on our lawns and the windows of our houses. Organizations meant to protect civil liberties were created to

defend precisely these kinds of rights.

The idea that someone would use these organizations to dampen the festivities of others smacks of disrespect to those rights.

Public spaces, however, belong to everyone. Since there is too little space in these places to create more than a trite celebration of everyone's beliefs, it is often better to leave religious imagery out of these places altogether. We are a country that is based on respecting the will of the minority, and it is ignorant of people like Falwell to insist that their faith should get top billing, simply because their religion is the largest.

Worst of all, however, is that someone, anyone, would turn a season of giving and charity, of goodness and hope, into a time where people are asked to choose sides against one another to defend something as petty and small in the grand scheme of things as being able to sing Christmas carols with religious themes in the classroom, especially when teachers are busy enough trying to figure out how to get their class to meet each year's objectives in the time they have.

There are plenty of good fights for these people to fight against indignity and hopelessness. There are people out there who

don't have homes to live in, food on their table or the belief that their life means anything at all. All of these things are worth the attention of people who are driven by a mission to spread a message of good news and renewal, of faith, community and rising to the challenges of the world. There are so many things that evangelicals can do to show the goodness and justice of their god. Falwell's "Friend or Foe" campaign isn't even close to being one.

Years ago, at the church I went to as a child, there was a song we would sing that, when I think about it now, had a curiously evangelical tone for a Catholic church.

Then, as now, the chorus reflected everything I thought the religion I grew up in was supposed to be. "And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride," the song went, "and they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Nobody needs your anger, Falwell, not this time of year. You and all your ilk should go and take your battle elsewhere. More than religious displays or signs could ever show, they'll know we really understand Christmas by our love. ♦

Matthew Adair is an art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

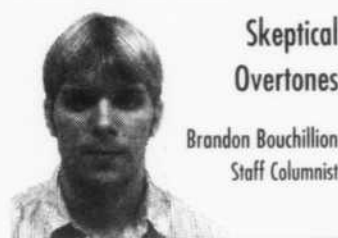
United States needs third party to speak for people

In class recently, my political science professor posed two questions in order to illustrate a point. "If you voted for George W. Bush or John Kerry in the last presidential election, will you please raise your hand?" A multitude of hands flew up immediately. "Now, if you voted in the last election but it wasn't for Bush or Kerry, raise your hand."

One lowly hand, my own, slowly reached for the ceiling. Here, apparently, rests the future of three-party politics in the United States.

Why would anyone want to vote for Ralph Nader, or any other presidential candidate, when it's apparent they can't win? You'd just be wasting a vote, no? It appears so on the surface, but if we look closer, some political injustices reveal themselves.

First, the parties that run American politics aren't a good representation of the entire country.



Skeptical
Overtones

Brandon Bouchillion
Staff Columnist

Democracy was created to give the people a voice, and that means each and every group of them, no matter how small a minority they may be. As is, two factions out of a countless number have political "clout" - Liberals and Conservatives.

This duality often presents voters with a dilemma. We're given two mediocre candidates, one Republican and one Democrat, and are forced to vote for the lesser of two evils. Such one-or-the-other politics compromises the ideals of democracy. Since no other candidates can win, we just vote for the same two parties.

Two staunchly opposed viewpoints continue to "represent" an entire nation, while an infinite number of different opinions go unheard, even unvoiced.

My decision to vote for a different party, the Green party, didn't come from their oh-so-much-fun stance on marijuana legalization. It wasn't because Ralph Nader spent years as a watchdog for consumer safety (He's the major reason that cars must have seatbelts). No, it was when Nader defended his 2004 presidential bid that my vote was decided. Many claimed his candidacy would take support away from Kerry, giving Bush a decisive advantage, but he ran despite this.

It wasn't this decision that compelled me, but the reasoning by which he came to it. Nader thought that if, through his run for president, a third-party could receive some 1 percent of the vote, then the campaign would be a

success. If in twenty years, a third-party could get 10 percent of the vote, the campaign would be a victory for democracy. In effect, if the landscape of American politics could be modified to represent more of her people, to Nader, it didn't matter if Kerry or Bush won.

Upon this logic, I made the decision to "waste my vote."

Sure I'll be the only guy in class who voted Green party, and no, I won't see any change in the near future.

But, someday, American democracy could represent a broader range of her citizens, and such political evolution is surely worth the effort. Until we do something, polar-opposite parties will control our country, neglecting the voice of the people and instead, listening to the voice of two. ♦

Brandon Bouchillion is a junior journalism major, and can be reached at bcb21@mtsu.edu.

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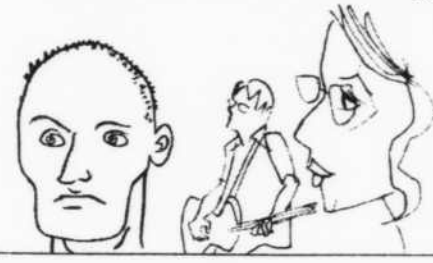
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Road rage tips: Whether humorous or dangerous, certain steps taken can prevent fights



Illustration by Alan Laidlaw | Art Director

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

Road rage and those who exhibit it are a new kind of road hazard drivers have to face these days.

More than likely, in this fast-paced world, every person has felt frustrated or angry as a result of actions taken by another driver on the road. Fellow motorists that drive too slow, cut you off or who are just being plain stupid seem like perfectly sound reasons to get angry.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Stop Aggressive Driving Web site - www.nhtsa.dot.gov/-road rage is defined as, "an assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of a motor vehicle or an assault precipitated by an incident that occurred on a roadway."

A Department of Transportation report lists several contributing factors for road rage and aggressive driving which includes traffic delays, running late, disregard for others and the law and clinical or habitual behavior.

Road rage is a criminal offense while aggressive driving is a traffic offense. Aggressive driving includes improper passing, speeding and improper or excessive lane changing.

Rex Spencer, co-owner of Training Associates Inc., says road rage is increasing 7 percent per year in the United States.

As a part of Training Associates Inc., Spencer and his partner Ed Rohrbach, travel all over Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi teaching 30 different programs. One of those programs is defensive driving. Defensive driving program students have received a ticket but in order for the

ticket to be dismissed, the judge has allowed them to attend traffic school.

"It is not telling you how to drive, it's giving you hints on how not to get in trouble," Spencer explains. "It's how to get to point A to point B without hitting anything."

He says the students' accident rates drop dramatically after they attend class and remain that way for about 18 months.

Road rage affects men and women and all age groups equally, he said, but women will use their cars as tools of revenge while men will get in your face.

As an example, he related a story he knew of where two male motorists had pulled off the road to discuss an incident. The first motorist was so incensed, he took a crossbow from his car and shot the second directly through the heart from 100 feet away.

“There’s more things to be upset about than getting cut off in traffic.”

—Brandon Skelton, Junior History student

It should not have to come to that, though.

"It's a serious subject. You've got to make them understand," Spencer says.

The Federal Highway Administration's Web site - www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/-lists steps you can take to avoid inciting and feeling road rage:

- Don't yell or use obscene gestures
- Don't block the passing lane
- Always signal when changing lanes
- Don't tailgate
- Cooperate and don't compete on the road
- Don't take another's actions personally

If you do find yourself in a road rage situation, however, Spencer gives his own dos and don'ts:

- Don't make eye contact or the other person will "suck you in"
- Don't retaliate
- If you're forced to stop:
 - Don't open your doors; lock them if need be
 - Stop in a public place (police station, hospital, etc)
 - Do NOT go home. It will give the other motorist a chance to follow and learn where you live
 - Dial 911, inform the operator you

have a road rage problem and ask what to do

Junior history major Brandon Skelton says he is not a road rager.

"There's more things to be upset about than getting cut off in traffic," Skelton says.

Junior Eric Sherwood, also a history major, thinks displays of road rage are "quite humorous."

"[It's funny] when a person is yelling and it's quite obvious the other person can't hear them," he explains.

To find out if you're a road rager, visit www.roadragers.com and take the driving quiz. ♦



Faith in 'Boro

Being in Jewish minority causes introspection

By Sarah Lavery
Staff Writer

Today I had a scary thought: what if I hadn't been born a Jew? What if I'd have been welcomed into the world by two parents who were pushy and over-bearing instead of open-minded and warm-hearted?

Before I go any further, let me just state for the record, that I find absolutely nothing wrong with Christians (or Buddhists, Muslims, Agnostics, Wiccans, Atheists, or any religion for that matter). What I do find something wrong with, though, is that a lot of people I've come across do, undoubtedly, find something wrong with me. They are right, everyone else is wrong; they go to heaven, we all go to hell.

At 13, I sat on a bed with three friends, enjoying a typical preteen sleep over filled with junk food, movies, boy talk and scare tactics to save my soul. This is when I first heard of the Revelation; at any moment, the Christians would be delivered to heaven, and the rest of us would be left to agree with their beliefs or burn in hell-on-earth. These girls must have been taking classes on how to work their magic on this subject, because I was scared to death. They counted down from ten to one (nine... it could be any second now... eight... by the time I reach seven we could all be gone and you'd still be

here... seven... it could be just after this one, who knows), and sitting there with my eyes shut as tight as possible, I breathed a huge sigh of relief when one rolled around and my friends remained. I still had time! I could still go with them when it happens!

I can remember the look in her eyes when, years later, another friend asked me "Will you just say something for me? It'll make me feel good." I was sitting at a table in the wee hours of the morning after a night of partying. I was out of it, and not at all sure what I was to be asked to say yes to:

"With my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved."

Had one more hour passed before this I might have been tired enough to repeat after her; but I outsmarted it. This clever attempt to "trick" me into being saved, for the benefit of someone else's personal relationship with God, left my opinion of imperialistic religion indefinitely altered.

My entire journey through religion thus far—the ups and downs, questions and acceptance—has been shaped by those around me. In middle school, the constant threats of my damnation brought me to a point of compromise; apparently, I could still be Jewish and go to heaven so long as I

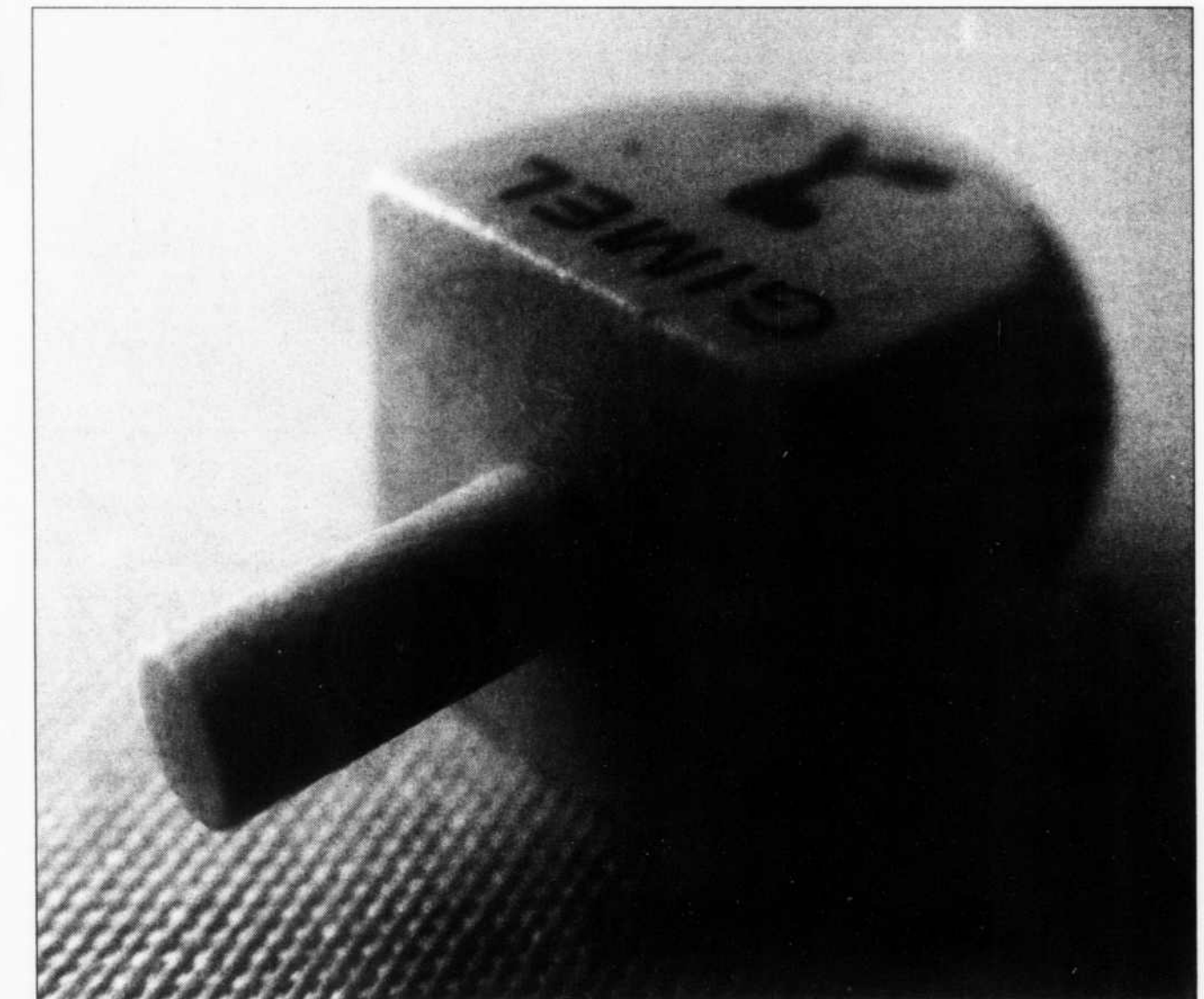


Photo provided by morguefile.com

joined a clever new group of "Jews for Jesus." The idea seemed brilliant and foolproof. I went to Church with a friend (like I so often did) whose father was a youth pastor, and on my way to the stage where I was to be "saved," my friend's father stopped me. He looked me in the eyes, grabbed me hard by the shoulders, and said, "Sarah, you don't want to do this. Not right now. Talk to your parents first."

I will forever be grateful for that

man. He single handedly took me off the path of social acceptance and lead me to begin questioning what it was that I believed, rather than what would simply be easy.

I've listened all my life to people talking about the plights their religious beliefs bring them—endless debates on religious theory, rights-and-wrongs, how to make others see eye-to-eye with what they read in the Bible. I'll tell you what's frustrating, and being part of the Bible Belt's majority isn't a part of

it: being told multiple times you will go to hell for your beliefs, having to capitalize hell for the benefit of grammatical correctness when I don't want to, being deathly afraid to submit this article because I'm convinced the majority of eyes reading it will be reciting Bible verses in their head to prove me wrong, among so many other prejudices I've come to face.

I lived in Memphis when I was

see Faith page 6

How BIG OF A Simpson are you?

By Brandon Morrison
Staff Writer

Ever catch yourself pulling a Homer? Ever ask your hand what Bart would do? Do you find doughnuts scrum-diddly-um-cious? Then you should try your hand at *Sidelines'* 41th issue *Simpson's Quiz*. Spectacular! Answer the following questions, and find out how you rate as a Simpsons fan.

Passing Fancy (1 point each)

- 1 - Name the five Simpson family members.
- 2 - Where does Homer work?
- 3 - What is one of Bart Simpson's catchphrases?
- 4 - What is Homer's favorite food?
- 5 - What bar does Homer frequent?
- 6 - What is the rival town to Springfield?

Part of the Krusty Fan Club (3 points each)

- 1 - What is the name of Homer's enemy who died after grabbing onto some high voltage wires?
- 2 - Where is Springfield located?
- 3 - What is Bart and Lisa's favorite cartoon show?
- 4 - What is Homer's middle name?
- 5 - What brand of beer does Homer drink?
- 6 - What instrument does Lisa play?
- 7 - How long has the Simpson's been on air?
- 8 - What two characters appear in every Halloween episode?

Comic-Book Guy Approved (8 points each)

- 1 - How many cats have the Simpson's owned?
- 2 - What is the name of the local radio station in town?
- 3 - Finish the following line in the song... "Long before the Saints of New Orleans play..."
- 4 - What is the name of the cartoon character that Homer voiced?
- 5 - How old was Homer when he first started drinking beer?
- 6 - What Presidents of the United States has the Simpson family met?
- 7 - How does Simpson's neighbor Maude Flanders die?
- 8 - What is the definition of "Pulling a Homer?"

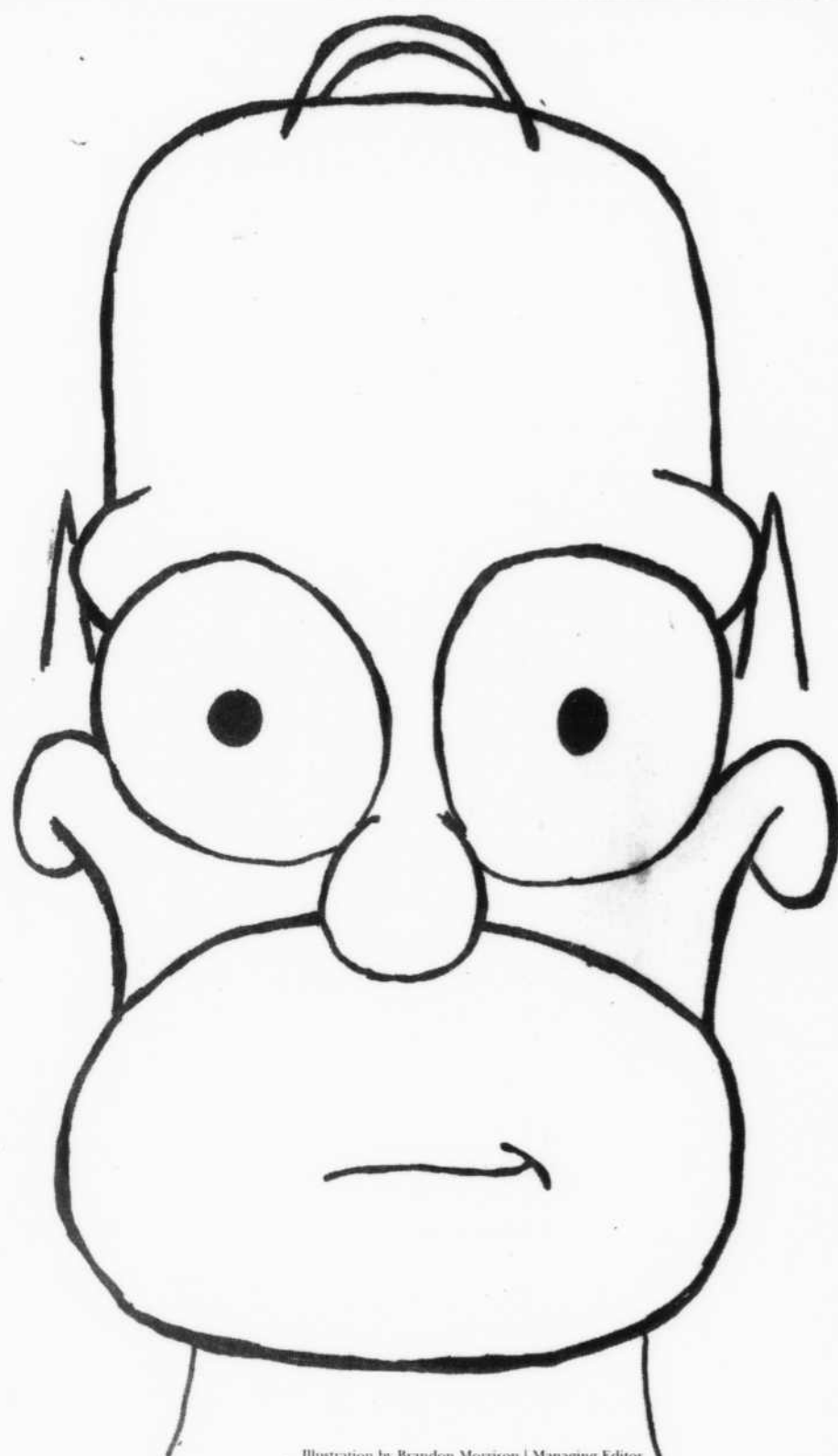


Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Managing Editor

Mmmm...answers..

Total:

0 - 31: Ned Flanders - It's ok, you probably don't watch television anyway...

32 - 63: Homer Simpson - You know what's going on with the show, but retention of knowledge isn't exactly your strong point.

64 - 85: Bart Simpson - Aye Carumba! You have great tastes in television.

86 - 94: Comic Book Guy - Best... Television Show... Ever... ♦

Clinton. Both Ford and Bush lived across the street from the Simpsons at one point, while they met Clinton at a dinner party when Homer achieved elite status after changing his name to Max Power. She gets shot with a t-shirt gun at a NASCAR race. The t-shirt knocks her off the top of the bleachers. 8 - "The act of succeeding despite idiocty."

where the damned called him, hear their hellish reveille... 4 - "Poochie, the rapping dog." 5 - When Homer was 17, he drank a very good beer. That he purchased with a fake ID. His name was Bryan McCabe. Queen. When he was 17. 6 - The Simpsons have met three Presidents, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Bill

phone. (Extra points if you said earlier saxophone) 7 - Either 1987, if you count the Simpson's episodes on the Tracy Ullman show, or 1989 if you start with the first half-hour episode. 8 - Kang and Kodos. C.B.G. 1 - Snowball I, Snowball II, Snowball III, Coltrane and Snowball V. 2 - KRB. 3 - "There was a place

KFC 1 - Frank Grimes 2 - Although it's been highly speculated to be in Kentucky, Missouri or Oregon, the actual location of Springfield isn't located in any particular state. 3 - "The Itchy and Scratchy Show." 4 - Jay. 5 - Homer drinks Duff beer. 6 - Lisa plays the saxo-

Answers: 1 - Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie 2 - The Nuclear Power Plant 3 - "Don't have a cow, Carumba." "Do the Bartman, man," "Cowabunga," "Aye Eat my shorts." "I didn't do it." 4 - "Mmmm... doughnuts." 5 - Moe's 6 - Shelbyville

From Faith, page 5

younger and never gave my religion a second thought. I went to Temple every Saturday, ate Shabbat dinner with my grandparents weekly and even attended kindergarten at the Jewish Community Center. But then I moved to the heart of the Bible Belt, and the extremely unbalanced ratio of Christians to everyone else was immediately thrust into my face.

Not to say that all the Christians I've come across have been the same; a few have been nothing but curious about my differing faith and eager to understand our differences. One of my best friends almost got kicked out of her Church camp for defending me; they told the campers to urge those who hadn't accepted Jesus into their heart to do so for the sake of the eternal destination of their souls, and when she spoke up that she didn't think her Jewish friend would rot in hell just because of her religion, she was accused of blasphemy. The counselors proceeded to write her follow-up letters to even further explain why I needed to be "saved"—instead, she came home from the camp with a new-found outlook on tolerance. Her entire family has always been wholeheartedly supportive, inquisitive and welcoming to my religion.

It is possible to be a devout Christian and to not impose those beliefs on others. I wish, for once, that all of the times I have sat through a boring church sermon with friends

and all the time I have spent asking questions about what it meant to be Christian could be matched with the same curiosity (not condemnation) about what I believe. So much of the world is diverse; actually, so much of our very own campus is diverse, that it seems so trite to turn one's back on tolerance.

Here, for the first time, I will use my religion's sacred writings to defend my point:

(From the Talmud—or for those of you who have no idea what that is, part of Judaism's sacred texts)

Some call on the Lord, "Rama," some cry, "Khuda," Some bow to Him as Gosain, some as Allah;

He is called the Ground of Grounds and also the Bountiful,

The Compassionate One and Gracious.

Hindus bathe in holy waters for His sake; Muslims make the pilgrimage to Mecca. The Hindus perform puja; others bow their heads in namaz.

There are those who read the Vedas and others—Christians, Jews, Muslims—who read the Semitic scriptures.

Some wear blue, some white robes,

Some call themselves Muslims, others Hindus.

Some aspire to bahishat (Muslim heaven), some to swarga (Hindu heaven).

Says Nanak, Whoever realizes the will of the Lord,

He will find out the Lord's secrets!

—Talmud, Sanhedrin 56a ♦



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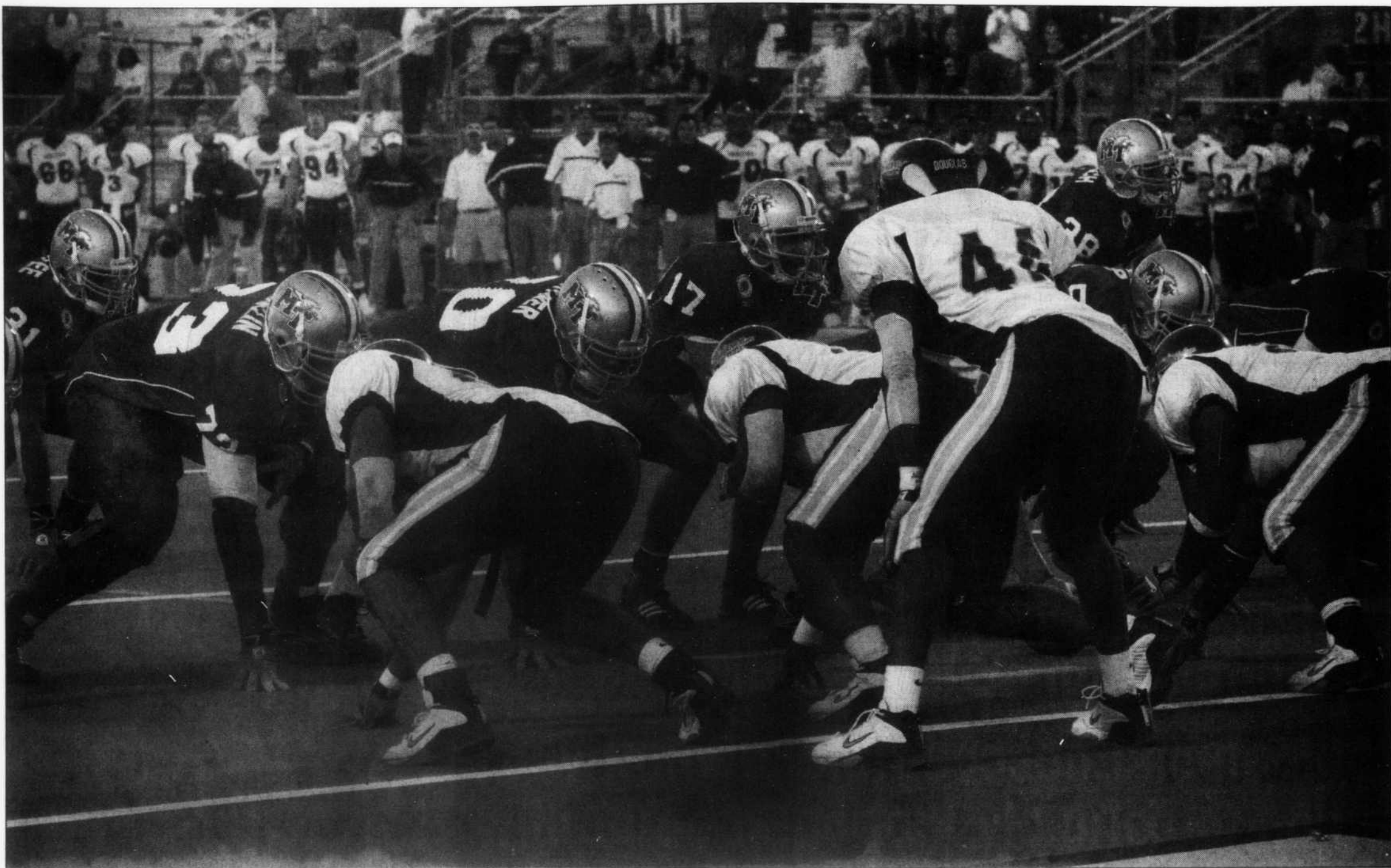


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT quarterback Clint Marks leads the Blue Raider offense with a 66.7 completion percentage for the 2005 season. Marks is fifth in the SBC in passing yards, and will look to propel MT into a first place tie in the SBC on Saturday.

Despite dismissal, McCollum leads MT to road win

By Jonathan Hutton
 Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee defense propelled the Blue Raiders to their fourth win of the season in a 17-7 battle for the Palladium at Troy University on Saturday night.

Many thought the announcement of the firing of head coach Andy McCollum would be a distraction, but the Blue Raiders came out playing physical, hard-nosed football and dominated a very good Troy team. McCollum brought one of his best game plans of the year, and it paid off.

One might think he would not care about this university anymore, but after watching McCollum scream at midfield following the victory for the Palladium to be delivered to his team, it became apparent he has not relented.

"We tried to keep it the same," Running Back Ronald Steed said of the work week after hearing of the firing of their head coach. "Just work hard, focus, and get ready to play. Just come out and play



McCollum

ball."

MT sealed the game on a goal line stand late in the fourth quarter, which prevented Troy from creating a one-possession game. Troy announcers questioned whether quarterback Carl Meadows had crossed the goal line, but officials said otherwise, which sealed the Palladium Trophy for the Blue Raiders.

As the defense has all year, they dominated the Trojans by holding them to 2-of-11 attempts and 0-3 on fourth down tries, including the late and crucial 4th quarter stop.

MT got on the board early after Meadows' first pass attempt was intercepted by defensive back Roy Polite, who lived up to his promise he made earlier in the week that he would have an interception in the contest. Four plays later, running back Eugene Gross put the Blue Raiders on the board from a yard out, giving the Blue Raiders a 7-0 advantage.

The Blue Raider offensive unit, who is not known for controlling the clock and moving the football, did just that Saturday night. MT converted seven of 17 third down conversions and ran 72 total offensive plays for 271 total yards. MT also held the ball for over 34 minutes, which helped keep the Blue Raider defense rested on the sideline.

After coming up short on a third and

goal attempt, MT lined up to attempt a short field goal, but extended their lead on a beautifully drawn up fourth-and-goal direct snap trick play to Gross for his second score and a 14-0 lead.

Gross injured his left ankle in the second quarter, which gave the backfield to Ronald Steed. Steed, normally a third string back, was moved to the backup spot because Ralph King did not make the trip for unknown reasons.

Steed filled in nicely for the Blue Raiders, gaining 72 yards on 20 carries for an average of 3.6 a carry.

The Blue Raiders came out in normal sluggish form to begin the second half and punted on every drive except their final possession where they kneeled on the ball.

Troy came out on their first offensive drive of the half and drove down the field and got their first score of the game and the would-be final score of 17-7. ♦



Gross

Interesting Game Notes:

Ralph King did not make the trip for unknown reasons. Players confirmed that the staff was unable to contact with him before departing for the game.

Clint Marks only threw for 146 yards but played smart and made no mistakes to guide the team to victory by not giving up any big plays.

Colby Smith has not lived up to the Lou Groza watch list hype during preseason, but hit a career-best 45-yard field goal to put the Blue Raiders up 17-0.

MT was out gained by Troy in both yardage and first downs. Troy had 17 first downs for 304 yards of offense while MT had 16 first downs for 271 yards of offense. However, Troy turned the ball over twice which ultimately lead to their demise.

MT continues to be heavily penalized ringing up 8 penalties for 85 yards.

Despite the efforts of both universities, or lack of, to spark a rivalry between Troy and Middle Tennessee, the Band of Blue and cheerleaders were not at the contest along with an absent Student Government Road Rally, which chose to travel to Raleigh a week earlier.

The Palladium is now in Murfreesboro for the first time ever and will remain in Murfreesboro until next year's contest between Troy and Middle Tennessee.

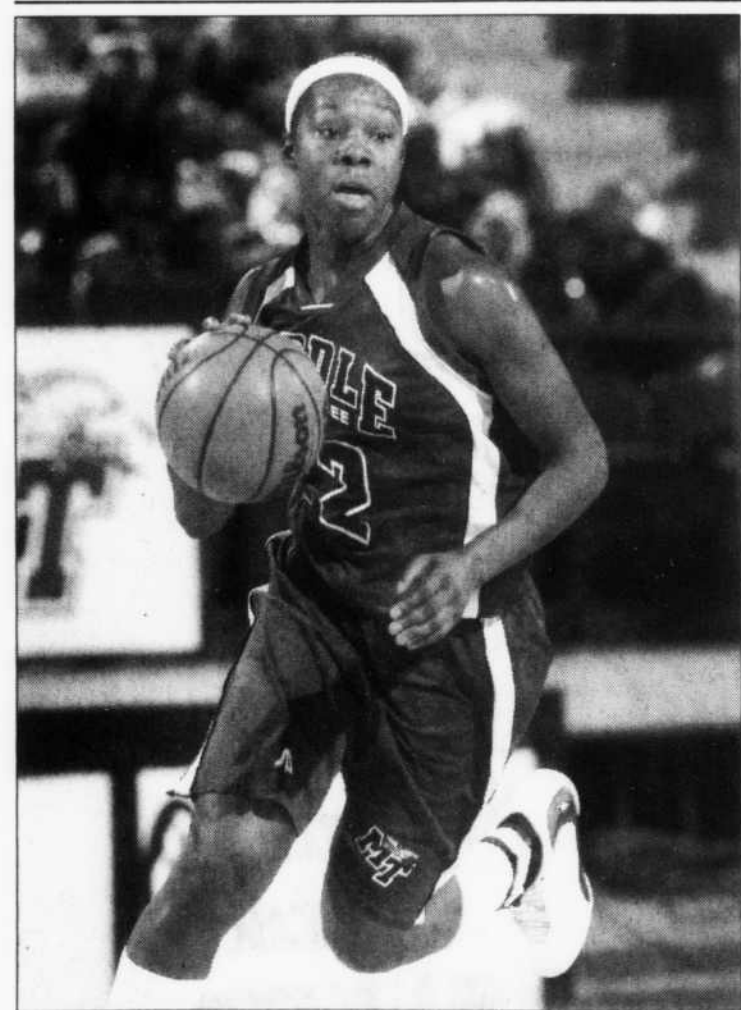


Photo provided by MT Media Relations

Junior Chrissy Givens had two career games. She helped lead the Lady Raiders to victories against Georgia Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Lady Raiders start season undefeated with three important victories at home

By Clarence Plank
 Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's triple threat scores double figures over Houston on Tuesday at the Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders dominated Houston for their first win of the season (1-1) at home as Tia Stovall, Krystle Horton and newcomer Monique Martin lead the Lady Raiders in scoring.

Stovall and Horton came away with 13 points and Martin finished with 11 points. MT had 16 steals against Houston's six steals and completely held the Cougars scores from the three-point line. MT was 44-34, in rebounds.

MT pulled ahead by four points before Houston managed to score. The Lady Raiders built a 10 point lead as

Houston started to come back. Stovall netted a jumper to keep their 10 point lead heading into half-time with 29-19. The Lady Raiders defense held Houston in check for the second half, allowing 16 points and forcing Houston to turn the ball over 29 times.

The Tuesday night home opener drew a crowd of 2,622 and that was the second largest attendance for MT since 2001, when they had 2,819, for a game against Western Kentucky. After the win MT has their first victory under Head Coach Rick Insell. Insell won 775 games while he was with Shelbyville High School.

"Krystle Horton, Tia Stovall and Chrissy Givens did a great job tonight," Insell told MT Media Relations. "What more can you say about them."

The Lady Raiders won big

over Georgia Southern 80-58 as Givens scores a career-high 23 points.

Junior Chrissy Givens helped the Lady Raiders to improve to 2-1 with a grand performance as she scored 23 points, nine rebounds and went 2-of-4 from three-point land.

"I didn't shoot very well the last game. I kept shooting because he (Coach Insell) would get mad if I stopped," Chrissy Givens told MT Media Relations. "As far as confidence goes, I came out and ran the offense and I got the shots."

MT went on a 14-6 run before the half to lead by 18 points 39-21. That is the most that the Lady Raiders have scored against opponents this season in the first half.

The Lady Raiders scored 80 points and that is the most

Tuesday, November 22
MT 62
Houston 35

Friday, November 25
MT 80
GA Southern 58

Saturday, November 26
MT 77
EKU 66

Next Game vs Georgia,
 November 30

that they have scored against
 an opponent since they did

Continued on 8

