



INSIDE: Action needed to bring closure

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Officials investigate suspects

By John Solomon
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are investigating whether suspected hijackers of one jetliner used in Tuesday's devastating attacks entered the United States from Canada and may be linked to Osama bin Laden, law enforcement officials said yesterday.

The officials cautioned that

information, including raw intelligence, was still developing.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they were investigating whether one group of hijackers crossed the Canadian border at a checkpoint and eventually went to Boston's airport, where an American Airlines flight was hijacked and later flown into the World Trade Center in New York.

The officials confirmed a car believed to belong to the hijackers was confiscated in Boston and contained an Arabic language flight manual.

Authorities also were developing intelligence linking the suspected attackers to a ban of bin Laden sympathizers in Canada, some of Algerian origin, who are suspected of planning an unsuccessful terrorist attack on U.S. soil during the

millennium celebrations.

The FBI has already received more than 700 tips from a special Web site seeking information on the attacks.

Meanwhile, FBI agents executed search warrants in Florida and interviewed a couple who housed two men believed to be involved in the hijackings and suicide crashes.

And the FBI served search warrants to major Internet ser-

vice providers in order to get information about an e-mail address that may be connected to Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Among those who received warrants was Earthlink, officials said.

AOL, the nation's largest provider, said it will comply with requests quickly.

The FBI interviewed a

See Suspects, 2

Memorial to be held on Knoll

Staff Reports

MTSU will be sponsoring a memorial service today at 12:15 p.m. on the Knoll in front of the Keathley University Center.

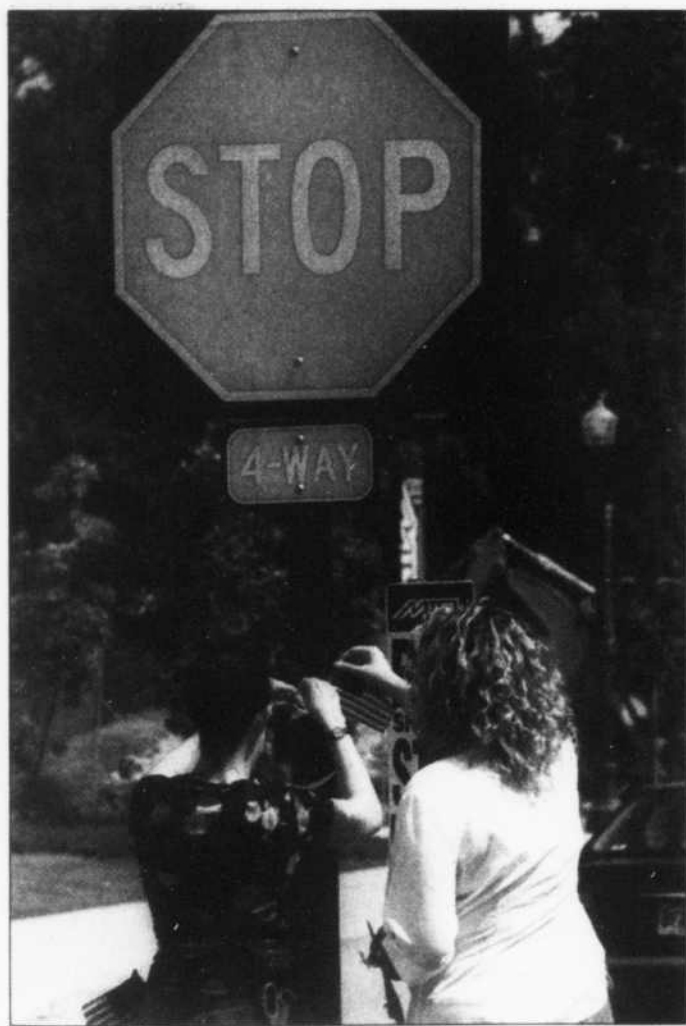
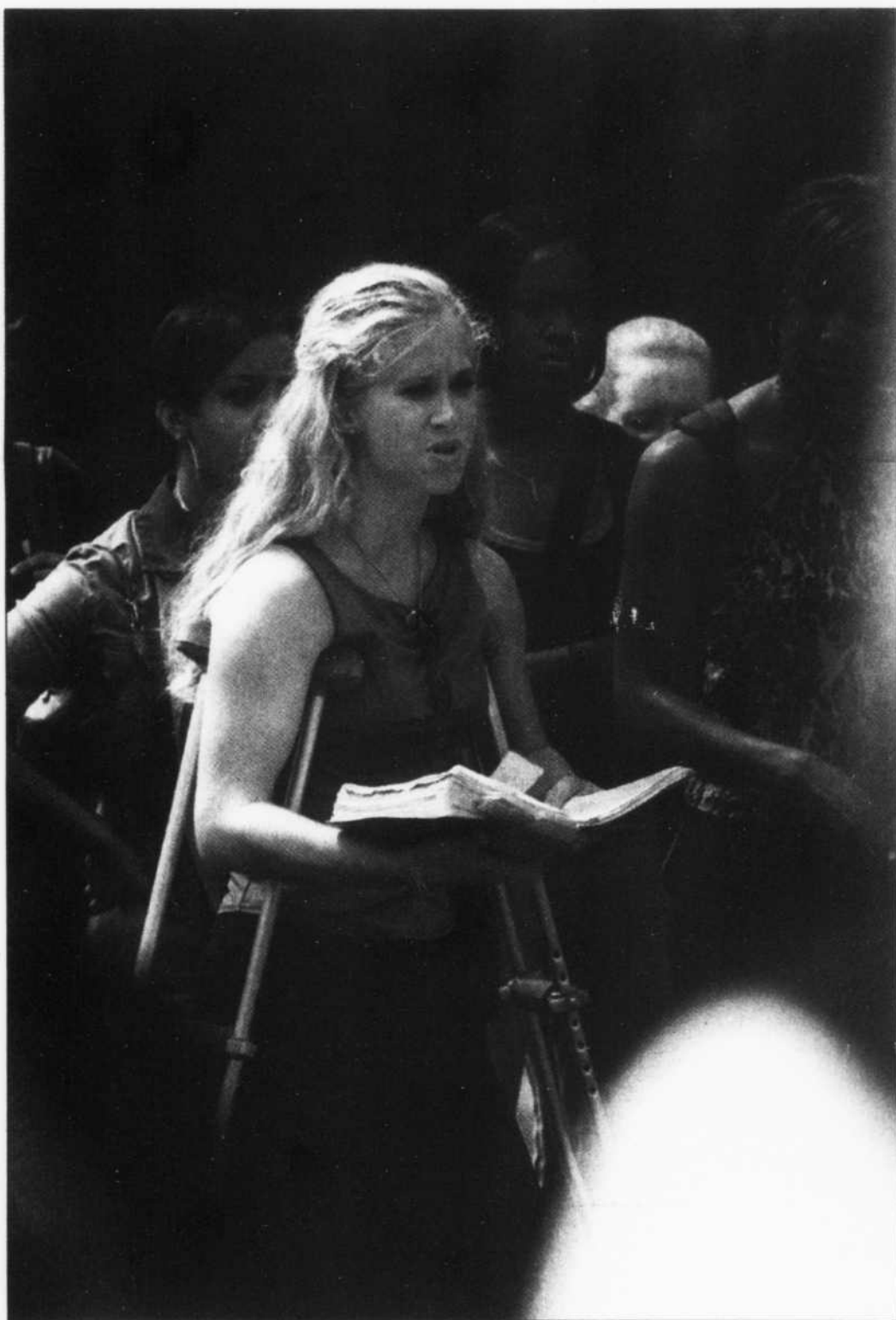
The service will last approximately 10-15 minutes and will be "simple, solemn and appropriate," according to President Sidney McPhee.

The MTSU Concert Choral will be singing several hymns during the brief service.

"We hope this service will show MTSU's thoughtful concern for the many families who were touched by the tragedy that occurred in our country on Tuesday. We also want to reach out to any student, faculty or staff member, or member of the community who might be grieving because of this attack," McPhee said.

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

Students unite in mourning



Photos by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

(Left) Rachel Cox leads a group of students in prayer yesterday on the Knoll. Several students have been personally affected by the crashes, including a student whose brother-in-law worked on the 104th floor of one of the towers.

(Above right) Students hold hands as they pray for unity yesterday.

(Below right) Mully Cullen and Jennifer Brown-Smith tie ribbons and American flags to sign posts as a memorial to those lost in the attacks.

Professors provide background

By Ernie Gray
Staff Writer

Amy Staples, Pippa Holloway and Ron Messier are determined to provide MTSU students a badly needed crash-course on the sociopolitical background of the Middle East, Islamic fundamentalism and Osama bin Laden.

A packed room of students, faculty and residents gathered last night to listen and discuss the critical issues raised by Tuesday's tragedy.

"What we saw yesterday in New York and Washington D.C. was not what Islam is about," said Messier, who has a significant background in Islamic studies.

"Islam is about being at peace with yourself," he said, "and wishing peace on the world."

He referred to Jihad, an often misinterpreted call to armed struggle in the Islamic tradition that terrorists have used to rationalize their actions.

"There is certainly nowhere in the Islamic scriptures that makes non-combatants fair game, or yesterday's attack justified," Messier said.

In response to the seemingly joyous reaction of Palestinians in the streets, Messier said, "they were not reacting that way because they were Arabs or Muslims, but because of 35 years of suffering."

Messier is very concerned about America's response to the tragedy and hopes that whatever action is taken, it will be, "deliberate, focused and careful."

Staples explained the delicacy of the complex situation with a historical overview of U.S. foreign policy toward the Middle East. As the audience listened quietly, the complicated matrix of a long-standing conflict began to unravel.

See Forum, 2

Gas hikes unlikely to materialize in Middle Tennessee

By Lindsey Turner
and Pam Hudgens
News Editor and Editor In Chief

Rumors circulated Tuesday evening following the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, claiming gas prices in Nashville and Memphis had skyrocketed to as much as \$6 a gallon.

Many Murfreesboro residents flocked to local gas stations to fill their tanks before gas prices were raised in Middle Tennessee.

According to Kathy Masiello, Murfreesboro's American

Automobile Association division manager, the rumored price increase — especially in Middle Tennessee — is likely incorrect.

She said she had confirmed reports that gas was as high as \$3 to \$5 in the northeast, but doubted their accuracy.

"We hope (our) prices will remain stable," she said of Middle Tennessee.

No station, she said, has raised its prices extraordinarily, but many drivers rushed to gas stations Tuesday for fear that prices would rise soon.

Local Exxon Tiger Mart clerk Calvin Wallace said his store had been overwhelmed with gas customers Tuesday evening and intermittently yesterday.

So many customers got gas, he said, they ran out of 87 octane — something many other local stations also experienced.

Exxon Mobil, in an effort to allay consumer fears of gas shortages, released a statement saying: "Today, in many markets around the country, prices at our company-operated stations are significantly below others, and we may experience runouts

at some of our stations as a result."

The release also addressed allegations that oil companies would be inflating gas prices by stating: "In stations we own and operate, our prices have not increased since [Tuesday's] events. ... We cannot control what independent dealers or distributors do but are encouraging them to act responsibly."

Albert DePrince Jr., director of MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center, said the attacks' direct economic effect on Tennessee will depend

upon the global effect. He said that because the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has announced they will support the price of oil, he doesn't expect gas prices to jump too high.

"Spikes (in prices) can be thwarted with their cooperation," DePrince said. He expects the attacks to have the greatest economic impact on consumer confidence.

"This is a negative checkmark on consumer sentiment," DePrince said. ♦

Forum: Professor explains radical mindset

Continued from 1

According to Staples, the U.S. has been highly involved in Mideast politics for reasons that center on cold-war strategy and oil supply. These strategic initiatives have led to inconsistent and contradictory support of various political powers in the region.

"The situation between Israel and Palestine has been the most volatile," she noted, outlining the patch-work quilt-like map of the Israeli/Palestinian habitation of the area, where fundamentally different religious ideologies are divided into national territories the size of neighborhoods.

Holloway then offered an in-depth background of Osama bin Laden.

"His political career began raising funds for the anti-communist resistance in Afghanistan," she said, "and most of the people who went to fight the communists were militants and extremists."

She noted that the Reagan administration provided state of the art weaponry, training and money to the anti-communists.

"What we trained bin Laden to do was fight a war of attrition – violent and well-organized enough to humble a super power," she quoted from MSNBC's Web site.

"In 1990, he urged the Saudi royal family to organize a defense of the nation and defend Iraq. Instead, the king joined the U.S. alliance and invited the Americans to use the nation as a base."

"This really shocked bin Laden," she said, "and turned him forever against the Saudi government."

According to Holloway, bin Laden has since declared a holy war on Americans and their allies, civilian and military. The U.S. has tried repeatedly to eliminate bin Laden to no avail.

Then Holloway elaborated why so many people support bin Laden.

"Many in the Arab world have grievances not so much against Americans as against their own corrupt, incompetent governments," she said.

"Most nations in the Middle East are not democracies and have not done much to help the average person there, but the U.S. supports these governments because they are allied with us, stand against militant Islam and, most importantly, because they provide us with oil." She explained that this feeds a growing hatred of the United States by the poor and creates a fertile ground for Islamic radicalism.

Later, in an open discussion, a participant added, "while yesterday we saw violence – poverty is also violence – a violence the third world must witness daily. I'm afraid we are feeling the repercussions of American diplomacy and global capitalism."

"Next time you look down at your Nike shoes, remember that," he said. ♦

Suspects: Hijackers were 'skilled pilots'

Continued from 1

Venice, Fla., couple Wednesday about two men who stayed at their house for a week in July 2000 while the men were taking small-plane flight training at the municipal airport.

FBI agents "informed me that there were two individuals that were students at Huffman Aviation, my employer, and FBI told me they were involved in yesterday's tragedy," said Charlie Voss, who was interviewed with his wife, Drew, at their home.

The couple greeted the two men as house guests as a favor to the company, Voss said. The men, who stayed just a few days, trained at the airport and came to the house to sleep, he said.

The government believes the hijackers were trained pilots and that three to five were aboard each of four airliners that crashed in the worst terrorist attack ever in the United States, said Justice Department spokeswoman Mindy Tucker. She said the conclusion was based on

information gathered from frantic phone calls made by passengers on the doomed jets.

"It appears from what we know that the hijackers were skilled pilots," Tucker said.

Tucker declined to comment on evidence linking the attacks to bin Laden or whether authorities have executed search warrants.

Lawmakers, including Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, believe bin Laden may have been behind the attacks. "I don't think everyone in Congress has enough information to make those assumptions," Tucker said.

She said investigators are following all credible leads but declined to comment on whether the government is close to arresting anyone. The 700 tips came from a special FBI Web site seeking information on the attacks.

From broken bits of hijacked airplanes to intelligence intercepts, the FBI is collecting evidence in its search for those responsible for the attacks. At

the Pentagon, an FBI team recovered parts of the airplane's fuselage and sought the black box recorder that could provide conversations from the cockpits of the doomed planes.

"Everything is pointing in the direction of Osama bin Laden," said Hatch, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A list of passengers from one of the ill-fated flights included the name of a suspected bin Laden supporter, Hatch and several law enforcement officials confirmed. U.S. intelligence obtained communications between bin Laden supporters discussing Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon, Hatch said.

"They have an intercept of some information that included people associated with bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit," he said. Hatch declined to be more specific. ♦

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From the staff

Action needed to bring closure

We believe that it is time to take action in order to come together as best we can as a nation after what happened Tuesday, Sept. 11.

This resolution needs to come in two steps.

The first action that must be taken is discovering who was behind these reprehensible actions. The U.S. government, as well as the U.S. public — especially the U.S. public — must not lash out irrationally, against any group or nation that we have held grievances with in the past merely because we believe they might be responsible.

President Bush will receive money from Congress today (reports say \$20 billion) with which he is to conduct an investigation. This money must be put to immediate use, with no stone left unturned.

We must be sure whom we target when we do target someone. President Clinton's bombing of incorrect sites after the U.S. Embassy bombings in 1998 was an international embarrassment for our nation. It is a mistake we cannot afford to make again if we want to continue to enjoy the international support because of this tragedy.

The second action the United States must make is a military action against whatever group or nation is responsible. This action must make an example so other potential terrorists are discouraged. America must demonstrate that attacks such as these do no go unpunished.

Military action does not necessarily mean waging war. However, if it is a nation responsible for this attack, there are precious few options that our nation can render. NATO yesterday pledged its support for any course of action the United States chooses to pursue.

This was an unprecedented peacetime attack, and it presents our nation with an unprecedented opportunity to combat terrorism. We have the responsibility to discover who masterminded the attack and the responsibility to deal with them in a way that spells out the United States will not compromise with terrorists.

Muslim Student Association speaks out

This is the statement of the Muslim Student Association at MTSU condemning the terrible terrorist attacks on America on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

On behalf of our members and the Muslim community in Murfreesboro we express our sympathy for the victims and their families and loved ones.

It is essential to mention that right after the attacks, a statement was made by the American Muslim Political

Coordination Council, the organization that represents several active Muslim organizations in the United States.

The AMPCC statement read in part: "American Muslims utterly condemn what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians."

"We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No political cause

could ever be assisted by such immoral acts."

Major Muslims organizations are calling on Muslims nationwide to offer whatever assistance they can to help the victims.

This effort is to show that American Muslims are sharing with them this pain and sorrow.

While some sides are trying to link these attacks to some Muslim groups, even though nothing is confirmed yet from any

formal investigation, it is important to understand that Islam never conducts any means of terrorism or attack against innocent people.

The estimated six million Muslims in America are against terrorism in all its forms.

Any Muslim who turns out to be involved in these terrorist attacks is not representing the Muslims by any means.

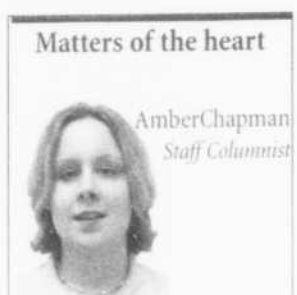
It is the responsibility of Muslim students on cam-

pus to explain this message of peace to others who are in turn expected to be understanding and realizing this big fact.

We would like to thank all the efforts of school official who are taking all possible steps to ensure the safety of every side including international students.

Finally, it is our hope that we will be able to go through this tragedy as one united voice against terrorism, and may God's peace be upon all of you. ♦

Hearts at half-staff, pride flying high



Matters of the heart
Amber Chapman
Staff Columnist

Awaking Tuesday morning to America in a state of panic was something not many of us were prepared for.

The two gigantic tow-

ers that embodied all that our great country stands for were brought to their knees, like so many Americans.

Then discovering that the central nervous system for our military also was attacked seemed to crush whatever hope remained.

And as I see all the flags flying at half-staff, I can't help but notice the immense amount of pride and unity such devastation has brought to America.

The length people are

willing to go to, all because they want to help someone else. See, in times like these, what once mattered, has no meaning now.

On the news reports, you see people of all races, nationalities, ages and genders lending each other a hand or a shoulder, whatever the need may be.

People in other states donating blood, time and money to those they've never seen before.

Others gather at local shops to obtain a free

American flag or an American flag decal to put on their car to show their support.

Some assemble at churches to pray for the families of those that lost loved ones.

Nurses, doctors, police officers, firefighters and other rescue personnel work long hours, often without pay.

It is here that I find beauty in the face of disaster.

Media analysts, psy-

chologists and other experts have called the people of this age insensitive and inconsiderate to their neighbors. Now, the truth is being shown.

It seems as though every generation before ours had something to fight for — Vietnam, both World Wars, etc.

It has been said that this is why our generation takes its rage out on each other, because we have nothing to fight for. Perhaps, this is our time. ♦

Has the public lost sight of press's role?



For Argument's Sake
Jason Cox
Asst. News Editor

It seems that the public's trust in the media is sinking lower and lower.

In a recent poll by the University of Connecticut, only a slight majority (56 percent) of the public favors student staff having editorial control of their newspapers.

Surprised? It gets worse.

Only 43 percent favor freedom of the press for high school newspapers. In addition, 46 percent of people surveyed said that

the press enjoys too much freedom. Finally, and perhaps the most disturbing fact, one person in four of those that responded said the press should be required to have government approval of stories before they are published.

In short, one in four of the respondents prefer Adolf Hitler's method of handling the press.

Certainly one would have a right to be somewhat cynical of certain media outlets, if one considers Fox News Channel and the tabloid paparazzi to be representative of the American media as a whole.

However, the public seems to have a growing tendency of regressing toward isolationism, acting

against them only when their government's actions will result in a tax increase or a change to their neighborhood.

After the scandals that rocked the 1970s and 1980s, people who are 'sick of all the negativity' in society don't want conflict in life anymore. The notion of legitimate debate has been lost in the search for tranquility.

This trend, however, cannot be blamed entirely on the public. The media has its fair share of faults committed against journalism.

Tabloid press aside, the media's reputation has been beaten down in recent years for its coverage of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal and the

2000 election. Even *The New York Times*, considered by many to be one of the premier papers in the country, used anonymous sources for 20 percent of their information during the coverage of the Clinton scandal and subsequent impeachment.

As far as the news networks go, the accurate reporting of news is often lost in the sea of overpaid media pundits whose jobs consists of 'analyzing' the day's events. Even on shows that have the pretense of being the straightforward news show, the anchor often editorializes to the point where you really can't trust him or her to report the news.

Corporate pressures also affect the news more

than ever before, but that is a topic for another day.

So where has the fear of an overbearing government gone? Is the disdain for the press so great that we as a people are willing to sacrifice freedom of the press to satisfy our need for peace and quiet? Are occasional mistakes reason enough to give up our greatest weapon against governmental tyranny?

There's a simple saying about an unchallenged leader or group of leaders: "Absolute power corrupts, absolutely."

Maybe one day Joe Citizen will figure this out.

But will this realization come when we're goose-step marching and wearing red armbands? ♦

SIDELINES

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Ramblings of a Mad Woman
Courtney Gundry
Staff Columnist

Technology's progressing, but as people, we're regressing. Machines do our thinking and we're stinking from the stench of dying originality.

The future's not a future, but a plan on a disk, no risk for failure because we're programmed.

Captured, used, trapped, abused, cornered, confused by computers.

Blood and flesh — I'm impressed by how real it all seems. We're just images on screens. The programmer has become the programmed.

Creativity's extinct, and I try to think, but the chip in my head reads SYSTEM ERROR... ERROR... ERROR. ERROR flashed; my system's crashed. They lock me up because I won't shut up about my program that faltered, that failed.

Humanity has prevailed. It's rare, but I dare say it happens. We're a secret society that defy and rely on emotions and love potions and the notions we get. We are rebels in hiding, gathering men for fighting against the desensitized.

I am not a machine.

I've seen what happens when you overload. You explode out of your shell and into a hell of heart that breaks and mind that aches, fears and tears, the real deal. ... No more programs.

Greetings my fine friends. For those of you

who are returning readers, welcome back to the twisted world of my insight. And for my virgin readers, hahahaha...have fun!

Here is my question for you today: Could we go a week without televisions, radios or computers without driving ourselves straight into a mental ward? I like to delude myself into thinking we can, but the truth keeps flashing before my eyes like a neon sign in Vegas. We need our cell phones and our scanners, our DVD players and our big screen televisions. Today's society would rather be stranded in a desert without water than be locked in a room without a computer.

Whatever happened to good, old fashioned conversation. ... The days when they sat around the campfire singing and sharing stories?

Does anyone remember what a letter even looks like? Or, how about the current cost of a postage stamp?

Now, before I get stoned to death for technological blasphemy, I have to jump into the pot along with the rest of you. I love the convenience of my e-mail and cell phone. In fact, I am taking full advantage of the computer at my fingertips for the purpose of this column.

These toys are not the problem. ... We are. We have let ourselves become dependant upon high tech machines that drain us of every innate survival skill we have. No longer can we fend for ourselves.

However, we cannot blame them for our demise. We have become trained and dehumanized by the same machines we created. That's right, we

created them. We have done this to ourselves.

We have stripped away every ounce of our life and judgment skills. With the onslaught of the computer age, who knows when we'll need those again. The day may come, and when the test is passed out, how many of you would survive to see the results?

So, next time you have a weekend to kick back with your VCR, why not try a book instead. Or, when you want some time away, keep on driving past that five-star hotel and try making in the woods (and I don't mean with your butane curling irons and electric grills). When the urge hits to jump into the infinite vastness of the Internet, try dipping into the sea of your imagination instead. Be honest now, how many of you would pass the test? ♦

Tell us your thoughts concerning
Tuesday's attack.

E-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu or
submit via www.mtsusidelines.com

FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Miss Janet gives lap dance to student

MTSU senior's dream comes true

By Luke Burke
Staff Writer

When she first appeared, it was surreal. A movie screen flashed images of the superstar from the rhythm nation days to the present.

The candid shots of the beautiful star got faster and faster until bam!

Fireworks, music and now a real life image of Janet Jackson standing alone, nearly 30 feet in the air on a slim platform, serious faced and determined.

She was decked out in a white rhinestone halter, shaggy chaps and a cream-colored hat covering half of her doll like face.

You could feel the excitement from the crowd under your feet, in your chest and through your own throat. Not many entertainers can cause this kind of excitement from a crowd by merely standing before them without flinching an eye, singing a tune or dancing a step, but Janet can.

With thousands of fans admiring this amazing woman, it makes you wonder just how many people are thinking exactly what you're thinking.

Maybe if I leave the concert early I can catch her behind the stadium getting in her hotel and she will invite me to her hotel suite for dinner and a movie. Yeah right.

Although that kind of opportunity may sound a little far-fetched, dreams do come true.

MTSU senior Jason Talley may have gotten a little more than he ever dreamed of from his icon Miss Janet when he was picked out of the crowd by the pop star herself for a lap dance to the sexy ballad, Would You Mind.

How did you get picked for the lap dance?

Talley: Well, she was walking across the stage, and I knew she was going to pick someone. She stood directly in front of me and looks me in the eye and says in the sexiest voice ever, "Would you mind?"

What did you do?

T: For a second there, I thought I was going to faint, but I recovered quickly, and I was extremely excited; no words can explain. I was really excited, so I began to climb the bar in front of me to get to the stage, and the bodyguards kept telling me to calm down, they would help me.

What happened next?

T: The bodyguards took me on stage and kept saying like a hundred times, "Do not touch her, don't touch her," as they proceeded to strap my arms in a velvet chair.

After you were strapped in the chair, it was just you and her on stage as the crowd looked on.

What was it like being that close to Janet Jackson?

T: The woman of my dreams was right there. It was wild. You always think about it. What would it be like to meet Janet? But to be there in person and have her inches away from you...my dream had finally come true. It was amazing.

What were you thinking when the music began, and she proceeded to climb on you and dance?

T: If I can only get my hands free (he laughs). To have your hands strapped and you can't move, you kind of feel used; but at the same time, it's Janet Jackson. So it was good.

How did she smell?

T: Everyone has asked me that question. Even though she had been dancing all night, she smelled like roses, candy or anything good. She honestly smelled so good.

During one of the more provocative lyrics, you stuck your tongue out at her in a kind of provocative, way and she laughed.

T: Yeah, I don't think she was ready for that kind of reaction from a fan. I even licked her fingers. I think she liked it. I know I did.

What happened after the performance?

T: It was very brief. She gave me a kiss and said, "Thank you, I love you," and rushed off with



Jason Talley gets a personal performance by Janet at Friday's concert.

Photo provided

her body guards to change for the next song. And then security gave me a picture, took me away, and I was back in the crowd; and everyone was screaming and cheering for me. It was nice to hear the crowd respond to me the same way they respond to Janet. It was very energizing seeing, hearing and feeling the crowd.

Will life ever be the same for you after a lap dance from Janet Jackson?

T: No (laughs). I have always dreamed about meeting my favorite star, and now I have. ♦



Miss Blue Raider overcomes obstacles while helping others

By Terri Hutzler
Staff Writer

In the every-day hustle and bustle of college life, many of MTSU's finest go overlooked or unrecognized. One such student is junior Leah Langham.

Langham is public relations major, a resident advisor on campus, a mentor, and a DARE spokesperson. She also loves to work out and enjoys the study of archeology, especially ancient Egypt.

In her work as a mentor, Langham works with people of all ages. She has been mentoring since she entered high school. Langham said she especially enjoys her work with the young and helping a child find and develop his or her talent.

Right now, Langham holds the titles of Miss Blue Raider and Miss Tennessee Valley. The students of MTSU voted her Miss Blue Raider in February. From here, she went to Jackson,

Tenn. to compete for Miss Tennessee, where she was crowned Miss Tennessee Valley.

Langham said there is more to these pageants than just frills and crowns.

"You don't have to be Barbie to win," she said.

According to Langham, the preparation for the Miss Tennessee competition is worse than the competition itself. Preparation involves lots of time spent working out, interviews, developing a platform, luncheons, rehearsals and paperwork that each contestant is responsible for typing herself. Langham's platform centers on her mentoring. The basic idea of her platform is "It doesn't matter what you have or don't have. Everyone has something to give." Along with this idea, Langham expressed the belief that teaching is the most important occupation of all.

Another part of the preparation for competition is the sell-



Leah Langham

ing of ads. Langham explained that by selling enough ads, she was able to pay for her wardrobe.

Langham said the pageant was not the catfight everyone imagines it to be. Instead, she described it as a wonderful way to make lifelong friends. Langham still keeps in touch with many of the other contestants through weekly e-mails.

More importantly, Langham

said that the pageant "molded her into the mature professional that she is today."

The most memorable part of the competition for Langham was singing an orchestra version of *You'll Never Walk Alone* with a live orchestra. Langham, who is hearing impaired, said everyone at the pageant went out of their way to accommodate her and make her comfortable for the competition.

Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995, who is completely deaf, influenced Langham to compete for Ms. Tennessee.

Langham intends to compete for Ms. Tennessee again.

If she wins, she will take one year off from school to be the governor's spokesperson for a drug-free Tennessee. Roughly, this work would include speaking at four schools a day in seven counties a week.

Competing in the Ms. Tennessee pageant led Langham to change her major to public

relations. She would like to be a representative for the Ms. America pageant so she can inform the American public about what the pageant really stands for.

One of the many things Langham was quick to mention about the pageant is that it funds more than \$40 million in scholarships each year.

While Langham wishes to use her work through the pageant to improve education, she is also an advocate for the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed by President Bush in 1990. The act is meant to provide people with physical or mental disabilities with equal opportunity. Langham described the act as an encouragement for America to accommodate the disabled.

Langham's involvement with the ADA stems from her high school graduation. She explained that in her graduating

class, there was a boy in a wheelchair who was not allowed to wheel across the stage. The senior class demanded that he be met in the center of the room and presented with his diploma.

The students went to the school board and the papers. They even went to the state. The state sent the school a letter demanding that in the future all disabled students be accommodated.

In her own effort to inform the public of what it is like to have a disability, Langham has started a program called "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." This program allows people to put on blindfolds and walk around as if they are blind or to use earplugs to experience what it's like to be hearing impaired. Langham had a good turn out last year and hopes that the program will be even more successful this year. ♦



Risque Renee on "winter love"

Who's keeping you warm this winter?

This is Risqué Renee dropping sex, love and relationship issues to you as soft or as hard as you like it. Today's hot topic is who's keeping you warm this winter. As the break up season comes to a close, the new season of love and relationships is on the rise. It's common that when it's hot people are flirty, loose and horny. Then, when it's cold, people are coupled, calm and horny.

Cupid has struck his arrow early this year. What does this mean? Well, if you have been hit, it's a good time to approach a prospect because nine out of ten times, they're looking for someone too. A majority of people don't like wandering around in the cold during winter looking for a date or someone to warm their sheets.

Winter is a time of convenience and stability, but beware because winter doesn't last forever.

A lot of relationships found-

ed in winter usually end in late spring. What a coincidence. Out with the old, in with the new.

However, if you find true love, it will last a lifetime of seasons.

It's a good idea to find someone who wants to be together as long as you do.

Oh yeah, and a little word of advice. Don't let warm sheets and hot flames have you picking out pink or blue names.

People have a tendency to get caught up in the heat of the moment. So get ready to bundle up, for the seasons are changing, and it's always nice to be prepared.

This feedback goes out to "Undercover Lover" who had some questions about why the

men at MTSU do not approach the women.

Well, our answer came from Keith Clark, an eligible bachelor from MTSU who is graduating in December and has a promising career as a criminal justice attorney.



Keith approached me to reply to this article. Keith is 29 years old and always goes after what he wants.

Here is a taste of the way our conversation went. I asked Keith if it is OK for the girl to approach the man? Keith said, "yes, if you see something that you like approach that person and let them know."

OK Keith, in doing this, are you setting yourself up for rejection, and how do you deal with that? He replied by saying, "you have to go into the situation with an open mind, and if rejection occurs, one should be secure enough with them self to accept it and move on." He also placed emphasis on the fact that there is someone for everyone.

Now as far as the ladies approaching men, Risqué Renee accepts that, but Keith

are the women approachable, and how do men these days approach women? Keith responded by saying that the majority of women are approachable, but men should use the right approach.

Example: "I would address a high class woman by approaching her and telling her I think she is attractive and that she carries herself well. I then would make her aware that I would like to get to know her better and invite her to dinner." He continued by saying, "On the other hand, a low class girl, I'll tell her I have a bottle of Heinekens and lets go!" (OK, everybody has two sides.)

"Undercover Lover," I hope this answers your questions. If you see something you like, girls, and you are confident in yourself, go after it. They can only say no, and that can't phase a secure individual.

I want to thank Keith for coming to me and being a part of the response. Normally, I keep names confidential, but we are obviously dealing with a man who is secure with himself. Keith felt he could really give a good reply due to his background of past relationships, working as a barber at Nubians Cuts and Style and by traveling. Traveling has led him to run into ladies from high class to low class to no class.

Don't forget to e-mail me at risque_r@hotmail.com so we can talk about sex, love and relationships. ♦

Campus Events

Thursday, Sept. 13

Scuba diving classes are held at the Recreation Center every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. through Oct. 25. The fees are: \$100 for students, \$130 for faculty and \$145 for guests. Anyone interested can register at the Rec Center or call 898-2104.

Friday, Sept. 14

Lifeguard tryouts will be held at the Recreation Center's indoor pool from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Rec Center is looking for certified lifeguards to work mornings (6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and after lunch (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

The Raider Coordinating Council of Organizations is taking applications for membership from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Keathley University Center, Room 306. For more information, contact Chris Montague or Maggie Prugh at 904-8418.

Monday, Sept. 17

MTSU Films presents *Shrek* at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, in the KUC Theater. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 898-2551.

The Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra opens the season with a special concert featuring the star of the Irish Tenors, Anthony Kern, at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. For ticket information, call the symphony office at 898-1862. There will be a special discount for MTSU students.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Alcoholics Anonymous holds its weekly meeting in the KUC, Room 314 at 8 p.m.

International Programs & Services invites students to its monthly coffee hour from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Hazelwood Dining Room of the James Union Building.

Thursday, Sept. 20

The University of Tennessee-Memphis Health Science Center will be in the KUC, Room 324, 322A, 322B, 322C and 314 to talk with students about admission and health science programs from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Career and Employment Center is hosting the Walt Disney World - Internship Presentation at 6 p.m. in KUC, Room 322. Students are requested to print the application form off the Disney Web site and bring it to the presentation. To print the form and learn more about Disney internships, go to www.wdwclegeprogram.com. For more information, contact Janice Reeves at 898-2500.

The Stults Memorial Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the **DOUGLAS E. STULTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** up to **\$1200** will be awarded in scholarship money at the discretion of the committee
APPLICATION DEADLINE:

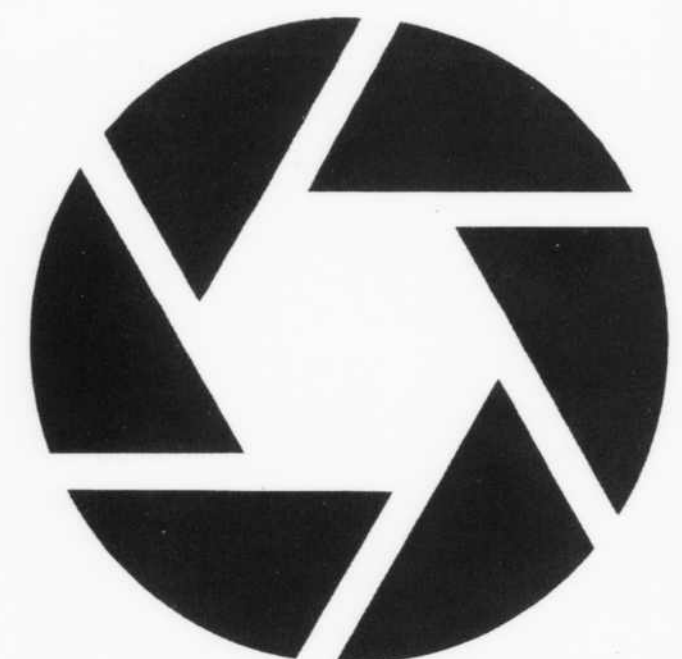
To qualify a candidate must:

- Have a minimum of 2.7 cumulative grade point average (must be exact or better)
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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 at the December 7th, 1 p.m. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.



SENIOR AND UNDERCLASS PHOTOS for MIDLANDER

Sept 24-28

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

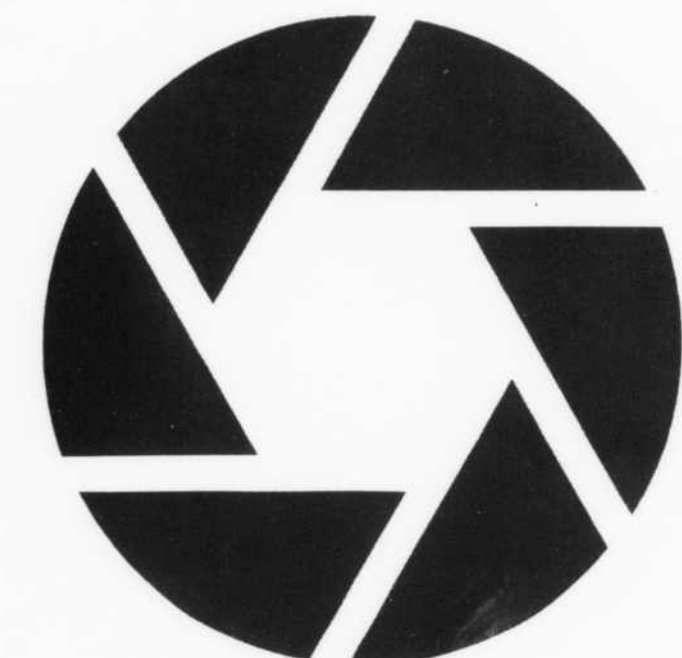
Seniors should make an appointment by calling 2815 ORGANIZATION PHOTOS

Sept 24-27

6 - 8 p.m.

Appointments must be made by calling 2478

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Wade looks to improve on last season's performance

By Randall Thomason
Staff writer

Middle Tennessee senior golfer J.R. Wade does not take well to losing in any brand of competition.

"I hate to lose; I can't stand to lose," he says. "It doesn't matter if I'm playing pinochle with my family, football, basketball, golf, anything."

This attitude is why the 2000-2001 golf season was a frustrating experience for Wade. During a time in which Wade was undergoing some major swing changes, both his game and the team, of which he was the unquestioned leader, struggled.

"I felt responsible for the fact that I wasn't pulling my load; that was the most frustrating part."

Rather than fold up his tent and quit, though, Wade persevered, and in the weeks leading up to the Sun Belt Conference tournament at Trophy Club Country Club in Tx., the adjustments in his swing clicked.

"I started hitting the ball very well, and that added confidence to all aspects of my game."

After a solid sixth place finish in the Sun Belt championship, firing rounds of 75-72-73, Wade had a springboard to build momentum toward the 2001-02 campaign.

Playing a sport that is predominantly considered an individual contest, Wade mentions no individual goals for himself this season other than playing to his potential to help the team.

"My individual goals are based on team goals," he says. "I want to play in the NCAAs, and to do that, the team has to make it. I want to play to the best of my abilities and things should take care of themselves."

Wade is brimming with confidence and excitement over the cast of characters that mold this edition of the Blue Raider golf team.

"I'm very excited about this team. Our growing pains last year have really had a positive effect on a lot of guys. We have a lot of good guys who are very self-disciplined. All I try to do is lead by example."

Team cohesion seems to be a strength of the Raiders. "We all get along," Wade said. "I

love to joke around with the guys before a tournament."

Off-season preparation will play a huge role in the way this season plays out, and Wade has worked hard this summer to improve his conditioning and muscle tone.

"I've done a lot of distance running and lifted (weights) three times a week."

Wade went through this regimen for more than just the physical benefits, claiming that staying in shape adds confidence and "makes you feel better about yourself."

Stamina and longevity are huge assets in golf.

"People don't realize how hard it is to walk 36 holes of golf in one day. Getting up at 5:30 a.m. and playing golf for 11 and a half straight hours is demanding."

All of the summer work is part of the success process according to Wade.

"I always felt that failing to prepare is preparing to fail," he says. "Part of succeeding is preparing to succeed."

Wade is "laid back" off of the golf course, as is noted by his admitted love of "making other people laugh." However, when he tees it up, whether it be in competition or in practice, where he strives to tune all facets of his game to the perfect pitch, Wade means business.

"Sure I like to joke around with my playing competitors and have a good time," he says, "but I still want to beat everybody."

Wade comes across as a very agenda-oriented person, stating that his only goal leading up to tournaments is to ensure proper preparation.

"I just want to know that I have adequately worked on all aspects of my game before a tournament. Whether or not they are in top condition is secondary to the knowledge that I have worked hard to try to get them in top condition."

His attitude is evident in his goal for this year's Blue Raider golf team.

"Anything less than winning the Sun Belt would be disappointing."

With a leader as competitive and strong as Wade, one would have to like the chances of the MTSU squad just as much as he does.

"This is going to be a really good team." ♦

Middle finishes sixth at Cane Classic

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's golf squad finished in sixth place at the Cellular One Raising Cane Classic at Canebrake Golf Course in Hattiesburg, Miss. Sept. 10-11.

The Blue Raiders went into Tuesday just 22 shots out of the lead in their first competitive action of the year, after carding a two round total of 580. MT stood only five shots out of second place. Middle finished the tournament with a three-round score of 873.

Host school Southern Mississippi who lead Monday with a 558 total won the event with an 850 total.

Leading the way was MT junior Patrick Williams, who after opening with a 75, fired a personal best 66 in round two

to finish Monday in seventh position overall. Williams finished the tournament in a tie for 11th with a three round total of 215.

Senior J.R. Wade carded consecutive rounds of 72 to put him in a tie for the 10th spot after play Monday. Wade tied for 17th with a 218 after Tuesday's final round.

"I was pleased with the way we played the entire tournament," head coach Johnny Moore said. "If we had not gone nine over par the final two holes we would have finished third or fourth. Overall, I think it was a good showing for our first time out."

The Blue Raiders next action will be Oct. 1 when they travel to Memphis, Tenn. to compete in the Hillman Robbins Invitational. ♦

Blue Raider Scoring

Patrick Williams 75-66-73=215

J.R. Wade 72-72-74=218

Charlie Gibson 74-74-74=222

Willie Daniel 73-77-73=223

John Beddies 79-74-72=225

Sun Belt decides to play

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

Despite the recent tragedy in New York City, college football and other college sports slated for this weekend will be played.

The decision was left up to each individual conference according to an NCAA statement released yesterday.

The Sun Belt conference has decided to go ahead with scheduled games according to Middle Tennessee interim Athletic Director Boots Donnelly.

"Getting back to normalcy is the best possible thing to do," Donnelly said.

Middle Tennessee's football team has a bye week this weekend. However, cross country, tennis and volleyball have tournaments, and soccer has two games this weekend.

The volleyball tournament is at the University of Kentucky. The decision on whether to play was placed in the hands of the Southeastern Conference. The SEC has already announced it will play all scheduled events this weekend. San Jose State, which was scheduled to be at the tournament, has said they will not be able to make it, due to the airline freeze.

The Middle Tennessee Fall Invitational tennis tournament and Western Kentucky Invitational cross country event along with the soccer games at Appalachian State and East Tennessee State will continue as planned.

Most major college conferences have decided to continue with scheduled events. The only exception to that is the Pacific-10, which announced it would not play any of its scheduled games. The Atlantic Coast Conference announced that all intercollegiate athletic events through today involving member institutions would be postponed.

Some major college football

games have been postponed. Miami against Washington, Georgia Tech against Florida State games scheduled for Saturday have been postponed. Thursday night's matchups have been postponed. The Texas Tech at University of Texas at El Paso game was changed from today to Saturday.

Though some college sports have decided to continue on, major league sports have canceled several of their games.

Major League Baseball announced today that no games will be played until tomorrow at the earliest. The league has yet to decide whether or not the games will be made up.

Commissioner Bud Selig told espn.com that he made the decision "in the interest of security and out of a sense of deep mourning for the national tragedy."

Minor league baseball has also postponed playoff games until tomorrow. Starting tomorrow, each league will decide whether to continue its playoffs. The International, Pacific Coast, California and New York-Penn Leagues have already canceled all remaining games.

The NFL expects to announce a decision within 24 hours.

The PGA canceled three tournaments. This is the first time in five years the PGA Tour has canceled

NASCAR hopes to make a decision on the Winston Cup New Hampshire 300 within the next 24 hours.

The U.S. national women's soccer game against Japan in the Nike Cup has been canceled.

Tomorrow night's prep football games in the Murfreesboro area will be played as scheduled unless something further develops. ♦

David Hunter, staff writer, contributed to this story.

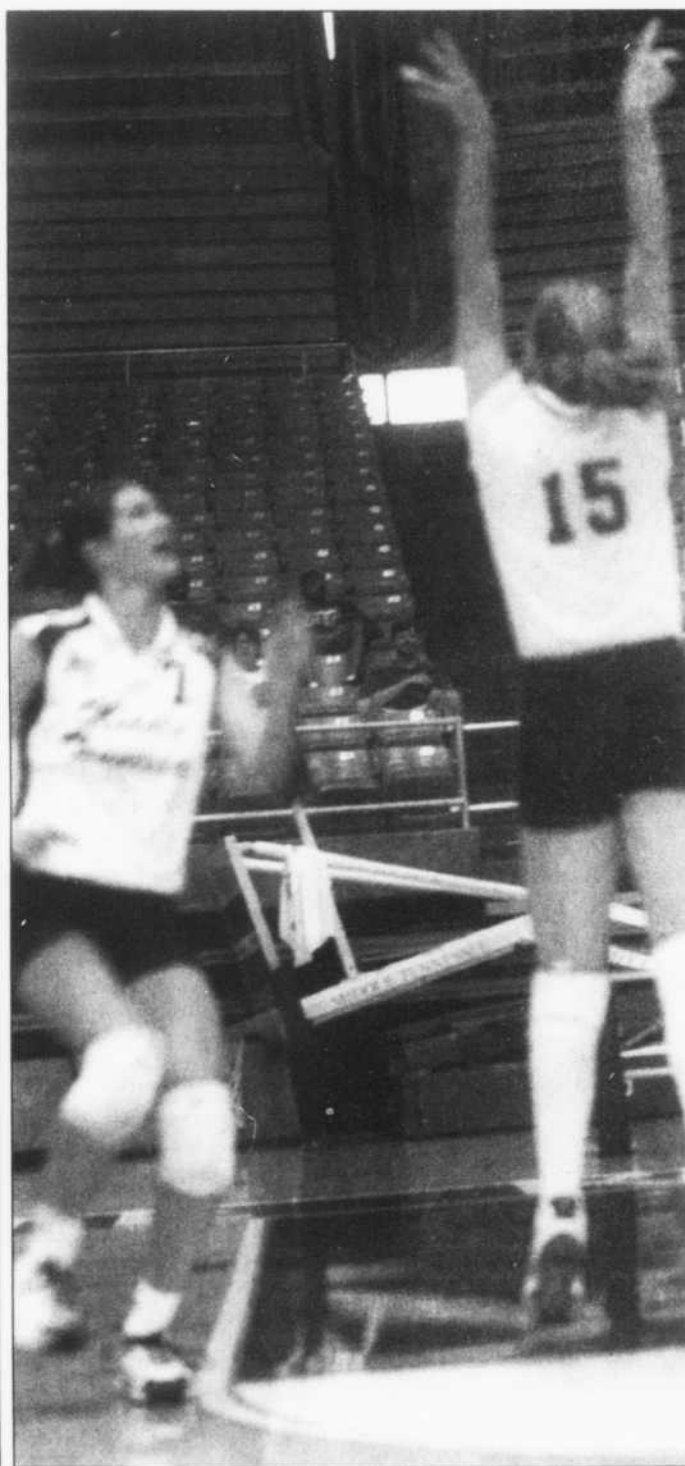


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Despite the tragedy in New York City and Washington D.C., the Sun Belt Conference has decided to continue with all conference games as scheduled. Jennifer Hignite (left) and Kelly Quinn (right), along with the volleyball team, will travel to Lexington, Ky., today as one of four MT teams scheduled to play this weekend.

Move over Vandy; here come the Blue Raiders

Dominant is the best way to describe the first two weeks of the season for the Blue Raider football team.

Let's go back two weeks to the Vandy game. I haven't yet been able to crow about the Vanderbilt win. Well, at least, I haven't been able to be honest yet. Let me think back to a day in the spring of 1999. I wrote one titled, "At least we're not Vanderbilt." A lot of people read that column. I know because many people called me and told me what an idiot I was because Vandy was going to a bowl game that year.

Well, two years and 24 games later Vandy still hasn't gone to a bowl game or come close to a winning season and judging by the current 0-2 start, things don't look good this year. Oh, how the times haven't changed for the Commodores.

Now, in the fall of the 2001 campaign, the Blue Raiders have flown past the

Sports Commentary



Michael Edwards
Staff Columnist

Commodores on the football field. It didn't take long. If you were at the game, you saw how easily the Blue Raiders moved the football against the vaunted 'Dore defense. It was really no surprise, Middle Tennessee beat up on the Mississippi State defense in 2000 when the Bulldogs were the number one unit in the Southeastern Conference.

So, how has MTSU improved so much in just three years? You could look at any aspect of the team. Wes Counts has played amazingly well this year. His arm is stronger, and I

even read Mel Kiper's column on ESPN.com, in which he recently compared Counts to the former Oklahoma quarterback, Josh Heupel.

That is a far cry from where the southpaw was in his first season as a Blue Raider, accurate and smart, but he couldn't throw it from here to there on a line. This year is completely different. He might be the first person I have ever heard of growing up an MTSU fan, but because of his exploits this season he certainly won't be the last. Hundreds of thousands of kids are going to see Counts play football this season. If you didn't know, the Blue Raiders have the number one ranked offense in America, and Counts is the leader of the unit.

The talent level is much better than it has been over my three years and two games of watching Middle Tennessee football. Of course, it wouldn't be revolutionary to say that

Dwone Hicks, Tyrone Calico and Kendall Newson have made enormous impacts, which will be seen from now until the end of Middle Tennessee football, but what many people may not notice is the vast improvement of the special teams.

I was in the press box at the first ever I-A game for Middle Tennessee. I covered the game for *Sidelines*, and paid for the trip out of my own pocket, but I don't want a medal or anything, a simple trophy will do. The kicking game was absolutely pathetic. The Blue Raiders sent out David Lill to punt, and the guy had a punt nearly go backwards. The punt never got blocked, it just went straight up and came down. He punted ten times for 341 yards. It was his first and last game to punt. The tables have turned, and the Blue Raiders boast Robert Billings as the punter this season, as well as last season.

Billings has a great leg, and

has shown it through the early part of the year. The sophomore has averaged 41 yards per punt. In practice, he booms punts of more than 60 yards on a regular basis. A year ago, he averaged nearly 40 yards per punt in 52 attempts, and more importantly downed the ball inside the 20-yard line 18 times.

Keegan Ray kicked field goals for the Raiders against the Bulldogs in 1999, and during that season, he was known more for getting kicks blocked than actually making them. That season, Ray had two extra points blocked, two field goals blocked, and he missed two other extra points. He was 4-of-10 in field goals that season. I recall a game where a defensive player blocked a short field goal with his helmet, because the ball was kicked so low. Sure that can happen to anyone. I have seen plenty of people do that during halftime contests. Times were rough, then, but now

Brian Kelly has given Blue Raider fans hope. Kelly had a great year in 2000, and is on his way to a good year in 2001. Kelly began the season as a Lou Groza Award candidate, which annually goes to the nation's best kicker, which include Groza himself.

I am sure some people may think I have been too hard on David Lill and Keegan Ray, but those who were in the stands during that first season, and there weren't many of you, understand the pain those two guys caused you. Now, you don't have to be afraid anymore. And why? Because Robert Billings can punt the ball a long way, and Brian Kelly can make extra points and field goals, and these days Brad Cooper can make touchbacks out of kickoffs. The best thing is that they are all sophomores, and have even better days to come. ♦

MT drops 2 in tournament

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Writer

Last weekend the MT volleyball team placed third in the Bradley Invitational Tournament, going 1-2 in a six-team tournament.

Middle got off to a rough start, losing to former Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay in four sets, 15-30, 26-30, 30-14, 23-30. The team followed that up with a win against Western Illinois, 30-25, 30-17, 30-14 and closed out the tournament with another loss against host Bradley University in straight sets 19-30, 20-30, 28-30.

"We started out a little sluggish in game one," said head coach Lisa Kisee. "Caia (Morstad) and Amy (Carpenter) gave us the lift we needed to pick up our intensity."

The Governors now lead the title season series with the Lady Raiders 32-12.

Although, Middle Tennessee used to be former rivals with Austin Peay it has still been three years since they have faced off against each other.

"Jenny, Erin, Katie and I are the only ones who remember playing them; since our freshman year was the last year we played them in the conference," said co-captain Kelly Quinn.

"If you look at the stat sheet, it looks more like we beat them, (Austin Peay). Coach Kisee warned us that they were short quick and played great defense," Quinn said.

In the loss freshman Shakeitha Deckard's double-digit kill streak ended, as she only managed nine against Bradley University.

On a more positive note,

Middle won their second game, defeating Western Illinois 30-25, 30-17, 30-14.

Coach Kisee is impressed with Karishe Baker and thought that freshman Dara McClean had a great serving night. McClean also had three service aces in the contest against Illinois.

MT's record is now 3-5 for the season.

Co-captain Katie Thiesen, who felt right at home since she happens to be from Rockford, Ill., was named to the Bradley University all-tournament team.

Middle will travel to Lexington, Ky. to compete in the Kentucky conference challenge this weekend. They will then play their home opener against Belmont University on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. ♦

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

The Campus Freethought Alliance is forming at MTSU. Help promote science literacy fight growing Anti-Intellectualism. Protect Separation of Church and State. Preliminary meeting September 12th@6:30 pm in BAS S337. For more info contact Mat at (615) 364-5320 or email at MatDavid001@netscape.net or www.campus-freethought.org

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Canon Multipass C5500. All in one, faxes, prints, scans. \$125 used by professor at home. Excellent condition. 898-2719(office), 896-5599(home)

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WEEKDAY FEATURES

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