

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 39

INSIDE

Band of the Week



Murfreesboro's The Homegrown Band brings in crowds and gets them on their feet.

FEATURES, 7

OPINIONS

Helping others who are in need

Volunteering your time is a easy and fulfilling way to help your community.

OPINIONS, 6

Check out this week's comics.

OPINIONS, #

SPORTS

Blue Raiders head to Kentucky

Coming off its most impressive win to date, MT football will be taking on the Kentucky Wildcats.

SPORTS, 9

COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements. With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students. You will not be able to access the campus via Womack Lane.

Due to construction, several lots have been rezoned. All legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, or other marks. Be sure to check the posted signs BEFORE you park your automobile. If it is not marked, don't park!

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~parking.

No more Starlett at MTSU

By ALEX MOORMAN
Assistant News Editor

The MTSU student who allegedly stabbed another student Aug. 27 over a parking spot has officially withdrawn from all of her classes.

Starlett Custer is being charged with one count of aggravated assault, which is a Class A felony and has a

sentence length of anywhere from 15 to 60 years.

The 17-year-old victim has gone through extensive surgeries but has now returned to school.

On August 29, Custer was withdrawn from all of her classes and left her account purged from the MTSU system, according to the Office of Academic Records.

The Office of Judicial Af-



Custer

fairs would not comment on whether she was withdrawn by the administration or if

she willingly dropped out.

"If we have a student involved in a violent act on campus, it can result in expulsion," said Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs. "But I cannot comment on a specific individual or event."

Two weeks ago, Custer allegedly used a still-unidentified sharp instrument and proceeded to cut a student

in the Bell Street parking lot. MTSU police arrived after a 911 call minutes later.

Custer was detained at the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center but later released on \$10,000 bail.

Though Custer is definitely not a current student at MTSU, Judicial Affairs had no comment on whether or not she would be able to return.

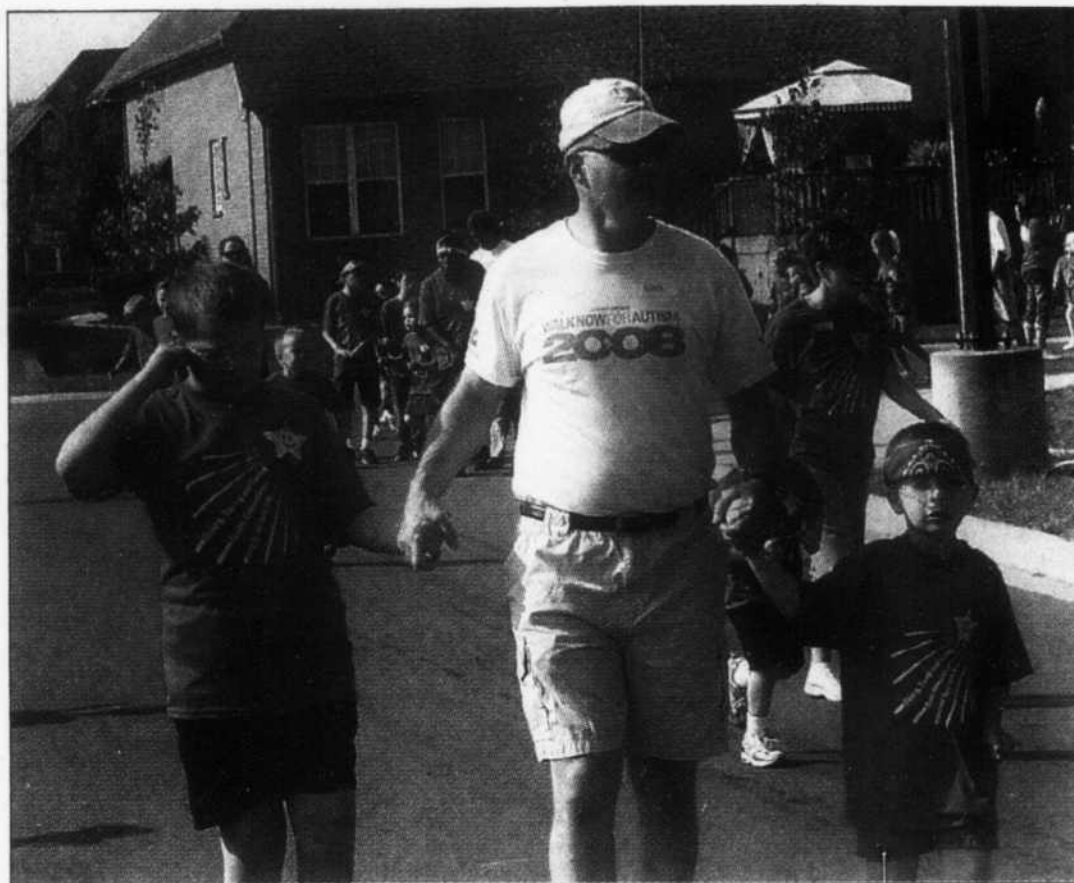


Photo Courtesy Ed Evans

Ed Evans walks with his two sons, Joshua (left) and Jacob (right) to raise autism awareness.

Autism walk raises money

By Courtney Watson
Contributing Writer

Tennessee's inaugural "Walk Now for Autism" awareness event will be held at the Nashville Super Speedway on Saturday to raise money for autism research and education.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the organization had raised \$108,407, surpassing the Walk committee's goal of \$100,000.

"That's not including the money that's going to be brought to the walk," said Ed Evans, senior, business major and father of two autistic sons.

Evans is the chairperson of the event and has been working with volunteers to make sure the walk is a successful one.

Evans has been involved with Autism Speaks since July 2007. This is his first year as chairperson in Tennessee and the first year that Autism Speaks has been in Tennessee.

The organizers and volunteers are trying to make the walk into a carnival-like environment so that everyone feels welcome Evans said.

"Self isolation, I think, is the biggest problem with autistic families," Evans said.

Wild Honey, a band from Franklin, will be performing at the walk, as well as Katie Chance, a 10-year-old autistic girl who will sing the national anthem.

Anyone is invited to attend the walk or become a volunteer for Autism Speaks.

"We're always looking for volunteers," Evans said. "All year long. Anyone who wants to get involved at any level."

Evans said that the walk is a great place for college students to come out and network. "It's a great place for them to come out and get in the public eye."

Evans has been living with autism since his 11-year-old son Jacob was diagnosed at the age of 3.

"It is dream-crushing," Evans said. "It takes every perspective you have for your children and dashes it on the rocks."

Joshua is mildly affected by the disease and mainly communicates through gestures and facial expressions, or by taking a person's hand

and directing him or her where to go.

Raising children with autism is extremely difficult, Evans said. "Simple things from getting dressed to going out in public."

Initially, Evans and his wife Stephanie thought that their younger son Jacob, age 6, was practicing learned behavior from his older brother. Luckily, they were able to get an early diagnosis and Jacob started therapy around the age of 2. Jacob is considered severely autistic.

Evans said that early intervention is the most advisable step, and said that Jacob is a social butterfly.

"He has never met a stranger," Evans said.

Since education about the disease is key, Evans hopes to see "at least some specific classes with autism in the education department."

Evans also hopes to see a permanent chapter of Autism Speaks in Tennessee.

More information about autism or registering for the walk can be accessed through the official Web site, walknowforautism.org/Tennessee.

Student dies of natural causes

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

An MTSU student collapsed on the field behind Cummings Hall and later died of natural causes on Sept. 8.

Noah Ewekunle, 18, freshmen undeclared, was rushed to Middle Tennessee Medical Center after collapsing on the old intramural field during a game of flag football.

When students noticed that Ewekunle was lying on the field unconscious, a 911 call was made to the Murfreesboro Police Department. MTSU campus police received notification around 7:20 p.m. and sent officers to the scene.

According to an MTSU police report, Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services came to the site immediately.

Before EMS arrived, Ewekunle's teammates began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation in an attempt to revive him.

Witnesses said that Ewekunle's lapse into unconsciousness was not due to physical contact during in the game.

David Tippet, intramural sports coordinator, said that Ewekunle was

not involved in any intramural activity when he collapsed. If there had been an intramural game taking place at the time, he said, an athletic trainer would have been present at the scene.

"Precautions are going to be extreme, because we want our students in a safe environment," Tippet said. "It's a tragic situation, and we are praying for the family."

Ewekunle's body has been transferred to Nashville where an autopsy is still

pending on the cause of his death.

Upon hearing of Ewekunle's death, the immediate family traveled from Louisville, Ky. to Murfreesboro.

"Noah was one of the greatest people I ever knew," said Corey Thomas, freshman mass communication major. "I really feel bad for all the people that didn't know him because they truly missed out on a special individual."

To commemorate Ewekunle, a candle light vigil will be held Thursday at 9 p.m. at the Christ Miracle Chapel located on 399 Dick Buchanan St. in Laverne, TN.

"I have known Noah for over 10 years, and I cannot believe he is gone," said Temitope Abisola Titilayo Oshomoji, business management and marketing major. "I prayed that this was a bad nightmare, but every time I pinch myself it hurts, which tells me that this is reality."

"Noah was that person that whenever you were sad he would just smile and you had no choice but to smile with him," Oshomoji said. "Heaven has truly gained an angel and his name is Noah Ewekunle."

I love you so much Noah, just like my little brother."

Ewekunle's funeral will take place at the Christ Miracle Chapel on Friday at 9 p.m.

"Noah was an all around good guy," said Taylor Young, freshman undeclared major. "He was the guy in high school that everyone loved to watch play basketball because he was always so enthusiastic. I'll always remember and love him."



Noah Ewekunle

Sheriff's office to host Sept. 11 memorial fair

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office is holding a community fair today as a memorial for Sept. 11, including a remembrance ceremony and musical performances along with law enforcement equipment displays.

The 7th Annual Ruther-

ford County Community Fair and Sept. 11 Memorial Event begins at 4 p.m., and the remembrance ceremony begins at 5 p.m. American Idol finalist Phil Stacey will perform the national anthem as well as some of his patriotic songs.

"After the terrorist attack and the twin towers fell, we felt like it was important to do something to remember

the event," said James Harrell of the RCSR Community Service Unit. "It's going to be similar to an old-fashioned community fair."

The event will take place in front of the RCSR at 940 New Salem Highway.

The fair also will have more than enough activities for children to do, including inflatable play areas and cotton candy. There will also

be a petting zoo and games to keep kids occupied while older attendees check out the various booths at the fair.

Several Murfreesboro businesses will also be present, many of which will be giving out free goodies.

"Really, a lot of the effort came in pulling in different people from around the community," Harrell said.

The event will also host

numerous food vendors who will provide food for sale to fair-goers as well as places to sit.

Bonefish Grille is one of the restaurants that will be present at the fair. The restaurant will be selling its signature "Bang Bang shrimp" as well as shrimp and chicken and fries for the children.

MEMORIAL, PAGE 4

Community invited to sample Stones River restaurants

STAFF REPORT

The United Way of Rutherford and Cannon counties will kick off its fundraising campaign season with the 2nd Annual "Taste of Stones River" event Sept. 14.

The event will take place at Stones River Mall in front of

Dillard's on Old Fort Parkway from noon until 5 p.m.

During "Taste of Stones River," members of the community can sample signature dishes and beverages from over 40 local restaurants.

Last year's event help raise more than \$ 23,000 with 23 restaurants participating.

"We are expecting to raise even more money due to the increase of participants, said Jenny Grubb, director of marketing and special events for the United Way.

There are 43 restaurants participating this year.

Admission is free, but tickets are required to sample the

dishes. Tickets cost 50 cents each.

Blackman High School Band and a local singer Shannon Applip will provide entertainment for the event.

There will be a area designated for children that will include face painting, moonwalks and cotton candy.

Students and community members are encouraged to attend.

"No matter how old you are you can always be a part of the United Way," Grubb said.

For students "its an affordable way to give back to the community to make it a

stronger and better place," Grubb said.

All proceeds will benefit the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties, which provide funds for 47 local nonprofit agencies.

For more information about the United Way, log on to www.uwrutherford.org.

CRIME BRIEFS

Sept. 05 at 12:29 p.m. Drug Abuse

Recreation Center
Jeremy Monistere was charged with simple possession of marijuana.

Sept. 05 at 1:20 a.m. Alcohol

Alpha Gamma Rho
Zachary Anderson and Kevin Colvert were issued citations for underage consumption.

Sept. 05 at 2:32 a.m. Alcohol

Kappa Alpha House
Brittney Hornbuckle and Kendel Kitchen were charged with underage consumption.

Sept. 05 at 3:17 a.m. Rape

Greek Row
Garrick Hock was arrested and charged with rape.

Sept. 06 at 12:57 a.m. DUI

Ellington Human Science Building
Christopher Beeson was arrested and charged with DUI, his second offense, and driving on a revoked license.

Alexander Vieira was arrested and charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Sept. 06 at 1:17 a.m. Sex Offenses

Tennis Court Murphy Center
Richard Kinkade was cited for indecent exposure.

Sept. 06 at 8:47 a.m.

Assault

Floyd Stadium
Officers responded to a fight on the east side of the stadium. The fight was broken up and all parties declined prosecution.

Sept. 06 at 12:33 a.m. Vandalism

Sigma Alpha Epsilon House
Phillip Shackelford was arrested for vandalism and underage consumption.

Sept. 08 at 7:34 a.m. Suicide Threat

Peck Hall
Female subject advised that her mother was threatening suicide at Peck Hall. Officers responded and made contact.

Sept. 08 at 10:13 a.m. Vandalism

Womack Lane Apt. Lot
Victim reported that the tires on his vehicle had been slashed.

Sept. 08 at 1:59 p.m. Traffic

Jones Hall Lot
Dustin Lombardo was issued a citation for registration violation and unlawful sound amplification

Sep. 10 at 3:08 a.m. DUI

Rutherford Blvd.
James Newsom was charged with DUI 3rd offense and implied consent.

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Up 'Til Dawn, students band together to cook for a cure

By ALEX MOORMAN
Assistant News Editor

Up 'Til Dawn held a fund-raiser for their 10th year celebration called "Cookin' for a Cure" where members sold meals and collected donations to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"This is the first year we have done the Cookin' for a Cure, and the turnout is amazing," said Bethany Jackson, senior education and behavioral science major and recruitment chair for Up 'Til Dawn. "We are trying to show students that we are here for them and hopefully get people who didn't know before involved."

Jackson said that students really want to help the cause and that is mostly why they did so well yesterday.

"It's really convenient, it's for a great cause and the food is great," said Jennifer Neely, junior recording industry major. "I also like that they have the food out long enough for people who are in class to get out and come get food."

Students paid \$3 for a plate, which had a hotdog, chips, a cookie and a drink.

"We are trying to raise money to fight childhood cancer, and since it is Up 'Til Dawn's 10th year running, we are also trying to give back to the school and the students that have made this possible for so many years," said Jameel Braddock, senior liberal arts major and executive director for Up 'Til Dawn.

Braddock said that this year they have had a significantly better turn out in Up 'Til Dawn meetings than in the past.



Students make donations and pay \$3 for meals being served by members of Up 'Til Dawn.

"There are around 50 people there every meeting," Braddock said. "The room is filled with people and it is going to be a great year for us."

Keith Robinson, junior science major and recruitment chair for Up 'Til Dawn, said that everything they received yesterday was from donations and all the money they make goes straight to charity.

"It's really great to see students help benefit such a good

cause," Robinson said.

Robinson said they didn't ask for donations, but when they first got started, people would just walk up and hand donations over.

Keith, the senior biology major, said that he was on his way to Cyber Café when he thought it made more sense to help a great cause.

"I think the way that they did it helps get students involved," said Kelly Stewart, senior social work major.

Keith Semler, sophomore undeclared major, said that he wasn't going to eat lunch today but he knew about St. Jude's and decided to help such a great cause.

"A lot of people care; you just can't always tell that by walking around," said Nicki Cornelius, sophomore foreign language major. "Sometimes people just need an easy way to donate, and that's what this has given students."



Photo By Alex Trenoff, Contributing Photographer
Dallas Jessup answers questions on her film, "Just Yell Fire."

Film encourages safety awareness

By JESSY RICHTER
Contributing Writer

The June Anderson Women's Center showed the free film "Just Yell Fire" in the Keathley University Center in an attempt to inform students of effective ways to practice self-defense.

Terri Johnson, director of JAWC, said they wanted to offer "simple techniques to get out of difficult situations."

Dallas Jessup created the 46-minute film to empower girls between the ages of 11 and 19.

It focuses on personal safety awareness, ten quick safety fighting skills and a Dating Bill of Rights. The Dating Bill of Rights is a list of rights everyone is entitled to when engaging in a relationship.

Jessup's project won her a CNN hero award. Johnson said she first discovered "Just Yell Fire" from the CNN hero awards and knew it would be an important film to show on campus.

The film explains that the name "Just Yell Fire" comes from the unfortunate truth

that yelling "help" does not usually work. The main reason for this is that when someone hears "help," they usually do not feel they should get involved. The use of calling "fire" instead of "help" at least alerts people to look for the person in danger.

Bre Sartain, junior sociology major, said that the film was "very informative."

"It was sometimes cheesy, but sometimes that's the best way to get things across," Sartain said.

Sartain said she was glad to see it was free for distribution online, and that with the web-based social networks of today such as Facebook, it would be a lot easier to raise awareness.

The film included statistics about how one in every four middle school girls today will be date-raped before she graduates college, and for every person that is convicted as a sex offender, there are five who are not caught.

"One in three women are raped in their lifetime," said India Rogers, alumni.

Rogers now works with

FILM, PAGE 10

_KINGS_OF_LEON_ _IN_CONCERT_



_SPECIAL_GUESTS: *we are Scientists* THE WHIGS

NOVEMBER 19

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SEVEN YEARS LATER

REMEMBERING SEPT. 11



Memorial park dedicated to victims of Pentagon crash

By KIM HARRIS MULLINS
Office of Congressman Bart Gordon

The dedication of the Pentagon Memorial Park will take place on Sept. 11 at 9:30 a.m., seven years after the Pentagon was attacked.

"We will never forget the horrific events of September 11, 2001 which resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000

Americans," U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon said. "This memorial recognizes each of the 184 lives lost at the Pentagon that day."

On Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, en route from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, and crashed the plane into the Pentagon at 9:43 a.m., about 30 minutes

after two planes crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York.

"The terrorists who attacked us on September 11 sought to demoralize us and create fear in our society. They failed in those efforts," Gordon said. "The Congress and the President are taking steps to prevent such tragedy from every happening

again, from requiring more stringent inspection of cargo entering the United States to making sure first responders can communicate with each other during emergencies."

The Pentagon Memorial Park was built at the site of the crash and each memorial unit within the park is dedicated to an individual victim, organized from the youngest,

3-year-old Dana Falkenberg, to the oldest, 71-year-old John D. Yamnicky.

Each memorial is positioned to distinguish the victims on board American Airlines Flight 77 from the victims within the Pentagon.

A visitor to the park will face the sky when reading the names on the memorials

of the 59 lives lost on American Airlines Flight 77 and will see the Pentagon and the memorial units dedicated to the 125 victims who were inside the Pentagon in the same view.

The Pentagon Memorial will open to the public at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11 and will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

US remains 'dangerously vulnerable'

By BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States remains "dangerously vulnerable" to chemical, biological and nuclear attacks seven years after 9/11, a forthcoming independent study concludes. And a House Democrats' report says the Bush administration has missed one opportunity after another to improve the nation's security.

The recent political rupture between Russia and the U.S. only makes matters worse, said Lee Hamilton, the former Indiana Democratic congressman who helped lead the 9/11 Commission and now chairs the independent group's latest study.

Efforts to reduce access to nuclear technology and bomb-making materials have slowed, thousands of U.S. chemical plants remain unprotected, and the U.S. government continues to oppose strengthening an international treaty to prevent bioterrorism, according to the report produced by the bipartisan Partnership for a Secure America.

The group includes leaders of the disbanded 9/11 Commission, the bipartisan panel that investigated government missteps before the 2001 terror attacks on the United States.

"The threat of a new, major terrorist attack on the United States is still very real," concludes the report to be released Wednesday, the same day a congressional commission will hold a hearing in New York on nuclear and biological terrorism threats.

"A nuclear, chemical or biological weapon in the hands of terrorists remains the single greatest threat to our nation. While progress has been made in securing these weapons and materials, we are still dangerously vulnerable," the report said.

Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, had harsher crit-



Photo Courtesy of National911Memorial.org
icism of the Bush administration's efforts. Their report, written by the staffs of the House Homeland Security and Foreign Affairs committees, found little or no progress across the board on national security initiatives.

"The Bush administration has not delivered on a myriad of critical homeland and national security mandates," the Democrats' report states. That report was being released Tuesday.

"The administration has just failed to act in so many ways," said Rep. Bennie

Thompson, D-Miss. "Let's say that we've been fortunate that we have not been attacked" since 2001, said Thompson, who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee.

The independent report focuses narrowly on weapons of mass destruction.

The report and supporting studies describe the failure of international cooperation to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, which they call a major problem. Many countries continue to ignore a

United Nations mandate to prevent the spread of weapons; the ability of many countries to monitor potential bioterrorism is "essentially nonexistent," and dangerous chemical weapons stockpiles remain in some countries, including Russia and Libya, the report said.

Russia has been a significant player in U.S. efforts to secure nuclear weapons and to eliminate inventories of chemical weapons in the former Soviet region. That cooperation could be jeopardized as the two countries face off

over the Russian invasion of Georgia and concerns about a U.S. missile defense base in Poland, Hamilton said.

Bush on Monday Bush on canceled a civilian nuclear cooperation deal with Russia.

"The things we do to penalize Russia will make it more difficult for us to deal with Russia on other matters," Hamilton said.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said he hasn't seen the report. But he said there have been a number of successes in recent years, including negotiations to dismantle North Korea's nuclear program and Libya's agreement to end its nuclear and chemical weapons program.

"We have been engaged multilaterally with a number of countries to deal with this issue of weapons of mass destruction," Wood said.

Wood said he also has not seen the Democrats' report. "I fundamentally reject the charge that the administration has made the world less safe from terrorism," he said.

House Democrats also blasted Bush policy in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia as damaging to national security. U.S. efforts to combat terrorists in Pakistan have suffered because of "unyielding support for a military dictator"; Iraq has drained resources from the fight in Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia continues to serve "as a major source of terrorist activity," the Democrats' report states.

The independent study, however, did credit the Bush administration with progress in a number of areas. It cited improved U.S. port security, reduction of military chemical stockpiles, increased U.S. funding for securing nuclear weapons sites in Russia and new international programs aimed at preventing crimes involving biological weapons.

MEMORIAL FROM PAGE 1

"I think this year will be even more popular than last, probably because this year there is someone who was on American Idol performing," said Mike Goodloe, managing partner of the Murfreesboro Bonefish Grille. "Last year, it rained, but the weather is supposed to be fine."

The RCO does not have extensive parking for events such as the community fair, but the Rover shuttles will be taking people back and forth to a larger parking lot behind Hobby Lobby starting at 4:30 p.m. Only one shuttle is scheduled to run, but depending on how many people attend, more can be dispatched.

"I hope it is as successful as last year," said Director of Public Transportation Bob Nugent. "There are going to be a lot of good things to do there, and by using Rover we hope to make it easy for people to get there and back. We don't want there to be a situation where people get ticketed or towed because of where they parked."

According to Harrell, there will be 50-80 seats in front of the stage, so those interested in seeing any of the performance should come a little early to make sure they get a seat.

**What are your
memories of
Sept. 11?**

**Write a letter
to the editor
and tell us
your story.**

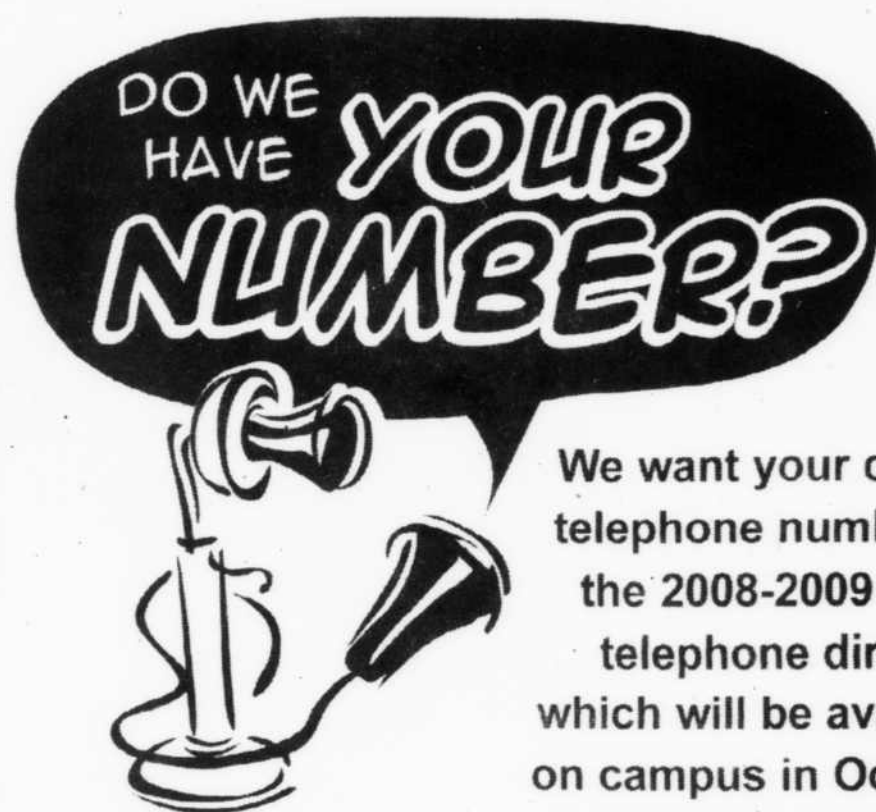
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Cookin- For-A-Cure

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10:00-2:00

- Hot Dog
 - Cold Drink
 - Chips
 - And a Cookie
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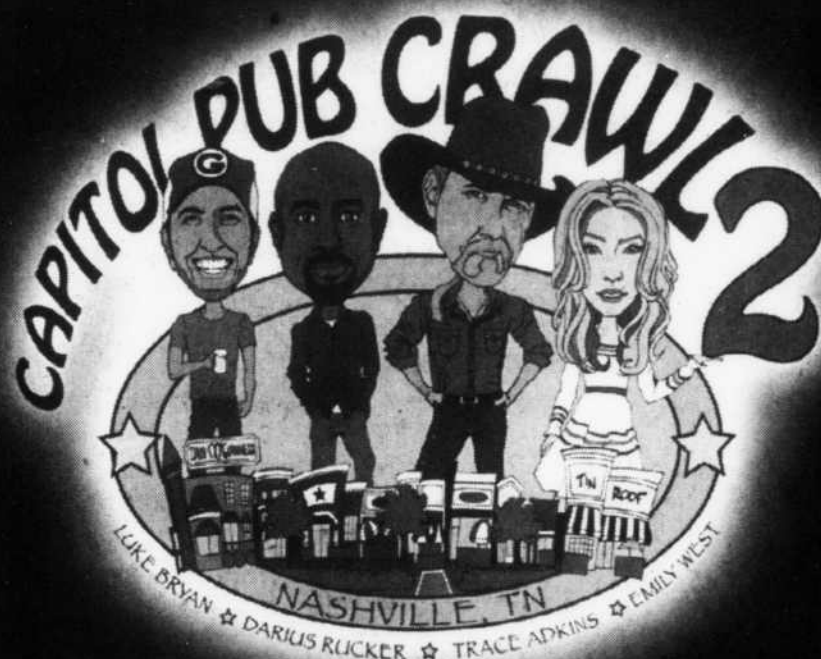
If you're a full-time student (an undergraduate taking 12 hours or more or a graduate student taking 9 hours or more), you will be listed in this directory. A campus phone number will be given for residential students; the local number for others. If you provided some other number when you applied for admission (like your parents' or the number where you used to live), **you can correct that number and your address** by logging onto PipelineMT and clicking on RaiderNet—under the personal information tab, select "Update Addresses and Phones." Or complete the Change of Address form (www.mtsu.edu/records/addr.htm); or go to the Records Office, Cope 106, by Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

If you do NOT wish to be listed in such a directory, you must notify the Records Office in writing no later than Wednesday, September 17, 2008. You can access the form online at www.mtsu.edu/records/nonrelease.pdf. This form can be faxed to (615) 898-5538 or brought to Cope 106.

Faculty and staff numbers also will be listed in the telephone directory, and numbers for University offices and a guide to services will be included.

MTSU Campus Phone Directory

FREE PARTY IN THE STREET!



Thursday, September 18th - 6pm
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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Let's all do our part to turn our state blue

When you think of football in Tennessee, nothing comes to mind more than the color orange. The color pervades every image of the sport in our state.

If MT wins the game against Kentucky Saturday—which would be a monumental, important win on the coattails of the same the week before—there would surely be a good amount of buzz generated within the state. If UT lost a game, though, the very same day, it would still be a bigger story. Win or lose, UT has the Tennessee football circuit under its orange-colored wing, and it's going to be a hard task shifting any of the focus our way.

But let's imagine for a moment that Tennessee's largest undergrad student body started to utilize some of its power. If our own campus has the prevailing mindset that our team sucks, how can we expect the rest of the state—or the country—to believe any differently?

The entire football experience is synonymous with college. Tailgating, wearing your school colors, screaming so loud you can barely speak during class the next day. The funny thing at MTSU is, a lot of students halfheartedly go through the motions, begrudgingly downing cheap beer and lamenting the inevitable loss.

We have to accept the fact that we are going to lose games. Our athletic program is growing and getting better, but it's not an overnight process. It's up to us, as fans, whether we let those losses overshadow the wins.

It is definitely frustrating to see the team work hard and come up short—but it's frustrating for the team to watch fans leave at halftime, disgusted and hopeless. We can't be fair-weather. If we want a team that plays like UT, we have to support our team like UT's fans do. If we want Tennessee's football veins to start running blue, we're going to have to act like ours do, first.

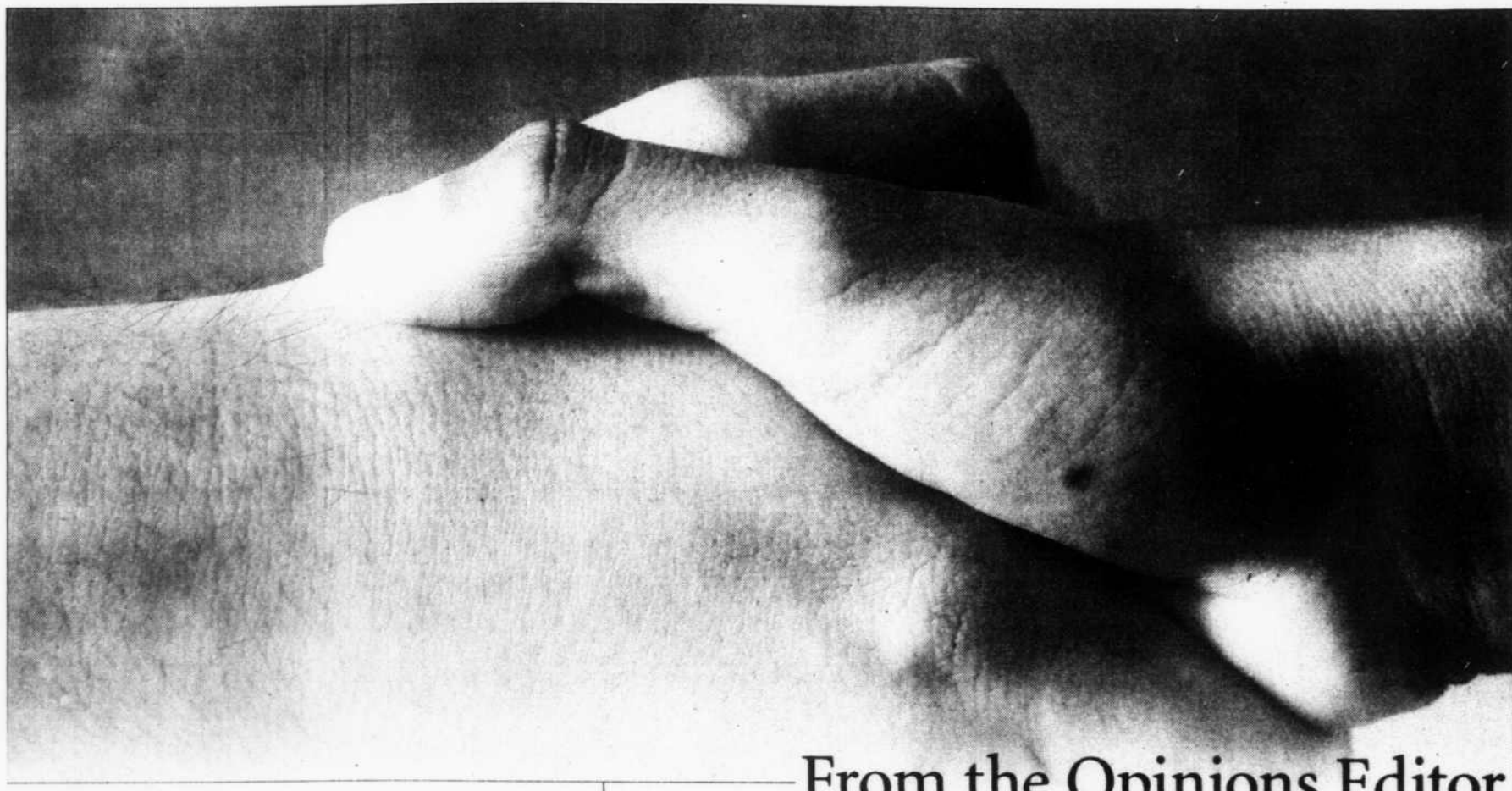
There has been a palpable shift in our school's spirits since the recent win against Maryland. We're all anxiously anticipating Saturday's battle against Kentucky—and it has the power to begin to solidify our emerging can-do attitude or, again, send it crashing. But win or lose, let's keep our heads up. Let's remember what a feat beating Maryland was. Let's remember that, if our school can band together we might just stand a chance of putting the Blue Raiders on the map.

Because tailgating, wearing blue and downing cheap beer is all good and fun. But we're there for our team and our school.

Let's make blue replace orange in the world of Tennessee football.

Are you all in?

Helping others in times of need



From the Opinions Editor

Letter to the Editor

Dear Blue Raider Family,

Once again, we have been reminded of why MTSU is such a special place.

Words can not express the deep gratitude I have for each of you because of your willingness to help the people of New Orleans last week while serving in our shelter.

Even though there was a shelter plan in place, I truly did not know how we would do until we were activated last Saturday.

After speaking to FEMA, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and Red Cross officials, I was informed we did an excellent job of staying on mission by providing a safe place for our evacuees to get some rest, food, medical assistance and some much needed encouragement.

Each of you helped serve as an important part of this disaster plan and should share in the success of meeting this tremendous challenge.

I have never been more proud of the student body and my colleagues at MTSU than I am right now. When the call went out for help, you responded in amazing numbers and with amazing

energy.

I only wish you could have heard the wonderful comments from a large majority of the evacuees when they were leaving to go home.

Many had tears in their eyes as they humbly said thank you to everyone who came to help them. I felt it was important to pass their deep appreciation on to you.

Please know your willingness to serve others in their time of need resulted in a job well done.

Sincerely,

Ray Wiley, associate director, Campus Recreation and night shelter manager, American Red Cross

Ray Wiley can be reached at rwiley@mtsu.edu.

Each year during hurricane season, we are reminded of the importance of helping out our fellow citizens. When a particularly strong storm hits, states across the south are called upon to provide assistance to those in the weather's wake.

This fall has been no exception, with Hurricane Gustav forcing nearly two million people to evacuate their homes and move north.

As college students, there tends to be a sense of detachment from it all—that is to say, most of us don't have a lot of money.

We don't have any room to shelter someone, and we don't often have lots of spare time to devote to a disaster effort.

But everyone has something to give. The ability to



Jessica Laven

volunteer your time is the most precious gift you can give to others—it's personal, it's meaningful, and it's not that hard. According to a press release provided by the American Red Cross, "to feed and shelter one person is an estimated \$30 per day and the Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross spent approximately \$13,350 each day for six days to serve those most vulnerable."

Sure, monetary donations are important. It is essential in order to provide all of the things necessary for survival such as food, clothing, medical treatment and shelter. But volunteers give any relief effort the human aspect that money can't buy.

Here on campus and in the community, there are numerous opportunities to give your time and talents to those in need. The office of Student Organizations and Community Service offers events throughout the year, enlisting volunteers for projects such as the Alternative Breaks Program, Habitat Blitz Build, and Up 'til Dawn.

Murfreesboro is home to the Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the Red Cross, which is in need of volunteers for many emergency response situations, as well as community outreach projects.

If you only have an hour, consider donating blood at Murfreesboro's Red Cross donation center, which is open five days a week.

Your level of involvement is up to you. Whether you choose to give of yourself for an hour or forever, give something. The benefits of volunteering are worth much more than any salary.

Jessica Laven can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

Volunteering is good for your soul - get involved!

Student Organizations and Community Service

Keathley University Center Room 326
615-898-5812 camporgs@mtsu.edu

American Red Cross Heart of Tennessee Chapter

836 Commercial Court
615-893-4272 www.midtnredcross.org

Blood Donation Center hours:

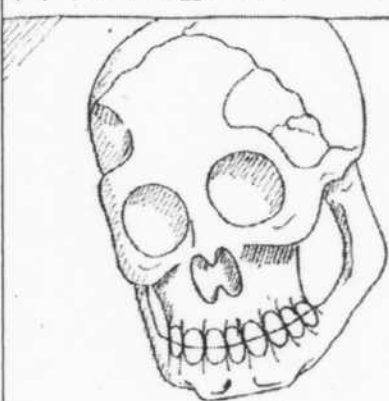
Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-6:30 pm

Fridays from 9:30 am-4:30 pm

Saturdays and Sundays from 7 am-noon

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A SKELETON SMILE



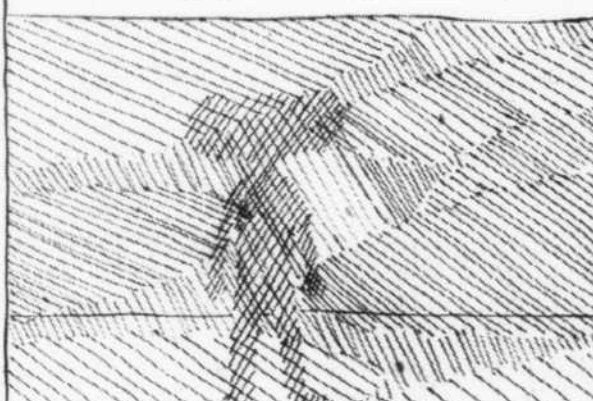
"And Friends"

A KAIJU in the Sea



frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

A MR. Man in the Fog.



Frank Hasenmueller

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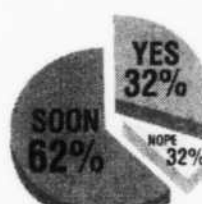
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FEATURES



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AN INTERNSHIP YET?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM
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Illness doesn't stop wish

A terminally-ill girl's wish to visit Hawaii becomes a reality through Kids Wish Network

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Eleven-year-old Samantha Pate of Nashville is just one of countless children across the country that suffer from terminal illnesses, some that even hinder their future aspirations. But thanks to organizations like the Kids Wish Network, children like Pate—who was sent on her dream vacation to Hawaii—have a chance to see a wish come true.

Pate suffers from limb-girdle, which affects the muscles around the shoulders and hips over a period of time. Because of this disease, Pate is restricted to a wheelchair and faces difficulties with mobility and breathing.



Pate

During her trip, Pate visited the Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. She swam with dolphins, took a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor where she got to meet survivors of the 1941 attack, and participated in a luau.

Pate's wish coordinator, Vanessa Covolo, arranged the luau especially for Pate so she could experience a traditional Hawaiian meal.

"They have gone through so much in their young life, that for them to have one happy moment means the world to them," Covolo says.

Pate describes her trip to Hawaii as a life altering experience. She never thought she would be able to participate in certain activities.

"I got to do things that I've never been able to do," Pate says. "My mama is trying to get me to do a lot of stuff be-

fore I can't walk anymore."

Covolo says that Pate's wish was accepted on July 26 but couldn't be granted until Aug. 8 because other children were waiting in line before her.

"It usually takes at least six to eight weeks of planning time," Covolo says. "Samantha had to wait a bit longer because we only do one Hawaii trip a month."

Pate's dream of going to Hawaii meant the world to her. And she didn't mind the

wait—she knew she'd be visiting the tropical state soon enough.

"If I could ever meet them [the Kids Wish Network wish coordinators] in person," Pate says, "I would never forget them ever again."

Covolo, who's been a wish coordinator for over a year, describes the Kids Wish Network as an excellent place to work. Being able to help children see at least one dream realized, she says, is a "very rewarding" process.

Some of the wishes she has helped fulfill include shopping sprees, princess parties, Disney World visits and celebrity meetings with John Cena, Ryan Sheckler and Kenny Chesney.

While joining her daughter in Hawaii, Tammy Culwell had the pleasure of watching Pate soak up the sun on the beach and playfully splash around with dolphins. And Culwell, who's watched her daughter endure this illness for quite some time, can't thank the Kids Wish Network enough for making Pate's wish come true.

"I've never ever had any-



Photo Courtesy: Kids Wish Network

Matthew, left, is one of the many children who has had their dreams come true thanks to the Kids Wish Network.

thing like this before. It's always been real hard to do everything that's been done," Culwell says. "We are kind of on the lower part of the budget making, so I thank them so much. I wish there were other things I could do for them because of what they've done for her."

The Kids Wish Network

has made hundreds of children's dreams come true across the country and within several cities in the Tennessee Region. Even adults and college students with terminal illnesses have been helped by the network.

Robyn Larson, a member of the editorial department of the Kids Wish Network,

explains that even though the organization only works with children from the ages of three to 18, many of the kids don't receive their wishes until they are 19 or 20.

"As long as we have the child's wish application before they turn 18, we can do the wish," Larson says.

To make sure the wish is

really the applicant's dream, Larson says, the child must be able to communicate what their wish is. Applicants must also have not already been granted a dream by another organization.

WISH, PAGE 8

Everyone can groove to The Homegrown Band

**BAND
OF THE WEEK**



Photo Courtesy: The Homegrown Band

The members of The Homegrown Band perform at The Cannibus Cup, a music festival created by "High Times" editor Steven Hager.

Fans love the popular local band's cover songs that keep them dancing

By LAURA RAINES
Contributing Writer

For the guys of The Homegrown Band, life started on "The Farm" in Summertown, Tenn. Instruments and vocals were always part of their lives, and music was embedded deep in their roots.

"The Farm is a community of families and friends living on three square miles in southern Middle Tennessee," according to The Farm's Web site.

Brothers Lenny and Mike Cramer grew up with Glenn Rohrbach on The Farm, and were given the name, The Homegrown Band.

"Our family and friends at The Farm gave us our name for obvious reasons," Lenny says.

Today, THB performs covers from bands that continually inspire them, such as The Grateful Dead, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Guns and Roses, The Talking Heads and

Prince. They also perform originals that fans love to sing along with, like "Groove" and "Chance Meetings."

"When we are at a show, we like to play songs that everyone knows and can get down to so we cover fun bands," Lenny says.

The guys say they listen to a wide range of music from hip hop to country and everything in between. The musical stylings of Outkast, Johnny Cash and Led Zeppelin all jive together on Lenny's iPod playlists. His favorite song right now is "In the Light" by Led Zeppelin.

The guys of THB are laid-back and easy going. They have been playing together now for 10 years and have many of the same ideals. Born and raised vegetarians, they believe strongly in leaving a small carbon footprint and respecting others.

THB, PAGE 8

WISH FROM PAGE 7

In order to fulfill wishes, the Kids Wish Network receives donations by individuals and organizations within the area of the child.

"We have a significant donor base," Larson says. "We have professional wish granting specialists that contact organizations within the area to see if they would like to get involved and sponsor a child's wish in their area. We get a lot of support from the community, as well."

In addition to helping children, Larson says that the Kids Wish Network is interested in collaborating with universities to help students with terminal illnesses.

John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services, says a partnership with a foundation such as the Kids Wish Network could help with scholarships and career experience for MTSU students.

"I would be very excited to look into a partnership with the Kids Wish Network," Harris says. "I would love to sit down and talk with them, because I could see a lot of possibilities coming out of

something like that."

Harris has been the director of Disabled Student Services for 22 years and recalls events that have had a major impact on his students.

"Our students were heavily involved at one time in student government," Harris says. "We had an organization, so we were guaranteed to have a representative in SGA. But two years ago, they changed that."

Harris fears that many of the 650 to 700 disabled students on campus are not aware of his office. He is determined to change this mentality by getting the word out and teaming up with foundations such as the Kids Wish Network. His logic is that if collaborations like this were to occur, then disabled-student offices around the country could benefit from the support and publicity.

Furthermore, Harris says that Disabled Student Services has been a major priority to the university. And with a new scholarship available to disabled students, he feels like more support is being shown by community organizations.

"We finally got a permanent scholarship given to us by the Murfreesboro Lioness



Photo Courtesy Kids Wish Network

Patrick, a young boy with a terminal illness, enjoys the wish that Kids Wish Network granted him by playing with a dolphin.

Club," Harris explains. "It's a \$500 scholarship that will be given in the fall and the spring to a visually impaired student."

After receiving the Lioness Club scholarship, Harris hopes to branch out and seek

other organizations in an attempt to obtain more financial aid for his students.

"Individuals with disabilities are no different than anyone else, because we want the same needs, opportunities and desires as the rest of the

world has," Harris says. "We want an opportunity to display our talent."

If anyone knows of a child between the ages of three and 18 that has a terminal illness and would like to make a wish, please contact the Kids

Wish Network at 727-937-3600. Information about the program is also available on their Web site at www.kidswishnetwork.org.

For more information on Disabled Student Services, call 615-898-2783.

THB FROM PAGE 7

"I was raised to believe that we should take care of the earth and regard other people in our actions," Lenny says.

Recently, the three-man band was joined by a fourth member, Luke Suave. He does vocals and is the band's self-described hype man.

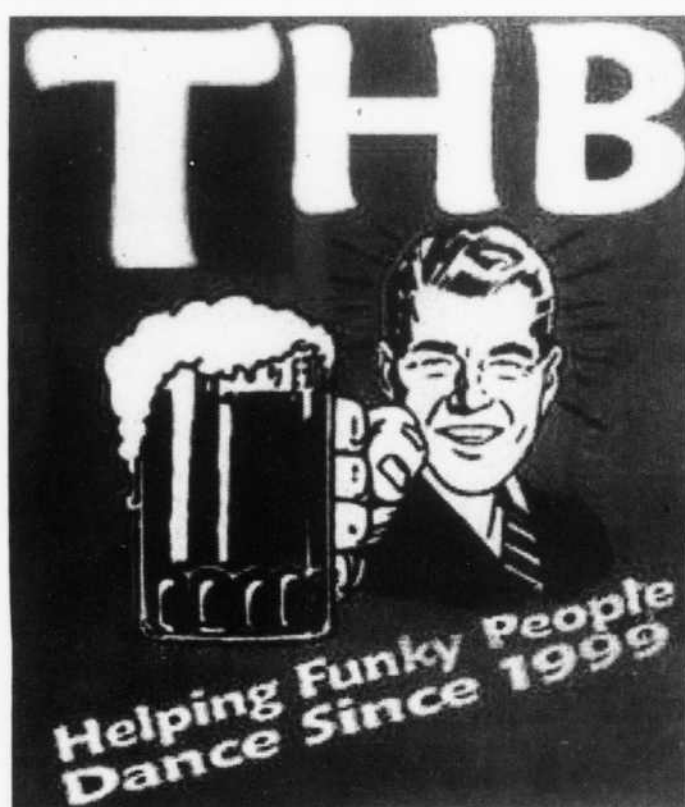
"Luke brings a great energy to the shows, and we enjoy having him with us," Lenny says.

Wall Street, located in Murfreesboro's historic downtown district, is THB's favorite jam spot. The space upstairs is big enough for a small mob, and the bar keeps the beer flowing as THB jams with its many fans. This small, intimate feel is appreciated by all who see the band.

"I love THB, and I love Wall Street," fan Beth Fowler says. "To me, that's the perfect combo."

When Murfreesboro finds out that THB is playing, fans flock to what they know will be an outstanding show that never disappoints. During the school year, the band usually plays to packed houses at Wall Street, Bluesboro (which will soon be the Blue Rooster) and various house parties.

In the summer months,



Photos Courtesy The Homegrown Band

(Left) One of the many clever THB signs that humor fans.

(Right) Bass player Glenn Rohrbach plays a funky bass beat.

THB travels to new towns, expanding the fan base and sharing their music with new crowds. In 2007, the guys ventured outside the country to Amsterdam and played at the world-renowned Cannabis Cup, alongside rap star Redman. You can check out that performance on myspace.com/thbfunk.

This summer, THB played at two music festivals. The first, Southern Social Experi-

ment, was held on a farm in Cedartown, located in northern Georgia. The second, The Roots and Music Festival, was held in Hiwassee, Ga. in June. Both these opportunities gave THB a chance to share its talent with the outside world on a large scale.

Outside of the band, the boys stay busy with life as usual. Lenny works in historical restoration in Franklin. Glen recently graduated

from MTSU with a degree in biology. Mike is still at MTSU working toward a degree in business.

When asked how they felt about the new Tennessee law that restricts their underage fans from entering bars, THB expresses their heartfelt apologies. They say they will try to play more house parties to make up for it, though, and already have one in the works.

A party celebrating what THB calls "Bush's Last Day"

will happen in February. This show will be held on the weekend before President Bush's last day in office and is meant to celebrate the beginning of a new era.

THB practices almost every day to prepare for their shows and are thankful to have had the opportunity to

participate – and often come out on top – in shows like Battle of the Bands.

With a cool and an endless repertoire, THB gives rockin' performances that keep fans coming back for more.

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Don't jack it up to heaven
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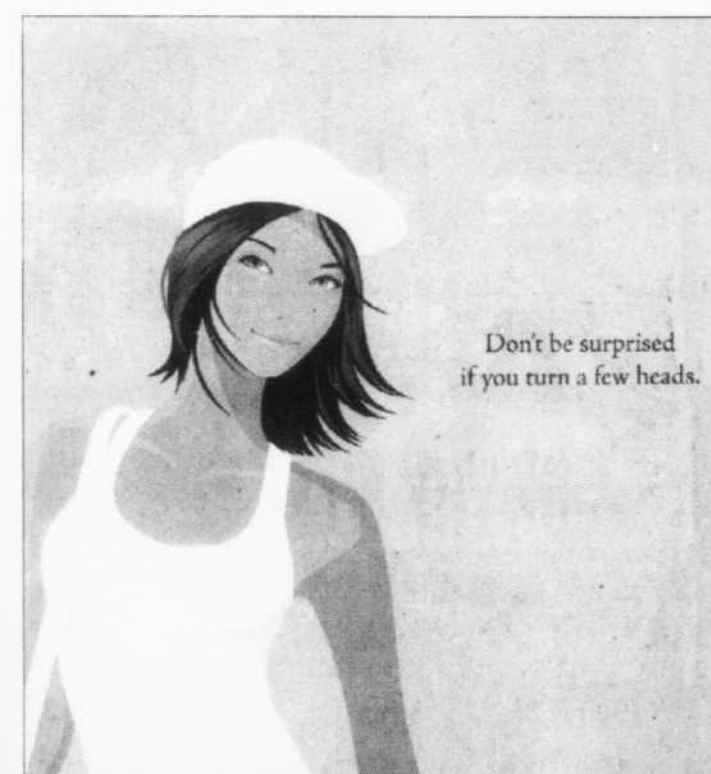
Do get a professional massage
Don't nap in the mall massage/lounge

Do get a rejuvenating facial
Don't spackle over the bad spots

Do get a real manicure
Don't clean your nails with your keys



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SPORTS

On the road again

By CHAD MINTON
Contributing Writer

The Blue Raiders are coming off the biggest win in school history after defeating Maryland 24-14 this past Saturday. But now, the team must prepare for another BCS opponent as it travels to Lexington, Ky. to take on the Kentucky Wildcats.

Maryland was a huge win for MT, but Kentucky should prove a much different challenge than the struggling Terps presented.

"Obviously, defense is the strength of their team," MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill said at the teams' Tuesday press conference. "Their front seven is very good, their two corners are excellent, and I think their linebackers are good in there."

The Blue Raiders' offense will face a much better pass rush against Kentucky than they did against Maryland. The Wildcats like to bring a heavy pass rush, which has helped them climb to 10th in the nation in overall defense. The Kentucky defense has been able to hold its opponents to only five points combined over the past two contests.

However, the Blue Raiders' defense also looked impressive in last week's win, which could be big against a Kentucky offense that is clearly rebuilding.

"I think right now they are relying on the defense until their offense finds its identity," Stockstill said.

Aside from three wins against Vanderbilt, the Blue Raiders have never defeated an SEC opponent. But the team is not giving the Kentucky game any special attention just because it's an SEC opponent.

"For us, it's just the next team on our schedule," said junior linebacker Danny Carmichael, who is coming off a solid performance against Maryland. Carmichael put up three tackles and a clutch interception in the 3rd quarter that led to a Blue Raider score.

One concern for the Blue Raiders coming into Saturday will be the season-ending knee injury to redshirt junior

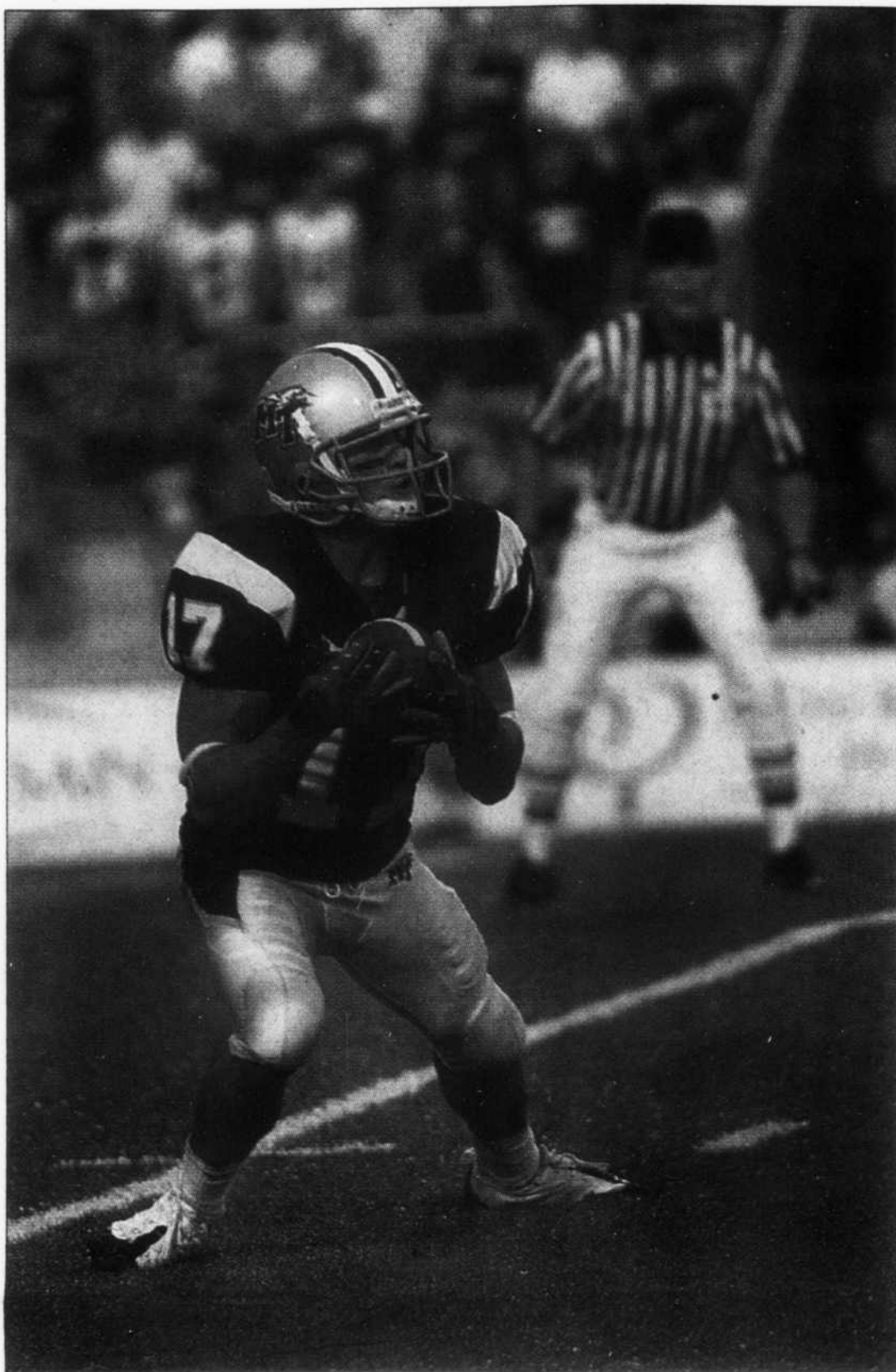


Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer

Junior Patrick Honeycutt will be MT's most experienced receiver after Michael Cannon's injury.

wide receiver Michael Cannon.

"When a guy goes down, it provides an opportunity for others," Stockstill said. "We will try to get Andrew Banks, a walk-on, some reps this week and see what he can do. When a guy goes down it provides an opportunity for others. There will be added responsibility for other receivers, and they will step up."

The team will look to freshman walk-on Andrew Banks to possibly join the already inexperienced the receiving rotation. The receiving corps has played well, particularly in the Maryland game where freshman receiver Malcolm Beyah pulled in four catches

for 94 yards and two touchdowns.

"We will lose a guy in the rotation," Stockstill said. "We will try to get Andrew Banks, a walk-on, some reps this week and see what he can do. When a guy goes down it provides an opportunity for others. There will be added responsibility for other receivers, and they will step up."

The meeting between the Blue Raiders and the Wildcats will only be the second meeting between the schools

and the first since a 44-22 MT loss in 2002.

MT's football program continues to challenge itself and move to the next level since joining the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) in 1999. Only three non-BCS teams—East Carolina, Hawaii and MT—play at least four BCS opponents this season.

The Blue Raiders will try to add the second straight BCS win at Commonwealth Stadium this Saturday at 6 p.m.

Show some class



Real Talk with
C-Bow
Casey Bowman

After having a few days of reflection over the Maryland win, I keep looking back and can't avoid the negatives coming out of Floyd Stadium.

Excuse my rant, but I have a voice and an outlet—so here it is.

I'm sick and tired of the way that some of our "fans" act during home football games. I've been attending Middle Tennessee since 2004, and at one time was considered by my friends to be the rowdiest of the rowdy when it came to MT football.

There comes a time when you grow up though, and stop the nonsense, and act like an adult for once.

Obviously, some people haven't gotten that message, or are just too stupid to comprehend when they are acting like jackasses.

It's a knock on your university when you act like a belligerent idiot during a game. Screaming f-bombs at opposing players and coaches while families with young children sit next to you is unacceptable.

Like it or not, the majority of the crowd in the stands aside from students are families with their little children, who could possibly represent the future of our fan base.

What a great memory it would be to tell your friends 15 years from now about that time a drunk college kid poured a Jack and Coke all over you at the Middle Tennessee game while he was screaming obscenities towards someone.

Sounds good, doesn't it?

Moving on—laughing and yelling at an injured player as he is helped off the field is unacceptable and absolutely disgusting. There comes a time when the game stops and it becomes about actual people. Mockery at that

point makes me question you as a person and makes me ashamed to say I go to school with you and cheer for the same team.

Yes, football is a game—but the participants are real people with real lives. Just because you couldn't crack it on the junior varsity squad in high school doesn't give you the right to belittle a man while he is down, just because he's living your dream.

Many college football players are just that—college football players. They are enrolled in school like you are, and the majority are just there for a degree, knowing that the next level is probably unattainable, and their degree is what will get them through life.

Remember that the next time you mock someone who just got his head knocked off for his degree, and ask yourself, "What am I giving up for my degree?"

Finally, I have one more point to bring up: quit with the "Bull Shit" chants.

Many fans need to go take an introductory course to the rules of football. Penalties aren't just called for the fun of it; they are called because a penalty actually occurred.

As strange as that sounds, it's true. The referees are not coming to Floyd Stadium looking to mess with MT's chances of winning. They are there to officiate a game, which is their job.

The pointless chants—and we all know what I'm talking about—need to stop. They are pathetic and make our student section look like they have no idea what's going on. If a quarterback runs outside of the pocket and throws the ball into the ground, that is not a penalty, so don't yell BS at the top of your lungs. Also, holding can be called on almost any play, so when it called, it's not BS either.

The next home game is a couple of weeks away, and I would encourage everyone to act with a sense of pride towards their university.

Folks, we have been there now, so we can act like it.

Casey Bowman is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at cbow0328@gmail.com



LEADERS



	YARDS	TDs		YARDS	TDs
PASSING			PASSING		
Joe Craddock	456	3	Mike Hartline	207	0
RUSHING			RUSHING		
Phillip Tanner	122	2	Derrick Locke	121	1
RECEIVING			RECEIVING		
Malcolm Beyah	138	2	Dicky Lyons	76	1
TACKLES			TACKLES		
Jeremy Kellern	11		Four players tied	8	
INT			INT		
Four players tied	1		Trevard Lindley	2	
SACKS			SACKS		
Five players tied	1		Braxton Kelley	2	
			Johnny Williams	2	

MT earns three POWs

By CHRIS MARTIN
Sports Editor

Following its impressive upset of the ACC's Maryland, the Blue Raiders won all three of the Sun Belt Conference's player of the week awards.

Senior quarterback Joe Craddock was named SBC Offensive Player of the Week after completing 28 of 40 passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions while racking up 28 rushing yards on nine carries.

Junior cornerback Alex Suber received the SBC's nod for Defensive Player of the Week for the work

he did covering preseason All-ACC first team wide receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey. Heyward-Bey had three receptions for 90 yards, but 80 of those yards came on a screen in the third quarter. Suber also sealed the win with his interception in the end zone with just over two minutes left on the clock.

Junior punter David DeFatta was the SBC's top performer on special teams. DeFatta punted four times with a 42-yard average. DeFatta also contributed on offense, connecting on a 28 yard pass to tight end Alvin Ingle off a fake punt play in the first quarter.



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Men's basketball names new assistant head coach

By TONY STINNETT
MT Athletic Communications

Win Case followed the advice of a former college teammate who became a highly-successful head coach when pursuing the vacant Middle Tennessee men's basketball assistant coach position, and he's glad he did.

Case, who has been part of four national championships at the college level, has been hired as an assistant on the Blue Raiders' staff, head coach Kermit Davis announced Monday.

"Win is a proven head coach and he won two national championships as a head coach, which speaks for itself," Davis said. "Win has had a lot of opportunities to get to this level. He came on an interview and was blown away by the community, the school, the commitment and he just thought this would be a good place for him and his family."

Case said a phone call from Kansas head coach Bill Self stimulated his interest in the vacant position on Davis' staff. Case and Self were teammates at Oklahoma State and Case's son, Jeremy, was a member of Casey's national championship team in 2008 and is currently on the Jayhawk staff as a graduate assistant.

"When I was trying to de-

cide if I was going to pursue this position I got a call from Bill Self and he just raved about coach Davis," Case said. "(Self) told me coach Davis was one of the best and he told me I needed to look hard at the position. At that time the position had not been offered but what coach Self said certainly appealed in terms of having an opportunity to work with a coach who has that type of reputation. Coach Davis has a reputation around the country that is second to none."

An opportunity to work for Davis spurred his interest in the opening and then Case arrived on campus.

"First and foremost was the chance to work for one of the best coaches in the country," Case said of his decision to work at Middle Tennessee. "That got my initial interest and then once I came here and saw this university I was blown away with what they have with the facilities and how everything is run first class."

Case's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, recruiting, scouting, and day-to-day preparation of the Blue Raider basketball team.

"Win has a great personality and I love his positive, upbeat attitude," Davis said. "I believe it will help us in recruiting and (Case) will help

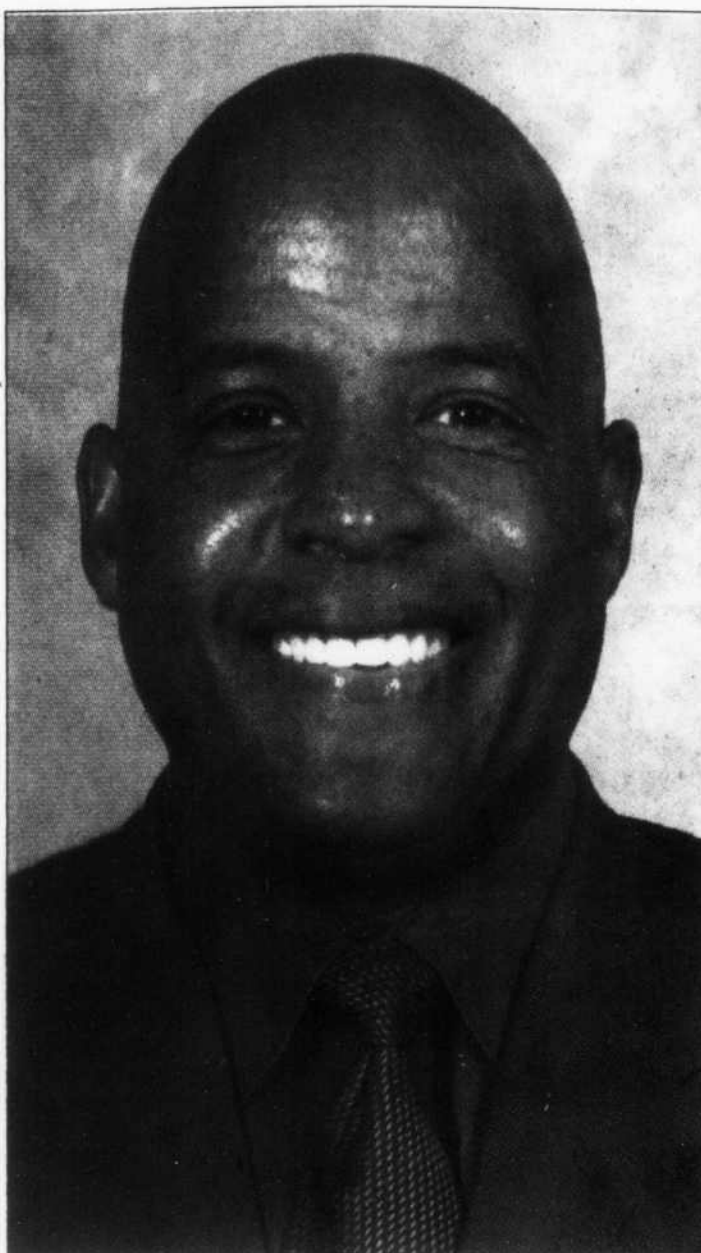


Photo Courtesy of MT Athletic Communications

Win Case brings national championship experience to MT.

us on the court."

Case compiled a 364-138

record in 16 seasons as a head coach. He won two national

championships as head coach at Oklahoma City University. He said looks forward to recruiting to what he believes is a great University with an immense amount to offer.

"Recruiting is so important, not only the type of players in terms of athleticism, but also good people and I think the one thing I can bring to the table is that I am a people person and recruiting is all about relationships," Case said. "I want to build upon those relationships because it is so important to having a successful basketball program."

Case said he has been impressed with Middle Tennessee's players during 4-on-0 workouts but he has been even more delighted at the type of people they are.

"I've been to a lot of different places and I have never been to a school and program where every single kid in the program is low maintenance," Case said. "These are really good kids and I made a comment to coach Davis after I met with all of them and had a chance to talk with them that I had never seen this before. Not only are they good players on the court, but they also are good kids and it's a joy for me to work with them."

Case brings a wealth of experience and success to Middle Tennessee. He most

recently was head men's basketball coach at Redlands College. Case was at Redlands one season and his team posted a 21-11 mark in 2007-08. Prior to that he spent two seasons at Eastern Oklahoma State College where he served as head men's basketball coach and athletics director.

Case played college basketball at Oklahoma City University for 15 years, posting a 343-127 record and winning the NAIA National Championship in 1994 and 1996. Prior to his 15 years as head coach at Oklahoma City, Case served as an assistant there and was part of two national championships (1991, 1992). The 1992 squad was 38-0.

Case played two seasons at Seminole Junior College and led the team to a runner-up finish in the NJCAA national championship game. Following two years of junior college, Case played two years at Oklahoma State, where he averaged 10.7 points as a senior.

Case began his coaching career as an assistant at Oklahoma Baptist in 1987. He spent two seasons as an assistant at Eastern Oklahoma before joining the staff at Oklahoma City University.

Case has two children—Jeremy, 24, and Tiffany, 25. He is married to the former Rhonda Crowe.

Vince Young returns Following questions about desire, Young returns to team's facilities

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

If Vince Young isn't sure he wants to play football anymore, he didn't show it Wednesday.

He reported to work, watched part of practice with a wrap around his sprained left knee and avoided reporters wanting to talk about his mother's comments indicating he doesn't want to play because of the negativity he's faced since being booed heavily during a 17-10 win over Jacksonville.

His coach and teammates are sticking with their quarterback and the official story that whatever happened that prompted coach Jeff Fisher to alert police to help locate Young and check on his emotional well-being was just a misunderstanding. And that it was blown out of proportion by the media.

And no, Young doesn't have to prove his commitment to either Fisher or his teammates.

"He led us to the playoffs last year. We just want him to get healthy and back on the field," Fisher said.

Young stood with linebacker Keith Bulluck and former college teammate Michael Griffin for part of practice. Bulluck said he knows Young is fine after speaking with him. The best way they can help the quarterback? Go beat Cincinnati on Sunday.

Bulluck said he's seen Donovan McNabb and Steve McNair get down after losses, something that goes with the pressures of being the quarterback. He expressed his confidence that Young will take the good and the bad of his position.

"That's just things quarterbacks go through. They probably wear red shirts for a reason. They're a little more sensitive than any position on the field," Bulluck joked before becoming serious. "... Being his third year I'm sure he has a lot on his plate like

we all do. I know he'll rebound, and we'll be all right. That's why I'm saying that the situation will take care of itself."

Center Kevin Mawae called Young still a leader whose teammates trust and believe in him.

"Anything that happens outside the locker room will be outside the realm of football, that's something that's between him and his family and whoever's handling that with him," Mawae said.

The quarterback didn't talk to reporters, but Fisher did promise Young will speak "at some point."

Young is the only person who knows what he was thinking Monday when he skipped an MRI exam to determine the extent of his sprained medial collateral ligament. Fisher and a psychologist met with the quarterback at his home, then he took off in his Mercedes to eat chicken wings and watch football.

But whatever he said at home prompted someone to call Fisher, who said Tuesday night the information he had didn't allow him the luxury of waiting. On Wednesday, Fisher only called it a misunderstanding, but defended what the team did as concern for an employee.

For now, veteran Kerry Collins will start. The Titans signed Chris Simms and will not project when Young will be healthy enough to play. Fisher said the starter's job remains Young, but admitted the quarterback has some work to do.

"He has to put some things back in perspective, and first and foremost has to get healthy," Fisher said.

Young was booed in 2004 while in college when Texas was shut out by Oklahoma, and he was benched for the second half of a win over Missouri the next week. He responded by never losing

another game.

That kind of success just isn't possible in the NFL, but Young's fellow quarterbacks are offering up suggestions on dealing with the unique pressure of playing in this league.

Collins, the fifth overall pick in the 1995 draft, said he didn't learn how to handle all the attention until he wound up with his third team, the New York Giants in his fifth season. He said he'll be happy to be a resource for Young, but hasn't shared his own story yet.

"I was a young guy who played a lot, had success early and did some things that looking back probably weren't the right things to do. I learned from it. I think that's the most important thing, as it is in life. You make mistakes, you learn from it and move on," Collins said.

Bengals receiver Chad Johnson said football is fun, while pressure is being sent to fight in Iraq. Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer, who had to heal up from his own knee injury, doesn't know Young well. But he believes the key is not to worry about what anyone outside the team says.

"If you're a guy who is always worried about what people are saying about you, it's going to be tough, it's going to eat at you and get at you. But you need to experience it and figure it out and learn to roll with it," Palmer said.

Aaron Rodgers has dealt with his share of criticism in Green Bay and suggests keeping priorities straight.

"If you live your life and you decide your joy and happiness in life (is based) on what people say about you or think about you, you're going to be up and down every day," Rodgers said.

FILM FROM PAGE 3

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Rutherford and Cannon counties.

With facts about abduction, assault and rape being raised, the JAWC also wants

to target new students and inform everyone of the film's free distribution.

For more information on the JAWC, students can go to their Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~jawc.

The film is also available for free download on the website, www.justyellfire.com, and it is also available to be copied to a DVD from the JAWC.

"It's a goal of JAWC to provide education and awareness all year long," Johnson said.

As Josh Holloway, a star from ABC's *Lost* in the film, "It's about saving the world, one girl at a time."

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