



Sunny

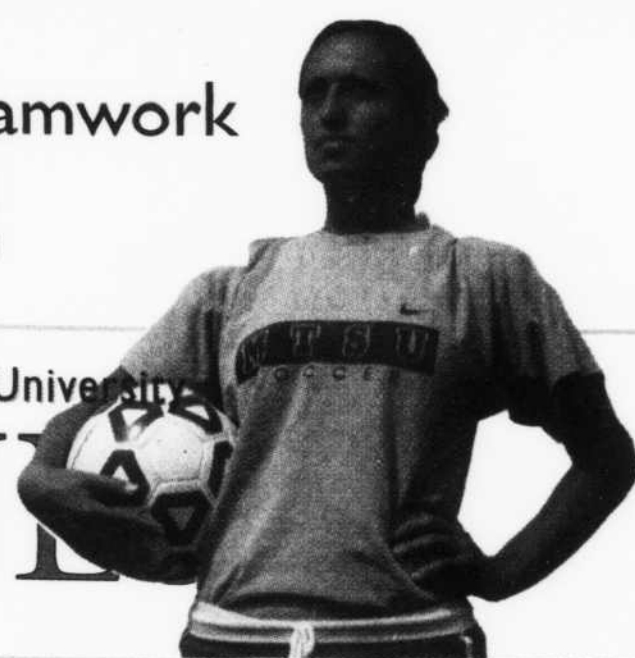


This week's poll question
online at
www.mtsusidelines.com

"Did you find the Career Fair
to be useful?"

Miguez looks to teamwork for success

In Sports, 8



Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINE

The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Volume 79 No. 23

Campus Briefs

Relay for Life hosts arts and crafts festival

Middle Tennessee State University's Relay for Life Team is hosting its 3rd annual arts and crafts festival, on Nov. 1. The event will be held in the Alumni Memorial Gym from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An interesting variety of vendors will fill the floor of the AMG with different styles of handmade arts and crafts, including pottery, birdhouses, hand painted items of all kinds, jewelry, handmade clothing and lawn decor.

The festival, designed for the whole family, is open and free to the public. A children's booth will have face painting and balloon animals.

Concessions will be available. The income from the rental of exhibit space and the proceeds from the concessions will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For more information on renting a booth, or for additional info on the festival, please call 898-2853.

Women's Center offers free legal clinic

The June Anderson Women's Center, with the help of the Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association, will hold a free legal clinic for members of the MTSU campus community Sept. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The attorneys offer non-binding consultation for a wide range of topics including employment discrimination, sexual harassment, landlord-tenant disputes, financial problems and family issues.

Appointments are necessary, as space is limited. To register or to get more information, call 898-2193. Consultations are confidential.

Legislative internship deadline approaching

The political science department is now taking applications for the legislative internship program for spring 2004.

The internship runs from Jan. 12, 2004 through May 31, 2004, or the end of the legislative session, whichever comes first.

A stipend of \$350 per week will be paid, plus a travel reimbursement. Spring Break and other school holidays will not be observed.

Twelve hours of academic credit will be granted for successful completion of the program.

Applicants must be juniors, seniors or graduate students and must be registered to vote in Tennessee. A 3.0 grade point average is also required.

Interns will be assigned to legislative leadership offices and committees, and will be required to work 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Those interested can pick up applications from Professor Mark Byrnes in Peck Hall, Room 247. Applications are due to Byrnes by Oct. 6. ♦

Network troubles

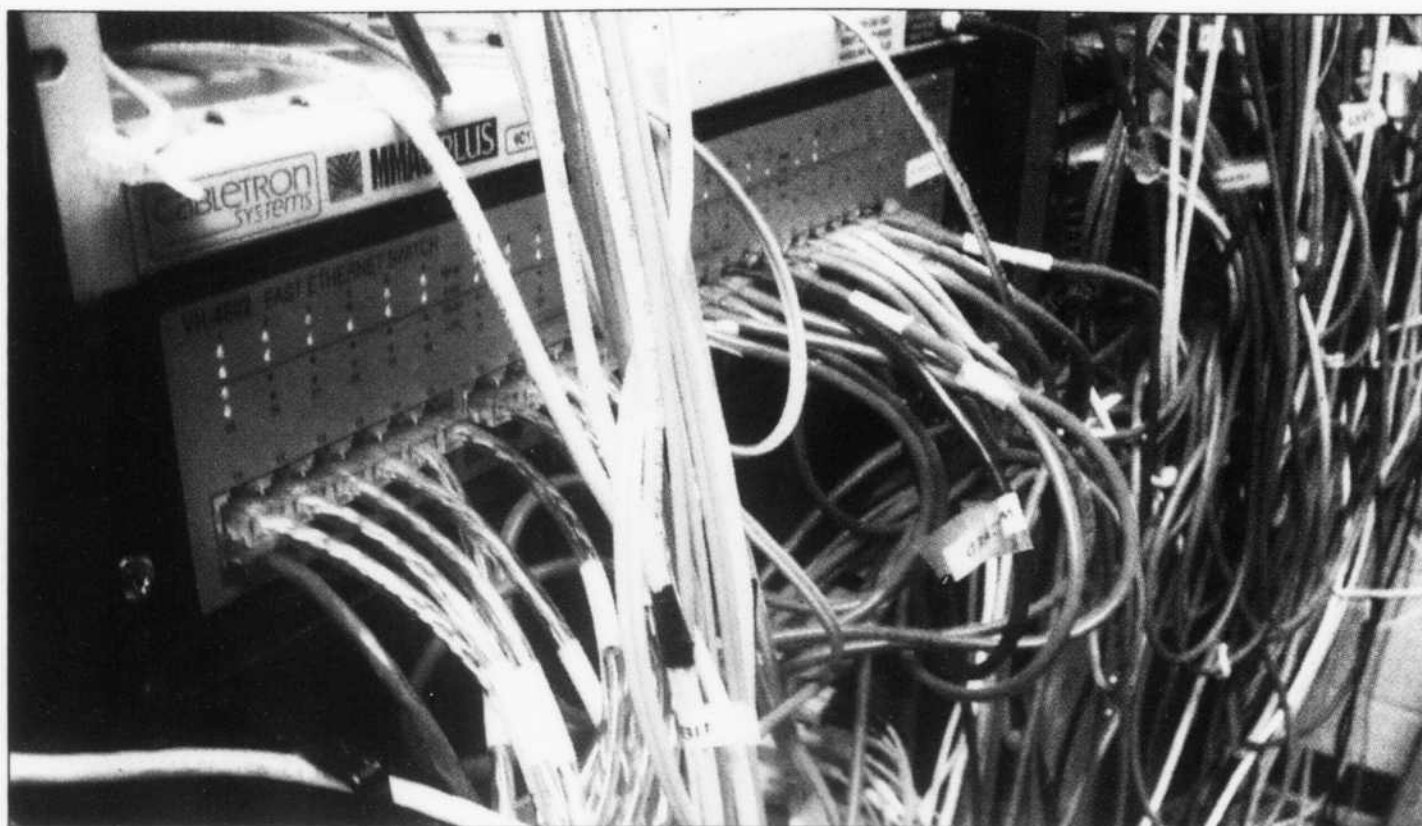


Photo by Jessica Watson | Staff Photographer

Servers in the Cope Administration Building connect many computers on campus. Technicians from network services took parts of the network offline in order to track down the worm infecting campus computers.

Campus techs track down worm

Segments of network taken offline last week

By Erica Rodefer
Staff Writer

A worm made its way through MTSU's computer network system leaving students without access to the Internet for several hours last week.

The Blaster worm, which affects Microsoft operating systems Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003, was likely a big factor in the problems.

"We saw a variant of Blaster that tried

to find infected machines," said Greg Schaffer, director of network services on campus. "This contributed to the network instability last week."

Internet worms like the Blaster are different from common e-mail viruses, such as the SoBig.F, which was also found in MTSU's computer systems recently, because worms do not attach themselves to files or need user intervention to spread.

The Blaster spreads by attempting to connect with 20 internet addresses at the same time, searching for computers that are vulnerable, which haven't been patched or made immune to the worm.

"We identified 'segments' [of the net-

work] that were causing the network to slow down, we would disconnect those segments from the network so as to allow the rest of the campus to utilize the resources," Schaffer said.

Network Services has been working for the past several years on "segmenting" the network so as to be able to perform these actions in emergency times such as this.

This way a segment of the network, such as a residence hall, can be taken off line, so the machine or machines responsible for the traffic onslaught can be identified, blocked from the network and the segment restored. The machines are let

See Worm, 2

Heroines examined in honors lecture



Photo by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Elyce Helford, English professor, discusses heroines in literature.

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

Elyce Helford, professor of English and director of women's studies, discussed what made people heroes and, more specifically, heroines, in Monday's Honors Lecture.

Helford opened by asking the class to name women they considered to be superwomen within the media. Oprah Winfrey, Madonna and Hillary Clinton were just a few named.

She went on to say she was more interested to know what fictional women were

considered heroes, as opposed to real women.

"I'm interested, not in the power that real women have, but I'm interested in the power that fictional women have," Helford said.

The discussion then turned to a more general topic when Helford asked what traits a hero possessed.

Among the responses were bravery, honor, self-sacrifice, physical strength, mental fortitude, morals and

See Lecture, 2

Journalist discusses death penalty problems

By Liz Karlson
Staff Writer

Ken Armstrong, *Seattle Times* reporter, discussed the failure of the Illinois death penalty in Monday's Seigenthaler Lecture.

Armstrong based his claims on research at the *Chicago Tribune*.

Armstrong and other participants were disturbed by the 1978 death penalty cases of the

"Ford Heights Four," in which four black men were found guilty of a rape and murder charge under false and tampered evidence.

All four men were on death row for almost 18 years until DNA evidence proved their innocence and the true nature of the prosecution's dishonesty was revealed.

Armstrong claims that there were several discrepancies surrounding the trial. A false jail-

house confession was given by another inmate after he was pressured by the prosecution, false evidence found in one of the men's cars, the victim's were represented by an incompetent defense attorney who was later disbarred, and there was an all-white jury for both the trial and death penalty hearings.

After the four men were pardoned, they successfully sued the state of Illinois and were awarded \$36 million.

Suspicious that this type of case was common in Illinois, Armstrong and other journalists conducted research of all death penalty cases from 1978 until 1999 in Illinois and found some disturbing evidence.

Many cases Armstrong found were similar to the mistakes and/or convictions in the "Ford Heights Four" case.

Of 285 death penalty cases,

See Armstrong, 2

Senators appointed, homecoming court announced

Staff Reports

Despite the difficulties that the Student Government Association had with Pipeline MT last week while voting for the homecoming court, freshmen senators and graduate senators, 1,888 MTSU students voted for this fall's elections.

Students who voted last Tuesday, the first day of the election, had to recast their ballots because of a glitch after it was discovered the homecoming queen votes weren't being

counted.

The voting was extended an extra day to make up for the loss of votes.

The homecoming court was announced Monday. The king candidates are Shane Caldwell, Darren Douglas, Justin Richmond, Jason Searles and Jon Stewart. The queen candidates are Lakisha Newby, Amanda Newman, Erin Pauls, Julie Prince and Jennifer



Crawley



Flippin



Fulcher



Grace



Leaming

Secret.

The homecoming king and queen will be announced at the halftime of the homecoming game Oct. 11.

Five freshmen senators were chosen in the elections as well. They are Randy Crawley,

Meagan Flippin, Paul Bryant Fulcher, Lindsey Grace and Sarah Leaming.

The three graduate senators are Michael Begley, Katie Williams and Chad Wrye. ♦

Hospital practices disaster response

Workers rehearse with students

By Jennifer Hayes
Staff Writer

Emergency medical technicians practiced taking care of victims in a sulfuric acid disaster drill Tuesday morning in the Tennessee Livestock Center parking lot.

At 9:10 a.m., accident victims, played by MTSU and Oakland High School students, arrived at the scene.

The incident was a mock crash between a General Motors freight train and tanker truck carrying 12,000 gallons of sulfuric acid. The truck stalled on the railroad tracks on Butler Drive, off of South Church Street, and then was hit by the freight train, scattering debris 50 yards.

The Middle Tennessee Medical Center, along with the Murfreesboro fire department, directs these annual disaster drills in order to keep EMTs prepared for actual emergency situations.

The EMTs are observed in action and evaluated so they can improve areas like response time, medical treatment and organization.

"In a normal situation, the area would be evacuated, depending on how large of an area was contaminated, and victims would have to undergo detoxification procedures," EMT Kevin Culling explained.

"Businesses like Pillsbury and possibly even Riverdale High School would have been affected in this disaster, and may have suffered injuries varying from contact burns to respiratory problems," Culling said.

Within the hour, all the victims had been transported to MTMC where they were given additional medical treatment, and four patients were sent to surgery.

After all the victims had been properly cared for, the patients were discharged to their families at the hospital. There were 29 victims in all; two were confirmed dead on arrival.

Thirteen patients were discharged right after the accident and the others remained in the hospital for medical treatment.

"The hospital remains completely prepared for any kind of disaster, whether accidental or terrorist related," said Betty McFarlain, public relations director for MTMC.

"Even though the disaster was planned, it's very helpful training, even when only small things are learned," McFarlain said. "We only had a few minor problems, like our radios not working properly, but we still were fully prepared for the treatment of the victims."

The drill is difficult to coordinate and involves the cooperation of local hospital staff, the fire department, and the Red Cross disaster relief.

Randy White, one of the chief organizers of the drill, said that the planning began about six or seven months before the drill took place.

"We have five off-duty ambulances and off-duty police officers to run the drill as well as six fire ambulances, White said. "It went smoothly though." ♦

Activists support medicinal joints

By Carolyn Green
Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — "I've been known to ride my bike nine miles if the marijuana is a decent grade," George McMahon said in an easy Texas drawl.

McMahon, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder called Nail Patella Syndrome, is afflicted with uncontrollable pain, spasms and nausea. Smoking medicinal marijuana relieves these problems. One of just seven United States citizens provided with weed by the little known "Uncle Sam's Marijuana Farm," McMahon is a principal advocate for the legalization of medical marijuana.

McMahon, with friend and activist Christopher Largen, wrote the new release "Prescription Pot," which chronicles McMahon's activism from the steps of state capitols to the halls of Congress. McMahon has presented his case before the U.S. Supreme Court; he is a frequent guest on National Public Radio and has been featured in articles in the *Village Voice* and *High Times*.

"To me, the crux of the issue is this," Largen said. "If the Drug Enforcement Administration is correct in administering that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive substance with no medical value, then why has the government been giving it to sick and dying people for 25 years?"

For years, prescription pills

curbed McMahon's pain but left him brain-addled. When a cancer patient offered him a marijuana cigarette, McMahon tried the drug and felt immediate relief without the usual accompanying daze. McMahon and his wife found a doctor who helped him enroll in the Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program, started by Robert Randall in 1976 and shut down by the Bush administration in 1992.

Most Americans are unaware of this program, through which the United States government has provided medical cannabis to patients suffering from such illnesses as multiple sclerosis, AIDS, cancer and glaucoma. Some 15 to 35 patients joined the program before it shut its doors, and the seven surviving patients, including McMahon, still receive monthly marijuana allocations.

Since enrolling in the program, McMahon has remained on the same dosage as initially prescribed — 10 joints a day, which translates to 300 joints a month.

"I'd like to be able to eat it because it works better," he said. "It takes more, but it works better. But the government says I have to smoke it all."

While McMahon receives his marijuana from the government, it remains an illegal substance in most states, including Pennsylvania.

All forms, compounds, derivatives, mixtures and preparations extracted from any part

of a marijuana plant or its seeds are banned.

"I'm not in any medical position to argue the relevance of marijuana and where I should recommend it to someone who is terminally ill, but I would discourage the use of marijuana because of legal implications and medical reasons," said Diana Ramos, community health educator for the Office of Health Promotion and Education. "Studies have found that heavy users have had chronic bronchitis and some respiratory problem, and in the short term there is memory loss and lack of motivation."

McMahon supports legalization of all forms of marijuana, but said for the present, he is more concerned with the dying and suffering who could benefit from medical marijuana than about those who want to "smoke up for a good time."

The legalization of all forms of marijuana remains a controversial national issue, which McMahon says contributes to a lack of compassion on behalf of American bureaucrats.

"These people can die because it's against the law," he said. "Why is it against the law? Because some kid might pick it up and smoke it. But he could buy as much beer and whiskey as he wants. He can go to the doctor and get prescriptions for drugs that can and do kill with the first dose. This is a medicine I need. It has nothing to do with laws, three-fourths of it has to do with my health." ♦

Duke fraternity accused of holding offensive party

By Mer Eckstut
Daily Pennsylvanian

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — Parades. Dancing. Flags. All are part of Mexican Independence Day festivities.

But at Duke University, the Sigma Chi fraternity added fake expired green cards to the list — and infuriated campus Latino groups in the process.

The crux of the debate involved the promotion of a Sept. 13 "Viva Mexico" party. The event, which was held at the chapter's house, was timed to correspond with Mexican Independence Day. Invitations consisted of green cards with the word "expired" emblazoned on the front, while flyers displayed an overweight Mexican man wearing a sombrero near beer bottles, said Cesar Aranguri, president of Duke's Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.

A coalition of campus groups, including Mi Gente: La Asociación de Estudiantes Latinos, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Lambda Pi Chi sorority and members of the university government have protested the fraternity's actions through a variety of venues, including letters to the Duke student newspaper and demonstrations.

"I was shocked" that students were offended, said Marc Mattioli, Duke's chapter president of Sigma Chi. "Our intention was not to offend anyone."

He said that only one person, who was unaffiliated with the fraternity and had seen a flyer for the event, had voiced concerns to the fraternity about it beforehand. The Latino members who participate in Mattioli's organization did not see a problem with the promotion, Mattioli added, noting that he is half Puerto Rican and the group's social chairman is half Colombian.

He said that the chapter has agreed to do educational programming and printed a letter of apology in *The Chronicle*, Duke's newspaper.

"The only good thing that has come of this is that we now have the opportunity for a deep and meaningful conversation" about multicultural issues, Assistant Dean of Students Todd Adams said.

Similar comments were made by University of Pennsylvania administrators in

the wake of the Water Buffalo fiasco 10 years ago. Controversy over students' rights to free speech erupted in 1993 when then-college freshman Eden Jacobowitz was disciplined for calling a group of black sorority women "water buffalo," which was perceived as a racial slur.

Since then, the university has denounced speech codes and tries to prevent conflicts through education.

"We work with our groups a lot on diversity education," said Lea Shafer, associate director for programming at the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

So far, the preventative actions appear to have worked.

"The relationship here is great" with Greek organizations, added Annamaria Covo, director of La Casa Latina.

In addition to sparking campus-wide debate, the Duke fraternity has also run astray from the university's alcohol policies by advertising alcohol in flyers accessible to underage individuals, Adams said.

While student leaders argued in a press release that the fraternity violated the Duke Student Government Constitution by using ethnically offensive images, Adams noted that its community standard was not a statement of policy.

If such an event were to happen at Penn, officials say they would handle it as Duke has.

"It's not against any university policy, but it exhibits a certain amount of ignorance and close-mindedness," Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Scott Reikofski said. Consequently, the fraternity will not be punished, but diversity education will be encouraged.

Since Duke's administration cannot sanction the fraternity for its offensive flyers, activists are trying to change the administration's policies.

"We're trying to reform the judiciary process" so that future offensive events will be punishable, Aranguri said.

"Generally, speech codes are impermissible" in a court, said Robert Shibley, a lawyer at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a group that supports free speech on campus. He added that they are looking into the Duke situation, but are not currently involved.

College freshman Jane Greenberg said she had not heard about the story from her friends at Duke.

"I might not be terribly surprised" if a similar event happened at Penn, she said, "but I haven't seen anything yet." ♦

MTSU CRIMESTOPPERS

Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help in solving the theft of almost the entire press run of *Sidelines* on Thursday, August 28. The papers were stolen from almost all of the newspaper racks on campus between 7 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.. Some of the papers were thrown in the trash, but most were simply taken.

SINCE THIS CRIME IS A FELONY, CRIME STOPPERS IS OFFERING UP TO \$1,000 IN CASH FOR INFORMATION THAT LEADS TO THE ARREST OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO TOOK THESE NEWSPAPERS.

If you know who committed this crime, where the papers are, or have any information about this crime, please call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP (7867) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All callers will remain anonymous and if your information leads to an arrest, you will be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

If you would like more information about MTSU's Crime Stoppers program please call Sgt. Matt Foster at 898-2424 or visit <http://police.mtsu.edu>.

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Reach for the Pinnacle Student Success Workshops

Using your Whole Brain



Wed Sept 24
12:30-1 pm OR 1:30-2 pm

Thurs Sept 25
3:30-4 pm OR 5:30-6 pm

This seminar will help students learn how to mindmap and use your whole brain to have creative and analytical thinking at the same time.

Call 898-5989 to reserve a place
at a session of your choice.
The workshops will be held in KUC 320.

From the Editorial Board Accountability crucial in tight fiscal times

As we all know, our state's been forced to deal with some tricky financial issues for the past several years. MTSU even shut down in July 2002 because of a budget impasse. We were spared that drama this year, but had to pay a tuition increase of 14 percent in return.

A story in today's Living section ("What the Tennessee state budget means to the college student," p. 6) succeeds in clarifying some of the problems that lawmakers face every fiscal year.

When proposing his budget this year, Gov. Phil Bredesen was forced to choose from which programs to cut. Unfortunately, higher education was one of the slaughtered. Higher ed's budget took a \$107 million cut; MTSU's share was \$7.7 million.

We agree with the governor's assessment that K-12 education funding should receive priority over the state's universities, colleges and community colleges. The best higher education system in the world would be useless if it was populated with dunces, which many Tennessee public school systems seem intent on producing.

A perfect world would have all primary and secondary schools and public university systems fully funded; there's no question that Tennessee falls far short of that goal. However, more can be done to provide for higher education – and we're not talking about cutting TennCare or holding bake sales.

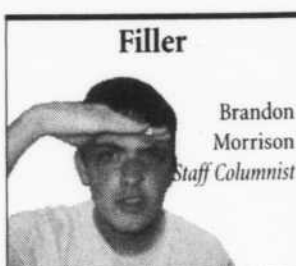
We propose an accountability reward system for the Tennessee Board of Regents. Due this month are reports from all TBR school presidents, detailing how their money is spent. The schools that have demonstrated fiscal responsibility should receive a larger share of next year's appropriations. Those that have failed to make good use of their money should be forced to make do with less.

This would reward the schools who are taking steps to provide quality education within their limited means, while punishing those that can't operate efficiently.

Successful schools could maintain managed growth, and the rest would be forced to change their ways, or eventually be eliminated.

Desperate budget times call for desperate budget measures. With the state unlikely to increase higher education spending in the foreseeable future, original ideas for accountability must be considered. ♦

Government, religion shady mix at best



Filler

Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

In addition to food and clothing, handout lines may now come with Bibles and tracts.

On Monday, four new government regulations were passed that allow easier access to federal grants for religious-oriented aid programs.

The goal of the new regulations is to help push the burden of social welfare programs onto religious organizations.

"These six new regulations and the four finalized

ones represent a continued march by the president in the faith-based initiative's effort to spread compassion in our country and make sure that the most effective programs are funded," head of the White House faith-based office Jim Tovey said.

"He wants to see results. This is not about funding religion, but about funding results and identifying the most effective providers and knocking down the wall that separates the poor from these programs."

This ruling comes hot on the heels of cases like Roy Moore's failed attempt of keeping a 2 1/2 ton statue of the 10 Commandments in prominent view at the

Alabama Supreme Court Building and a recent ruling in Florida courts that claims school vouchers to religious schools are unconstitutional.

The grants, if used properly, are a great idea. Rather than the government having to foot the entire bill for social welfare, it can support other organizations that are already trying to accomplish the same thing.

Think of the programs like a social Wal-Mart. If fewer organizations are spending the same amount of money on aid, then more money can go to aid because there would be less overhead with fewer groups.

If these people feel a religious calling to help the

unfortunate, then they're probably less likely to burn out.

However, we don't live in a perfect world, and the grants will most likely be abused. Odds are, there will be a significant percentage of groups who will line their pockets with government money rather than giving aid to those who need it.

The main problem with the new regulations isn't a separation of church and state issue.

However, the government will have to make sure that it never becomes an issue. Welfare groups that are benefiting from the grants would have to be under the same checks and balances that government welfare programs fall

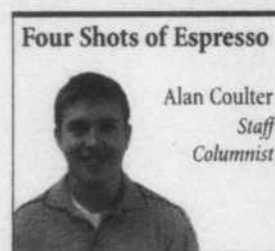
under.

Hopefully, this program will work out for the best for everyone involved. Many religious groups already have successful welfare programs underway, and a little extra funding could expand their outreaches to help out even more people.

But with the recent dramatic failures to blend government and religion, don't expect these new regulations to go much farther than the Supreme Court floor. ♦

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore media design major and can be reached via e-mail at bjm2k@mtsu.edu.

Consider fortunes when evaluating U.S.



Four Shots of Espresso

Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

It's good to be back in America.

I just returned from a mission trip to Romania, and after more than a week and a half of being away from friends and family, I was ready to come home. Or so I

thought.

While I was in the city of Tigru Mures, I thought about American food (even though there was a McDonalds in the downtown area) and what it would be like to drive on clean streets and not drive a car that choked the very life out of you with black smoke.

I dreamed of level beds, radio stations, movies without subtitles and meals without carbonated water. America is good, right? How happy I would be when the landing gear touched down.

On the way back from the airport, however, I had an unexpected experience.

To my right, driving down Murfreesboro Road, was a blonde lady in a nice luxury car, wearing a nice sweater, sporting nice jewelry and staring straight ahead.

She wasn't thinking about gypsies and orphans. She drove toward an intersection with street signs that cost millions of lei (Romanian currency) – and no, I'm not exaggerating.

Anger stirred in the pit of my stomach. Why? Was I mad at the woman? How could I be? She didn't know any better, but maybe that's why I was upset.

America is a blessed nation, and there is nothing wrong with having nice things, but the majority of America doesn't know the needs of the rest of the world.

Yes, we have charities, and we watch the 6 o'clock news. But seeing images of dirty children on TV commercials and sending your donation of \$22 a month doesn't make you more aware or more thankful for what you have.

I walked down the streets of Romania watching three-year-old children pushing baby carriages of infants with no parents to be seen. They were hungry, and thank God my hosts were on their way back from the market. The grapes we gave them might have been the only nutrition they received for the rest of the day.

Not all of the people were starving, but they ministered more to me by just being themselves. I met a young man named Mihai, 19, who loves football and is trying to make it through his first year at college. He doesn't know what he wants to do with his life. He doesn't know where he'll end up. But he loves God and sports, and he took the time to send me an e-mail from a café before I even touched down in Memphis. He thought of someone else who lives in a country better off than his. Yet, how many times do I tell people I will keep in touch with them but wait weeks before I do anything about it, if ever?

So, I thought about this column. I thought about how I could write a great Thanksgiving column when the season came, but now is the time. We shouldn't wait until November to get that warm, fuzzy feeling.

Hopefully, my own heart and awareness won't grow cold and complacent, but everyday I might be appreciative for the bills I do have. At least I have an opportunity to have bills. Everyone needs a good slap in the face every now and again to make us realize that the world doesn't stop with the lower 48, and last week I got mine. Not everyone can make it to another country to get this revelation, so take time to find out what's really going on the world.

There are other countries that don't have beaches, that aren't mentioned in the news, that aren't happy places to visit. They're full of people who are desperate for life and crave hope.

And we pass it by as we stuff money in our wallets and spend it on things we don't really need. Thanks for thinking about someone other than yourself, even for the few minutes it took to read this column. America is great, but don't forget it. ♦

Alan Coulter is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

Ain't we got no culture in 'Boro? Seeking enlightenment in town



And So It Goes

Sarah Crotzer
Staff Columnist

I once saw a T-shirt that read, "Pigs Can Fly ... If You Kick Them Hard Enough." How true that is.

Last Wednesday, *Sidelines* printed a letter to the editor from librarian Brenda Gale Beasley. In it, she pointed out that the films playing at the Keathley University Center theater are "blockbuster retreads," and that anyone who wanted to see them would have done so already. I couldn't agree more.

To see independent and foreign films, you have to go all the way into Nashville, 45 minutes from the MTSU campus. Why can't we screen some of those at the KUC? (Pigs are expensive.)

Since I left my hometown of Knoxville in June, I've counted a dozen such films I wanted to see but never got the chance.

One, *Whale Rider*, did appear at the Carmike – for a single week. If it's seen as prohibitive to run movies with a "limited audience" here on campus, why not alternate, with a blockbuster one week and a more rare and unusual picture the next? That might make everyone happy, at least those who like movies. (Not everyone likes pigs.)

And what of those who don't? Time and again, I've heard students mention how there isn't a good

bookstore in Murfreesboro. As with films, we have to travel 30 miles or more to get to a Borders or Barnes & Noble, but that isn't even the major complaint; most of the wish-lists I've heard involve a good used bookstore. We have used bookstores downtown, but I challenge you to find them. (Pigs like to hide.)

I spent a Saturday afternoon in July doing just that, and came away having discovered only one – and I'm not sure I could have got both of my shoulders in the door and through the aisles.

A properly-used bookstore would be a tremendous commodity for the college community, and certainly we have more than enough half-priced compact disc stores. Is it just that no one reads anymore? Or watches intellectually challenging movies?

Wait a minute. That might just be the problem. I remember going to see *Chicago* a few weeks ago at the KUC with a friend, because I'd enjoyed it very much a few months earlier and thought she – who had missed it – would also have fun.

I got there before my friend, and went in as the movie started up – in a squashed format. It was being projected from a digital video disc, and to this day I don't know what had gone wrong, but it looked like a widescreen film squished into a square frame. All of the characters looked like the Coneheads from *Saturday Night Live*, or possibly a Picasso painting in motion.

Strangely enough, nobody else seemed to

notice. So as they sat in joyful oblivion, soaking in the tunes from a 50-pound, eight foot tall Catherine Zeta Jones, I got up and politely asked for my money back. You know it's bad when you feel you're being cheated out of two dollars. (Pigs are perfectionists.)

Is it just that we don't really care about culture here at MTSU? I don't think so. The fact that we even have a KUC theater says otherwise. So do impromptu book sales, a massive library and music center, the minimally promoted but well-attended production of *Proof* last month, and, perhaps most of all, the open mic nights at the Cyber Cafe.

As college students, we absorb culture like sponges, but maybe we need to be told where it is first. Maybe, if the university and the city of Murfreesboro put things out there for us to find, we'd swarm.

Maybe someone will assume we're smart, creative people, and they'll fill the treetops with swine. Maybe I'll walk into the KUC next week and see a big poster up for *Millennium Actress* or *Lost in Translation*.

Nah. Not going to happen. More likely I'll see one lonely kid on a sidewalk, poking a pig with a stick. Pigs, you see, have one quality in common above all others: They are notoriously non-aerodynamic. ♦

Sarah Crotzer is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at saroz@aol.com.

Letter to the Editor

Rowdy Raider urges fans to be proud, be loud, be blue as conference play begins

To the editor,

Not everyone can be an MT football fan. You know why? Most people don't have what it takes. It's easier to find a team that's winning and root for them.

Sure, I could cheer for the University of Tennessee or Oklahoma, but those schools have done nothing for me. No, to be a MT fan, you have to be loyal. That means going to away games in hostile environments with all the odds stacked against you.

An MT fan recognizes our program for what it is, despite upsetting losses to teams like Florida Atlantic. An MT fan is decked out in Raider Blue even though some students may prefer to support Knoxville. An MT fan still flies the flag even when we're 0-4. An MT fan bleeds blue regardless.

We recognize that we're building a football tradition, on the road and at home. Fans at opposing stadiums are amazed at our loyalty, and they're shocked when we almost pull it off, like our 41-40 overtime loss to No. 23 Missouri.

So, you got what it takes? If so, come out Oct 4 against Temple. Tailgate with us. Party with us. And most importantly, watch some hard-hitting football. We've got a Sun Belt Conference to win. Don't wait until it's a fad. Be proud, be loud, be blue!

Kyle Hancock (member of Rowdy Raiders)
Junior
College of Business

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and a phone number for verification.

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Liberal media got you incensed? Man, us too. We hate liberals. Share your hate: slopinio@mtsu.edu. (Part 1 of 2)

A special message for a lost generation

Cosmo's Corner



Jeremy Coseo
Staff Columnist

A generation without meaning – is it us? Are we the poor lost souls of history? There seems to be an absence of certain qualities that define groups of individuals in history, qualities like purpose, faith and fortitude, which we're lacking or misconstrued in.

You may say to yourself that we're not lost, that there are plenty of things that people believe and live for. Like the advancement of their favorite social causes, or an increase in

their bank accounts. And I'll say to you that those things are trite and meaningless.

What do we believe in today? We believe in the now. That we must satisfy every possible human urge we possess in our body right now with total disregard for morality and the dangers to our bodies. And we see this cause championed everywhere. There is no shortage of individuals who cry for the abject freedom to sleep with whomever they want or use whichever drug they please. Anything goes, so long as it makes the person happy.

And what do we live for? We live for the dream that people are happier because we're so socially progressive. When everybody is allowed to do whatever they want, then

they'll be pleased. And everyone will live in peace. Peace at all cost is the motto.

And so our purpose, faith and fortitude turn to keeping the peace. We no longer have grander ideas in mind. They're lost to the base desires of the individual.

Well, how do we change this? We must have purpose. Purpose for something better than ourselves – more importantly, things that will better ourselves. Like saying that it's wrong to sleep with whomever you please, and detrimental to use drugs. Our purpose should be morally right.

We must definitely have faith. You know there was a time when almost 100 percent of this country had faith in a god. And it was capable of overcoming

great tribulations, like depressions and world wars. Now we have a hard time destroying a bunch of two-bit murderers running around the mountain-side in turbans.

But faith also gave us the strength to lead decent lives. Lives that placed importance on God, family and country. Things that helped improve people's lives.

But people will argue that, "Bad things have been done in the name of God and it has no place in society." I'll say to those people that bad things happen in the name of individuals, not God.

There's fortitude – the will to see things through to the end. I have met plenty of people who get upset at things, but they just don't have the will to do any-

thing about it. They're only capable of short bursts of complaints and then they subside into complacency.

You can't win a war with people who fight on a convenient schedule. You have to hit the ground, dig your heels in, grit your teeth and not come out until its over.

That's the way you see things through, and only by having the fortitude can you prove your faith and achieve your purpose.

Why are we lost, my fellow generation?

We've lost sight of what's really important in this world. We've been hammered over the head with the ideas of self-gratification and tolerance to the point that we've become benign. That the wants of the individual are more important

than what is good for society, and we go along with it. We've been told to forget God, country and morality – that peace at all cost is the most important. Peace is important, but it will never be absolute.

The cost is too high. Seeking to please everyone never worked. It is leading us down the road to nowhere.

Purpose in ourselves is no purpose at all. If left unchecked, it will swallow us whole and file us in the unmentionable shelf of history. ♦

Jeremy Coseo is a sophomore mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at jdc3g@mtsu.edu.

Medication, pills aren't the only answer

By Maureen Murfin
Northern Star

(U-WIRE) DEKALB, Ill. – Five pills slide quickly down my throat every morning. Three are to correct depression, and two keep me in good physical health. I am a pharmaceutical company's dream, buying the line that I need medication to obtain an easy, carefree life.

Everyone knows someone who's being medicated for an emotional disorder of some sort, but how is that possible? It seems that, for the first time, the United States may be failing to produce any sane people. Yet, I find that hard to believe.

More likely, we've somehow lost the ability to cope with everyday struggles. How else can one explain the barrage of 20-somethings from white collar suburbia who are in such dire psychiatric states?

Maybe the decline in inter-

personal communication is to blame. For some reason, computers cannot provide the same support and companionship as an actual human being. Sometimes you just need people who can understand and relate to you. Perhaps you need a hug.

Thus, many people turn to doctors under the belief that they are kind and caring. However, many doctors have too little time to properly evaluate patients and end up prescribing medications that may not be necessary. These miracle pills come with hefty bills and a slew of side effects. So, wouldn't it be better to find happiness on your own?

Millions of dollars are spent every year by people trying to do just that. However, your fellow classmates will dispense their advice for free. These people may not be as wise as Dr. Phil, but they seem to have found some joy they're willing

to share.

Freshman Jaqueline Scott said, "We need to establish a country-wide nap." Sleep deprivation sure does make people cranky, so with a few extra hours of sleep, maybe we'll all be more pleasant.

"I think people should just drink more Mountain Dew and sing karaoke." Wise words from Stephanie Kreeger, a junior. There is nothing better than the sugary goodness of a caffeine high followed by public humiliation.

Tiffany Gonzales, a junior, has a more general solution. She said she believes, "People should lighten up a bit and not take things so seriously." She specifically recommends having a little fun on the weekends with your friends at a strip club. Degrading people is a long-standing tradition, and it sure is a lot of fun. Still, it seems unlikely that someone could

find long-term happiness in stuffing his or her money down someone's G-string. Becoming a stripper, however, might work since exercise can often make people feel better.

"Buy a little incense, throw on a little Marley, put the cartoons on mute and just chill out," said junior Jeff Leazier. Having seen cardigan-wearing Jeff in action, this seems like a highly effective system. He is definitely one mellow cat.

Antoine Finner, a junior, said he's happiest when, "Playing John Madden 2004, crushing my roommate, Girraud Miles Isiah." This doesn't seem like as much fun as chasing your roommate down with a therapy bat, but it's entertaining enough.

"Go on a road trip with your friends and leave the depressing little town of DeKalb. Go anywhere where there isn't corn," recommends junior Rhianna

Janikowski. It is important to note that road trips work best when you own a car. Cruising down the freeway on a mo-ped just isn't that much fun.

In general, the emotionally stable counterpart seems to rely on life's everyday pleasures to make it through the hard times. This is far from a novel concept and still a difficult one to understand. Try spending time with children because they seem to have absolutely nailed this idea.

One thing is clear – we are an overmedicated nation. We are far too strong and powerful to be so helpless. The obvious solution is to throw out the pills and refuse to acknowledge we're crazy. Instead, we should refer to ourselves as eccentrics and claim our individuality.

Wait, that plan is flawed. I do not want to be responsible for the mass suicide of a bunch of truly troubled people. OK, go

back to the loving, caring, busy doctor and discuss your level of craziness. Maybe the doctor will agree and admit that all you need is a little Zen meditation.

If you get the green light to ditch the medication, run through the streets screaming, "I'm free." People will think you're crazy, but this is just insurance in case you really should be chemically treated. Then once you're cookie-cutter sane again, you can just say your meds weren't working properly. Plus, it really is fun to just run around screaming about the state of your freedom.

When you find the solution, that elusive happiness, the non-medicated key to survival, let the rest of us in on the secret. You can become a best-selling author and acquire instant fame. You can even hire me as your bodyguard; I'll protect you against the drug companies in case they get any funny ideas. ♦

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Sidelines is looking for advertising representatives for Fall 2003. Ad reps are responsible for acquiring ad sales, making business contacts in the Murfreesboro area and maintaining a good name for Sidelines with the business community.

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All majors are welcome.

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YA GOT TROUBLE?



Photos by Rick Kersmarki | Staff Photographer
Amanda Lamb plays the role of the mayor's wife in the upcoming production of *The Music Man*. The musical will be performed this weekend and next at Tucker Theater.

Blow it away with *The Music Man*

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

"Take five!"
"Thank you, five."
Workmen, town gossips, children, a mayor, a swindler and a librarian fill MTSU's Tucker Theater stage.
Some grab water bottles to cool parched throats while others discuss entrances and exits. Others flip open a textbook to complete some homework during the break.
It's all in a day's night for theater students as they rehearse their production of *The Music Man*.
The Music Man is a story about a swindler who comes to a small town in order to steal money before moving on. He ends up stealing the town's heart with his charming personality as well as falling in love with the town librarian.
The play is known for its fast-paced, witty dialogue and classic song and dance numbers such as "Seventy-six Trombones" and "Ya Got Trouble."
For this production, Dale McGuilliard is the director, Ralph Bundage is the music coordinator and Richard Brouder is the dance choreographer. Bob Glenn,

vice-president for student affairs, is the sponsor of the production.
"It's pure fun," McGuilliard, professor of speech and theater, says. "It's such an Americana play."
Putting on a production demands significant time and energy commitments from those involved. But students clearly enjoy themselves in the process, even while juggling theater practices with their other academic workload.
"If you love it, you find time for it," Amanda Lamb, a senior with a double major in theater and psychology, says. She plays the role of the mayor's wife in the production.
"For me, theater is a top priority," she adds. "If I don't have it, I waste time. When I do it, it makes me spend my time better."
And time is of the essence when it comes to a theater production.
With just a few days left until show time, students put in an average of four hours a night during the week to attend rehearsals. They often put in additional hours for makeup design and costume fittings.
Curtis Smith, a freshman theater and business management major, acts as a

workman in the play. He views the hectic schedule with a sense of humor.
"You have to take time for it and not get any sleep," he says, grinning. "Time management is really important."
This is an understatement from someone with an 18-hour semester load on top of an average of 36 hours in the scene shop or in rehearsals.
"It's intense," Lamb says. "We've been going seven days a week since the third day of school, with only a couple of days off in between; not to mention makeup continuity."
Lamb expresses enthusiasm for *The Music Man* and says the music and the demand for character projection gives her a challenge.
"I like the fact that it is upbeat and keeps you on your toes," she says. "It's busy. The music is not real easy; it's not always going to do what you think it's supposed to."
David Hudson, a sophomore theater major, plays opposite Lamb as the mayor. He says that acting with a Chicago accent is not the easiest thing for a Southern boy.
"The hardest thing has been learning the Chicago voice," he says. "I have a real

bad Southern accent. [For the play] I've got to be speaking out of the back of my throat."
But students say the highlight of being involved in the play is the relationships formed by working with their professors and other students.
Both Hudson and Lamb agree that the greatest contribution to their theater experience has been working with the theater faculty at MTSU.
"I like [McGuilliard's] style of directing," Hudson adds. "He is a very considerate director. Instead of yelling, he comes up on stage to talk with you about your acting and keeps you from maybe being embarrassed. I appreciate that."
"The [faculty] shows a real interest in their students," Lamb says. "They cater to each individual's need."
If the enthusiasm and energy in rehearsal are any hint of what the real thing will be like, attendees are in for some delightful entertainment.
The musical runs Sept. 25-27, and October 1-4 at Tucker Theater.
All shows start at 7:30pm.
Ya got trouble? Let *The Music Man* blow it away and steal your heart too. ♦



Jonathan
Hicks

The network has been horrible on campus lately, Jonathan. Why is that?

This is an easy but involved question. As some of my loyal readers know, I work in the math lab on campus and in the past couple of weeks I and my fellow lab workers have taken a lot of the blame for the network messing up.

So, I will try to clarify what has been going on and why it is not any of our collective faults.

The simple answer is that there have been a lot of network worms and viruses on campus. These worms cause massive amounts of network traffic and once the network gets saturated it shuts down.

Think about a small town post office. Let's say that it normally gets about 1,000 letters a day. Your credit card bill is received by the post office which then routes it out to your house.

What if one day your post office got 10,000 letters? Your mail would probably be delayed or lost. What about 100,000 letters? Then the post office would have to shut down and find out who is sending all those letters. That's what happened on campus.

When you get on a computer on campus, you make requests for information (letters). These requests can be in the form of trying to surf the Web or printing a paper.

If there is too much information, the router (post office) will shut down. And that's what happens when there are a bunch of worms floating around on the network.

These worms create a lot of traffic and the router gets bogged down.

Now, you may be asking, "Why doesn't MTSU just buy a bigger and better router that can handle more traffic and stop worms?"

Honestly, it wouldn't matter. Microsoft's Web site has been brought down by such network traffic. Unless the school moves to Linux or Macs there will always be viruses and worms.

So, the next time you get angry about not being able to print or why you can't get to your Hotmail account, don't take it out on the lab workers. If you need help with a class project or a printer is out of paper, we can be of assistance. But if every computer on campus can't connect to the internet, then just be patient.

I got an e-mail the other day from Microsoft saying that there is a new worm out and that the attachment they sent me would fix it. Should I trust this attachment?

No. The new worm is the attachment. If you have installed it, you have just infected your computer. This worm doesn't seem too bad as it won't destroy programs. However, it does try to stop any firewall or antivirus software on your computer.

If you do have the virus you can go to www.symantec.com and find a fix for it.

The thing to remember is that you should never open e-mails that look suspicious and are from people you don't know. Microsoft doesn't send out updates. ♦

Send computer questions to jh2f@mtsu.edu.

In the money pit

Tennessee's budget: College funding down, TennCare's up

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

Most college students have heard more than a little about Tennessee's budget woes. It is the conversational scapegoat for everything from tuition raises to explaining why road projects in Tennessee seem to take an average of 15 years to finish.

This year's state budget cuts affect college students by causing the dramatic increases in tuition. That leaves students asking, "Where does the budget money go?"

Some call it conspiracy, but according to members of the state legislature, there is a method to the madness.

First, here are a few facts. State spending has increased, not decreased, this year. According to this year's state budget report, spending has gone from last year's \$20.6 billion to a projected \$21.45 billion this year.

That is a four percent increase instead of the nine per cent cut that has been publicized.

The increase in spending was accomplished by raising the state's Hall Tax which applies to dividends and interest, according to Bill Ford, a MTSU business professor.

"Governor Bredesen did a masterful job of selling the idea of cutting the state budget [at nine percent] across the board," Sen. David Fowler (R-Signal Mountain) says. "We did increase state spending from previous year. [Part of] the nine percent cuts were \$100 million in higher education. This was done in order to not cut K-12 and to increase teacher salaries in lower-paying coun-

ties. There was also a substantial increase in TennCare."

However, don't go around and start taking revenge on third graders just yet. According to Fowler, state cuts and increases are determined by federal money. Certain programs, such as TennCare, Tennessee's state funded health insurance, are mandated and supported financially by the federal government.

"The reason in part that higher education was cut was that in the mind of the governor, K-12 was a greater priority," Fowler says. "TennCare had more [federal] strings that we could not avoid. It is a combination of priorities and mandates. Those programs that are mandated can't be cut. Higher education just doesn't have a lot of federal mandates."

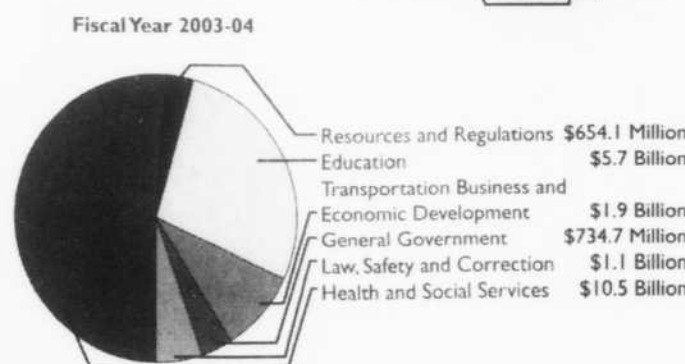
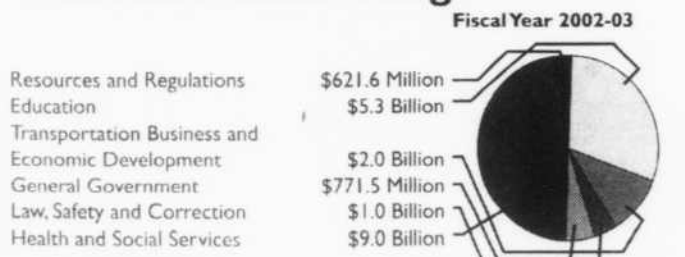
"The problem with TennCare is that if we cut \$1 in TennCare, we cut \$2 in federal money," Rep. John Hood (D-Murfreesboro) says. "We want to cut \$1 for \$1."

"Two of the challenges the state government faces is ... we've gotten so big," Fowler says. "And as a result of having gotten so big, we're in the pursuit of federal dollars and the requirements that come with it. You can't extract yourself when you're in the web."

According to Hood, a total of \$107 million was cut from higher education this year. MTSU received a \$7.7 million cut. This translates into decreased financial support for state colleges and bigger numbers on your school bill.

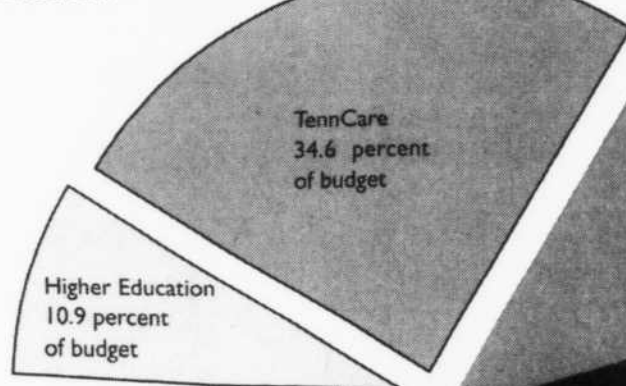
See Budget, 7

Tennessee State Budget



A closer look at the budget

The state of Tennessee has allotted \$7,092,511,500 for TennCare for the fiscal year 2003-04. Higher Education in Tennessee is allotted \$2,232,835,600.



Illustrations by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

SPORTS

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Miguez looks to teamwork for success

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

Ramon Miguez deserves something for his efforts: a thank you card every year, or maybe even a nice basket of fruit every year from the Middle Tennessee soccer coaches.

After all, if not for him, Laura Miguez, a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference player, whose name is written all over the Blue Raider record books, might never have played soccer.

"When I moved to Dallas in first grade, my dad told me that I had to start playing some sport, whatever I chose, and I cried and cried and said I didn't want to do anything," Laura Miguez said. "My best friend across the street was going to join the soccer team, and she said, 'Why don't you just play with me?' and I used to cry all the time, and I didn't ever want to go. My first year I had to do it, but then the second year I wanted to do it. And I've been playing ever since."

Sounds like father really did know best.

"I think playing soccer was an awakening for me," Ramon said of Laura's initial resistance. "At first it was something odd to her, like a child jumping into a swimming pool for the first time," "Then she got used to the water."

She got used to sports so well, in fact, that by the time she graduated from high school, Miguez had played basketball, softball, volleyball and run track in addition to playing for her high school and club soccer teams. Interestingly, there is little athletic history in the Miguez family.

"Both of my parents ran track [in high school], but that's all either one of them did. Neither one of them played collegiate sports," Laura said. "They just wanted me to get active."

Miguez came to MT from J.J. Pearce High School in Dallas, Texas, where she led the Mustangs to two regional finals and one state tournament in three years. Although former MT head coach Scott Ginn recruited her, current head coach Aston Rhoden has been extremely pleased with Laura's work ethic.

"Laura has one of those never-give-up attitudes," Rhoden said. "She's going to work from the first whistle to the last."

Miguez's perseverance allowed her to crack the starting lineup as a freshman and start every game but one, which she missed due to injury.

Last year, she started every game and led the

Blue Raiders with 21 points and nine goals, moving her into fourth place on MT's all-time scoring list with 37 points. Miguez, however, couldn't care less about the records.

"I didn't even know any of the records until the media guide came out and I was reading through it," Miguez said. "I think that soccer is a team sport, and as long as you're focused on the team and not yourself, then that's how you'll play well."

This team-first attitude is exactly what Rhoden admires most about Miguez.

"She's not a really hyped-up, loud vocal leader, but the things that she does—how hard she works and how hard she trains to stay in shape and be at the top of her game—are what inspires her teammates," Rhoden said.

Miguez, however, is not satisfied.

"Last year, I didn't score a goal until the eleventh game of the season, and I'm hoping that this year, the team can jump on track and peak right where we need to, in the middle of the season," she said, referring to the beginning of conference play.

MT was only 3-5 last year in conference matches, finishing seventh in the SBC.

As for scoring earlier in the season, this year Miguez already has four goals, including her second career hat trick last Sunday in a 6-1 win over Birmingham Southern College. She also had two assists, setting a school record for points in a single game with eight.

Of course, Miguez deflected all praise to her teammates.

"I've gotten better plays from my teammates," Miguez said in Monday's *Sidelines*. "I think everyone played better and everyone elevated their play in that people were getting me balls to my feet and where I like them."

When asked for a team goal and a personal goal for this season, Miguez doesn't hesitate to talk about her team's high expectations.

"We want to end up in the top two in the conference and make it to the finals of the conference tournament or the NCAA tournament," Miguez said.

"As for a personal goal," Miguez stops. She just doesn't have a personal goal. After some prodding, she finally finds one.

"I just need to finish all the opportunities the team gives me. If I only get one shot a game, finish it, because my team gave me one shot," Miguez

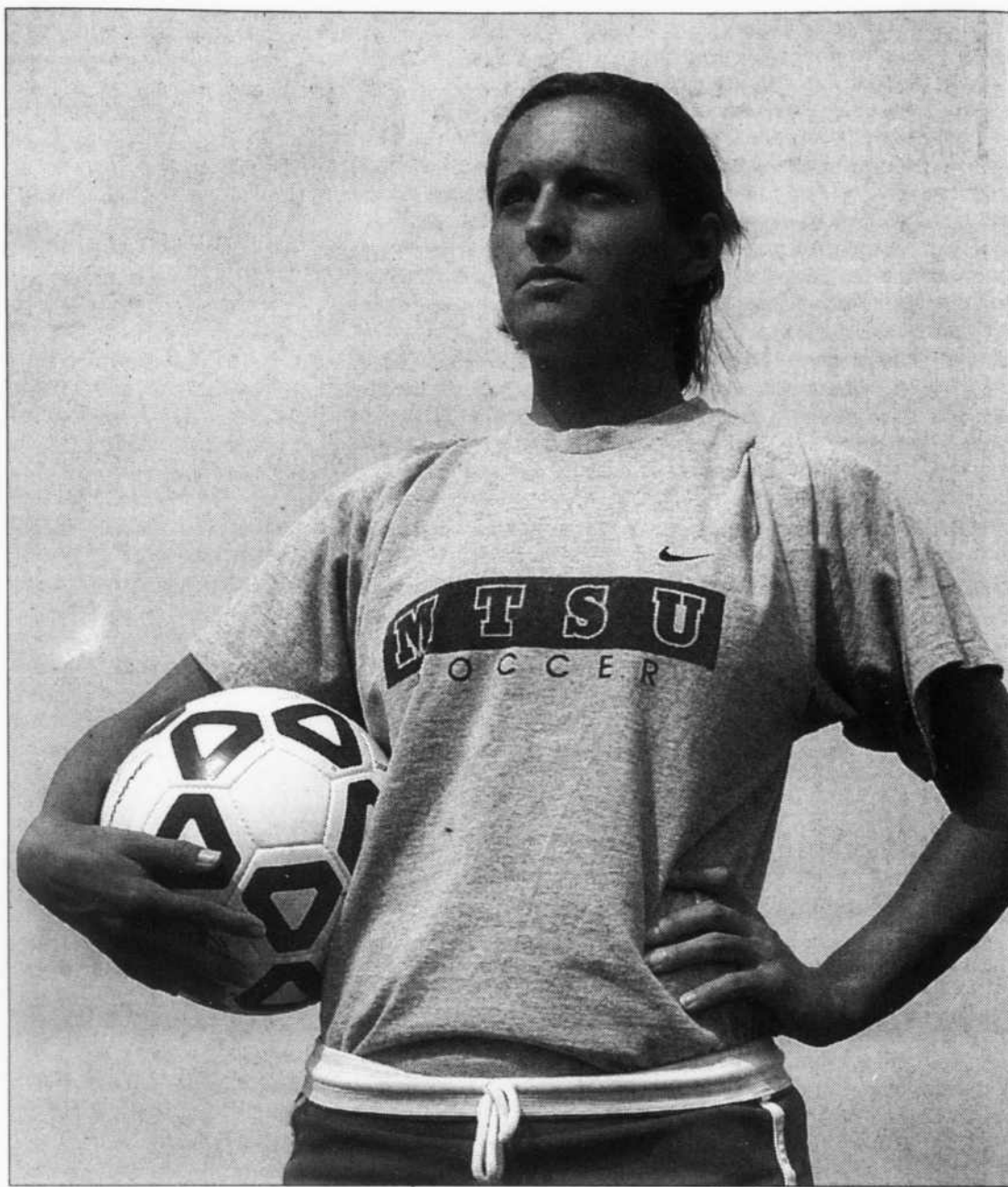


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Laura Miguez has four goals this season for the Blue Raiders soccer team.

said. "If I get five, finish as many as I can, because I think everyone is doing their job, and that's my job."

"I just don't want to let the team down," she added quickly.

All this talk about the importance of teamwork coming from someone who didn't want to play soccer to begin with?

Dad would be proud, and he's waiting for his thank you card. ♦

Taking Sides

Curse of Ruth ends here Braves to take MLB Series

The Hard Truth



Jerry Wilkinson
Asst. Sports Editor

It is almost October, and the MLB playoffs are creeping up on us.

The question is who will be playing in the World Series? Right?

Only four teams from each league will go to the play-offs. Well, here is some insight for all of you baseball fans out there.

In the American League East, the Yankees are, once again, in the driver's seat, but Boston is in the back seat at the moment only five games back.

The Yankees are a

hard-fought bunch with cocky attitudes and the skills to back them up, but they are not perfect and can be beaten.

The Red Sox will be in the playoffs as wild card with no problems. Just a few weeks ago, the Red Sox beat the Yanks 2-1 in a three game series. If they have the momentum, the Boston ball club may have a shot at taking the AL.

The Minnesota Twins lead the Chicago White Sox in the AL Central by six games and will take the division.

Oakland will take the AL West. Although Seattle played great this season, they will stay at home this year.

Between Boston, the New York Yankees, Minnesota and Chicago, I believe that Boston will represent the AL in the World Series. Sorry Yankees

fans, George Steinbrenner can buy championship caliber players, but he can't buy the championship.

Now, for all you Braves fans out there, the Braves have clinched the National League East. This could be some good news for Braves fans. Atlanta is 12 games up on Florida in the NL East Division.

However, I've failed to mention the Philadelphia Phillies. At the moment, no team has been chosen as a wild card for the NL.

The battle for the wild card is between the Marlins and the Phillies.

If Philadelphia wins out and the Marlins lose the rest of their games, then we may see the Phillies playing the Braves in

See Curse, 10

A Sports Almanac



David Hunter
Staff Columnist

One of the year's best sporting events will take place when the MLB playoffs begin next week.

After a very long regular season, eight teams will have a chance to walk away as World Series Champions.

Last year, the Anaheim Angels came out of nowhere to get the American League wild card.

They followed their momentum to capture the title. However, the Angels will have no shot to repeat as World

Series champions this year.

It is anybody's guess to pick who will walk away with the title this season.

Any of the four teams from both leagues came make cases for why they each have a shot to win it all.

Let's start in the AL, where the New York Yankees have clinched a playoff spot, and the other two division races are almost over.

Yankees manager Joe Torre better get his resume ready, because after the Yankees get knocked out early, Torre will be looking for another job.

At the beginning of the season, the fight for the AL Central was between the Chicago White Sox and the surprising Kansas City Royals.

However, as the season went on, the Minnesota Twins snuck

up on both teams and are really close to winning their second straight division title.

In the AL West, the Seattle Mariners had the early lead, but they did not make any moves at the trading deadline.

The Oakland Athletics took advantage and moved into the top spot.

The Athletics will win the division and could be a team to watch in October.

The Athletics have the best pitching staff from top to bottom in the majors.

The Boston Red Sox will dispose of the Mariners for the AL Wild Card.

In the National League, the Atlanta Braves and the San Francisco Giants have punched their tickets for the NL playoffs.

See Braves, 10



Sports Briefs



Compiled by Amy Jones-Foster
Sports Editor

Autograph session to benefit Special Kids, Inc.

Belle Air Baptist Church will host a Celebrity Autograph Session and Memorabilia Auction Oct. 21 at 4:30 p.m. to benefit Special Kids, Inc.

Guests include NASCAR standouts Sterling Marlin and Chad Chaffin.

Others in attendance will be members of the Tennessee Titans, who have not yet been announced. Live entertainment will be provided by Forerunner, Tim McGraw's opening act.

Ticket prices are \$25 for one autographed item or \$100 for a picture and one item autographed.

All money goes to Special Kids, Inc., which is a member of the United Way.

For any questions call Special Kids, Inc. at 890-1003.

Hines, Lynch honored by Sun Belt Conference

Quarterback Andrico Hines and safety Brandon Lynch were honored by the Sun Belt Conference for their efforts in last week's game against No. 23 Missouri.

Hines was named the Offensive Player of the Week and Lynch came away with Defensive Player of the Week honors.

Hines, who guided the offense to a season-high 40 points and 483 total yards, also scored on a four-yard touchdown run in overtime. This is the second time Hines has won the award during his career.

Lynch, from Hephzibah, Ga., turned in another strong effort at Missouri.

The team's leading tackler recorded 11 total stops against the Tigers to equal his career-best, and on numerous occasions made big tackles to help get the defense off the field.

Lynch, who also had a touchdown-saving tackle in the second quarter at Missouri, has 37 tackles on the season to go with an interception and a fumble recovery.

Tennis takes eight wins at Seminole Fall Classic

MT won all three doubles and five of six singles matches over Nebraska in the final day of the Seminole Fall Classic in Tallahassee, Fla.

MT's only loss came in three sets as Nebraska's Jose Rivera defeated Trevor Short 7-6 (12), 4-6, 10-6 in the tiebreaker.

Blue Raider Andreas Siljestrom won 6-2, 6-1 over Joerg Barthel, and Rishan Kuruppu took care of Joel Reckewey 6-0, 6-2.

Kai Schledorn defeated Jeff Nabity 6-3, 6-0, while Anant Sitaram won 6-2, 6-1 over Justin Junick, and Brandon Allan took care of Tanner Gates 6-3, 6-1.

In doubles action, Sitaram and Short defeated

Barthel and Rivera 9-8 (11), while Kuruppu and Siljestrom took care of Junck and Reckewey 8-4. Allan and Schledorn blanked Ryan Jay and Nabity.

Georgia basketball starter transfers to MT

Men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis has announced that Steve Thomas, a student from Georgia, has transferred to MT.

Thomas, a 6-foot-8-inch, 240-pound senior, will sit out this season due to NCAA transfer rules but will have one season of eligibility remaining for the 2004-05 campaign.

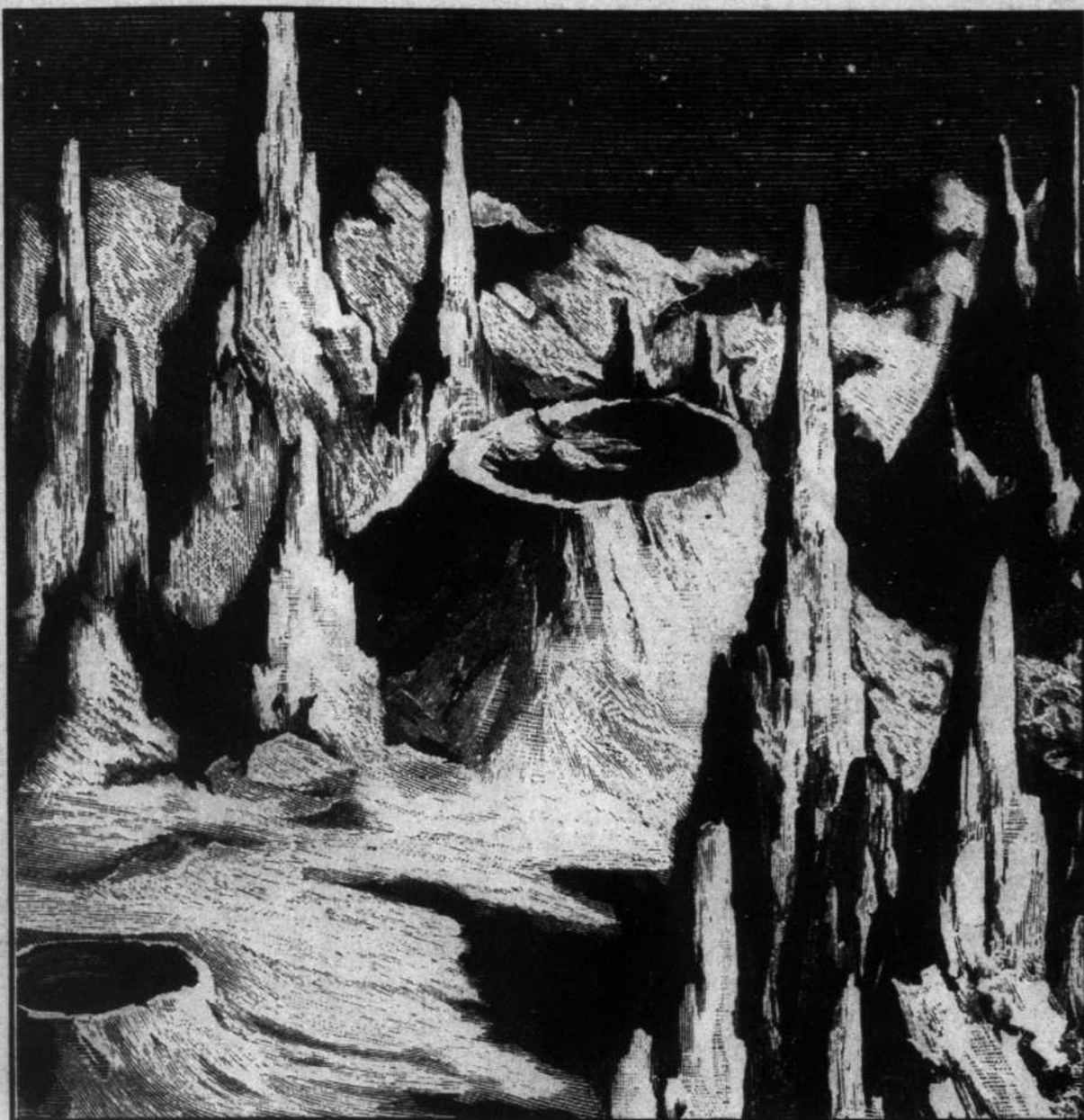
Thomas is a native of Carrollton, Ga., and had been a starter for the Bulldogs for the past two seasons.

Thomas averaged 10.2 points per game as a junior and turned in a team-leading 7.3 rebounds per contest. He also registered 30 blocks over the course of the year. ♦

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Honda Accord, 1990 model, 2 door, 196k miles. Fairly good condition. Priced at \$1,900. Call Paul at 615-631-5562.

8' x 10' steel storage building with ok wood floor, 1 yr old, \$175 obo. Couch with recliners in both ends, \$125. 2 6.5" kicker bass tubes, make offer. 28" m7x speakers with ok box, make offer. Saddlebags(ok con) and sissy bar, make offer. Robert young 931-629-2739.

Honda Accord LX '99 V6 Pearl Grey. 4 Door. Auto 98k miles. CD, PW, PDL. Perfect Condition \$8499 obo. call 615-260-9059.

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Books for Sale!! Most general requirement books, including Geo 1030, Bio 1030, CSCI 1150, ENG 2030, Harbrace handbook and many more! Contact (615) 631-1805 for more information.

'91 Topaz needs engine work. Good body and transmission. \$550, OBO. (615) 579-3019

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Hide-a-bed sofa for sale. Beige. Excellent condition. \$100. (615) 497-3717.

Large corner computer desk - \$100. Five-foot air hockey table - \$50. Call (615) 217-4307. Ask for Michael or Brad.

Three 8-inch JL Audio VV-3 subwoofers. One Sony Mobile ES. 260 G Amplifier. \$300 - negotiable. Call (615) 294-0101. Ask for Brad or leave message.

Need to sell books ASAP! Survey of Recording Industry (\$28), Modern Recording Techniques (\$36), Rockin' Out (\$28), Hitmen (\$10), After the Fact-Vol. 1 (\$20), Strange New Land (\$9), Media and Culture (\$45), Peoples History of the American Revolution (\$9), When I Was a Slave (\$2). Contact Hannah at (615) 497-1756 or hmg2c@mtsu.edu.

Services

Guitar Lessons-comfortable studio. \$10 per 1/2 hour. One minute

from campus. Call Matthew for times. 849-1680. Leave a message.

ATP Auto Dealing. Full-service wash and wax starting at \$60. Contact Casey (615) 414-6112 or atpautodetail@yahoo.com

Personal trainer: Are you serious about getting in shape? A personal trainer is the best way to ensure that you achieve your goals. Contact Tim Kappe 504-905-2012 or Trkzd@mtsu.edu

Career

Are you interested in earning your PhD? Would you like to have your own personal research mentor? Would like to receive funding to conduct research? Are you interested in preparation for graduate levels studies? If you answered yes to the above questions please contact the MTSU McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Program is located in Midgett 103 (back of KOM). Our Staff would like to tell you more about our distinguished program. Information may also be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair/>

Internships

Get paid to prepare to graduate school. To qualify, student has to be a low-income/first generation or underrepresented student and have a desire to achieve earning a PhD. Have a 3.0 GPA and 60 earned credit hours by May 2004. For more information, contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program** located in Midgett 103 (back of KOM) or call 904-8462 for more information.

Employment

Meet **Mark!!** Call Lisa @ 898-4623 to see **Mark's** "remarkable" beauty, skin care and accessories catalog or to host a **Mark** party of your own. Make **\$\$\$** and have fun at the same time, great for sororities and other groups.

Marketing Major. Looking for an opportunity to work in your field!! Maybe use this as an internship!! Why not get paid to see if you have chosen the right major!! New hotel in Lavergne is looking for an enthusiastic sales person to sell this hotel in a very large industrial area great opportunity!! Please fax resume att: Sales Dept. @Super 8 Motel. 615-793-9050, or call for an interview @ 615-793-9999.

Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305

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Midlander, MTSU's yearbook. 10-20 hours per week. Commission based. Come by JUB 306 to fill out an application.

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Young leaders wanted. Must be friendly and dependable. Team atmosphere. Great hours and pay! Casey 1-877-264-9144.

Opportunities

ARTISTS/ART STUDENTS
A graphic design student is planning to publish a 2005 art calendar featuring artwork of MTSU students and Middle Tennessee artists. If you would like for your artwork to be included in the calendar, call John at (615) 832-4702 or email at jdcunningham@bellsouth.net.

Make money selling Miscellaneous items. Consignment sale 70/30. For more info. call 898-4684.

Movie extras/models needed. No experience Required, all looks and ages. earn \$100-\$300 a day. 1888-820-0167 ext. U421.

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Interested in business opportunity with great pay and flexible hours? Call (615) 319-3072.

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Roommate

Roommate needed (male preferred). Old lascassas 1/2 mile from Campus. Rent \$250. Deposit \$200. Need roommate until the end of May 2004. Cable furnished. Low utilities.

Roommate needed to share 3BR condo, walking distance to campus. Rent \$250 month, plus 1/3 utilities and 1/3 deposit. Call John (615) 542-3295.

Seeking females only for a nice-sized room available in a 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Located 3 miles away from MTSU. Currently only two people are residing in this townhouse so there is more than one room available. Rent \$350/mo and utilities are divided among the number of people there. Call (615) 783-1336, or (901) 262-1734 after 4 p.m.

Need two female roommates/boarders for three bedroom house in Smyrna. Access to computer and pool. Fenced backyard, outside animals allowed. Daughter (4.0 GPA) senior at MTSU in house for possible transportation and tutoring. Furnished or unfurnished; private bath; laundry, kitchen privileges. All utilities furnished. Direct TV, phone, small deposit. References required. \$400/month (negotiable). Call (615) 223-7729 pr (615) 364-5690. Available Aug. 1.

Female roommate needed asap to share a 2 bed 1 1/2 bath condo on Bell St. Fully furnished with W/D and dishwasher. Rent is \$400 and includes all utilities. Call 931-473-7502 for more information.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

Room for rent, no lease or deposit. \$250 a month plus 1/4 utilities. Conveniently located within walking distance of campus. Call Tony or Jamie at (615) 867-3088.

Roommate needed to share a 3-bedroom house 5 min. from campus. Off-street parking. Large lot. Washer/dryer. Rent is \$300 /month + 1/3 of utilities. Contact Ryann at (615) 907-3994.

\$300 a month, includes all utilities, you rent your own room and share common living spaces (kitchen, living room, bath...). The house is located on a large farm (w/ a big front yard) off of 96 1-

1/2 miles from I-24. A quick 15 minute commute in the morning traffic to campuses via 99. \$300 refundable deposit, \$300 on the first of each month, will gladly prorate August. For more information, call Wallace @ (615) 397-8243.

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FREE CATS! 2 indoor cats free to good home. Take one or both! One is a beautiful multicolor fat cat. Other is frisky white cat with orange and black spots. Please call by end of Sept. 587-1154.

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Sublease needed immediately. 1Bdr/1Ba in a spacious 3 Bdr Apt. Own bathroom with a huge walk in closet. 2 Friendly, clean, male roommates. Set rate of \$425 per month which covers everything. Sept. rent free and Oct. only if you act now. Call Jeremy at 615-631-3822.

Subleaser needed for 1 BR/1 BA in 4 BR/4BA at University Courtyard. \$0 deposit. \$395/month, utilities included. Move in Aug. 15. Call Lisa, (615) 828-6626.

One bedroom apartment. Walk to MTSU. \$395/month. 896-5017/812-1744.

Upstairs apartment in home (all utilities paid). Digital cable \$40/mo. Prefer female non-smoker. 3 miles from I-24 off Franklin Rd. \$500 monthly + deposit and proof of income/references. (615) 893-0806 or (615) 898-7981.

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Wanted! CLEP Study Guides. Please call 703-728-7510 or email arc3a@mtsu.edu.

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Did you lose something in the first floor women's room of the James E. Walker Library? If so, email me and describe the item. Laka2a@mtsu.edu

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Baker leads Lady Raiders as co-captain

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

Karisse Baker, co-captain of the Middle Tennessee volleyball team, didn't begin playing the sport because she enjoyed the game.

She didn't train for hours after school in order to make the team.

She started playing volleyball because she couldn't be a cheerleader.

"At the middle school I went to, my friends and I all wanted to be cheerleaders. You couldn't be a cheerleader until you got to the seventh grade, and you tried out at the end of your sixth grade year," Baker said.

"So we had been going to clinics and camps and all the cheerleading stuff because we were going to be cheerleaders, and we knew all the little dances and all the cheers and everything."

"We try out and none of the rising seventh graders make the cheerleading squad," Baker recalled. We were all devastated and crying, and our hearts were broken. It was a big deal."

Although their adolescent dreams had been shattered, Baker and her friends quickly recovered.

"And then volleyball tryouts came around, and we were just like, 'Might as well play [volleyball]," she said. "None of us knew how to play, we just said, 'Let's try out for the team; we don't have anything else to do since we're not cheering anymore.'"

Of course, Baker and all of

her friends, who she noted were all athletic, made the team. In fact, they also played basketball and ran track, but soon Baker realized volleyball was her strongest sport. By the time she was a senior at Hume-Fogg Academic High School in Nashville, Tenn., she had grown comfortable with MTSU and MT head coach Lisa Kissee.

"Every year I was in high school, we came [to MTSU] for a volleyball camp, so I felt good about the campus," Baker said. "Plus, I had a relationship with Coach [Kissee] already, because the summer going into my senior year I played on an AAU volleyball team that she took to Orlando."

Kissee saw a wealth of potential in Baker, but she also knew that Baker would have a lot to work on.

"She had some things to learn regarding her discipline and her commitment, which she's done," Kissee said of Baker. "She has worked very hard and she has changed her body a lot from high school to now. She's much stronger."

Karisse admitted that despite her familiarity with the Lady Raiders, she was scared as a freshman, to the point where she didn't want to work out and was "dependent on everybody else."

Now, as co-captain along with fellow senior KeKe Deckard, she's not afraid to lead her team.

"I am always telling somebody what they can do, just things to help them," Baker said.

"I think everybody knows that there's not any attitude, nothing like, 'I'm telling you what to do,' it's just more like, 'I just see something that maybe you don't see.'"

So far this season, Baker has been seeing good results on the court. She has 163 kills, second on the team to Deckard.

She leads MT with 14 blocks and is one of only four Lady Raiders to have started every game this season.

Needless to say, Kissee has been pleased with Baker's quick start.

"I think she's had a really good start to her senior year," Kissee said. "She's doing an excellent job on defense and off of her serve, even though we haven't used her in the back row. She's one of our better players at reading defenses."

Both Baker and Kissee real-

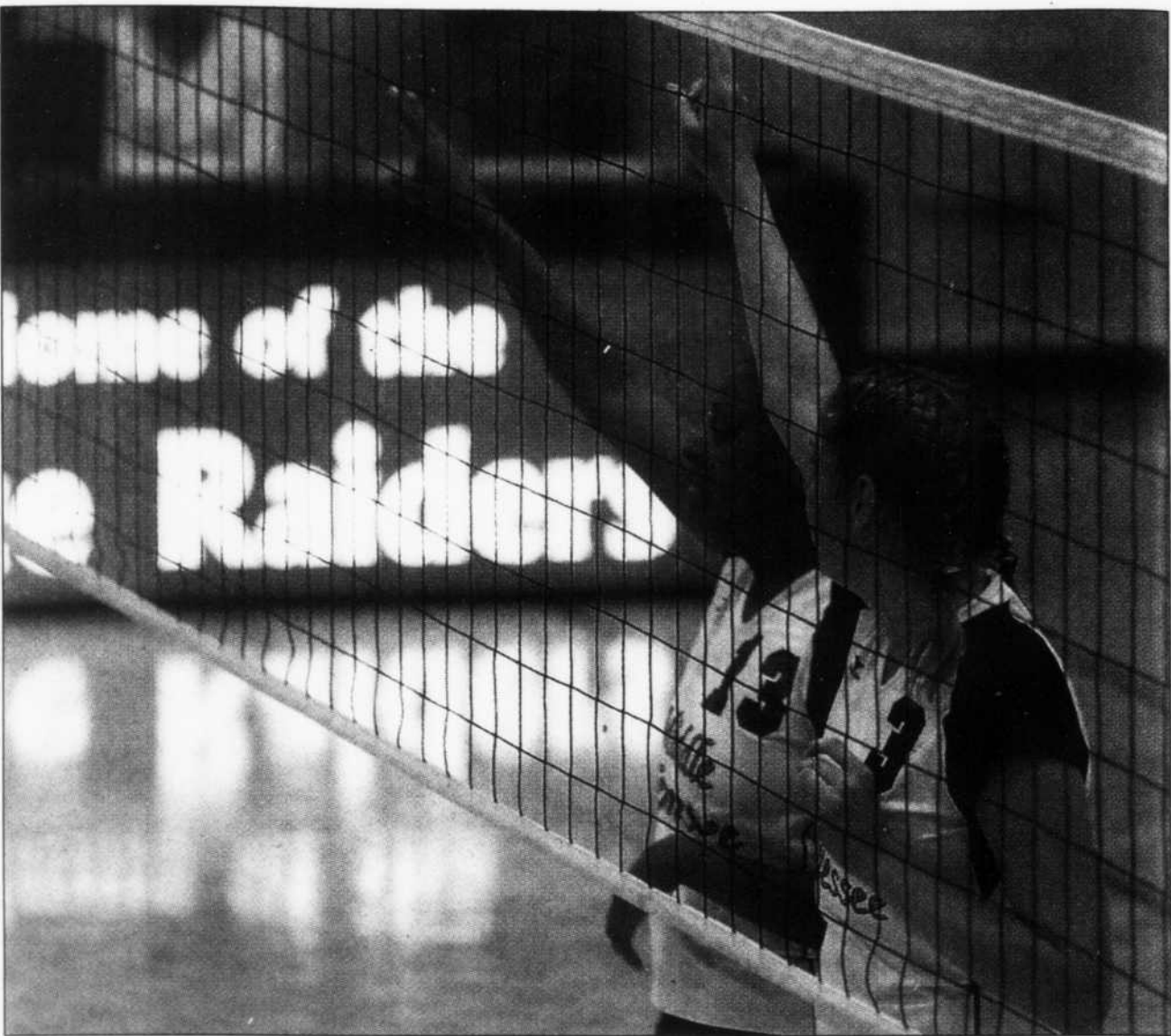


Photo by Amy Jones-Foster | Staff Photographer
Karisse Baker (13) and Dara McLean (3) present a play during the MSU match Saturday night.

ize, however, that this is Baker's last year as a Lady Raider. Consequently, Baker is focused on the team's success above her own.

"I want the team to win. I wouldn't be as happy if I was an

all-conference player and the team did poorly," Baker said. "It would just be gravy if I could get an award or two."

Even so, Kissee wants to make sure Baker has no regrets at the end of the season.

"I want her to finish knowing she didn't hold anything back," Kissee said.

"That she took all the risks, that she took all the responsibility, that she took all the pressure and just went with it." ♦

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Curse: Sox are underdogs

Continued from 8

the NL championship. We shall see.

The Houston Astros and the Chicago Cubs are in a race to clinch the NL Central.

The Cubs may pull out and win the central division. The Astros are on a two-game losing streak at the moment.

The San Francisco Giants have clinched the NL West and have a good shot at making the "Big Series," but I will make this

easy for all of you fans out there. The Braves are going to be the NL champions.

Now, here comes the bad news for Atlanta fans. I know that this area is flooded with Braves fans, and they have faith in their favorite ball club, but I predict the Boston Red Sox will win the World Series against the Atlanta Braves.

Sorry guys and gals, maybe next year. ♦

Braves: National League team will take first

Continued from 8

The Braves won the East for the 13th consecutive year, while the Giants are looking to bounce back from their loss to the Angels in last season's World Series.

On the other hand, the two other spots are turning into a dog fight that could go all the way to the last day of the season.

This week, the Philadelphia Phillies will travel to Miami to take on the Florida Marlins.

This three-game series will decide who will take the NL Wild Card. I would like the Marlins to win. The Marlins have one of the most underrated pitching staffs in the majors, which includes Dontrelle Willis.

Another major race is in the NL Central between the Chicago Cubs and the Houston Astros.

As of Tuesday, both teams are tied for the lead in the division.

I think the leadership and

experience of manager Dusty Baker will help the Cubs win the division. Also, I would love to see Baker get a chance to stick it to his former team, the Giants, especially the way management treated him after leading the Giants to the World Series last year.

This year's MLB playoffs should be fun, but in the end, the Athletics and the Braves will face off with the Braves coming out as the World Champions. ♦

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