

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about taking Bob McLean's name off of the music building?



Stuck



Canton

"I feel that they should change it to 'liar and a thief' music hall. It's ridiculous. Why would the college want to name a building after a man who committed suicide because he could not handle the way he lived?"

-Jim Stuck, Senior RIM major

"It's just a name. There will still be the same professors and people there. A name change won't make a big difference, at least to me anyway. Juliet from Shakespeare said, 'a rose by any other name is just as sweet.'"

-Corey Canton, freshman, vocal major



Gonzalez



Nickleberry

"Fairly apathetic. It would depend on the reasoning of it. Yes he killed himself, yes he stole a bunch of money, but at the same time putting someone's name on a building is just as intelligent as tattooing someone's name on your body. It's not..."

-Nicole Gonzalez, Sophomore, Pre-Med

"It's a part of the history and we should keep it. Though he stole the money, there still is some good in the name. He did something bad, but he still did some good for the school. We should definitely keep it."

-Randal Nickleberry, Junior, Criminal Justice

Woman falls victim to hoax

Associated Press

A Murfreesboro resident told police she paid a woman claiming to be a healer \$4,000 to remove a curse.

Murfreesboro police said the so-called healer, going by the name Estella, knocked on the door of Araceli Lopez, and told the 24-year-old woman she was cursed and needed to be cleansed. Lopez paid the woman \$4,000 and also gave her about \$2,000 worth of jewelry.

"One of the things con artists do is they prey on people's vulnerabilities," said Kyle Evans, Murfreesboro police spokesman.

Investigators said Lopez was duped because she does not speak English and the fake healer was able to intimidate her.

"This is really a unique case," Evans said. "This isn't something that we see every day."

Information from WTVF-TV, Nashville, <http://www.newschannel5.com> and WSMV-TV, Nashville, <http://www.wsmv.com>

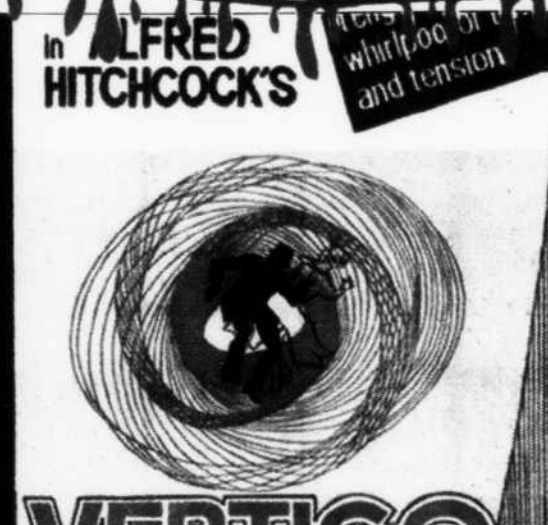
MTSU Halloween Horror Fest



STANLEY KUBRICK'S
THE SHINING



THE EXORCIST



ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
VERTIGO

Three of the movies that will be showing the week of Halloween are The Shining, The Exorcist and Alfred Hitchcock's Vertigo.

Staff Reports

The Films Committee of MTSU Student Programming is sponsoring MTSU Halloween Horror Fest from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

Five films will be shown over the course of those days and on Halloween night at 12 a.m. there will be a showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

After the movie, there will host a costume competition for the best Horror-themed costume. The winner will receive a DVD copy of the movie.

All movies except for The Rocky Horror Picture Show will be showing at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. and will cost \$2.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show will be showing at 12 a.m. and will cost \$3.

Oct. 29: "The Shining"

Oct. 30: "Vertigo"

Oct. 31: "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

Nov. 1: "The Exorcist"

Red Cross partners with MTSU as disaster shelter

By Tiffany Gibson

Staff Writer

MTSU signed a public agreement with the Red Cross to help shelter disaster victims on Mon. in the Recreational Center. The event was held in the upstairs dance studio and was open to the public. Ray Wiley, associate director for student recreation, revealed the new blueprint and contract for a disaster shelter at MTSU.

The shelter will be held in the Rec center in the basketball gymnasium in case of an emergency, and will only run when required or called upon to open.

Linda Skinner, Heart of Tennessee Chapter Emergency Services Director, hopes that the shelter never has to be opened. That would imply that people have suffered a disaster. However, Skinner believes that it is reassuring knowing that MTSU is there to help if a shelter was needed.

Due to MTSU's availability of space, it has been estimated that up to eighty people would be able to stay on each basketball court. In fact MTSU's 120,000 square feet recreation center was considered for use when Hurricane Katrina devastated the nation and destroyed many residences in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

However, Wiley says MTSU at the time was under-prepared to take on the responsibility. Soon after the tragedy broke, Wiley and eight other faculty members visited Alabama State in hope of learning about their shelter program and constructing one for MTSU.

Victims residing in the shelter will be on a precise schedule so it does not interfere with student athletics. Wiley has drawn up a schedule that will allow groups of individuals to shower, converse with members of the Red Cross and take meals. Depending on certain situations or events that may arise, the schedule is subject to change, but Wiley believes strongly in meeting all of his client's needs throughout their temporary stay.

"We like to help them [victims] feel like they're getting back a sense of control and

stability in their life as well as being able to figure out their next step," said Wiley.

Along with a schedule the victims will also receive a pamphlet stating some of the facility/shelter rules. A few of these rules will include being aware of restricted areas, signing in and out daily at the lounge, carrying no weapons or controlled substances and controlling noise levels during sleeping hours.

The American Red Cross Association, better known as the Heart of Tennessee Chapter to Bedford, Cannon, Rutherford and Wayne counties, is a chapter of the Red Cross that insures that clients have short-term housing, clothing, food and essential medication. The Heart Of Tennessee Chapter has also been working with Aramark to cater meals to the victims.

"We serve somewhat like a bridge between the disaster itself and the beginning of the recovery road for the client," said Skinner.

Skinner went on to say that the Heart of Tennessee Chapter is a volunteer organization that relies on volunteers to help meet the emergency disaster needs of relatives, friends, neighbors and community members. During a tragedy trained volunteers are needed in case the shelter would need to be activated within two hours. MTSU and the Heart Of Tennessee Chapter strongly encourage students and community members to prepare themselves by enrolling in preparation classes.

Disaster classes will be held at the MTSU public safety office in the training center on behalf of Chief Buddy Peaster's courtesy to lend this space. Classes will begin on Oct. 30 and will continue every Tues. and Thurs. until Nov. 8. Wiley and Skinner will be teaching four classes that are ultimately required in order to become a shelter worker.

"It's important for anyone and everyone to receive disaster training because you can take the training wherever you go and better the community you end up in," said Wiley. ♦

ONE Campaign recruits MT to become shelter

By Johnathon Schleicher

Staff Writer

The ONE Campaign, dedicated to fight global poverty and disease, initiated the ONE Campus Challenge on Sept. 29. The campus challenge is an attempt to get U.S. college campuses involved with the ONE Campaign, and MTSU has taken an active role.

The cause was announced by Bono and Chris Rock on a Saturday night by a MTV forum involved with youth activism, the news release stated. The MTV forum stated that the challenge was a call to a generation to take the lead and fight against poverty.

"The trip I took to Africa with my family was an incredible, yet depressing journey," said comedian Chris Rock. "We were on the world's most beautiful continent, only to face the somber fact that tens of thousands of children die each day from diseases easily prevented and treated in other countries... It's time to get off of our couches, put down the video games, stop sitting around, and do something more to help. That's what ONE is all about."

The total points MTSU has accumulated as of Oct. 23 that the campus has earned is 1,740. The national position is 260. Points are earned through invites and sign ups as well as actions benefiting the campaign like: letters to congress. Other campuses and information on how to join the challenge are found at the ONE Campus Challenge Web site www.one.org/campus/.

One of the Campaign's methods to reach its goals is the Internet. Kimberly Cadena, the ONE Campaign's spokesperson said, "the goal of the ONE Campus Challenge is to recruit 100,000 new ONE members on 1,000 college campuses nationwide and create widespread awareness of global disease and extreme poverty. Already, ONE has over 115,000 'friends' on MySpace and more than 62,000 contacts for the ONE cause on Facebook." Student groups are also encouraged to hold regular meetings and participate in activities on campus.

ONE will track each school's progress, rewarding them for their accomplishments as the campaign progresses, the release stated. This method will curb the competition between the campuses and encourage participation to work as one. The campus with the most points overall will have the opportunity to host a performance on their campus. The grand prize is currently a secret, but there will be weekly challenges for the campus to reach certain milestones. ♦

Disney Internships
taxing, rewarding

See Features 5

Celebrity justice not
real justice

See Opinions 6

2007-08 Sun Belt
Basketball Preview

See Sports 7

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 57°
LO: 44°

Friday



HI: 61°
LO: 38°

Saturday



HI: 69°
LO: 38°

Sunday



HI: 60°
LO: 37°

Vol. 83 No. 15 - www.mtsusidelines.com

Sex offenders discouraged from Halloween festivities

Press Release

The Tennessee Board of Probation & Parole has sent letters to sex offenders it supervises, advising them that they are prohibited from participating in Halloween activities. Board Executive Director Bo Irvin said, "Protecting the safety and welfare of the public, especially children, is our primary goal. We put these restrictions in writing so there can be no misunderstanding about what is and is not an appropriate activity for a sex offender under our supervision."

The letters advise sex offenders that:

- Neither they, nor anyone in their home can answer the door to trick or treaters on Halloween;
- They cannot pass out candy;
- Their homes cannot be decorated for Halloween, either inside or outside;
- They cannot host Halloween parties at their homes;
- They cannot go to haunted houses, corn mazes, hay rides or any other seasonal activity;
- They cannot be at any function where children are gathered, including private residences;
- They cannot give any Halloween treats to children;
- They cannot wear costumes and
- They cannot take any child trick or treating.

Curfews are another tool probation and parole officers can use in supervising sex offenders. During the rest of the Halloween season, officers will also be making extended visits, both announced and unannounced, to verify compliance.

The Board of Probation and Parole (www2.state.tn.us/bopp/home.htm) is an independent seven-member board whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board is charged with the responsibility of deciding which eligible felony offenders will be granted parole and released from incarceration to community-based supervision. Along with the supervision of those granted parole, the Board is also responsible for supervising felony offenders who are placed on probation by criminal courts. ♦

Job Opportunities for college students

Submitted by Kin Dabney

The growth in Murfreesboro and the City School System has created new opportunities for college students and the surrounding community. This growth has allowed college students the opportunity to gain experience in working with children in a fun and structured environment. In many instances, college students have expanded skills learned in the classroom and have applied skills such as music, art, photography, technology etc in the teaching environment of ESP.

The Extended School Program is located at all twelve Murfreesboro City School sites. It is our mission to provide safe, educationally enriching, fun and rewarding experiences for all students at Murfreesboro City Schools. ESP provides opportuni-

ties for expanded experiences in the areas of fine arts, music, science, technology, language arts, math, recreational sports, health and wellness, and other targeted areas. There are also a variety of life and cultural activities provided through field trip experiences.

Currently, the Extended School Program is seeking part-time staff to work with elementary school students from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you are interested in enriching the lives of children in your community by helping children develop emotionally, socially, cognitively, and physically, please contact Cindy Haynes or Kim Dabney at 893-2313. Applications may be downloaded from the website. Applications may also be picked up from the Murfreesboro City Schools Extended School Office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday: ♦



Photo's submitted by Kin Dabney

Children participate in the Extended School Program, otherwise known as ESP after their regularly scheduled classes.

CRIME BRIEFS

are available online at
mtsusidelines.com

Study Abroad Fair on Nov. 1

Staff Report

The MT Abroad office would like to announce the 2007 Study Abroad Fair to be held Nov. 1 on the second floor of the Keathley University Center, just outside The Grill.

There will be foreign foods to sample, international music and numerous people representing various venues of the study abroad experience will be available to answer questions.

A few of the representatives include: MTSU Study Abroad program, General Education program in France, MTSU Exchanges, the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad, the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, STA Travel, which handles student travel plans including flights, hotels and transportation and the American Institute for Foreign Study.

The Fair is available to introduce new ways of learning from different countries to MTSU students who are eligible for the program.

The MT Abroad office would like to remind everyone that we are temporarily located in the TODD Art building, room 129. ♦

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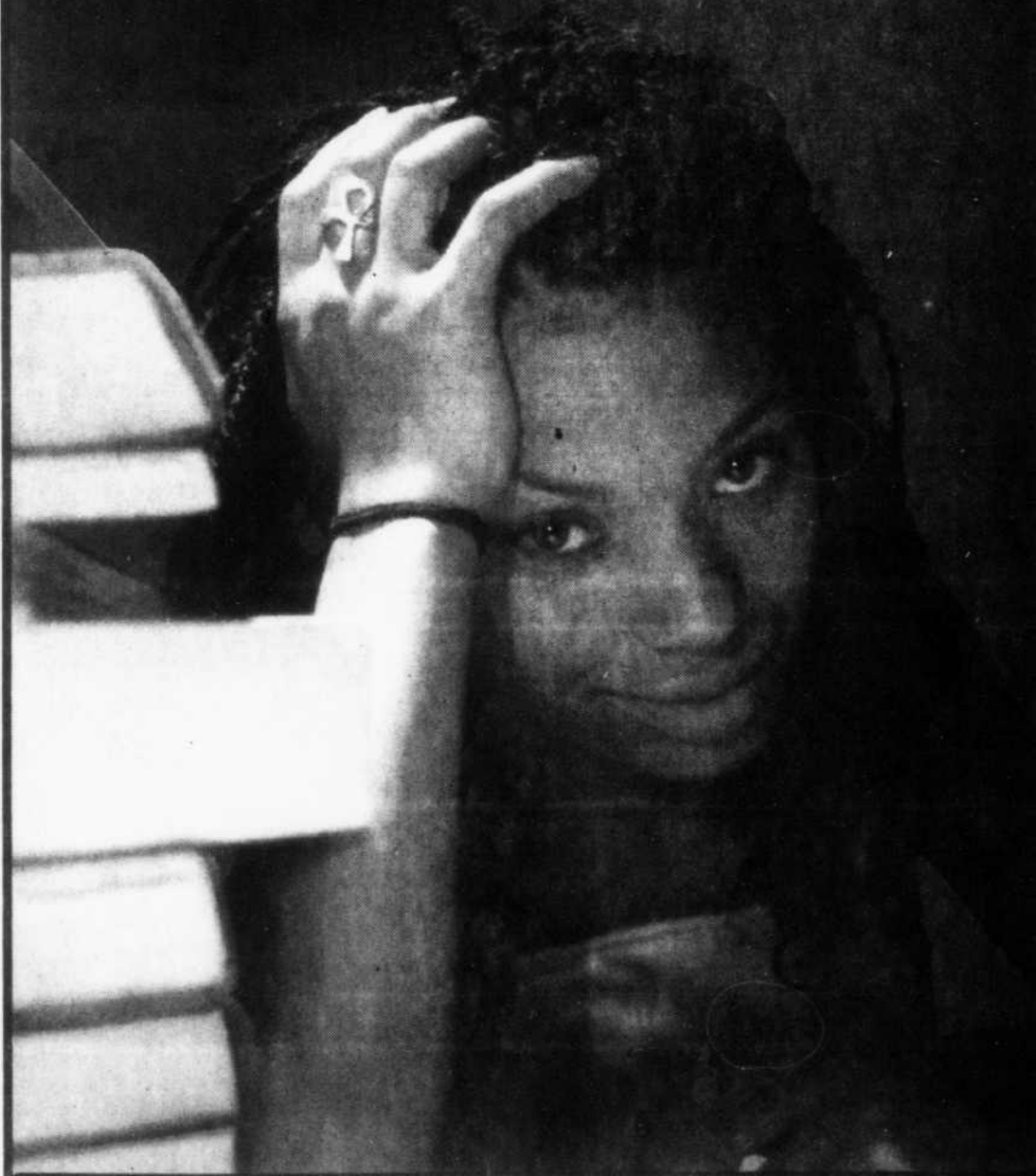
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Wildfires in San Diego force Chargers to flee state

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The San Diego Chargers boarded a plane for Phoenix on Tuesday night, not knowing where or when they'll play their next game.

They were forced to leave town: after wildfires chased many in the organization out of their homes, fouled the air and left Sunday's scheduled home game against the Houston Texans in doubt.

Superstar running back LaDainian Tomlinson knows his home survived the firestorm but their general manager hasn't yet heard if he'll have a house to come home to.

After spending Monday taking care of their families, it was time to get back to business.

"We need to get ready to play football," said general manager A.J. Smith, who doesn't know if his home is still standing.

The Chargers will practice at the Arizona Cardinals' headquarters in Tempe on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. They packed for any eventuality, since the NFL and the Chargers are still debating what to do about Sunday's game.

San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium is being used as an evacuation center. An estimated 10,000 people were there on Tuesday, under smoky skies.

Qualcomm Stadium general manager Erik Stover said the building can be ready to host an NFL game by Sunday, but it all depends on when the fires are contained.

"The longer it goes, the less likely," Stover said. "We're an evacuation site until we're no longer needed."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has been meeting with Chargers president Dean Spanos and others. Goodell said the options include

playing the game in Los Angeles, at Arizona State's Sun Devil Stadium - the Cardinals' former home - at Texas Stadium in Dallas or Reliant Stadium, the Texans' home field.

The precedent for playing at Reliant Stadium would be the New Orleans Saints playing a "home" game against the New York Giants at the Meadowlands after Hurricane Katrina. That move was later criticized.

Four years ago to the week, the Chargers were forced to move a Monday night game against Miami - and Junior Seau's much-anticipated homecoming - to Tempe on short notice because of deadly wildfires. Qualcomm is currently still being used as an evacuation center and the air quality is reported to be awful.

"It's a little weird," Tomlinson said. "It wasn't expected. Two times in my career. You're just thankful you haven't lost a house. This is the

closest I've come to losing one, though. It was burning on my property line."

Tomlinson and his wife had to flee their suburban home early Monday.

"I could see the fires coming," said Tomlinson, the reigning NFL MVP. "You wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning. You get the phone call, 'You need to evacuate.' I see the sky was orange, so I'm like, 'It's serious.'"

Some 46 players, coaches and staff members had to evacuate, including coach Norv Turner and quarterback Philip Rivers.

Rivers said the players are in a good frame of mind.

"All our families are safe. That's what's most important. Obviously we feel for the people that were more directly affected. From what I gather, we've all been able to do that," Rivers said. ♦

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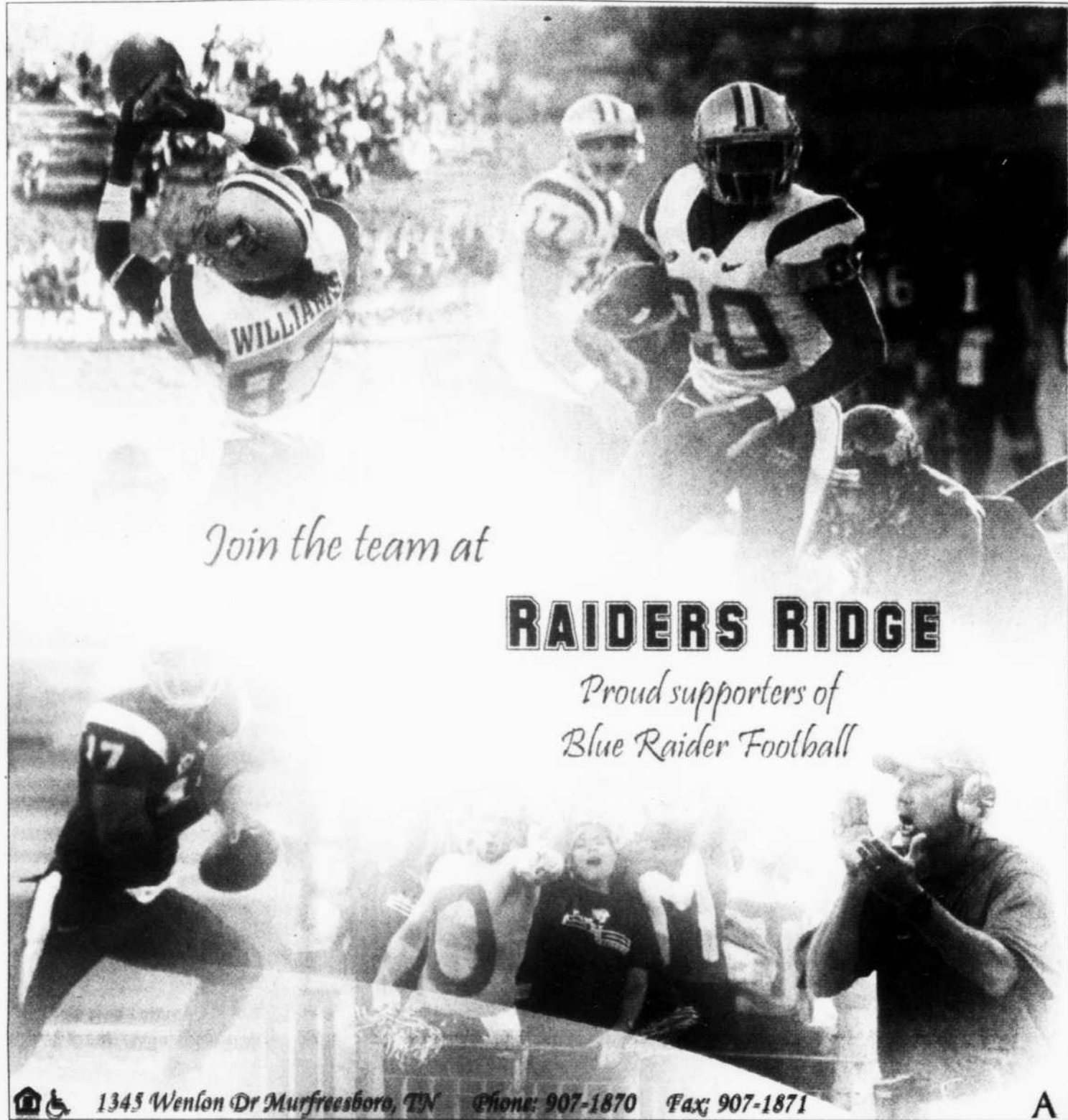
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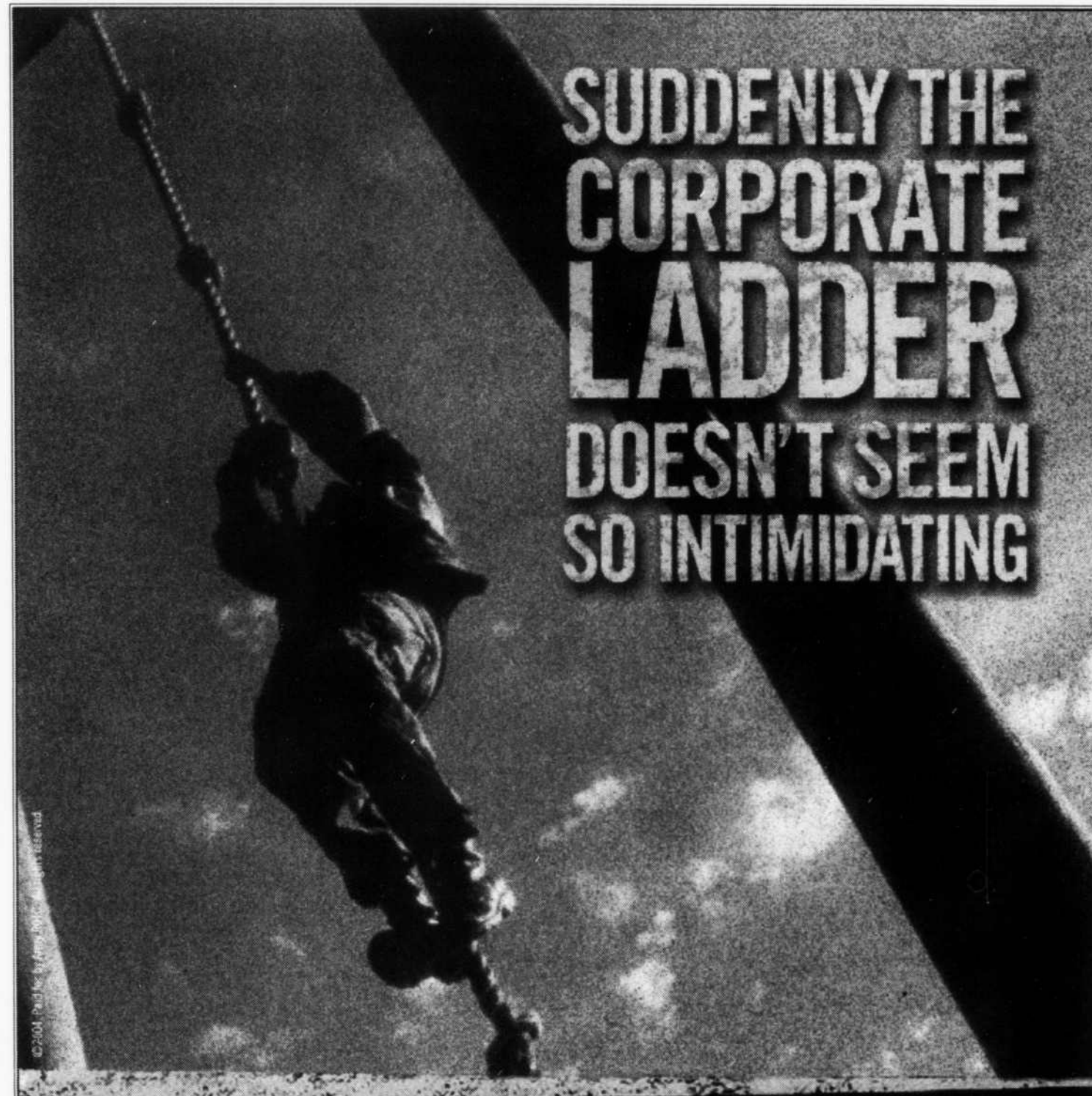
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System fails to identify teachers fired for sexual misconduct

By Bill Poovey

Associated Press

Middle-school teacher Steven Craig Fults was allowed to resign quietly after he was investigated in 1999 for looking at pornographic Web sites of teenage boys.

His problem in DeKalb County public schools didn't prevent Rutherford County, just 30 miles away, from hiring him to teach seventh grade and coach the soccer team.

In 2004, Fults was convicted of raping a male teenage student at the Rutherford school. The judge, who sentenced Fults to 45 years in prison, said he methodically preyed on a teenager who had attention deficit disorder and no contact with his father.

The case shows that teacher sexual misconduct in Tennessee has sometimes gone unnoticed by the state, particularly if the incident does not become a criminal investigation and school administrators decide to keep it quiet.

The Associated Press examined records from the State Board of Education that showed Fults was among 50 educators whose professional licenses in Tennessee were denied or revoked from 2001 through 2005 for sexual misconduct. Fults didn't come to the state's attention until after he was charged in Rutherford County.

The AP review found that those 50, including 15 whose mis-

conduct happened in other states, were among 120 educators whose licenses were revoked, suspended, denied or surrendered for misdeeds ranging from theft to falsifying professional scores.

Tennessee's figures were gathered as part of a seven-month investigation in which AP reporters sought records on teacher discipline in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Across the country, sexual misconduct allegations led states to take action against the licenses of 2,570 educators from 2001 through 2005. That figure includes licenses that were revoked, denied and surrendered.

Young people were victims in at least 69 percent of the cases, and the large majority of those were students.

Nine out of 10 of those abusive educators were male. And at least 446 of the abusive teachers had multiple victims.

Tennessee has only one person to handle misconduct complaints at the state level. Those investigations are assigned to state school board attorney Rich Haglund, along with his other duties.

Since April 2006 school directors have been required to report serious ethical violations within 30 days of a suspension, dismissal or resignation.

Records show 136 investigations of complaints against Tennessee-licensed educators

were started in 2006, with 119 completed. Through Aug. 30 this year, 121 investigations were started and 106 finished.

Kentucky and Georgia are among states that have professional standards agencies to investigate complaints of teacher misbehavior, including inappropriate relationships. Those agencies use investigators and hold training sessions for school employees on professional conduct.

Haglund said Tennessee has nothing like that now, but he said such an agency could be created using teacher licensing fees. Currently, teaching licenses are free in Tennessee.

Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board Director Phillip Rogers said his agency has seven investigators, a full-time staff and an attorney and looks at "more than 2,000 cases a year."

Rogers said he has met with Tennessee officials about creating such a board.

Tennessee lawmakers have shown little enthusiasm for creating a new state agency, and the Tennessee Education Association's president said a new investigative agency is not needed. "Kind of a witch hunt is what we are concerned about," TEA President Earl Wiman said.

Wiman said the state already "has a very good process in place for teacher licensure revocation ...

I think we are doing more than some states."

If complaints about teachers become criminal charges, penalties vary greatly.

In Hamilton County, a judge in 2002 sentenced former high school health and wellness teacher Shirley Anne Smies to 60 days in jail and six years probation on a statutory rape conviction stemming from a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female student.

In Warren County, a popular elementary school teacher with beauty queen looks was arrested in 2005 for having sex with a 13-year-old male student. After Pamela Turner served a six-month jail sentence and was released on probation, she violated a court order forbidding contact with the teen and his family when she sent what the judge described as "lewd" videos of herself.

The judge ordered Turner to serve the remainder of an eight-year prison term.

Laural Nutt, a prosecutor in Murfreesboro, said Fults never had to threaten his victim.

"That's how a lot of this stuff happens," she said. "Kids are looking for guidance. If someone represents they are really cool, they say, 'You can talk to me about anything and I have the trust of your parents,' and it starts."

She said the Fults case started with "showing pornographic

tapes to the child, and it's tapes of men and women and then two guys."

"They know who to pick," Nutt said. "They honestly believe they are helping these kids and they don't think they are doing anything wrong."

The teen victim's mother says her son remains devastated and needs emotional help.

"He was humiliated. There were signs put at school, signs with his name, just because he turned the SOB in," she told the AP. "My son is in jail because he drinks to forget. He just turned 21 in jail."

The AP isn't naming the mother or her son because of a policy not to identify victims of sexual crimes.

The mother said her son wrote in a pending application for addiction treatment that he drinks to "hide the pain and fit in the life I feel has been stripped away from me ... I was sexually assaulted by a coach-teacher for two years. I have hardly gone to counseling because my family could not afford it. He haunts me in my dreams and I lash out when I drink. To this day it still affects me and the people around me."

The victim's mother said that while her son had some good teachers, "they need to have better background checks. Fults slipped by because nobody wrote it down. It could have been flagged. My son

was raped on their watch because they didn't pay attention."

Her federal lawsuit against Fults and DeKalb and Rutherford county schools said officials should have known Fults was dangerous. A jury verdict in 2006 awarded damages from Fults totaling \$8.5 million.

"The graphic nature of some of the Web sites accessed on the Fults classroom computer would have caused a reasonable individual to be concerned that Fults could well have posed a danger to teen aged boys," the suit says.

A sheriff's investigation ended with a decision to not pursue any criminal charges against Fults. DeKalb County school officials have said Fults had no complaints on his record when he left for the job in Rutherford County.

Administrators in both school systems declined comment.

"A lot of these guys can get away with this for a long time before they get caught," said George Boles, a spokesman for the FBI in Memphis.

Terri Miller, president of Stop Educator Sexual Abuse, Misconduct and Exploitation, said Congress should be involved in providing uniform laws.

"Some states don't have any laws," she said. Every state should "prohibit the conduct, report to a central database and hold those who fail to report criminally liable." ♦

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FEATURES

Students look to Mickey for work

By Lisa Bushey

Contributing Writer

Working in the Disney College Program can be the experience of a lifetime, but there is one thing the recruiters don't emphasize when you apply.

With four theme parks, two water parks, luxurious hotels, stores full of merchandise and many fancy restaurants, there's clearly a need for workers in Orlando, Fla.

When students attend the Disney College Program presentation they're told the type of experience they will have if they go to work for Disney. The recruiters point out that this is a real job and you'll be working close to full time, but there will be plenty of opportunities to have fun and experience what the Sunshine State has to offer.

The one detail they don't emphasize is that, depending on where you're working and what your job title is, you may come to a point where all you feel like you're doing is working and sleeping because of the long and random hours they schedule you.

Samantha Smith, a former college program worker who is now a campus representative for the Disney College Program, admits, "If anything, the recruiters sugarcoat the work. Some students may end up working a lot, depending on their location such as the Magic Kingdom or Pleasure Island."

Valerie Hankins, a sophomore at MTSU, was able to visit Disney for the first time this summer while she experienced her first job. She worked at the Magic Kingdom renting strollers to customers as they arrived.

"I never thought I would ever get the chance to go, let alone work there and get into the parks for free!" she exclaims.

Hankins worked during one of the busiest times of the season. She says her hours would vary, but her usual shifts were from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. or 9 p.m. to 3:45 a.m. Very rarely did she get the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift.

Working in an environment where people of different cultures and backgrounds come to visit, it's likely that at some point, no matter what your job title, you'll get the customer who doesn't speak your language or who is very impatient because they're hot, tired or hungry, or those who are just plain rude.

Smith, who worked for the Backlot Tour attraction at Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly the Disney MGM Studios, shares a bad experience she had with a woman who was traveling with her two parents in electric wheelchairs.

They wanted to get onto the next shuttle that only had 45 seconds until it was to leave for the next tour; but there wasn't enough time to get them on.

"The younger lady and the older man in the wheelchair both started to cuss at me," she says, "and somehow, the man began to run over my toes

he tried to move his wheelchair to another location. They were so uncooperative and rude to everyone!"

Still, Disney is a place where magic happens. There are guests who feel the magic and are happy throughout their whole experience.

One thing they tell you at Disney is that the customer comes first. You need to make them happy and help them have the best experience they can while they are visiting.

Hankins recalls how much she enjoyed pin trading with the customers. She loved the looks and expressions on children's faces when she traded pins with them.

"I remember one time a little girl didn't have any pins to trade me," Hankins says, "but she really liked my Cinderella pin. I gave it to her anyway, and the look she gave me with tears in her eyes made me feel so great to know that I just made this child happy."

It seems that those who go to work at Disney and have a hard time being outgoing might leave with qualities they never had before.

"Disney was a life changing experience! I'm much more outgoing and it's easier for me to talk to people and get into conversations," Hankins says.

Also, many students travel down to Orlando not knowing anyone. Most will leave with friendships that will last a lifetime.

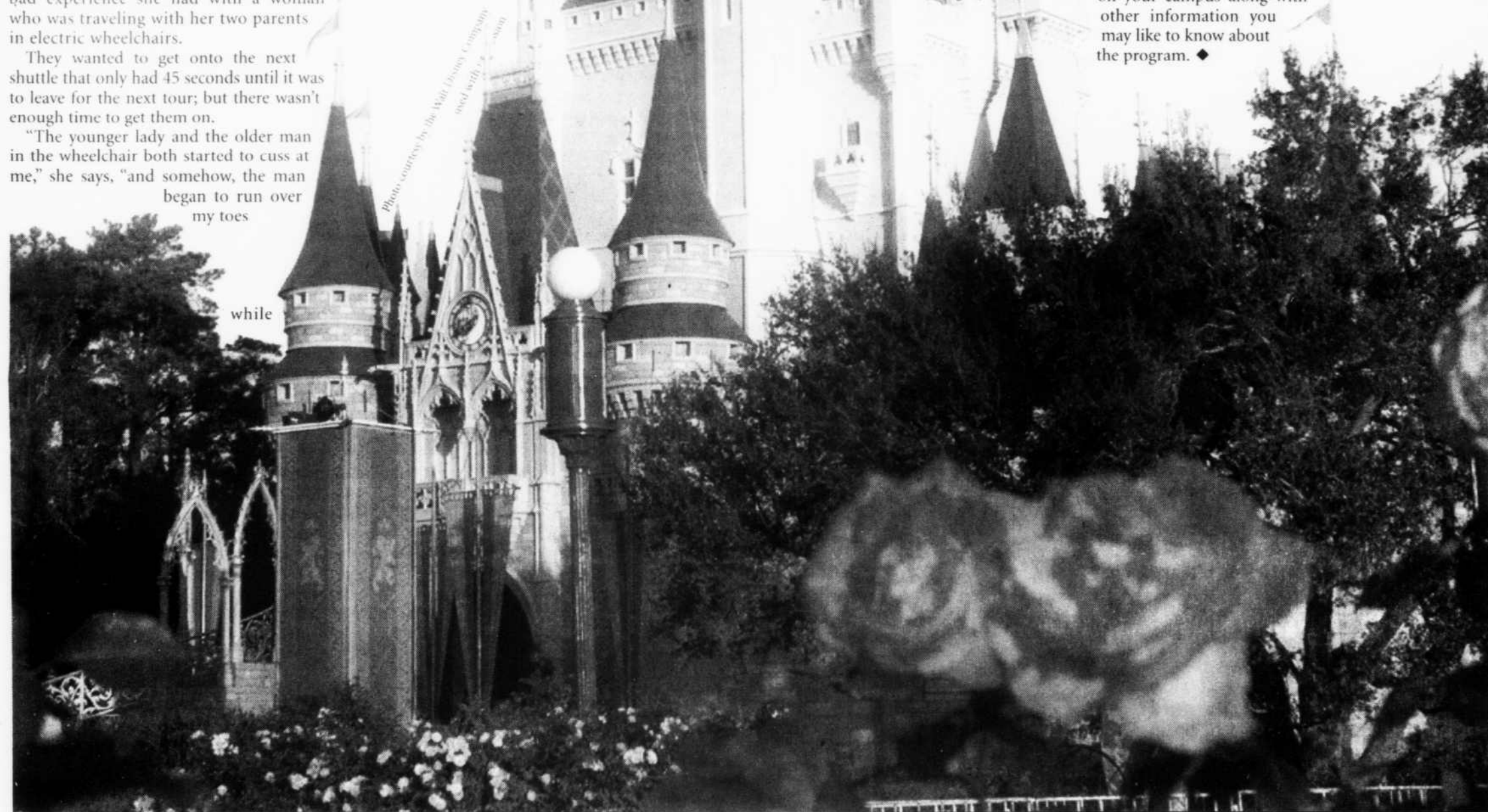
Every one of Disney's cast members is so diverse. You will work and live with students who are different from you, but since everyone goes through the same experience, it's easy to relate to one another and form strong bonds.

Smith says that when she first moved into the CP apartments, she and her five roommates clicked instantly. They did a lot together. Even though there were some rough times during their semester, she still keeps in touch with a couple of them.

Perhaps the students truly do experience the magic while working at Disney World. For some, it may just take awhile to realize it's there.

Students interested in working for the Disney College Program can go to their Web site at www.wdwcollgeprogram.com for more information.

There you will find presentation schedules explaining when the representatives will be on your campus along with other information you may like to know about the program. ♦



Live on Main showcases student talent

Students use Mass Comm building as venue for new music

By Emily Sterrie

Contributing Writer

Unless you happen to be pass through the John Bragg Mass Communication building between 11:30 and 12:45 on a Tuesday afternoon, you might not be in on one of MTSU's best-kept entertainment secrets. Live On Main is a free concert series held in the Mass Comm building every week.

It's a modest venue featuring exceptional talent, and practically any student-songwriter is welcome to participate, no experience necessary.

Hal Newman and Amy Macy, assistant professors in the Department of Recording Industry, created Live On Main back in the spring of 2002, and the program continues to be popular among students.

"It has always been a low-key acoustic show at the foot of the stairs in the Mass Comm building," says Newman.

The show is set up near the patio tables outside the café, so it's convenient for passersby to grab a bite to eat, meet up with friends, or study while listening to some live acoustic music.

Currently, Live On Main – so called because the first floor of the Comm building is commonly known as "Main Street" – takes place every Tuesday from 11:30 to 12:45, timed so that any nearby classes won't be disturbed.

"The size of the audience varies from week to week, but most everyone enjoys having live music in the building," Newman says. On a given day, "usually five student songwriters play about fifteen minutes each," but there are no strict limitations.

Many students that perform are dedicated and experienced singer-songwriters, while others only have a few songs to their name. In either case, Live On Main provides a great opportunity to test songs out.

At MTSU, where the Recording Industry is a

prominent major and many students are involved in some creative aspect of music, Live On Main provides a needed outlet for students to put their songs out there and gain performance experience, even if it's to a small audience.

One performer, Johnny Norris, an English major who has been playing guitar for eleven years, says he tries to play Live On Main every week. "It's a cool little spot," he muses. "I just like the spirit of it. Everyone walking by gets to hear your songs. It's nice."

Indeed, for any fledgling performers at MTSU, Live On Main is the perfect way to get a feel for performing with an actual audience, and for more experienced musicians, it's a great way to brush up on performance skills or just practice your music.

"It doesn't matter if you're not very experienced," says Norris. "All you have to do is sign up and play a few songs."

The only criteria, Newman explains, is that "you must be an MTSU student and have original songs." That's it.

Another performer, junior Katelyn Hobson, is an accomplished young artist who enjoys playing Live On Main despite the small venue. Hobson has been singing and performing for ten years, has her own CD and tours the country promoting her music, but she still enjoys playing Live On Main.

"It's great because the songwriters can showcase their own music," she says.

Hobson has always loved to entertain, and not just for the benefit of her audience: "Songwriting is very therapeutic. I just love everything about music."

The unique thing about Live On Main is that all of the performers are MTSU students performing their own original music, and the quality of the music reflects that sense of pure, authentic creativity. In fact, many of the performers, including Norris and Hobson, have been playing music, singing and writ-

ing for years, and almost all of the participants are members of Nashville Songwriters Association International, a Nashville-based group that serves the interests of songwriters of all genres of music. The student chapter of NSAI, along with the Department of Recording Industry, sponsors Live On Main.

Live On Main is simple, free, and open to everyone, students and performers alike, and it's a great way to spend an hour or so of your day.

If you can't make it to the Comm Building, NSAI also holds a Songwriters Night every other Monday at Bluesboro. So if you've got some original songs you'd like to try out on an audience, or if you're just in need of some midday entertainment, stop by the Mass Comm building every Tuesday and check out Live On Main. ♦



Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

One size does not fit all sex offenders

The abuse of sexual privileges is an act in utter disregard for human decency. The only purpose such an act accomplishes is the degradation of the spirit and defilement of the body.

Sex crimes carry high penalties within our legal community, including the mandatory registration in a national database. Convicted felons are also subject to various rules and restrictions while interacting with the rest of society.

As per the fall season festivities, the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole sent paroled felons letters specifying what is not allowed for them during Halloween activities. Homes are denied use as locations for parties, no candy is to be distributed and the use of costumes is prohibited.

For the guilty convicted of sexual crimes against children, these rules are more than acceptable. However, it should be noted that sexual offenders do not just include child molesters, but any party guilt of a sex crime including solicitation and aggravated sexual assault.

To reiterate, any sexual crime is morally reprehensible. The only problem seems to be a lack of separation and understanding that not all perpetrators of sexual crimes are child molesters.

The rules given by the TBPP are focused on the restriction of child molesters and are biased towards these over any other sexual criminal. Instead, a separation and distinction should be made between crimes geared towards children and those towards adults.

Reasoning could include a man convicted of solicitation because he slept with a prostitute. Should this man not be allowed to take his children trick-or-treating when he has never had a history of child abuse? Yes, he should be reprimanded for his indiscretions, but in the case of the restrictions he faces, the punishment does not fit the crime.

Also, we are speaking of adults and children as opposed to minors and legal age. Should the same restrictions and punishments be implemented for a 20-year-old sleeping with her 17-year-old boyfriend as they are for a 50-year-old raping a 12-year-old?

So many criminal cases, particularly sexual cases, depend heavily on the circumstances. The end result of all sexual crimes is the same: unacceptable. The situations revolving around the cases are different in each crime.

No doubt that the TBPP is only interested in the best protection for children and adults alike during the holiday season. Some people are dangerous, and restrictions are absolutely necessary to keep convicted criminals in check. Still, there are some situations where a person is not dangerous and the rules do not apply to the crime committed.

While it would be impossible to implement safety measures on a case-by-case basis, diversifying the category of sexual offenders into more specific subtypes would help to ensure that fair and proper punishment is executed.

Letter to the Editor

Current drug policy arcane, unfair

To the Editor:

Matthew Adair is to be commended for raising awareness of the Higher Education Act's denial of student loans to youth convicted of drug offenses ("Say 'No' to Cutting Student Aid," Oct. 18). Instead of empowering "at-risk" students with a college degree, HEA limits career opportunities and increases the likelihood that those affected will resort to crime. Speaking of crime, convicted rapists and murders are still eligible for federal student loans.

Most students outgrow their youthful indiscretions involving illicit drugs. An arrest and criminal record, on the other hand, can be life-shattering. After admitting to smoking pot (but not inhaling), former President Bill Clinton opened himself up to "soft on drugs" criticism. And thousands of Americans have paid the price in the form of shattered lives. More Americans went to prison or jail during the Clinton administration than during any past administration.

As an admitted former drinker and alleged illicit drug user, President George W. Bush is also politically vulnerable when it comes to drugs. While youthful indiscretions didn't stop Clinton or Bush from assuming leadership positions, an arrest surely would have. The short-term effects of marijuana are inconsequential compared to the long-term effects of criminal records.

Students who want to help end the intergenerational culture war otherwise known as the War on Some Drugs should contact Students for Sensible Drug Policy at SchoolsNotPrisons.com.

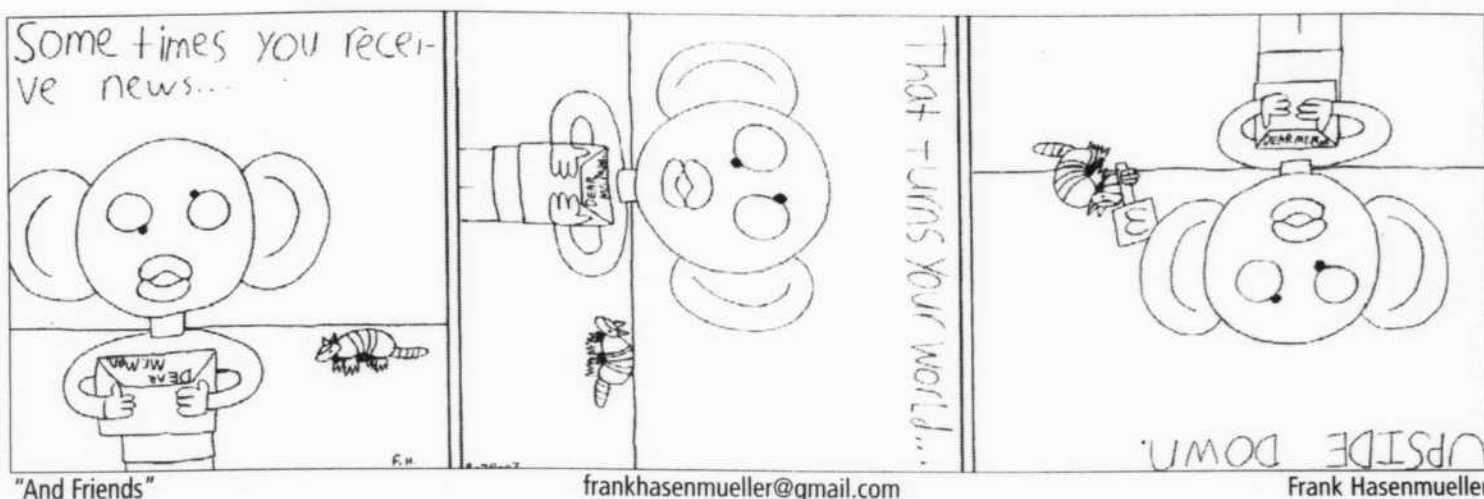
Robert Sharpe
Policy Analyst
Common Sense for Drug Policy
www.csdp.org
P.O. Box 59181
Washington, DC 20012

A great man named Bob Glenn said:

"A university is a marketplace of ideas."

Please sell us some.

slopinio@mtsu.edu



Celebrity 'justice' imbalanced

Millions of people are sentenced to prison correctional facilities every year because a variety of criminal charges, but Lindsay Lohan walks away unfettered from cocaine possession due to her fame and fortune. What kind of message is this sending to society?

Many celebrities over the years have used their fame and success as a way of avoiding actual consequences for their reckless behavior. Their carefree conduct and persuasive personalities have repeatedly factored over the years in various cases. Whether it's O.J. Simpson's murder trial or Hugh Grant's prostitute scandal, the justice system seems to favor these rich individuals by merely giving them a warning before patting them on the head and releasing them back into society. Both of these gentlemen and many more celebrities have been acquitted of all charges against them and set free, but the justice system finally has begun to crack it's crude whip on celebrities such as Martha Stewart, Paris Hilton and most recently, Michael Vick.

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is currently fighting for his freedom and innocence in the court room; however, if convicted, Vick could be fined \$250,000 for interstate commerce, and sentenced to one year in prison along with an additional \$100,000 fine for the dogfighting charge. Vick's animal cruelty case has caused worldwide controversy involving whether or not the judicial system is taking celebrity justice too far when in reality the judicial system is just beginning to take charge. Vick argued that what he was doing was wrong and continued to proceed; therefore, he committed a crime and is ultimately responsible for his own actions and poor decisions.

By 'excusing' celebrities of breaking the law, the legal system is sending average citizens the wrong message. Perhaps it is quite acceptable to carry a baggie of cocaine around while shoplifting at a nearby department store or maybe it's alright to drive under the influence of alcohol and endanger innocent lives.



Open Mouth,
Insert Foot.

Tiffany Gibson
Staff Columnist

Without order there is chaos, and chaos can lead to destruction. Therefore, the unbalanced scale of celebrity justice and injustice is desperately in need of tipping.

When Stewart and Hilton were sentenced to time behind bars, many people became outraged about their images being tainted, while others proceeded to flaunt gigantic smiles across their faces. Clearly, it was about time someone knocked both Stewart and Hilton off of their high horses and brought them back down to reality. Hilton was repeatedly warned not to violate her probation or operate an automobile on a suspended license, but like most celebrities, she persisted with her audacious behavior.

When it came time for sentencing, apparently the only thing Hilton felt was remorse, but the judge apparently grew tired of her lawyer's concocted plea and slammed the gavel, making history.

By taking action against delinquent celebrities, the legal system has finally begun to bestow the equality of social class on the United States and its citizens. Average people are now celebrating the fact that celebrities are beginning to receive proper punishment for their actions. Article 1 of the United States Constitution states that all human beings are born free and 'equal' in dignity and rights. Apparently this statement that has been left intact since the first draft of the Constitution has been completely forgotten. Celebrities are human beings that do not deserve any special

treatment in society or in the courtroom, and even though these two judges felt punishment was suitable for Stewart and Hilton, many other judges proceed to work around jail time for convenience of the stars.

When average people are charged with possession of a controlled substance or have simply committed a criminal act there is a good chance that they will serve a prison term. Lohan's failure to be tried on her counts of cocaine possession really irritated many people because the evidence was practically irrefutable. In fact, the law states that anyone with a first offense possession of any narcotics such as heroin, crack or cocaine is required to pay a \$50,000 fine and can face up to seven years in prison. Nevertheless, "Mean Girls" star Lohan, held down the word "vomit" this time as she repeatedly stated the cocaine was not hers. This statement and ignorance of those around her allowed her to be cleared of all of the cocaine charges. People could barely believe their ears when they heard that Lohan was released on a rehabilitation agreement proposed by the judge.

In reaction to Lohan's slap on the wrist, a blog, "The Superficial," lashed out at the young Hollywood star and the legal system by stating that "Lohan could roll up the Constitution and use it to snort a mile-long line of coke in front of the entire Supreme Court and still would not get charged with possession."

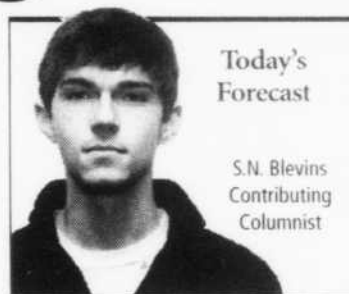
Perhaps expensive lawyers and high-status careers cater to celeb invincibility, but their power and control over Hollywood Boulevard will not always affect their future in the courtroom. By sacrificing a few selected celebrities, the justice system has proven it's dedication to balancing authority, but the question still remains; will celebrity justice continued to be served?

Tiffany Gibson is a freshman English major and can be reached at tdg2w@mtsu.edu

"The Log of a Cowboy" allegory

In "The Log of a Cowboy," Andy Adams creates the modern American odyssey. His story is filled with vivid depictions of life on the trail, complex characters, and an engaging story describing an eventful, exciting journey across America's desert. His portrayal mirrors his own life, though his tale has been enhanced for the benefit of the reader. This story is a common one: a young man searching for his place in the world. But when analyzed in a broader historical context, enlightens the reader as to how the modern condition of America has been shaped.

The story begins with the common longing of the young in every generation, specifically for the freedom to make their own and discover their place in the world. It's safe to follow the path laid by your parents, but for our hero Tom Quirk, the appeal of being a cowboy far outweighs that of being kept "in a back warehouse shelling corn" during his prime. So he took to the range, and had a great time at it, gambling for turkey eggs, meeting men of influence, witnessing exciting gunfights, and finding new brothers in his fellow cowboys. The place to be for a cowboy in this time was Dodge, the culmination of pleasure seeking. Almost any modern luxury was available for a price, including the comforting arms of a beautiful woman, or even a fresh shave. Either way, he cowboys depicted



Today's
Forecast

S.N. Blevins
Contributing
Columnist

in Adam's story know how to have a good time. They also know how to leave a place, and that's with a bang. And although the officers in Dodge were allowed to "lathally interdict any use of firearms in town," they decided to ride out of town guns blazing, just for good measure.

This freedom enjoyed by the cowboys of the American trail did not come without a price. It had a dark side rooted in the economics of the so-called "Gilded Age." The previously bounteous population of buffalo had been nearly wiped out of existence. This slaughter had a huge effect on the Native American way of life and population, who themselves had been ravaged by the invasion of foreign colonialists. The American Indians did not consider themselves the owners of the land, or even believe the land could have an owner. Their way of life was based on harmony with nature, and private property was a foreign notion to them. This thoughtful mindset left them a step behind when foreign powers decided that they too liked this beautiful and

abundant land, and would very much like to own it. The Indians, like the buffalo, were seen as obstacles to ownership and exploitation of the vast resources the new property had to offer. Those that weren't of some value were destroyed, while those that proved profitable were used. The buffalo were replaced by cattle, which were easier to control, and the American Indians were replaced with white settlers, which were easier to control. This is a crucial aspect of a government-aided capitalist economy, and the chief driving force of the world we live in today. This system of control makes the owners obscenely rich, the government enablers fairly rich, and the working class poor but satisfied, in a simple, "material girl" kind of way. The workers are paid just enough to survive, and in appreciation of greasing the wheels of the machine, are given access to vast luxuries, such as beer, gambling, clothes, sports and video games. This is the American way; this is our (pop)culture.

No harm, no foul, it may have seemed. The beast has broken out of its cage, though, and it is hungry. With the exponential population increase, the expansion of Western values and the explosive growth of corporations, the scale is a bit bigger. The growing problem is exemplified by the cattle industry, which has become the major fuel of the Western system. As a result, cattle are accountable

for "18 percent of greenhouse gases," as well as contributing to various other problems, including acid rain, introduction of alien species, producing deserts and creating dead zones in the oceans, according to a United Nations report. The Western system is driving climate change, and the results have been and will continue to be disastrous. It may not be right in front of our faces, but the tides are rising. Earth's wounds have begun to show. It's safe to say beef isn't what's for dinner.

A situation like this occurs when informed people choose not to act. The way of the cowboy was a short-lived affair, and the journey in itself would have been harmless. The broader connection must be made, though, and it's apparent that it was indeed harmful due to the situation it helped create. The life of a cowboy was exciting, fun, dangerous, and care-free, but it was also self-centered. What did it really accomplish?

There were bigger forces at work, and Adams himself may have sensed them. After many attempts, he decided that business wasn't for him, and decided that being a historian would suit him better. This was a step in the right direction, but a change will only come when a person continues on that path and figures out for himself that ultimate question: Why?

S.N. Blevins is a freshman science major and can be reached at snb2j@mtsu.edu

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SPORTS

MT VB begins final home stretch

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

With five games remaining before the end of the regular season the Blue Raiders volleyball team faces off against Eastern Division foes starting this weekend. The five-game home series sets the Blue Raiders up for a chance to repeat as conference champions.

MT closes out the season at home and looks to earn a tie for the Sun Belt Conference title before heading to Denver, Col. for the SBC Championships.

This weekend's games are rematches between MT and the SBC's two Florida schools. With Florida Atlantic on Friday and Florida International on Saturday.

MT (24-2, 11-1) is coming off a 3-0 win over New Orleans on Monday. With that win, they ended their road trip through Louisiana undefeated. The trip took them to Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and New Orleans. MT swept all three teams 3-0 to continue their dominance of the SBC. Their only loss is to Western Kentucky.

The Blue Raiders face an FAU (6-16, 3-9) team that is coming off a loss to Arkansas State in four games and they have lost eight straight since Sept. 29. The Owls are hoping that the teams previous meeting with MT will pay off and help them snap their losing streak, while giving their team some idea of what this team can expect for next season.

MT swept the Owls at home 3-0 behind the play of the three Ashleys. Ashley Mead led the way with 12 kills, while the remaining Ashleys, Adams and Asberry, followed with 11 kills, respectively. Asberry had a .529 attacking percentage for the game with three block assists. Adams recorded two blocks assists.

Owls setter Casey LaRocca is on pace to break the SBC all-time assist record on Friday night against MT.

FIU, Western Kentucky and MT were the three remaining undefeated teams earlier this month when MT traveled to Florida.

FIU (13-6, 8-4) has won their last two games, against Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock, and are trying to get back into the swing of things by playing Western Kentucky on Friday and MT on Saturday. They are currently in third place in the Eastern Division behind MT and WKU. A win over both conference opponents will give them an edge going into the SBC tournament.

FIU held the Trojans of Arkansas-Little Rock to a .098 hitting percentage, while Yarimir Rosa played her 11th game with 20 or more kills.

In their last meeting MT had an attacking percentage of .398 and 49 kills against the Golden Panthers in a 3-0 sweep. Adams had 14 kills, three block assists and an attacking percentage of .500. Freshman outside hitter Izabela Kozon recorded 16 kills.

The Blue Raiders take the court at 7 p.m. against FAU on Friday October 26 and FIU at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. ♦



Coaches select top basketball teams

WKU, ULM top polls; McCalebb POY

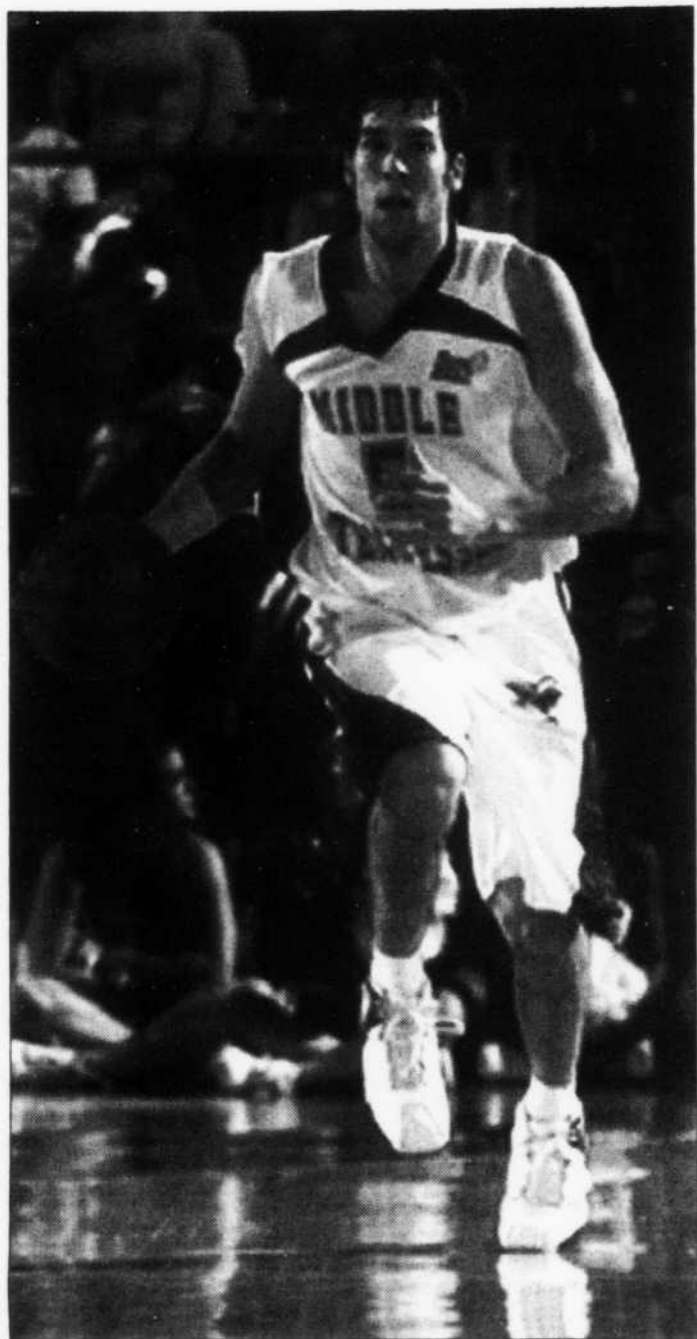


Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations
Junior Kevin Kanaskie looks to lead the Blue Raiders against tough competition this season. MT opens their season Nov. 15 against San Jose State University.

By Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

When the preseason men's basketball coaches polls were released, a familiar face was on the top of the East and a newcomer had the number one spot in the West. Western Kentucky University was the unanimous number one pick in the East Division with the University of South Alabama, the number one seed in last year's conference tournament, voted in the number two spot. This is the third time in as many years that Western Kentucky was named the preseason number one but first time they received every first place vote.

Middle Tennessee returns eight players and four starters from last year's team, which upset South Alabama in last year's conference tournament last year. Middle Tennessee played all of last season without help from Adam Vogelsburg, who sat out because of injury. Kevin Kanaskie, a junior guard, led the conference and ranked 14th in the nation in assists per game with 5.8.

The University of Louisiana - Monroe was the number one pick in the West division in only their second year competing in the Sun Belt Conference basketball. They received nine first place votes while the University of North Texas, Arkansas State University, and the University of New Orleans received the rest of the first place votes for the West Division.

Arkansas State was the highest seeded team from the West division in last year's conference tournament. They made it to the championship game but were defeated by North Texas in the championship game.

The 2007-2008 Preseason Player of the Year is Bo McCalebb. McCalebb, a senior guard for the UNO, is a 2006-07 AP All-America selection and is coming off one of the best seasons in UNO history. He was last year's Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year after finishing sixth in the nation in scoring with 25 points per game and leading the team with 6.6 rebounds per contest.

McCalebb became UNO's all-time leading scorer with 1,937 career points and is ranked fifth in the Sun Belt. McCalebb needs 382 points this season to set the Sun Belt's career men's basketball scoring mark.

Last year, he was the only player in the Sun Belt to be ranked in the league's top 10 in scoring, rebounding and assists. He is a two-time All-Sun Belt first-team selection and is the only player in Sun Belt history to be named the conference tournament's "Most Outstanding Player" as a freshman.

In total, the conference is scheduled to have 26 games televised, with four involving Middle Tennessee. The spotlight games of the conference will take place on Dec. 15 for the Sun Belt Classic. Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky will be hosting the event together at the Sommet Center in Nashville. The doubleheader starts with Middle Tennessee facing the University of Memphis at 6 p.m. CT in a game that will be televised on ESPN2, while Western Kentucky faces the University of Tennessee at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN2.

The basketball season opens on Nov. 8 with the University of Denver taking on the University of Oklahoma in the first round of the College Hoops Classic in Norman, Ok. Middle Tennessee opens their season Nov. 15 at home against San Jose State University in the First Shot Exempt Tournament. ♦

Preseason Men's All-Sun Belt Team

First Team

Adrian Banks (ASU, Sr., G)
Carlos Monroe (FAU, Jr., F)
Bo McCalebb (UNO, Sr., G)
Demetric Bennett (USA, Sr., G)
Courtney Lee (WKU, Sr., G/F)

Third Team Selection

Kevin Kanaskie (MT, Jr., G)

MT on Television

At Tennessee 11/20/07 SportSouth
Vs. Memphis 12/15/07 ESPN2
Vs. New Orleans 1/19/08 ESPN+
Vs. Western Kentucky 2/16/08 CSS

WKU finish ahead of MT; Kelly POY

By Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

In a move that surprised many fans around the Sun Belt, Western Kentucky University was picked to win the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference. Middle Tennessee, last year's regular season and tournament champions, were picked to finish second followed by Florida International University, the University of South Alabama, the University of Troy and Florida Atlantic University respectively.

Middle Tennessee was ranked for most of the second half of the season, eventually winning 27 games in a row and climbing to 17th in the AP women's basketball national polls. In the winning streak were victories over then eighth-ranked University of Georgia, Colonial Athletic Association champion Old Dominion University and Western Athletic Conference champion Gonzaga. By the time the streak ended it was the longest in the nation. The Blue Raiders have been ranked 13th in the nation by Sporting News. Western Kentucky has been unranked thus far.

Amber Holt, a preseason selection on the all-Sun Belt first team, will lead Middle Tennessee into the 07-08 season. Last year, Holt was first team all-Sun Belt, Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year, two-time Sun Belt Player of the Week, and a USA Basketball Pan Am Games finalist.

One selection that many cannot dispute is that of Crystal Kelly as the preseason player of the year. Kelly, a senior forward, earned honorable mention Kodak/WBCA and Associated Press All-America honors last season, and is again a preseason nominee for the WBCA Wade Trophy. She enters her senior season needing just 250 points to become the Sun Belt Conference's all-time leading scorer, and is just 227 points

away from being WKU's career scoring leader. Kelly has scored 2,036 points in her three seasons at WKU — including a school-record 770 points as a junior. She scored in double figures in all 32 games last year, including 25 games in which she scored over 20 points.

Kelly earned first-team all-Sun Belt honors for the third straight year in 2006-07 as she led the league — and finished second in the nation — in scoring at 24.1 points per game. She will enter the 07-08 season as the top returning scorer in Division I women's basketball. She also led the Sun Belt in field-goal percentage (.611), while finishing tied for second in rebounding (9.4 rpg) and sixth in free throw percentage (.774).

The University of Arkansas - Little Rock was picked to finish first in the West division. Although losing in the quarterfinals of last year's conference tournament, UALR returns seven players to a team that finished tied for second in the West division. UALR's Kim Sitzmann became the second consecutive Trojan to be named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year and earned second team All-Sun Belt Conference honors last season.

Sitzmann became the third Trojan in school history to be named Freshman of the Year and receive All-Sun Belt accolades after leading UALR in scoring at 14.1 points per game, in assists at 4.3 per game, and in steals with 2.3 per game. During the 2005-06 season Renee Renz averaged 13.3 points and 7.8 rebounds and was named the league's top freshman.

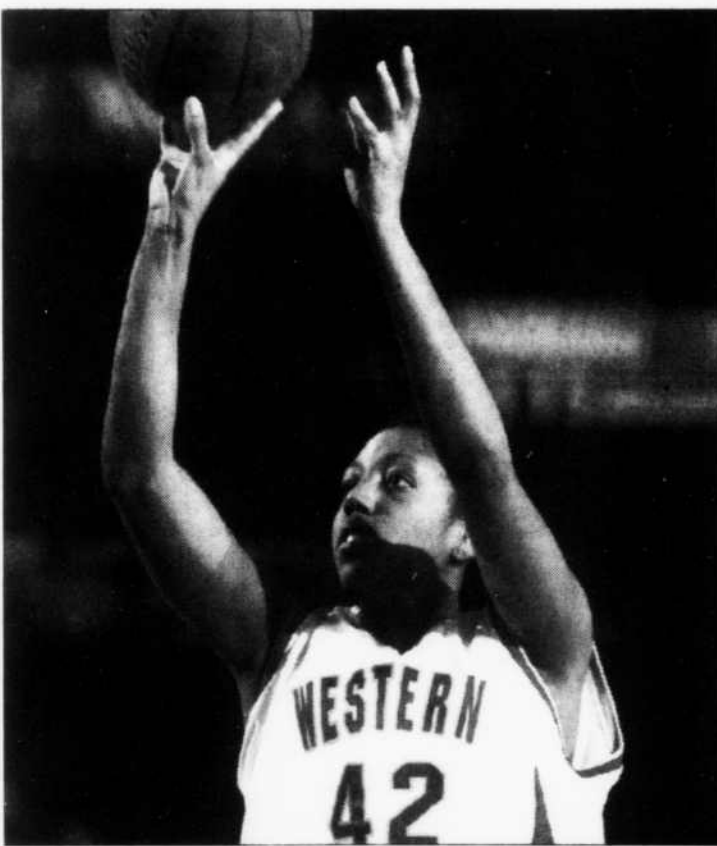
The 2006-07 RPI rankings had Sun Belt women's basketball ranked 8th out of 32. That ranking put the SBC ahead of the Atlantic 10 (10th), the Mid-American Conference (11th), Conference USA (13th), the Missouri Valley Conference (15th), and the Western Athletic

Conference (17th).

Because of the improved RPI, the Sun Belt was able to send two teams to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament as Middle Tennessee and Louisiana-Lafayette were both selected to the tournament's Dayton Regional. Middle Tennessee earned the No. 5 seed and Louisiana-Lafayette drew the No. 11 seed in the Dayton regional.

In total, there are 10 women's games that will be televised, including two that will involve Middle Tennessee. Those games will be against Arizona (FSN West) and Western Kentucky (ESPN+).

The basketball season opens on Nov. 9 with seven conference teams in action. Middle Tennessee opens their season on Nov. 10 against defending CAA champion, Old Dominion. ♦



Preseason Women's All-Sun Belt Team

Kim Sitzmann (UALR, So., G)
LaQuetta Ferguson (FIU, Sr., F)
Amber Holt (MT, Sr., F)
Le'Della English (UNO, Sr., G)
Crystal Kelly (WKU, Sr., F)

MT on Television
At Arizona 11/25/07
FSN West

Vs. Western
Kentucky 2/17/08
ESPN+

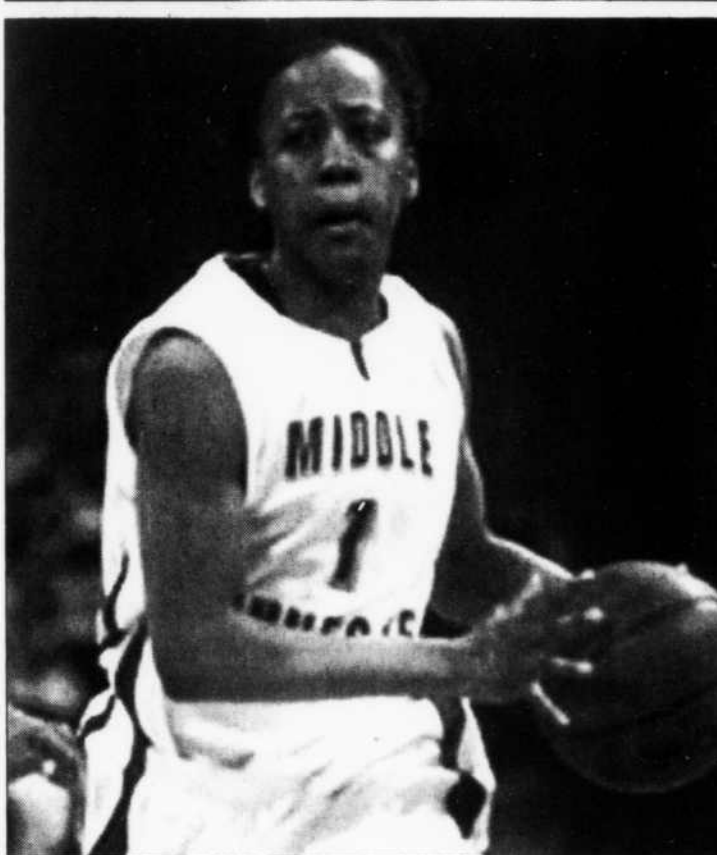


Photo courtesy of WKU and MT Media Relations
Seniors Crystal Kelly and Amber Holt face off at least twice this season in games that could likely determine the Sun Belt regular season and tournament champions.

Blue Raiders prepare for Mean Green

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders will look to spoil homecoming for Sun Belt Conference-rival North Texas in Denton, TX, on Saturday.

North Texas (1-6, 1-3 Sun Belt), who finished atop the Sun Belt standings from 2001-2004, will be looking to pick up a much-needed conference win. Opponents have been able to control the Mean Green on both sides of the ball this year. They are last in the SBC in scoring defense, allowing 46.3 points per game. Likewise, their offense is next-to-last in the SBC in scoring offense with an average of 19.3 points a game.

The Mean Green are coming off a 45-7 loss to the SBC-leading Troy Trojans. Their other two conference losses were by much smaller margins.

"North Texas will be a challenge for us," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "Their overall record isn't that good, but in Sun Belt Conference play they have been in every game except for Troy. They are a good football team."

The Mean Green defense has been effective at stopping the run at times this year

which should be a concern for a Blue Raiders team that has yet to match last year's rushing success. While Dwight Dasher has set records as running-quarterback, the tandem of McNair and Tanner haven't been able to consistently churn out the yards that Gross and McNair racked up last year.

"I think the strength of their team, on defense is up front. They've got some really big guys."

The Blue Raiders (3-5, 2-1 SBC) are riding a two-game winning streak and have won three of their last four. Last week, MT notched a 24-7 victory over Arkansas State in a game that saw MT dominate the conference's number one offense and defense. The Blue Raiders were able to hold an ASU offense that averaged 456 yards per game to just 138 yards.

"I thought our defense was excellent the entire game," Stockstill said. "They completely dominated an offensive team that has been very successful this year."

One big factor in the Blue Raiders' success on defense was the pass rush. MT sacked ASU quarterback Corey Leonard nine times to set a new school record for

sacks in a game. The Blue Raiders were also able to intercept Leonard on three occasions.

That defensive pressure will be needed to shut down North Texas' pass-heavy offensive attack. With six different players getting sacks last week the Blue Raiders proved that their defense is not one dimensional.

"We are getting our secondary a little more involved in the blitz and pressure game," Stockstill said. "I think we're covering better in the secondary than we did last year, which has enabled us to bring more secondary pressure."

Pressure and solid coverage will be essential for the Blue Raiders' attempt to stop the North Texas passing game. The Mean Green boast the conference's top two receivers in Casey Fitzgerald and Brandon Jackson. Combined, the pair averages 214 receiving yards a game.

"When you play a team like this, that can get hot on the passing game at any time, it will be difficult," Stockstill said. "It will be a tough game for us and we have to make sure we are in it mentally."

The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. ♦

Hot Springs selected as Sun Belt Conference location

Press Release

Hot Springs, the number one tourist destination for the state of Arkansas, was selected by the Sun Belt Conference Executive Committee as the host for the league's annual men's and women's basketball tournaments from 2009-2011. The tournament will be played in the city's Summit Arena, which was constructed in 2003 with a seating capacity of 6,000 and adjoins the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Located 50 miles from Little Rock, Hot Springs is visited by 3 million tourists annually and offers more than 4,000 hotel rooms with 15 restaurants within walking distance of the Summit Arena.

"The Sun Belt Conference basketball tournament will draw thousands of new visitors to Hot Springs and to our State, and I know that Arkansas's natural beauty and warm hospitality will make their trip memorable," said Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe. "As a big fan of college basketball, I'm looking forward to some great games. I thank the Sun Belt Conference for choosing Arkansas, and congratulate the people of Hot Springs on an outstanding job in achieving this honor."

Hot Springs' historic downtown, national park, and world famous natural hot springs and spas highlight the resort town also known for its pristine lakes for fishing and boating. The Magic Springs Theme Park and Crystal Falls Water Park, Garvan Woodland Botanical Gardens, and Oaklawn Park thoroughbred horse racing help round out the entertainment landscape. The Summit Arena also hosts the Arkansas men's and women's state high school basketball tournament, attended annually by 56,000 people.

During the Sun Belt's 2006 fall meetings, the conference's 13 institutions voted unanimously to move the annual tournament to a neutral site beginning in 2009. It was determined the neutral site must fall within the conference's geographic footprint, offer an appropriate and first-class arena, promote the championship locally and offer attractive entertainment. Tournament specifications and bids were sent to six possible sites, five cities accepted the Sun Belt's request for a proposal, in-person site visitations were made to three cities, and two cities made formal presentations to the Sun Belt's Executive Committee on October 10 at the league's 2007 fall meetings in Mobile.

MTSU President Dr. Sydney McPhee is a member of the Sun Belt's Executive Committee and commented on the selection of Hot Springs. "We received outstanding proposals from a pair of extremely qualified cities, but our Executive Committee felt that Hot Springs presents a unique opportunity for our fans to attend the tournament in a first-class setting while also enjoying a resort destination," says Dr. McPhee. This is an exciting time for the conference, and we are confident our future basketball tournaments will be a tremendous experience for everyone involved."

Other than 1992 and 1993, when the Sun Belt Conference basketball tournament was played in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, Miss., this will mark the only time the conference tournament has not been played in the city of one of the Sun Belt schools. The men's and women's quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals of the 2008 tournament will be played March 8-11 in Mobile, Alabama at the Mitchell Center on the University of South Alabama campus. First round match ups will be played at campus sites. This format, which was instituted in 2007, will also be used from 2009-2011 in Hot Springs. Four previous Sun Belt Conference tournaments have been held in the state of Arkansas, as Little Rock hosted the event in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2000. ♦

Press release provided by Sun Belt Conference Media Relations.

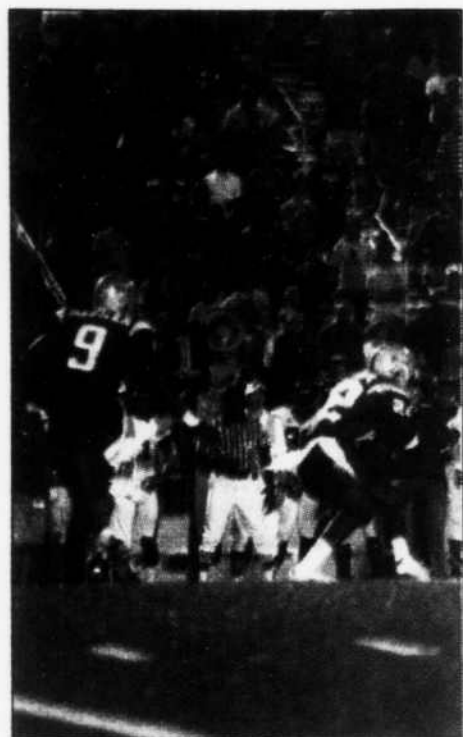
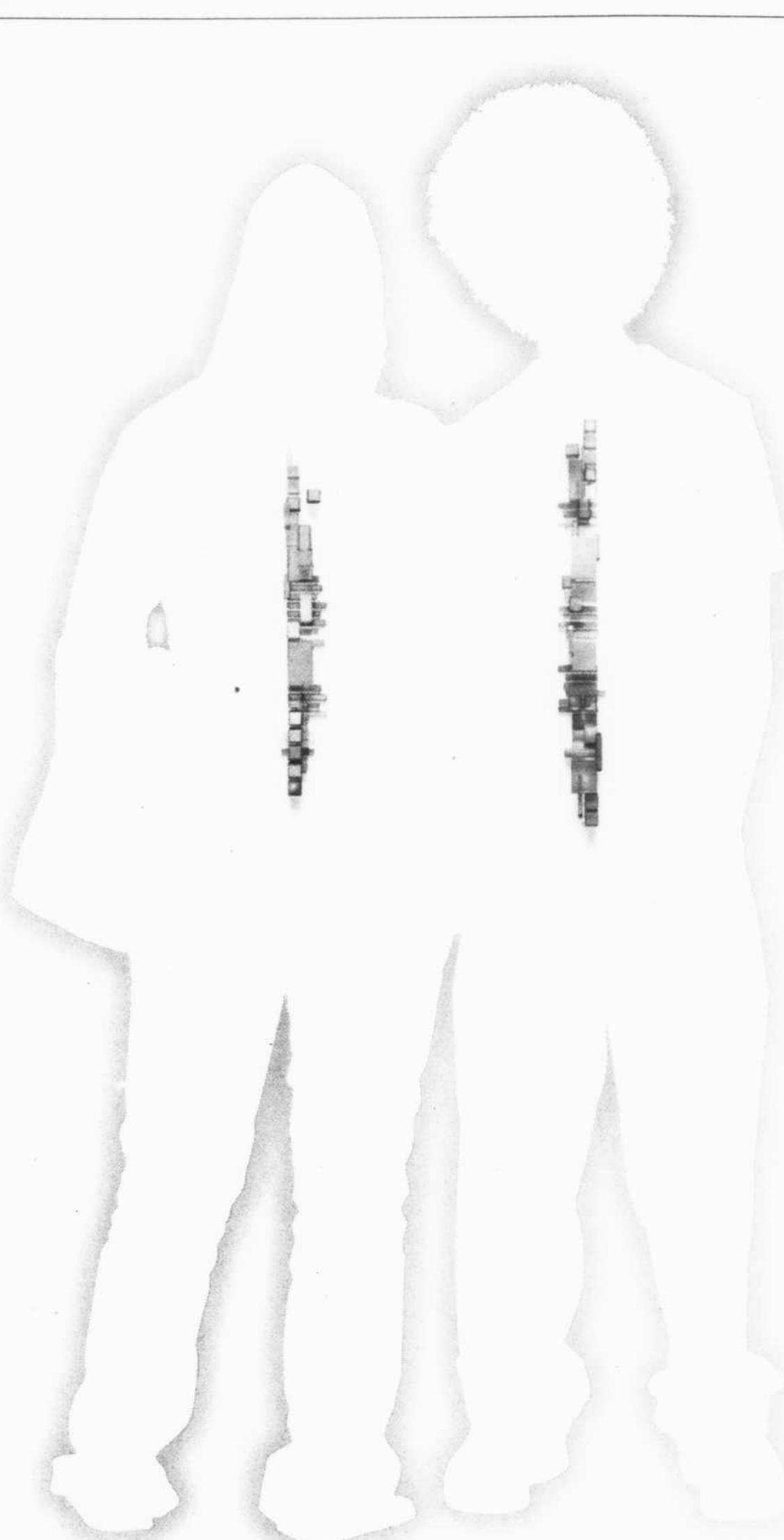


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Redshirt senior DeMarco McNair will be put to the test against the North Texas defense in Denton.



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