

Fable II has both good and bad aspects 6

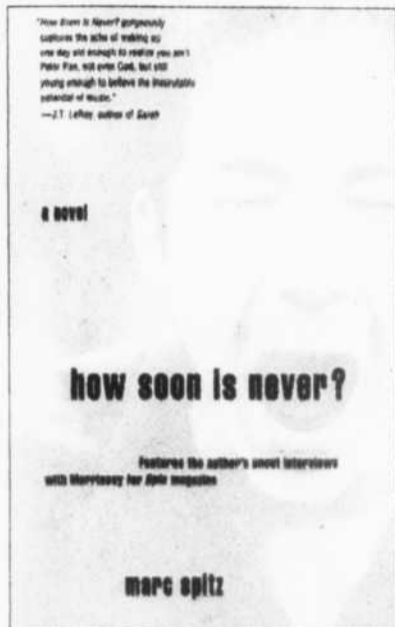
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 55

INSIDE

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is Never?*

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like me

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Home sweet
home

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COMMUTE

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

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

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

Purse
stops
bulletBy TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

A 22 year old female MTSU student walked away with no injuries after the calculator, sunglasses case and umbrella



Orlando Edmiston

la in her purse stopped a speeding bullet from piercing her torso during an attempted armed robbery near the McFarland building on Thursday.

Elizabeth Pittenger, senior sociology major, said that this incident has definitely changed her mind about using an escort service after night classes.

"I had just got in my truck and hadn't even had a chance to close my door before I realized someone was standing there," Pittenger said. "All I could get out at first was 'What are you doing here?' and my sister was still on the phone with me when he told me to give him my 'ef-fing' phone."

Pittenger said Orlando Edmiston, 20, demanded that she hand over her phone and laptop computer.

"I wouldn't let go of my phone, and I know that was kind of stubborn of me, but I just held on to it," Pittenger said. "He still had the gun pointed in my face, and I got out of my truck to keep a struggle going with him so maybe someone could hear me yelling or see what was going on to call the cops."

After a few minutes of struggling, Pittenger said that he took a couple steps backward near the bed of her truck before turning around and firing his .38 caliber handgun.

"When he finally got my phone out of my hand, he took a couple steps back towards the bed of my truck and turned around and raised his gun and fired a shot," Pittenger said. "He took off across the street to where the teacher's gravel lot is [near McFarland]."

"I had my purse on my right shoulder and the bullet actually went through the seam of my purse," Pittenger said. "It missed me by just a couple inches, and I am very lucky to still be here."

Pittenger said she is thankful the situation didn't turn out even worse.

Edmiston is being charged with attempted armed robbery, attempted homicide and possession of a weapon on school property. Edmiston is currently being held at the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center where his bail has been set for \$35,000. His court date is set for Nov. 10 at 8 a.m.

Campus police Chief Buddy Peaster said that he is working with the District Attorney's Office to possibly add additional charges.

"We've also had a few thefts on campus for the last few weeks near the library, in parking lots and across campus," Peaster said.

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www.mtsusidelines.com

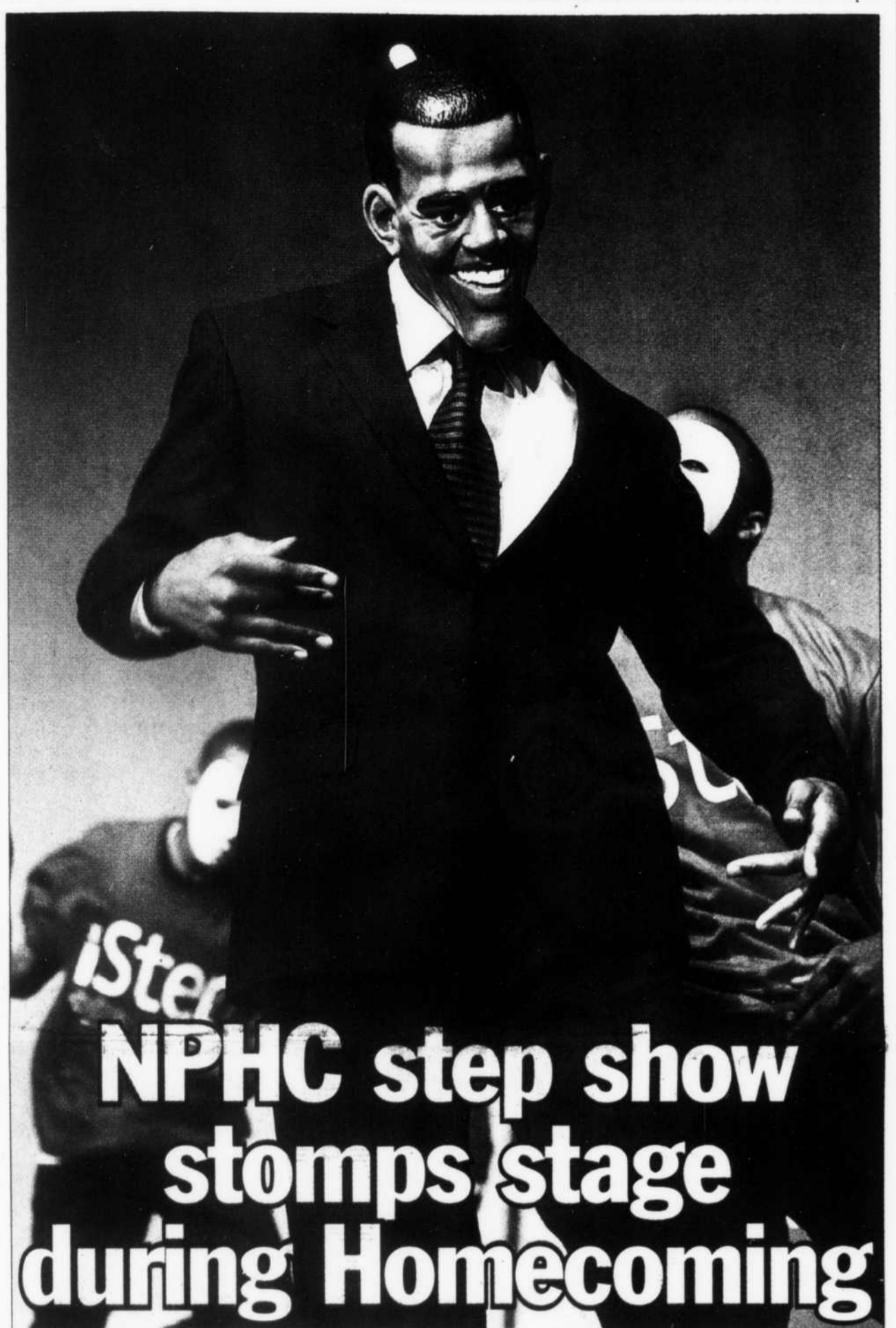


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Phi Beta Sigma won second place at the NPHC step show on Friday in the Murphy Center. Not only did members of Phi Beta Sigma mock sororities and other fraternities, but one member dressed in a Barack Obama mask to step along with them.

SEE HOMECOMING, PAGE 2, 3 FOR FULL STORIES

Custodial cuts leave
MT in janitorial jamBy TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Recent budget cuts have affected the custodial cleaning of restrooms and facilities on campus by forcing administrators to cut back on janitorial personnel and depend on a contract with Aramark employees.

The cleaning problems shared by many buildings on campus are not because of neglect, but because of the lack of funds available, said President Sidney McPhee.

"We are now being told that in the terms of the next budget year, don't expect any dollars for maintenance period," McPhee said. "We are millions of dollars behind in needs to maintain our buildings."

McPhee said this is a matter of resources. The funds are not available for MTSU or any other universities.

"We expect Aramark to meet the basic contract, but employees want to see a regular [cleaning] schedule," McPhee said. "I've tried to make it very clear that we are going to see some negative impact."

Phil Harper, accounting associate professor, said he thinks that maintenance should have remained in-house for better cleaning results.

"If maintenance janitorial was in-house, it might cost the university more, but you would have better control," Harper said. "Before it went to this bidding out contract system, we had a lot better cleanliness and things were supplied."

Harper, who works in the Business Aerospace building, said he is disgusted with the conditions the South wing restrooms are in.

"It has not been uncommon, particularly in the South wing of the building, for the restrooms to be in terrible condition," Harper said. "Atrocious, pitiful and all of the adjectives I might sit here and try to condor up apply, because the lack of attention."

Angela Harris, senior criminal justice major, said that the restrooms in the BAS are often unclean and look dirty.

"There is no toilet paper in the stalls, and you have to bother someone else to get some," Harris said.

"And there is always paper towels on the floor."

John Cothern, senior vice president, said that there is a requirement that Aramark employees clean restrooms daily.

"It's not unusual that a custodian or two will not show up at night for

Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Aramark employees fail to clean restrooms in BAS.

work, and once we know that, we bring someone in to clean it during the day," Cothern said. "Every restroom should have a sign in it that says 'if any problems call this number,' and that's the Aramark's supervisor's number."

Cothern also said that MTSU has the right to penalize Aramark by a 20 percent fee if cleaning standards are not met.

To read more, visit us online.

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HOMECOMING 2008



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

CASINO NIGHT

"It's been a lot of years since we've had a Casino Night, and this actually really gives students an opportunity to do something they couldn't normally do in Murfreesboro," said Debra Sells, vice president of Academic Support Services.

Casino Night helped with the theme, 'Bet on Blue,' allowing students to interact with real slot machines, poker tables and blackjack tables.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

FIGHT SONG

Fight Song kicked off Homecoming Oct. 23 in the Murphy Center at 7 p.m.

First place was awarded to Alpha Chi Omega, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Epsilon and Pi Kappa Phi. Second place went to Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Nu and Beta Theta Pi and third place was Chi Omega and Alpha Tau Omega.



Photos by Jay Bailey, staff photographer



SWAP DAY

"Homecoming Swap Day was a huge success," said Sondra Wilson, Student Government President. "We had 200 more shirts this year than we did last year so we were able to give them to football players."

The shirts were great this year too because they displayed our Homecoming theme really well," Wilson said. "I was happy with how much participation we had this year with the Swap Day, it was a great turn out."

NPHC fuses old school with new school flavor at Step Show

By JESELYN JACKSON
Staff Writer

This past Friday, Delta Sigma Theta won the overall competition at the 28th annual "Step Show" sponsored National Pan-Hellenic Council during MTSU's week of Homecoming festivities.

Members of Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities as well as the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority also participated in the competition.

This year marked the third

consecutive win for the Deltas.

"It feels great that all our hard work has paid off," said Hillary Shaw, senior industrial-organizational psychology major and Delta member.

The Deltas, with their Simpson themed routine, also won first place in the competition against Sigma Gamma Rho.

"It took awhile for us to come up with our theme," Shaw said. "A lot of brain storming and help from our coaches is what made this win tonight

possible."

The Alphas won first place among the fraternities with their MC Hammer themed routine. The Sigmas and Kappas won second and third place respectively.

"It feels great to win," said Sterling Reed, senior accounting major and Alpha member. "It took long nights, hard work, dedication and a lot of bumps and bruises for a great show."

The winners were presented with trophies, the largest one

going to the Deltas for winning best overall.

The event was open to the public and had a large number of returning alumni in attendance.

"I really enjoyed the show," said Jimmie Wilson, 2003 and 2006 graduate. "It's great to see so many people come out and support MTSU Greeks."

Guest performances included Soulchith and the Impac Dance Crew in addition to members of Fisk University's chapter of Omega Psi Phi.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

The group Impac performed at the Step Show on Friday.

Homecoming information compiled by Alex Moorman, Assistant News Editor

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Events and Activities



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

CHILI COOKOFF

Pi Sigma Epsilon took first place in the university's Annual Homecoming Chili Cook-off. The Cook-off took place Friday, November 7 on MTSU campus.

The second place was tied between Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Nu and Sigma Gamma Rho and the second group was Alpha Chi Omega, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Kappa Alpha Psi.



Photos by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor



HORSE SHOE

The Horse shoe competition was held in the Recreation Center and while everyone did their best, 1st place girls went to Alpha Chi Omega and 1st place guys went to Alpha Tau Omega.

"It helps students get involved on campus and celebrating Homecoming," said Sondra Wilson, Student Government Association president.



Photos by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

STEP SHOW

"It's a different experience, a lot of people don't know about stepping," said Melanie Jones, junior pre-law major. "Every year there are more people than the year before."

Delta Sigma Theta won the overall step competition at the 28th annual "Step Show" sponsored National Pan-Hellenic Council during MTSU's week of Homecoming festivities.

Homecoming winners 'tickled blue' over victory

By ALEX MOORMAN
Assistant News Editor

Alumni, students, faculty and community members all joined in Saturday to bet on blue, with the annual Homecoming Parade, Raider Walk and Homecoming game.

Homecoming day kicked off at 10 a.m. with the Homecoming Parade where Murfreesboro and MTSU community members watched floats decked out with each organization's idea of just how they planned to 'Bet on Blue.'

"We worked really hard every

night of the week sometimes staying up until 3 a.m. or 4 a.m.," said Bethany Jackson, senior education and behavioral science major and member of Kappa Delta.

The parade was held to showcase the time and effort put into each float but also to get attendees excited and ready for the big Homecoming day game.

The first place float winners were Alpha Chi Omega, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Kappa Alpha Psi. Second place went to Alpha Omicron Pi,

Sigma Chi, Kappa Alpha and Lambda Theta Alpha. Third place went to Alpha Gamma Rho, Kappa Delta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Pi and Delta Sigma Theta.

"It's a great feeling to walk behind your float in the parade with all the people you have worked with so hard and then find out we won third place," Jackson said. "Our work really paid off."

The parade was followed by the "Raider Walk," which consisted of the band playing as the football players walked past Walnut Grove and into



Photo by Aya Matsuo, contributing photographer

The band of blue march in the Parade on Middle Tenn. Boulevard

the stadium. The Raider Walk is also an annual event that helps the community show their appreciation to the players for all of their hard work during the season.

I believe that Homecoming was a huge success," said Steven

Disser, member of Sigma Nu fraternity. "We had a great Student Government Association Homecoming Director, Clarissa Blackwood who put so much hard work into every detail.

The Homecoming game was the last of the Homecoming



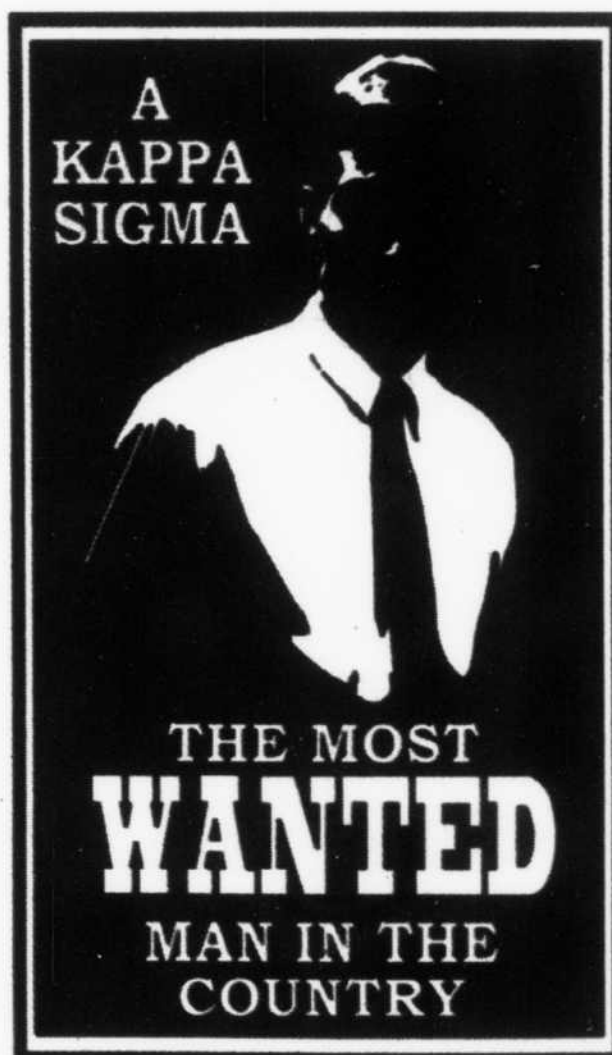
Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Meredith Howell gets crowned.

festivities. MTSU won 24-21 against University of Florida.

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- Andy Beasley - Brentwood, TN - owner of Brentwood Realty, a leading real estate broker
- Keel Hunt - Nashville, TN - President of The Strategy Group, a public affairs consulting firm
- Andy Bailey - Franklin, TN; entrepreneur - owner of NationLink Wireless



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Charles Rickett tastes Davy Crockett's chili entry. He said the restaurant's chili was spicy, but he liked it.

Chili cook-off raises money for athletics

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

The MTSU Student Athletic Training Association held its second annual chili cook-off Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Kroger parking lot on Rutherford Boulevard.

Puléo's Grille of Murfreesboro won for the second year in a row with its red and white bean chicken chili.

"Our chili is made with love and care," said Brian Breece, general manager of Puléo's who was accompanied by chef Mark Shelton.

Tickets were sold for \$5 for an adult and \$3 for children ages 5 through 12. Children under the age of 4 were allowed in free of charge.

"The money we raise will be used to go to symposiums and things like that," said Sadie Cofer, senior in sports medicine.

According to Hilary Clark, junior in athletic training, going to conferences can be very expensive for the average member.

"Going to conferences like NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association) and SEATA (Southeast Athletic Trainers Association) just helps us network a lot," said Clark. "We're able to meet people outside in the real world."

Five contenders were present at the cook-off, including Miles & Miles of Chili, Southern Kitchen Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Purple Truck Chili, Puléo's Grille and Davy Crockett's Roadhouse.

Each contender brought a

different angle to chili recipes, and participants were allowed to taste all of them by presenting their ticket.

"People come to our restaurant just for the chili," said Margot Cox, general manager of Davy Crockett's Roadhouse. "Today we brought our Tennessee chili, which has two secret ingredients: coffee and beer."

Others relied on family recipes to best the competition.

"I've always made the chili in the family so I came out when my son, who is in athletic training, asked me to," said Chad Miles of Miles & Miles of Chili. "[Our chili] has a little bit of sweet heat to it."

Larger franchise restaurants also entered the competition to compete with Murfreesboro locals and try to gain chili stardom in the annual cook-off.

"Our chili has a lot of peppers in it," said Aubrey Barbera of Southern Kitchen Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q. "It's all about the flavor."

The Purple Truck team's chili relied on using a different type of meat than the competitors.

"Our chili is a brisket chili," said Dave Story of the Purple Truck team. "We came out because we know Hilary."

At the end of the cook-off, a raffle was held and ticket holders were given the chance to win a variety of door prizes such as gift certificates from local restaurants like Santa Fe Steakhouse and O'Charley's and other businesses such as Bath and Body Works.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Margot Cox and Megan Cassano serve Charles Rickett chili at the Student Athletic Training Association's second annual cook-off

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Campus Briefs

Book reading

Dr. Jack Justin Turner, author of the newly released *The Foxes and the Hounds, Volume One, Big Medicine River Days*, will present a free and open reading from the novel at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10, at the MTSU Foundation house, 324 W. Thompson Lane in Murfreesboro.

Free Pepper Spray Class for Women

Thursday, Nov. 13
Time: 6p.m. until 9 p.m.
Location: MTSU Police Department Training Room
Contact: David Smith at 692-2424 or 494-8855.

Holiday Boot Camp

Classes begin Nov. 10

Monday thru Friday
Time: 12:30 p.m. until 1 p.m.

Registration: Campus Recreation office

Etiquette Dinner

Tuesday, November 11
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: James Union Building

Cost \$10 per person
Contact: Career Development Center 898-2500

Red Cross Blood Drive

Nov. 12

Time: 12 p.m. 4 p.m.

Location: Alpha Gamma Rho house on Greek Row

Sponsored by: Alpha Gamma Rho and Kappa Delta

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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

A campus shooting is worth a text

By now, most of us know that there was a shot fired on campus Thursday night. While we're very grateful that the situation was handled swiftly by campus police, we feel that a text message would have allayed many fears.

There were probably hundreds who heard the gunshot. For those who were there, a text message to the effect of "Shots fired on campus. Suspect apprehended. Continue campus activities" would have given necessary information to allow students to carry on with their business without fear. Instead, many students were left to wonder what they had heard and to worry about whether or not they should be afraid or stay indoors.

We received a bunch of e-mails later that night and into the early morning, a series of identical messages one after the other. We're glad that the suspect was caught, and that Chief Peaster was confident they had nabbed the suspect, but how could the police know he didn't have an accomplice? They didn't, and after everything that's happened this semester, it would be better to be safe than sorry.

If a tornado watch warrants a text message, then a shooting certainly does too.

Cutting custodial funds is garbage

MTSU President Sidney McPhee has recently announced that budget cuts will force the campus to rely more heavily on Aramark employees to perform tasks such as cleaning bathrooms than on MTSU's own janitorial personnel.

Apparently, Aramark employees will be forced to pick up where MTSU is cutting back on custodial tasks.

Complaints about the state of bathrooms are nothing new, graffiti and shortages of toilet paper and paper towels being the most prevalent.

MTSU should reconsider leaning too heavily on contracted employees from another company and should instead strive to maintain its own more efficient—albeit smaller—custodial staff. Relying on Aramark employees not only brings about administrative complications but also the issue of how and by whom such jobs will be delegated.

The fact of the matter is that Aramark employees have a lot on their hands as it is and adding to that list the full responsibilities of a janitorial staff is not a pragmatic solution to the university's financial situation.

And let's not even delve into the notion that the same people handling our food will be handling our bathrooms' sanitation.

Native American like me

- ☑ Hispanic
- ☑ Gay
- ☑ Chinese
- ☑ Native American
- ☑ Muslim
- ☑ Non-traditional

A six-part series examining diversity on campus

Walking in the shoes of others



Vincent Windrow
Guest Columnist

No, I am not a Native American student, and chances are neither are you. But since we introduced this six-part column series weeks ago with a reference to "walking in somebody else's moccasins," it is fitting that we end the "Blank Like Me" series with a nod to our country's original inhabitants.

November is Native American Heritage Month, if you didn't already know. And I guess the state of our not knowing is rationale for all the previous "Blank Like Me" columns. That is, because we don't know about the experi-

ences of others who may not look, talk, dress and live like us, we are prone to draw conclusions and propagate stereotypes that can be actually diametrically opposed to the truth.

Hopefully, this collaboration between *Sidelines* and the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs has afforded you the opportunity to become more familiar with other members of our MTSU family.

This final column, as already mentioned, is designed to celebrate America's heritage and to provide a closer look at the daily life of a Native American here on MTSU's campus.

Would I even notice a Native American dressed in Levi's and a Blue Raider sweatshirt as a Native American? Frankly, I dunno.

My generation's image of Native Americans was influenced by old westerns in-

entionally depicting Native Americans as heathens and savages, with obvious non-Native Americans in the paid acting roles.

Crazy stuff—but not nearly as crazy as those Thanksgiving-like portrayals of peace and partnership. Sorry to

lation of this land stands head and shoulders above all else.

All other abominations pale in comparison.

Millions of innocent people died. Thousands of acres were confiscated. Languages disappeared. Culture was

tant to them to be ethnically identified? Do they desire a voice in the many ongoing conversations that are taking place here on campus? Do they order "fire water" at the bar? Is their story being accurately represented in our textbooks, plays and special presentations? How do they feel about interculturalism? Would they be offended if someone called them a "squaw"? Do they have a definitive and monolithic take on Obama as President? Is there still a pebble in their jock regarding the less than inhumane manner in which their people were treated? Holla if you hear me!

Vincent Windrow is the director of intercultural and diversity affairs and can be reached at vwindrow@mtsu.edu. He is the sixth and final writer featured in our six-week "Like Me" series.

“My generation's image of Native Americans was influenced by old westerns intentionally depicting Native Americans as heathens.”

burst your bubble kiddos, but many of those outrageously biased stories that we were taught as youngsters have turned out to be about as true as "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Bears."

Our country's great history is littered with dishonorable policies and pursuits. However, its treatment of and damage to the indigenous popu-

co-opted. Religion was lost. Dreams were shattered. And the cake-taker was that the blood of it all was justified in the name of national security. Sound familiar?

As for MTSU, I wonder how our Native American students feel about their experience here. Do they need assistance in becoming assimilated? Is it even impor-

Want to write an opinions column? We're interested in what you have to say. Talk to us. slopinio@mtsu.edu or Mass Comm 269.

FACES IN THE CROWD

With the recent incidents this semester, do you feel safe on campus?



Hughes

"No. I just kind of feel there's a reason for the crimes and I'm not involved in them."

Sarah Hughes, graduate
Mass communications



Taylor

"Anywhere you go, there's going to be things happening. You're always going to be at risk."

James Taylor, senior
Liberal studies



Amster

"No, I don't feel less safe. It happens anywhere."

Trey Amster, junior
Business Administration



Smith

"Yes, I hate walking around at night because I know people get robbed."

Teresa Smith, senior
Sociology

COMICS

IS it just me, or is "inter-net-speak" really annoying? It's even started to bleed into song and album titles! Come on, it's not that hard to write words out!



"And Friends"

And every time I see "ur" I can't help but think of the Ancient Sumerian City-State of Uruk, birthplace of Abraham, founder of Judaism. I also think of Uruk City of Gilgamesh.



frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Wha r u tlkn bout?



Frank Hasenmueller

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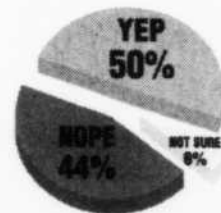
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SHOULD STUDENTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED VIA TEXT ABOUT THE SHOOTING?

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FEATURES



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Video Game Review: *Fable II*

Action-packed RPG simple, repetitive

By JAMIE LOVETT
Contributing Writer

Fable II, developed by Peter Molyneux's team at Lionhead Studios, is the second game in the *Fable* franchise. The games aim to place players in the shoes of a legendary hero in the world of Albion while providing free reign for them to choose a lifestyle and moral code to follow.

The game, which was released late last month, strives to do great things, implements some good ideas, and has shining spots of brilliant narration. Ultimately, though, it suffers due to the mechanical feel of the characters that populate Albion and the similarly mechanical social game-play systems that allow your hero to affect them.

Fable II's story begins 500 years after the original. The heroes that formerly populated Albion have vanished, leaving them truly as the stuff of myth.

The player's journey begins as a child living as an orphan in the city of Bowerstone. After being convinced by an old, blind woman to buy a magic music box, the main character begins a chain of events that will ultimately lead to the player being raised in a gypsy camp.

A decade later, the hero makes his or her return to Bowerstone, ready to right the wrongs that were done and claim the mantle of heroes past.

Where the hero goes from

there is up to the player. There is always a quest meant to push forward the game's main plot, but the player is free to take on other tasks. Some of these include getting married, having children, getting a job or spending money.

It may sound as if there is a lot to do in Albion, but it all ends up being a bit repetitive. The various jobs are more or less the same – a mini-game consisting of hitting the A button at just the right time.

Fable II could have benefited greatly by adding some sort of dialog tree to social interactions. Instead, heroes learn expressions by reading books. These expressions include things like dancing and breaking wind. So instead of having conversations, players are forced to communicate through jigs and farts.

Somehow this just doesn't convey a lot of depth of character.

Instead of rich conversations and endearing courtships, players end up spamming whatever expression is his or her chosen mate's favorite and then moves them right into their marital home.

The game's combat feels much smoother than the rest of the game, although its magical aspects get a little cumbersome.

The set up is simple: one button swings your sword, another shoots your ranged weapon and a third casts spells. You can level up these three aspects with experience

points to gain new abilities such as "roll," "flourish" and "counter" to spice up your battles.

You can also learn new spells or level up old ones. Once you've done so, higher-level versions of spells can be cast by holding down the spell-casting button for a longer period of time. Different spells can be placed at different points on the spell-selection meter.

This works well enough, but it can be troublesome to try to switch spells in the middle of the battle, as it requires use of the otherwise sidelined D-pad. Sometimes the player will get stuck in the spell selection menu while bad guys are beating his or her hero to a pulp.

Usually it's not a huge issue, but smoother spell transition would have been nice. Otherwise, combat is simple enough for the inexperienced player to button-mash through.

The game's narrative is pretty standard fantasy fair – there's a bad guy planning to do bad things and the main character has to stop him.

There are moments when the hero achieves something greater and closer to its goal of placing the weight of morality firmly on the player, most notably when the hero first visits the Tattered Spire.

Without spoiling anything, the game leaves its fairly stark are-you-good-or-are-you-evil approach, and instead asks the player just how much of a hero he or she



Concept art courtesy Lionhead Studios

really is.

The consequences aren't dire enough to make anyone lose sleep over his or her decision, but they are presented so well that it will still leave a lasting impression on the player. Unfortunately, despite being warned that the world has changed when you finally get to leave the Spire, most things appear largely the same. The stores are selling the same goods, and even many of the quests you left behind are still waiting for

you.

Fable II is not a bad game. It's just a game that doesn't live up to its own lofty goals. It seems to consistently choose quantity over quality in its social aspects, preferring breadth to depth.

The solid combat and occasionally interesting narrative makes it a fun venture for anyone simply looking for an enjoyable action role-playing game. Just don't be surprised if the social aspects feel a bit dry.

CALENDAR

Movies

11/10-11/14 - Tropic Thunder - KUC Theatre @ 7&10 - \$2

Music

11/10 - Dixie Whiskey, Nathan Singleton, Slide-show Tragedies, Bonnie Whitmore - The Basement @ 7 - \$5

11/11 - Pale Blue Dot, Shaky Hands, Rachel Loy, Brian Keane, Mary Naites, Jump Bar Jake, Lindsay Spurlock, Matthew Wesley Smith, Connor Christian - The Basement @ 8 - FREE

11/11 - The Wonderful Future, Secrets in Stereo, Awake! Awake!, Weatherspoon, Red Shepherd - Rockettown @ 7 - \$5 or \$2 with MTSU ID

11/12 Greta Gaines, Stacie Collins, Tonya Watts - The Basement @ 9

11/12 - Flobots, Blue Scholars - Rockettown @ 8 - \$15/ ticketmaster, \$17/door

11/13 - Jason Aldean - MTSU Murphy Center - \$15 student tickets

11/13 - Benefit for Rosa's children feat. MACOS, Across Tundras and & FUCT - The 'Boro @ 8

11/13 - Garage Deluxe - Wall Street @ 9

11/13 - Black Diamond Heavies feat. Pearlene - The Basement @ 9

11/13 - Music City Unsigned Benefit: Nashville Rescue Mission - Rockettown @ 6 - \$8/etix.com, \$10/door

11/14 - Uberphonics - The 'Boro @ 8

11/14 - Bellfield - Wall Street @ 9

11/14 - Amy Lavere feat. Rosewood Thieves - The Basement @ 9

11/14 - Every Time I Die, Bronx, Stick Your Guns - Rockettown @ 6 - \$15/ ticketweb

11/15 - Far From Folsum - The 'Boro @ 8

11/15 - Under the Earth, Lord Mantis, Finisher - Wall Street @ 9

11/15 - Social Jet Lag, Atavan, Forever in a Day, Hark the Herald, Alyria, Dear Future - Rockettown @ 7 - \$6

11/16 - Slave to Metal Music Festival - Rockettown @ 4 - \$10/pre-order, \$12/door

Other

11/13 - Writer's Night: Open to Everyone - Graffiti Bar @ 7

Compiled By Katy Coil

Book Review: *How Soon is Never?*

Spin writer explores life through music

By KATY COIL
Assistant Features Editor

In his first novel, *How Soon is Never?*, former *Spin* journalist and head-writer Marc Spitz recalls the days before emo was a genre, when New Wave ruled and a boy from Long Island fell in love with The Smiths and the girl of his dreams.

Joe Green is a small-time rock journalist who parties with kids 10 years younger than him and is in a slow, drug-and-sex-induced backslide. He finds that the scene kids and modern music are shams that are controlled by corporate music institutions. These corporations tell them what to wear, how to act and what to listen to.

In particular, Joe calls out one girl wearing a Sonic Youth shirt that can't recognize any songs by the band when he puts on one of its records. Green recounts how he "reclaimed [his] rock 'n' roll soul" and his unrequited love, Miki, by taking a trip back to the 80s.

The true story begins in Long Island during the Reagan years, when Cold War fears still loom large and Joe's parents divorce. He gets his first exposure to music through the *Rolling Stone* magazine he picks up while visiting Nick, one of the guys his dad crashes with post-divorce, and listening to Nick's record of The Clash.

Visiting his dad in Lexington, Ky., Joe comes across

"How Soon is Never? Propriously captures the ache of waking up one day old enough to realize you aren't Peter Pan, not even God, but still young enough to believe the irascible potential of music."
—J.T. Leroy, author of *Search*

a novel

how soon is never?

Features the author's uncensored interviews with Morrissey for *Spin* magazine

marc spitz

his first record store where a girl named Jane gives him a make-over, his first kiss and introduces him to everything punk rock.

When he comes back to Long Island, his mother and her new fiancé have enrolled him in the snooty Woodmere Academy. There, Joe stands out as a punk rocker and is introduced to New Wave by fellow outcast and new friend

John.

Together, Joe and John collect a group of fellow Woodmere misfits. When Joe is introduced to The Smiths via mix tape, he completely rids himself of his punk-rock ways and does everything to emulate the style of his new idol, Morrissey.

Joe and his friends eat, breathe and sleep The Smiths. They become horrified when

the MTV and John Hughes collaborate to make New Wave so mainstream that the jocks and popstars actually think they know what it's all about. This is referred to as "angstsploitation."

Joe has his first religious experience at his first Smiths concert.

Things seem to be getting better for Joe, but then the world starts to fall apart all around him. He loses his best friend and breaks up with his first love after finding out she cheated on him. The Smiths ditch their concert plans at the last second and Joe loses faith in them.

He loses his friends, loses his faith, and spends his senior year in a nihilistic downward spiral of depression. Then the Smiths break up.

College is a blur where Joe gets into drugs. He checks in and out of rehab. He becomes a music critic in the '90s, and the story comes back to the time just before it begins. He reconciles with The Smiths and meets Miki, the new editor's assistant at the magazine where he writes. Miki is a strange, chaotic girl who loves monkeys, reads Joe's mind and is referred to as "Psycho" by the rest of the magazine staff.

Together, he and Miki conspire to save the world by reuniting The Smiths, which leads them on a strange journey filled with love, hope and heartbreak.

They embark on a modern-

rock odyssey where they meet their heroes, relive their past, and realize that even as much as you hope, sometimes things don't always have a happy ending.

Filled with sarcasm, teenage angst, pop-culture and music references, *How Soon is Never?* is a trek through the underground and alternative music scenes. It explores how deeply and profoundly a song or a band can affect the soul and mind.

Joe explores his identity through his music idols and soon comes to discover that music isn't what makes him whole, though it is an important part of what makes him who he is.

The book explores the ups and downs of life, from being a moody adolescent to being a lost, confused twenty-something, to wanting to recapture the glory of your youth and realizing it wasn't as good as you remember it.

Spitz's book is witty, funny and emotional, crafted with intelligence and attitude. Even someone who doesn't like music or was never bullied in high school can identify with the loneliness and isolation Joe feels in the world. You root for him on his journey to self-discovery and his quest to reunite the band that once made him feel like part of something.

All in all, *How Soon is Never?* is great for anyone and everyone who ever loved something deeply or felt like they didn't belong.

What's goin' on in the 'Boro?
We want to know.
E-mail sfeature@mtsu.edu and tell us...please.

SPORTS

For MT, there's no place like home

By CHRIS MARTIN
Sports Editor

After more than a month without a win or home game, Middle Tennessee got back on the winning track with a 24-21 victory over Louisiana-Monroe in the Blue Raiders' Homecoming game.

The last time the Blue Raiders (3-6, 2-3 Sun Belt) played at Floyd Stadium, they came away with a 14-13 win over Florida Atlantic. That was also the last victory for MT before embarking on a three-game road trip in which it went 0-3.

ULM (3-7, 2-4 SBC) played the first quarter without star quarterback Kinsmon Lancaster, who was suspended for the first period for violating team rules. MT was able to take advantage of the Lancaster's absence and take a 17-0 lead before two minutes had passed in the second quarter.

"We didn't know [Lancaster was suspended,]" senior quarterback Joe Craddock said. "I heard this week that he was hurt, and [Lancaster] said he was. It was a surprise to me. I'd heard earlier in the week he might not play, but I didn't know he was out for just the first quarter."

When Lancaster entered the game in the second quarter, the Warhawks' offense came alive. After gaining 58 total yards in the first quarter with Trey Revell under center, ULM was able to gain 390 offensive yards over the next three periods, with Lancaster rushing and passing for a combined 328 yards.

"We came out there strong [in the first quarter,]" Craddock said, "and I was like 'Man, this is going to be easy.' And then we saw him come in in the second quarter, and we were like 'We got to get it back together.'"

Despite Lancaster's gaudy numbers, he was consistently pressured by MT's defense. The Blue Raiders had failed to record a sack over the previous three games and had only gotten to the quarterback behind the line of scrimmage three times over the past six games. However, MT sacked Lancaster five times.

Part of the success can be attributed to the defensive scheme. The Blue Raiders played almost the entire game with a 3-3-5 defense, constantly rotating the line-



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Phillip Tanner (with ball) tries to run past the ULM defense. Tanner gained 40 yards on 16 carries with one touchdown. He also pulled in two passes for 43 yards.

men.

"We wanted the center to get sick and tired of us," senior defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins said. "It was a continual rotation, nobody was going to be tired tonight. The only person who was going to be tired was that center."

The Blue Raiders also got some assistance from Warhawks' kicker Radi Jabour. Jabour missed all three of his field goal attempts, including two tries that came in the red zone.

"Their guy missed some, but I think you have to give us some credit on that. We got really good pressure on all three of his kicks, twice up the middle and once off the edge. We spend a lot of time on rushing the kicker, and I think it paid off."

The game was filled with milestones for MT.

Running back Desmond Gee became MT's all-time leading kick returner when he returned the opening kickoff for 21 yards. Coming into the game, Gee needed only seven yards to pass Brigham Lyons' old record of 1,178 yards for most career kickoff return yards. The junior gained 59



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer

Junior running back Phillip Tanner (21) fights for yards.

return yards in the game and has 1,231 career return yards.

Craddock also worked to cement his place in MT history. His 15-yard touchdown pass to Eldred King in the first quarter gave him 22 passing touchdowns for his career, tying him with Bob Hallum for ninth on the career list.

Freshman kicker Alan Gendreau's 44-yard field goal

in the second quarter was the longest of his short career. With the successful attempt, Gendreau extended his streak of consecutive made field goals to seven. After beginning the season two of five, he is now nine for twelve on field goal tries.

It was also a game of firsts for the Blue Raiders.

Junior defensive tackle

MT Top Performers



OFFENSE

QB Joe Craddock #12 r-Sr.
13-of-20 passing, 216 yards, 1 TD, no INTs



DEFENSE

LB Lonnie Clemons #29 r-Sr.
4.5 tackles (2.5 TFL), 2 sacks



SPECIAL TEAMS

K Alan Gendreau #38 Fr.
1-for-1 FG (44 yards), 3-for-3 PATs

Brandon Perry intercepted Lancaster in the third quarter, earning him his first career pick. Also, Byron McLeod caught a 14-yard pass in the fourth quarter, the first reception of his collegiate ca-

reer. The home stay will be brief for MT. The Blue Raiders will head to Bowling Green, Ky. to face Western Kentucky on Saturday. The game is scheduled to begin at 12 p.m.

With everyone returning, MT favorites in Sun Belt

By CHRIS MARTIN
Sports Editor

After coming within one victory of earning its first NCAA tournament berth since 1989, the Blue Raider men's basketball team is poised to return to the postseason in 2009.

The Blue Raiders, who return all five starters from last season's 17-15 (11-7 Sun Belt) team, were picked by the Sun Belt Conference's coaches as the favorite to take home the conference title this season.

MT returns six of its top seven scorers from last season and boasts SBC Preseason Player of the Year Desmond

"Boogie" Yates. Yates averaged 16 points and 4.4 rebounds a game during the 2007-08 campaign.

Also back from last season are guards Demetrius Green (12.5 points per game, 4.6 rebounds per game), Kevin

he sustained over the summer while Green is currently serving a suspension that will force him to miss the first two regular-season games. This means MT will be without two returning starters for the first part of the season.

"If everybody was healthy, I'd know exactly who we'd start," MT Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "We'd

go Nigel, Kevin, Demetrius Green, Theryn Hudson and Desmond Yates, and that'd be the five guys that ended last year [starting.] But right now we'll have Desmond

Kanaskie (11.7 ppg, 3.3 assists per game), Nigel Johnson (7.3 ppg, 3.4 apg) and center Theryn Hudson (9.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg).

The Blue Raiders will be a little short-handed to begin the season. Hudson is still recovering from a foot injury

"If everybody was healthy, I'd know exactly who we'd start."

KERMIT DAVIS
MT MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

BASKETBALL, PAGE 8

Titans stay unbeaten, tame Bears

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — LenDale White and Chris Johnson were on their way to history—the wrong kind, because they were running in reverse.

Even though they kept losing yards, the Tennessee Titans refused to lose the game. Now, they're 9-0 despite one of the worst rushing performances in franchise history: just 20 yards on the ground.

Kerry Collins threw for a season-high 289 yards and two touchdowns in a 21-14 win Sunday over the Chicago Bears.

"It's nice to win a ballgame and not play well," coach Jeff Fisher said.

Particularly as they struggled when they weren't throwing the ball.

The 20 yards rushing were just one above their franchise low and they had minus-5 in

the first half. It was a stunning performance for a team that was third in the league entering the game.

Even so, the Titans set a club record with their 12th straight regular-season win thanks to Collins and a defense that shut down Rex Grossman and the Bears.

Collins completed 12 straight passes at one point and was 30-of-41 without an interception. Brandon Jones caught eight passes for 82 yards, and Bo Scaife had 10 for 78 with a touchdown.

That was enough to make up for a miserable performance by the running backs.

White managed 14 yards on 10 attempts, although he had a touchdown in the fourth quarter. And Johnson carried 14 times for 8 yards.

"Did you look and see how many guys they put in the box?" Johnson said. "Eight,

sometimes nine. They really wanted us to beat them throwing the ball."

Tennessee did that well enough to remain the NFL's lone unbeaten team.

"Everybody right now is filling their role," said Collins, who took over for Vince Young after the first game. "For me, you play long enough you're going to be on good teams. You're going to be on bad teams. At this point in my career to be playing on a good football team that has a chance to go out and win every Sunday is exciting for me."

Is this the best team he's played on?

"We're getting there," said Collins, who played in a Super Bowl with the New York Giants. "We're getting there."

With Kyle Orton nursing a

TITANS, PAGE 2

Basketball FROM PAGE 7

Kevin Kanaskie, but the other two could change."

One cause for concern in the 2008 preseason has been 3-point shooting. In two preseason games, the Blue Raiders hit only eight of 34 shots from behind the arc. However, Yates isn't concerned about the early struggles from downtown.

"It will improve because we have great shooters on our team," Yates said following MT's second exhibition against North Alabama. "We took good shots tonight, we just missed them. But as long as we keep shooting, they'll start falling."

In order for the Blue Raiders to be successful this season, they will need improved rebounding from Yates. Despite being one of the taller players on the team, Yates was third on the team in rebounding average. Guards Nigel Johnson and Kevin Kanaskie each averaged only 0.4 rebounds fewer than Yates despite being listed as five inches shorter.

In its two exhibitions, MT out rebounded its opponents by only four rebounds, and it was beaten in the battle of the boards in the second exhibition against North Alabama.

"We hoped to out rebound [North Alabama] by 10 or so, but unfortunately it didn't happen," Yates said. "It's really important for all of us to rebound. It's disappointing, but it's something we'll have to work on."

Yates did show improved rebounding in the preseason,



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer
Senior Nigel Johnson (11) is one of five returning starters.

bouncing back from a four-rebound performance against Cumberland University in the first exhibition by grabbing 10 boards against North Alabama.

"I was focusing on rebounds and defense," Yates said. "It's been really stressful with Theryn out, out, so for me right I have to rebound well and play good defense on the other team's big man."

Last season, MT had one of the toughest out-of-conference schedules in Division-I basketball. During the regular season, the Blue Raiders played nine games against teams that made the field of 65 in March, including five out-of-conference games against tournament teams.

The schedule this season should be less difficult for MT, although there are some tough games. The Blue Raiders will battle Tennessee, Houston, Belmont and Vanderbilt out of conference.

As far as newcomers are concerned, the Blue Raiders will welcome some players that figure to contribute right away. At the top of that list of contributing newcomers are Eric Allen and Antwaun Boyd. Allen started his collegiate career as a walk-on at Kentucky before averaging 22.2 ppg with Marion Military Institute. The redshirt senior will figure heavily into the rotation, especially as a 3-point shooter.

Boyd redshirted last season due to eligibility issues, but should provide a spark on both sides of the court in 2008-09. The two-time all-state selection in Indiana scored 12 points in 35 minutes during the preseason.

Other new faces to the Blue Raider program include: freshman guard DeMario Williams, junior forward Montarrio Haddock and junior forward Josh Jones.

The Blue Raiders begin the regular season at home against Trevecca on Friday. The game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Come Experience

The New Shade of Chevy

Meet The Gas Fairy
at the KUC Knoll
Thursday November 13
10 AM to 2 PM

Student tickets to UT game available Tuesday

STAFF REPORT

Student tickets for the men's basketball game between MT and Tennessee will become available on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

Students can obtain tickets at the Murphy Center ticket office and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Students will be able to purchase guest tickets for \$35 each. However, there are only 200 guest tickets available and each student may only acquire one guest ticket per student ID. Students must also present a valid student ID when entering the Murphy Center

on game night.

This is the first time the Vols have played the Blue Raiders at the Murphy Center in a regular season game. The last time the Vols squared off against MT in the Murphy Center was in the first round of the 1998 National Invitation Tournament.

"Our students are our biggest supporters and we want to give them every opportunity to be in the Murphy Center on what will be a great night for college basketball," said Director of Athletics Chris Massaro.

The game will take place on Nov. 21 with a 7:30 p.m. tip-off time.

again, even though outsiders keep insist each week they'll lose.

"Maybe they have some kind of angel around them or something. I don't know," Bears receiver Rashied Davis said.

Orton had hoped to play after being taken from the field on a cart in the closing minute of the first half last week. Instead, Grossman orchestrated a 75-yard touchdown drive on the Bears' first possession that ended with a 5-yard pass to Forte.

The good vibe disappeared on the next possession, when Grossman tried to force one to Marty Booker along the left sideline. Cortland Finnegan tipped it, Chris Hope picked it off and Tennessee took over at the Chicago 25.

But Ahmad Hall fumbled — Tennessee's first turnover in 16 quarters — on fourth-and-inches at the goal line.

The Titans did take advantage after Chris Carr returned a punt 29 yards to the Chicago 22, with Scaife a 10-yard pass from Collins that tied it at 7 in the second quarter.

"We overcame an awful lot of issues, problems, and still found a way to win (against a) good football team today," Fisher said.

Titans FROM PAGE 7

With Kyle Orton nursing a sprained ankle, Grossman delivered an uneven performance in his first start since Dec. 6. He was 20-for-37 got 173 yards and led the Bears (5-4) on a 75-yard touchdown drive on their first possession. He also got picked off on the next one.

Rookie Matt Forte struggled at times, running for 72 yards after setting a season-high with 126 against Detroit, and the offense managed 243 yards in all.

Coming off a 19-16 overtime win over Green Bay, the Titans took a 14-7 lead early in the third quarter when Collins connected with former Bear Justin Gage for a 12-yard touchdown — the first by a Tennessee wide receiver since the second game.

A 2-yard run by White early in the fourth period made it 21-7, but the Bears refused to go quietly.

Grossman fell into the end zone from the 1 to make it a seven-point game with 4:55 left after a 29-yard pass to Devin Hester. And they had a chance to tie it after a punt, taking over at the Tennessee 41. But the Titans held firm

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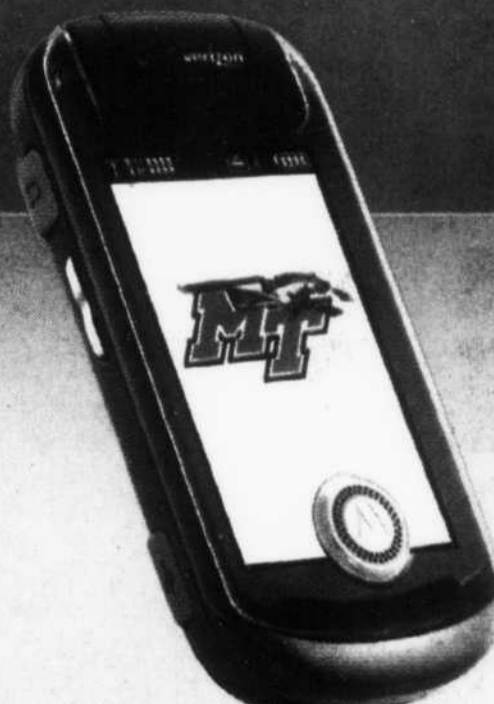
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