

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 3, 2001

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Tattooing for Christ

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ONLINE

How will you be participating in family weekend?

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An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

Family Weekend at MTSU

Families will gather at MTSU this weekend for three days of family fun.

Friday afternoon will feature a Raider Rally picnic at 5 p.m. There will be a brunch Saturday from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. followed by the Kaleidoscope Concert at 2:30 in the Wright Music Building. Tailgating and the Alpha Omicron Pi Barbecue will begin at 3:30 in the grassy area near the tennis courts.

Kickoff for the MTSU vs. Idaho football game is at 6 p.m. and will be preceded by a ceremony honoring Rutherford County's emergency workers.

Khrushchev to visit campus

Sergei Khrushchev, the son of former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, will visit MTSU Oct. 15 to discuss the Cold War and post-Soviet reforms.

Khrushchev will deliver two presentations. One is a luncheon, "Russia Under Putin." Tickets are \$15 for students, administrators and staff and \$25 for the general community. Reservations for the luncheon must be received by Oct. 6.

His second presentation will be at 5 p.m. and is titled "Eisenhower, Khrushchev and Kennedy," a discussion of the Cold War. For more information or to purchase tickets for the luncheon, call 898-2596.

MTSU Theatre kicks off

The MTSU Theatre players will begin the theater season with the murder-mystery spoof *The Real Inspector Hound*.

The production, written by British playwright Tom Stoppard, will be presented at 8 p.m. daily Oct. 4-5 and Oct. 9-13 in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Studio Theatre. Tickets are free for MTSU students with a valid MTSU ID, and general admission is \$8. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 898-2103.

Ethics essay contest offered

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity has announced their essay contest for 2002.

Full-time juniors and seniors are invited to write essays analyzing urgent ethical issues that present themselves in today's society. Awards range up to \$5,000 for first place. The winners will be announced in April of 2002, and the deadline is Dec. 1, 2001. For more information, visit the Foundation's Web site at www.eliewiesel-foundation.org.

Holiday Festival to raise funds

The MTSU Administrative Services "Relay for Life" team will hold its first Holiday Festival on campus Oct. 13 to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life next summer.

The free festival will include a book sale, children's activities, exhibits and door prizes and will be held in the Alumni Memorial Gym. Any vendors who would like to have space should call Deborah Roberts at 898-2853. To make book donations, call Kathy Kano at 898-2172. ♦

Meningitis clinic available next week

By Amy Eslami
Staff Writer

MTSU students will have the chance to stop a deadly disease in its tracks next week.

Vaccines Net Plus will offer meningitis vaccinations at MTSU from 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 9 in the Keathley University Center, Room 322. The vaccination cost is \$85.

College students, especially those living in dormitories, should be warned about the risks of contracting meningitis, a potentially life-threatening illness, and should consider getting vaccinated against it, doctors say.

"I recommend the vaccination mainly to students living in dorms, students who may drink after another, people sharing toothpaste and personal belongings," said Richard Chapman, director of MTSU Health Services.

"Students who stay up late studying or partying are at greater risk of getting meningitis because their immune systems are run down," he added.

According to the American

College Health Association, the vaccine is 85 percent effective against the four strains of bacterial meningitis that account for about 70 percent of cases in college students. Protection from the vaccine lasts about three to five years, according to the ACHA.

Studies show meningitis strikes as many as 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for about 300 deaths annually. It is estimated that from 100 to 125 cases of

See Meningitis, 3

What are the symptoms of meningococcal meningitis?

•Symptoms are often misdiagnosed as something less serious.
•They can resemble the flu and may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, confusion, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion and/or a rash. If not detected early, the disease can progress, often within hours of the first signs of symptoms.

Who is at risk for meningococcal meningitis?

•Studies show 15- to 24-year-olds are at greater risk of getting meningitis, and in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of college outbreaks.
•Certain lifestyle factors common among college students appear to be linked to the disease, including communal living, bar patronage, smoking and irregular sleep patterns.
•Recent data also show students living in dormitories, particularly freshmen, have a sixfold-increased risk for the disease.

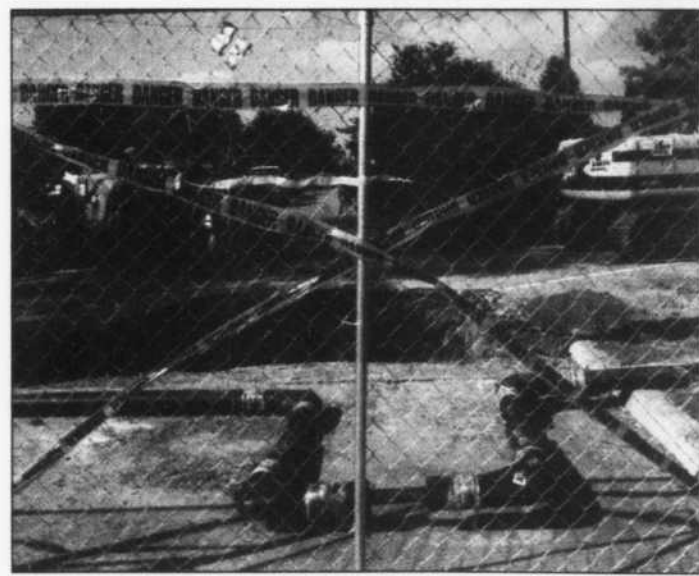
Campus improvements continue to dig deeper



Photos by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

(Above) The MTSU community has become familiar with the sight of broken asphalt, chain-link fences and red tape in recent years, with renovations going on in many major campus buildings, such as the James Union Building, Cope Administration Building and University Library, as well as in various outdoor locations, such as the street between the Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Center and Health Services, as seen here. The courtyard between the University Library and the Business and Aerospace Building has been under construction for more than nine months and should be complete by the beginning of next semester.

(Left) A steam line waits to be placed underground last week between the SAG and Health Services.



Professor directly affected by attacks

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

While MTSU stood in amazement and watched history unfold Sept. 11, professor Stuart Bernstein watched with sadness.

Bernstein was about to hop on his bike and leave for work when his wife told him that the World Trade Center was on fire.

He immediately called his mother at her home in New York, but she had already left for work. She had gone in early that day. She worked on the 97th floor of the south World Trade Center Tower and was a



Bernstein

data processor for large companies. She worked in the trade center for about three years.

Bernstein knew that if she was at work, then there wasn't much he could do. Neither Bernstein's mother nor anyone else from her company has been heard from since they left for work that morning.

Though Bernstein has lost someone irreplaceable, his family has a new addition in the wake of his mother's death. He and his wife just gave birth to their first child, a baby girl. She will be named in honor of her grandmother.

"It is not easy," said Bernstein, "but the baby is won-

See Bernstein, 3

A nice surprise



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

An MTSU Police car was ticketed yesterday for parking in a space reserved for the postal service.

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POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Briefs Compiled By Jeremy Davis - Staff Writer

Greens seek equality

By Angela White
Staff Writer

Remember that screwy presidential election a while back that nobody won? Then you probably remember the two representatives of our "diverse" political system who often seemed to have more in common than not.

Our two-party system has mainstreamed into one, moderate conformity that no one fully supports. You may like the Democratic platform on education and welfare but not on censorship. You may like the Republican platform on taxes and government spending (or lack thereof) but not on abortion. Either way, you may feel you have to support the "lesser of two evils" in order to get your voice at least somewhat heard.

Third parties allow people to make their voices heard without compromise. While they may not have a chance of gaining the White House any time soon, they can build up representation in Congress and at local levels to make a difference in the long run.

The Green Party's platform stands for everything the Democratic Party should stand for but doesn't. It supports a liberal, social and political environment uncorrupted by corporate power and wealthy prestige. Many would call their views idealistic and unrealistic, but changes for the better cannot be made unless there is a foundation to build upon. There is no better foundation than that of ideals. Some people also call the Green Party un-American, whatever that means. They consider their views communistic and destructive to our way of life. But the Green Party simply seeks to place power in the hands of the masses instead of the select privileged few. In a way, this is similar to the Republican platform, which wants to give more power to the state and local levels of government in order to give the average citizen more of a voice. Perhaps this is why many people who voted for Nader in 2000 said they would have otherwise voted for Bush.

The Green Party supports increased government regulation to prevent destruction of the environment. Corporations that destroy any land, whether their own or that of the government, should be held accountable. Damage done today will affect the lives of future generations, no matter their political affiliation.

The party's platform also calls for a "living wage which reflects the real value of a person's work." People should not bust their asses to live in poverty. Corporations benefit from large tax breaks and worker exploitation. They become inescapable, growing larger and spreading farther to demolish small businesses and secure a monopoly over our lives. The Green Party calls for the abolition of corporate tax cuts and the support of locally-owned businesses by the government. The Green Party wants those who want to and can work to earn what they're worth. It does not seek to force people into the workforce who do not wish to be there (stay-at-home mothers, etc.) or who cannot be there (because of a disability, etc.). That's why it fully supports an uncorrupt and effective welfare system, unlike the one our country employs now.

The party supports the destruction of nuclear weapons that can do nothing but destroy. It does, however, "recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations," according to its platform. It supports non-violent over violent methods whenever possible. A military strike is not always the most effective answer (duck).

Lastly, and most importantly, the Green Party supports equal rights for all citizens, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, hair color or anything else someone can think to discriminate against. It promotes diversity and the multitude of views it brings, particularly in our white male dominated government.

The Green Party seeks not to bring the United States to an *Animal Farm*-esque condition, but simply to give those that biology placed in an unfair position a chance to live a decent life. ♦

Briefs

Katherine Harris to run for congress

Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced yesterday she will run for the House of Representatives seat being abandoned by Dan Miller, R-Fla. Harris entered the national spotlight during the 2000 election debacle when she certified the electors for George W. Bush by a margin of 537 votes. Democrats accused her of declaring Bush the winner before all the votes were counted. Harris also helped push election reform in Florida that requires electronic voting machines used in all elections.

Strom Thurmond collapses on Senate floor

South Carolina Republican Strom Thurmond collapsed on the floor of the Senate yesterday and was hospitalized for possible dehydration. The 98-year-old senator is the longest-serving and oldest senator in history.

Thurmond will not seek re-election in 2002, and his seat is likely to be taken by Republican congressman Lindsey Graham.

Blair warns Taliban of imminent attack

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday the Taliban's chance for peace was over and they now faced attack and surrender. At an annual conference of Blair's Labor Party at the seaside resort of Brighton, Blair pushed his "bread and bombs" plan. The strike will focus solely on military targets, which will be matched by relief efforts for the Afghan people. This echoes the sentiment expressed by the Bush administration that has called for more aid sent to the Afghan people. The United States is, and according to Bush, will remain Afghanistan's largest source of humanitarian aid. ♦

Greens hate America

By Jeremy Davis
Staff Writer

There is nothing more disturbing in America today than all the sheep roaming around on our college campuses. You couldn't have missed them – they're green. They are led by their Fuhrer, Ralph Nader. They claim to promote diversity, but they all look alike and wish it was 1968.

First of all, let me make this perfectly clear: the Green Party is a hate group. A hate group is, by definition, a group that hates. Because the Green Party has made their hatred for corporate America, capitalism, free trade, religion, pop culture, Republicans, Democrats, the United States Senate, agribusiness, the U.S. military and basically anybody or anything that is not like them so clear, they must be labeled as a big herd of hate-peddling sheep.

Thank goodness this is MTSU and not UC-Berkeley, Brown, Harvard, Princeton or any other elitist liberal institution because those first two paragraphs would get all issues of today's newspaper burned in front of the Keathley University Center by a bunch of Hitler Youth-types who think they are cleansing the campus of evil. This actually has happened recently at Brown University.

The Green Party platform is eerily similar to that guy who ran for student body president at your high school and proclaimed he would abolish tests and all Friday classes. It is a happy stroll through fantasyland with no grasp of reality.

The "Economic Bill of Rights" and progressive tax plan is just a re-hash of Soviet economic policy. Overwhelming increases in government-issued services and massive taxation would cause nothing more than rampant poverty as it did in every communist country that tried it.

The Green Party wants to expand antitrust laws to break up any business with more than 10 percent of the market share, yet they want to form government-run monopolies in health care and education. Education is already a government monopoly, but that is another topic for another time.

The Green Party wants to have zero percent unemployment. Cuba has zero unemployment and nationwide poverty. The only way to have zero unemployment is to make it illegal to quit a job or fire an employee. Why would you go to work if you couldn't be fired? Why would you give your employees any benefits if they couldn't quit? Zero unemployment is bad for the economy and for workers.

Also, the Green Party wants to have a 100 percent reserve requirement for demand deposits at banks. This means the bank would have all of your money at the bank at all times. Currently, banks are required to keep only a small percentage of your money in the vault. The rest is loaned out to other people.

What this does is create more currency without devaluing the dollar.

Having a 100 percent reserve requirement would pull millions, possibly billions, of dollars out of circulation. The problem with that is to put more money into circulation, the government would have to print more and thus cause rapid inflation and possibly hyperinflation. Hyperinflation is the economic equivalent to an aneurysm in the brain. It is very deadly and is almost impossible to survive.

The Green Party also wants to give all environmental control over to this nation's No.1 polluter: the U.S. government. A huge percentage of this nation's environmental problems have been on government-controlled land. No sane person destroys their own property, especially if they paid for it. For example, do logging companies clear cut on their land or government land? Government

See Hate Group, 3



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Meningitis: College students at higher risk

Continued from 1

meningitis occur annually on college campuses and from five to 15 students die as a result.

According to information released by the Meningitis Foundation of America, certain college students have been found to be at increased risk for meningitis. Reportedly, students living in dorms, particularly freshmen, have a six-fold increased risk for the disease.

Dr. Moshe Arditi, director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, says meningitis is a very dangerous situation that can kill within just a few hours.

"The bacteria travel through the blood stream, frequently reaching the meninges, the lining of the brain and spinal cord, and causing the inflammation called meningitis.

"In other instances, the bacteria don't even have time to go that far, instead causing a fulminant blood infection, bringing about septic shock and shutting down the body's organs. This can occur very rapidly," Arditi explained.

Shandora Dorse, physician's assistant for Health Services, said although meningitis is very rare, it has a high mortality rate so students need to take advantage of the available vaccination.

"Meningitis can have a viral or bacterial cause and is spread by oral droplets such as coughing or sneezing," Dorse said. "Some people carry it for days or weeks in the secretions of the nose and throat without getting sick, but others may have symptoms which consist of ear infections, sore throat, severe headaches, fever, stiff neck, vomiting or even being unable to walk."

Flu shots also will be available at the clinic. For more information about meningitis, its symptoms or the Oct. 9 vaccine date at MTSU, call Health Services at 898-2988. ♦

Research: Researchers to tour Tennessee

Continued from 1

the issue of health-problem prevention and promoted health maintenance.

"This program has interest to me because, as a social worker, the U.S. Public Health Service funded my graduate education. I see this [research project] as a continuation of my professional studies," Rucker said.

"At the same time," he added, "I have assessed this topic as an opportunity to examine models for interdisciplinary community and public health programs."

Nashville-based research assistant Chomicki said, "I am excited about producing a good documentary and helping Mr. Rucker achieve his goals with this project. I also think this is good experience for me in filmmaking."

Already, Rucker and Chomicki have started work on the project. They first visited the Memphis area Sept. 11-13, but as a result of the terrorist attack on the United States during their visit, the pair will return to that area again, confirmed Rucker.

In the meantime, Rucker and Chomicki will continue

visiting other cities throughout Tennessee in the coming months to conduct interviews before bringing their research project to Murfreesboro March 12-14.

Collectively, Rucker and Chomicki say they hope their work will ultimately lead to the development of new health and health education programs that utilize a multidisciplinary approach and informative.

For more information on the Blue Ribbon research program including a listing of its planned interview dates, times and cities, call Rucker or Chomicki at 1-877-243-4584. ♦

Hate group: Greens would destroy country

Continued from 2

land. Logging companies take great care of their own land by selectively cutting trees and planting new trees and have been for more than 100 years. In fact, according to a study done by the Cato Institute, there is more forestland in the world today than there was 50 years ago. Where's the crisis? The point is that if private property rights were extended to cover all land, waterways and coastlines in the United States, pollution as we know it would disappear. All the government would have to do is give the American public the right to sue anyone who pollutes the land, air or water touching their property for a minimum of one billion dollars. Companies would clean everything over night regardless of costs because thousands of people suing them for one billion dollars each would cost a lot more. Problem solved.

Let's imagine the United States under Green Party rule. The country is sucked dry of all wealth by the government through massive taxation. Because of the 100 percent tax bracket on all income above \$250,000, investment in new technology slows to a crawl and

the United States is virtually stuck in 2001 forever. New farm collectives replace the huge corporate farms, just like in the Soviet Union under Stalin, and production drops out the bottom causing thousands of poor people to starve to death. Government break-ups of legitimate businesses, high tariffs on foreign goods and the end of free trade causes all foreign investors to run back to their own countries just like they did during the Great Depression. Unilateral destruction of America's nuclear arsenal and the retreat of America's troops abroad opens the nation up to attacks much worse than those Sept. 11. This also would greatly increase the risks of nuclear holocaust on American soil.

As you can see, Mexican and Canadian real estate would be a great investment decision if the Green Party takes over. People would leave this country so fast the government would have to close all borders permanently just to keep the land inhabited. Then, of course, the Green government would have to use brutal force just to hold down the rebellion led by those who didn't leave the country.

It's a good thing the Greens would legalize drugs because we would need a lot of them just to

keep from killing each other. Of course, this one good policy of ending the war on drugs is not an exclusive Green Party issue. Many prominent Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians want that nightmare to end.

Basically, the Green Party would destroy everything this country stands for and was founded on, and they know it. The goal of the Green Party is not peace and equality, but rather death and destruction. This group is filled with anger and hate. I went to the Spitfire Tour last year and this year, and it is certainly no love-in. It was Orwell's two minutes of hate stretched into a two-hour marathon. The things the Greens stand for are honest causes but their solutions are not. There are other ways to achieve justice, equality and environmental bliss without destroying everything we as Americans have grown to love about our home. If you don't like the major parties, fine. There are groups like the Libertarian Party and many others who take on the same issues as the Green Party but in a productive way.

Don't let their smiles fool you. The Green Party hates America. ♦



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

The sidewalk in front of Corlew Hall was closed for construction but has re-opened.

Bernstein: New baby reminds of 'life being lived'

Continued from 1

derful, and she helps keep us preoccupied so we don't sit and think about it."

Bernstein's mother was very excited about the new baby.

She'd visited a while back and brought with her lots of toys and clothes for the new baby.

She missed the birth of her granddaughter by only eight days.

"The baby is a reminder of life," Bernstein said. "Even though horrific things like this take place and people die, it shows that there is still life being given and life being lived."

Bernstein is a native of New York, where he grew up in the suburbs of the city. His younger sister still lives there and did something very special for Bernstein, his wife and their new baby.

She placed a picture of the family, including the new baby, on one of the memorials by the World Trade Center.

"It is a way to show my mother that we miss her and love her."

"She was excited about the baby, and the memorial seemed like the right spot to show her."

Bernstein, his wife and the new baby are doing fine. He said his friends, colleagues here and family at his synagogue have been a big help. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the staff

Construction projects not timed efficiently

If you've tried to drive through campus lately, you probably have encountered the all-too-familiar construction that has pervaded our campus this semester.

Certainly, road improvements and needed pipe work are important, but is there a logical thought process behind the timing and purpose of some of these projects?

The intersection of MTSU Boulevard and Blue Raider Drive by Scarlett Commons was torn up for weeks, forcing a detour through a nearby parking lot. For what? A sidewalk.

Meanwhile, the construction in front of Corlew Hall and the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building forced a one-lane traffic situation that delayed students, faculty, workers and buses.

The courtyard construction by the library has resulted in a pungent pool of foulness that greets visitors to the Mass Communication building with the smell of death.

Finally, there is the construction that has blocked the street between the Stark Agricultural Building and Health Services.

This construction has wreaked havoc on traffic patterns. The bus routes, which depended on this street, have been amended significantly, and the frequency of bus stops has decreased.

Also, the construction has forced drivers on campus to take wide detours that take extra time and add to the traffic that is already on these streets.

No one likes to drive on pothole-ridden streets, but it seems that the timing of these projects could have been a little better.

The closed street, for example, has only been closed since the semester began. Why would they schedule this construction to coincide with the beginning of the fall semester, when there is more traffic on campus than at any other point in the year?

It seems that good intentions have been overshadowed by short-sighted planning and disregard for the way that all people on campus will be affected.

Perhaps in the future, Campus Planning and Construction Administration will take all factors into consideration before planning projects that will affect all of us. ♦

My last column about the attack

Canadian Bacon



Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

The Sept. 11 attacks were horrible things. It is an embarrassment to humankind that such an atrocious, cold-blooded act would be willfully carried out. More than 6,000 innocent people lost their lives, thousands more were injured and our economy is teetering toward a recession.

President Bush has vowed retribution. Congress has given him what amounts to a blank check, and the world community has pledged its support. The Taliban is crying that they want proof and might or might

not give up bin Laden anyway. The United States, meanwhile, has moved four aircraft carrier groups into the Persian Gulf/western Indian Ocean region.

Assuming you have some semblance of current event awareness, none of that is news to you. In fact, it has been rebroadcast over every possible news outlet for the past 22 days. CNN has "America's New War" plastered on its channels 24/7, CNBC is all about the economic side of the attacks and as for Fox News, if I hear one more crazed theory about how Saddam Hussein paid Saudi terrorists to talk to bin Laden who got crazed Yemen rebels to mastermind a Sudanese terrorist plot to assassinate the director of the Center for Disease Control, well, I just might cry.

I mourned the loss of victims and was scared out of my gourd when I saw

the streets next to the World Trade Center that I used to walk down every day on my way to work covered in 2-ton chunks of cement and steel. I became misty-eyed while watching the national memorial service.

The news has become redundant. For two weeks, we have been spoon-fed the same facts, figures and theories by news channels that are, in God-bless-America capitalist style, trying to get the highest ratings by putting different spins on the same facts everyone else is reporting.

Today, I proclaim that, "Enough is enough!" There is no need to continue spouting out the same estimations of retribution that our country will dole out to whomever is responsible. As studies about violent video games have shown for a decade, increased exposure to violent images desensitizes

the viewer. It is not impossible to reason that the more Johnny Average sees the footage of planes slamming into buildings, the less real it seems to him.

The first hundred times one sees the icons of American capitalism implode are sure to evoke emotion in even the most stalwart of viewers. The second hundred times may even incite anger. But any more than that makes people numb, callous and uncaring.

In time, people will become mostly ambivalent about what happened, and while the terrorists will not win the war because there will be no public outcry to change America's foreign policy, America will not be able to put an end to the terrorism cycle because there will be no public support for American forces to strike back.

The best way to keep Americans interested in

what is going on is to report only large developments. Make it front-page news when we drop the first bomb of this war on Afghanistan or Iraq. A justifiable lead story would consist of bin Laden crying for his mommy before his summary execution.

Stop showing "human-interest" stories of how Fifi the poodle scampered down from the 50th floor of Tower One while dragging an unconscious toddler to safety. When these stories become commonplace, they force the public to turn away.

It is the duty of mass media to keep the public informed. However, the media should not overwhelm the American people's senses with irrelevant stories that cheapen the real emotions so many of us feel. With an apathetic public, this tragedy accomplishes nothing; there are no winners. ♦

Joe speaks out on entertainment, drugs

Bathroom Stall Graffiti



Nick Fowler
Staff Columnist

My dear friend Joe, despite being very unreal, allowed me an interview last week. I hoped to learn more about the imaginary student who writes us from the land of make-believe.

To my disappointment, Joe had an agenda and soon took over the conversation and turned it into a diatribe against humanity. I give you the highlights of our meeting.

Nick: Joe, first, what is your last name?

Joe: Mama.

N: Your name is Joe Mama?

J: Yes.

N: Very well, where are you from?

J: Your brain.

N: You aren't being very creative.

J: No, you aren't being creative.

N: Touché. But on to other things, like your attitude. Many readers feel you hate everything, and you see much fault in others but fail to notice your own inadequacies.

J: Your readers are stupid.

N: True enough, Joseph, but their intellectual ineptitude has not stopped them from writing letters noting your shortcomings. This letter, for example, reads, "Joe is a hateful little man who is angry not at the world around him but at himself and his inability to change his station in life." I think it deserves a response.

J: If I were you, I would not waste my time reading letters written in crayon. If you insist on a response, well, here is your response. I am going insane, and for this I blame

the world. Reality is slowly slipping away, and a fantasy is taking hold. These people, these wretched people of the world are perpetuating my fall into madness. Do you know what they want, what they concern them most, what their chief topic of conversation is?

N: I'm sure I don't.

J: Entertainment is what they want. They want to have their minds numbed for a bit so they can forget about the world and its troubles. Even more so, they want to forget about themselves and their own disappointing and shallow existences.

When there is no entertainment to stare at, they debate the merits of the entertainment. Never do they notice that entertainment's purpose is to entertain, and if it does not, it should be dismissed. If it entertains another person, then fine, let it be.

And so they group themselves according to the type of entertain-

ment they enjoy. They do this because they are boring. The masses bore even themselves. The can barely stand the company of their friends, so they find something to stare at together, rather than look at each other. Or worse than that, they had to talk to each other about themselves. They all dress like the entertainers they admire so much, the rock stars and the actors, smarter and prettier. They long for distraction, conformity and anesthesia. Do you know why drugs are illegal?

N: No, do you?

J: Because if they were legal, capitalism would crumble. Drugs are the ultimate consumer product. Drugs are instant gratification, entertainment in a pill, a joint or a syringe. Our whole economy is based on people buying products they don't need. They buy them to feel good. They watch television to laugh. You want to feel good and laugh? Smoke a joint. ♦

Despite attacks, world keeps turning

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Asst. News Editor

So, America, what's going on?

As we recover from the worst attack on American soil since the Civil War, many of us are suffering from a case of information overload.

Especially with news organizations reporting the same facts over and over (and over and over and over), it becomes all too tempting to turn off the television, put down the newspaper or close the browser window.

While this condition is understandable, we must keep our eyes open. The world is moving on, and we must too.

For instance, two weeks

ago, the World Trade Organization quietly approved China's entry into their organization.

If you recall, protests have rocked the last two WTO conventions because of this very question. Celebrity activists, trade unions, environmentalists, human rights activists and anarchists descended on Seattle in 1999 to protest the proposition of China's entry.

Environmentalists decried China's lax pollution standards, unions feared for their jobs, Susan Sarandon needed something to do and humanists charged that China's attitude towards the welfare of their citizens is deplorable.

I discovered China's approval through a three-paragraph blurb in an Associated Press wire story.

If it takes surfing the wire to find news as big as this, there's something

wrong with the way news is being delivered.

Now that we've already missed one big issue, there are more coming up.

The Supreme Court has just begun their session. Several big cases are facing the court this session that address school vouchers and protecting children on the Internet.

The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program (that's Cleveland, Ohio, not Cleveland, Tenn.) has been offering state-funded vouchers for about 4,000 low-income families to send their kids to private schools, some being religious institutions.

The National Education Association is prosecuting the case before the court.

This case is extremely important because it will effectively decide the future of President Bush's voucher program and its

constitutional status. The outcome will affect untold millions of tax dollars. If you don't care, you should.

Next, there are a duo of cases involving Attorney General John Ashcroft against two free speech organizations, the Free Speech Coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Free Speech Coalition case asks if computer-generated child sexually explicit images of minors should be illegal, and the ACLU case will decide whether additional measures should be taken to prevent children from accessing pornography sites.

In addition, the court will address zero-tolerance of drugs in public housing, execution of the mentally retarded and affirmative action hiring in federal highway projects.

I'm willing to bet that the majority of you didn't

know a lot of this, and why should you? The larger news organizations haven't exactly been going out of their way to tell you.

People would be raising hell over China's entrance into the WTO. Civil rights organizations are publicizing their cases in the Supreme Court, but who's listening?

In the wake of a day as monstrous as Sept. 11, it's easy to become single-minded and either focus entirely on news of the terrorists or shut ourselves off from the news world.

If we truly are the patriotic, freedom-loving nation that we claim to be, we must keep our eyes to our courts and government.

Two clichés that we've heard are that knowledge is freedom and that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.

Never before have they rang as true as today. ♦

SIDELINES

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Think Joe is a real person? Does Fifi
the poodle deserve her 15 minutes of fame?
Think the WTO stands for
Wrasslin' Topless Orangutans?
E-mail your letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu

Tattooing for Christ

Artist, owner of local tattoo parlor provides upbeat personality, sense of calm

By Megan Goodchild
Staff Writer

The last thing you'd expect to find in a tattoo parlor is a dose of Southern Christian comfort. However, Dan Jones brings just that to High Energy, the local tattoo parlor for which he serves as owner and tattoo

artist.

"A lot of Christian students come in here," Jones says of his customers.

"I feel that I can put them at ease."

Many tattoo parlors are filled with "satanic images," Jones explains, which is why he chooses to provide religious

symbols to his customers. The usual skull and crossbones, skeletons and barbed-wire pictorials are still found among the numerous examples of tattoos, but you'd be hard pressed to find Satan and his minions lurking about the walls of this shop.

"I am very picky about what I will do," Jones says about his art. "I don't like to do nasty, satanic things."

Jones says that many people "have the wrong idea about Christians" and would not expect to find them in a tattoo parlor.

"People usually see them as Bible thumpers who judge people," he says.

Once you get past his large, heavily tattooed frame and long, wild beard, it is easy to see how Jones would put people at ease. His soft eyes and calming voice could comfort the most nervous of customers, though he makes it a point never to try to convince anyone to get a tattoo.

"A tattoo is a very personal decision that should not be made by persuasion," he says solemnly.

Keeping true to this philosophy, Jones advertises mostly by word of mouth. "I don't believe in hard-selling to people who make bad decisions," he explains.



High Energy, located near campus, offers customers an alternative to the satanic images usually associate with tattoo parlors.



Photo by Mathew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Tattoo artist Dan Jones, who is also the owner of High Energy, wants to use his art to spread Christianity.

He recently took out his first and only advertisement in The Shepherd's Guide, the self-proclaimed "Christian Yellow Pages."

"I am finding that a lot of young people getting tattoos are Christians," he says of his decision to advertise in the guide.

Jones, who has degrees from MTSU in philosophy and psychology, was studying to enter the ministry when he discovered the art of tattooing. Although he cannot remember exactly how he chose his career as a tattoo artist, he had "always been an artist," he says, and became involved in tattooing after he "saw what was capable to be done to skin."

Jones has been a tattoo artist for nine years and has been the owner of High Energy for six and a half years. The shop, which is located at 1513A E. Main St., used to be called No Mercy, but Jones changed the name to better reflect his "upbeat personality."

"I think High Energy is less intimidating than No Mercy," he says with a smile. "I think we were scaring some people off."

Just about as many college students come into the shop as locals, though the sign on the door clearly indicates they must be at least 18 years old to enter.

One time a 64-year-old Murfreesboro cop brought his mother in to get a tattoo.

"She saw her son's and liked it so much she had him bring her in so she could get one of her own," Jones recalls.

High Energy usually stays "pretty calm and quiet," though it has gotten its share of troublemakers.

"One time a man came in and he was drunk, and I told him that I could not get to him that day," he remembers. Jones will not tattoo someone who is drunk because he believes it's "unethical and just plain wrong."

While he designs many of his images, there are so many

"already out there" that it would be hard to put them all up on his walls.

"So many things are accepted now," Jones remarks. "It is hard to come up with something that has not already been done."

But he does have a project in mind.

"I plan to start on a 12-sheet set of religious images," he says.

Jones believes the only way to get practice is "to work on yourself," which would explain why he is tattooed over almost his entire body.

"I did every part that I could reach," he says proudly. "I didn't do my back, my butt or the backs of my knees."

And Jones is the first to admit that tattoos are addictive.

"Well, you get one here and you get one there," he says a bit sheepishly.

"And pretty soon they get linked together until they're on your entire body from wrist to ankle!" ♦

'Zoolander' bites the dust

By Zachary Hansen
Staff Writer

Well, this is going to be painful. I have just had one of the worst experiences of my life, and the last thing I want to do right now is recall it in detail to share with you. This will not be pleasant; you have been warned.

Zoolander is the new film starring Ben Stiller. He also directed it, wrote it, designed the costumes, built the sets, wrote the musical score and catered for the entire cast and crew during the shoot. Perhaps if he had concentrated on just one facet of filmmaking, he could have actually made a halfway decent movie.

The plot surrounding the film is one of the most ridiculous and contrived plots I have ever seen. It has something to do with male models and how they're being trained to be assassins. Derek Zoolander is chosen to kill the prime minister of Malaysia so the children

who live there will be able to continue making clothes for the models at low, low wages.

Then a new model begins stealing Zoolander's glory away from him, so the two models get into it. I'm sure there are things I have forgotten, but trust me, it doesn't matter.

If this movie can be considered to have any positive aspects, I guess Owen Wilson would be it. I believe the one time I laughed during this heap of rubbish had something to do with him. And it wasn't even a real laugh. It was the type of laugh one uses when hearing an unfunny joke, but because you like or respect the joke-teller, an attempt at a snicker is at least made. But the laugh is really more of a facade for the contempt that is felt at the time.

Oh, yeah, and Will Ferrell's in it too. But honestly, who cares? Is there anything he hasn't been in during the last couple of years? And have any of the projects he's been involved

with actually been any good? Is anyone else sick of this man? If I wanted to see him overact, all I would have to do is turn on Comedy Central and watch the endless string of *Saturday Night Live* reruns. This man must be stopped.

Zoolander is horrible, very horrible. It's not even a Billy Madison or a Tommy Boy type funny because it is so stupid. In the words of *Ghost World's* protagonist Enid, "This is so bad it went beyond good and back to bad again." Zoolander is Freddy Got Fingered bad.

All this movie does is make the audience feel stupid for an hour and a half. There is nothing good or lasting involved in this movie.

Once I left the theater, I spent a while thinking about how bad the movie was and then went back to my everyday thoughts.

Please, don't waste your life with Derek Zoolander. ♦

INSIDE THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

SNL to make U.S. laugh again

Saturday Night Live returns this week with tasteful comedy. In wake of the tragic events that took place recently in America, executive producer Lorne Michaels says the show's 27th season premiere will acknowledge the terrorist attacks in an emotional way because that's the appropriate way.

Michaels says the show will address what happened with respect and dignity and at the same time do a comedy show that allows people some kind of relief.

Many television shows are slowly returning to their regular comedic acts in wake of the events last month. Michaels says that last week, putting on a show like this seemed impossible.

Denzel plays the bad guy

Denzel Washington plays the role of a bad guy in the movie *Training Day*. In the film, Washington plays Detective Alonzo Harris, a 13-year veteran narcotics officer who comes across as somewhat corrupt in his detective work.

Critics feel this is a rare glimpse of Washington, whose roles usually portray him as hard-working and struggling to survive against all odds. The film is reviewed as a realistic drama about fighting crime in our urban communities. *Training Day* premieres Friday.

Christina to drop sophomore album



more personal.

RCA publicist says the as-yet titled album will not be out until next year. ♦

Timbaland, Gwen Stefani, Moby and Lenny Kravitz are just a few of the musical talents Christina Aguilera says she would like to collaborate with on her new album.

Aguilera is currently in Los Angeles studios working on her follow-up album to her self-titled debut of 1999. The star says she is really excited to be writing her next album, and she wants to take her time with it to make it

Get ready to taste the Chocolate

Religious comedian to appear at MTSU



Chocolate

Staff Reports

Religious comedian Chocolate, who made numerous appearances on the early '90s show *Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam* and BET's *Comic View*, will make her first appearance at MTSU tonight at 8 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

The Atlanta native, who is widely known for her jokes about church, will be giving a PG 13 performance that is appropriate for all ages.

The event is sponsored by

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and will also feature comedian Shawn C.

Chocolate is currently on The Black Comedy Tour. For additional information on the tour, log on to www.theblack-comedytour.com

Tickets to tonight's show are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. There also will be an official after party with CEO Ent. at Plaza Garibaldi's.

For more information, contact Phi Beta Sigma President Willie Nelson at 1-877-226-7500. ♦



By Luke Burke



Britney, Justin robbed

Teen Pop star couple Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake were vacationing in Destin, Florida when their beach house was robbed of more than \$5,000 worth of possessions. The couple was out having dinner when four teenagers robbed the couple of Video equipment, a bottle of Jack Daniels, and clothes. One of the teen bandits was arrested when he was caught trying to dub a videotape with "personal" footage, police say. Hmmm, we will just leave that one to the imagination while both, Timberlake and Spears insist that they remain virgins. Whatever the case, police and publicist are not saying what was on the tape.

SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Call from
the
Pressbox



Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

MT football deserves fan support

Prior to the Middle Tennessee vs. Troy State game, rumors around campus were that the game was a sellout.

However, the crowd for that game fell far short of those expectations. In fact, there were a few sections that appeared empty from the pressbox.

However, a sellout was a little much to ask for the first home game.

Sure, Middle Tennessee pulled off the biggest win in school history against Vanderbilt, and that made people excited about MT football.

Still, a sellout was too much to ask for.

The average attendance at home games last season was 12,165.

At times, the Blue Raiders were lucky to get 8,000 fans at home games.

The attendance for the Troy State game was 21,723, the second-largest crowd at Floyd Stadium.

The largest crowd at home was 27,568 in 1998 when the stadium opened with a game against Tennessee State University.

The almost 22,000 fans was a big improvement over last season's average attendance.

"It was great to run out of the tunnel and see all those people and see that a few wins here and there, and a lot of people start to respect you," quarterback Wes Counts said in *The Tennessean* after the Troy State game.

"Hopefully, we can come back from Louisiana with two more wins, and maybe we'll have this thing full when we come back."

More wins are exactly what MT has gotten in its two trips to Louisiana.

This Saturday Sun Belt opponent Idaho comes to Floyd Stadium.

Sports Illustrated picked Idaho to win the Sun Belt Conference championship, while Middle Tennessee has been projected by many other publications to play in the New Orleans bowl.

This will be a huge matchup and could determine who ultimately plays Dec. 19.

Now is when Floyd Stadium should be expected to be sold out.

The team has proven itself over the last two weeks.

The offense has been ranked No. 1 nationally this season, racking up more than 600 yards of total offense on more than one occasion.

Dwone Hicks has received national recognition for his season, including a mention in *Sports Illustrated* as a darkhorse Heisman Trophy candidate. He is currently No. 22 in the nation in rushing.

The defense, which was a question mark coming into the season, has been tough thus far.

Even the special teams have done a good job this season. Punter Robert Billings has averaged 43.2 yards a punt this season.

Two weeks in a row, MT players have swept the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week awards.

Middle Tennessee is just about the only team in the Sun Belt winning these days.

Fans should recognize the efforts of the Blue Raiders and fill Floyd Stadium.

Kickoff for the Idaho Middle Tennessee is scheduled for 6 p.m. ♦

Call from the Pressbox appears every Wednesday. Colleen Cox can be reached at 898-2816 or by e-mail at slsports@mtsu.edu.

MT sweeps SBC awards

Staff Reports

For the second straight week, the Middle Tennessee football team swept the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week awards.

Running back Reshard Lee, linebacker Scotty Brown and punter Robert Billings were all honored for their performance Saturday.

Lee earned the offensive

award by producing his first 100-yard rushing performance against Louisiana at Lafayette. He led the Blue Raider offense with 127 yards on eight carries.

He jump-started the offense with a 60-yard run in the second quarter. The run was the longest run from the line of scrimmage by MT this season. It was also Lee's longest career rush. He later added a 28-yard rush and had three kickoff

returns for 44 yards.

Lee enters this Saturday's home game against Idaho ranked 38th nationally in kickoff returns, 52nd in all-purpose running and 75th in rushing.

Brown was selected the Defensive Player of the Week for the second consecutive week. He collected nine tackles, one quarterback sack, his first collegiate interception and one pass breakup in leading the Blue

Raider defense against Louisiana at Lafayette. Brown is currently the team's leading tackler with 30 stops.

"I was shocked the ball was coming in my direction," Brown said of his interception. "It's been a while since I've had a chance to run the ball, so I ran it up the field a couple of yards and stepped out of bounds."

Billings was honored for the second week in a row as well. He

kicked five punts for an average of 44.8 yards and placed one inside the opponent's 20-yard line. For the year, Billings is averaging 43.2 yards a kick and has put four of his 11 punts inside the 20.

"I am pleased with my average compared to last year," Billings said about his punting average. "We work hard at

See Players, 8

Blue Raiders beat Lipscomb

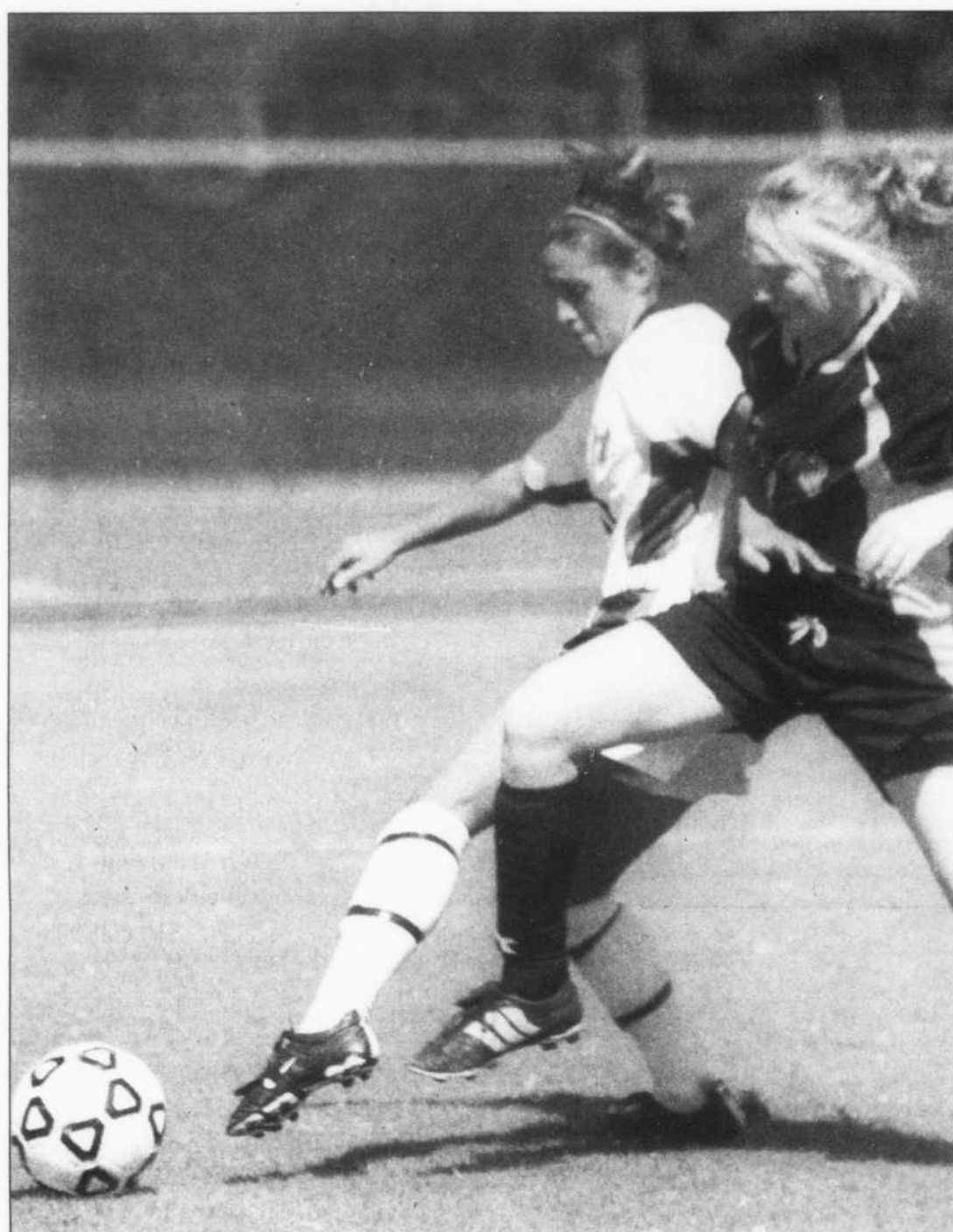


Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Lindsey Bopp maneuvers her leg around the defender while trying to kick the ball and advance downfield during the Blue Raiders scoring outbreak against Lipscomb Sunday.

LaDuke scores 3 goals before being taken out

By Steven Finley
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee soccer team regained their scoring touch Sunday with a 9-0 hazing of Lipscomb.

After a heart-breaking loss against Florida International, the Blue Raiders welcomed the Lady Bisons to Murfreesboro with open arms. They then proceeded to use their guests as target practice for 90 minutes.

The onslaught began just 48 seconds into the match when Laura Miguez fed Danielle LaDuke across the 6-yard box to give MT the early 1-0 lead.

LaDuke only received a moments rest before she lit up the goal for a second time. She rebounded Megan McGregor's missed shot and followed it with her second goal of the afternoon. The floodgates were opened.

Just 10 minutes later, freshman Lisa Langrish converted on a penalty kick following a Bison foul in the box, pushing the lead to 3-0.

LaDuke wasn't satisfied yet, and in the 18th minute she capped off her performance with a hat trick, scoring her third goal of the game.

The goal came off of a header from Emily Carter. LaDuke's line: 18 minutes, three shots and three goals. Her early performance was rewarded with a much-deserved rest. Following the goal she was pulled from the match to keep her healthy.

Sarah Linder scored her first career goal just seconds after LaDuke took a seat. Miguez picked up her third assist of the game on the play that gave the Blue Raiders a 5-0 lead in the first 19 minutes.

MT fans then received an additional thrill when midfielder Jenny Cox made her season debut. Having passed the mandatory physical fitness test earlier in the morning, Cox added a much-needed presence to the MT lineup.

She wreaked havoc in the middle, drawing extra Bison defenders and setting up her teammates. She assisted Lindsey Bopp on a goal in the 43rd minute and turned Leigh Peacock's pass into a 7-0 lead in the 56th minute.

Less than four minutes later, Miguez broke a Blue Raider record when she recorded her fourth assist of the game. Ashley Hicks was on the receiving end of the record-breaking pass, which was her second goal of the season.

McGregor finally cemented the final score in the 81st minute when she scored on a chip shot from the right flank of the 18-yard box.

The win brought the Blue Raiders back to .500.

The Bisons were out shot 33-4 in the contest and failed to muster a single corner kick to the Blue Raiders 11.

Single game records for

See Soccer, 8

Blue Raider Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee football team is coming home to take on Idaho in a clash of Sun Belt Conference opponents. The Vandals will receive their first taste of Sun Belt Conference play and their first taste of MT football. They should prepare themselves for the offense of the Blue Raiders and an MT defense that has been steadily holding opposing offenses in check.

Blue Collar Workers:

The offensive line has been clearing lanes for anyone coming out of the backfield. They were 2 yards shy of having two running backs eclipse the 100-yard barrier against Louisiana at Lafayette. Reshard Lee ran for a career best 127 yards, and Dwone Hicks had 98 yards.

Big D:

Linebackers, linebackers. In last weekend's game, this is what the Ragin' Cajuns had to deal with. Scotty Brown collected nine tackles and his first collegiate interception before leaving the state of Louisiana. He leads the team in tackles with 30 on the year. The Cajuns received plenty of face introductions to Brown and got a long look at the 42 embroidered across Brandon Lynch's jersey as he took a fumble recovery 50 yards for a touchdown.

All-American Watch:

Who doesn't have their eyes on running back Hicks? The nation's leading scorer added another touchdown to his resume last weekend with a 1-yard burst. Hicks also had 98 yards on 19 carries. Wide receiver Kendall Newson wasn't as busy but had one catch in last week's game to keep his streak alive. He now has 36 straight games with a reception.

Spotlight On:

Quarterback Wes Counts needs four touchdown passes to surpass Teddy Morris' record of 41. Wes has five touchdown passes on the season and 38 in his career. ♦

Lady Raiders sweep fall tournament

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee softball team won the Tennessee Tech Fall Tournament over the weekend.

The Lady Raiders didn't allow an earned run as the team defeated Kennesaw State 1-0 Saturday. Pitcher Amanda Kendall struck out five batters and didn't allow a hit.

MT also beat host Tennessee Tech 5-1 Saturday. The game went seven innings without anyone scoring before MT broke it open with five runs on four hits.

Lindsey Azevedo's triple capped off the Lady Raiders' rally in the eighth inning. Erica Buhl finished 3-4 with two doubles.

On Sunday, MT beat Lipscomb 4-1 and Belmont 5-1. In the Belmont game, every position player saw action on the field. Pitcher Jennifer Martinez went seven innings, allowing six hits, one run and striking out six batters while allowing only one walk.

The Lady Raiders finish their fall season Friday when the team hosts Motlow State at 3:30 p.m. ♦



File Photo

Jennifer Martinez pitched a one-run game this weekend.

MT's Kruse wins at Furman Fall Classic

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee women's tennis player Manon Kruse won the flight one singles at the Furman Fall Classic Sunday.

She defeated No. 17 Sarah Riske of Vanderbilt 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the finals.

Kruse maintains her undefeated record in singles competition through two fall tournaments. She has beaten two ranked opponents in the Furman Fall Classic. The doubles team of Kruse and Stacy Varnell are also undefeated in fall tournament play.

MT player Verena Preiss lost to Iowa's Toni Neykova 6-2, 6-0 for a sixth place finish. Carlen Venter lost 6-0, 6-3 to Wisconsin's Katie McGaffigan to finish sixth in flight three. Varnell took fifth in flight five with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-5 win over North Carolina.

Michaela Gridling lost 6-3, 6-2 to Clemson's Sunnie Harmon for eleventh place in flight four. Tanja Buchheim also placed eighth with a 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 loss to Krista Thomson. Emily Vest took seventh place when South Carolina's Audrey George had to withdraw from the tournament.

The Lady Raiders will be back in action Oct. 11 at the IATA Rivera All-American Tournament in Pacific Palisades, Calif. ♦

This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.
Time of death 6:55pm.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

CLASSIFIEDS

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Football video staff is seeking a student to video tape games and practices. Normal hours are 1:30-7:00 pm, seven days a week. For more details call 898-2570 and leave a message for Josh or email at mtsu-video@yahoo.com

Sidelines is currently accepting applications for advertising and delivery staff. Must have 2.5 or higher GPA. Apply in person only at JUB room 306. No phone calls please

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Players: Blue Raiders rewarded

Continued from 6

punting and kicking every day in practice, and that helps a lot. We work on pooch punts also, pinning teams inside the 10 like

coach McCollum wants."

The Blue Raiders will host Sun Belt Conference opponent Idaho Saturday at Floyd Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. ♦

Soccer: Cox returns, provides spark for the Blue Raider soccer team

Continued from 6

goals and assists were broken in the match-up.

The game marked the return of Jenny Cox, who was named First Team All-Sun Belt Conference last year and tied

the team lead in goals scored.

"Having her really boosts the confidence of the team," head coach Scott Ginn said, "and having her out there will make a difference, no doubt about it."

The game also offered players with little game experience a

chance to get significant playing time. All the Blue Raiders were able to get in the game.

The game had only one visible drawback. With five consecutive conference games ahead, was the easy match-up ill timing for the team's psyche? Ginn

doesn't believe so. "They know at what level they need to play," he said. "The challenge was to maintain the level of intensity we had for Alabama and FIU."

MT will be back in action Friday against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. ♦

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