



Volume 81 Number 36

Monday, November 14th, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

Sidelines



The Gutter

Today's Weather
Scattered T-storms
68/59



Average Price of Gas
in Murfreesboro:
\$2.17

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Coffee and community
make delicious blend
at E. Spresso Shelf



Customers at E. Spresso Shelf never stay just customers for long. By their second visit, they are officially "sweetie," "sugar," or "friend," according to the coffee shop's owner, Carol Creel.

"I come in here once a week or more if there's a special event," said Karen Ford, of Murfreesboro, who sat watching her 4-year-old daughter, Sofia, twirl around the wicker furniture and tables inside the shop.

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Greeks sponsor blood drive

The Panhellenic Council is sponsoring a blood drive for hurricane relief on Wed., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 322.

The Council's goal is to take in 100 pints of blood. All donors will receive a coupon for \$3 off any purchase at the KUC Grille the day of the blood drive.

MTSU goes high fashion for annual show

The annual MTSU fashion show will be taking place Sat., Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the James Union Building, Tennessee Room.

Tickets are \$7 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at the Ellington Human Science Office, which is located off Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Proceeds will go toward the Harriet M. Estes Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Students conducting water taste test

Beginning today, students from introductory physical science classes will be gathering data to conduct a taste test comparing water coming from a variety of sources, including bottled brands and the tap.

The experiment is open to any student wishing to participate. Testing stations will be set up in the Keathley University Center today and tomorrow during lunch hours, and at the Student Recreation Center today and tomorrow in the late afternoon and evening.

The test is being orchestrated by science professors Judith Iriarte-Gross and Martha Weller.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to interact with science and their community," Iriarte-Gross said.

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Strategic plan emphasizes improvement

Tennessee Board of Regents focuses 'multiple strategic planning cycles'

By Dale Martin
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Board of Regents Strategic Plan for 2005-2010 will focus on improving universities, community colleges and technology centers through a series of multiple strategic planning cycles.

According to the plan, the

vision is based on an assumption articulated in "A Vision of Teaching and Learning," produced as part of the TBR visionary project:

"Higher education is the key factor in building greater economic prosperity for the state and a better quality of life for those who complete their educational goals."

The strategy focuses on four areas that are critical to accomplishing the goals of the plan:



Rogers

leadership, access, quality and resourcefulness.

"The important thing to remember is that these key priorities, with accompanying goals and action plans identified in our planning process, will direct the entire system for the next five years," said Regents Vice Chair Stanley Rogers.

Strategy L2 of the plan involves globalizing curricula, increasing study abroad opportunities, encouraging sister university relationships, facilitating faculty and student exchange and taking further action to increase the understanding of

other cultures and global concepts. The plan calls for a 25 percent increase in student participation in study abroad programs by 2010.

There will also be a regional structure that integrates universities, community colleges and technology centers, and by 2008, all TBR institutions will be a part of this regional structure.

TBR is also focusing heavily on math and science. By 2010, 60 percent of Tennessee's K-12 math and science teachers will be licensed in their field.

Increasing educational opportunities for Tennesseans

who were previously underserved will also be addressed in the plan. The TBR will look at improving areas such as barrier issues, affordability and enrollment streams at the three types of institutions in the TBR system.

According to the plan, students who meet Hope Scholarship requirements will have their tuition paid in full at the community college level.

The TBR is also trying transition more of the scholarships to a need-based system. The board policy currently states

see Strategic plan, page 2



Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

The parking lot across Rutherford Boulevard is the first project in a three-phase, 10-year campus improvement plan. The lot will be completed in July 2006.

956-space parking lot to open

Lot across from Greek Row begins three-phase campus improvement

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Adjacent to Greek Row, across Rutherford Boulevard, construction has begun on a new parking lot that starts off a string of campus improvement projects.

The parking lot is part of a 10-year improvement plan, but it may be in operation far ahead of that deadline.

According to Ron Malone, director of events and transportation, the parking lot project began in August and will be completed by July of 2006.

The lot on Rutherford Boulevard, facing the MTSU Boulevard entrance to campus,

is the very first project in the first phase of the 10-year plan.

After the completion of the lot, Malone said MTSU Boulevard will be widened and there will be improvements to the entrance. The first phase of the improvement plan also includes a new southern entrance into campus from Rutherford Boulevard between Greek Row and the neighboring apartments.

The overall 10-year project will include an improved shuttle bus system, lighting and sidewalks. Malone said this is only the first phase of three that were devised when planning began three years ago.

The planned cost for the first phase of the 10-year plan will be about \$8-10 million, Malone said. The entire undertaking will cost about \$30 million. He said because the state of Tennessee does not pay for on-campus parking, tuition fees will be raised by \$50 to pay for the 10-year project.

ect. Though Malone said a parking garage at MTSU is very likely in the future, the parking lot is "the biggest bang for the buck." He said it will create more spaces with less money by utilizing available resources.

Studies done on the possibility of a garage showed that it would only create half the amount of spaces that are planned for surface parking lots. Malone said the garage would also cause a \$95 raise in fees.

An important aspect of the improvement project is that it will incorporate shuttle lanes to allow buses to run more efficiently.

"Once [the project is] completed, it will be very easy for people to hop on shuttles that will go unimpeded onto campus," Malone said.

"Everyone just has their car and they don't expect to use a shuttle system," said Zach Fortin, a freshman of engi-

neering.

He said if there were a better system, such as the "drunk bus" at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, more people would probably use it.

Fortin said he always tries to find a close space, but does not mind walking. He said though he would use the new lot, other students get into a routine of trying to find good spaces.

The new lot is being built with anticipation of future growth at MTSU, which is climbing at a rate of about 2.5 or 3 percent per year, Malone said.

He said that since MTSU will make it harder for the state to draw down federal funds to cover a variety of services, Ford said. "Senator Frist has urged that we make these cuts. He and President Bush both are the partners of this legislation, and I think they're wrong."

"It would be different if we

see Parking lot, page 2

Ford talks on health care, aid for students

By Sandi Van Orden
Staff Writer

Rep. Harold Ford Jr. spoke with student reporters about financial aid, health care and the war in Iraq during a conference call on Wednesday.

Ford said he was planning to vote against a package that would cut spending to various programs, including Medicare and by raising fees and interest on student loans, and would also vote against tax cuts.

Ford said he does not agree with putting the financial burden the country is facing on the shoulders of students in order to pay for tax breaks that would benefit those with higher incomes.

"Kids in this county should be able to attend college, tuition-free with one condition: they be willing to give back in the form of national service," Ford said. This service could include National Guard, or a corp for teachers, doctors, nurses or border patrol.

"In the short term it helps kids, in the long term it makes the country a richer and smarter and frankly, a more humane place where people are educated," Ford said.

Ford said he also planned to vote against the spending cuts because of the health care effect it would have on Tennesseans.

"Those who will effect Tennessee in this way: it will make it harder for the state to draw down federal funds to cover a variety of services," Ford said. "Senator Frist has urged that we make these cuts. He and President Bush both are the partners of this legislation, and I think they're wrong."

"It would be different if we

see Ford, page 2

International Film Festival

Films begin every night at 7 p.m.

Monday, November 14
Love, Actually (UK)

Tuesday, November 15
Hero (China)

Wednesday, November 16
City of God (Brazil)

Thursday, November 17
The Chorus (France)

Friday, November 18
Nowhere in Africa
(Kenya/Germany)

GLOBAL holds international film fest

Students striving to increase cultural, ethnic awareness

By Jeni Harju
Staff Writer

GLOBAL, a new student organization, will be hosting a five-day International Film Festival beginning today in the Wiser Patton Science Building, Room 102.

A film will play at 7 p.m. every evening from tonight until Friday.

The festival will cost \$5 for a week-long pass, which are avail-

able at the International Education and Exchange Office in Reynolds Hall, Room 3. Without the pass, tickets are \$2 at the door.

"With Quintina Burton's help we were able to reserve the Wiser Patton Science [Building], Room 102 for five consecutive nights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Next, we used member suggestions for selecting the films," said GLOBAL President Amanda Ryan.

According to Ryan, an international student from each country being represented will briefly introduce each film. Viewers will be able to ask the international students ques-

tions after each showing.

There will not be any refreshments sold, but viewers are allowed to bring their own snacks, provided the showing room remains clean.

This is GLOBAL's first International Film Festival. "This program will be our first contribution to our school and international community," Ryan said.

The money raised by the festival will go towards GLOBAL, to help jumpstart the new organization.

Aside from fund raising for the organization, Ryan said, "We also want to promote awareness that MTSU is not homogeneous; we have hun-

dreds of international and exchange students, faculty and staff representing the world at our own campus."

The festival will also serve to emphasize global diversity, and appeal to any students interested in internationalism, Ryan said.

"We especially want to draw in an audience of people who have a small flicker of internationalism in their spirit, people who really appreciate the diverse languages, cultures, people and religions of the world, but who do not get to experience these international elements," Ryan said.

see Film festival, page 2

Candidates prepare for county race

New mayor, sheriff to be elected in August race

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

As the Rutherford County elections near, potential candidates begin to come forward.

The elections, which are set for Aug. 3, will elect several county positions including County Mayor, Trustee and Sheriff.

According to Marilyn Manning, director of the Republican Party office in Rutherford County, several candidates for these positions have already expressed interest.

Current County Mayor Nancy Allen will not be running again this year, nor will Truman Jones, the county sheriff.

For County Mayor, Manning said Republican Ernest Burgess is planning on running. She said Burgess is a retired executive with the National Healthcare

Corporation and has been active in the community for many years. Burgess was also a past chairman of the Rutherford County Republican Party.

Manning said Burgess feels that the county needs strong leadership because of rapid growth. She said Rutherford County has experienced some of the largest growth in labor in the United States.

As County Mayor, Burgess would be responsible for directing and organizing county government activities.

Paul Johnson, a current county commissioner, is running for sheriff. Johnson said he was the highest-ranking highway patrol officer when he retired in 1987. He said he was responsible for a \$26 million budget and over 600 personnel.

Johnson said he has served on the Road Board Commission for two years. He has also served on the Road Board Commission for two years.

Responsibilities of county sheriff include control of the county jail and prisoner housing

as well as county security, law and order, Johnson said.

The Rutherford County Democratic Party was not available to give names for possible Democratic candidates.

The primaries for eligible county positions will be held May 2 if the Democratic and Republican parties call for them. Hooper Penuel, administrator of elections in Rutherford County, said he believes the parties will have for a primary this year.

Penuel said the parties have the option to hold a caucus and nominate their own candidate from each party. He said Rutherford County and many other counties in Tennessee have historically chosen candidates in this manner.

The candidates who win the primaries will then advance to the Aug. 3 elections.

According to Penuel, "exploratory options are being looked at by candidates" who wish to run, though it is still very early. He said most who wish to run would have an idea

by now.

A contest in all 21 districts of the county will also be up for election in August. Penuel said the districts have had a big interest in the race in the past and it should be exciting for those running.

Other positions that will be up for bid are County Commissioners for all districts, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds and Public Defender of the 16th Judicial District.

The first day for candidates to pick up petitions to run is Nov. 18. Each candidate wishing to run must fill out a petition by Feb. 16 with at least 25 signatures of registered voters to show support.

Independent candidates not affiliated with a party must also qualify by February.

Aside from the petition, the candidates must also submit a Campaign Financial Disclosure Statement unless the position is part-time or the candidate will spend less than \$1,000 on the campaign. ♦

From Strategic plan, page 1

that 10 percent of an institution's tuition and fees can be used for scholarships. The board will decide by 2006 whether or not to increase that figure. By 2010, though, 25 percent of the 10 percent that is currently allowed will go to need-based scholarships. Another 25 percent of

that will go to under-represented groups.

"One of the problems we are facing is getting the students where they need to be and keeping them there, and this plan is designed to do this," said TBR Director of Communications Mary Morgan. ♦

From Parking lot, page 1

Other than the shuttle system, there will also be an elevated walkway built across Rutherford Boulevard. Malone said it will include an elaborate crossing system that will allow students to cross safely and efficiently.

The parking lot will first be built of concrete and then paved with asphalt to help with drainage. In what Malone called an "environmentally-friendly parking lot," the two layers will provide a buffer to help break up oil and runoff

from the cars.

"We're very pleased we were able to make that part of the project," he said.

Though the gravel parking lot behind Scarlet Commons on MTSU Boulevard is somewhat underutilized, Malone said the new lot will be necessary as more interior spaces are lost. He said all parking lots on campus are potential building sites, including the large gravel lot that is a possible future location for student housing. ♦

From Film festival, page 1

The festival took more than just GLOBAL's planning.

"Besides the help of individual professors, faculty and staff in making the Film Festival happen, we are assisted by the International Education and Exchange Office and our adviser, who has purchased the rights to show these films," Ryan said. "The IEEO has invested a lot of time and money in the Film Festival, and GLOBAL members are working hard to promote it."

Ryan said GLOBAL also wishes to promote awareness of their existence in the MTSU community.

"Our goal for the Film Festival extends beyond raising money for our organization. We want to let MTSU know that there is a great new organization called GLOBAL that

wants to work hard at creating a solid international community at MTSU," Ryan said.

The idea for the festival originated from a GLOBAL member's visualization.

"Angie Feeney, one of our members, came up with an international film night as a fund-raiser possibility. We discussed this idea at one of our meetings and our adviser, Jennifer Campbell, thought we should do a week-long festival in order to promote more countries and cultures," Ryan said.

"We want this to be entertaining as well as educational," Ryan said. ♦

From Ford, page 1

were asking people to make sacrifices in Medicaid, and asking students to make sacrifices with their student loans to pay for new equipment, needed equipment for our troops and soldiers in Iraq," Ford said, "but what we're asking people to give up is their health care. We are asking people to pay more for their student loans to pay for a tax cut for people who already have health care, who already own their homes, who have already paid for their kids to go to college. I just think that's wrong at a time at which we are faced with the challenges that we are faced with."

Ford said a large problem with the health care system in the country is greed.

"The drug companies and the doctors are too cozy from my perspective," Ford said. "The drug companies develop

these relationships, and arrangements with doctors so doctors will prescribe their drugs. Often times, doctors are prescribing the drug because they have a monetary or financial incentive to do it. You and I are just stuck with paying the bill. The drug company doesn't provide us with a contract to use their drug—they give us no discount. They charge you and I the full amount, while the doctor and the drug company have an arrangement where they are both profiting from it."

"I'm a Democrat because I think if you go to work every day and you are trying to raise your family, or you're in college trying to make your life better, the government shouldn't make it harder for you to do that, and that's essentially what we're doing with this TennCare thing," Ford said.

Ford said the government should not stand in the way of people who are trying to make their lives better.

When it comes to the war in Iraq, Ford said it is time to revise the plan of action.

"We find ourselves right now bogged down fighting an insurgency there in Iraq, and we have no real strategy to beat the insurgency," Ford said. "That's my point: there is no real plan."

"The analogy that I use about the situation in Iraq is it's almost like a football game, and coach Fulmer if the team is

not winning at half-time he generally goes to the locker room to develop a new plan," Ford said, "and develop a plan that addresses what's happened in the first half that he didn't factor in, and he comes out and he tries to defeat the team in the second half."

Ford said the president and his "team" need to look at the things that have taken place during the war and develop a plan taking these things into account.

He said this should include working with other countries to fight the war. ♦

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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Afghanistan Election Process
World Bank
Genocide
Afghanistan Supreme Court

Report: U.K. troops may leave Iraq by 2006

LONDON (AP) — British troops could leave Iraq by the end of 2006, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said in a television interview to be broadcast Sunday.

Britain's top soldier said this timetable was well within the realm of possibility.

Talabani said Iraqi troops should be ready to take over from British forces in the southern provinces around Basra by the end of next year, adding no Iraqis wanted foreign troops to remain indefinitely in their country.

But he warned that an immediate withdrawal of U.S.-led forces would be a catastrophe for Iraq and would lead to civil war, with harmful consequences for the entire Middle East.

"We don't want British forces ever in Iraq. Within one year — I think at the end of 2006 — Iraqi troops will be ready to replace British forces in the south," Talabani said in the interview with Jonathan Dibleby for Independent Television. The station released details from the interview before it aired.

Rice to suggest reforms in Saudi Arabia

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Just days after criticizing Saudi Arabia as a place with no tolerance for religious minorities, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has a full agenda in the kingdom, an important Arab ally estranged by the Sept. 11 attacks four years ago.

Rice's trip to the conservative Islamic kingdom also recalled another terror attack last December when al-Qaida gunmen stormed into the inner courtyard of a U.S. consulate in this port city firing their guns, grabbing human shields and killing five people. Four of the attackers were killed.

The State Department cited Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for denying religious freedom to non-Muslims and found fault to a lesser degree with other allies including Israel, Belgium, France, Germany and Pakistan.

"Freedom of religion does not exist"

in Saudi Arabia, the report said. "Islam is the official religion and all citizens must be Muslims."

Police make arrest in Jordan bombings

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Jordanian police have arrested a woman who accompanied a suicide bomber to one of targeted Amman hotels and failed to detonate her own explosive device, King Abdullah II said Sunday.

"She was supposed to blow herself up" at the Radisson SAS hotel on Wednesday, Abdullah said at a gathering of international media organizations.

Tornadoes hit Iowa, killing at least one

STRATFORD, Iowa (AP) — One woman was found dead under a pile of fallen bricks and another was pulled alive from the rubble a few feet away as searchers combed through two central Iowa communities ravaged by weekend tornadoes.

The twisters swept across two counties Saturday late afternoon, ripping up farms and damaging dozens of homes in the towns of Stratford and Woodward. At least one person was killed, two were injured and a natural gas leak forced hundreds of other residents from their homes overnight.

"Half the town's gone," Bob Smith said of the destruction in Stratford, a town of about 750 residents. He said he ran from his camper as the tornado touched down about 5 p.m.

In Woodward, 30 miles to the south, 20 to 40 homes were severely damaged when a tornado hit about half an hour later, Dallas County Sheriff Brian Gilbert said. Emergency crews searched house-to-house and hadn't found any victims by evening, he said.

Japanese probe apparently lost in space

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's space agency suffered another glitch in its mission to collect surface samples from an asteroid and return to Earth when a can-sized robot lander apparently became lost in space while

attempting a practice touch down.

The rehearsal landing followed an earlier attempt that was aborted due to mechanical trouble, but the space agency said it is still targeting actual landings on the potato-shaped asteroid Itokawa on Nov. 19 and Nov. 25.

The Hayabusa probe successfully released the Minerva surface-exploring robot on Saturday, but Minerva appeared to start drifting away from the asteroid's surface, according to a release from JAXA, Japan's space agency. Minerva was expected to land and hop around on the asteroid's surface collecting data with three small color cameras.

"Unfortunately, it appears Minerva did not recognize the surface," JAXA said.

Schwarzenegger travels to China on trade mission

BEIJING (AP) — After the bruising defeat of his reform package in last week's special election, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's trade mission to China offers him the chance to represent California in a country where his political woes are overshadowed by his celebrity.

Schwarzenegger arrives here Monday for a six-day visit that will also take him to Shanghai and Hong Kong. Accompanying him are his wife, first lady Maria Shriver, several Cabinet secretaries and a delegation of 80 business leaders.

"Folks coming along recognize they want the exposure a celebrity like the governor can bring," said Jeff Williamson, director of the state's Center for International Trade Development. "Coming to China, meeting with people, the governor's persona will attract people. And that's very useful to these companies."

The group, which is eager to promote California industries and products in the rapidly growing Chinese market, includes representatives of Pfizer Inc., Universal Studios and Qualcomm Inc.

Four people injured at B5 concert in Minnesota

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP) — Police shut down a suburban shopping mall after screaming fans of the

boy band B5 rushed the stage during a free concert, grabbing at the band members' clothing and overwhelming the small team of security guards.

"Things were falling off the stage, girls were falling off the stage, girls started fighting," said Theresa Curtis, who was working at a store near the stage Saturday.

Some of the girls grabbed one of the boys in the band, said Tamy Johnson, another store employee. "He ran to the back. Another boy, he just ran. Security escorted some of the boys out the back," she said.

Four people were treated at a hospital for minor injuries and five others were treated at the mall, police said. There were no arrests.

More than 2,000 fans, mostly teenage girls, had converged on Brookdale Center mall for the show, sponsored by the local Radio Disney station, KDIZ-AM. The band had made it to the second song when the chaos broke out.

Top artists play it cool at Vibe awards

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) — Top hip-hop and R&B artists were playing it cool at the Vibe Awards, hoping to avoid a repeat of last year's brawl and stabbing.

Leading the field late Saturday with five nominations was Ciara, while Kanye West, Mariah Carey, John Legend and 50 Cent had four nominations each.

"I come into the building with positive energy, hoping to be happy for my people, for us just to be happy for one another," singer Mary J. Blige said on the red carpet.

During last year's scuffle, Jimmy James Johnson emerged from the audience and punched Dr. Dre, who was sitting at a table in front of the stage, setting off a chair-throwing melee. Johnson was then allegedly stabbed by rapper Young Buck.

Johnson was sentenced in September to a year in jail after he pleaded guilty to punching the rap mogul. Young Buck, whose given name is David Darnell Brown, has pleaded not guilty in the case and is free on bail awaiting trial.

PLO calls for UN probe into Arafat's death

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A senior Palestinian official has called for a U.N. investigation into the death of Yasser Arafat, reiterating allegations the Palestinian leader was poisoned by Israel.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream Fatah faction, said Arafat was poisoned by Israel "because he was a stumbling block to (Israeli) plans." Other Palestinians have made the same charge in the past and Israel has repeatedly denied it.

The PLO will ask the U.N. Security Council "to form an international investigating commission into the assassination of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat." Kaddoumi told reporters on Saturday.

Arafat died in a French hospital on Nov. 11, 2004 at age 75. The exact cause of death remains unknown, fueling persistent rumors that he was either poisoned or died of AIDS.

Howell wins Asia's richest tournament

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — England's David Howell held off Tiger Woods in the HSBC Champions on Sunday, closing with a 4-under 68 for a three-stroke victory.

Howell, who began the round with a one-stroke lead over Woods, finished with a 20-under 268 total to claim the \$833,300 first-place check in the \$5 million event, the richest tournament in Asia. Woods shot a 70.

Howell, a surprising star in Europe's Ryder Cup victory over the United States last year, extended his lead to four strokes with three birdies on the first five holes and overcame bogeys on Nos. 8 and 9 to win his third European tour title.

"I didn't want to beat him too badly," Howell joked. "Actually, I was very nervous there when I missed a few putts, particularly at the ninth after missing on the eighth. I played solid golf from there and Tiger perhaps wasn't on song." ♦

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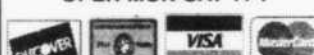
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Opinions

From the Editorial Board

If you build it, students won't come

In an attempt to alleviate some of its parking-related stress, MTSU has begun work on a new parking lot. Part of a projected 10-year plan to improve the campus, the new lot is located across Rutherford Boulevard, near Greek Row.

The lot will feature 956 parking spaces, which seems like it will go a long way to provide adequate parking for the large number of commuter students. However, it is already difficult enough to get students to park in other lots out that way that are actually closer to campus buildings. Ron Malone, director of events and transportation said that he believes the new parking lot is necessary because many interior lots, such as the large gravel one, may eventually be used as building sites. The university seems to be jumping the gun here by building this new lot long before it will see any use.

For those longing for a parking garage, Malone also said that the university has considered and reviewed the option, and that it may be very likely in the future. However, he also said that the garage would actually provide fewer spaces than the surface lots could provide, and while the new parking lot plan will cause a \$50 tuition increase, a garage would run a more costly \$95.

The future of MTSU, once the 10-year project has fully been realized, will be that of a Disneyland-like theme park. Students will arrive on campus, park in the lots that make up the exterior of the campus and ride the shuttle system into the interior. While the plan aims to provide an improved shuttle system, it still seems highly unlikely that it will be used with any measure of success. Many students don't even know how to use the bus system already in place. The small percentage of students that do ride the buses often experience problems.

This is a campus, not an amusement park, and most students will not be willing to catch a bus every day in addition to the distance they drive in order to get to class. The convenience of more parking will be belied by the hassle of catching the shuttle.

The plan has many good points, including a new campus entrance from Rutherford Boulevard, an improved shuttle system, more lighting and sidewalks. These are viable and useful projects, but the university should hold off on building more lots and planning to rely more heavily on the shuttle system when students cannot even use the ones available to them. ♦

Society's weight standards damaging women's health

Has anyone else noticed how shirts are getting shorter and pants are dipping lower lately in women's fashion? Where is this huge fabric shortage causing all of this? Or is this just another example of the impossible standards that American women are held to?

The standards for women have changed dramatically in the past few decades. They have gotten the chance to vote, become more common in the workplace and become more prominent in politics. However, it seems there's one thing that will never change in this country: women will always be criticized for their weight. More and more women have developed eating disorders because of the impossible standards that they are being held to by magazines and fashion designers.

Every time you open a magazine, every other page is covered with a gorgeous woman who looks like she could use a bite to eat. What are these unattainable standards doing to women's self esteem? A look at Hollywood now only sees every actress looking like a starving refugee. Is that really what women are supposed to look like?

Fashion designers and advertisers seem to be working together to crush women's self esteem by making their clothes smaller and smaller. When women try on a pair of pants that are their size and they don't fit, they tend to pick up another diet frenzy. Even if the women haven't gained weight, designers are putting smaller sizes on larger pants just to make women feel like they should be losing weight. How much did Dr. Atkins make when his diet was one of the top choices in the country? His book was on the best sellers' list for weeks.

Marilyn Monroe is considered one of the most beautiful women in American history, yet was a size 12, which is not considered thin by today's standards. Why have things



From Mindy's Mind

Mindy Davis
Staff Columnist

changed so much? What happened to women not looking like they starved themselves to death just to fit into a dress?

Actresses that do put on a few pounds are criticized mercilessly for it. However, if they lose weight, they are still followed around by the paparazzi, this time, being asked if they have an eating disorder.

A woman's self esteem is constantly being beaten and battered by these standards, which are double standards. Men never seem to have to worry about putting on a few pounds. Their clothes stay the same size, they don't get other sizes put on their jeans to make them think they've gained weight. However, women constantly have to starve themselves to lose weight. Once they do, they discover that they've gone up a size just because the fashion designer has decided that the size 10 was getting a little big this season.

When will this crazy obsession with weight end? When will women realize that they need to accept who they are, despite the standards that are just getting higher and higher every year?

This obsession with weight loss is absolutely ridiculous, and is causing more damage than anyone realizes. Women are already being hospitalized because they have lost too much weight trying to live up to these standards. What will happen when this continues? Will it finally end when people start literally starving themselves to death? ♦

Mindy Davis is a freshman journalism student and can be reached at mdd3b@mtsu.edu.

Lack of knowledge endangering future homeowners

When is a problem not what it seems?

A recently-published analysis of home-buying in 2004 showed that blacks in the Nashville Metro area are three times as likely to get a high interest rate on a home loan as white home buyers. Also, Hispanic home buyers were twice as likely to get a higher rate.

Some would argue that this is another symptom of racism, and they would have good reason to think so. It is disturbing to think that these statistics would be so sharply divided by racial lines, and I would be appalled if banks and other lenders were intentionally impeding a person's ability to own a home because of the color of their skin.

When some experts factored in the credit scores of the homebuyers in question, however, the picture changed completely. The problem became less of a matter of racial discrimination, and more a matter of individuals being taken for a ride because they didn't understand what they were being sold.

The modern world thrives on credit, and the flow of trade around the country is fed by money that is largely imaginary. We have lived with credit since the early part of the 20th century and couldn't



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

imagine our lives without being able to spend beyond our means. Money that none of us really have is the fuel that powered the rise of the automobile at the beginning of the century, the housing boom after World War II and the runaway pace of consumerism that has taken hold in the last quarter century.

With all of this credit at our fingertips, it is easy to not know how to manage it wisely. It's also easy to forget that the mistakes we make in piling up debt – as well as the ones we make trying to get rid of it – will come back to burn us later.

This, more than outright racism, is chipping away at the financial futures of thousands of people in the Metro area and throughout the midstate.

There are easily dozens of groups and agencies geared towards helping people prepare for buying a home, but, more often than not, those that need this assis-

tance don't even know that it's there.

Who is supposed to tell them, when their family and friends probably don't know either? Their lender probably won't tell them, especially when some of them are so concerned with pushing their profits that they would sell loans to people that obviously don't have the means to pay back the debt.

Owning a place of one's own is part of the mythos of this country. We live for it, and give our all in the pursuit of something that we can call our own.

If that is one of our values, then to prevent someone from achieving, be it because of race, class or any other factor, that goal has to be one of the worst moral crimes we can commit.

People deserve to know the facts, before they invest everything they have into a home. Lenders should consider it part of their job to help buyers find the help they need to choose a loan that they can live with. Nobody wins when debt is involved, and a little knowledge would keep everyone's pockets much fuller. ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Schools say no to Catholics, yes to Spanish, explosions

A Washington high school was too quick to jump to conclusions recently when it banned rosary beads.

Chelan High School officials banned students from wearing rosary beads after attending a training program that warned the beads could be signs of gang activity, according to an article by the Associated Press.

Naturally, the decision didn't sit well with communities, especially with members of the clergy. The ruling was dropped last Monday, according to the article.

Training teachers to recognize possible gang signs is a useful practice in schools, but there haven't been any violent Catholic coalitions as of late, and of all groups to look out for, the "Hail Mary" brigade is probably an OK crowd.

Also along the lines of



Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

school-related problems, a South Carolina teacher's experiment to demonstrate the creation of sodium hydroxide ended in an explosion Thursday morning.

The incident happened at Woodruff High School in Spartanburg, S.C., according to an article posted on local6.com. The explosion, which naturally amused many of the students, caused 15 to be hit by either debris from the dish or chemicals involved in the blast.

Hopefully, the teacher, and students, have learned a valu-

able lesson about playing with a highly reactive metal that has a tendency to combust in water.

Rallie Liston, the superintendent for the Spartanburg District 4, said the students will be interviewed about the incident, according to the article.

Finally, in Florida, a proposed bill may make Spanish a mandatory class for elementary school children, according to an article on firstcoast-news.com.

This bill has its ups and downs. On the positive side, the younger someone starts, the easier it is to learn a new language. With the increasing diversity in the United States, the importance of being bilingual is rising.

However, adding Spanish to the curriculum poses a problem: fitting it into the sched-

ule. According to the bill, the school day length would remain the same, so something would have to be cut.

According to Charlotte County School Spokesman Mike Riley, the possible cuts would be "specials": music, art, P.E. and other such classes.

While the bill is a good gesture and certainly addresses the issue of a growing Spanish-speaking population, making Spanish mandatory for kindergartners seems a bit extreme.

Florida schools should offer Spanish as an option to those students who wish to take it in elementary school, but should not make it mandatory at the expense of other meaningful classes. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached at visa717@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

Poor turnout fault of fans, not team

To the Editor:

From the moment we stepped onto this campus as freshmen, we have been bombarded by hooks and lines from various groups and organizations that want our membership. Each school year is chock full of "SGA" this and "Go Greek" that, cleaner air petitions and a handful of students with nothing better to do than to bash President McPhee for not giving tenure to a withered psychology professor. Oh, and let us not forget those rousing liberal protests on the KUC Knoll sponsored by the College Democrats where they shove the same redundant speeches and pamphlets down your throat, while all you're wanting to do is grab a chicken sandwich. My point is, some of the most noticeable and successful clubs and organizations are the same ones that require the most work to organize and mobilize.

However, all twenty-something thousand students at this university belong to a group that 95 percent probably have never taken part in: the fan base for the Blue Raider football team. At this statement, many are quick to scoff and think, "Why should I go support the MT football team?" The reason for low student attendance is an easy one: there is not a huge number of real Blue Raider fans on this campus.

Everyone was disgusted with the team's performance three games into the season and quit attending the games in protest. Yet, we beat Vanderbilt and everyone was high on MT again. A heartbreaking loss to Louisiana-Lafayette once again resulted in a sub-10,000 attendance mark for the next game against Arkansas State, in which MT decisively handled the Indians, 45-7. Suddenly, we're back in the race for the Sun Belt title and excitement is once again rampant among the student body. This "bandwagon" approach to being a fan is sickening.

I sincerely believe that the role of a true fan is to stick by, defend and encourage his team at all times. Arkansas State had a worse record than us when we played them, but their section in Floyd Stadium almost doubled our section and they average thousands of more people at their home games. Why? Because they are real fans that understand their team needs and wants them to be there, and they love their team. Most MT students

love the kegs in the courtyard before the games more than the team itself, and this is just plain pathetic.

If you are an MT student, you should be in a seat in Floyd Stadium on Saturdays, no excuses. It's free and a large number of you will probably already be drunk, so why don't you support the Blue Raiders, who are quickly learning to win without you or your wavering bandwagon support.

Glenn Suggs
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Some just don't care about football

To the Editor:

I'm tired of hearing about the football game turnout, or the lack thereof. And I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one.

I've heard alums and locals (and the occasional frat boy) say that they are pissed, ashamed and disappointed in the students' apparent disinterest in their very own football team. Efforts are always being made to rally us into the stadium to root on our wonderful (3-4?) football team. So what if they have a losing record? We should still support our classmates, right? But what if we just don't care about football? We shouldn't be chastised for not attending an event we don't even have any interest in.

Besides, why all the noise about the football team, anyways? We have a women's soccer team that went 13-5-2 this season. The women's volleyball team that is currently 25-2, 9-1 in the conference. We had three cross-country runners (Ashley Comstock, Jonathan Guillou and Derek Dell) earn All-Sun Belt honors with Top 10 finishes. To top it off, the women's cross-country team finished 3rd overall in the SBC Championships. No one seems to be making much noise in their favor. What about all of the club teams that are doing very well this season? For example, the ice hockey team is undefeated right now. Last year they were 36-1-1. Who knew?

I suppose I'm just tired of hearing about football all of the time. But I guess it is the big moneymaker, isn't it?

Claire Marshall
Junior, French Major

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Living



page 5
November 14, 2005

Coffee and community make delicious blend at E. Spresso Shelf

Regulars, newbies alike warmly greeted at new shop by owner Carol Creel

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

Customers at E. Spresso Shelf never stay just customers for long. By their second visit, they are officially "sweetie," "sugar," or "friend," according to the coffee shop's owner, Carol Creel.

"I come in here once a week or more if there's a special event," said Karen Ford, of Murfreesboro, who sat watching her 4-year-old daughter, Sofia, twirl around the wicker furniture and tables inside the shop.

"I have been coming to stay here for over five hours," she laughed. "But I've been willing to pay the \$1 parking ticket."

As regulars like Ford come in for their caffeine fix, each one is greeted with a hug from Creel, a smiling tanned woman dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, her thick blonde hair high in a ponytail. She chats animatedly with each person while she toasts bagels, brews espresso and grates chocolate for the drinks.

The coffee shop is a living room, kitchen and lounge rolled into one. Multi-colored window curtains, large framed posters of the Beatles, Barney Fife, maps and Creel's personal photos hang around the shop's bright yellow walls.



Photo by Laura Beth Jackson | Staff writer
Creel in front of the coffee shop. She says having a shop like E. Spresso Shelf was a lifelong dream.

In the mornings, customers sit at the shop's quirky, painted wooden tables to do Bible studies, check their email at the Internet access table and catch up on news downtown as they sip their tea or java.

"I come in about everyday," said Dean Lewis, a retired recreation therapist from the VA hospital in Murfreesboro. "It's a friendly atmosphere. I always get the tea."

Creel opened the doors of E. Spresso Shelf last December. Once a corporate employee who dealt with acquisitions and financial consulting, Creel left the States in 1981 to live in the Caribbean on St. John's Island. There she directed scuba diving tours, worked in a scuba shop, and later started her own interior design business.

But Creel said she had always wanted to own a coffee shop. A friend had cultivated her interest in different types of coffee "before it was cool" and had taught her the art of making espresso drinks.

"Everyone knew I wanted to have a coffee shop/Internet café one day," she said.

"All my friends just knew that."

"I thought it'd be cool to have a coffee shop with more conversational areas than just tables and chairs," said Creel. "The European idea of a coffee shop after all was a central meeting place. It was a place for friends to gather."



When Creel returned to the States and opened E. Spresso Shelf, the shop became just that. The shop has hosted musical performances, writing groups and an occasional DVD release party.

"I love it when customers come up with the ideas for doing things here," smiled Creel.

All of Creel's coffees and teas are organic and free trade, meaning that she orders the coffee beans from independent farmer co-ops all over the world. Creel says that while the concept is better for ethics-conscious consumers,

the flavor is an impressive aspect of the coffee beans. "They

have a fuller, deeper flavor. If you taste Folgers or Maxwell House coffee, you get



Photo by Laura Beth Jackson | Staff writer
Karen Ford sips coffee and plays cards with her daughter, Sofia, during a relaxing afternoon at E. Spresso Shelf.

a metallic taste because the beans have been dried on metal and the beans absorb the flavor. The organic coffee is not dried on metal so they're able to maintain their flavor," said Creel.

Creel orders from a selection of over 80 different types of beans from various regions of the world. She serves up a daily regular and decaffeinated brew, and sells whole bean coffee by the pound.

Her menu includes lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, espressos and iced drinks, as well as bagels, sandwiches, muffins and other snacks.

But for Creel, the best part of the business is the people.

"I wanted a place where people could just come and be themselves," she said. "Just talk, relax and be who they are supposed to be. That's why I'm here."

E. Spresso Shelf is located at 117 E. Vine Street. Free, high-speed wired and wireless Internet access is available. ♦



Photo by Laura Beth Jackson | Staff writer
Creel talks with a customer while preparing sandwiches and coffee at E. Spresso Shelf.

'Good' part-time jobs for students remain subjective

By Lindsay Wright
Staff Writer

It is amazing that Cecelia Ross is able to juggle a part-time job along with a full-time school schedule and still maintain a smile with her cheery-disposition and happy-go-lucky personality.

Currently Ross is a Junior at MTSU, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. Ross said she is constantly busy being active in the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, working 20 hours a week and taking on a full, 12 hour's of school.

"Being a full-time student, part-time employee and member of the sorority is stressful," Ross said, "but I believe that incorporating these things in my life makes me a disciplined person and helps me prepare for the future."

However, many students may find it difficult to maintain a good GPA and also adhere to the responsibilities of a job.

According to Learning and Earning: Working in College (www.brockport.edu/career01/upromise.htm), "55 percent of students working 35 or more hours per week report that work has negative effect on studies. A student who begins a 30-hour a week job can expect his or her GPA to fall by a mere 0.05 points."

Although not evident in her soft-spoken yet out-going demeanor, Ross said she is often overwhelmed with all the demands in her daily life.

"I have little social life outside my sorority, poor eating habits and lack of sleep due to all the responsi-

bilities," Ross said.

According to the study, "evidence suggests that the effects of working while in college vary by the type of job held (e.g., full-time vs. part-time work) and its relation to the academic environment (e.g., an on-campus vs. off campus job)."

Professor Geoffrey Hull has been teaching in the Recording Industry at MTSU for 29 years. Although sensitive to students who have to work to get through school, Hull is firm on his requirements and expectations of his students. Hull believes that it is possible to be a full-time student and work part-time; however, it is the students' responsibility to figure out how to balance a job with school work.

"I have seen evidence of part-time or full-time jobs interfering with students' academics," Hull said. "The student needs to make the decision of whether he [or] she needs to reduce the amount of school they are taking, or reduce the amount of hours they are working."

What constitutes a good job from a bad job ultimately depends on the student. Although it doesn't pay as much as an outside job, a student may find that working on campus keeps them grounded and focused with their studies.

According to the study, "Work is becoming increasingly common among college students. Research suggests that such work may not be harmful, and may be helpful for undergraduates, if it is limited. For example, part-time, on-campus work appears to have no negative effects on students' enrollment rates or GPAs, and it may even have a posi-



Photo provided by morguefile.com

tive effect."

"Working on campus is the best decision a student can make for themselves when looking for a job," Hull said. "It reduces the overall amount of time dealing with the job, working on campus keeps the student more connected with the school and can keep them on task."

Shea McReynolds, a junior in Fashion Merchandising, said her boss is understanding and patient to her obligations as a student.

Having recently ended her shift at an ice-cream shop, she smells of chocolate and waffle cones. McReynolds pulls her school books from her bag, preparing to study.

"Even though my boss is flexible

and understanding to my school, I did have to drop a class," McReynolds said. "I found that it was too difficult to balance 12 to 20 hours of work a week with my school."

Despite her exhaustion after a long day of work, McReynolds was prepared to stay up an additional two or three hours to study for a test. McReynolds said she would like to get a job on campus but she needs to make more money than an on-campus job could offer her.

Having a part-time or full-time job while attending college may make already stressed out students, even more stressed out. It may be prudent to find other ways of financing

college so students can complete their degrees, maintain their academic performance levels and thereby reap the long-term benefits of a college education.

On the other hand, students may find that they are perfectly OK with juggling a job with school and still making good grades.

Ultimately, it is up to the student to determine what is too much or feasible for them. The most important thing for a student to remember is completion of their college education, however it may be done, should be the number one priority in his or her life. ♦

Working on campus may be key to keeping a GPA high

Indians destroy MT's title chances with win

Sports Commentary



Jonathan Hutton
Staff Columnist

Entering the game, the Middle Tennessee defense ranked ninth nationally in scoring defense, and 42nd nationally in total yards allowed.

Louisiana-Monroe must not have gotten the memo.

Monroe, led by senior quarterback Steven Jyles, came out with an offensive game plan to control the clock and run the football.

Unlike previous games where the MT defense would hold on third downs, the Monroe offense would get backed up on penalties and then seemed to convert the third downs easily. ULM converted on 11-of-19 third down tries even though they committed 11 penalties for 100 yards.

Senior linebacker Dennis Burke left the game after just the second play with a torn ACL. With the Blue Raiders signal caller out for the game, Monroe seemed to effortlessly convert 20-yard draws and third and long conversions for the rest of the game.

The defense allowed season-highs of 459 total yards and 27 points in the game, most of which came in the first half.

"In the first half the defense kind of came out lackadaisical," cornerback Bradley Robinson said. "We didn't put forth the effort we had in the first games. They got up 17. It's hard to come back from a 17-point deficit."

A lackadaisical defense usually spells blowout, which is why the game seemed to be headed early. ULM jumped out to a 17-0 lead with 6:23 remaining in the first half.

Quarterback Clint Marks said the MT offense played hard and never lost hope, which put the Blue Raiders back in the game down to ULM's final drive.

"We just never gave up," Marks said. "We could have very easily just given up when we were down 17-0 but we just kept fighting."

Things weren't going our way at times, but we just kept fighting."

The loss all but solidifies any chance the Blue Raiders had at winning the Sun Belt Conference and going to a bowl game. Now MT will have to find something else to motivate them to play the final three remaining games on the road after finishing 1-3 in Floyd Stadium this season.

"Some of our goals are taken away tonight but we're still playing for pride," Marks said. "We still have three games to go. We just have to leave this one behind and get ready for NC State." ♦

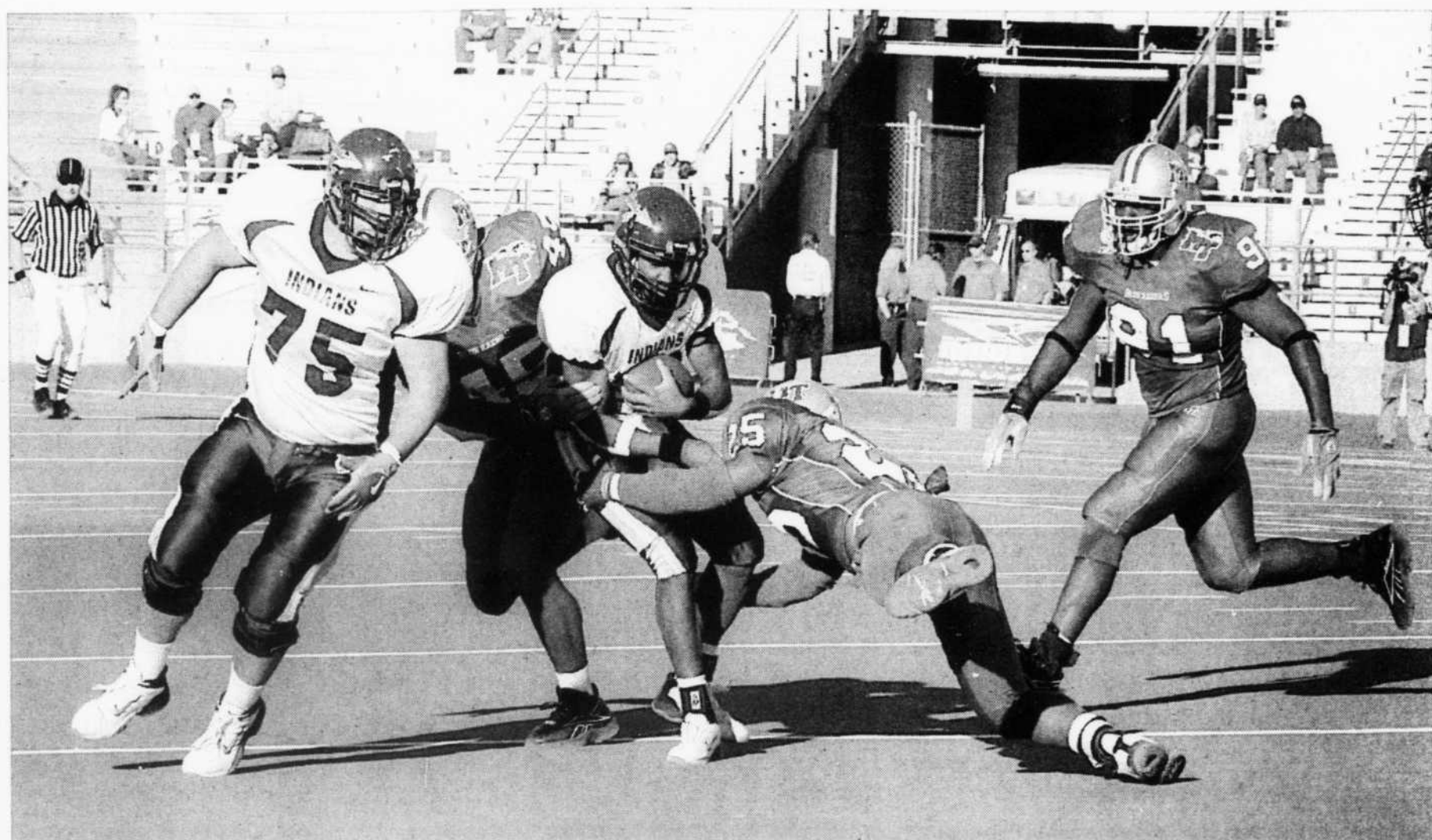


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT linebacker J.K. Sabb (25) tallied eight tackles in the team's loss to ULM on Saturday. With the win, the Indians held on to first place in the SBC with only two games left in the season.

Blue Raiders drop heartbreaker to ULM

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Louisiana-Monroe stays atop the Sun Belt Conference after defeating Middle Tennessee 34-31 in a thriller at Floyd Stadium on Saturday.

Indian quarterback Steven Jyles found a size miss-match for the game-winning touchdown. Jyles threw a jump ball to Drouzeur Quillen, a 6-foot-6-inch receiver, against 5-foot-10-inch Bradley Robinson, with 43 seconds remaining to cap a 10-play, 80-yard drive.

"He kind of pushed off, but I still have to make that play, especially in the clutch," Robinson said. "We just didn't make the plays we should have made when we had the chance to."

MT (3-5, 2-3) showed heart in the loss, rallying twice from large deficits to stay in the game. The Blue Raiders trailed early 17-0 and also produced a comeback from a 27-17 fourth quarter deficit.

"I'm really proud of the offense," MT quarterback Clint Marks said. "We just kept

La.-Monroe 34
MT 31

Next Game:
November 19
at North Carolina State

fighting. Things weren't going our way sometimes, and then we'd make some plays. We just kept fighting, and I'm real proud of that."

MT running back Eugene Gross kept the Blue Raiders within reach of a win with two fourth quarter touchdown runs.

Gross capped off a 12-play, 73-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:45 left in the final quarter, to pull the Blue Raiders to 27-24.

Three plays after Middle Tennessee recovered and the following onside kick at the ULM 47 yard line, Gross scored again to give the Blue Raiders the lead. Gross' 8-yard touchdown run gave the Blue Raiders a 31-27 advantage, and their first lead of the day.

MT still had a chance to

push the game into overtime even after the devastating Monroe touchdown drive on the Blue Raider defense.

With 43 seconds left, the Blue Raiders began their final drive at their own 30. Marks drove the team into field goal range at the Indian 33.

Colby Smith's 52-yard field goal attempt to send the game into overtime was wide left. Smith, with a strong wind at his back, had plenty of distance on a kick that would have been good from 60 yards, but Smith said he missed it by a foot.

"The wind really didn't move it left or right, it just pushed it downfield," Smith said. "It was gone left the whole time."

"I just pulled it. 52 yards, it was hit or miss. So I thought I gave it a good effort. I didn't make it. I hurt this team. I'll work on it a little bit next week."

Next week comes quickly. The Blue Raiders will now begin to prepare for North Carolina State. ♦

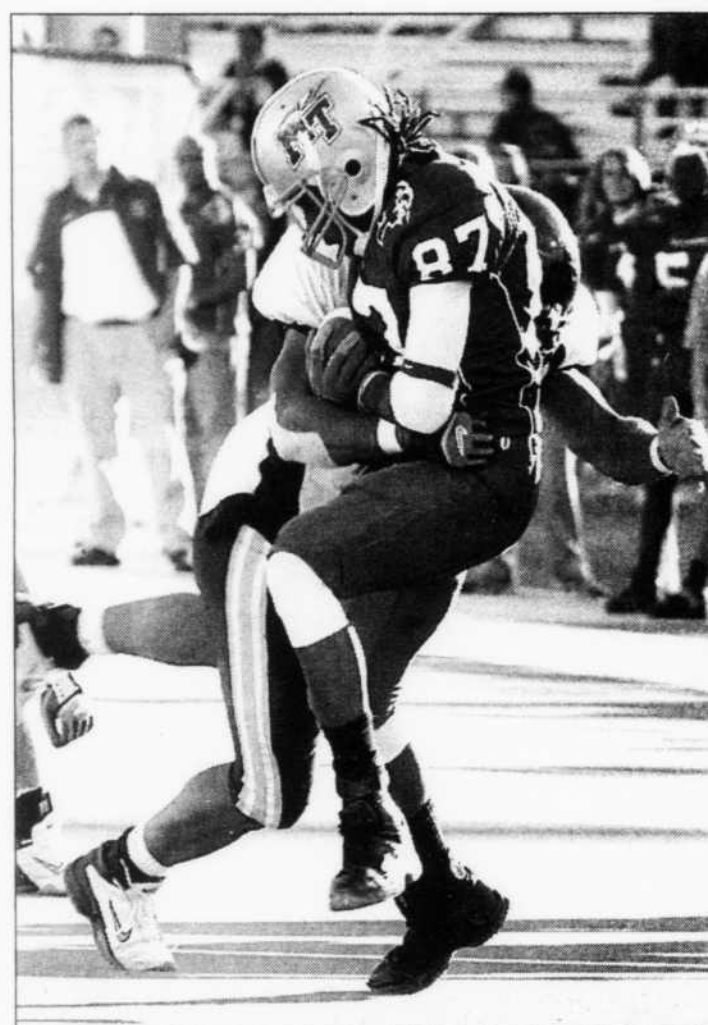


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT's Bobby Williams (87) had three receptions for a total of 47 yards in the team's loss against ULM on Saturday.

Stat leaders in the MT/ULM game

Rushing leaders:
Passing leaders:
Receiving leaders:

Middle Tennessee
E. Gross 22 carries for 86 yards
C. Marks 20-of-32 for 272 yards
C. Saintil 5 catches for 77 yards

Louisiana-Monroe
Calvin Dawson 16 carries for 109 yards.
Steven Jyles 28-of-44 for 227 yards.
Joey Trappey 7 catches for 64 yards
D. Quillen 6 catches for 77 yards

Volleyball team loses to WKU, claims No. 2 seed for tourney

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

It felt like a heavyweight title fight, it sounded like one and the best came out on top. However, if they meet again, the result might be different.

Last Friday night, Western Kentucky's volleyball team faced a Middle Tennessee team that gave them their best shot. In the end, WKU won the match 3-1 at Alumni Memorial Gym in front of 1,010 fans, and became Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division Champions. It was the largest crowd ever to see a MT volleyball match.

"The crowd was beautiful," middle blocker Quanshell Scott said, "I want to thank the crowd a lot for being here and supporting us."

In round one, WKU jumped out to an early lead, and it got as big as 10 points. WKU finished the win

30-19. MT only had a .026 attack percent in that game.

In the next game, the Blue Raiders and Western went back and forth, with both teams trading punches. Finally, the Blue Raiders pulled away with the 30-25 win. It was the first time that a SBC won a game against the Hilltoppers this season. MT attack percentage was .317.

WKU took back control in the 3rd round by taking a sizable lead and not letting the Blue Raiders make a comeback. There were several times in that game that WKU had a three-point lead, and MT could not get closer. WKU won the game 30-22.

"We had a lot of unforced errors on our side," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "We had ball-hand errors, we had blocking errors, people in the net and you can't coach players not to do that. It's just either going to happen or it doesn't."

The Hilltoppers deliver the knockout blow in round four by taking an early lead and the closest the Blue Raiders got was four. WKU took the game and match 30-21.

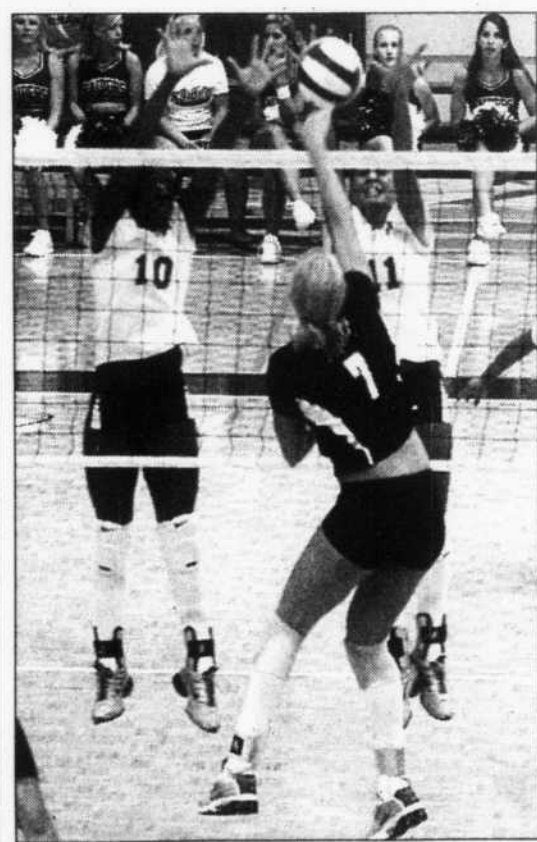
WKU improved to 26-2, 11-0, while MT dropped to 25-2, 9-1. The loss ended MT's 11-match winning streak and 12-match home winning streak.

Andressa Lyra led the way for MT with 13 kills, and Lindsay Sisco added 10. Last week's SBC Defensive Player of the Week Alicia Lemau'u had 13 digs and Quanshell Scott added 10.

Last week's SBC Player of the Week, WKU's setter Caron Blotch, had a triple-double with 50 assists, 16 kills and 15 digs.

"I think everything starts with the setter," MT middle blocker Victoria Monasterolo said, "She is very good moving around the ball."

WKU has the No. 1 seed and MT earned the No. 2 seed in next week's SBC Tournament at the



File Photo
Quanshell Scott and Vicky Monasterolo had 17 kills combined in last weekend's volleyball tournament.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE vs. LOUISIANA-MONROE

GAME NOTES: (courtesy of MT Media Relations)

- Nineteen Blue Raider seniors participated in Senior Day activities prior to the game, but left the playing field with a tough loss.
- Junior quarterback Clint Marks threw for a season-high 272 yards in the loss. In the process, Marks tied Kelly Holcomb and Jonathan Quinn with 12 career 200-yard passing games, tied for second behind Wes Counts (18).
- Eugene Gross scored his ninth and 10th and 11th rushing touchdowns of the season and ran his career total to 28. That mark ties him with Walter Dunson and Gerald Anderson for fourth place on the all-time rushing touchdowns list. Gross now needs 10 more rushing scores to tie Kippy Bayless for third place.
- Middle Tennessee's defense had proven to be the backbone of the team all season, but Saturday's effort was by far the worst of the season for coordinator Marc Criner's unit. The defense allowed a season-high 459 yards and a season-high 27 points. The most telling statistic of the day may have been Louisiana-Monroe's 11-of-19 effort on third down conversions.
- Senior Linebacker Dennis Burke left on the second play of the game and was later on crutches due to a torn ACL.

Preds give St. Louis the Blues

By Brandon Felder
Staff Writer

The Nashville Predators entered Saturday night's game on a two-game winning streak.

The streak was lengthened to 3 games when the Predators defeated the St. Louis Blues 3-1. The St. Louis Blues are currently on an 11-game losing streak.

With 13 minutes and 30 seconds gone in the 1st period, the St. Louis Blues took a 1-0 lead when Mike Sillinger put the puck in the top of the net after rebounding Dennis Wideman's shot.

The Predators then started the 2nd period with a little over a minute left on a power-play that overlapped from the 1st period.

They took full advantage of it when Scott Hartnell scored just 58 seconds into the period. Assists were credited to Paul Kariya and Marek Zidlicky.

With the score tied 1-1, Scott Hartnell tallied again with 12:01 to go in the 2nd period. He received a long pass up the middle of the ice from Danny Markov.

Hartnell took it into the attacking zone and beat St. Louis Blues' goaltender Curtis Sanford one on one for the shorthanded goal.

The third period started with the score 2-1 in the Predators favor. The last goal of the game was scored by Kimmo Tomonen. He was assisted by Paul Kariya and Marek Zidlicky.

Tomas Vokoun made big saves all night and ended up with a total of 27 saves.

"He was huge," Head Coach Barry Trotz said. "We had some coverage breakdowns that left guy wide open. His saves were huge."

The Predators have yet to lose to the Blues this season; they are 3-0 against them and will face them five more times.

This was the 2nd game in a row that Paul Kariya had a multiple-point night; he had two assists in this game and the Thursday night's game against the Dallas Stars. This game also marked the second game in a row in which the Predators scored two or more powerplay goals.

The Predators knew that the Blues would come into the game desperate.

"They are really playing hard because they are struggling," Predators goaltender Vokoun said. "It was an extremely dangerous game for us."

The Predators record is now 11-2-3. The Blues record is the worst in the league at 2-12-3.

The Predators' next game is Tuesday night at the Gaylord Entertainment Center against the Los Angeles Kings. ◆

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