

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 84 NO. 56

INSIDE

Check out the band of week



Local group Evil Bebbs set to tour the East Coast over Christmas break.

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OPINIONS

Post-election thoughts

Obama needs to be supported in his quest to change the face of politics.

OPINIONS, 4

Check out this week's comics.

OPINIONS, 4

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Blue Raiders back on the road

After playing its first home game in over a month, MT hits the road again to face Western Kentucky.

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COMMUTE

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

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

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



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Amanda Waller, junior and member of Block and Bridle, prepares her sheep to be shown outside of the Livestock Center on Wednesday.

SEE BLOCK, BRIDLE, PAGE 3 FOR STAFF REPORT

Agriculture students compete for livestock blue ribbon

Racially-charged graffiti defaces dorm

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

An MTSU student found a racial slur spray-painted outside of his dormitory room on the third floor of Clement Hall this past Friday.

Darius Jones, a black student and sophomore business major, said that he and his roommate discovered the "N-word" spray-painted outside of their door in red paint.

"It was between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., because I was in my room laying down and everybody had already went to the Step Show," Jones said. "When my roommate came back from the Step Show around midnight, he walked in and said, 'You won't believe what is written outside.'"

Jones said that he went outside and saw the slur written in red paint and was upset about the situation.

"We walked to our R.A.'s [resident advisor's] room and told her what had happened," Jones said. "She said she would take care of it, so we let it go."

Jones said the next night police arrived at their dormitory to ask questions and file an official report.

The next morning at 9 a.m., the word had been spray-painted over, Jones said.

As of now, police have no leads as to who is responsible, but Jones said he feels that someone got drunk and ignorantly spray-painted it.

"My roommate told me some things that were going on at Vanderbilt's campus because of the presidential election, so that could be towards that, but we don't know the actual truth about it," Jones said.

Jones said that neither he nor his roommate have a problem with anyone on campus, so there is no way to figure out who is responsible. As far as safety, Jones said that this incident hasn't affected his lifestyle on campus.

Faculty chalks up graffiti to deviance

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

A recent increase in chalk graffiti advertisements has garnered multiple concerns from faculty and administration about the lack of campus cleanliness.

The majority of the advertisements are for local bands and shows. While the ads might be colorful and eye catching to students, they are illegal.

"It's an infraction of university policy," said Alfred Lutz, president of the Faculty Senate. "And it's not just bands advertising."

"There has been offensive language on the sidewalks and sides of buildings and it's just not inappropriate," Lutz said.

In the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, section 32 states that damage or defacement of MTSU property by painting, chalking, stenciling or by any other means is prohibited.

"Those who are caught making the chalk advertisements are given heavy community service," said Laura Soch-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs. "They have to

clean up all the ads as well as other trash on campus."

Depending on the severity of the graffiti, students can also face disciplinary probation. A student's right to remain enrolled at the university may be placed in probationary status. Probation may include removal of privileges or restriction of a student's activities.

"We have a hard time catching students doing it because they usually do it late at night or on weekends when there aren't a lot of people around," Soch-Lightsy said. "However, this semester we have had five cases of students being caught and punished for doing the graffiti."

Due to budget cuts, eight custodial field positions have been eliminated. This means there is not enough money or staff to efficiently get rid of the chalk advertisements and other graffiti on the campus.

"Sometimes the rain does help wash away graffiti on the sidewalks," said Stephanie Taylor, faculty Senate College of Mass Communications. "However, we see the majority if it around the mass communications building, so if it's un-



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Graffiti decorates the columns outside of the Business Aerospace building.

der the awning, it's stuck there for a long time."

"I had no idea the chalk graffiti was illegal," said Dustin Smith, freshman recording industry major. "If bands really want to advertise that badly, maybe [MTSU] should build designated areas, that way they won't be doing it illegally."

While chalk graffiti and other forms of unauthorized advertisement are illegal on campus, flyers

that have first been approved by Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, may be put in designated areas.

"Graffiti really does make the institution less attractive," Taylor said. "Students should be aware they are stewards to the university, and they are responsible to how the campus looks. So let's keep the campus clean."

Animal rights, health focus of 'Veg Week'

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Raiders Organized for Animal Rights will hold its first "Veg Week" to inform people about the dietary benefits of veganism and vegetarianism, while encouraging people to take action when it comes to animal cruelty.

Veg Week is scheduled to take place from Nov. 14 to Nov. 21 with various events taking place each night.

"We are trying to introduce more people to how easy it is to be a vegetarian or a vegan, and we're also trying to establish a community or support group for people," said Charley Rose, junior business major and member of R.O.A.R.

The first event is a potluck/bonfire, which will take place at 1632 Center Point Drive off of Old Lascassas at 5 p.m. After the potluck, a screening of "Diet For A New America" will be shown.

"A vegan potluck will be at my house where everyone will be bringing some item to eat, and we are also going to view a documentary on vegetarian diets," said Eric Bennick, sophomore English and literature major.

On Saturday, Nov. 15 there will be a meeting in front of the Keathley University Center for a bike ride to Gyro Café at 5 p.m. For those who chose not to ride, R.O.A.R. will be meeting at Gyro around 6 p.m.

Rose said that a lot of people think that vegetarianism and veganism is too difficult,

which is why they decide not to alter their diet.

"There's going to be a whole group of us going through the same situations," Rose said. "We can offer help and friendships."

As far as preparing inexpensive meals, Kenny Torella, junior recording industry major and R.O.A.R. member, said that there is nothing inherently expensive about being a vegetarian or vegan.

"You can be a vegan and eat tons of soy ice cream and veggie burgers, or you can try to eat more nutrient rich foods that are inexpensive like rice, pasta, beans and vegetables," Torella said. "I try to compare how much I spend on food with some of my friends that aren't vegan and it's really similar."

Torella said that one of the big factors is that meat is very inexpensive these days because the government subsidizes it.

Monday, there will be a screening of the documentary "A Diet For All Reasons," which focuses on the health benefits of a plant-based diet. The documentary will be shown in the State Farm Room of the Business Aerospace building at 7 p.m.

There will be cooking demonstrations at Monohan Hall on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.

Torella said it is good to sometimes compare with people what certain foods they like to cook.

On Wednesday, R.O.A.R. members will be giving pre-



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Eric Powell hands out a leaflet to a student for Veg Week events.

sentation and holding workshops on clothing, vivisection and nutrition.

"Tyler [White] and I are going to be doing a presentation on vivisection, which is a scientific research about testing on animals," Rose said.

Torella said that certain members will be doing a presentation on how to stay away from fur and leather.

"Sadly fur is a huge industry," Torella said. "They capture mink, chinchilla, raccoons and foxes and sell these coats for up to \$50,000 or up to \$100,000."

Torella said these animals are kept in cages for the rest of their lives until they are killed for their fur.

"We're at a point now that we should look beyond our own fashion and wear clothes that aren't made

of other animals," Torella said.

Another cooking demonstration workshop will be held on Thursday in Monohan Hall at 7 p.m.

"I think all we really want to accomplish is a broader perspective of sympathy for all of existence," Bennick said.

Veg Week will end with another potluck/bonfire at 1632 Center Point Drive off of Old Lascassas at 5 p.m.

"I know that when people find out how animals we eat are made, they kind of get grossed out and want to take action do something about it," Torella said. "We thought we would have a week of events that would motivate and educate people, because there's not a lot of things around here that talk about that stuff."



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Students walk the runway to raise funds for disaster victims

Students strike a pose for habitat for humanity

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Assistant News Editor

Members from a fashion promotion class are preparing to host a fashion show this Friday to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity in the James Union Building at 7 p.m.

The semiannual show is \$5. This semester's theme is "Evacuation," which was inspired by recent natural disasters, according to Jasmin Kown, assistant professor of textiles, merchandising and design and professor of the fashion promotion class.

Evacuation is based on natural disasters, such as hurricanes, avalanches, tornados, and volcanoes," said Hailey Nutter, senior textile and merchandising and design major.

Everything that relates to the show is centered on the theme.

"All of the hair, makeup and wardrobe come from the inspiration of those di-

sasters," Kown said.

A lot of people are suffering for the natural disasters. A lot of them have lost their homes," Kown said. "I think that it is meaningful to donate to those organizations that builds home for people who have lost theirs like Habitat."

All of the show's ticket proceeds will be donated directly to Habitat for Humanity.

"Unlike the professional designers, we are not just making money, we are doing good things for the community," Kown said.

Throughout the course of the semester, students were required to brainstorm ideas for the show.

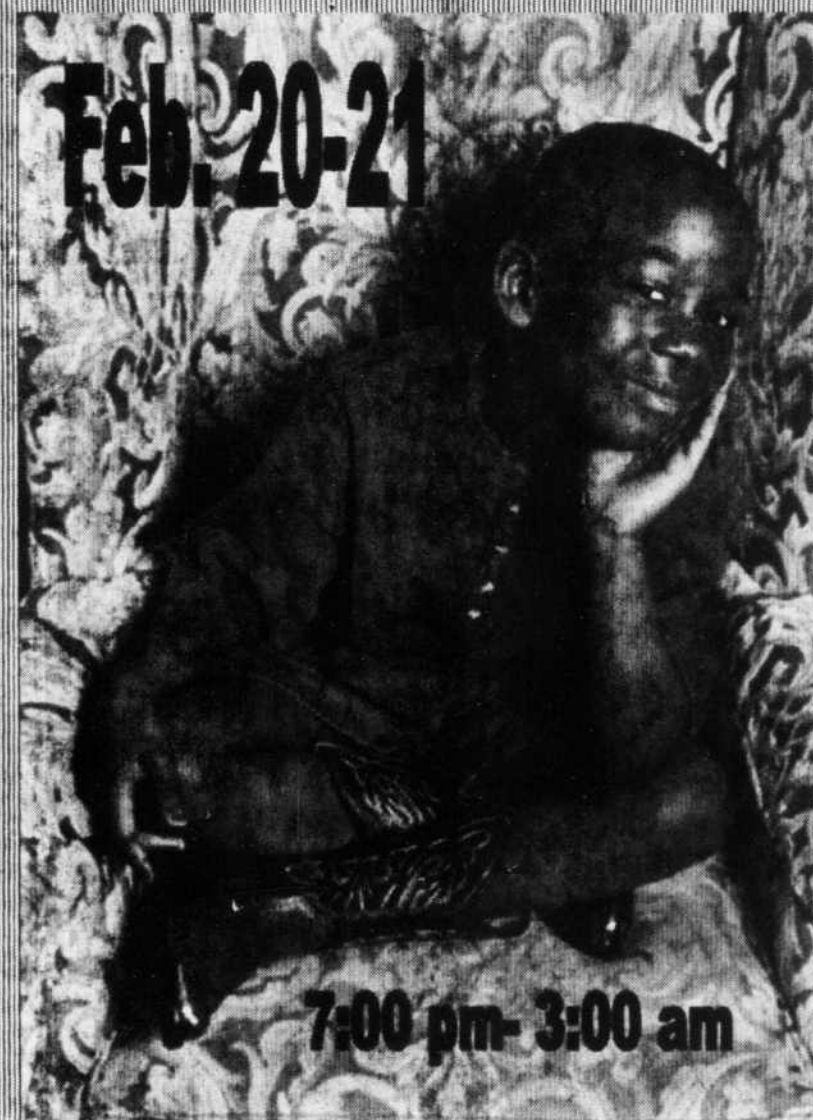
The work requirements are different for the fashion promotion class, than other traditional classes that the students may have taken.

"It is more hands on. As fashion students, they ac-

FASHION, PAGE 3

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House Republican denies wrongdoing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (AP) — The top Republican in the state House has denied any wrongdoing by a GOP operative who was slapped with a restraining order for running Web sites named after the Democratic incumbent in a pivotal race in Sullivan County.

Rep. Nathan Vaughn, a Kingsport Democrat who became northeastern Tennessee's first black lawmaker when he was elected in 2002, lost last week's election to Republican Tony Shipley by 326 votes.

Vaughn's was one of four seats lost by Democrats that gave Republicans a 50-49 majority in the House.

The Kingsport Times-News reported this week that the restraining order was issued in September against Scott Gilmer, a House Republican

staffer. Court filings said the Web content placed Vaughn "in a false light," but did not provide specifics.

"That lawsuit was settled, there was no wrongdoing and there was nothing negative ever said or written about Mr. Vaughn," House Republican Leader Jason Mumpower, of Bristol, told reporters on Tuesday.

Mumpower, who is lining up GOP support to be elected House speaker in January, declined to elaborate on what the sites did say, and also noted that the judge in the case made a campaign contribution to Vaughn.

The order forbade Gilmer from operating Web sites like www.nathanvaughn.com, www.nathanvaughn.net and www.nathanvaughn.org, because the sites did not identify who paid for or authorized their content. Those

three sites now link to generic material from registration company Godaddy.com.

Asked why he didn't publicize the restraining order during the campaign, Vaughn said: "Wasn't there already enough negative stuff out there?"

Vaughn was the subject of heavy political attacks during the campaign, including a Tennessee Republican Party direct mail piece that pasted a picture of his head on a black bird.

The mail piece described him as "part of the liberal, big government flock" with President-elect Barack Obama and U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Mumpower also said during the campaign that Vaughn was "better suited to be representing inner-city Memphis than the rural hills of East Tennessee."

Obituaries

Patricia Forman

MTSU employee Patricia J.Z.H. Forman, 51, passed away Nov. 4 at St. Thomas Hospital.

Forman has worked at MTSU for the past seven years and is survived by her husband, Matthew Forman, and her daughter, Fawn Hawpetoss of Murfreesboro. She is also survived by her mother, Olga Demkowicz; her brother Steven (Cindy) Zelinka of Maine; and her sister, Ruth Zelinka of Hawaii. A private memorial service will be set at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Ernestine Reeder

MTSU Professor Emeritus Ernestine Nichols Reeder, 80, died Nov. 7.

Reeder worked at MTSU for 22 years after a long career in teaching, as well as serving as professor and chair of the Department of Human Sciences.

Reeder is survived by her son, Kevin R. Reeder,

his wife, Inez, and granddaughter, Dennis Nunnally of Little Rock, Ark. She is also survived by her brother Leroy Nichols, and his wife Erna of Washington, N.C., and her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Wilkinson of Nashville, Tenn.

Services were held Nov. 11 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where Reeder was a member.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or the Ernestine N. Reeder Honor Scholarship at Woodfin Memorial Chapel.

waiting for Off Broadway ad

Through the *Sidelines*' Lens

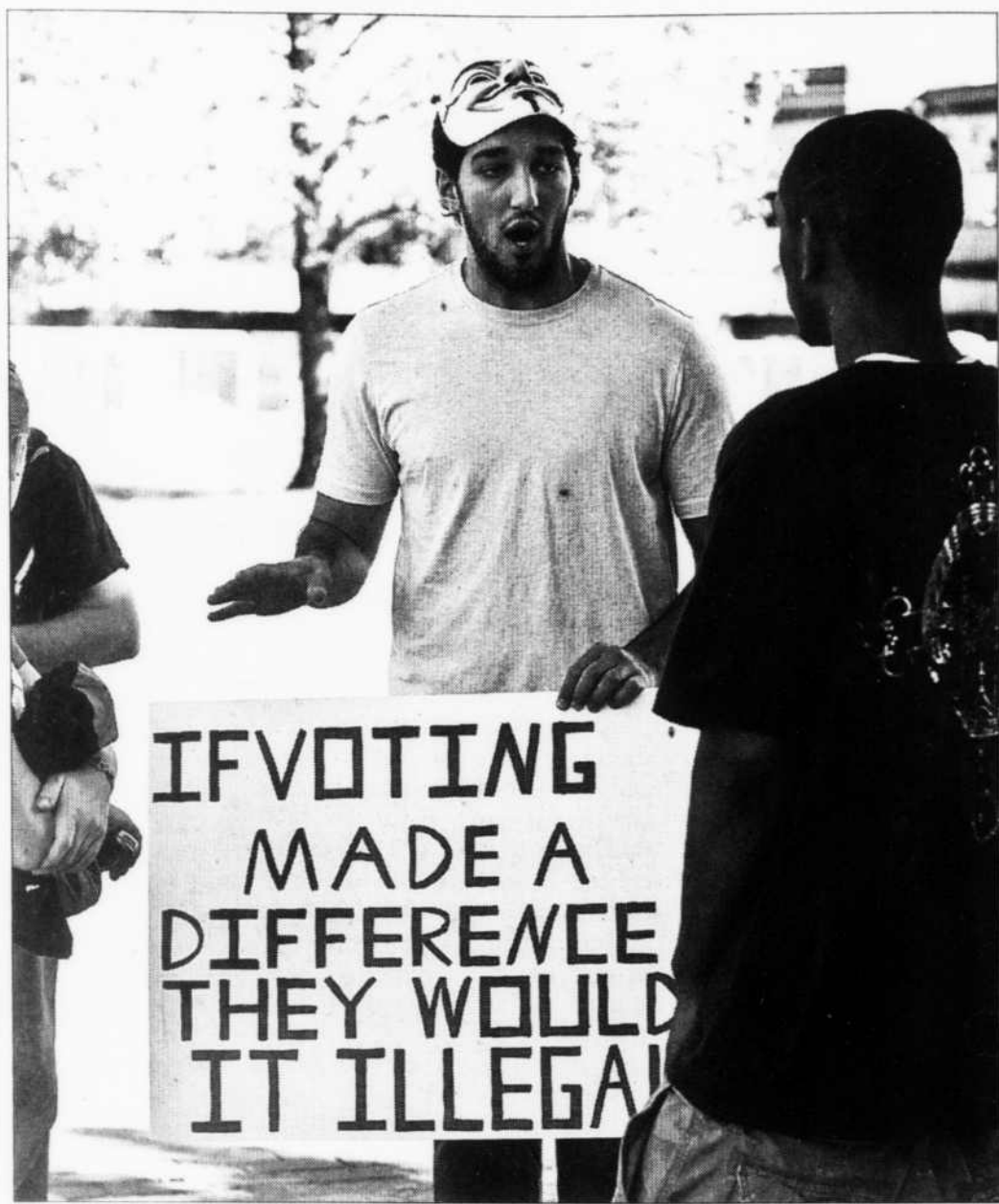


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Kevin Cox, junior history major, voices his opinion to Ricky Robinson on the Keathley University Center knoll on Election Day. "My thoughts about voting have changed a little bit," Robinson said.

Continued from page 1

STAFF REPORT

Students showed hogs, horses, sheep and cattle at a livestock show hosted by Block and Bridle yesterday evening.

Block and Bridle is a club for students with an interest in animal and agriculture.

The show is a chance for students to get experience showing animals.

Others students who are not members of Block and Bridle are members of livestock management.

"It is a class requirement to show a dairy or beef heifer," said Hannah Carrick,

sophomore animal science major.

Carrick said they prefer students to show another animal. She showed a sheep.

"For three weeks I had to feed, water and clean up after a sheep, twice a day, everyday," Carrick said.

FASHION FROM PAGE 2

tually have to manage everything," Kown said. "Everything from making the garments, publicizing the show and running it on stage."

The work students do in the class is similar to what they will do in the fashion industry. Students experience all the procedures involved with the production of a real fashion show.

"The class is structured to teach us all aspects of what it is like to work behind the scenes of fashion events," Nutter said.

"It gives students a really good opportunity to get those experience, before they

graduate," Kown said.

Students were divided into small groups; each group undertook a different aspect of in the production of the show.

"They decided what committee they wanted to be on, based on their own past experiences," Kown said. "The show is totally student ran. I am just supervising."

Students were responsible for recruiting models, wardrobes, publicity, stage lighting and music.

Students were also required to raise money to produce the show.

"We had to raise all the money by asking for donations and hosting fundraisers," Nutter said.

Kown said that the fashion show is a good opportunity

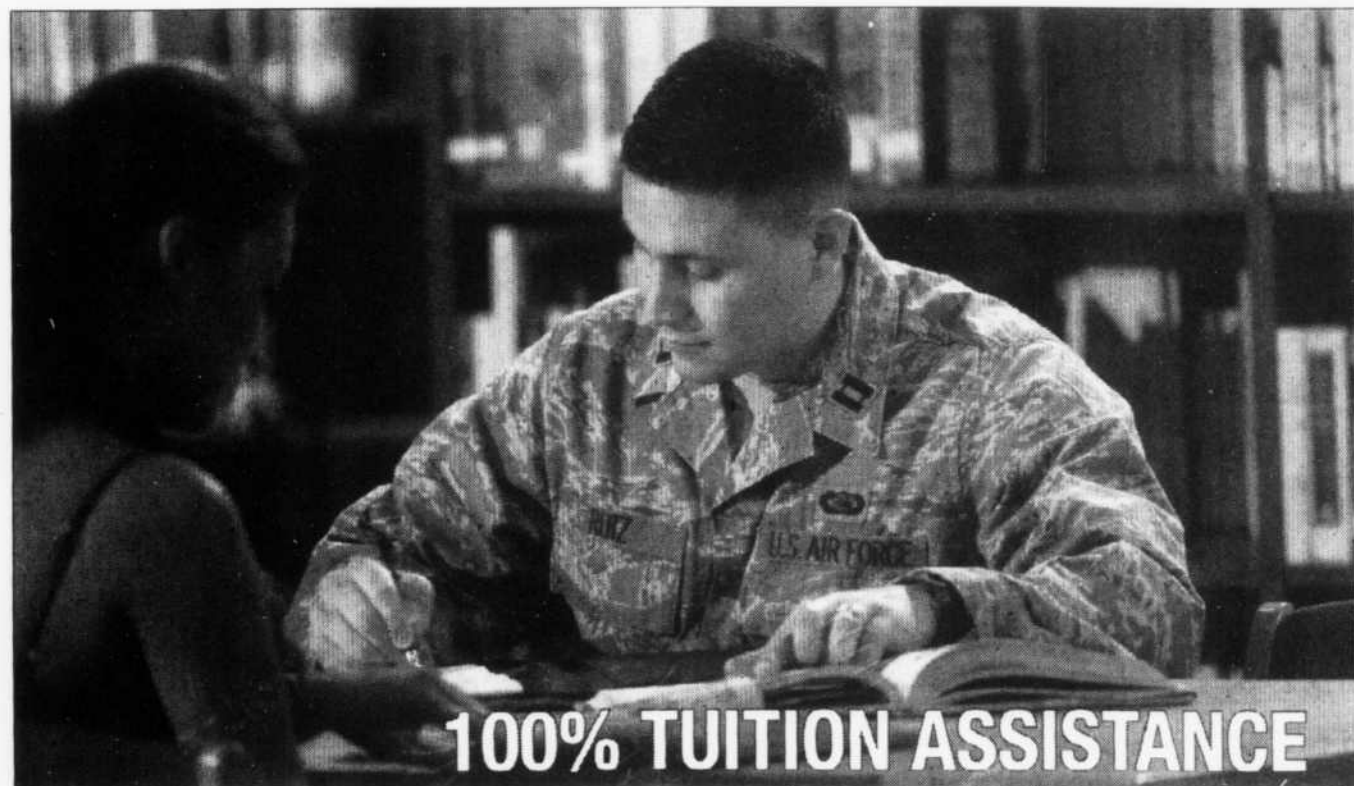


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

for students to see what other students are doing for their majors and careers.

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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Messages of hate cannot continue to be tolerated

Last Friday, one of our MTSU students had the horror of coming back to his dormitory – his home away from home – to find a disparaging and racist slur painted on his door.

On a campus that should be an epitome of progression, why do some people still insist on making it nearly unbearable for others to live and function without the interference of ignorance and hatred?

To whoever defaced Darius Jones' door, consider this: are you hated for the color of your skin? How would you feel if someone spray-painted a racial slur about you on the door to your home?

But we aren't sure what's scarier; that racism is alive on our campus or that it is still massively prevalent in our country.

Recently, two major stories circulating through the news have concerned the Ku Klux Klan.

This past Monday, a body of a woman was found in Covington, Louisiana. Authorities believe that the woman, yet to be identified, was recruited over the Internet to attend a KKK initiation ritual. Police speculate that she tried to leave the campsite where the ritual was being held, got in an argument with KKK members and was shot by 44-year-old Raymond "Chuck" Foster.

Foster and other suspects allegedly proceeded to burn the woman's belongings and bury her body under brush alongside a rural road. The Associated Press reported that, "investigators found weapons, Confederate flags and six Klan robes, some emblazoned with patches reading 'KKK LIFE MEMBER' or 'KKK SECURITY Enforcement.'"

The other major news story is following the lawsuit initiated by 16-year-old Jordan Gruver, a Panamanian-American who was allegedly beaten by several high-ranking KKK members twice his age and physical stature at a fair in Brandenburg, Kentucky.

Gruver, with aid from the Southern Poverty Law Center, is hoping to successfully sue the Imperial Klans of America for enough damages to financially cripple the white-supremacy organization.

To read about these events is absolutely revolting, and it is especially stunning in the wake of America's recent election, touted by many political scientists as a major turning point in the country's racial relations. And even though there were no racial beatings, white-supremacy rallies or cross burnings on our campus, all it takes is one word to spread hate.

And what's the point of spreading hate?

Chief-elect makes his "change" choices



No "I" in "team"
Sam Ashby

Only a week has passed since the historic election and the American people are already expecting great things from President-elect Obama. Let's not get too carried away; he won't be able to solve everything nor will he be able to do it overnight. But the people he will pick to be part of his team might be a good indication of how things will go. The period between Nov. 4 and Jan. 20 is always a very interesting time for America when a new president is assuming office. It is a rare opportunity for the American people to see who the president-elect is selecting as his team and who will help him in leading the country for at least the next four years.

Right off the heels of the election, President-elect Obama chose Rep. Rahm Emanuel, who represents Illinois's fifth congressional district as his White House chief of staff.

Almost immediately, Republicans cried out that Obama's pick of Emanuel is contradictory to what he had campaigned on for the past two years: change. As House Minority Leader John Boehner stated, "This is an ironic choice for a president-elect who has promised to change Washington, make politics more civil and govern from the center." Emanuel is a perfect pick. Claims of him being "a true partisan" will only help Obama in the end.

Emanuel was instrumental in helping the Democrats receive the majority of the House in the 2006 midterm elections and will be able to work with those Democrats who may not side well with President Obama on issues. When it comes to issues that may divide the party, such as same-sex marriage and energy independence, Emanuel will be the president's right-hand man.

Another pick that has been getting a lot of media attention is that of secretary of the treasury. Two names that have floated around for the position are Lawrence Summers and Timothy Geithner. Both worked for the Clinton administration, with Summers serving as treasury secretary the final year-and-a-half of Clinton's presidency.

Obama needs someone who will be decisive, able to act quickly, be willing to work with the banking community and other financial

institutions, and also be pragmatic and realistic in his or her approach. Oddly enough, Colin Powell has been speculated as a candidate for the post of secretary of education, something I completely disagree with. A good person to fill the education secretary role would be someone who has had experience in the public school system and has seen

“Obama needs someone who will be decisive, able to act quickly... and also be pragmatic and realistic in his or her approach.”

education reform, such as Bill Milliken. He has been instrumental in helping poor, urban school districts attain the funds they need and to help increase the graduation rate at those schools as well.

The Obama administration will be successful as long as his team is on the same page as the president-elect. They must know how to navigate the political

maze that is Washington, D.C. while also bringing a pragmatic and idealistic vibe to the Obama

administration. This will be one of the many keys in securing America's hope in the political process once again.

Sam Ashby is a freshman liberal arts major and can be reached at sa2s@mtsu.edu.

administration. This will be one of the many keys in securing America's hope in the political process once again.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on Obama, race

I am sure I speak for everyone when I say I am so glad the election is over. Having said that, there are some things I'd like to cover. As a person who didn't vote for Obama, I still urge the people to rally behind him.

He will be our president officially in less than 90 days and will be making decisions that will greatly affect our nation. We need to pray that God guides him and those around him during these processes.

It's unfortunate that the race issue had to come up during this election. Personally, I experienced more racism towards whites this year while this tiresome election wore on. That is not to say it wasn't vice versa for others, but that is what I experienced.

Another thing is I am sick and tired of hearing headline after headline about Obama being the first African-American president. If race truly is not an issue, then why make such

a big deal out of President-Elect Obama being the first black man to hold the office? Why not say a good man that ran an excellent campaign won the election? He is just a man and that's how everyone should see it!

When I was researching Obama's positions, I looked at Obama the man. I did not look at Obama the black man. Undeniably, that is not how voters looked at it when they went to vote whether for or against him. Obama has the opportunity with the challenges ahead to be the next great President. Here's hoping he does not disappoint us and helps America rise out of these crises.

-Jeremy Neighbours, junior

Why wasn't there a text message?

I just want to take this time to voice my opinion and ask why in the world a text message was not sent out on Nov. 6 when the

police found out about the attempted robbery/shooting. I have class at 6 p.m. and got out a little after 9. I saw the police cars but didn't really know what was going on. I was concerned but figured that it was not a big deal since we did not get a text message.

The next day I heard about what happened and was furious! I couldn't believe that no alert was sent out. They had the suspect apprehended quickly, but there could have been an accomplice.

It would have been nice to have received a text for those in class, (especially females who take night classes and walk alone at night) so we could at least be on alert while leaving class.

The lady was lucky enough to not have been seriously hurt. God was watching over her. It could have turned deadly if the guy had known how to shoot correctly. Out of all the crimes and threats that have happened on campus this semester and last, this seems to be the most serious.

Something actually hap-

pened and someone could have been killed. This time it wasn't just threatening e-mails, someone's car getting broken into, or someone trying to abduct students - a lady's life could have been taken and I feel, this time especially, that some kind of alert should have been sent out.

I praise the school and campus police for their efficiency dealing with safety over the last year but this time it seems like someone made a bad call. I received five e-mails in a row the day after it happened and not even a text. If someone else had been with the suspect, the next day would have been a little too late.

-Kristy Reynolds, senior

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

Want to write an opinions column?

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Mass Comm 269

COMICS



"And Friends"

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Frank Hasenmueller

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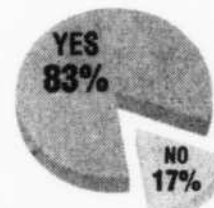
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FEATURES

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The Battle Lords of MTSU

Students gather outside the KUC to participate in medieval fighting called Dagorhir

By MADI FLOURNOY
Contributing Writer

As they battle it out with hand-made weapons and elaborate costumes, the members of Dagorhir, a group of students based on medieval-type activities, put all their energy into fighting their friends with weapons that won't lead to any lethal blows.

The physically demanding activity combines both history and fantasy. The word Dagorhir, pronounced "dagger-here," comes from J.R.R. Tolkien's Sindarin Elven language from *Lord of the Rings*, meaning "battle lords." The

concept of the sport was derived from Tolkien's Middle Earth, the land where most of his stories take place.

Michael Thigpen, junior digital animation major and president of Dagorhir, says he got into the pastime around eight years ago after a friend took him to participate.

"I've always loved medieval stuff, and I couldn't ask for more aside from real sword fighting," Thigpen explains.

Thigpen says he was the one who started Dagorhir on campus.

"I made a bunch of weapons and brought them out one day, and everyone was like, 'Wow! Let's do this!'"

Thigpen recalls. "At first, it attracted nerds, but then they realized they would get hit."

Davey Odineal, freshman theatre major, says he saw people hitting each other one day and said, "Hey, this is for me."

The activity was started at the collegiate level by students in 1977. After a couple of years of battling across a growing number of campuses, it became a discussion on local college radio shows.

A national event called Ragnorak began in 1986 for hundreds of Dagorhir players across the United States, according to the official Dagorhir homepage, dagorhir.com.

Sarah Budai, junior anthropology and sociology major, has been playing Dagorhir since last semester, but has been involved with a similar medieval-oriented group, Amtgard.

"Dagorhir and Amtgard give me an automatic entrance to an international community of friends," Budai says. "I am friends with almost everyone who joins the Dagorhir group. It's fun and safe, and everyone should come out and join us."

There are combat rules that are strictly enforced to prevent injuries. During battle, opponents are allowed to

hit one another with their weapon of choice. If hit, the player is to either not use the part of the body that was hit, as if it was severely injured, or step out for the remainder of the battle, as if the player was killed.

"I pretty much train everybody, build a majority of the weapons and control the rules of the game, like what weapons are legal," Thigpen explains. "I scare people pretty much."

Thigpen also emphasizes that dexterity and hardiness are needed to participate.

"You need good upper body strength, and you also need to be able to take a hit,"

Thigpen says. "Everything else will build up over time."

Chase Simmons, a sophomore entrepreneurship major, has been participating in Dagorhir for over a year now.

"I get to meet new people while bashing them with foam weapons," says Simmons, who adds he wants everyone to know that even though there is hitting, it is totally harmless. "A lot of the people are friendly and quite funny."

Simmons explains that Thigpen and a few others make sure participants know the rules before engaging in

DAGORHIR, PAGE 6



Photos by Alex Blackweider, photography editor

Dagorhir, pronounced "dagger-here," is a physically-demanding activity that is meant to replicate medieval-type battling. It began at the collegiate level in the 70s and has recently spread to MTSU.

Men of Evil Bebos together 'til end

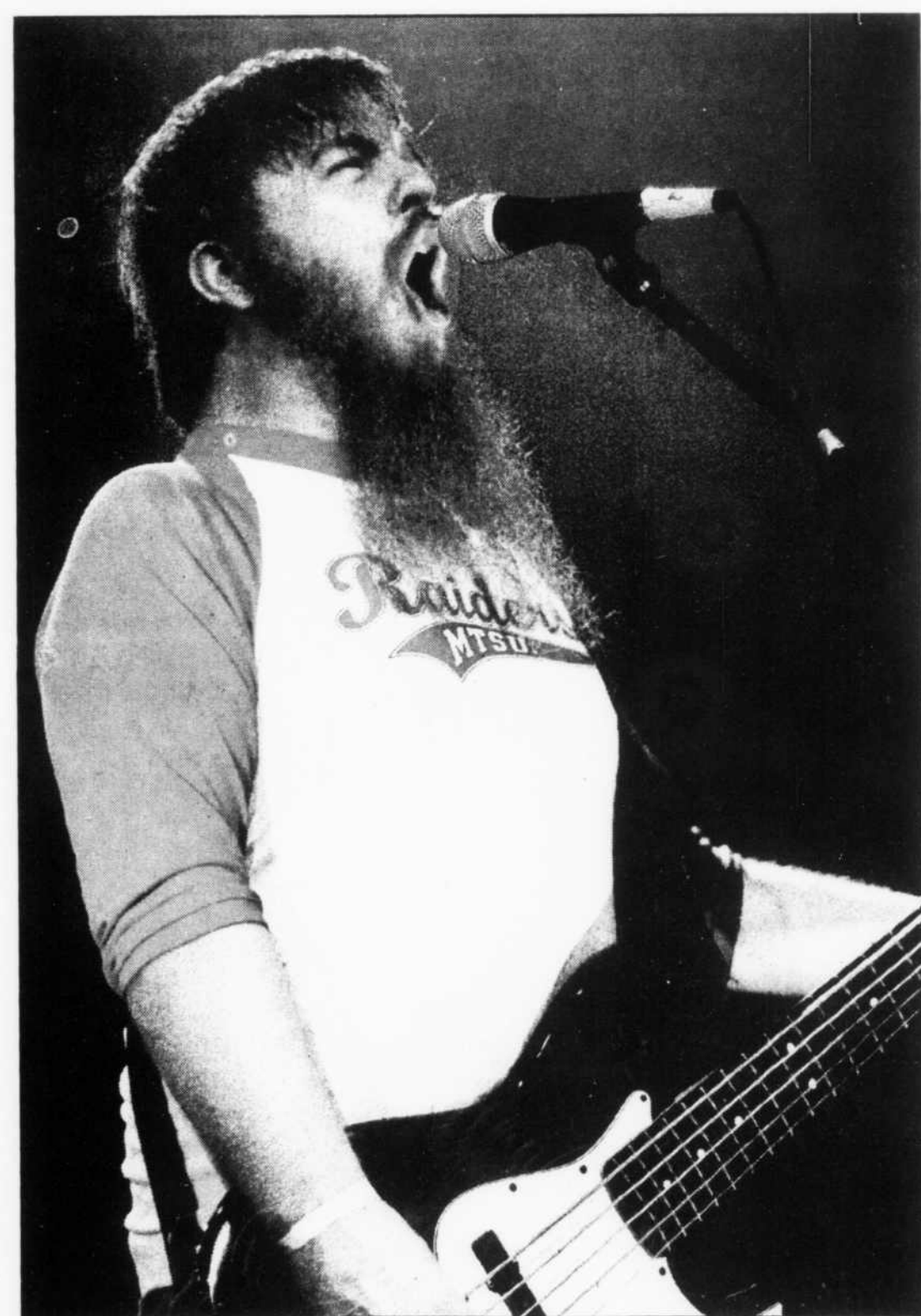


Photo by Alex Blackweider, photography editor

Evil Bebos bassist Chris Click plays and vocalizes for the crowd at Club 527 on Friday.



The Murfreesboro-based band to go on
it's third tour over Christmas break

By LAURA RAINES
Staff Writer

Sometimes you may feel that all you need in life is your friends. And even though the five men of Evil Bebos may disagree sometimes, the band of friends realize that all they need is each other.

When the five young rockers met in Murfreesboro's melting pot of musicians four years ago, their young heads were filled with dreams of big guitars and even bigger stages. Today, not much has changed, except that the band is closer to realizing that dream.

"When we first started out at Mellow Mushroom, we had no plans and no written music," Devin Lamp remembers. "It was mainly just a jam session among friends in hooded masks."

Lamp, the band's keyboardist, laughs with the rest of the guys at the memory of their first gig together. Since then, EB has grown out of its Mellow Mushroom shell and branched out to other venues.

"I always had a vision, but it took a while for the rest of the members to see the light," Lamp says. "The first show we had – even though we winged it – proved to everyone that we could play together and that our passion would come out in our music."

Their goal is to ultimately – as the band Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show put it in the '70s – end up on "the cover of Rolling Stone." They say that they are in this project for the long haul and don't think about much else.

"We love to play at Wall Street here in the 'Boro because the 'Boro is our home, but our sights are set on a different stage now," guitarist and vocalist Rob McKinney says. "After our last three members graduate from MTSU, we will likely move to Chicago to continue chasing our dreams."

For the next few weeks, the band will stick to local gigs. But on Dec. 12 the guys will play their last Murfreesboro show at Wall Street before their third tour.

During its Christmas-

break tour, EB will be getting to know friends' couches and floors quite well as the band travels up and down the East Coast.

Through performing house shows in Murfreesboro during their college years, the guys have networked with a nationwide community of musicians who tour and graciously offer sleeping space for those who do the same.

The five plan to pile into an old SUV with their instruments and hit the road. The tour, which will consist of mostly house shows, will have stops in Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Brooklyn, New York City, Philadelphia and Allentown, Pa. After that, it's back down to Tennessee for a show at Farenheit Studios with the band Panzer in Johnson City.

During the tour, the band members will be taking a break from their jobs in the 'Boro. Being employed, on top of school, and music makes for busy schedules for Evil Bebos.

BAND, PAGE 6

BAND FROM PAGE 5

"I work at Aharts Pizza in Murfreesboro," says Chris Click, vocalist, bassist and member of another band, The Ascent of Everest. "It pays the bills for now and isn't a permanent gig, so it won't be crucial to uproot when we all move to Chicago."

"I have a job on campus at the music hall," guitarist Corey Taylor says. "It's convenient because after class you're already at work."

The other three band members say they freelance, are self-employed or are unemployed.

"In our small amount of free time, we mostly make music," McKinney says. "But we do squeeze in a few movies and videogames. Robert Downey Jr. has always been our favorite actor."

A new album, Metropolis, will soon come out of the countless hours of practicing the band has had. Though a drop date isn't yet set, EB members unanimously agree that they will hit the studio hard immediately following the tour to put the finishing touches on it.

"Four of the songs we play tonight are off the new album," says drummer Jeff Ehlinger, as he and the other four get ready to go on stage at Club 527 on Friday. "We want the audience to hear our newest work for the first time and get some feedback because we love it and hope they do too."

Click says he and the oth-

er four band members have slightly different dreams for Evil Bebbs.

"The band is a giant boulder pushing in different directions, and we don't know where it will ultimately end up," Click says. "You could ask all five of us, and we would have different answers."

With different opinions and visions, the guys say that some discussions do get heated, especially when it comes to going in new and different directions with their music.

"We are all very passionate about music, and we do argue," Ehlinger admits. "But before it comes to blows, we take it to Smash Brothers and beat each others' asses there. After a good round of the most awesome game ever, we can get back to work with a level head and without the stress."

Taylor laughs at Ehlinger's Smash Brothers explanation.

"We find Smash Brothers to be a lot less painful and much more fun than physical contact, too," Taylor says.

If you favor the five merry men that make up Evil Bebbs or if you have never heard the band before, check out the EB Web site, myspace.com/evilbebbs.

**CHECK OUT
SIGHTS & SOUNDS
OF EVIL BEBBS AT
MTSUSIDELINES.COM**

online



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Though participants in Dagorhir may appear injured, it is all just an act. The group has precautions and rules to prevent injuries.



DAGORHIR FROM PAGE 5

Dagorhir so injuries are less likely to happen.

The swords have fiberglass cores surrounded by thin camping foam, the arrows are actual arrows with the points cut off and surrounded by soft foam, and the spears are made of Nerf toys. The people engaging in Dagorhir are basically getting hit with a cushion, even though there is a strong force put behind it.

"It's a really fun workout, and it's not harmful at all," Thigpen says. "People get misconceptions. The worst thing we had was a nose bleed."

Budai says there is more to Dagorhir than just the fighting.

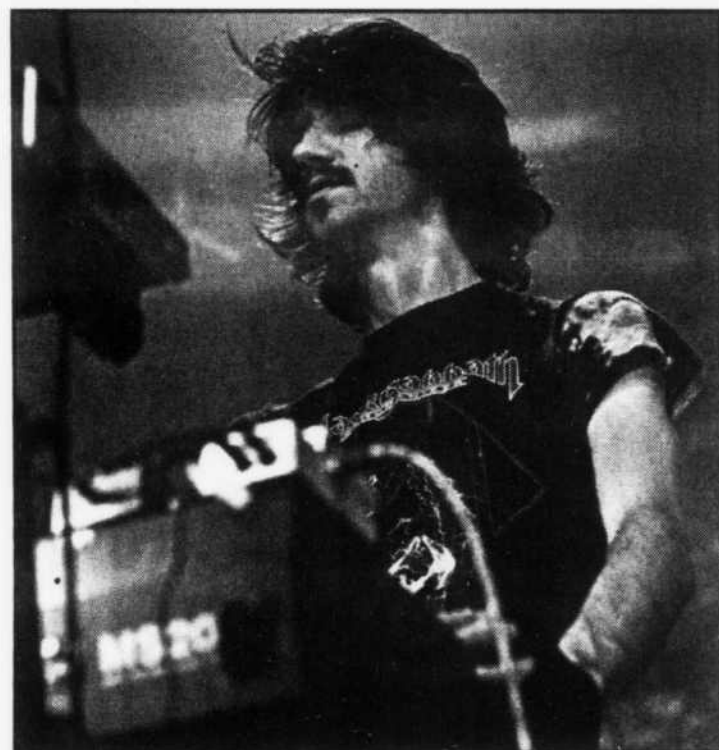
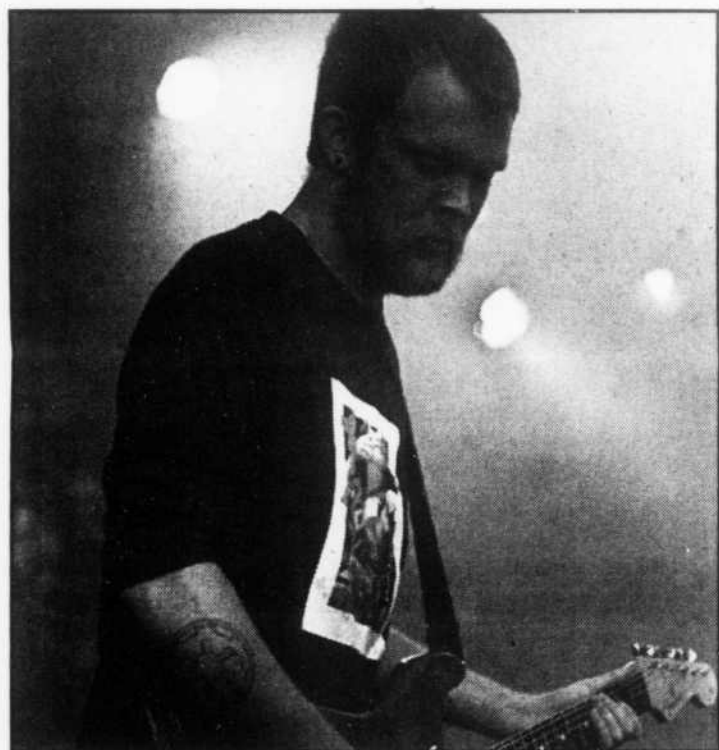
"Weapon making and

sewing are skills that the less battle-minded can learn, or the battle-minded who wish to have a broader knowledge base," Budai explains.

Members of Dagorhir wear clothes that allow themselves to move around freely by cutting the seams of ragged sweatpants and shirts. Armor is handmade with steel. This attire isn't worn as much because of the difficulty to make it.

Thigpen says the process for making himself chain armor was a long and complicated process.

Anyone can join in on the action of Dagorhir on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the field behind the KUC. Also check out the MTSU the organization's Facebook group, Dagorhir (MTSU/Murfreesboro Chapter), to find out about more events and information.



Photos by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

(Above) Guitarist Corey Taylor (Below) Keyboardist Devin Lamp.

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SPORTS

MT hits the road again, travels to WKU

By CHRIS MARTIN
Sports Editor

After playing its first game at home in more than a month, Middle Tennessee will head back on the road to play the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

The Blue Raiders (3-6, 2-3 Sun Belt) are coming off a 24-21 victory over Louisiana-Monroe, their first win since they defeated Florida Atlantic on Sep. 30. Now they will head to Bowling Green, Ky. to face the Hilltoppers (2-8, 1-3 home) who beat MT 20-17 at Floyd Stadium last season.

"We are very excited about this weekend's game against WKU," MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill said at Tuesday's press conference. "They are a physical team, they have good size along the defensive front, and I think their secondary is the strength of their defense."

The top performer in that secondary is freshman defensive back Ryan Beard. Beard leads WKU with three interceptions. He's also ninth on the team in tackles with 37. Senior Travis Watters, also a defensive back, is the team's leading tackler with 66 wrap-ups.

The Hilltopper secondary will have to be in top form against MT. The Blue Raiders are ranked 30th in the NCAA in passing offense. Senior quarterback Joe Craddock is 42nd in the nation in total passing yards, ahead of other well known passers such as Wake Forest's Riley Skinner, Florida's Tim Tebow and Penn State's Daryll Clark.

The Hilltoppers have had difficulty stopping the run this season, allowing an average of 170.2 yards per game. On the other hand, the Blue Raiders are one of the worst rushing teams in the NCAA. Mostly due to an injury-laden and inexperienced offensive line, MT is averaging a paltry 86.4 yards per game on the ground, which ranks them 114th in the nation in rushing offense. MT's leading rusher, junior running back Phillip Tanner, has only 385 yards through nine games.

"We have to run the ball better, and I know that," Stockstill said. "We are working our tail off every week to do that. I wake up every Saturday morning hoping this is the game [Tanner] gets 200 yards or [junior running back Desmond Gee] gets 150 yards or more, or this is the day our offensive line does a good job in the run game."

WKU runs a run-heavy



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Junior wide receivers Patrick Honeycutt (17) and Eldred King (83) will lead the NCAA's 30th ranked passing attack in WKU

Carmichael named Player of the Week

STAFF REPORT

MT Linebacker Danny Carmichael was named Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week for week 10.

Carmichael led the MT defense with nine tackles in the Blue Raiders' 24-21 victory over Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday, Nov. 8. Carmichael also recorded two tackles for loss and a sack against the Warhawks.

The junior is MT's leading tackler with 69 stops, including 49 solo tackles. He has also collected seven tackles for loss, two sacks, an interception and two forced fumbles on the year.

The Blue Raiders have had a player named Player of the Week six times this season, and Carmichael is the first player to earn the honor since sophomore safety Jeremy Kellem was named Defensive Player of the Week following MT's 14-13 win over Florida Atlantic on Sept. 30. Carmichael joins Kellem senior quarterback Joe Craddock (who has won the Offensive award twice this season), junior cornerback Alex Suber and junior punter David DeFatta as MT players to win Player of the Week honors this season.

Craddock, Suber and DeFatta gave MT a sweep of the awards in the second week following the Blue Raiders' upset over Maryland.

Arkansas State leads the conference with eight nominations with Louisiana-Lafayette right behind with seven while Troy and MT are tied at third with six awards each.

ULL running back Tyrell Fenroy and ASU kicker Josh Arauco are tied amongst players for the most Player of the Week honors with three apiece.



Carmichael



LEADERS



PASSING			PASSING		
	YARDS	TDs		YARDS	TDs
Joe Craddock	1972	10	David Wolke	927	7
RUSHING			RUSHING		
Phillip Tanner	385	7	Tyrell Hayden	347	3
RECEIVING			RECEIVING		
Malcolm Beyah	484	5	Jake Gabler	415	3
TACKLES			TACKLES		
Danny Carmichael	69		Travis Watters	66	
INT			INT		
Three players tied	2		Ryan Beard	3	
SACKS			SACKS		
Lonnie Clemons	3		Blake Boyd	3.5	

offense that starts and stops with the quarterback, senior David Wolke. Wolke is the Hilltoppers' second-leading rusher with 295 yards and is their leading passer, averaging 103 yards a game in an offense that throws an average 25.1 passes a game. However, Wolke is questionable for Saturday's game.

"They don't change their offensive philosophy based on which quarterback is in the game," Stockstill said. "David has played in a bunch of games, he's a senior, so they may lose some leadership and that stuff, but I don't see a big difference if

he is not able to play because they have good players and don't change what they do based on that."

Despite the fact that WKU beat MT at Floyd Stadium, the players aren't ready to give the game any special attention due to the defeat.

"I don't look at that stuff,"

Tanner said. "This game is no bigger than others we have played I see it as another football game. There is no difference in WKU, Troy, North Texas, so on as far as rivalry."

The game will take place at Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium and is slated to begin at 12 p.m.

Lady Raiders destroy LMU 116-41 in exhibition

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

The Murphy Center was raining threes on Monday night when the Lady Raiders dominated Lincoln Memorial 116-41.

Six players walked away with double digits including five starters and sophomore guard Anne Marie Lanning.

Alysha Clark scored 30 points, had four rebounds and three steals.

"I was definitely better than last week; it's just taking me some time to get into a rhythm," Clark said. "It's a good feeling to know that I'm working my way back."

Emily Queen, sophomore forward, followed Clark by scoring 16 points, five assists and two steals.

Jackie Pickel, junior guard, Brandi Brown, junior forward, Lanning and Chelsia Lymon, junior guard, were hitting consecutive threes throughout the first half.

Brown's thumb injury did not seem to hold her back, considering she totaled 14 points, 12 of which came from 3 pointers.

"A lot of people were concerned about our shooting but I'm not," said Head Coach Rick Insell. "We have touch and good mechanics."

Insell said that the team seemed to play better defense, since they have been concentrating on that the most.

That same defense caused Lincoln Memorial to turn the ball over 33 times throughout the game.

"There were some break-

downs but I was trying a lot of combinations so we didn't get anyone hurt," Insell said. "I was satisfied with the new girls too."

Insell let all of the players get in the game before the preseason begins on Saturday against Lafayette College.

Molly McFadden checked into the game in the second half, and helped the Lady Raiders score over one hundred with two foul shots.

McFadden received the loudest cheers of the night as she made six points in five minutes.

The Lady Raiders got out to an early lead and never looked back, holding Lincoln to a 67-25 advantage in the first half alone.

"I don't think the score was



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Alysha Clark (22) scored 30 points. She was one of six MT players who scored double digits.

Men's basketball open season this week

By CASEY BOWMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

The 2008-09 Middle Tennessee basketball season will tip off this Friday in the Murphy Center when the Blue Raiders will welcome in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics member Trevecca Nazarene University.

Trevecca, who reached the NAIA National Tournament Sweet Sixteen last season, will bring in a talented core back to their roster in hopes of returning to the NAIA spotlight this season.

As for MT, they will look to get their season off on the right foot. In what has been the most highly anticipated offseason in a long time, MT will finally be able to step back onto the hardwood for a real game.

Leading the way will be Preseason Player of the Year Desmond 'Boogie' Yates, who will look to get his team going early and often with production on both ends of the floor.

Yates led MT in scoring last season, averaging 16 points a game and putting up game highs in 15 contests, as the Blue Raiders finished the season with 17-15 overall record.

Trevecca will bring a well-balanced attack into Murfreesboro. Strong perimeter play has been a focal point for head coach Sam Harris' offense.

In its first official game of the year, Trevecca had four players score in double figures, lead by freshman Michael France who put up 18 himself. France, a local product from Shelbyville, should be the spark of the offense this season for TNU.

The Trojans have a young team this year, with six of their fourteen players being freshman, but their senior players will most likely play contributing roles for the team.

Senior point guard De'Jon Everson is the workhorse on defense for TNU and will look to put a stop to the potent Blue Raider attack. MT

guards Kevin Kanaskie and Nigel Johnson will have their hands full with Everson all night long.

When in doubt, Trevecca will turn to senior Brian Oduor, a solid all around player who can defend well and drain clutch shots on offense. Oduor led the NAIA in field goal percentage last season, making nearly 66% of his shot attempts.

Middle Tennessee will look to shutdown Oduor with their talented group of defenders and make TNU look elsewhere for their production.

Friday night will also mark the return MT guard Calvin O'Neil. O'Neil missed all of last season with a knee injury but is expected to contribute greatly to head coach Kermit Davis' experienced group.

MT was looking to get some minutes from center Theryn Hudson when they battle the Trojans, but it looks now that an ankle injury may sideline the 6'10" big man for this weekends



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer
Nigel Johnson (11) led MT in assists during the '07-08 season.

action. Hudson missed a lot of practice time during the offseason after having foot surgery.

If Hudson can't go, MT may bring a smaller lineup into the Murphy Center and look to wear down

Trevecca's lineup. 6'9" newcomer Josh Jones could also see significant playing time.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7p.m. this Friday. Students with their MT ID can get into the game for free.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball signs six in early period

Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson announced the signing of six new Blue Raiders on Wednesday. MT took advantage of the early signing period, inking four right-handed pitchers to go along with two position players.

"Now they have to get here and get in but with the recruiting restrictions placed on us by the NCAA with how many players can be on scholarship, the amount of scholarship allotted and the number of players on the roster, it is the first recruiting class you had to be really tight on your selections and academics," Peterson said in regards to his signing class. "I feel really good about it and I really commend Coach McGuire and Coach McLaury because they identified these guys, and when I went in, I could see why."

Students camp out for UT-MTSU tickets

Hundreds of students braved the cold and stood patiently in line on Tuesday in hopes of grabbing their share of basketball tickets for the upcoming MT game against Tennessee. Head coach Kermit Davis and some of his players were out and about to greet the students with refreshments and doughnuts.

There are only a few student tickets remaining and after they are depleted, the game will officially be sold out. The Blue Raiders will welcome the Vols, for the first time ever, to the friendly confines of the Murphy Center on Nov. 21.

Asberry named SBC Player of the Week

Senior volleyball player Ashley Asberry was named the Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week on Monday afternoon. Asberry put up 17 block assists over the weekend in action against Florida International and Florida Atlantic.

This was the second time this year that Asberry has been recognized by the conference. She was named SBC Player of the Week earlier in the season.

Asberry's efforts are paying off, as she is leading the nation in hitting percentage and blocks per set.

The Lady Raiders will be back in Murfreesboro Friday night to face the Troy Trojans in the Alumni Memorial Gym at 7p.m.

Craddock a finalist for sportsmanship award

Senior quarterback Joe Craddock has been named a finalist for The Awards and Recognition Association award for sportsmanship.

The ARA gives out its annual Sportsmanship Award every year to an athlete who contributes significantly on the field for their team, who is in good academic standing and who displays respect for competitors, schools, teammates and coaches.

This isn't your older brother's SBC

As the 2008 college football regular season draws to a close, one can't help but wonder about where we are a conference, and where are we going.

For years now, the Sun Belt Conference has been looked upon as the Bowl Championship Series' younger, uglier stepbrother who was weaker, slower and couldn't ever get a girlfriend.

To some extent, much of the same can still be said in regards to the Sun Belt of today in comparison to yesteryears, but the sun is on the horizon, and clearly the league is making progress.

Is it safe to say that the Sun Belt is no longer the BCS bottom-feeder? Out of 11 conferences, is the SBC still the worst? I tend to think not, and for many reasons.

Take for instance this year's records for the conference. Overall, there are six teams with a legitimate shot at reaching the six-win plateau and becoming eligible to play in a bowl game.

Six years ago, if someone were to say the Sun Belt would have six teams looking to get bowl eligible, they would have been laughed out

of town. That is not the case anymore.

Since 2001, the SBC has picked up 10 wins against the "Big Six" conferences. Five of those wins have come in the past two years and against better opponents.

From 2001 to 2007, the SBC's big wins were when Middle Tennessee beat Vanderbilt three times to go along with North Texas putting a beat down on Baylor, and Troy sliding by a not-so-hot Missouri team who never reached the potential they had that year.

With the exception of that Troy victory in 2004, those wins were nothing to really write home about, but lately the level of competition that the Sun Belt has beaten has taken a nice step forward.

In 2007, Florida Atlantic beat Minnesota, Troy handled Oklahoma State on national television, and Louisiana Monroe beat Alabama. That all preceded the 2008 season, in which MT has beaten Maryland, and Arkansas State defeated Texas A&M.

The SBC has still had close calls with MT coming only a yard away from beating Kentucky, and with



Real talk with C-Bow
Casey Bowman

Louisiana Monroe missing a game winning field goal against Arkansas, it would seem as if the SBC is stepping up to the plate more and more against these so called "big boys" of college football.

In comparison to other "mid-major" conferences, it would appear as if the SBC has closed the gap on them as well.

Heading into the '08 season, the SBC held an 8-7 advantage in contests against schools from the Conference USA. Although the C-USA has stepped up its play against the SBC this season and are now 7-1, there is no denying the talent levels on the field are equalizing. The C-USA will dread putting another team in the New Orleans Bowl this year to face one of the SBC's best.

This year however, the SBC

has begun an assault on the Mid-American Conference. With wins over Kent State and Toledo, the SBC is now 2-0 against the MAC.

Now that I've thrown some figures at you, let's talk about the future. Can the SBC keep it up? I like to think so.

It all starts with recruiting, and it looks like the SBC has caught up to the other "mid-major" conferences with recruits, too.

This past recruiting season saw virtually every team in the conference all signing some heavily touted recruits. With these program's establishing roots in recruiting hotbeds like Florida, Texas, and Georgia, as well as gaining ties with formidable junior college programs, it would appear as if the Sun Belt has caught up in this area, as well.

The one thing that most analysts used to say the Sun Belt was lacking in was facilities. Well, this is no longer the case, either.

Every team has taken steps to upgrade its stadiums, practice facilities, so on and so forth.

Western Kentucky recently expanded their stadium capacity from 17,500 to 22,000 with

a \$49 million renovation as it prepares to enter the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2009.

MT, Louisiana Monroe, Louisiana Lafayette and Arkansas State have all installed new synthetic turfs into their stadiums, and both Florida Atlantic and Florida International have brand new stadiums in the works.

Another factor helping out the football side of the Sun Belt is the exposure of SBC teams in other sports. With Western's Sweet 16 run in the 2007 college basketball tournament and MT's volleyball team also making a Sweet 16 run in 2007, more eyes have been tuned into the Sun Belt lately.

Of course, the only thing that matters in the end boils down to victories over losses. All of this is for not if the SBC cannot produce more bowl participants, though, and to do that, we'll need all these teams who are close to bowl eligibility to get there. And if they do go bowling, they need to win.

Winning solves everything in sports. Let's just hope the Sun Belt is ready to jump out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Predators harpoon Sharks 4-3

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The Nashville Predators dressed and packed with noticeable speed Tuesday night, slamming sticks and pads into their bags and rushing to the idling team bus.

Although many visiting teams at the Shark Tank are eager to get to the airport to beat San Jose's curfew on late-night flights, the Predators said they were just making a clean getaway after goalie Dan Ellis' absolute heist of a victory.

Ville Koistinen scored with 2:32 left in overtime, and Ellis made 54 saves against San Jose's franchise-record shooting barrage in the Predators' 4-3 win Tuesday night.

Ryan Suter and Vernon Fiddler scored tying goals in the third period for Nashville, and Ellis' brilliance kept his club in a one-sided game dominated by San Jose. The overall NHL leaders had a 57-29 shot differential and countless chances to build a huge lead, but San Jose blew a two-goal advantage while

making just enough mistakes to allow Ellis to earn the most memorable win of his short career.

"We stole this game," Predators coach Barry Trotz said. "Danny Ellis stole it, bottom line. He's the reason we won. They were letting us hang around. They kept us on life-support, then we got off the table and scored a goal. I am absolutely thrilled we won a game we shouldn't have."

Jason Arnott also scored for the Predators, who snapped a three-game losing streak and ended the Sharks' nine-game home winning streak when Koistinen capitalized on one last defensive miscue by San Jose off a faceoff.

Devine Setoguchi had two goals and an assist while matching the club record with 10 shots for the Sharks, who lost at home for the first time this season. San Jose shattered the franchise record of 50 shots well before overtime, finishing with 57 — but only Setoguchi and Rob Blake managed to beat Ellis, the former journeyman goalie in just his second full NHL season with the Predators.

"It's difficult to defend when they have so many big bodies," Ellis said. "I was trying to find the puck a lot. They put persistent pressure on you, and you want to be on your toes. I had to fight just to see the puck and wanted to respond as soon as possible, control the rebounds and give the team a chance."

In overtime, Ellis stopped Sharks captain Patrick Marleau on a breakaway chance moments before Koistinen put an unobstructed shot past Brian Boucher, giving Nashville just its second road win in nine games this season. The Predators had lost the first three games of a six-game road swing.

Boucher made 25 saves in his third consecutive start in place of injured Evgeni Nabokov, but he wasn't nearly as sharp as Ellis.

"Sometimes you get in a zone, and play is going to be easier from time to time," said Boucher, who set a modern NHL record with five consecutive shutouts during the 2003-04 season. "We're pretty upset to get up against a team like that and not get two points. It's very disappointing."

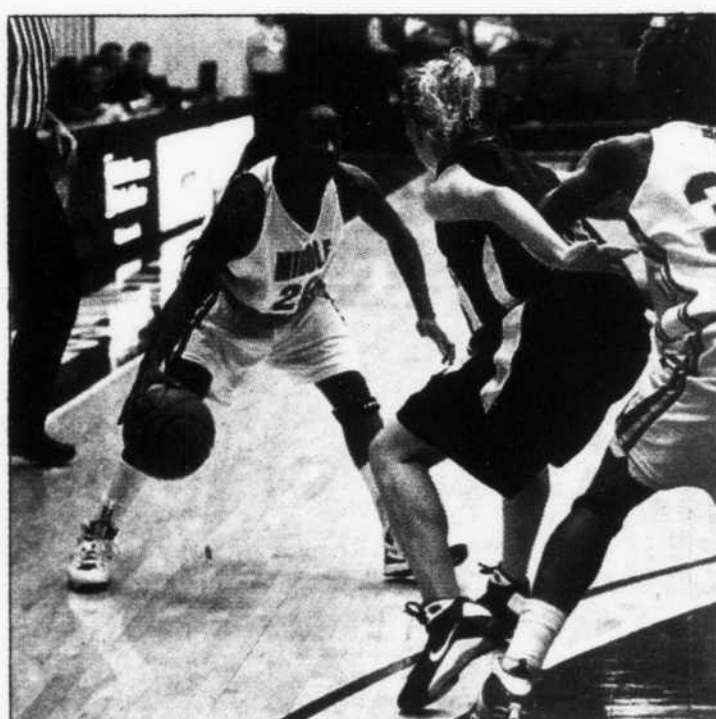


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Freshman Tina Stewart (with ball) scored five points in the win.

Basketball FROM PAGE 7

mentioned at halftime," Insell said. "I think we talked about rebounding, we were only outrebounding them by one at halftime."

"Plus Emily Queen had three turnovers and we weren't happy with that."

Overall, Insell said he was happy with his team's performance and believes that are ready for the regular season.

"The preparation wasn't any different," Insell said. "We're going to have to play Tennessee and LSU and that's what I'm focused on."

"We have to be able to carry our fundamentals right to a tee to be successful against those teams."

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