

MONDAY

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Sunny



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INSIDE: Honors college needs to offer greater variety of classes

Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

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## MT claims Sun Belt co-championship

North Texas must  
lose conference  
game for MT to  
advance to New  
Orleans Bowl

The Middle Tennessee football team secured a part of the Sun Belt Conference championship Saturday with a 54-6 homecoming win over Arkansas State. Floyd Stadium was filled with 20,113 Blue Raider fans for the homecoming game.

Running backs Reshard Lee and Dwone Hicks combined for four touchdowns.

MT did its part and now needs help in order to make it to the New Orleans Bowl Dec. 18. North Texas, who upset MT 24-20 Oct. 13, needs to lose one of its two remaining conference games in order for MT to make it to the bowl.

For more on the game, please see sports on page five. ♦



(above) The Blue Raiders celebrate their victory against the Arkansas State Indians.

(left) Shemika Harris is crowned 2001 Homecoming Queen by MTSU President Sidney McPhee and last year's queen, Katherine Batey. Harris is a senior majoring in public relations and was sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

(below) McPhee crowns junior Willie Nelson III as 2001 Homecoming King. Nelson, a recording industry major, was sponsored by the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.



## Mass Comm dean search resumes; 'experience' among ideal qualities

By Jason Cox  
Assistant News Editor

MTSU President Sidney McPhee met Thursday with the Search Committee for Dean of Mass Communication to lay down guidelines for dean candidates.

McPhee listed experience, personal integrity, enthusiasm and ambition as some of the qualities he wanted to see in a dean. However, McPhee said experience was not essential if the candidate displayed significant potential for the job.

When asked about whether he prefers candidates from a professional or academic field, McPhee said MTSU is "an academic institution first," although he said the committee should not start out with one or the other as initial criteria. However, McPhee said all candidates should be able to qualify for the rank of professor, as the dean's duties include making decisions on profes-

sor tenure and promotions.

McPhee addressed funding challenges as a top concern, saying the new dean should be able to bring new resources to the campus and not allow a lack of funding to be detrimental to faculty goals. He also told the committee not to consider salary in their selection process.

The committee will screen applicants and narrow the field to a three- to six-person list to be submitted to the provost's and president's offices.

The committee established a tentative timeline for the search, with interviews scheduled for the week of spring break, which begins March 25, 2002. The committee hopes to have a dean in place by July 1.

McPhee said the timeline established is one that must be followed, citing the failure of the previous search committee to come up with

See Dean, 2

## Spring lecture series to focus on survival, other practical concerns

By Amber Bryant  
Staff Writer

The College of University Honors' spring lecture series will focus on the multiple aspects of survival.

Topics will include health, finance, education and various other human concerns.

"This series is a combination of very practical, down-to-earth information on how to get along in life," said John Paul Montgomery, dean of the honors college.

"Survival means different things to different people," he said.

While the survival topic was chosen a year ago and therefore not inspired by recent national events, the lectures are expected to be a rewarding experience for those who attend.

The scheduled speakers have a variety of different careers, from Andy Womack, former

Tennessee state Senator, to Gerry Scudder, a home inspector.

"I think being able to talk with people involved in different issues is always beneficial," Womack said.

Each topic will focus on a different aspect of survival, such as safety measures necessary during a robbery, what people can do to keep their immune systems healthy and what survival means to people in different countries.

The series will kick off Jan. 14 with Womack's lecture titled, "State Funding in Higher Education." He hopes the response to his lecture will be as positive as it has been in past semesters.

"I've been impressed with the students who have attended the meetings [in the past]," Womack said.

The honors college has already begun

See Lecture, 2



## MTSU marching onward



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Members of Alpha Chi Omega, Kappa Sigma and Alpha Tau Omega carry their flags and display Blue Raider pride during the Homecoming Parade Saturday.



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Chi Omega float was one of many in the parade.

## Lecture: Planning for fall 2002 lecture series 'Our Shrinking Planet' in progress

Continued from 1

planning the lecture series schedule for fall 2002 under the topic "Our Shrinking Planet." However, it's a work in progress, and no speakers have been scheduled yet.

Although the program is an honors course taken for credit,

it is free and open to the public. Montgomery encourages students, faculty and community members to participate.

Students with at least a 3.0 GPA can enroll in the spring honors lecture series for one credit hour. The course is held every Monday from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A.

The course's call number is 04630, and students can enroll via TRAM or WebMT during their scheduling time.

A complete listing of honors courses can be found in the spring schedule book beginning on page 154. For more information, call the honors college at 898-2152. ♦



Photo provided

MTSU President Sidney McPhee (center) stands with (left to right) Vice President for Development and University Relations Linda Hare, Cingular representatives Jim Thorpe, Melissa Warren and MTSU Director of Development David Bass.

## Cingular Wireless presents donation to honors college

### Staff Reports

A donation from Cingular Wireless placed the College of University Honors closer to the goal of a building for the college.

Cingular Wireless presented MTSU with a check for \$100,000 Oct. 25. The donation places MTSU closer to its fundraising goal of \$2 million toward the new building.

Cingular local market manager Melissa Warren became interested in making the dona-

tion after she heard MTSU President Sidney McPhee speak at a civic function.

"I heard Dr. McPhee speak at a local chamber function, and he talked with such passion about what the honors college would mean to the university and this community," Warren told *The Record*.

MTSU is currently trying to match a \$2 million gift from Paul and Lee Martin. Paul Martin was the first graduate of MTSU's honors program. MTSU must reach this goal by

the end of this year.

John Montgomery, dean of the honors college, said the new building will allow the college to offer more upper-division courses and to become competitive with smaller, more select colleges.

The college has grown more than 500 percent in the last 10 years, growing from 12 sections offered to 81 sections and from 116 students to 833.

The honors program became the College of University Honors in 1998. ♦

## Dean: McPhee: Committee must stay on task

Continued from 1

suitable candidates.

"I don't want to go two or three years without having a dean ... This is the second time we've gone through this process," McPhee said. The search was suspended during the last academic year.

Regarding promotion of the position, Barbara Haskew,

provost for academic affairs, said advertising in industrial and academic publications is not enough.

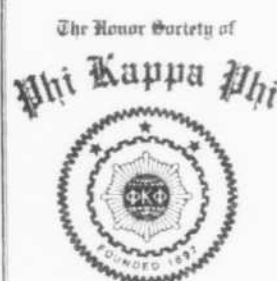
"[We] really have to seek out good candidates," Haskew said.

The search committee is partially comprised of professors from the recording industry, journalism and electronic media communication departments. Coordinators chosen

from each department will meet Tuesday to make minor changes in the position announcement, which is due to be completed by Friday.

The committee is looking to replace former Dean Deryl Leaming, who retired in August 2001. Journalism professor Larry Burris is the acting dean.

The committee's next meeting is Thursday at 3:30 p.m. ♦



**For the Fall Semester 2000, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi invites the following students to join this national honor society which recognizes outstanding accomplishments in all academic disciplines.**

### College of Basic and Applied Science

Jared Micah Brasel  
Katherine Elizabeth Ham  
Christina Joan Heller  
Meredith Marie Heusinkveld  
Gretchen Alvena Kelly  
Teresa Dianne Rich  
Hilary Ann Smith  
Missy Anne Sullivan  
Mary Alicia Wells  
Adam L. Byerly  
Rebecca L. Carter  
David Eldon Dixon  
Cory James Gillard  
Bryan D. Graves  
Amy Elizabeth Johnson  
Scott Thomas Millner  
Seth MacWayne Olinstead  
Rebecca J. Rutherford  
Allen Charles Safrenk  
Ginny Elisabeth Barton  
Matthew Robert Dodd  
Eric Charles Freundt  
Sara Elizabeth Gardner

Kelli Noel Monger  
Ginger Rose Neal  
Daniel Patrick O'Brien  
David S. Palmer  
Brien Roy Polk  
Jeremy K. Spiess  
Marjorie Anne Topp  
Linn Ann Welch  
Mitchell Brown Willoughby  
Lori Beth Arnold  
Amanda Kay Buckmaster  
Kristian La Verne Claude  
Lori Ann England  
Adam Franklin Farmer  
Cameron Karl Green  
Alex M. Mulisa  
Kelli Jeanette North  
Oluyemi Olorunmiwo  
Terry E. Parvos  
Don Ray Perine  
Megan Leigh Sampley  
Andrew Dawson Tubbs  
James Lynn Turman  
Tiffany Rachelle Wilhoit

Kimberly Anne Hatcher  
Sheila Kay Haynes  
Ying Jin  
John K. Lemon  
Joshua G. Lutz  
Kelly Lawrence McLaughlin  
John Langdon Mugler  
Kanokwan Potiriri  
Courtney Taylor Spires  
Lianhong Tang  
Nathan Everett Boone  
Jonathan M. Brooks  
Brandon Scott Brown  
Amanda Ann Creech  
Julius Erving James  
Grace Elaine McClellan  
Chris L. Panter  
Bill Randolph Stewart  
Julie Ann Baker  
Amanda Lee Baskin  
Joanna M. Burgess  
Lawrence Oliver Garrison  
Don Randall Kimble  
Thomas Price McCuddy

Christopher Todd McDonald  
Nicholas A. Tressler  
Leslie Nicole Wolfe  
Lauren Jane Wright  
Rita Ann Ackley  
Angela Marie Bailey  
Amanda J. Brown  
Ashley Nichole Burnett  
Amber Lynn Greeno  
Jessica Lee Hamilton  
Lindi Annice Holmes  
Tricia J. Holtz  
Paula Conessa Johnson  
Erin Renee Kuhl  
Allison Anne Miller  
Laura Peters  
Katrin Satter  
Melody Marissa Smartt  
Kelly Lorraine Viken  
Sandra Carlene Walker  
Curtis Howard Backer  
Kelley M. Klockner  
Clarence Glenn Smith

Hugh Warwick Bailey  
Robert Stanley III Overall  
Sarah Alexandra Potter  
Mary B. Templeton  
Amy Frances Akon  
John Edward Ash  
Tanya Lynn Bush  
Glenn J. Green  
Gloria S. Jenkins  
Gregory Keith Manon  
Christina Patterson McKeown  
Jennifer Rae Melton  
Willie Pierce Pritchett  
Cecile Christine Sexton  
Keith Allen Wilda  
Crystal Marie Alderson  
Neil Christina Alpert  
Brittany Shea Arnett  
Kari Leigh Beards  
Kelly Benton  
Lisa Dawn Chapman  
Christina Lea Duncan  
Lillie Erin Dwyer  
Rebecca A. England  
Julie Marie Eubank  
Evelyn Marie Feltes  
Stephanie Ann Finley  
Julie George  
April M. Gibbons

Laura Kay Gunter  
Michelle Marie Hartmann  
Nicole Tempenny Henderson  
Jennifer Elizabeth Hignite  
Stephanie Marie Hutch  
Rachel Dianne Hunt  
Vanessa Malcah Justice  
Alexander Kurz  
Mary Beth Lea  
Melissa Lynne Locke  
Lisa J. Luper  
Michelle Leigh Lowery  
Kellie Michelle Luther  
Melissa Roberta Mabe  
Jenny Michelle Mangino  
Stacey Lynn McCuddy  
Jannie W. Nance  
Melissa Pope Perrin  
Christie M. Price  
Andrea Lea Roberts  
Lisa Standridge  
Kimberly Moore Turner  
Wendy Lynne Warner  
Anber Elise White  
Jennifer Kay Williams  
Melissa Ann Williams  
Debra Jean Wilson  
Joyanne Allison Wyndrow  
Cynthia A. Yikoff

Melanie Shea Austin  
Melissa Ellen Chadwick  
Lorna Gayle Cripps  
Allison Nicole Davis  
Katherine Ann Grimm  
Christina Ann Harlan  
Nancy Lynn Hughes  
Anna Maria Losada  
Leslie Marie Morris  
Amanda K. Oates  
Alicia Laine Parker  
Laura Blair Patti  
Mary M. Pendergass  
Jennifer Gwen Stone  
Sandra Jane Vasquez  
Courtney Erin Waldrop  
Dyanette Dawn Webb  
Anthony Todd Bente  
Ashley Elizabeth Collins  
Yvonne Ampiah Dadson  
Michelle Marie Effler  
Beverly Renee Evans  
Tiffany Ann Godbey  
Christy Lynne Killman  
Jeremiah Robert Lawson  
Brook Edward Lillis  
Susan Cheri Lyle  
Tori Leigh Ruby  
Jennifer Jill Simmons

April Love Alfred  
Shannon Leah Aplin  
Melanie Lee Cabaniss  
Amie L. Chandler  
Amy Iris Graves  
Jennifer Lynn Griggs  
Wendy Michelle Harrison  
Tyler William Henson  
Misty L. Holt  
Laurie Carol Johnson  
Karen M. Jones  
Heather Lynn Klingensmith  
Nicole Angela Kopp  
Michelle Renee Lambert  
Laura Kathryn Litwinski  
Nancy Lynn McCrary  
Lee Campbell Moffatt  
Barbara Elizabeth Noblin  
Martina Elizabeth O'Brien  
Holly Rittenberry  
Amanda Louise Rollings  
Shelly Sue Spaulding  
Andrea Leigh Starkey  
Stephanie Ruth Styll  
Cheyanne Nicole Vidon  
Shana R. Walker  
Angela Rae Westphal  
Charmaine Lynn Woods

### College of Business

Casey Marie Adams  
Walid Ali Alghamami  
Michael Alan Alsop  
Donald F. Blankenship  
Sina W. Cowley  
Amanda Lynn Covatt  
Karyn Anne Hill  
Clint Patrick Holt  
Kenneth Christopher Jones  
Carolyn Lee Lorraine  
Brook Erin Mallman  
Janice Elaine Moore  
Akraavech Piruncharoen  
Benjamin D. Rogers  
Jennifer Nicole Scott  
Christina Marie Scott

Timothy Ray Scotton  
Lindsay Elaine Towse  
Aubrey Eugene Walker  
Holly Lynn Williams  
Vickie D. Cederth  
Zanne E. Chaney  
Jade Roxanne Goodnough  
Jonna Carol Lynn  
William Laughlin Noseworthy  
Tyra Sue Pilgrim  
Chad Edsel Wington  
Amy Michelle Wilson  
Jessica Michelle Blum  
Roshini Caroline Ma D Souza  
Stefanie Dean  
Julianne Juanita Loden

Kevin Carlton Pascoe  
Stephen Bentley Potts  
Joseph I. Smith  
Karen Denise Blackman  
Vincent Maurice Hill  
Janis Marie Hopkins  
Stephen Kent Krisc  
Thomas Jeffrey Mason  
Jacob Gregory Srodka  
Neil E. Birdwell  
Walter Glenn Birdwell  
Todd Andrew Borchers  
Matthew Howard Bradshaw  
Tanya Buchheim  
James D. Cawthon

Bethany Anne Chandler  
William Richard Elmick  
Megan Elizabeth Flowers  
Tina M. Hood  
Elisa M.F.B. Jorge  
Christy Tedrow Mason  
Kyle R. Mayhew  
Raquel Marie Procopio  
Debbie A. Pruitt  
Stacie L. Reynolds  
Joel Daniel Rivers  
Kimberly Ann Smelser  
Adam Gregory Smith  
Shanna Beasley Swift  
Kathryn Elizabeth Torzewski  
Franklin Rhea Wilson

### College of Mass Communications

Jessica Elizabeth Alexander  
Mary Ann Baker  
Zachary Philip Bennett  
John Daniel Boyle  
Anne Leigh Breazale  
James Gregory Bryant  
Amy Michelle Calloway  
Marcy Jeanette Clemmons  
Carey D. Coker  
Christina Brooke Cooper  
Kelley Janice Dodd  
Alice Anne Flenner  
Megan Elaine Frazier  
Corinne Barbara Gould  
Kimberly Nicole Griffin  
Jennifer Lyn Hammerstein

Jessica Leigh Heim  
Courtney Anne Huckabay  
Donna A. Huff  
Beverly Diane Jenkins  
Christopher Matthew Kins  
Magdalene Amelia Mc Gee  
Tiera McMahon  
Valerie Jean Menard  
Michela Diane Rose  
Jennifer Michelle Slaybaugh  
Jesse Allmon Thompson  
Lisa Jane Thornton  
Cheyenne Marie Wrenn  
Marianne Beard  
Alexander John Bucary  
Misty Brook Cochran

David Jeremy Copeland  
Grant Joseph Goering  
David Robert Green  
Shannon Danette Harden  
Philip Anthony Hebert  
Richard Michael Kaeze  
Mary Emeline Lavender  
Nicole Denise Lewis  
Timothy Gene Mazzoloni  
Michael C. Meyer  
Kathryn Cecilia Molenaar  
Seth Emerson Moore  
Jessica Nicole Morris  
Moriz Tobias Reopen  
Lacey Alice Reiter  
Daniel James Rice

Jarret Earl Rice  
Brittany Dawn Rogers  
Jason Beau Schneider  
Danielle Renee Schrieffer  
Matthew John Schug  
Robert Loren Schuh  
Daniel Richard Scobey  
Virginia Caroline Shyrock  
Stephanie Lynn Taylor  
Benjamin William Terry  
Drew M. Tipton  
Ruth Maguire Webb  
Dirk Alberto Weibezahn

### College of Liberal Arts

Adam Casey Cochran  
Rebecca Lingstaff Deal  
Jonathan L. Griffith  
Rachel Feinstein Williamson  
Tina Dawn Barlat  
Benjamin Christophe Barrett  
Evelyn Pauline Bordignon  
Cynthia Nicole Borne  
Chastity Hope Brackett  
Holly Denise Bush  
Carrie Rebecca Doss  
Matthew Dean Duggin  
Joshua James Hamilton  
Jeffrey Lewis Harding  
Kristie M. Isbell  
Tim Lee Long  
Julie Dell Lumpkins  
Sarah Melissa Mottschall  
Jonni Faith Salomon  
Jenita Nave Smith  
William Eric Taylor  
Alexis Kathleen Williams  
Karen Jane Woodard  
Erin De Leigh Hendricks

Allison R. Tempenny  
Erin Denise Wilson  
John Eric Curtis  
Lisa Anne Ooten  
Benjamin David Briere  
Stella C. Eke  
Nathan Edward Kinser  
Deanna Celeste Mahaffey  
Anna Elizabeth Moser  
John H. Noel  
Matthew Shawn Purcell  
Charity Faith Smith  
Jennifer Paige Stoecker  
Carla Lynn Whitaker  
Bracken Earl Mayo  
Kirsten Elizabeth Stevens  
Chad Jonathan Taylor  
Paul Matthew Baker  
Toni Angela Casassa  
Amber Victoria Dotson  
Lindsay Frances Graves  
Nathan James Landkammer  
Brandy E. Martin  
Sara Anne Rainwater  
Heather Dawn Roberts

Christine Allen Southworth  
Lori L. Davis  
Brian Vincent Roberts  
Robert J. Schwalb  
Nola Cora du Toit  
Gayle Cottrell Kehoe  
Jennifer Kay Talbert  
Carolyn Rae Bennett  
Susan Ellen Bunkowske  
Laura Wills Edwards  
Donna Kay Laurent  
Sheila Marie Matthews  
Amanda Gayle Russell  
Ashley Michelle Wallace  
Christopher S. Galehouse  
Elizabeth Anne Simmons  
Jody Marie Starr  
Jennifer Noel Waldrop

### University Studies

Jennifer Marie Bardonier  
Scott Michael Degenhardt  
Mindi Leann Fitzgerald-Adcox  
Joyce Elaine Gore

Christie Liles Miller  
Debra Church Myers  
Raymond Allen Williams

Ginger Ann Rhodes Biggs

### ROTC

The initiation will be held Wednesday, December 5, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. in the Alumni Center. If you would like more information about the Honor Society, contact Don Craig, Chapter President at 898-2351



## Editorial

### Honors college needs to offer more classes

There has been much talk recently of the glory that is MTSU's College of University Honors. It is the first honors college at a public institution in the state of Tennessee.

A recent matching-funds donation will allow the college to construct its own building, letting the offices finally escape the Peck Hall first floor dungeon that has been its home since before 1991.

Enrollment has increased more than 500 percent since 1991, and it is said that more than 834 students are currently enrolled in honors classes.

However, for all this fanfare, the class selection is weak at best, and the course offerings, especially in the general studies section, are rather redundant.

Our university offers honors classes in only 24 majors, and most of these are lower-level courses. Of the honors classes offered, there is not much choice in variety. For example, there are seven ENGL-1020 classes offered and six ENGL-2330 classes, but no 3000+ ENGL classes exist. For that matter, there are only 13 different upper-division honors classes offered for next semester.

What is the value for a student to only take general studies core requirements? While they do provide a good foundation for college learning, that foundation is pointless if there's nothing of value to place upon it.

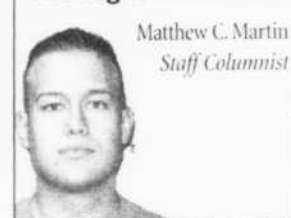
Applying a trick gleaned from a standard COMM-2220 class, here's a construction metaphor to describe the situation: No rational builder would pour a steel-reinforced concrete foundation for a hut that is to be constructed from mud, sticks and dung. While there are some very sturdy sticks (and several hardy logs) in the great forest we call MTSU, there is unfortunately a great pile of mud and dung as well.

Plus, a student must have 9 hours of upper-division honors courses in order to graduate with honors. This is nearly impossible to do right now. While there are 14 different upper-division courses being offered next semester, they apply to only 9 majors.

We at *Sidelines* commend the honors college and all the departments that work alongside it to bring us honors classes. Nevertheless, we also implore everyone involved to examine and act upon the need for more variety in the courses offered. ♦

## National ID program violates human rights

### The Right World View



Matthew C. Martin  
Staff Columnist

"May I see your papers please?" When one thinks of that statement, what images does the mind conjure? A Nazi official hot-boxing a cigarette? Soviet border guards? Perhaps "Check-Point Charlie?" Well, if our republic is not careful, it could denote the presence of a cop on the beat or an immigration officer.

Well-meaning members of both political parties of both houses of Congress, have recently proposed a national ID program. With the aftermath of Sept. 11 fresh in their near-sighted minds, this sounds almost like a good idea.

Think of it: all police agencies, from county sheriffs to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to the U.S. Marshals, would finally have a way of discerning who "belongs" and who does not.

It's a simple plan: whip out the ID card, you're good. Don't have yours? Well, these nice gentlemen from Homeland Security want to have a nice, long talk with you.

If Thomas Jefferson were resurrected today, he would be enraged. I can see him saying "We went to war to stop this type of abuse by government! Have you forgotten the inherent rights of man? Do you not remember due process?"

Then he would probably rant about this country going against his agrarian dream, but that is another matter.

This notion of a national ID card, supported by professor Alan Dershowitz (this should have been a warning light for us all), is wrong and a bad idea.

First, it is not functional; second, it leaves itself to be abused by those in power. The problems with this proposed program could run on for pages, but I will list and explicate only the most egregious.

It must be said that the federal government is very good at making lists. We have lists of citizens who pay taxes, who collect welfare, who are of a certain ethnic group, who are crippled, who are old, who are young and everything in between. These lists are used in many meaningful and productive ways, if computed correctly.

This is where the vast (and getting vaster by the day) federal government falls a wee bit short: The Cato Institute (a libertarian "think tank") reports that 5 to 20 percent of the information compiled by the Social Security Administration is incorrect. This is just shipping out checks to widows, old people and deadbeats, nothing too important, right?

A check being a few days late won't send the militant wing of the AARP to hijack a plane and demand lifetime supplies of Ensure. Hopefully not.

Maybe the national government puts all its manpower and ace database technicians on a task

more important to national security, like who enters the country? You'd think they would, but apparently not. Post this factoid on your fridge: Immigration and Naturalization Service's database is incorrect 28 percent of the time, almost one out of three.

The people this agency lets in, by mistake or negligence, are the ones that hijack planes, and unfortunately, they don't demand old age dietary supplements. They crash planes into buildings killing thousands.

So, how can we hope that this monstrosity we call the federal government is going to be more apt to handle the national ID endeavor than it currently is at shipping checks and keeping migrant workers out of the country? Frankly, we can't.

We know by looking at history that government agencies, especially large ones (and folks, if this gets off the ground, it will be gargantuan), are and will be inefficient.

This brings us to the implementation. Let's say we cross our fingers real tight, and the government shocks us. It does the job correctly and manageably, the database works and all the information in it is right. Hell, let's say the government initiates it under budget since we are in the land of "out-to-lunch" anyway. How will we gather the information?

In other words, how will people register for the ID? At what age will one have to be subjected to this invasion? Will we punish people who fail to register? If so, what will be the pun-

ishment? Will citizens be punished for not having the ID on their person?

These questions are not of the "Will I-24 be four lanes?" or "What is our trade relation with Guam?" variety, but the Bill of Rights sort. Will a law-abiding citizen be able to move about his homeland without threat of incursion by the government or not?

What is the next step, national ID tattoos? Maybe we could have our own little personal numbers etched right on our forearm. Oh, sorry, that has been done before.

If you think the horror inflicted upon the Jews of Germany circa 1940 and this topic do not share germaneness, you are sadly mistaken. Only the scope and brutality will be different. The evil in this idea is not in the text of the legislation, but in what the practice could become.

Say, for example, there is a murder. The suspect in the crime is 6 feet tall, weighs about 185 pounds, has short, light brown hair, green eyes, or more plainly put, looks a lot like me. So the Secret Police, sorry - Office of Homeland Security - type in all of the relevant information into their handy dandy Gestapo9000 computer, and my name, along with many others, pops up.

With the warrant (this is to say if we don't do away with search and seizure laws) in hand, they come to my home and I'm whisked off to see my friendly local HLS officer.

Now, let's say I was off somewhere blathering on some right-wing rant,

nowhere in the whereabouts of the murder but I'm the only one without an alibi. So the HLS officer immediately suspects me. I'm railroaded through and sent to the electric chair for a crime I did not commit.

Here is where social activists will say, "This happens all the time, even without a ID system in place."

I argue, however, that without the Gestapo9000, there is no way I would have ever been linked to the crime; my Fourth Amendment rights of probable cause would have protected me. By supporting this program, we would be subsidizing encroachments on our rights.

The concept of a national ID is just another in a long list of freedoms the American people have given up for greater protection. Thinking for oneself is hard work; why not give the power of cognitive thought over to the government? Big Brother knows best, doesn't he? And why shouldn't we give in to the idea of collective rights (which an ID program surely would be)?

Because the founders of this nation admonished us not to. They knew of the evils a tyrannical government could inflict on the people, and they wrote a Constitution that barred it.

We have rights of man in this nation for a reason - because it protects us all by protecting everyone individually.

You can either stand with Jefferson and Paine or get in line for that ID with Stalin and Hitler. ♦

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Sidelines' needs new conservative columnist

To the Editor:

Jeremy Davis's article on abortion is another misguided attempt at trashing the political left in general and Democrats in particular. Republicans did propose Civil Rights in 1883, but at the time, the Republican Party was more liberal than the Democratic Party was. It was the political left that brought civil rights. In fact, most of the Democrats who opposed Civil Rights were conservatives, many joined the Republicans after 1964, i.e. Strom Thurmond.

This is not the first time Davis has used misinformation to attack the political left. His earlier attacks on the Green Party, by confusing them with a more radical political group, show this.

Then there was Davis' claim that Democrats tried to keep people poor, which begins by misquoting a Clinton adviser. He also fights by using theories that raising the minimum wage will hurt people who make minimum wage, even though he has no studies to back this claim up. Angela White actually uses two studies to disprove this point.

While I am a liberal, I feel *Sidelines* needs better conservative columnists, if that is possible. The ones it has use lies, misinformation and misquotes to back up their claims. I guess they are using the tactics of most conservatives.

Thomas Hoffman

### Airline staff acted fairly, not with prejudice

To the Editor:

As an airline worker, I feel that I need to respond to the Nov. 1 editorial: "Random" searches border on racism." Maybe this information will help future travelers. First, the statement "if there is the slightest indication that an airport passenger may be up to something, he or she is searched by an airport employee of the same gender" is untrue. Every ticketed passenger must go through security checkpoint. The new FAA directive requires that if you walk through the metal detector and it sets off the sensor, you must be wanded ... no exceptions. It has nothing to do with whether you "may be up to something."

When a passenger is asked to take their shoes off, as your staff member experienced, it is because of two reasons. Either there is an unknown metal source in the shoe setting off the wand sensor, or the sensor is beeping because underneath all of the tile and carpet there are metal floor pieces that get in the way of a clean wand sweep. Knives in people's shoes have been found this way. To say that someone was "forced" to remove their shoes is also unjust. No one is "forced" to do this. Simply, you have the choice to either fly or drive. If you want to fly, you must pass the screening.

Your staff member's carry-on luggage was searched. Passengers have been informed by airlines through the media and through posted signs at the airports that their carry-on luggage is subject to search. This includes items in their pockets. Your statements and the title of the editorial seem to imply that the searches being performed before boarding are not random. Only part of that is true. The airlines have an FAA program in their computer systems that looks at a reservation and the program selects who is to be searched. The FAA, not the airlines or the airline worker, sets the criteria. After those passengers have been searched, the agent is required to pick people out

randomly as the boarding process is taking place. Those who run late will likely be searched as they board as well. The wand and carry-on searches must continue until everyone has boarded. Remember that the essence of random selection is to allow everyone in the area to have the same chance of being selected. It is a deterrent.

The items taken out of your staff member's bag were not put "on a table for all to see." They were put on a table for the agent to see. He/She was doing his/her job as required by the FAA. Most stations now have dividers to help with privacy issues. We try to be sensitive with people's items.

It is a pity that you chose to look at the color of your staff member's skin, rather than the process itself. I would rather educate the flying public of the expectations of travel with factual data. Airline workers, myself included, are tired of being accused of being racist and discriminatory. We hope you do not quickly forget why we are doing all of this extra work in the first place. We ask for patience, understanding and compassion as we take on extra responsibilities to continue to ensure safe air travel for you and for our crews. Fortunately, most passengers grant us all of these things. I agree with you when you said, "We need to pull together."

Any information that is not disclosed regarding search criteria, due to security reasons, can only be addressed to the Department of Transportation or the FAA itself.

Heidi Gonzalez

### Abortion not the best choice for women

To the Editor:

In Angela White's Thursday column, she claims that abortion keeps men in control of society. She is wrong.

What society are you living in, Angela? The society that I live in provides free birth control and sex education to those willing to listen. All a woman has to do to get birth control is go to the health department - it's that easy. And yes, I personally know.

If a woman perceives that "man" is in control of society, then it is her truth, and she probably can't be persuaded that she does have power. However, the power is in prevention, not in abortion. Certainly in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life, abortion is an alternative that should be available.

White believes that a fetus is not a person because it can't be abused. If a fetus is not a person, then it has the potential to be a person. My niece and nephew are adopted. I will always be thankful that they weren't just aborted fetuses (not people). Some may say that I wouldn't have known the difference had they never existed. This just makes me wonder how many potential humans or fetuses would have been wonderful people.

Setting rape and incest aside, a woman does have control over who her sexual partners are (or aren't). She has many birth control options - some of which White mentioned in her article. The greatest power a woman has is her sexuality. Just like any great power, or weapon if you will, it has to be used with responsibility.

Until women begin taking preventative responsibility over their sexuality and quit using abortions as birth control, women will continue perceive themselves as the weaker sex.

So what if abortion is legal? As far as a woman's choices go, is that the best choice? I don't think so.

Brianne Franklin

## SIDELINES

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E-mail letters to the editor to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu).



# FEATURES

4 ◆ SIDELINES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Barefoot paves way for musicians

By Grayson White  
Staff Writer

It's original. It's art. It's independent, and it's working out wonderfully.

Barefoot and Independent is a group of eight visual ground-breakers who have put their talents together and formed an independent production company in Murfreesboro.

This local production company seems to have paved a path for other entertainment entrepreneurs.

In the short period of time that the company has been running, they've worked with many popular artists and produced several projects.

The company has done live shoots of The Roots, Fatboy Slim, Snoop Dog, Lenny Kravitz, Lauren Hill and The Gypsy Kings, to name a few. Last summer, they finished one of their independent films, *True This Way*, which stars Bryant K. Crenshaw from *Ginny*.

Jason Heath, the mastermind behind B and I, has shot and edited Jim Jarmush, director of *Dead Man*, and Forest Whitaker, director of *Waiting to Exhale*.

"Jim's just as crazy as his films are," Heath said.

Heath came to Murfreesboro after graduating from the Colorado Institute of Art. He was working on a film in Nashville and saw that Murfreesboro needed exactly what he wanted to do with his talents.



Photo provided

A group of MTSU students formed Barefoot and Independent, a production company, as an outlet for people in the entertainment business. The company also helps to promote new bands trying to enter into the industry.

"I visited Murfreesboro and saw that there weren't any production companies around. There was this high local music scene and a lot of small businesses," Heath said. "I thought the outlet of video was the only way I knew it would work out."

BrokenSpoons, the company's working name before B and I moved to Murfreesboro and succeeded in setting up a business and then running it exactly how they wanted - eight cre-

ative minds accomplishing the tough task of being independent and successful at the same time.

The group's motto is "Looking strong mental images through distinctiveness." It's a perfect description of their work, and if people look at their fliers floating around campus or posted at The Barn or Red Rose, they'll get an idea of what this motto means.

B and I doesn't make just

flashy videos and commercials that leave awful sound bytes in the mind. Their work has a style of its own, and it comes with a message.

Whether it's serious or funny, it's guaranteed to make viewers see their brains.

Anyone can use the company's services. All you have to do is give the guys an idea of what you want.

They do promo videos, corporate and training videos,

weddings, documentaries, commercials and electronic press kits.

In addition to paid jobs, everyone involved with B and I has side projects that all seem to come back to the drawing board to become a B and I production.

Their current project is a music video contest. B and I is asking any local band with original music to enter a song for a chance at a great opportunity. The winning band gets to make

a video for free, which will be promoted and distributed.

Because B and I isn't corporate, musicians can be assured that an effort to get their material to the company will not be wasted.

B and I has become not only a service for MTSU students, but a role model and/or inspiration for them as well.

There are students in this area struggling to start independent labels for the projects they want to do, and many of them seem to get frustrated and give up.

But B and I is sure to spark some inspiration or ideas into local residents and students interested in starting their own company. It's standing proof that hard work leads to positive results.

The guys have become a part of the difficult concept of changing mainstream.

"We're all changing things (corporate mainstream) ... just slowly and surely," Heath said.

Heath and his seven co-owners have big plans for B and I and hope to see the company spread out over the next few years.

"We want to be doing exactly the same thing we're doing now but have it happening in Denver or Santa Fe as well," Heath said.

Anyone who is interested in the contest or would like to contact B and I should check out their Web site at [www.barefootandindependent.com](http://www.barefootandindependent.com). ◆

## Fashion show to benefit children's hospital



Photo provided

Fashion show committee and future Friends members gather in front of a gingerbread house during a program for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

By Rebecca Parker  
Staff Writer

If you like new clothes and helping kids, the "Jolly Holiday and Bazaar," a fashion show

fund-raiser for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, is the place to be.

The event will include a champagne brunch and a fashion show of holiday attire.

Twenty-two local vendors, including Anastasia's Attic, Discovery Toys, The Write Impression, Southern Living at Home and the men's department of Swain & Company Clothiers, will showcase their clothing. In addition, the vendors will have stands set up where apparel, jewelry and gifts for the home can be purchased.

A door prize valued between \$40 and \$50 will be given away by each vendor. Doors will open at 10 a.m. for the public to browse the stands, and the fashion show and brunch will begin at 11 a.m.

As winter creeps around the corner, with the Christmas season not far behind, the Rutherford County Chapter of Friends of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital invites everyone to kick off holiday getting together at their second annual Jolly Holiday Show and Bazaar.

"You can come by yourself, bring a friend or bring a group," said Kelly Word, who is in charge of reservations and a Friends member. "Each table can seat up to 10 people."

David Swain will serve as master of ceremonies for the

event, and community members will model the clothing. The models were able to choose the attire they wanted to wear in the fashion show.

All ticket sales and booth rentals for the event benefit the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. The hospital is a medical facility that treats sick and injured children throughout the Southeast.

Last year, more than 10,000 children from Rutherford County made visits to the hospital.

"All the proceeds for our event go to the hospital," Word said. "This is a very fun event, and it's open to anybody. The more, the merrier."

Held Saturday at the Country Club at Stones River, the show is sponsored by the local chapter of Friends of Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, a non-profit organization for men and women in Rutherford County.

Amanda Thompson, publicity chair for the event and a member at MTSU, is the chapter in each county, surrounding Davidson County, to make reservations. Contact Word at 494-0670. ◆

Risque Renee .....

### Two tears in the bucket

Ever glance into someone's eyes and realize that they're the one for you?

The only problem is that they are not looking for a relationship, only a friendship.

The truth is, there isn't a lot you can do except drive yourself crazy with the problem.

It's already hard for men and women to be close friends without having some attraction to each other.

Now, to put pressure on the situation, you are attracted to this person and it makes it almost impossible to hang out with them and not catch feelings.

Then you have to deal with your feelings when you see that the affection is not being returned.

They may clearly state they are single and have no obligations to anyone, but the reminder may sound harsh.

This may hurt your feelings to hear, but it's the truth so you must deal with it.

Take a moment and step back to catch your breath because you are falling head-first into a pit of sorrow.

About the drama by giving yourself space.

When you are constantly making up excuses for that person to call them, slow down and back off.

The worst thing you can do is suffocate them with your presence before they get to know you.

First, don't reveal you

would like to be more than friends with them.

That's what you have your buddies for. Fantasize to them, talk to them about how much you like this person, but keep your cool around that person.

That way your feelings aren't out on the street.

Just start hanging out with them, not every day but as much as possible.

You should call them, but don't call all the time. Let them return your call sometimes. This way you're not doing all the chasing.

If you are totally digging this person, be patient and wait until they are ready to commit.

Don't date others if you are truly wanting to make something special out of this.

Be their friend for a while, and then, if it's meant to be, it will be. Hey, you may even realize that your love at first sight has some annoying habits you can't tolerate, such as snoring at night or being too self-centered.

Friendship is the time to get to know the person you are interested in, and trust me, if you are going to become more than friends, it will definitely happen when you least expect it.

What about those mixed signals?

That's another article. In the meantime, just take it nice and slow, and be a friend, even if you want more.

Patience is a virtue. ◆

**Sidelines is looking for a few students with the best roommate from hell stories.**

If you have a horrible tale about an experience with your roommate e-mail [sifeatur@mtsu.edu](mailto:sifeatur@mtsu.edu) or call 898-2917 by Nov. 6.







Dwone Hicks, Kendall Newson and Tyrone Calico celebrate after a touchdown catch by Calico in the third quarter.

## Billings punts Raiders to success

Michael Edwards  
Staff Writer

He doesn't get the Heisman Trophy talk like Dwone Hicks, and he doesn't get the Lou Groza Award talk like Brian Kelly. As a matter of fact, he doesn't get much talk at all.

His own coach, Andy McCollum, dodged a chance to praise him after another great performance against Arkansas State saying, "I didn't know he

punted."

The Blue Raiders' sophomore punter Robert Billings has quietly done what the MT football program has recently been lacking. In 29 punts this season, Billings has pinned opponents within their own 20-yard line eight times, and at least two more have been botched because of penalties.

"It's what coach Mac wants," Billings said. "The defense works real hard. It helps the

defense and the offense."

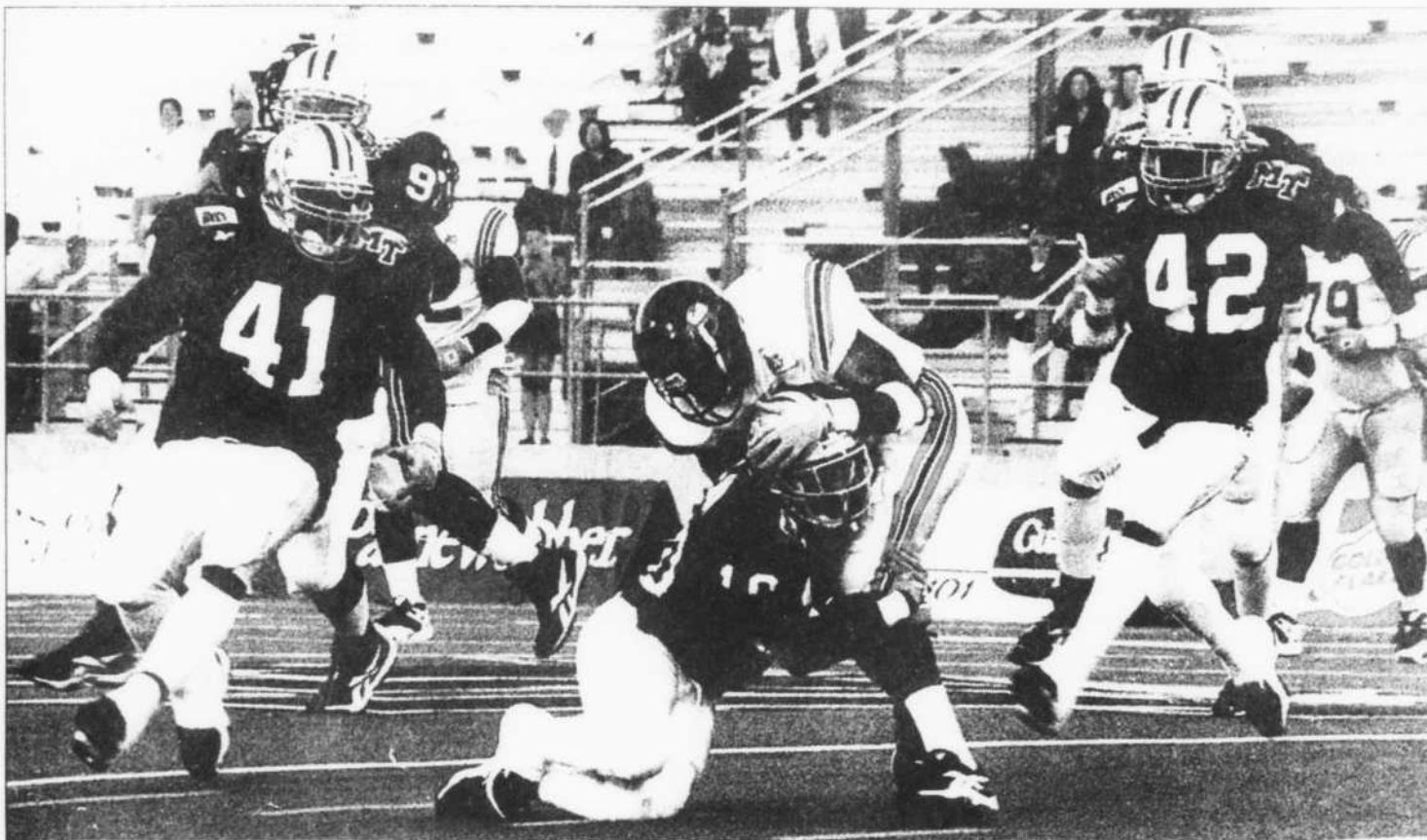
Billings managed two punts against ASU, averaging 43 yards each attempt. Both were downed inside the 20, but one was nullified due to a fair catch interference penalty.

For his career, the Collierville, Tenn., native has boomed 11 punts over 50 yards, eight of those have come during the 2001 campaign. Three of those eight occurred during the ASU game.

It's only because of NCAA rules that he is not ranked in the top 10 in punting. His 43.1 average would rank in the top 10, but the NCAA requires that a player punt at least three times per game in order to qualify for the list. Billings' average is up

more than 5 yards from his freshman season, and at this pace, he could possibly be on the All-Sun Belt team. Not

See Billings, 8



## Bringing it Home

### MT beats ASU 54-6, shares title

By Shane Marquardt  
Staff Writer

Co-champions of the Sun Belt Conference — It's the one thing the Middle Tennessee football team knows for sure after a 54-6 victory over Arkansas State Saturday night in Floyd Stadium.

The festivities began on the Blue Raiders' opening drive when junior running back Dwone Hicks took the initial handoff 19 yards for a first down. The play kick-started a four-minute drive that ended with a 19-yard touchdown run by Hicks.

"A championship is what we came out for," Hicks said. "We came, we conquered."

Hicks may have gotten the Blue Raider attack moving with two early touchdowns, but it was running back Reshard Lee who bolstered the heavy yardage, running the ball 23 times for 146 yards and a touchdown. It didn't help ASU when quarterback Wes Counts ended the first quarter with a perfect 7-for-7 passing performance.

"This is a team that is fun to watch," MT head coach Andy McCollum said.

The Blue Raider defense put a smothering attack on the ASU offense, holding the Indians scoreless until the third quarter and leaving no opportunity for the Indians to fight their way back into the game.

"We had the chance to play for a ring my senior year," senior cornerback Iykie Bradley said. "We had to go out defensively and offensively and put things together. We did that."

Junior linebacker Randy Arnold took the Indians' first possession away on an intercept-



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor  
Lightning flexes his muscles at Friday's pep rally.

tion, and then the Blue Raider attack came in waves of harassment, totaling four sacks by four different players.

"If we're running to the ball, somebody is going to get (the Arkansas State ball carrier)," Arnold said. "We just wanted to finish."

It was a strong finish by a team that has been having trouble putting a complete game together as of late. But neither the MT offense or defense quit in front of a large homecoming crowd.

"We had some guys stand up," McCollum said. "We had some turnovers, and we had some offensive people that came out of the locker room ready to take what they deserved."

Any thought of a Blue Raider fourth quarter collapse

See ASU, 8

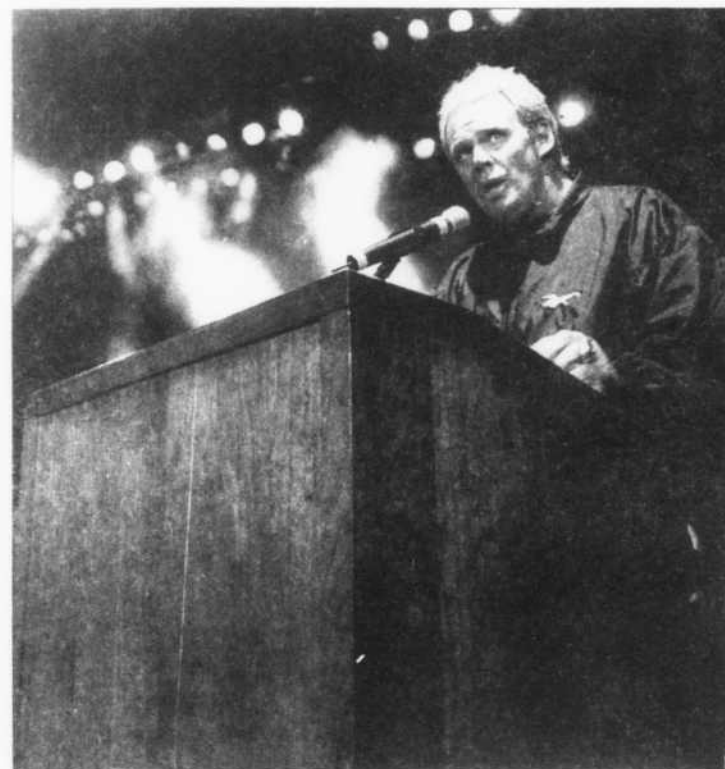


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor  
(above) Coach Andy McCollum talks to the crowd at Friday's homecoming pep rally.

(left) Chris Johnson (10) takes out an Arkansas State player while Scotty Brown and Brandon Lynch come in for backup. The Middle Tennessee defense held the ASU offense scoreless until the third quarter when it surrendered ASU's lone touchdown.



# Volleyball splits pair of games

## MT loses Sun Belt match-up in straight sets then rebounds to win next match

By Erich Heinlein  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team got off to a rough start Friday but picked up the slack Saturday.

The team lost their second match in a row Friday to North Texas in straight sets.

The Lady Raiders hitting percentage was almost half of that to NT (.147 to .296) and also recorded 18 hitting errors and 12 service errors.

"We've played like individuals at a time in the season when we should be playing with better communication and effort than ever," head coach Lisa Kisee said. "Our performances have been the poorest of the year."

Erin Hillstrom was the only Lady Raider who finished the match in double-digits in kills with 10. Goldie Bilyeu was also the only Lady Raider to record double-digits in digs with 10.

Shakeitha Deckard also had 8 kills and 8 digs. Karissa Baker had only 4 kills on 7 attacks, but had a .429 attack percentage.

Brienne Fowler got a double-double for NT by recording 15 kills and 13 digs.

The team won its first match Saturday at the Dr. Mary Jo Winn Invitational against Oklahoma at Southwest Missouri State University 3-1.

The Lady Raiders scored 10 of the first 13 points, which was finished off by an OU attack error. Throughout the first set, MT led by as much as 13, and the Sooners got as close as three. Middle Tennessee won the first game 30-

20, ending with a kill by Hillstrom.

In the second game, the Lady Raiders scored 10 of the first 12 points, capped off by an OU attack error.

Throughout the rest of the game, the Sooners got as close as two and led by as much as eight. However, the Lady Raiders won the game 30-21.

In the third game, the Sooners led by as much as 14, and the Lady Raiders got as close as four. OU took the game 30-19.

"Tonight was a good recovery for the team," Kisee said. "They played with so much heart and, other than game three, didn't let mistakes bring us down."

The fourth game was an almost exact repeat of the third. At 10-7, the Lady Raiders went on a 7-2 run, which was capped off by an OU attack error. This made the score 17-9.

The Lady Raiders won 30-24, capped off by a Hillstrom kill.

Two Lady Raiders finished the game with double-doubles. Deckard had 18 kills and 13 digs. Hillstrom had 13 kills and 23 digs. Katie Thiesen had a season-low 6 kills.

For Oklahoma, Logan Pierce had 23 kills and 59 digs for a .271 attack percentage.

The Lady Raiders' next game is Nov. 10 against Florida International. This last conference game will be in preparation for the Sun Belt Conference championship, which will be held Nov. 14-17.

The Lady Raiders will then wrap up their season against Wake Forest at the Alabama tournament. ♦

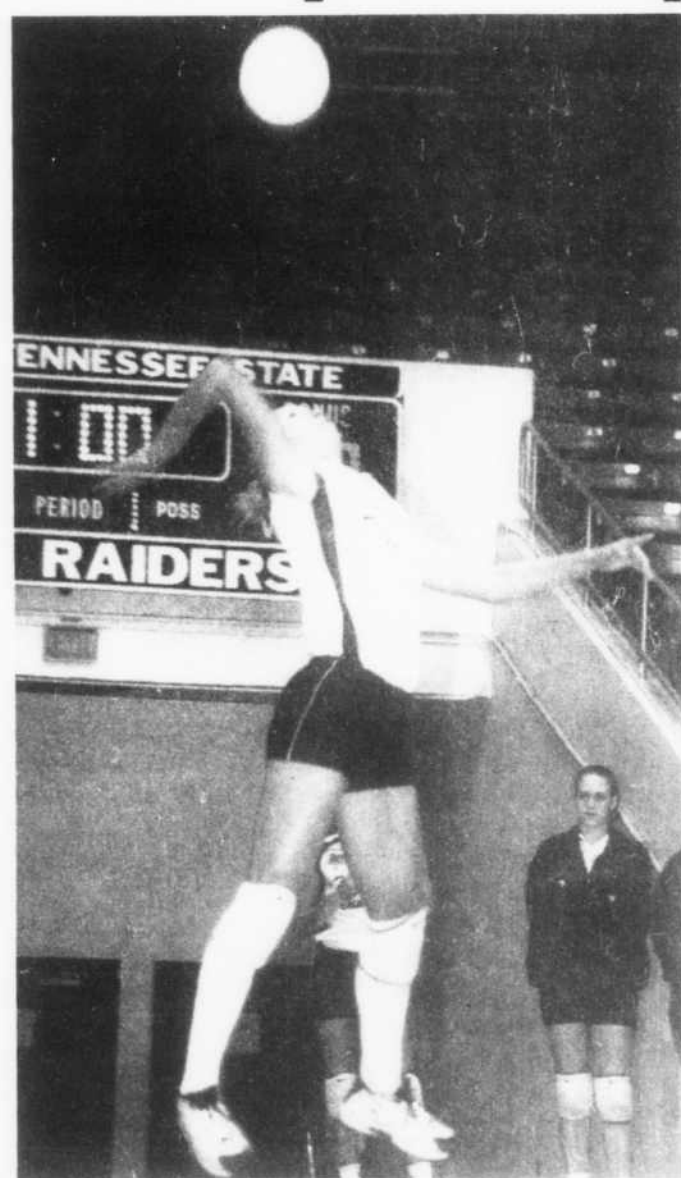


Photo by Amy Jones / Staff

The MT volleyball team plays FIU Nov. 10 at home.

## Billings: Punter having successful season

Continued from 5

stopping there, the 43.1 yard average ranks second on the Middle Tennessee single season record list behind Mike Shawen (43.9) from the 1974 team.

Billings' longest punt of the

season came against Vanderbilt Aug. 30. The punt sailed 88 yards. Last week, however, Billings connected on a punt that spiraled 57 yards down field and bounded out-of-bounds inside the 1-yard line. Officials, however, called the

punt back due to a Blue Raider penalty, and the punt will be logged only the memories of those who saw it. His career long remains at 62 yards, which came against the University of Alabama-Birmingham last season.

Despite all the success and the lack of accolades, Billings keeps a realistic view of his role. "I don't want to have to punt. I want the offense to score." ♦

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Applications will be available in the J. B. Room 306. Those finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed. Interviews will be held at the December 7, 1 p.m. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.

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Applications Deadline:

For associates and pre-health scholars, January 31, 2002  
For pre-law scholars, February 28, 2002

There will be an informational meeting about this program on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 3:30pm in Peck Hall room 211 and Wednesday, November 14, 2001 at 4:30pm also in Peck Hall room 211.

For applications and Further Information,  
Contact:  
Dr. Tyson King Meadows  
Department of Political Science  
Peck Hall 250  
904-8232

### Sun Belt Rushing

Teams  
Yds/game

MT	226.1
NMS	223.0
NT	141.0
ASU	133.0
Idaho	113.2
ULL	96.2
ULM	76.7



## ASU: Blue Raiders win big

Continued from 5

was jarred loose when Bradley applied a crackling hit, forcing a fumble that all but snuffed the Indians quest for a late comeback. The Indians' following possession was buried under linebacker Sheldon Durham as he collected one of the Blue Raiders' four sacks.

The MT victory over ASU continued a 10-game winning streak in the confines of Floyd Stadium and helped the Blue Raiders conclude their inaugural Sun Belt Conference schedule with a 5-1 record. They take a 7-2 overall record into Baton Rouge next weekend to play the LSU Tigers. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.. ♦

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## MT tennis players selected for indoors

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team had two of its players selected to play in the Omni Hotels National Indoor Championships Nov. 8-11 in Dallas, Texas.

No. 18 Daniel Klemetz and No. 50 Robert Gustafsson were both selected this week to play in the championships.

Klemetz finished the fall season 11-5 after making the semi-finals of Omni Hotels Region III Championships last week. He is 6-4 against ranked opponents, including a victory over 19th-ranked Tiago Ruffoni in the quarter finals last week.

Gustafsson started the fall season winning the CCM Labor Day Tournament in Mobile, Ala., where he too defeated Ruffoni in the tournament semifinals. A hip flexor injury has slowed Gustafsson and prevented him from playing singles in last week's Region Championships. He and doubles partner Oliver Foreman made the Round of 16 last week before losing to teammates Trevor Short and Michael Staniak 9-8.

The No. 7 team of Foreman and Gustafsson are the second alternates for the National Indoor field in doubles and should find out in the next few days whether they will play in the tourney.

Following the National Indoors, the Blue Raiders will take off the rest of the fall before opening play after Christmas at the University of Hawaii Jan. 18 in Honolulu. The home opener is set for Jan. 26 against Louisville at the Racquet Club ♦

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Society for Human Resource Management meeting at 4:30pm Monday, November 12th, 2001 in BAS S338. All majors with interest in Human Resource Management welcome. Contact Nikki Rowland at x2715 if you have any questions.

Ball girls and boys needed for the Lady Raider Basketball 2001-2002 Season. Please contact Kate Sullivan at 898-5207 for more information.

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Please contact Kate Sullivan at 898-5207 if you are interested in joining the Lady Raider Women's Basketball fan club. The Lady Raider Rascals is a fan club for kids ages 5-13

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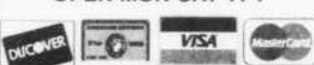
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Need 2nd Female roommate to share new home in eastwood s/d, \$400/mo includes utilities,

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### For Rent

First Month Free Rent. Looking for female to sublease a 4 bedroom 2 bath apartment@ Sterling University Gables. \$355/month+cable and phone. If interested, call 217-4055. Remember, First Month is Free!

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**\*\*Ads are free to registered MTSU student for non-commercial use only. All other ads must be paid for.\*\***

Student Publications is now accepting applications for

## Sidelines Spring 2002 Editor

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## Midlander 2002-2003 Editor

year long appointment

**Deadline is Friday November 16**

### Qualified candidates should:

- ¥ Be a student at MTSU registered for classes at the time of application.
- ¥ Have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application.
- ¥ Have worked on staff at least two semesters. Comparable media experience applies.
- ¥ Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

Editors receive a full tuition scholarship and a salary tenure. Applications may be picked up from the Student Publications Office, JUB 306, 8am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri.



# MT's I-A status under review

By R. Colin Fly  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee is part of a list of approximately 25 Division I-A football programs that may not meet new criteria considered by the NCAA to limit the number of Division I-A football members.

The Sun Belt Conference is also under a microscope, along with four other conferences, and may be searching for new members or face closure.

The NCAA Division I Management Council is considering proposals from the Membership Subcommittee and the Football Oversight Committee that would make the following four major changes for Division I-A athletics.

Schools must:

- \* Provide an average of at least 90 percent of the permissible maximum number of football grants-in-aid per year over a rolling two-year period. That means schools cannot stockpile scholarships on any given year.

- \* Annually participate in a minimum of five regular-season home contests against Division I-A opponents. MT played four.

- \* Sponsor a minimum of 16 varsity sports, with a minimum

of six men's sports and eight women's sports. MT sponsors 15 sports, seven men's and eight women's.

- \* Annually offer a minimum of 200 athletics grants-in-aid or expend at least \$4 million on athletics to student athletes.

- \* Annually demonstrate an average attendance of 15,000 for all home games. MT has averaged 19,067 in four contests, but athletic departments routinely inflate the number to include no-shows who bought tickets, like major corporations. In some larger Division I-A programs, ticket sales exceed actual attendance by more than 40 percent.

The committees call for these changes by Aug. 1, 2004.

"It's time for our membership to formally begin considering the criteria for Division I-A membership, so it's important that proposals be developed for our governance structure to review as soon as possible," said Charles Wethington, chairman of the 14-member Football Oversight Committee.

The call for the changes have come from larger universities and conferences due to the large influx of colleges and universities moving up in classification in the last decade. However,

there also has been great concern by the board of basketball teams moving from Division II, III and NAIA to Division I, now with more than 315 teams.

competing in all sports offered, including football.

"If it were adopted as written, several conferences — the Western Athletic, Mountain

(but) it may force us to make a premature decision."

The Sun Belt Conference has seven football-playing members, but Idaho and Louisiana-Monroe play football only, so the conference has only five football playing members that participate in other Sun Belt events.

"Football-only membership was extended to Utah State and Idaho in the fall of 1999," Wright wrote. "Idaho elected to join. Utah State refused. Now we have a (Division) I-A conference, a bowl game for our champion, etc. We must be very protective of our assets that we have worked hard to produce."

The Sun Belt Conference offers championships in 16 sports. However, this is where it becomes complicated.

Out of the 16 offered sports, the five football-playing members also all play in seven other sports, still much lower than criteria that may be set by the NCAA.

Non-football-playing members of the conference stand a better chance of meeting the proposed criteria, but that would mean football would be eliminated as a sponsored sport by the Sun Belt, leaving MT and the four other programs out.

Florida International University is another wildcard. They planned to move to Division I-A in football in 2004 before this round of discussion began. Theoretically, they could meet all the criteria necessary and add a sixth program to the Sun Belt's football member schools, but that still leaves the conference two short of full members.

Troy State, a common opponent of several Sun Belt teams, is also looking for a conference affiliation. However, Waters won't speculate on the future of expansion.

"The chancellor has made their interest in the conference well-known to the conference office and the membership. Until we get a little better handle on future definitions of an I-A conference, expansion of the league is very tentative."

Even if they and another program join the conference, New Mexico State could be a hot commodity to the Western Athletic or Mountain West Conference, due to their proximity to the other members of those schools.

The Football Oversight Committee and the Management Council will meet again in February. ♦



The Football Oversight Committee will meet again early next year to decide how to change the criteria of conferences. They've previously discussed that a conference might have to sponsor up to 14 sports, with at least eight universities

West, Big East and Sun Belt — would have problems," wrote Sun Belt Commissioner Wright Waters in his monthly column on the Sun Belt Web site. "I am confident that we will do whatever is necessary to maintain our current conference status,

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