

MONDAY

DECEMBER 6, 2004

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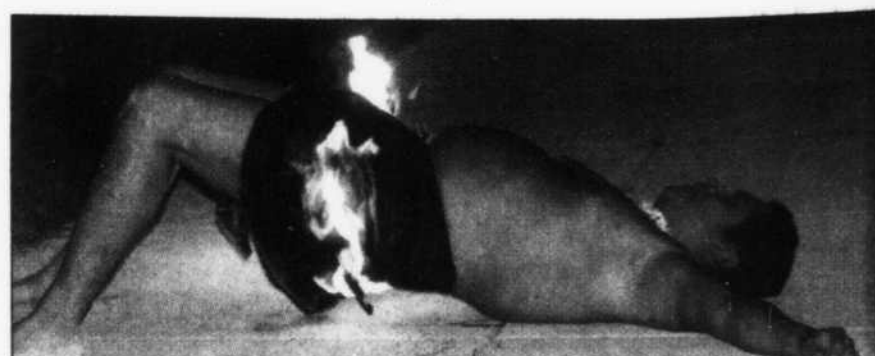
Showers

## MT leashes Bulldogs 81-46

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## DANCING WITH FIRE

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An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

2003 National Finalist  
Best non-daily  
university newspaper  
-Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 44

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

### CAMPUS BRIEFS

#### Christian Music Society hosts Demo Forum

MTSU's Christian Music Society will be hosting their annual Demo Forum Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Those interested are invited to bring their demos to the Mass Comm building, Room 104 to have a panel of industry professionals critique the work.

For more information on this event, send an e-mail to cmsmfmsu@yahoo.com.

#### Habitat for Humanity will be meeting

Habitat for Humanity will be having a meeting Wednesday, Dec. 8 in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S307 at 4:30 p.m.

Those who are interested should contact habitat@mtsu.edu for further details.

#### Student Ambassadors sponsor contest

MTSU's Student Ambassadors are sponsoring a university-wide office holiday decorating contest during the month of December to encourage employees to get into the spirit of the season.

The cost to enter is \$10 per office, and all of the money collected will go to support the Student Ambassadors. The first place contest winners will receive \$100 and the second place finishers will be awarded an MT prize pack valued at \$65.

The judging will take place on Friday, Dec. 17, and will be scheduled according to the availability of the office and department entrants. Participants will be recognized with a flier to display in their office.

To enter, offices or departments should call the alumni relations office at 898-2922.

#### Salvation Army seeks kettle ringer volunteers

The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to be kettle ringers around town now through Dec. 22. The kettle campaign is the organization's single largest fund raiser throughout the year. Ringers are stationed at Sam's, both Wal-Marts and Kroger in Murfreesboro.

Those interested in volunteering a few hours to ring the Christmas kettles should call 895-7071, Ext. 15.

Volunteers will also be at the Salvation Army on Dec. 11 and 18 to sort Angel Tree gifts. Volunteers are welcome.

#### Greek Life hosts end-of-year formal

All members of the Greek community are encouraged to attend the annual end-of-year formal at the Opryland Hotel on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and several awards will be given, including Outstanding Delegate and Alternate Delegate and Greek Woman of the Year.

For more information contact the Greek Life office at 898-5812. ♦

## New class will train tutors

By Hillary Robson  
Staff Writer

Approximately 60 students per week wishing to be tutored have been turned down at the University Writing Center due to a shortage in trained peer mentors and tutors.

The upcoming finals week has added to the demand.

"We usually have students standing around waiting for an opening the last week of classes and during finals week, when we have abbreviated hours, since our writing assistants are also taking finals and completing end-of-term papers," said Trixie Smith, director of the writing center.

The writing center is currently staffed with 22 graduate teaching assistants that usually work about 20 hours a week.

Next semester, the center plans to have only 18 graduate assistants working at the center.

The assistants currently organize and plan University Writing Center events, such as open mic nights, as well as leading creative and research writing groups.

The assistants also devote time to the online services offered by the center, including e-mail and chat sessions designed for satellite services for students unable to access the center at its regular hours of operation.

Smith has devised a unique solution to the overload in the writing center in the form of a new class, Introduction to Peer Tutoring in Writing: Theory and Methods. This sophomore-level English course intends to train students how to work in writing centers across campus.

The course focuses on the practical and pedagogical elements of being a Writing Center tutor. It allows for interested students to engage actively in the tutoring process.

The course is not limited to English majors or writing minors, Smith said.

"Students in any area have to

See Writing, 2

## Marijuana law still in works

By Alex Miller  
Staff Writer

State Sen. Stephen Cohen, D-Memphis, will fight for a medical marijuana law in Tennessee even while the U.S. Supreme Court debates the constitutionality of such laws.

Cohen has not yet released the details of his proposal. He said he is still working out the nuts and bolts of it, and to that end he is looking at medical marijuana laws already on the books in 11 states.

"We'll see what has worked," Cohen said.

The 12 states that have passed medical marijuana laws



Cohen

have gone about it in different ways.

California's law, passed in 1996, is the oldest and broadest. It allows doctors

to give oral or written permission to use medical marijuana to anyone who would benefit from it.

Vermont took a more conservative approach to legalization. The state allows sufferers of specific diseases - HIV or AIDS, cancer and multiple sclerosis - to use it, and the

state created a registry and issues ID cards to keep track of medical marijuana users.

Maryland's medical marijuana law stopped short of legalization. It makes medical necessity a mitigating factor in marijuana prosecution and sets the maximum fine for these patients at \$100.

Currently, Cohen envisions a Tennessee law granting doctors the authority to prescribe marijuana to patients who are terminally ill or in serious pain.

Opponents of the plan say medical marijuana isn't necessary because there are pain medications already on the

market that are just as effective.

"There aren't," Cohen said. The people he has talked to, including people in the health care industry, have told him that when they and their loved ones were ill, only marijuana provided then the relief they needed.

Cohen said that even Marinol is less effective than smoked marijuana. Marinol is a pill that delivers synthetic Tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana.

"Certain people can't hold down the pill," he said.

See Marijuana, 3

## MPAC's 'Soul Xpressions' takes the stage

By Lauren Buckley  
Staff Writer

Friends, family, students and faculty gathered to watch the MTSU Performing Arts Company's annual performance at Tucker Theater Friday and Saturday nights.

This year's production was called "Soul Xpressions."

"We are open to everyone at all skill levels and all styles dance," MPAC President Laura Filtness said about her organization.

Numerous dance styles were showcased during the performances, including hip hop, jazz, modern dance, belly dancing, break dancing, Afro-Caribbean dance and lyrical dance.

"Here you are going to see jazz and modern and a little bit of everything," said MPAC contributing artist and MTSU dance instructor Francisco Ramos.

"Every year it gets better," said Jessica Driver, a junior from Dickson, Tenn. "We draw more people in because of the diversity of the show. We also draw more people into the company."

Angela Armstrong, MPAC's director, has been able to witness the growth firsthand.

"I came here in 1988 as an undergraduate and came back in 1997, getting my Master's," Armstrong said. "I started directing the company then. When I became director, there were only 12 members in the company."

Armstrong estimated that there are about 137 performers involved in MPAC today.

Not only do MTSU students perform in the show, but many also choreograph some of the pieces as well.

See Dance, 2

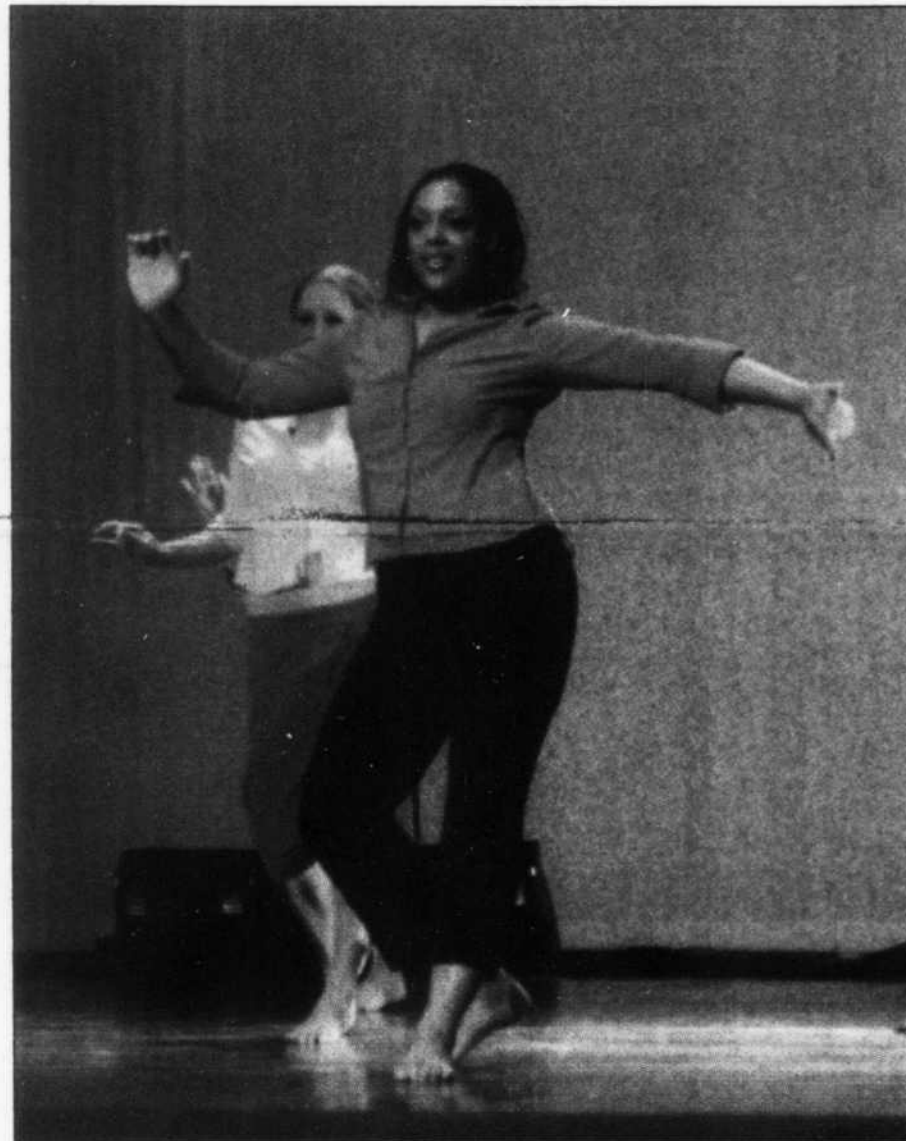


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer

Jessica Driver and the rest of the MTSU Performing Arts Company perform "Latin Fusion," the opening act of Soul Xpressions, this year's MPAC dance show, Saturday night at Tucker Theatre.

## O Christmas tree



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

The Rutherford County Christmas tree was lit last Friday night in front of the courthouse. Prior to the tree lighting, the Campus School chorus performed.

## Congress approves grant for science, education

By Katie Garland  
Staff Writer

Congress approved \$800,000 worth of funding for new and existing science and teaching programs at MTSU last week-end.

The money, secured by U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., will help start a new Master's degree program in biotechnology, provide support for a current program concerning development and transmission of emerging diseases, and provide funds for the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia.

Gordon, who is an MTSU alumnus and resident of Murfreesboro, called MTSU one of the best universities in the state.

"The students and faculty at MTSU are among the best and brightest," Gordon said in a press release. "That's why I work so hard to ensure this university

has the resources it needs to teach our children the skills needed in a dynamic, high-tech work-force."

Of the \$800,000, \$500,000 will go to benefit the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia. The money will be used to provide educators with the most current methods used to teach dyslexic children.

An existing research team, which studies the development and transmission of emerging diseases, will receive \$200,000.

The remaining \$100,000 will go to support a new Master's degree program in biotechnology research.

"We are extremely grateful to Congressman Gordon and the rest of the Tennessee delegation for their support of these important initiative," said MTSU President Sidney

See Funding, 2 ♦



Sidelines' last issue will be  
Wednesday, Dec. 8. The paper  
will resume publication  
on Jan. 18.

Opinions 4 • Sports 5 • Classifieds 7 • [flash] inside



## Toys for Tots



James Rowlette asks Tommy Swindle and Donna Lacap of the Financial Management Association about their Toys for Tots campaign. The group will be accepting donations through Thursday.

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

## Dance: Students choreograph, perform

Continued from 1

Carone Tharpe, one of the student choreographers, said he had never had any formal dance education until he came to MTSU.

"They have always called me 'The Natural' because of my natural talent," Tharpe said. "I have never studied dance before. I was an all-state basketball and football player in high school. Angela and Paco discovered me. I was just playing around. From there it took off."

Tharpe choreographed a dance called "Hip Hop 101" along with a break dancing

group.

"'Hip Hop 101' was hot," said audience member Brandon Claybrook, a sophomore from College Grove. "I've seen enough to make me want to try next year."

Unlike Tharpe, Fitness has been dancing for years.

"I've been dancing since I was six," she said.

Fitness choreographed "Dolor de Cabeza," a modern piece, and "Sassy," an upbeat combination of modern and jazz.

Fitness' inspiration for "Dolor de Cabeza" came to her as she was traveling back from a

dance intensive in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"I was going through a struggle in my head," she said. "I closed my eyes and listened to the music, and then I just had the choreography."

Young talent was also shown this weekend as members of the Mitchell Neilson Elementary Dance Company performed a dance to the Janet Jackson song "All Right With Me."

Funding for the show came from fund-raising efforts from members of MPAC and MTSU's Student Government Association.

"We raised \$22,000 from fund-raising," Armstrong said. "Our target is working towards getting students in free."

Most of the costumes were themselves, but some required designers.

MPAC dues were \$10 this year. There is no audition process to be in the company, unless there are too many students signed up for a specific piece.

Interested parties are invited to join MPAC next semester on Tuesday nights at 6:30 in the Murphy Center. ♦

## Writing: Center seeks student tutors

Continued from 1

write and communicate and businesses in any field want well-rounded, articulate employees who can work as part of a team and who can communicate in a variety of genres or mediums," she said.

Students that complete the course will be encouraged to apply for job placement in the writing center at Peck Hall as well as at other writing centers across campus, such as the Adult Learning Center's, the developmental writing lab, student support centers and residence hall writing centers.

"Working as a peer tutor... will help students develop their own writing, their written and oral communication skills, their ability to relate to and work with people from various backgrounds [and] their ability to think and act quickly," Smith said.

Tutors at the Writing Center in the past have said that working at the center improved their people skills and selling ability, because they "are selling an idea about the writing process and the need to share your writing with other people, their editing skills and their writing skills," Smith said.

The class will train students

to work with fellow students from a variety of academic disciplines.

"We work with all members of the MTSU community from freshmen to faculty, and we work with people at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting to editing to checking the works cited page."

While working as a peer mentor can be hard work, Smith reminded students that it was also "very rewarding and often a lot of fun."

"The writing assistants really build a community as they work together," she said. "They also build lasting friendships with the 'regulars' who come to the center. Writing assistants also find that they learn as much from the writers who use the center as the writers learn from them."

In order to be eligible for the class, prospective students must have obtained a grade of "B" or better in English 1020 or have the recommendation of a professor.

More information about the course can be obtained by contacting Smith at [tsmith@mtsu.edu](mailto:tsmith@mtsu.edu), by calling 904-8153 or by consulting with an advisor. ♦

## Funding: Money contributes to several programs on campus

Continued from 1

McPhee in a press release. "This funding will enable our faculty and staff to better serve the needs of our students and the people of Tennessee."

The money received by the Dyslexia Center is a continuation of a previous grant with the purpose of developing training modules as well as funding workshops for teachers across the state.

The center basically works with school systems to identify children with dyslexia and implementing intervention plans. After implementing the intervention plans, the center monitors the progress of children and recommends appro-

priate adjustments.

In spring of 1993, the Center's current director, Diane J. Sawyer, proposed that the General Assembly provide financial support to establish the Tennessee center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia.

The Tennessee General Assembly voted to provide the necessary \$230,000 to start progress toward a dyslexia center.

Funding such as the \$500,000 secured by Gordon is what keeps the dyslexia center running.

Hearing the news of the grant came as a delightful surprise to Sawyer.

"It's always a surprise. This

was a new request to permit us to continue our program," Sawyer said. "Without this funding, we would not be able to continue."

Gordon is the dean of the Tennessee congressional delegation and member of the House Science Committee.

During his time in Congress, Gordon has used his position to make education a top priority.

"The future of our country and our region lie in our children's hands," Gordon said in a press release. "That's why I work so hard to help Middle Tennessee find the resources needed to build schools, equip classrooms and hire teachers." ♦

Need to let the campus know about an event your group is sponsoring?

Sidelines' Campus Events calendar can help.

Clip the form below, fill it out and return it to the Mass Comm Building, Room 269.

### Campus Events

The following guidelines apply to all:

1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
2. Every day in the Living section, so your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. Sidelines does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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# TVA management structure revamped

By Duncan Mansfield  
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A new management structure is coming to the Tennessee Valley Authority, intended to make the nation's largest public utility look more like a publicly traded company.

Added to a massive spending bill awaiting a quick House vote and President George W. Bush's signature, the changes raise as many questions as answers about how the 71-year-old TVA will operate in the future.

Some 8.5 million people in Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia will be affected — not just in their electric bills, but in job opportunities, air quality, flood control and enjoyment of the Tennessee River watershed.

The New Deal agency created by President Roosevelt in 1933 to lift these Southern states out of poverty still casts a broad shadow over the region, even as competition, clean air regulations and a nagging \$25 billion debt threaten its survival.

"The question of whether TVA's challenges and problems are structural or not is very debatable," said University of Tennessee historian Bruce Wheeler, who has studied the agency. "The philosophy and the whole mission of TVA is something that may have to get rethought."

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's TVA reform plan, which he has pushed since TVA's first electric rate hike in a decade in 1997, doesn't go that far.

But the Tennessee Republican's plan does redraw TVA's management scheme "to bring it in line with other corporations of similar size and scope ... to increase accountability and oversight."

TVA's full-time, three-member board that oversees daily operations will be replaced with a part-time, nine-member board that will hire a chief executive officer to manage the 12,000-employee agency.

Board terms will be shortened from nine years to five. Pay will be cut from \$145,600 for chairman and \$136,900 for other members to \$50,000 and \$45,000, respectively, plus business travel and lodging allowances.

At least two members can come from outside the TVA region, although that has happened before at TVA. None, however, has ever come from Alabama, which is TVA's second-largest customer base.

Board members still will be presidentially nominated and confirmed by the Senate. But under the new structure, the board will select its own chairman, not the president — whose choice was typically partisan.

"You are never going to take all the politics out of a presidential appointment and Senate confirmation," said TVA Director Bill Baxter, the newest member of the TVA board, appointed by Bush in 2002, and likely TVA's next chairman.

"However, going to part-time makes it possible for people who are making a living full-time doing something else to serve. I think that is a positive thing and will help take some of the politics out," said Baxter, who plans to resume running his family's gas company in Knoxville.

TVA's boards have had 26 men and one woman. They included defeated congressmen, bureaucrats, college presidents, lawyers, engineers, a railroad executive, a former journalist, an auto executive and two former TVA general managers — which today might be called CEOs.

Frist's restructuring stipulates for the first time that a TVA board member "shall have management expertise relative to a large for-profit or nonprofit corporate, government or academic structure."

However, board candidates also for the first time can have investments in other energy companies — a potential conflict of interest — and they can't be a TVA employee.

Steve Smith, director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, hopes to see some environmentalists on the new board, but worries it could follow the old path of "political hacks and friends of politicians."

"How they populate this board for the first time will set a very important precedent because this is a new way of doing it," he said.

Changes could come after May 18, 2005, when TVA Chairman Glenn McCullough's nine-year term ends. The third member of the current board, Skila Harris, would become a part-time member like Baxter. Her term ends in 2008.

The new board's first order of business will be finding a CEO, which will mean a national search.

The CEO's pay package will likely dwarf the \$1.4 million earned in 2003 by TVA's highest paid executive, President and Chief Operating Officer Ike Zeringue, who is looking to retire.

The top executive at comparable investor-owned utilities received \$4.9 million in 2003, according to TVA consultants.

U.S. Rep. John J. "Jimmy" Duncan Jr., a Knoxville Republican and chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees TVA, said three Tennessee Valley congressmen urged him to oppose the restructuring plan even though TVA's 158 power distributors support it.

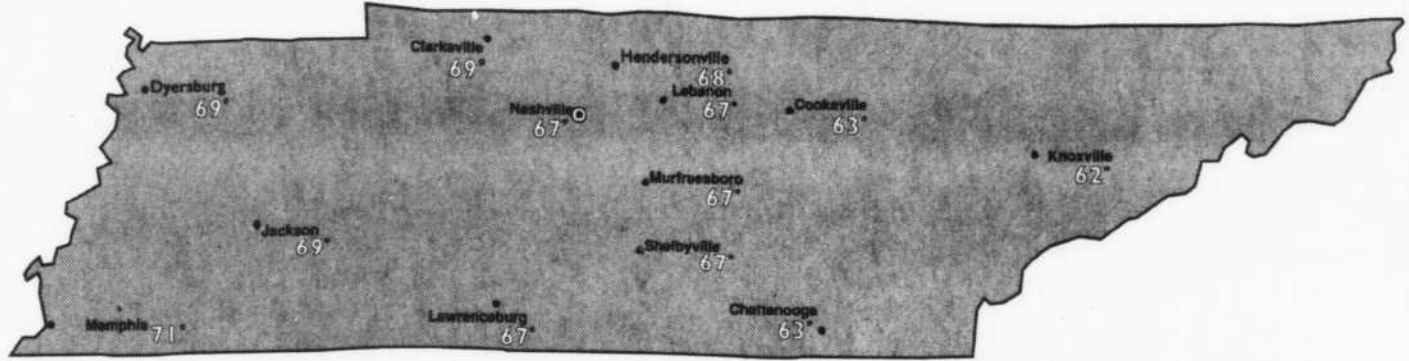
Duncan declined, despite his own doubts that it alone can bring the "fiscally conservative business" attitude to TVA he believes is needed.

"I don't think it is the magic bullet that some people thought. Enron proved you can still have scandals with part-time boards," he said.

"But I knew when Bill (Frist) started talking about it it was going to be done, and I hope it works. I hope TVA becomes better, and maybe it will," Duncan said. ♦

## Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
65° ▲ 40° ▼	59° ▲ 43° ▼	60° ▲ 51° ▼	60° ▲ 39° ▼	55° ▲ 34° ▼

## Marijuana: Supreme Court to rule on state pot laws

Continued from 1

Swallowing a pill can be difficult for sufferers of nausea, and the effects of the pill can take several hours to kick in, giving patients ample time to throw up the pill.

While marijuana's side effects can include delusions and paranoia, the side effects of narcotic prescription pain medications, like Oxycontin, are harsher and include severe respiratory distress.

These side effects coupled with the risks of addiction and overdose have left many patients looking for an alternative.

Whether or not they get that alternative is out of their hands. And it might be out of Cohen's hands, too. A case before the Supreme Court might derail state medical marijuana laws before the general assembly puts Cohen's law to a vote.

On Monday, Nov. 29, the court heard the opening arguments for *Raich vs. Ashcroft*.

Angel Raich suffers from several chronic conditions, including an inoperable brain tumor and near-constant nausea. According to her Web site, her doctor prescribed dozens of medications until he found one that worked for her: marijuana. Raich and another medical

marijuana user, Diane Monson, filed the lawsuit after federal drug enforcement agents raided Monson's house in August 2002.

The court is not weighing the merits of medical marijuana. It is determining whether state laws that allow medicinal use of marijuana trump federal anti-drug laws.

Specifically, the court will decide if the federal government has the authority to regulate marijuana that does not cross state lines.

The crux of the case is where the marijuana came from. Monson and Reich live and grew their marijuana in California. Randy Barnett, representing the defendants, argued that since the pot didn't cross state lines, it did not affect interstate commerce, so it is out of the government's jurisdiction.

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, known as the commerce clause, allows the federal government to regulate interstate commerce.

Acting Solicitor General Paul Clement represents Ashcroft in the case. Clement argued that state medical marijuana laws make it harder to enforce federal drug laws.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has made remarks sympathetic to the defense,

"Nobody's buying anything. Nobody's selling anything," she said.

Justice Anthony Scalia brought up examples of items that don't necessarily cross state lines, but are nevertheless illegal to possess, like eagle feathers and ivory.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case in June.

John Vile, chair of the political science department at MTSU, suggests that the court case will be a death knell for state medical marijuana laws.

"The Supreme Court is likely to rule that even medical marijuana grown for personal use is so connected to the larger traffic in drugs that Congress has the power to regulate it under its power over interstate commerce," he said. "If the Court does recognize this power, then conflicting state laws would be of no effect."

"Under the circumstances, I think Cohen's bill is premature. If the Supreme Court recognizes a medical exception to federal marijuana laws, then Tennessee might decide whether we think marijuana has medicinal purposes. Otherwise, all such efforts are likely to be in vain."

Nevertheless, Cohen remains optimistic, noting that when the Supreme Court ruled against

medical marijuana laws in 2001, it stopped short of ending the laws outright.

Medical marijuana isn't just a public health issue for Cohen. It's a matter of state's rights.

"It's a 10th Amendment issue," he said. However, he worries that justices will rule against the amendment to push their social agendas.

Even if the Supreme Court gives medical marijuana the thumbs up, Cohen will face opposition from a Republican-controlled state legislature.

State Sens. Ron Ramsey, R-Blountville, and Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, have already spoken out against the measure.

"I wouldn't be for it at all," Tracy said, arguing that legal pain medications already on the market should be used instead of marijuana.

But Cohen is accustomed to uphill battles.

"It took 17 years to get the lottery," he said.

He doesn't expect medical marijuana to take that long, but he acknowledges it will be difficult to pass at first.

"This year people get to see the issue... start to see it as a possibility," he said. "Next year people will get used to the idea, and by the third year the legislation might pass." ♦

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## From the Editorial Board

### Dear Santa McPhee: We've been very good

It is time again for our yearly editorial to Santa McPhee. As children we all fondly remember writing to Santa for all the wonderful gifts that our parents would resentfully buy for us.

But let's not forget the meaning of Christmas. It's not just the season for pleasin'!

This year has been very good to *Sidelines* with our brand new office and our new computer equipment. As such, this year we've decided to focus more on what the university as a whole needs (although we did throw in one classic personal request).

Please, Santa McPhee, we want:

- a new, or at least completely remodeled, science building. How do you expect our science students to compete on the same level as other college students when we use outdated lab equipment? Please? We know we ask for this every year, but perhaps that's a sign that it really needs to be improved.

- to bring back Larry Fedora as our offensive coordinator. The best way to get butts in the stands is to win some games.

- buildings that don't fall apart so soon after they are built. The fraternities are complaining about mold and bad plumbing and anyone who has stood under the balcony on the Business and Aerospace Building knows what we're talking about.

- cable television for our office. We had it in the James Left Building, then lost it, then got it back before we union for the Mass Communication Building. Now we can't even get Comcast on the phone. Please hurry, for football season is almost over.

- paved parking lots that don't leave your car under an inch of dust at the end of the day or rip out your muffler in a pothole.

- an extreme makeover for Andy McCullom.

- bike lanes on campus. There are more than a few peeved bicyclists on campus that have come close to being run over by a car or knocked off their bikes by crowded pedestrian sidewalks.

- to rename Walnut Grove back to Peck Forest. It's always been and always will be Peck Forest.

- enhanced career counseling for graduates. Preparing students for obtaining jobs is essential to relieve some of that senior-year stress.

- a strip club on campus. (Why not? Some added income might help fund the items on this list.) ♦

## From the Opinions Editor

### Just where in the world is Osama bin Laden, anyway?

Somewhere, terrorist leader Osama bin Laden is having a snicker at the world's expense, particularly at the suffering of the United States and Pakistan.

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that his nation's intelligence network and military doesn't know where the leader in charge of multiple terrorist world-wide, including the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is.

In an attempt to try and comfort what would likely be a very nervous television audience, Musharraf assured us, however, that he doesn't think bin Laden is running al-Qaida's operations at the moment.

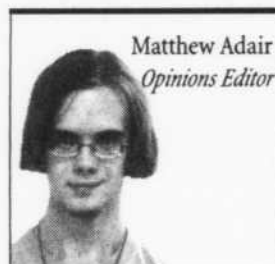
Unfortunately, tossing around "maybe" and "we think he might" is going to do little to bring anyone closer to apprehending one of the most wanted men in the world.

Apparently, the location of bin Laden isn't the only thing that has the Pakistani president confused. In Sunday's *Washington Post*, Musharraf said that he felt the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan lacked the manpower to root out the top leadership of al-Qaida. When he went on CNN, however, he turns around and tells Blitzer that he feels U.S. forces were doing "very well" in the hunt for bin Laden.

What's going on, Musharraf? Is there a problem? Are things going well, if perhaps slowly? If you think sending 125,000 troops to Iraq when personnel were needed to search for al-Qaida leaders in the mountains and caves of Afghanistan – a line of reasoning that could be taken from what you said to the *Washington Post* – then why back down from that opinion in front of the camera?

This is not a situation where "maybe" and "might" should be the key word in headlines. The forces responsible for finding bin Laden need to stop reporting what they think might be true and tell us what they do and do not know for sure. ♦

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Matthew Adair  
Opinions Editor

## Hussein sold oil to spill blood before war

Before the war in Iraq, President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein the umpteenth chance to avert conflict: He must comply with U.N. resolutions. When he did not, Bush gave the "father of terrorists" one final chance to avoid war – leave the country.

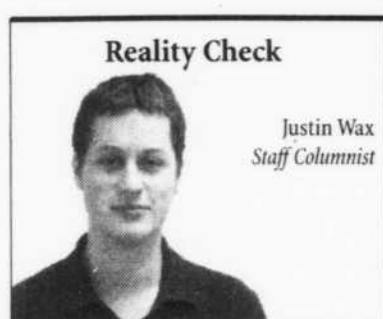
Meanwhile, thousands of liberal peaceniks did their part to win the peace by flopping down on major New York roads to stall traffic. They also dutifully chanted the slogan "no blood for oil."

The problem with the protesters was that they had the slogan backwards. It should have been: "No Oil for Blood." Also, they were about a decade and a dozen U.N. resolutions too late.

Why? Because Hussein had for years already been illegally using \$21 billion worth of oil proceeds to fund bloodshed. The AP reported Nov. 17 that Hussein "diverted money from the U.N. oil-for-food program to pay millions of dollars" to families of homicide bombers.

The same day, the *International Herald Tribune* quoted Mark Greenblatt, a counsel for the Senate panel investigating the oil-for-food scandal. Hussein "gave oil allocations to officials, journalists and even terrorists."

As I remember back to the pre-war days, I recall liberals were unusually hawkish: They wanted



Reality Check

Justin Wax  
Staff Columnist

to attack just about anybody but Hussein. North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia or Syria suddenly became more menacing threats.

But Iraq got special protection from the liberal media and politicians. We heard them tell us repeatedly that Hussein had no connection to Sept. 11, 2001.

In truth, there is no direct evidence of a connection to 9-11, but there certainly was a direct connection between Hussein and terrorism. Also liberals wanted us to believe al-Qaida was all over Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Philippines, Indonesia and everywhere else in the world except Iraq.

I guess Iraqi terrorist training camps didn't matter. It's probably safe to say bin Laden and Hussein's non-aggression pact, as reported in *The New Yorker*, didn't get much attention. Discussing Hussein's history of initiating three wars or conflicts (Iran, Kuwait and Israel) was off-limits too.

Remember that Germany and

Japan also shared a non-aggression pact in that other global war?

Osama bin Laden slithering from cave to cave was obviously not as targetable after September 2001 as terror-buddy Hussein, who performed the arduous task of financing terrorism from his presidential palaces.

Hussein undoubtedly was going to restart the weapons of mass destruction program once inspectors left, according to chief weapons inspector Charles Duelfer.

Hussein played weapons "hide-and-seek" for years.

Meanwhile, Russia sent missile technology to Iraq in 1995. In the same year Russia developed a plan to construct a nuclear reactor in Iran, and then they sent some missile assistance to that terrorist regime for good measure.

In response, Congress passed a bill to economically punish the Russians, but Bill Clinton vetoed it.

After 9-11, Bush didn't want to trust a homicidal, non-compliant, terrorist-sponsoring dictator, so he sent U.S. troops to eliminate the regime.

Hussein's oil-for-food scandal is undoubtedly the biggest fraud in history. It makes allegations regarding the relationship between Dick Cheney and Halliburton downright comical in comparison.

By the way, Factcheck.org said, "Cheney doesn't gain a penny from Halliburton's contracts, and almost certainly won't lose even if Halliburton goes bankrupt." The non-partisan Web site also said the "implication that Cheney has a financial interest in Halliburton is unfounded."

Of course, you didn't see that in "Fahrenheit 9/11" or read it on MoveOn.org, but my, what nice propaganda.

Don't fret, my liberal friends. Stay away from your anti-war regalia, save your beloved "No blood for oil" posters and don't forget to tuck away those peace drums.

It won't be long until greedy European leaders will need to use you to oppose another U.S.-led mission to eliminate another terrorist regime belonging to the Axis of Evil.

It's no wonder those Russian and French governments opposed the war. Oil for blood made such a nice, lucrative economic program.

Unfortunately, things didn't go entirely without a hitch for the Axis of Greed. Jacques Chirac and Vladimir Putin pouted for a bit, and they lost a good client. Now, however, they've decided to get back on the offensive: Iran. ♦

Justin Wax is a sophomore history major and can be reached at [Justin@furtheringfreedom.com](mailto:Justin@furtheringfreedom.com).

## Letters to the Editor Lambda should reconsider Gordon

To the Editor:

I was reading with interest an online article from the MTSU *Sidelines* last month regarding MTSU Lambda's "Boycott Bart" campaign. ("Group petitions against Gordon" Oct. 11) As one of the attendees to that meeting with the congressman, I felt it important to clarify a couple of things.

I feel there was a misinterpretation of some things allegedly said by the congressman. The article says that Rep. Gordon personally was OK with gay marriage and his vote was completely political.

I think this takes some latitude with marriage. At no time did he specifically say he was OK with gay marriage. The quote about his vote being political was incorrect, as well.

He said the issue itself, and the vote being taken before Congress, was motivated by the Republican majority and not his own personal vote. His vote, as I understand it, was a reflection of the district he represents, and while the Human Rights Campaign and I would like for the congressman to take a more courageous stand, one cannot fault him for representing his district's views.

The Tennessee Steering Committee of the Human Rights Campaign continues to be willing to work with Congressman Gordon on issues that are important to our community.

As the congressman pointed out, there are issues in the future we hopefully can count on his support for, including Hate Crimes legislation, the Education Nondiscrimination Act, and HIV/AIDS funding. I encourage Lambda to continue to talk with the congressman and work to change the community's views.

Jim Schmidt  
Nashville, TN

## Correction:

In the photo accompanying the story "Drumline wins national contest" that ran Thursday, Dec. 2, the drumline shown performing was incorrectly identified as the MTSU drumline. The group pictured was the Music City Mystique, which includes some members of the MTSU drumline. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

Got all your  
class projects done yet?

Yeah, neither do we.

[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

## Both sides must come to terms in abortion debate

It's absurd that abortion is such a divisive issue in this country. Neither side will listen to the other, so no one really understands the issue fully. The solution probably lies somewhere in the middle of the two sides, but no one wants to budge.

I think most people on either side can agree on two things. First, it is wrong to cause another living being to suffer, so whether abortion is legal or not, it should not be done in a way that causes a fetus to suffer. Secondly, a woman should have the right to choose if she wants to have a child or not. If we can all agree on these two basic ideas, then maybe we can try to have a rational discussion on this subject.

Next, I think the pro-abortion side has to agree that abortions should only be done before the point in the development of a fetus where it has to suffer to be aborted. This should give a woman plenty of time to decide if she wants to have a child or not.

Even if this is agreed upon, many people will still be against abortion. Some say it is wrong to terminate a life once it has begun, but who can determine when a life begins? You could say life begins when the heart of the fetus starts to beat, so abortions won't be performed after this point.

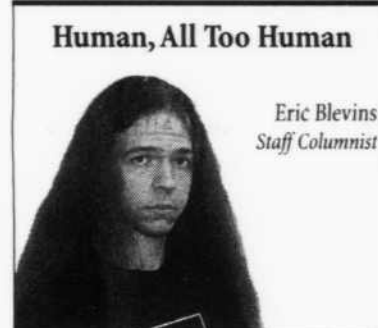
There is basically no argument as long as the fetus does not suffer. Of course, people will still be against abortion even if there is no suffering involved.

Some people are even against a pill that terminates a pregnancy almost immediately after it begins. The reason they are against this pill is that they don't like the idea of people being able to have casual sex and not having to worry about the consequences of their choice. They want people to suffer for having casual sex because they think there is something wrong with it, even though there isn't. The decision to have a child and the decision to have sex should be completely separate decisions.

It's easy to see just how irrational people are on this issue by looking at bumper stickers. One says "Abortion Kills Children." Actually, abortion kills fetuses. Another says, "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart." Well, it really depends on when during pregnancy the abortion is performed. This seems to be the only way to reason with people against abortion. Just state the facts, which are exactly the opposite of the arguments they make.

And if you find yourself arguing with someone completely irrational, just quote George Carlin and say, "How come when it's us it's an abortion, and when it's a chicken it's an omelet?" ♦

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Human, All Too Human

Eric Blevins  
Staff Columnist

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## Letters Policy

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*Sidelines* is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday 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 of *Sidelines* or MTSU.

## Sidelines online poll results

What do you think of the decision to retain Coach Andy McCollum?

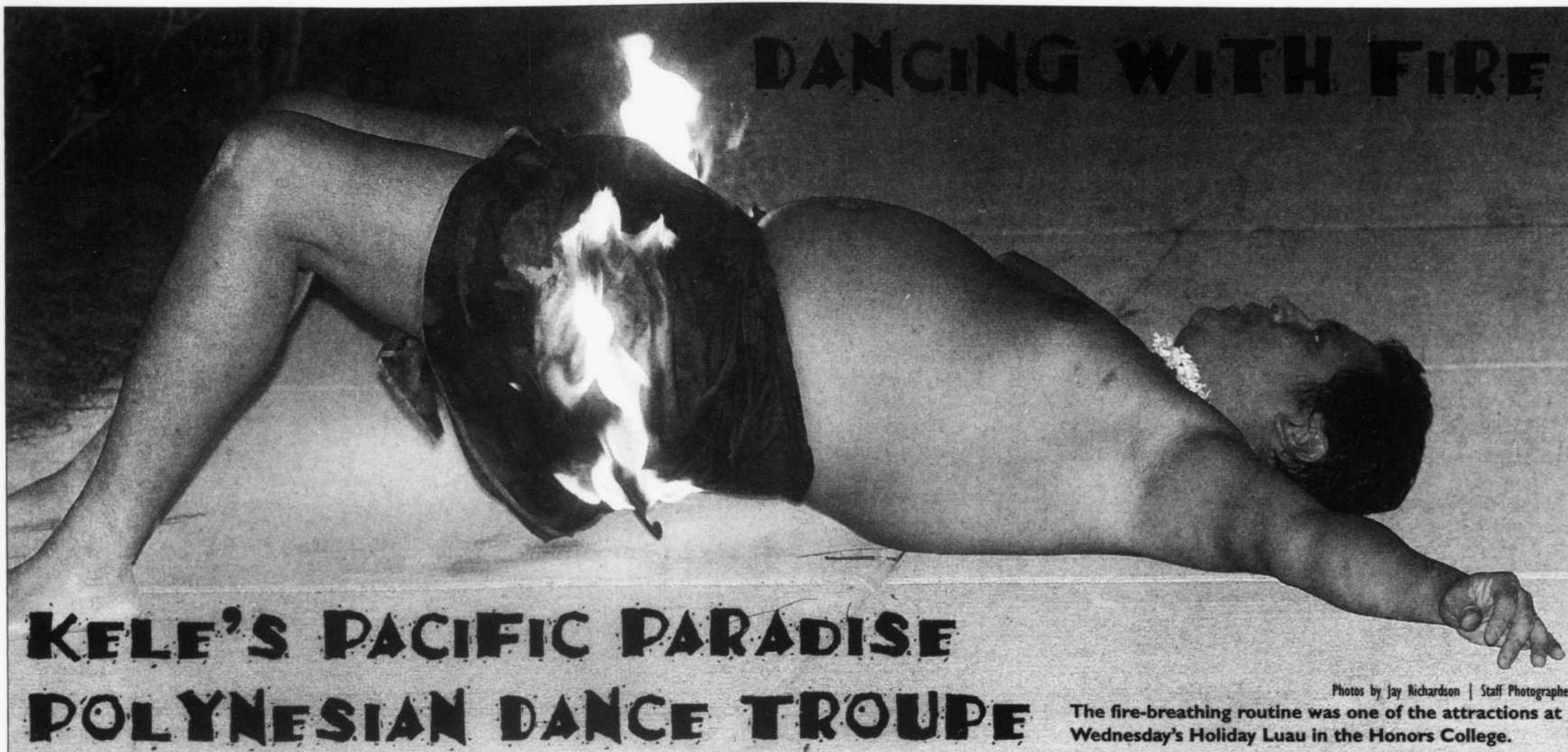
- Great! We just need to adjust to playing 1A ball. (16 percent)
- I support giving the man another chance. (11 percent)
- I'm indifferent. (16 percent)
- Let's bring in someone else – anyone else. (33 percent)



It's not the brightest move we've made, but ONE more season won't hurt. After that, it's time to shop. (24 percent)

177 people voted. Results are not scientific.





## DANCING WITH FIRE

### KELE'S PACIFIC PARADISE POLYNESIAN DANCE TROUPE

Photos by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The fire-breathing routine was one of the attractions at Wednesday's Holiday Luau in the Honors College.

By Audrey Scruton  
Staff Writer

The Honors College said "aloha" to the fall 2004 semester with a South Pacific Holiday Luau and Dance Revue held in the Honors College Amphitheater last Wednesday.

With tropical refreshments, island music and a traditional Polynesian welcome with flowers and leis, Kele's Pacific Paradise Polynesian Dance Troupe created an exotic and relaxed mood for all in attendance. Guests of all ages snacked on such foods as dried fruit, pineapple and Hawaiian bread while listening to classic South Pacific songs, which were recorded by one of the dance troupe member's sisters.

The dance troupe, which now hails from Atlanta, Ga., consists of a family of 14 brothers and sisters, in addition to several nieces and nephews that frequently perform with them. The troupe grew up in more than 12 states and began their dance group as a way to cele-

brate their South Pacific heritage.

They have now performed in more than 19 states.

"We are Philippino-Hawaiian-Portuguese army brats, and we love to travel," said Kele, the group's spokesperson.

The four-spoken dance troupe performed several dances from all across the Polynesian triangle, such as Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand and Samoa. In honor of the upcoming holiday season, Kele even performed a special Christmas hula.

The program was interactive, with the dancers recruiting volunteers from the audience to learn how to do traditional dance moves. When some volunteers seemed hesitant to learn how to sway their hips or dance the hula while wearing makeshift skirts, Kele calmed their fears.

"Come on, we had all of the Atlanta Braves do this once," she said.

The dance program was also very informative. Audience

members learned the history behind each dance (the Hawaiian hula was banned for 50 years during the 19th century), how to do many of the arm movements themselves (such as the helicopter and the double crossover) and how to pronounce many of the native words.

Everything from which side of the head the women's flower should be worn on (right if she is single, left if not) to the difference between ancient and modern hula dances was explained in detail.

Even the word 'aloha' was discussed.

"Depending on how you pronounce it, it means different things," Kele explained. "If you change the emphasis of the syllables, you can say 'hello,' 'goodbye' or 'I love you.'"

Guests were even treated to a surprise Samoan fire-breathing dance, which was performed outside while audience members clapped and cheered through the windows.

The dance was begun to

symbolize the braveness and boldness of warriors and to prove their strength and endurance under pressure.

"My brother began practicing fire breathing when he was 12-years-old, and now he's in his 20s, so he's been doing it for awhile," Kele said.

Resident Assistant Derek Richert-Hess attended the event with his residents.

"It gave you a very enlightening view into Polynesian culture, something you don't see everyday," Richert-Hess said.

The event was the last in the Honors College R & R Series for this semester. Previous events have included a handwriting analysis session and traditional acoustic bluegrass music.

Georgia Dennis, Honors College Event Coordinator, expressed interest in continuing the R & R series.

"I think we'll keep these up in the spring," Dennis said. "We've had great turnouts to all the events so far." ♦



## Dear Emily



Dear Emily,

*I have a crush on my best girl friend and I want to ask her out, but I don't want to mess up our friendship.*

*We've been friends for a couple of years, and lately we've started to become even closer. She understands me better than anybody else, and we can talk about anything. We always have fun, we make each other laugh, and I absolutely love being with her.*

*I value her friendship more than anybody else's, but the problem is, I've always liked her as more than a friend. Now I don't know if I can be "just friends" with her any longer.*

*On the other hand, if she doesn't feel the same way, my confession would ruin our friendship. Or worse, if we date and then break up, I'm afraid we'd never be best friends again. I don't know if I could stand losing my best friend.*

*But I don't know if I can keep going like this without telling her how I feel.*

*What should I do? I'm really torn up about this. Should best friends ever date?*

Just Friends

Dear Just Friends,

Rest assured, your dilemma is not an unusual one. Very rarely can two people of the opposite sex remain very close friends without one or the other developing a romantic interest in the other.

It's a natural progression for friendship to increase your mutual respect of each other and for that to grow into something more than "just friends." Being friends also breeds a special familiarity and closeness that can only come from knowing the other person inside and out.

Obviously, some people will become less interesting the more you get to know them and discover that you don't share as many common

interests and ideals as you originally thought. So when you find someone who intrigues you more as you spend more time together, it's special.

Now, not only is it possible for best friends to date, but it can actually be one of the best ways to start a relationship.

Behind every great romance is a great friendship. Think about it: What better person to spend the rest of your life with than your best friend in the whole world?

A good friend once told me, "Love can't just be based on fizzle because fizzle can die."

Physical attraction and romantic chemistry are important, but when the magic fades, there has to be something deeper to keep you together.

Friendship is a great foundation for love because it begins with a genuine interest in the person and requires spending a lot of time getting to know the other person in neutral situations.

Friendship chemistry is just as important as romantic chemistry. Knowing that you click with someone and can hang out with them in non-romantic settings will keep your relationship well-rounded, with a strong foundation.

This will be especially important as you go through less-than-perfect life experiences and need each other's support and companionship to see you through.

As for your other concern - whether you would be able to stay best friends if things didn't work out - it depends. Generally, it's hard to go back to being friends, especially if things end badly. But it can be done.

Your ability to remain friends relies on your commitment to your friendship.

It may be that you won't be able to be friends again right away, but after some time your friendship may return.

In the end, life is full of risks. Maybe it won't work out, but sometimes you just have to take the risk without knowing the outcome.

My personal opinion is go for it. Life is short and if you don't tell her how you feel, you will always wonder if you should have.

If you can't stand the idea of being "just friends" anymore, then take the chance that she feels the same way.

I hope everything works out well for you! ♦

## Freshmen differences obvious to seniors

### Memoirs of a senior



Brittany Matern  
Contributing Columnist

Walking across campus, it's easy to pick out a freshman from a senior. No offense, freshmen, but you kind of stick out like sore thumbs.

Besides the obvious age difference between freshmen and seniors, there are many other differences. You might be surprised to find out that they are more alike than you might think.

My 18-year-old sister, Jenny Matern, is a freshman at MTSU this semester. It was fun for me to see her get ready for the big change because I could remember myself being in the same position three short years ago.

Jenny spent the summer buying things for her dorm room and worrying about how she was going to fit all the things from her bedroom at home into her much smaller dorm room.

"I guess when I was getting ready to come to college my senior year in high school, it was all pretty surreal - like I knew I was going to college, but I didn't really think things would change that much. I just sort of assumed it would be high school but further away from home," Jenny said. "But once I got here I realized that it was actually a lot different."

My own summer, on the other hand, was spent doing an internship and trying to get geared up for my senior year.

My worries were focused more on things like, "Have I taken all of the classes I need to graduate?" and "What am I going to do after I graduate?"

Mimi Thomas, career coordinator for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, suggested that seniors "use the services of the Career Center, and register with the Career Center's resume referral service, so that we may refer your resume for employment."

She also said it's important for freshmen to become familiar with the career center and its services.

Probably the hardest thing freshmen have to deal with is moving away from home for the first time. Seniors know how hard this is because we've been there, too.

If you're lucky, you may be moving in with a friend from home. If not, you have to worry about who you're going to get stuck with and whether or not that person will bathe on a regular basis.

The other thing freshmen don't realize is that

college is much different from high school.

"It has been my experience that many freshmen come to campus expecting the university to be much like high school and are very surprised by both the freedom and restrictions they now have," said Larry Burriss, School of Journalism professor and president of the MTSU Faculty Senate. "Freedom in the sense that they are pretty much on their own in terms of scheduling and budgeting time. Restrictions in the sense that much more work and effort is expected and thus time can be much more limited."

"My classes are so routine because it's not the same every day and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, I actually get out before lunch. Things were really stressful at first and I'm still trying to get into a new routine," Jenny said.

Campus is another obstacle for freshmen. Seniors could probably walk around campus with their eyes closed. The MTSU campus has become their second home.

If you ask a freshman about the campus, they'd probably say, "It's huge! I always get lost trying to find my classes. I can't remember which building is which."

Trust me, campus gets smaller. I swear it has shrunk since I was a freshman.

Yuri Force is a resident assistant in freshman dorm Jim Cummings Hall. He said one of the biggest differences between freshmen and seniors is the amount of energy freshmen have.

"Most seniors are scared about what they are about to do in life and don't have time to engage in much physical activity. They put that last on their list of things to do," Force said.

"Freshmen, however, are very energetic when it comes to doing anything having to do with college. They are always ready to go do something physical, and they are excited about small things like eating on their own and making their own routine - something that seniors now take for granted," Force said.

Freshmen come to college to begin the search for their identity. College is supposed to be the place where you find yourself.

I've got some bad news, though. The seniors are still looking too. The search for your identity is a lifelong search, so don't get upset if you can't find yourself this year.

I guess when it comes right down to it, we're all a little bit scared. Seniors, try to remember what it was like when you were a freshman, and maybe you could lend a hand the next time you see a freshman looking a little lost.

Freshmen, know that we've been there before and we know what you're going through.

We could probably learn a lot from each other. As Force said, "It's just a matter of experience and making it through." ♦



## Holmes, Horton lead Lady Raiders to road victories

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team spent the weekend in the state of Georgia and came home with a couple of victories.

Thursday night the Lady Raiders defeated Georgia State (0-2), 64-49. MT was able to hit the boards in the opening half with 20, including 13 defensive rebounds. The rebounding helped the Lady Raiders jump out to a 15-point advantage at the half.

The Lady Raiders began the second half on a 6-2 run thanks to three baskets by Krystle Horton.

MT started to go cold in the second half, however, and did not score a point for almost seven minutes.

Georgia State was only able to muster six points during that time to close the gap to 60-45 with less than two minutes to go.

However, Patrice Holmes nailed a three-pointer with 1:50 to go, and Ditto Jakobsen added a free throw to finish the scoring for the Lady Raiders.

"Evening our record to 3-3 is huge for this basketball team because it gives us confidence," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations. "It was also nice to get a road win."

Horton had 19 points, the most for the Lady Raiders, with four rebounds and two assists. Holmes added 18 with seven rebounds and Tia Stovall chipped in 13.

"It is important for Tia and Krystle to have big games on the same night," Smith said. "We

have been waiting for that, although we are still giving up too many turnovers."

Monica Thomas led the Lady Panthers with 17 points and a career-high 11 rebounds. Patechia Hartman added 12 points, and Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen had a game-high three steals.

A couple of nights later the Lady Raiders finished their stay in Georgia with a 66-54 victory against Georgia Southern.

MT had to hold off the Eagles in the second half as GSU cut the lead to 10 on two separate occasions.

However, with 10:30 remaining in the contest, Horton hit a jumper to increase the lead to 12. The Eagles were not able to trim the lead any further.

Holmes scored 20 points to lead all scorers and had four three-pointers. Horton added 13 and Chrissy Givens had 12.

Dana Benemon led the Eagles with 13 points and five rebounds. Kellie Tiller added nine points.

The Lady Raiders improved to 4-3 on the season, while Georgia Southern dropped to 2-4.

Ciara Gray played in her first action since coming back to the team last week and scored her first points since last February in the win over GSU.

Gray went down with a season-ending injury on Feb. 4, 2004 against Florida International.

The next game for MT is Thursday night at Tennessee Tech for the final game of the Lady Raiders' six-game road trip. That game will start at 6 p.m. ♦

## MT puts leash on Bulldogs

By Mark Emery  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee continued its dominance over Tennessee teams at the Murphy Center as the Blue Raiders easily defeated Tennessee Wesleyan 81-46 on Thursday.

Marcus Morrison led the Blue Raiders with 15 points in addition to a career-high 10 rebounds. He was one of four Blue Raiders to score in double figures, as the team improved to 7-4 against in-state teams under head coach Kermit Davis and 7-1 at home.

The Blue Raiders (3-2) were without the services of Mike Dean as he sat out the game due to a sprained knee. Dean leads the team in scoring with an average of 18 points per game and was also the leader in assists going into the game.

Dean's absence did not seem to hurt the Blue Raiders, however, as Jonathan Loe earned his first career start at MT and played a solid game with nine points, four rebounds and two assists.

"I thought Jonathan Loe played well in the first half," Davis said. "He seemed like the perimeter guy who had some confidence. He shot the ball and he ran the floor well. It was good for Marcus Morrison with a double-double tonight. There were positive things. A win is a win."

Michael Cuffee scored 11 points and grabbed a career-high 14 rebounds. Of the 14 boards, Cuffee recorded eight of them were on offense.

The Blue Raiders once again relied on defense, as they held Tennessee Wesleyan to only 31 percent shooting from the field. They also attacked the



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

MT's Marcus Morrison led the Blue Raiders with 15 points in an 81-46 win Thursday.

glass for a 54-33 advantage over the Bulldogs.

"We were trying to attack the glass very hard and get a lot of offensive rebounds," Cuffee said. "Early we missed a lot of easy shots, so we have to keep working hard on not doing that in practice."

In the first half the Blue Raiders only shot 37 percent, but once again their defense helped them out. They held Tennessee Wesleyan to 25 per-

cent and 3-of-15 on three-point shots. With solid defense and offensive rebounding the Blue Raiders went into halftime with a 34-19 lead.

In the second half the Blue Raiders began to get into an offensive rhythm while maintaining their defensive edge. MT shot 54 percent and held Tennessee Wesleyan to 36 percent shooting.

Kyle Young and Fats Cuyler both managed to record a

career-high in points, as Young tied his old mark with 12 points and Cuyler recorded 10 points. Bryan Smithson, who was coming off his second career game without recording an assist, led the Blue Raiders with eight assists and also scored nine points.

The Blue Raiders defeated Tennessee State 96-94 last night. *Sidelines* will have a full report on that game in Wednesday's edition. ♦

## Riverdale finally breaks through for fourth championship

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

Riverdale High School finally put the past to rest Saturday night, as the Warriors defeated Franklin High School 35-7 in the TSSAA Class 5A State Championship at Floyd Stadium.

The top-ranked Warriors dominated the Rebels from the outset. On the game's first possession, running back Gaston Miller scored on a five-yard run, putting Riverdale ahead 7-0. A tough Warrior defense forced Franklin to punt, setting the tone for the rest of the contest.

"We just shot ourselves in the foot," Rebels offensive tackle Ben Seale told *The Tennessean*. "It's our fault we lost. But it's the first time in Franklin history we've ever made it this far."

With 7:50 remaining in the second quarter, Miller plunged into the end zone from one yard out, increasing the Riverdale lead to 14-0. That score was set up by a drive covering the length of the field, as Class 5A Mr. Football winner and Riverdale quarterback Dave Thomas converted numerous third-down plays.

Thomas finished with 98 yards rushing

and a touchdown on 12 carries. As a team, the Warriors outrushed the Rebels 344-74. Franklin running back Derian Waters was held to 72 yards on the ground, well below his average.

At the half, the Warrior lead was only 14, giving Rebel fans hope for a second-half comeback. But it was not to be.

"It was a hard-fought first half, but we had it in our mind that we had to win this game, so we went out and did just that," Miller said.

Franklin began the second half deep in their own territory. Hardly before the drive had started, a leaping one-handed interception by linebacker Rahmel Oliver gave Riverdale the ball back at the Rebel 18. Four plays later, Miller scored his third touchdown of the night on a pitch left from Thomas.

"We communicate out there on defense and a lot of defenses don't," Oliver, who was named defensive most valuable player of the game, told *The Tennessean*. "We talk all the time out there and let people know who's in motion and everything."

Riverdale went ahead 28-0 on a tough run by Thomas, who took the ball in from nine yards out and finished the play diving just inside the left pylon. The win capped an impressive career for the quarterback,

known as much for his legs as his arm.

"I think we dominated most of all. Our offense played well, our defense was good, the kicking game was solid... all-around good effort," Thomas said.

Franklin finally got on the board with 1:08 remaining in the contest, when Michael Mikrut found Todd Campbell on a 22-yard pass. The Rebels finished with only 153 yards of total offense, including just 13 in the first half. The Warriors, meanwhile, narrowly missed a shutout.

"We wanted a shutout. I don't think there's ever been one in a 5A championship game before," Riverdale head coach Gary Rankin said.

Miller capped the scoring with his fourth touchdown, finishing with 141 yards on 20 carries. With that yardage the junior tailback eclipsed the 2,000 mark for the season.

"Gaston and Dave both played determined," Rankin said. "They weren't going to leave this field with a loss. You could tell that."

"It [the championship] means a lot," Thomas said. "Every senior on here deserves every bit of this. We went through a lot this summer, and we've been waiting for this moment." ♦

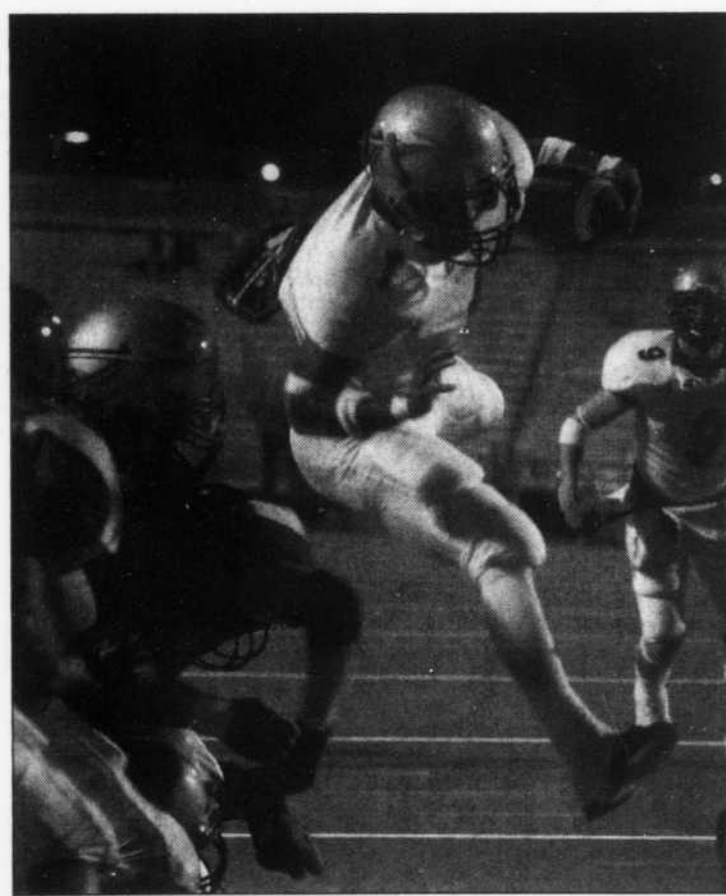


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Riverdale's Gaston Miller ran for 141 yards on 20 carries.

## Maryville wins on blocked extra point

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

In the only championship game featuring two undefeated teams, Memphis Melrose and Maryville didn't disappoint fans looking for a close game.

But on a weekend filled with high-octane games, Maryville and Memphis were deadlocked in an old-fashioned defensive struggle.

The Maryville Rebels held on to a 7-6 lead against the Melrose Golden Wildcats, as the difference came on a blocked extra point.

"You just never know when the big plays are going to be. Who would have thought it would have been a blocked extra point?" Maryville head coach George Quarles said.

The game was just what the Wildcats wanted: a low-scoring affair with a lot of big hits and tough defense. Both teams took the ball inside the red zone several times, but came away with no points.

Melrose held Cade Thompson, the Class

4A Mr. Football winner, to only 131 total yards of offense. Thompson provided the only score for the Rebels when he completed a nine-yard pass to Stephen Childs.

Maryville answered by holding Graig Cooper, the Wildcats' Mr. Football finalist, somewhat in check. Cooper, who was named the offensive MVP, finished with 146 yards of total offense and one touchdown. Cooper scored on a 29-yard screen pass from quarterback Courtney Madison.

Unlike its victories in the past, Maryville relied on its defense to carry the team.

"This is the best our defense has played all season," Quarles said. "We gave up some big plays, but [we] just hung in there all night, and made enough plays offensively and defensively to win the game."

The Rebel defense was led by Matt Valentine and Gary Tucker, who combined for 14 tackles. Tucker received the defensive MVP award for his five-tackle performance and his blocked extra point.

The vaunted Melrose defense did not disappoint, either, led by an impressive performance from Kenyatta Fullilove, who finished with six tackles and an interception. Mr. Football winner Gregory Hardy had seven tackles and a sack.

Coming into the game, Maryville was not concerned with the size of the Wildcats, but their speed instead.

"They really run to the ball well, they have a fine defensive football team, [and] we were fortunate to come away with a 1-point win," Rebels assistant coach David Ellis said. "Going into the game, I thought a bigger difference would be speed."

Quarles was clearly proud of his team's legacy as the Rebels won their fourth championship in five years.

"Well, we have an unbelievable tradition at Maryville High School," Quarles said. "Our community does a great job in supporting us. I think our kids take a lot of pride in that." ♦

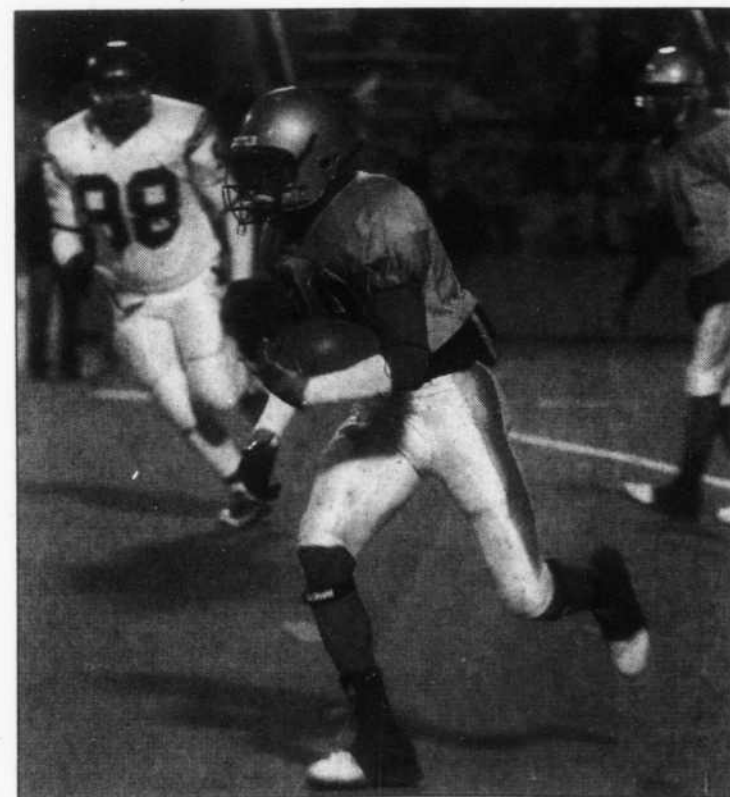


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Melrose's Graig Cooper had 146 yards and one score.



# Falcons dominate Bobcats in 3A title game

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

Saturday's Class 3A title game between the Fulton Falcons and the Greenbrier Bobcats was a tale of two halves.

The first half featured a defensive struggle, with both teams visiting the end zone only once. The Falcons owned the second half, however, as they added 28 points en route to a 34-6 victory.

After the teams traded touchdowns to open the game, the first half was filled with a number of turnovers and mistakes for both offenses. Fulton had four fumbles but did not lose any of them. Greenbrier had several three-and-outs.

According to Fulton coach Buck Coatney, the only adjustment the Falcons needed to make was to play harder.

"We just told our players we had to cut out mistakes and turnovers," Coatney said. "We did that and things turned out good for us. We took care of business."

The Falcons took over the game in the second half, allowing only 218 yards of total offense while churning out 492 yards of their own.

The Falcons held the Bobcats to a quick three-and-out. Fulton quickly drove down the field and scored on a 2-yard Jam Fine touchdown, his second of the game.

Fine was named the game's

most valuable player after he finished with 167 yards on the ground and four touchdowns. Fine repeated his coach's assertion that the team's main focus coming out was confidence.

"We had really no adjustments to make on offense or defense," he said. "All we had to do was play better."

Fulton's defense was led by defensive MVP Tyrone Cobb, who had eight tackles, a sack and a forced fumble. Combined with the offensive explosion, the Bobcats were overwhelmed.

Greenbrier's offense featured Class 3A Mr. Football winner Kyle Herndon, but he was no match for a Falcon defense that held him to 76 yards on the ground.

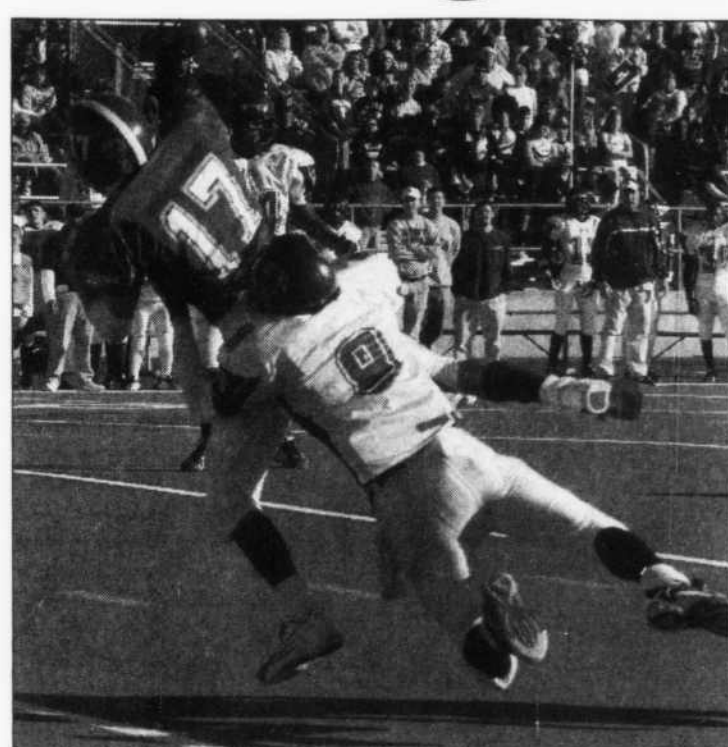
Greenbrier head coach Kirk Williams was still positive after the loss, however.

"We are very proud of our kids," Williams said. "A little bit of everything went wrong. Probably the biggest thing was Fulton being such a good football team. My hat's off to Fulton and their staff."

For the Falcons, the win marked their second championship in as many years – and the feeling was just the same as the first time.

"Oh, it's great," Coatney said. "It just never gets old." ♦

Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer  
**Kyle Herndon had one reception in Greenbrier's 34-6 loss to Fulton.**



# Campbell, Tigers defeat Volunteers in SEC championship

By Jill Davis  
Staff Writer

The Auburn Tigers went 12-0 for the first time in their school's history after defeating the Tennessee Volunteers 38-28 Saturday night.

The Tigers controlled the game, winning their first SEC title since 1989.

"This is a true team, from top to bottom," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said in the press conference after the game.

Senior quarterback Jason

Campbell led the Tigers with three touchdowns and 431 total yards, an SEC record. He completed 307 of 374 yards, his first 300-yard passing game of his career.

"We definitely deserve a chance to play for the national championship," Campbell said.

Things were a lot different in this game than the previous meeting, when the Tigers won 34-10. This time, however, penalties crippled the Vols.

"In my 13 years of coaching I have never criticized the officials,"

UT head coach Phillip Fulmer said. "Most of the time I have taken up for them. I am going to have to watch the game film later and look at the plays."

Carnell "Cadillac" Williams ran for 100 yards and one score on 19 carries, but Campbell was the star of the game, as the Auburn offense rolled up 559 yards of total offense.

UT running back Gerald Riggs did his part for the Vols. Riggs gained 183 yards on 11 carries, becoming the first runner in 17 games to surpass 100 yards

against the Auburn defense. Cedric Houston also ran for a touchdown, even though the Volunteers had only one rushing score all season.

UT quarterback Rick Clausen completed only eight out of 20 passes for 69 yards.

The Volunteers trailed only 21-7 at halftime because of two big mistakes by Auburn. Auburn punter Kody Bliss mishandled a snap near the end of the first quarter that set up a 2-yard touchdown dive by Cedric Houston.

In a position to extend

Auburn's two-touchdown lead, Campbell attempted a pass over the middle that was tipped by Tennessee's Omar Gaither and fell into the hands of Corey Campbell in the end zone.

Kevin Burnett forced a fumble early in the second half, leading to Clausen's 17-yard touchdown pass to Robert Meachem.

Riggs was not touched after a punt from Bliss and ran for an 80-yard touchdown, tying the score at 21.

The Tigers responded with a

53-yard touchdown pass from Campbell to Devin Aromashodu less than three minutes later, however, the Tigers never trailed again.

Tennessee kept the game close when Gerald Riggs ran for a 9-yard touchdown with 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter to pull the Vols to within three at 31-28.

However, Campbell threw his final touchdown for the Tigers, a 43-yard pass to Ben Obomanu, with 6:56 remaining. ♦

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Employment

Get paid cash to Answer Text Messages on Your Cell Phone! It's FREE. It's Easy. Opt-in @ [www.PollCast.net](http://www.PollCast.net).

**Banner Artist needed:** The Campus Recreation Marketing Department is taking applications for a banner artist on an as needed basis. This is an excellent opportunity for someone with this skill who is in need of work experience to add to their resume/portfolio. Applications must be filled out at the Campus Recreations Office, 8-4:30 p.m., M-F. Some experience is necessary; portfolio will be reviewed at interview. For more information, contact Jenny or Jeff at 898-2104.

**Project HELP** is in need of a part-time assistant for the hours of 10:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. The responsibilities include assisting in the classroom and warming children's lunches from 10:15-11:00, cleaning lunch dishes, loading and unloading children from van and riding van as van assistant. Hours ARE NOT flexible, days are Monday-Thursday through the university breaks as well. \$7.00 per hour. Call Debbie Bauer at 898-2458 to schedule an interview.

Part-time Youth Minister for local Southern Baptist Church. Flexible week-end hours. Phone (423) 837-7455, leave message.

Part-time position available for pianist in local Baptist Church. Please call 893-4885.

**Water Aerobic Instructors Needed** for 5-6 pm. class at Campus Recreation beginning Oct. 25. \$10/hour. Training available if interested. For more information, call Pam at 2255.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall, Room 333.

**Need Money?** Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

### Opportunities

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**VINYL SOUP** is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin.

[www.vinylsoup.com](http://www.vinylsoup.com). Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

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Attention: Singers Songwriters, Actors/Actresses, Voice over, film making, etc. A promotional agent is looking for clients. E-mail at [harmonyman777@yahoo.com](mailto:harmonyman777@yahoo.com). Thank you and whenmagazine@yahoo.com! Ask for Doug.

Guitar and keys wanted to join established rhythm section. Call for details 703-725-3273. Ask for Ryan.

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### Sales

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12" JL Audio Sub with box and Series II Z2X-820 watt amp. \$100 obo. Call Jonathan 904-5654.

Bass equipment. Peavey cabinet with 2-10" subs. Crate cabinet with 2-15" JLB Subs. AmPeg BSR bass amp head. \$700 obo. Call Jonathan 904-5654.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. E-mail: [deb\\_mtsu@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_mtsu@yahoo.com). Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

New Toshiba Lapyop computer w/ Intel Celeron Processor, DVD/CD-RW, 256-MB Ram, 40 GB Hard Drive with Windows XP, 56K Modem. Call 615-491-4656.

Beautiful brand new, NEVER worn wedding dress for sale. Has a wonderful flower design tank Aline style, about 3-4 ft. train. Size 2 A MUST SEE!! Paid \$750, will take \$500. If interested please call 615-308-9623 or e-mail at [at3g@mtsu.edu](mailto:at3g@mtsu.edu).

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035

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**Rodney: 615-848-4375**  
(no large items cars - etc)

CB Maxx SP series 5 piece drum set, 14 inch Wuhan hi-hat, one ride, crash, throne. Barely used, great beginner set. \$350 or best offer. Love the set but not enough room. Call and leave a message Joe @ 904-2035

### Automotive

#### Roommates

Female roommate needed ASAP! Looking for a clean, responsible roommate to share a brand new house in a new development with 2 other girls. Room has never been lived in. House has 3 BR 2 BA with a garage. Rent is \$375-includes everything. Please call 615-419-6696 for more information.

Female sublesser needed for bedroom in a 4 BR apt. at Sterling Univ. Courtyards. Free daily shuttle to school, swimming pool, hot tub, free tanning. Lease is Jan-Aug \$376/mo. furnished, utilities, internet \*will pa \$100 of first month.

I am looking for a female roommate who is responsible and doesn't party much (at least at home). I have a real-

ly pretty house in a nice subdivision about 2 miles from MTSU. Please call ASAP to see the house. Thanks! 615-653-8003.

Male roommate needed to share house w/3 guys. \$250/mo. + 1/4 utilities. Biking/walking distance from MTSU. No deposit. 817-913-4898.

I am a graduate student who is looking for a non-smoker, responsible and clean roommate to share 1300 sq ft. apartment only blocks from campus. Renter would have own private bath and walk-in closet. Rent is \$305 plus half utilities (phone, cable, electric, water). Deposit required. Please call 615-904-7246 or 931-334-0985 for more information.

21-yr-old female seeking roommate to share 2bd/ba at Oak Park Apts. \$279/month + \$150 deposit. Washer and dryer included. Move-in and last month's rent upon possible. No preference regarding sexual orientation. Please call 615-631-8479 ASAP!

Female sub-leaser wanted for one bedroom in a two bedroom two bath apt @ Univ. Courtyard. Located on 1st floor 2/no noisy neighbors above or around. This apartment usually rents for \$525 but get in NOW for \$495 w/a \$99 dep. Move in ASAP, lease will end in July. Contact me Me ASAP at 615907-0794 or [Hnp2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:Hnp2b@mtsu.edu)

Female roommate needed ASAP. 3 BR/2BA house Stonegate subdivision. \$325 plus 1/3 utilities; 5 minutes from campus. Brand new house, 2 car garage, high speed internet, W/D included. Call 731-693-9595 or 615-585-4802.

Male, non-smoker roommate wanted to share 3 bd/2ba with female. 20 minutes from campus. Must sign 6 months or 1 year lease. \$350 plus 1/2 utilities. \$100 deposit required. Call Lisa 615-415-9302-leave msg.

### Sublesser

Sublesser needed at University Gables to lease a room in a 4 BD 2 BA. Roommates are great, shuttle bus to MTSU. \$100 off first months rent. Contact 506-2158.

Sublesser needed for a 2 BD apt. @ Campus Crossings. Fully furnished, 24-hour fitness center, computer lab, shuttle bus to campus, next to greek row. **LESS THAN ACTUAL RENT!** Call 901-487-2716 or Dustin 931-260-8582.

Female roommate wanted, 4BD 2BA, full kitchen and utility room, in College Park (formerly Sterling Gables), computer room, exercise room, pool & hot tub, utilities included. \$335/month with Dec. rent paid. Call 615-243-8701 or 615-449-7507 if interested.

University Courtyard 4 BD 4BA free sublease! Move in Jan. 2005. Male transferring student! Must sublease!

\$395 a month. 615-351-0448.

Sublesser needed to share 3 BR apt. November rent paid. Will only have to pay from December - August 2005. Rent is \$439/mo. includes all utilities and the apartment is fully furnished. If interested please e-mail [becmarsh@bellsouth.net](mailto:becmarsh@bellsouth.net) or phone 423-842-6452 collect.

Campus Crossings 2BD. Rent \$505/mo. All girl apt. 1 Rm. vacant during spring semester. All utilities included. Call Shea at 615-218-1888. Lease until July, stating Jan. 1st!!

Need female roommate to sublease 4 BD house starting after school commences in Dec. Rent is \$240/mo including all utilities, cable and internet! Right directly across from Murphy Center. Can walk to class. Please call 516-457-0904.

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# Tornadoes storm back to win 2A title game



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Alcoa's Dustin Lindsey was named Offensive MVP Friday.

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

The Alcoa Tornadoes won the Class 2A championship Friday night by defeating Huntingdon 52-41 in a game that rewrote the record books.

"We had to believe, we kept saying that on the sidelines, and it worked out," Alcoa coach John Reid said.

Defense was at a premium for both teams, which combined for 60 points in the first half and 1,037 yards of total offense in the game, both of which are new BlueCross Bowl records.

Alcoa jumped out to an early 13-0 lead with a score on its opening drive and a 61-yard touchdown pass from Joe Fiegler to Dustin Lindsey on its following possession.

Huntingdon then answered with a 56-yard pass of its own from Cody Crocker to Scott Hampton. Alcoa struck back with a 1-yard Lindsey touchdown.

Huntingdon was not through,

though, scoring again to pull within six. The Mustang defense finally stopped Alcoa and forced the Tornadoes to punt. The Mustangs then scored on a 69-yard touchdown catch by Chris Donald to go up 21-20 with the extra point.

Alcoa stormed back down the field for an answering score with Lindsey running in from 20 yards out, but the Tornadoes missed the extra point.

Lindsey, who was named the offensive MVP, finished with 281 total yards and three touchdowns.

The fireworks continued as Huntingdon took the kickoff and marched down the field to score in six plays covering 74 yards, bringing the score to 27-26.

The Tornadoes once again were stopped, and Huntingdon took advantage by scoring again to take a 34-26 lead at halftime.

"We came into the game and we tried not to underestimate them, but we did — look at the score," Lindsey said. "We went back and went in the locker

room, got yelled at and played a great second half."

The Tornadoes didn't immediately begin playing well, however. The Mustangs immediately scored to open the second half, leaving Alcoa with a 41-26 deficit. Two plays later Alcoa fumbled and Huntingdon recovered.

The Alcoa defense rose to the occasion, however, and forced Huntingdon to punt. On the ensuing punt, Richeon Bell returned the kick for a BlueCross Bowl-record 86 yards to pull within seven at 41-34.

The defenses began to tighten as a combined three drives ended for both teams.

Alcoa gained possession with 3:28 to go in the third quarter and scored on a 30-yard Logan Love scamper, but kicker Reed Guzzo missed his second extra point attempt and the Tornadoes remained behind 41-40.

Entering the fourth quarter, Alcoa stuffed the Mustangs on a fourth-and-two at midfield before having to give up the ball

again three plays later.

On Huntingdon's next possession, however, Mustang quarterback Cody Crocker was intercepted by Kyrus Lanxter, who had dropped a sure touchdown just a few plays earlier.

Alcoa drove down the field, but was stopped inside the 10-yard line. Guzzo calmly stepped in and kicked the go-ahead 28-yard field goal.

Fiegler described the kick as too hard to watch.

"I didn't even watch the ball; I just watched Reid," Fiegler said. "I could tell if it was going to go in and I saw him [celebrate]. I thought, 'Holy smokes, we're winning.'"

The kick was Guzzo's first career field goal.

"What a memorable first kick," Reid said. "We challenged our players, and they responded."

The Mustangs were stymied again by the Tornado defense, as Alcoa recorded a safety with 3:20 remaining that sealed the Tornadoes victory. ♦

# Revenge better late than never for DCA in overtime victory

By Jon Leffew  
Asst. Sports Editor

When Donelson Christian Academy took on Boyd Buchanan in the Class 1A football state championship on Friday, the Wildcats had something to prove.

The Wildcats were looking to avenge last year's 26-3 loss in the state championship and cap off a perfect season.

After Friday's first half, however, the Wildcats found themselves down 24-7.

But, the Wildcats overcame the deficit in the second half to capture the 31-24 overtime victory.

"He was determined," DCA head coach Dennis Goodwin said of his running back's play.

"He's been hurt most of the year and he was determined to make something happen."

The Buccaneers got on the board first when Drew Akins threw a touchdown pass to Matt Henley.

DCA responded on the ensuing drive, as Jim Fenwick fired a beautiful fade pass to Austin Garrett in the end zone for the score,

which tied the game at seven.

The following Boyd Buchanan drive ended deep in DCA territory, as the Bucs failed to convert on fourth down.

The Wildcats could not capitalize, as Matt Henley forced a fumble and Seth Williams recovered to give the Bucs possession at the DCA 38-yard line.

The Bucs then took the lead as time the first quarter clock expired, when Akins scrambled 26 yards for a touchdown.

With the extra point, the Bucs led at the end of one.

The teams then traded punts for most of the second quarter.

The Bucs would eventually increase their lead to 10 on a field goal from Perry.

The Wildcats then drove into Buccaneer territory and set up a field goal attempt with only four seconds remaining.

After the attempt was blocked, Daniel Atchley emerged out of the confusion with the ball and raced 87 yards down the sidelines to give the Bucs the 24-7 halftime lead.

The Wildcats wasted little time in responding in the second half, as Wooden

capped off their first drive with a 3-yard scoring run.

After a missed Boyd Buchanan field goal, Wooden cut the lead to three on a 79-yard touchdown run.

The Wildcats then added a field goal in the fourth to tie the score, and actually had an opportunity to win the game on another field goal attempt with 20 seconds remaining.

However, a bad snap resulted in a miss, and regulation ended with the game tied at 24.

In overtime, DCA scored on the first play from scrimmage, as Josh Tramel found Tiger Hoskins in the end zone for the score.

On the ensuing Buccaneer possession, Austin Garrett picked off a pass from Akins in the end zone to seal the game.

Wooden, who had 35 carries, 289 yards and two touchdowns, was named the Offensive MVP.

"It was totally a senior effort," Wooden said. "I just got to run the ball."

Atchley, who had seven tackles and the 87 yard return for a touchdown, was named the Defensive MVP. ♦

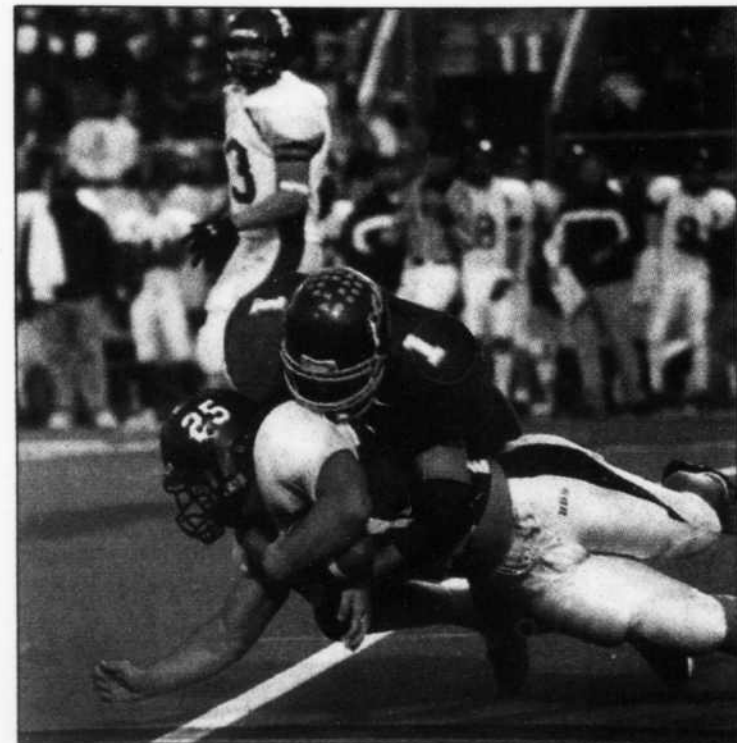


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

DCA's Regan Ingram (1) tackles Huntingdon's Matt Henley in the Wildcats' 31-24 overtime win on Friday.

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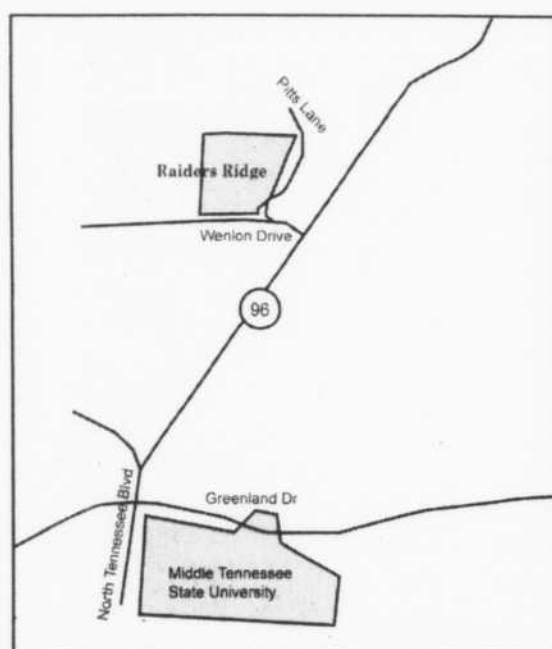
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