

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Monday, Aug. 27, 2007

Rutherford County
expands over years

See News, 2

Lavery explores best
bars in 'Boro

See Features, 9

Sportacus' fall
football preview

See Sports, 15

Monday, August 27

MTSU Department Fair
Free Cookies and Lemonade 12 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Sports Club Complex Fields and
Jogging Track Grand Opening 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 28

Meet Murfreesboro 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
KUC Courtyard

Wednesday, August 29

Meet Murfreesboro 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
KUC Courtyard
Comedian, Finesse Mitchell 8 p.m.
Murphy Center

Thursday, August 30

Blue Raider Bash
Big Fat Blue Raider Bake Off 5:30 p.m.
Beside Cummings Residence Hall

Saturday, September 1

MTSU Football Game at Florida Atlantic

Monday, September 3

Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 4

Volunteer Fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
KUC Courtyard

Wednesday, September 5

Student Organization Fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
KUC Courtyard

Thursday, September 6

MTSU Football Game at Louisville (ESPN2)

Photo and Graphic by Andy Harper - Managing Editor

From the President:



Sidney McPhee

Welcome Back! The start of a new academic year is always a time of excitement and renewed energy for our students, staff and faculty. If you're a first time student here or a new hired member of our academic community - we are especially pleased to have you join the MTSU family. You are now a part of Tennessee's Best comprehensive university and we are honored that you have chosen to join us here in Murfreesboro.

MTSU is a dynamic institution - proud of its heritage as university committed to the success of its students. Each member of the MTSU family - student, faculty, alumni or staff - is an important contributor to our success. Throughout our 96-year history we have been recognized as an institution focused on undergraduate education and we remain committed to teaching excellence at all levels of the university. However, as we near our centennial we are poised to also be recognized for excellence as a major comprehensive university with emphasis on undergraduate and selected graduate programs.

As our mission has grown and evolved, so have our programs. While we still maintain the prestigious responsibility as the leading educator of Tennessee's K-12 teachers, we have also seen excellence emerge in a number of new academic areas and specialties. One of the hallmarks of our efforts has been our adaptability and responsiveness to developing academic niche programs to meet the needs of our society. As a result, MTSU is now recognized as a national leader in a number of exciting programs from equine science to concrete industry management and from aerospace and aeronautical sciences to management in the recording industry.

This evolution has not limited itself to just our classrooms - there is change literally "going up" all around us. Currently on our campus we have, in either the planning stage or underway, more than \$400 million in new construction projects. Among the most visible are the additions to our Recreation Center and the renovation of our dormitories. Within the next year, we anticipate additional construction will begin on a new science building, a new home for our College of Education and a new student union.

Each of these projects not only adds value to our campus, but are visible reminders of our commitment to quality and maintaining a student centered learning environment.

This year we are also pleased to launch a new campus marketing initiative - the I'm One campaign. Designed to spotlight the value we place on each individual on our campus and the commitment we have to each student's success, this campaign will help tell the world about the wonderful, nurturing environment we value here at MTSU. Also, in conjunction with this effort, we begin the fall with redesigned Web presence.

This new look to the MTSU homepage and subsequent root pages will offer a more attractive welcome to online visitors to our campus and help us create a more connected look for our Web site.

As you can see, MTSU is truly on the move. Whether you're an "old timer" or this is your first experience on our campus - welcome! You are part of a wonderful institution and we look forward to your successes in the months ahead.

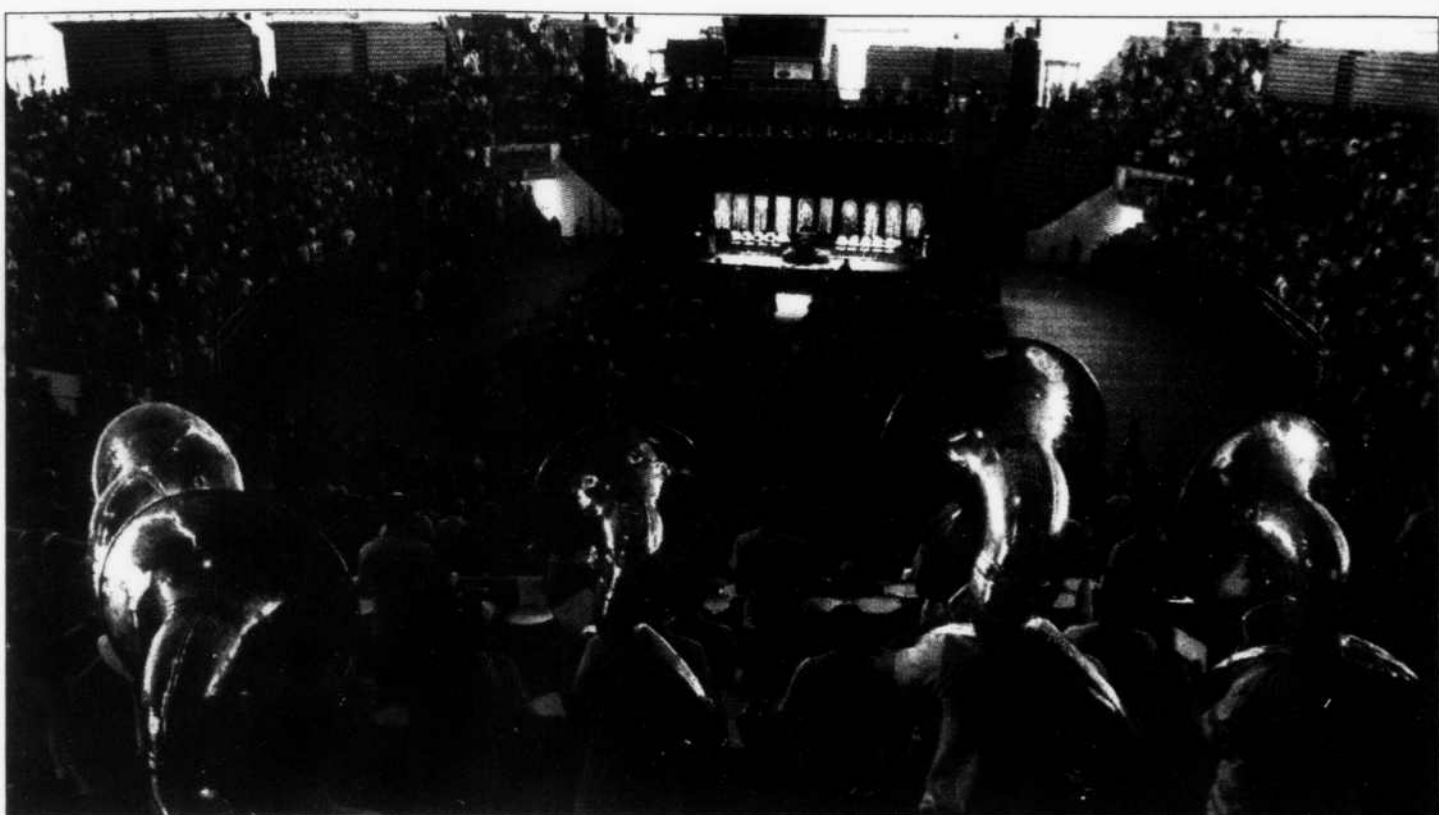


Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor
The MTSU Band of Blue plays from the balcony at Murphy Center for incoming students attending convocation on Sunday, August 27. This year's ceremony featured writer Paul Rusesabagina, author of "An Ordinary Man," as guest speaker.

WOW welcomes students

Christin Pepple

Campus News Editor

MTSU kicked off the fall semester of 2007 with Week Of Welcome, which was sponsored by the office of New Student and Family Programs.

Week of Welcome began on Friday with We-Haul, a program that partnered existing student organizations to help the incoming freshman move in to their residence halls.

Following We-Haul, WOW sponsored dinner and music in the quad. The band, Floyd the Barber, played while students ate. Afterwards, the movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" was shown.

"Things are going really well," said, Jackie Victory, director of leadership and service, "It's been hot [during We-Haul], but it hasn't stopped people from volunteering."

The following day was a continuation of We-Haul. Information booths were set up to aid students and their families with any questions they had about the campus or student programs. The Dinner and Street Fair that took place at 6 p.m. behind Corlew Residence Hall was open to all students.

"More alcoholic beverages would ease the atmosphere around here, but otherwise I think it's great," said Mark Flemington, sophomore and aerospace major at the

scene of the Dinner and Street Fair.

"I'm more excited about college but still a little nervous which I guess is natural for a freshman," said Rachel Beasley, freshman and digital animation major.

Sunday, convocation was held for all incoming students. The guest speaker for the event was Paul Rusesabagina, whom students may recognize as the inspiration for the film "Hotel Rwanda." Directly following the ceremony, a president's picnic was held at Walnut Grove.

"There is a committee that chooses a book for the summer reading and this year it was "An Ordinary Man," written by Paul Rusesabagina," said Rob Patterson, the coordinator of New Student and Family Programs. "We always try and get the author of the summer reading book to speak at convocation."

WOW will run until Thursday, Sept. 6, which ends at the MTSU football game at Louisville. Programs during the week that are geared to new students include the MTSU Department Fair, the opening of the Sport Club Complex Fields and Jogging Track, the Blue Raider Bash and Bake Off, Meet Murfreesboro and the Student Organization Fair.

"Week of Welcome this year is going to be the biggest ever," said Chris Smith, senior Math major and Student Orientation Assistant. "It will be tons of fun for the freshman and it will make them feel like a part of campus." ♦

"More alcoholic beverages would ease the atmosphere around here, but otherwise I think it's great."

- Mark Flemington

"I'm more excited about college but still a little nervous which I guess is natural for a freshman."

- Rachel Beasley



Photo by Andy Harper | Managing Editor
Dan Rucker, freshman and international relations major climbs the rock wall outside Corlew Hall at the Dinner and Street Fair on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Why are you excited about coming to MTSU?



Isaac Hall
Freshman, Recording Industry

"The freedom and getting into the real world."



Kaitlin Crowder
Freshman, Public Relations

"The PR program and the opportunity to travel."



Ashley Brooks
Freshman, Interior Design

"How big it is. I get to meet a bunch of different people."



Katrina Harris
Freshman, undeclared

"Meeting new people and rushing a sorority."

LOCAL FORECAST

Monday



HI: 98°
LO: 68°

Tuesday



HI: 98°
LO: 72°

Wednesday



HI: 95°
LO: 69°

Thursday



HI: 94°
LO: 67°

Vol. 83 No. 1 - www.mtsusidelines.com

Population rises in Middle Tenn

Rutherford County booms as MTSU continues to grow

By Mary Rose Fox

Community News Editor

Rutherford is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, according to estimates released in July by the U.S. Census Bureau. LaVergne is ranked 10 out of 347 cities and towns, with a growth rate of 46 percent. "Rutherford County is on the map," said Vice Mayor Jerry Gann of LaVergne, adding that for two quarters last year, the county ranked in the top in job growth per capita in the nation. "And there's more than one factor causing our tremendous growth."

Many residents commute to the city because they want the small town feel while working in Nashville. "You could almost consider us a satellite city to Nashville," Gann said, adding that four of the top 10 employers in Rutherford County are in LaVergne.

"We've been pretty blessed in Middle Tennessee," Gann said, explaining that other parts of the country have gone through economic slumps the last several years.

And Rutherford has a "pro-growth environment that facilitates job growth," said

Economic Development Director Holly Sears of the Rutherford Chamber of Commerce. "It's made for a very healthy economy."

MTSU has contributed to growth in the area with enrollment increasing more than 17 percent in six years, with student enrollment last fall nearing 23,000.

The university has brought a lot of new people into the area, "which is great," Sears said, adding that many students stay after finishing school. "The university is a huge driver of local economy."

The population of Murfreesboro is estimated to be more than 92,000, a 33 percent increase since the 2000 Census.

City planner Robert Lewis said that much of the growth stems from building up basic infrastructure and attracting businesses.

Highways help attract employers, Lewis said. Murfreesboro has two main roadways in and out of the city—S.R. 840 and Interstate 24. "If you build a road, they'll come to it," Lewis said.

The city is also proactive in annexing property for development, Lewis said, and the city is spreading west and there are plans

to expand roadways.

A newly opened commercial development, The Avenue, has brought in many businesses. "A lot of [growth] is due to quality of life," said Sears.

Sears described the development as a multi-pronged effort by the cities and county.

Industries such as healthcare, automotive, distribution and publishing have attributed to the growth in the area, Sears said.

People are moving out of Nashville for better cost of living.

Sears said there are three big projects underway in Rutherford County that are boosting the local economies: two business parks and the Avenue development.

LaVergne is the industrial hub of Middle Tennessee, Sears said. There is a business park opening up, with some businesses already up and running.

There is a 350 acre airport business park in process of development in Smyrna; currently businesses there, two of which are corporate headquarters.

"Are we done growing? No. I don't think so," Gann said. ♦

Top Growth in the State

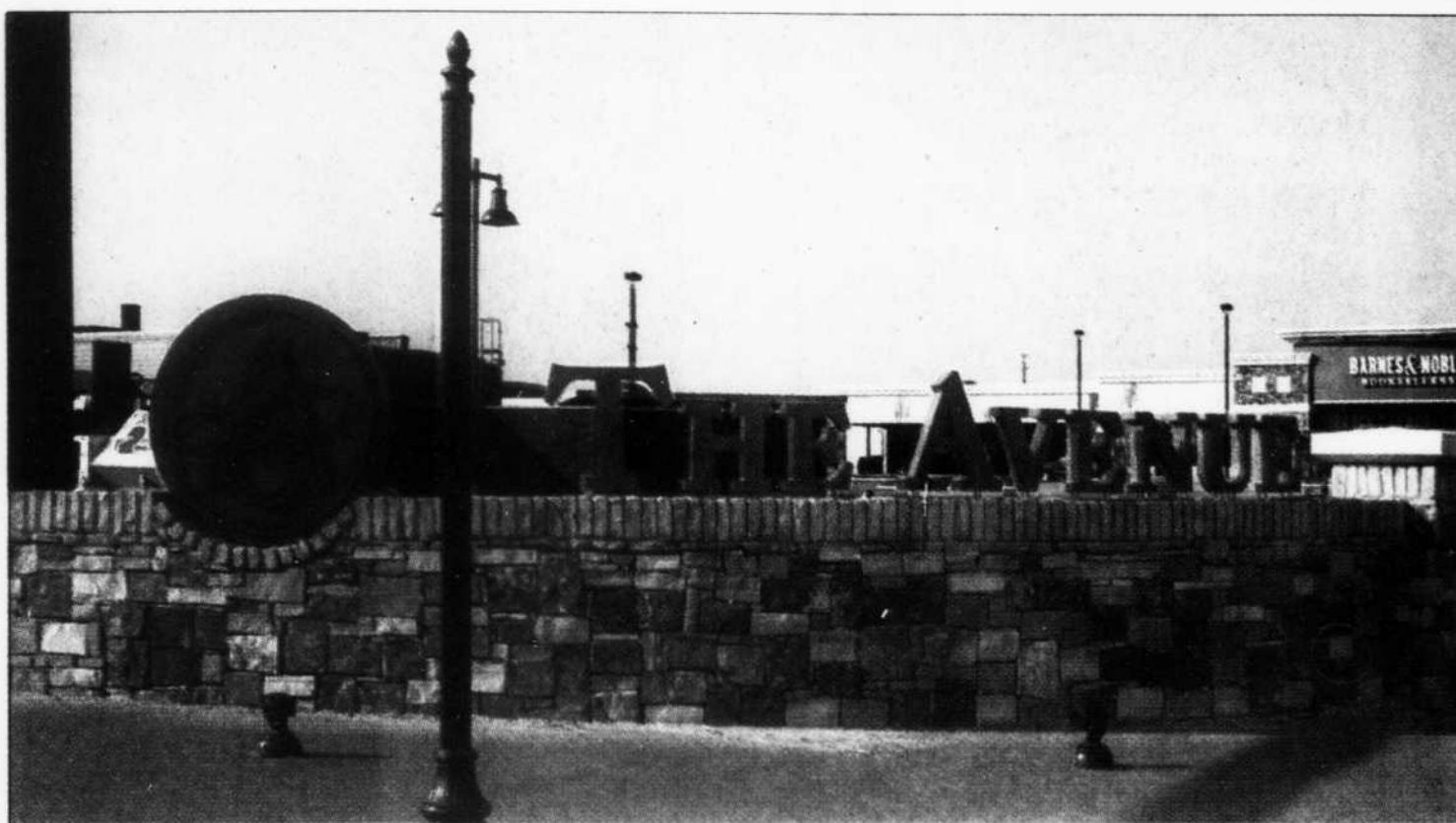
1. Spring Hill	169 %
2. Oakland	158 %
3. Atoka	95 %
4. Tiptonville	65 %
5. Piperton	63 %
6. Ridgetop	57 %
7. Mt. Juliet	57 %
8. Medina	55 %
9. Brighton	47 %
10. LaVergne	46 %

Information gathered by estimates released by the United States Census Bureau, released in July 2007.

Increases in Rutherford Population

	2000	2006	
Murfreesboro	69,722	92,559	33%
LaVergne	18,687	27,255	46%
Smyrna	27,007	34,491	28%
Eagleview	464	471	2%
Total RC	115,880	154,776	34%

Information gathered by estimates released by the United States Census Bureau, released in July 2007.



The Avenue project, on Medical Center Parkway in Murfreesboro, is bringing many retailers into the area. Some of the stores are already open for business.

Be in print:

Work for MTSU's editorially independent, student newspaper:

SIDELINES
Middle Tennessee State University

Sidelines is currently hiring staff for Spring 2007. Students who wish to obtain hands-on experience in journalism, or to develop a portfolio of materials to present to prospective employers, or who have an interest in participating on campus are welcome to apply.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Major: _____ Minors: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Classification: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Cum. GPA: _____

List computers and software have you used: _____

Positions interested in: _____

Other current employment: _____

Other major involvements: _____

List any related classes or experience: _____

List names and numbers for three references: _____

Return applications to:

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1301 E. Main St.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
Or bring to:
John Bragg Mass
Communications Bldg.
Room 269

Signature: _____

Indicates you have read and understood fully the above instructions. Students interested in paid staff positions must fill out the appropriate employment forms in the Sidelines office, John Bragg Mass Communications Building, Room 269, prior to or your first day of work. Please see the editor-in-chief or business manager for these forms.

Guidelines

1. Applicants must have and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or better.

2. If hired for a paid position, applicants must fill out all appropriate employment forms in the Sidelines office prior to or on the first day of employment. You cannot be legally employed until such forms are filled out.

3. Applicants should be prepared to bring samples of writing or a current photography portfolio if called for an interview.

Applicants who are hired will initially be employed as a contributing staff member for a trial period of three articles or photo assignments. Staff who submit timely work of a satisfactory quality will be paid beginning with their fourth submission.



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Tuesday Ladies Night \$3 Michelob Ultra \$5 Martinis \$3 Cherry Bombs SHAKE THAT BOOTY CONTEST

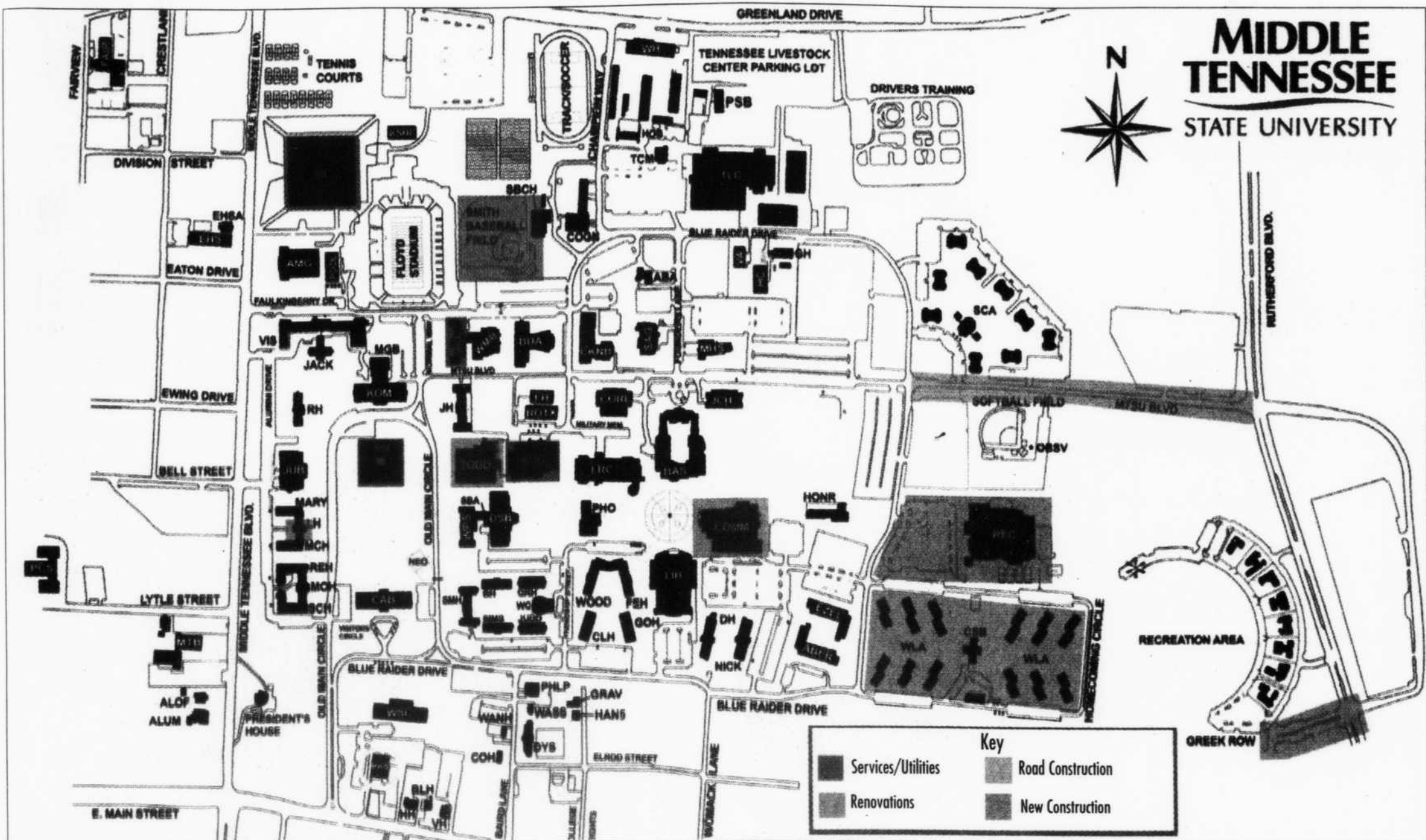
Wednesday Where Great Minds Drink Alike School of Rock All Beer \$3 Drink Specials

Thursday Welcome Back Students! College Night \$3 Bud Select \$5 Bombs

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www.thebigbangbar.com



Information compiled by Christin Pepple | Campus News Editor and Manda Turner | Editor in Chief. Graphic by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

Students welcomed with construction

Completed summer 2007:

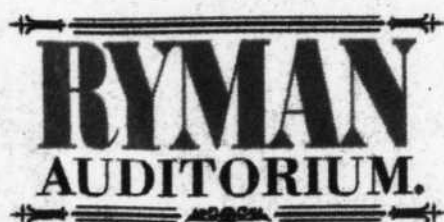
- ◆ The renovation of Monohan Hall is complete and students will be moving in.
- ◆ The Womack Lane Apartment buildings A, B, C, J, K and L have completed renovations that included painting, new sprinkler systems, new kitchen cabinets and appliances. Occupants have already moved in.
- ◆ The Wiser-Patten Science Building and the James Union Building have redone their sprinkler systems. Faculty has been allowed to resume working in the Wiser-Patten building.
- ◆ Repairs to the chilled water line running to the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College has been completed.
- ◆ Peck Hall construction has been completed, including the installation of the new HVAC units.
- ◆ Roofing replacements on Judd, Gracy and Smith Halls have been completed.

Still under renovation:

- ◆ Fire Alarm Upgrades to the master control system in the Saunders Fine Arts building, Peck Hall, the Keathley University Center and the Murphy Center are still in progress.
- ◆ The renovations to Womack Lane Apartments D, E, F, G, H and I are about to begin.
- ◆ The stretch from the new Rutherford Entrance near Greek Row to the three-way stop at Blue Raider Drive that has been renamed Alumni Drive, and will include separate bus and bike lanes at completion.

- ◆ The widening of MTSU Boulevard from Rutherford to the four-way stop at Blue Raider Drive has not been completed. The plans include a roundabout at the four-way stop.
- ◆ Parking plans for the Womack Lane Apartments have not been completed.
- ◆ Construction on the Student Health and Wellness Center, that will include pouring concrete and underground electrical work is still in progress.
- ◆ The construction of the unisex bathrooms, intended to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, on each floor of Peck Hall are still in progress, and there are plans for a new elevator for the building.
- ◆ The Lyon Hall renovations are still in progress.
- ◆ The fencing around the baseball stadium is still under construction.
- ◆ The Mass Communication building Mix Room 101 is still waiting for a projection screen.
- ◆ The work on the Observatory is still in progress.
- ◆ The Liberal Arts Dean Suite in Todd Hall will not be completed until September 1st.
- ◆ Future construction projects on campus that are still in the design phase are the new Science Building, the new Education Building and the new University Center.
- ◆ The construction on Highland and Fairview should be completed mid-October, as should the construction on Greenland, according to Kent Hays, assistant city engineer.

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Three assume new tasks

Renee Hathaway - Cheerleading Office



Hathaway

Title: Spirit Coordinator
Why are you excited about your position/responsibilities: "I'm excited to be back in higher education. I was the head coach at ETSU for seven years. Being assistant coach was nice, but I wasn't able to do what I wanted. I love my co-workers and really enjoy going to work every day. I get to do something I love and get paid for it."
What is the biggest challenge you face in your position: "We have a new squad with a lot of new freshman and transfers. The biggest challenge is getting them on the college level since they have been cheering so long on a high school level. With the veterans, the challenge is changing their outlook on the way the program was run and how I would like to run it."
What is your top goal to accomplish this year: "We want to build more traditions, like at football games. We also want to increase the overall pride of the cheerleaders, the community and the school. Another, more pressing goal, is getting a new assistant cheer coach hired in the next two weeks."

Carrie Smith - Office of Greek Life

Title: Coordinator of Greek Affairs
Why are you excited about your position/responsibilities: "I am excited about my position because I work with some of the best and brightest students on campus. They challenge me everyday in some way and I am blessed to be able to interact with them. I know that I have the opportunity to help them grow and learn and have an unforgettable college experience!"
What is the biggest challenge you face in your position: "Taking on the responsibility of 2 positions [Director and Coordinator] and making sure we continue to move in a positive direction as a Greek community."
What is your top goal to accomplish this year: "My top goal for this year is to empower the students to make positive change. I have high expectations for my students and really give a lot of responsibility to them in planning things such as recruitment and leadership development programs to name a few."



Smith

Luther Buie - Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs



Buie

Title: Interim Director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.
Why are you excited about your position/responsibilities: "Of course I am excited at this opportunity to step into this position as Interim Director for a short time, but I am more excited about the opportunities the under represented students on this campus will have to become more involved."
What is the biggest challenge you face in your position: "MTSU has a unique student population. It has students working as many hours as they are enrolled in so it makes it more like a commuter college. With that mentality it is harder to make students more aware of different cultures on this campus. I plan on addressing that through our programs."
What is your top goal to accomplish this year: "I want this office to be a safe haven for the under represented populations on this campus and to promote cultural awareness for all students. If students don't come to our programs, we will bring our programs to the students."

Biographies compiled by Christin Pepple - Campus News Editor and Andy Harper - Managing Editor

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New Procedures for Fee Adjustments

The Tennessee Board of Regents has instituted a new system-wide policy, effective Fall of 2007, for calculating refunds and fee adjustments. We want to inform all students about this change and also advise that if you plan to drop any courses or withdraw from the university, you should do so before classes begin for any particular term to receive a 100 percent refund.

Undergraduate students taking more than 12 hours benefit in that tuition calculations are capped at 12 hours, and no additional tuition and fees are assessed for registering for more than 12 hours.

This new system will affect full-time students taking more than 12 hours who - during a fee-adjustment period - adjust their schedules below 12 hours, including withdrawal. Students who fall into this category will be assessed a prorated fee for the dropped hours.

Example: If a student originally registered for 15 hours and dropped to 9 hours during the 75 percent fee-adjustment period, the adjusted student-fee assessment before any refund will be nine hours at the full rate per hour and six hours at 2 percent of the per-hour rate.

The difference between this calculated assessment and the original tuition and fee amounts capped at 12 hours would be the refund.

In short, the fee adjustment will be based on courses dropped. It is possible that certain adjustments will result in no refund after the fee adjustment calculation.

The same procedures apply to graduate students who tuition calculation is capped at 10 hours.

For examples on how the new fee adjustment works, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/~bursarmt/feeadjustment.htm>.

We encourage students to better plan their schedules and retain their full-time status no their way to a timely and successful graduation.

Where to find necessities for college life

A price guide of essentials for newcomers to Murfreesboro, MTSU

By Mary Rose Fox
Community News Editor

There are three popular items that college students turn to for consumption: beer, pizza and coffee.

These three have been trusted by the college students for decades, as ways to combat boredom and create social atmospheres. Many gatherings have at least one item present.

BEER

It may save students to buy beer during the weekly grocery shopping; however, gas stations have occasional specials that can save in the long run.

This essential may take consideration and planning, or else it may interfere with school:



Prices at a grocery store
Miller High Life: \$3.87 6 pk bottle
Natural Light: \$6.64 for a 12 pack cans
Corona: \$17.14 12 pk bottle
Michelob: \$10.17 12 pk bottle

Prices at a gas station
Miller High Life: \$4.39 6 pk bottle
Natural Light: \$7.29 12 pk cans
Corona: \$13.99 12pk (summer special)
Michelob/Rolling Rock: \$10.49 12 pk

PIZZA

Pizza normally comes cheaper if it's purchased at a grocery store, but along with that comes the hassle of going out and buying it, then cooking it in the oven. Pizza places are more expensive, but they do run specials and offer free delivery. Plus, they actually know how to cook pizza and won't burn it.



Prices at the grocery store:

Totino's Crisp Crust (any topping) \$0.98
DiGiorno (any topping) \$4.98

*There are, of course, numerous other brands of pizza at any grocery store, and most of them can be found for less than \$5 per pizza.

Prices at a pizza joint:

Pizza Hut: special - order one specialty pizza (for \$16.29) get a 1 topping medium for \$0.99. *

Domino's: \$9.99 special with delivery - 1 medium philly cheese steak or 1 large 1 topping Brooklyn style. *

Mellow Mushroom: \$11.15 for a 1 topping medium pizza or \$14 for a 1 topping large pizza.

*These prices are subject to promotions and may not always be available.



COFFEE

Students may turn to coffee or other caffeinated beverages to combat weariness due to having to get up for 8 a.m. classes or a late night out.

But the 100 plus degree weather may have students opting for a cooler drink, such as an iced coffee. This usually costs more than a regular cup of joe, but it may be worth it.

Prices at a shop:

Burger King: \$1.99 for a Mocha BK Joe

Starbuck's: iced beverages starting at \$2.69

There are also various coffee places on campus. ♦

WHERE TO FIND THEM:

Wal-Mart Supercenter is off of Rutherford Blvd on Billy Blvd.

Kroger is on Middle Tennessee Blvd.

Burger King is on Middle Tennessee Blvd behind the Exxon and across from Kroger. There is also one on campus.

Mellow Mushroom is located on Rutherford Blvd.

Domino's is next to campus, on Baird Lane.

Pizza Hut is located on Memorial Blvd.

Starbuck's is in Walker Library on campus and at the Keathley University Center.

Gas stations are found frequently, can easily be seen from campus.

For more info on relation of location to campus, check out Map on page 3.

conserve your cash for
4am pizza. save big
on designer decor.

deck out your dorm with designer and brand name bedding and towel sets.
plus desk accessories, side tables, lamps, cool storage baskets and even
kitchen essentials.

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Fees increase by \$144

TBR approves consolidated Program Service Fee to provide funds for new student union building

By Christin Pepple
Campus News Editor

MTSU made a request of the Tennessee Board of Regents to increase the Program Service Fee by \$144 for the 2007 fall semester. "We condensed all of the individual fees students paid for things like Health Services and the Recreational Center into one fee so that it was easier to publicize; the Program Service Fee," said Mike Gower, associate vice president for business and finance. The main reason for the increase was to aid in the costs of

the new student union building that will begin construction in the fall of 2008. It is one of two new fees added to the costs of students this year. "\$61 of the increase was for the student union building. That fee was introduced this year and it is understandable because it's not like we build a student union building every day. It has been almost forty years since the last one was erected," Gower said. The new student union building, which is about to begin the design phase, will replace the Keathley University Center once it is completed. The other new fee, the

International Fee, is \$10 that is appropriated to the study abroad program. The other fees that make up the \$610 Program Service Fee include the Debt Service Fee, which pays for the upkeep of buildings on campus, the Campus Recreational Fee that aids in paying the staff and other expenses of the Recreational Center, the Postal Service Fee, the Technology Access Fee, the Clean Energy Fee, which is for the purchase of green power and energy conservation, the Athletics Fee, and the Student Government Association fee. ♦

Where your fees go to:

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY						SEB: \$20	Postal Services: \$10	International Fee: \$10 (New fee)	Class Charge: \$1
Deadline for payment is August 15, 2007									
Debt Service:	Athletics:	Technology	Campus	Health Services:	Student Union:	Campus Rec.:			
\$144	\$125	Access:	Access:	\$68.50	\$61	\$37			
	(\$25 increase)	\$112.50	\$73	(\$23 increase)	(New fee)	(\$12 increase)			
Jean O. Smith 110 West Street Anytown, TN 37555		Services Fee: \$110.00		Total Due: 2639.00					
Amount Enclosed:				<input type="text"/>					

Total fees: \$610

Graph by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

CeSIL unites student life

By Christin Pepple
Campus News Editor

The Student Life office formed the organization CeSIL, or Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, beginning this semester in order to focus students on the role of leadership on campus. The office of Student Life took six departments and consolidated them into five, naming the result CeSIL. This combined the Student Organization and Community Service and the Leadership Development office into the Office of Leadership and Service. The decision also recreated the office of Multi-Cultural Affairs into the office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. CeSIL includes Off-Campus Student Services, the office of Leadership and Service, Greek Affairs, the June Anderson Women's Center and the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Offices of Student Life. "The reason we formed CeSIL was because all of our offices work towards the same goals and on the same projects, but we never really communicated and interacted with each other," Taylor said. Taylor also said that the philosophy behind Student Life should be centered on student involvement and the need for students to lead and help other students rather than the faculty so that students would have more experience in leading and communicating once they graduate. Programs such as B.O.L.T., MTSUnited and the alternative fall and spring breaks are venues in which CeSIL allows students to take charge of programs that were previously run by the administration. "Our staff wanted to challenge the students to be more involved in leading these programs because we all know that they develop their leadership capabilities through student organizations," Taylor said. Many of the programs that make up CeSIL have also been revamped, such as the Off-Campus Student Services that was once geared mostly

towards older students on campus. "The Adult Student Center added to its philosophy to be more inclusive because most of our students are off campus, not just the ones most people would consider 'adults.' We wanted to include all the students who live off campus, which for MTSU is most of them," Taylor said. Off-Campus Student Services is coupling with "campus partners" as Taylor said, to create a database of all the apartments in Murfreesboro to aid in students find places to live. Intercultural and Diversity Affairs has also taken on a new philosophy with more programming and a new Interim Director, Luther Buie. "We are all different on this campus and should celebrate that, but we need to come to the realization that we are all Blue Raiders as well," Taylor said. Taylor addressed the fact that many students on campus believe that all of the Student Life programs are run by the Greek community. "Not everything on campus is Greek-driven. We have over 300 student organizations and only 28 or so are run by the Greek," said Taylor. "Take the Nursing or Builders Association for example, those organizations have many students and very few of them are probably Greek." Taylor said that one part of CeSIL's mission is to "showcase the fact that every student, not just the Greek community, can lead this campus." CeSIL is holding a competition for students to design a new logo for the organization. The winner who creates the best design will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Mellow Mushroom Pizza. All designs can be submitted to Keathley University Center room 326S along with the name and phone number by Sept. 8. "CeSIL is a symbol: it is students. Students are why we are here and we want them to be involved in all we do on this campus. We want everyone to play as a team and become a real community," Taylor said. ♦

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS

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SIDELINES

Vol. 83 No. 1
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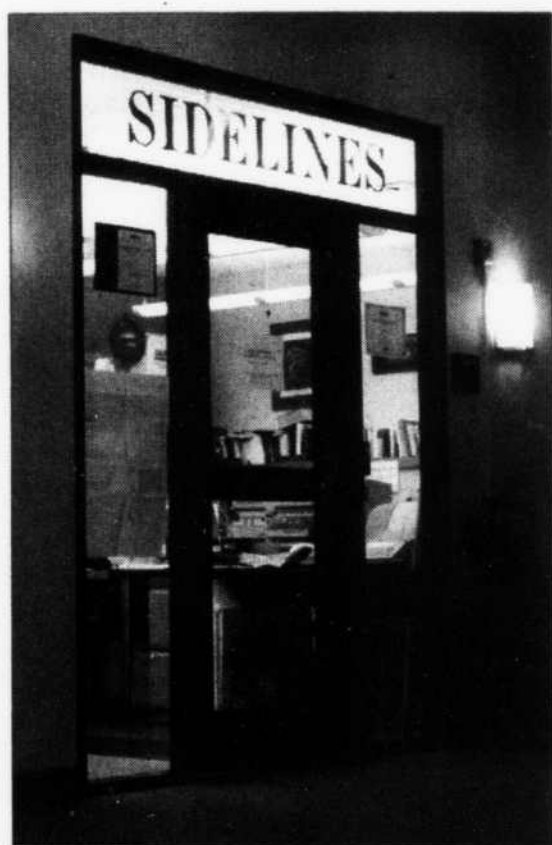


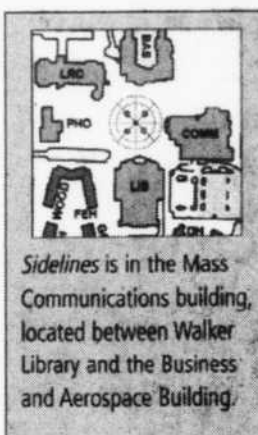
Photo by Matthew Adair | Production Manager
Sidelines is your source for what's going on around, campus, town and beyond.

Opportunities await incoming, transfer students; campus newspaper provides useful information

Staff Report

The staff members of *Sidelines*, the student-run newspaper of MTSU, wish to welcome all new and transfer students to our university as they start their first semester here. There's a lot to get used to here: from continuing construction on roads and around buildings and the winding corridors of Peck Hall, to the knot of people and vendors outside the Keathley University Center and the never-ending search for a good parking spot, you have to wonder if you're really prepared to deal with everything that's being thrown at you. Which, thankfully, is exactly why you have us. The newspaper you have in your hands right now is your guide, twice-a-week, to everything and anything going on around campus and Murfreesboro. From news and opinions to sports and entertainment, we provide you with what you need to get by each week.

We're your newspaper, and we mean that— all of our staff are students like yourself, so we see what's happening from the same vantage point as you do. Which means that you, too can join us, and be part of the award winning team that keeps MTSU informed of what's going on. If you'd like to join the *Sidelines* team, or if you're just interested in meeting our staff, drop by our office. We're located on the second floor of the John Bragg Mass Communications Building, room 269. You can also visit our Web site, and get the news delivered right to your computer. Sign up for it at www.mtsusidelines.com. While you're there, you can also comment on stories, and let everyone know just what you think about what's worth talking about. Whether you join our staff, or just like to read the newspaper, we hope you enjoy your stay here, and we hope that *Sidelines* will be an important part of your life here on campus. ♦



COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE:

Sidelines is having an Open House meeting for new and returning staff members on Monday, Sept. 10 at 6 pm in our office, COMM 269. Editors will be on hand to meet students interested in working on staff.

EMC undergoes digital makeover



Before

Photo courtesy of Electronic Media Communication Department

This is the 16-year-old equipment in one of the control rooms prior to renovation efforts.



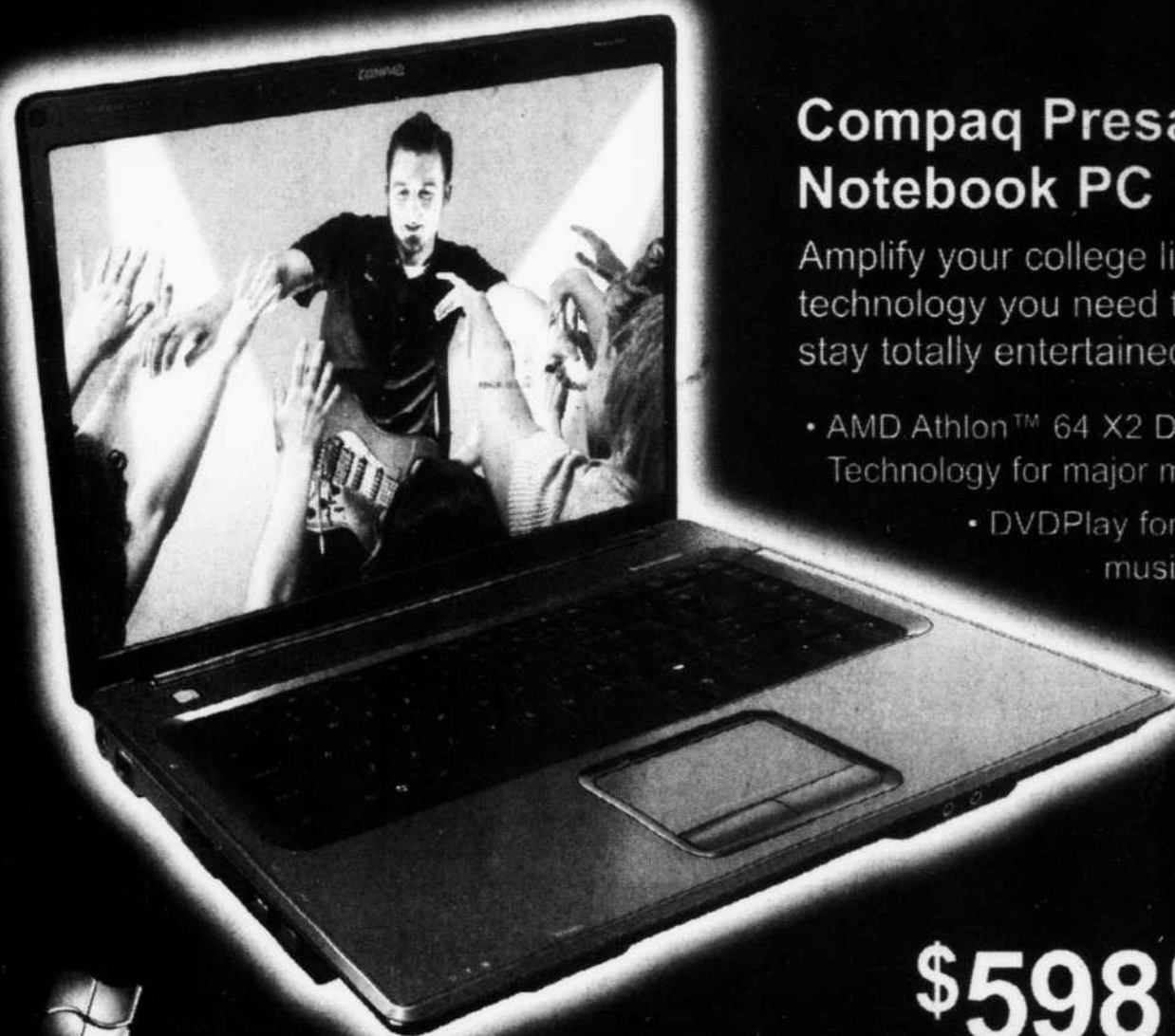
After

Photo courtesy of Electronic Media Communication Department

Pictured is Topher King, who has worked over the summer on the project. The HD equipment is almost completely installed.



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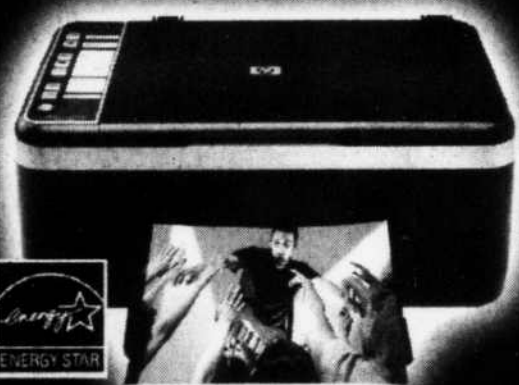
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\$1 million helps MT renovate facilities

By Mary Rose Fox

Community News Editor

The 16-year-old Electronic Media Communication facilities are undergoing a \$1 million dollar renovation project that will be finished by Oct. 1.

The upgrade, which began in May, includes installation of high definition cameras, monitors, and other equipment.

"We want to keep our students on top," said EMC Department Chairman Dennis Oneal.

"[The upgrade] will allow them to train on the equipment they will use when they get into the job market."

Two engineers and two students spent the summer working on the renovations, and until the project is completed next month, students will perform hands-on training in the Mobile Production Laboratory.

Oneal said that the HD studio will put the department ahead in EMC education in the state.

MTSU will become the first university in Tennessee outfitted with the new digital format when the facilities reopen.

A plasma screen will be set up in front of the central machine room, replacing the old video monitors. According to the news release, the screen will have a rotating menu of student projects.

Sony Corporation entered into a partnership with MTSU, Oneal said, "providing new technologies for electronic media communication majors."

A cash grant of \$200,000 was given to the project by the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, the Landmark Communications Foundation donated \$10,000 through the NewsChannel5 Network, and almost \$300,000 was given through individual donations, community partners and private foundations. MTSU matched the total by giving \$500,000 to the department.

One audio board alone cost \$200,000, according to Steven Barnes, director of development in Mass Comm. The old one, almost twice its size, is now in storage along with much of the older equipment.

Another change in the control room is that users will be able to sit down while operating the "tape wall," making the area better equipped for people with disabilities.

After this project is completed in October, the department's next big project will be digitalizing the Mobile Production Lab, which may be completed in the next two to three years. ♦

FOR NEWS UPDATES,
CHECK OUT THE
SIDELINES WEB SITE AT
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

Do it!

OPINIONS

From the Editor in Chief:

College is often described as a place of discovery, where students sample tastes of circumstances, lifestyles and interests that they may not have previously considered or even been aware of. College is a place to experiment, to grow and, yes, to learn. Most students will hopefully find something they love here at MTSU. Maybe they will learn something about themselves, and find something they like to do, something they are good at and something they can, hopefully, spend the rest of their lives doing.

When I started here at MTSU as a wide-eyed freshman, I was a journalism student with an aim to focus on magazines. However, halfway through my first semester, I realized two things. One was that I didn't want to be a journalism major and would much rather teach English. The other was that I loved newspapers.

I won't lecture you on the difficulties and harrows of college life. I won't caution you on the differences and importance of social time and study time. I will say that I hope you find the same enjoyment and pleasure from your activities that I have. And I will ask that you do get involved on campus. We have tons of teams, clubs, charities, fraternities, sororities and events here. There literally is something here for everyone, and what you find that you enjoy the most might not be what you originally thought.

To those students who have gotten involved, consider *Sidelines*.

It is my firm belief that our only goals as a newspaper are to inform you, to entertain you and to make you think. If you have something to share with us, bring it to our attention. If you have something to say to us, or about our content, please do. We welcome it. It's not just an option. It is your right and your responsibility. This paper is here for you, for your interests, and your needs. It is my hope that under my editorship, we can open the lines of communication between this office and the rest of campus. It is my goal to make *Sidelines* in to what I feel it should be.

There is another thing I won't do. I won't use phrases like "Here at *Sidelines*, we believe etc..." because I feel that is misleading. *Sidelines* is not a secretive, special club. *Sidelines* is not an evil, scary monster or an antagonistic stalker. *Sidelines* is not an ivory tower.

Sidelines is a newspaper. It is your newspaper, MTSU.

It is my hope that we can work together to make that feel like more of a reality.

Parking stacked against students

Another semester has begun at our fair university, and with classes come the usual snarls: overpriced textbooks, missing financial aid documents and thousands desperately hunting for parking. Except, this semester, that hunt, by the nearly 23,000 students attending MTSU, will be made more difficult by the newest in alterations to campus parking lots.

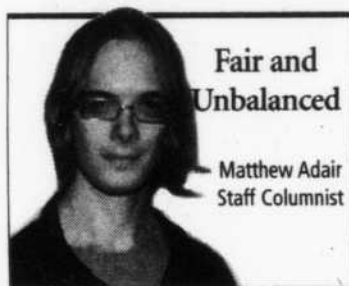
The changes are in two main areas of campus: the green spaces along Faulkner Drive, in front of Tucker Theater and along Founders Lane are now reserved as faculty spaces. The parking lot between the Ingram Building and the Alumni House on Middle Tennessee Boulevard is now a faculty-only lot, according to a release from Nancy Weatherly, Manager for Parking and Transportation Services.

The official map given out with student parking passes, however, indicates that the rear of this lot will be available for students to park. So it is unclear as to what the status of that lot is, though you can bet your financial aid refund that campus police will be more than happy to clear that up for you with a parking ticket.

Weatherly's explanation is the construction at the baseball field, next to Floyd Stadium, has eliminated available faculty parking in a nearby lot, requiring more parking to be set aside for teachers and staff. Which would be fair, except for the way parking is set up.

As far as Parking and Transportation Services is concerned, green parking areas are considered green/white – anyone with either of these tags can park in a green space. White spaces are, however, only available to those with white parking tags. Faculty and staff get almost full access to parking, while students must race each other for parking spots.

The university tells us that there is plenty of parking for us. There are several large lots, including the lot currently serving the Recreation Center, a lot



Fair and Unbalanced
Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

behind Scarlet Commons and the recently-completed Rutherford Boulevard lot. However, the first two are gravel lots that wear against tires and car undercarriages, while the Rutherford lot is so distant from the rest of the university that it is only accessible from the Raider Xpress bus system, which has no posted schedule.

If MTSU wants to limit traffic in the core of campus, I applaud them. Giving fewer reasons to drive through the middle of campus would make life safer and easier for those trying to get around on foot.

However, this effort must be applied to teachers and staff as well as students. If the university is in need of more teacher parking, they should build it on the periphery of campus, just as they do with student parking. Bus routes should be expanded to reach more of these lots, more often, to accommodate this increase.

In addition, white permit holders should be allowed to park in white spaces only. The amount of parking set aside for faculty and staff, at least according to the map provided by Parking and Transportation Services, appears more than adequate given the proportion of employees to students.

Maybe if our professors were limited to the parking spaces that were set aside for them, having to battle for that perfect spot next to their classroom would make them a little more sympathetic our own inability to find a place to put our cars causes us to be late.

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

Student Affairs offers aid

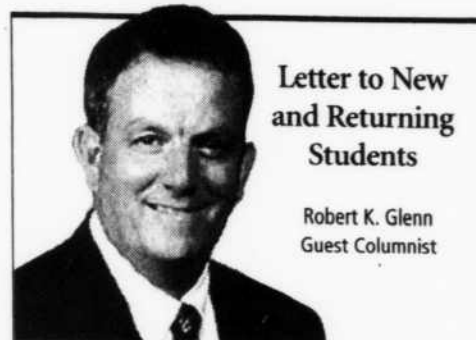
Allow me to be the first to wish you a "Happy New Year," as we begin another brand new academic year together.

The Division of Student Affairs, Enrollment and Academic Services has one primary job on campus and that is to take care of students. We do that in a lot of different ways, and we do it both collectively as well as individually. As the head of this division, I hope that you will come to view me and the rest of the staff as a resource you can call upon when needed. As a way of introduction, let me tell you about the four main areas of the division.

The first unit within the division is the Student Life unit, under the direction of Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

This unit houses most of the things people think of first when they think about Student Affairs: the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CeSIL), Student Government, Greek Affairs, Off-Campus Student Affairs, Student Organizations, *Sidelines*, The June Anderson Women's Center, Inter-Cultural Affairs, the Campus Recreation Center, the Health Center, the Student Unions & Programming and Judicial Affairs.

When you join a student organization, attend a leadership function, a movie or concert, you are probably benefiting from the work of the professionals in this area. Their collective mission is to provide you



Letter to New and Returning Students
Robert K. Glenn
Guest Columnist

with an out-of-class experience that enhances your life here on campus. To find out more, check out our Web site at mtsu.edu/~stuaff/.

The second unit within the division is the Academic Support Services unit, under the direction of Debra Sells, associate vice provost for Academic Support Services.

This unit houses those offices dedicated to helping achieve your primary purpose on our campus, getting a complete education: Academic Support Center, Housing and Residential Life, Career and Employment Services, Counseling and Testing, Disability Student Support Services, Student Support Services, New Student and Family Programs, Student Athlete Enhancement Center, the Daycare Lab and Cooperative Education.

If you are trying to decide upon a major, find a career to consider, need an accommodation for a disability, take a test for grad school or find a job that can help you earn

credit towards your degree, chances are that one of these offices is just the ticket for you. To find out more about these services, our Web site is mtsu.edu/~stuaff/.

The third unit within the division is the Enrollment Services unit, under the direction of Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for Enrollment Services.

This unit houses those offices responsible for bringing you to campus and tracking your progress: Admissions, Withdrawals, Records, Financial Aid and International Programs and Services.

If you need any assistance with your status as a student, one of these offices is sure to be of help. To find out more, visit our Web site at mtsu.edu/~stuaff/.

And finally, there is my office, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services. My office is responsible for supervising the work of all of these offices. I act as something like an Ombudsman in that any student who has a problem outside of the classroom can come to me for assistance.

If you ever need assistance with any area of student life I hope you will feel free to call on me. I look forward to meeting you in the coming year.

Robert K. Glenn is the vice president for Student Affairs and the vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services. He can be reached at 898-2440 or at rglenn@mtsu.edu.

Let your goal be knowledge

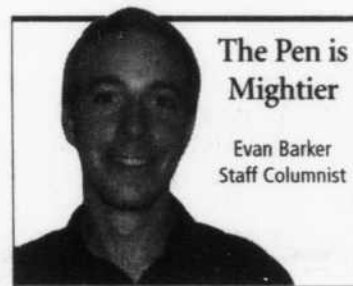
Congratulations, (high school) grads!

It's been a long summer of slaving at your uncle's car wash and Target shopping, but at long last, you've arrived in the hallowed halls of higher education! Breathe deep, if you can avoid the cigarette smoke, and enjoy the rarefied air of enlightenment (or maybe that's weed), floating dreamily above our fair campus.

College commencements inevitably involve someone ostensibly older and wiser, shepherding you into the bright-eyed world of academia. Most of you have probably heard the famous quotation of rock musician Tom Petty about how to conduct life in college. In this speech, Petty extols the virtues of partying on nights before you have papers due, late nights drinking, irresponsible spending and other ways to spend the best years of your life.

This, children, may be the first lesson you learn in college: You are fully capable of blowing your own education, if you really want to.

As you stumble through the first couple of months of school, bleary-eyed from playing Xbox until 4 a.m., you will inevitably notice lots of people who appear to be in their element. They may even seem to be, perish the thought, doing



The Pen is Mightier
Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

very well in their schoolwork. You might start to guess how many of those goody-two-shoes are in your major. You might think back to the start of school, when you met the freshman class from your college, and how many of them were there.

Egad, these people could be outperforming you!

Following Tom Petty's advice on how to conduct your own career will teach you this: If you're not out there doing the work, chances are, there are hundreds or thousands of people who are.

Face it, kid, you're at MTSU. With enrollment hovering near 23,000, this is the largest university in the state. We're handing out enough diplomas to deforest Brazil, and enough grads to fully staff every Starbucks in the Southeast. What are you going to do to distinguish yourself, or perhaps earn a Real Job, out there in the Real World?

If you spend all of your time killing brain cells, what will be left after four years?

Here at Big Scary University, your degree is essentially worth what you make of it. Long gone are the days when simply earning a college degree guaranteed a fruitful job.

You need to go the extra mile if you want more than Assistant Night Manager at the Pizza Hut, because if you aren't, there are thousands that are.

You've become a cog in an education machine that churns out a staggering number of students. Signing on the dotted line and accepting your HOPE scholarship is merely the entry fee to the proverbial race.

There's a silver lining, though. Although the parking lots are full now, and the Keathley University Center is a quagmire of starving humanity, half of those people will probably disappear to "find themselves" halfway through September.

If you push on, you will find yourself getting the hang of school. You'll learn approximately how long it takes to crank out 600 words, and maybe that nifty song that helps you remember the Quadratic Formula. (Hint: it's sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat.")

You'll be able to find the book you need in the library without the computer. You'll have the MLA writing standards integrated into your grocery list.

You may start taking Kurt Vonnegut when you get your oil changed, or reading Time over coffee instead of Cosmo. This is why you're here.

In the days of the Greeks, scholars were considered the best members of society. They were revered, and for good reason. The world needs people like you, bright-eyed freshmen, to study up. We look to scholars to give us answers. We need people to check the facts, and question the authorities, and keep us honest.

At the end of four years, (or seven for Recording Industry majors), you could be that person. You could outlast those poseurs who were in it for the diploma, and those guys who spent their hours playing Halo.

You could learn that there is a world of knowledge, and that it can challenge you endlessly. You can earn your right to honestly wear the mortarboard.

Aspire to more than simply earning the diploma to get a job. That's just a side-effect. Your real goal ought to be the pursuit of enlightenment.

That is a goal to which you should hoist your glass.

Evan Barker is a senior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

There's a meeting tonight.

Sidelines office.
Mass Comm 269.
6 p.m.

You should come.

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Letters Policy:

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

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FEATURES

Campus bars, Boro nightlife

Get off your couch, experience what Boro nightlife has to offer

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Murfreesboro

Mark and Pat's Handlebar

2601 Woodbury Pike

If you're looking for a place to talk to people that, if it weren't for the cheap beer, you'd never find yourself talking to, check out Mark and Pat's Handlebar. Open 24 hours, the deliciously-tacky hole-in-the-wall attracts bikers and frat boys alike, who fill the seats well into the wee hours of the morning. The walls are jam-packed with pictures of drunken patrons and fake dollar bills, and bras (yes, as in the lady kind) dangle from every corner of the ceiling. As far as dive bar decorations go, it doesn't get much better than that. An expansive game room makes way into a large outdoor area, complete with a stage for live entertainment.

Stampedes

2146 N Thompson Ln.

Stampedes is like the quintessential Murfreesboro night club. On the surface, it's country and outdated, all line-dancing and Miller Lite. If you look a little closer, well, it's still pretty county and outdated, and, yes, there is line-dancing and a lot of Miller Lite, but it's a lot more fun than meets the eye. Just like Murfreesboro, everyone you knew in high-school and their moms will probably be there, getting a little tipsy and possibly riding the mechanical bull. Wednesday is ladies' night, with no cover before 9 p.m., penny long-necks and free draft-beer all night. Thursday is college night, with half-price admission if you show a college I.D. and penny long-necks. Friday also offers penny long-necks and free drafts all night and a weekly beer pong tournament.

Gentleman Jim's

2115 E Main St.

Jim's is one of those places you hear about in whispers just walking through campus. In the years that I've been here, I've overheard someone say "ohmygod last night at Jim's was crazy" more times than I can count. That being said, I was never too anxious to actually experience Jim's firsthand, and only went to satisfy some friends who swear by its guaranteed, no-frills atmosphere. Yes, Jim's (the one on Main St., also known as the "cleaner" one), is more like a Greek Row annex than a bar, but the drinks were ridiculously cheap and the atmosphere decidedly laid-back. At Jim's, \$3 pitchers of Bud-Light could keep any college-student satisfied, and a \$5 drink with a name too raunchy to print in this paper and enough alcohol to sedate Britney Spears could make any night out there worth remembering (or, not remembering).

The Boro Bar and Grill

1211 Greenland Dr.

The Boro feels, perhaps, like the most MTSU-ish of its many competing neighbors, likely due to its proximity to campus and the laid-back, student-only vibe, and with over 200 types of bottled and 13 types of draft beer available, it's probably the only place around to find your favorite obscure brew. Live music is now featured four nights each week, with the expansive stage being the bar's intended focal point. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, you can get two draft beers for \$4; on Wednesday, \$2 domestic tallboys (PBR and Busch); and Thursday, \$5.25 Bud Light pitchers. Sunday there is a DJ, with a more dance-club atmosphere.

Wall Street

121 North Maple St.

Wall Street is an unassuming little bar in the square that often has live music and even more often is crowded with MTSU students, guaranteeing a pretty relaxed vibe. Every Wednesday, Wall Street offers \$1 off any of their seventeen bourbon or whiskies until 10 p.m. On Sunday, they offer an alternative to the good 'ole neighborhood kegger with cheap 28 ounce beers (aptly named Big Ass Beer Night).

Liquid Smoke

2 North Public Square

First thing's first: when you walk into Liquid Smoke, bypass the cigar room and the bar and head straight for the bathroom. It is, without a doubt, the best bathroom within a 50 mile radius, complete with a huge fish-tank in the wall and a lounge-y vibe. Heck, go get some beer and a cigar, and head back to the bathroom to hang out. Just kidding. Sort of.

Liquid Smoke is one of Murfreesboro's coolest night-spots, with imported beers you won't find anywhere else (Abita, Dos Equis, Klosterbrauerei, Flying Dog), a hookah lounge and an extensive cigar shop. Live bands play all throughout the week. Monday and Wednesday is "Cheap Ass Beer Night," with \$2.50 drafts. Thursday is their jazz and hip-hop night, and on Saturday, the live bands take a break for "chill night" at the bar.

Bluesboro

114 N Church St.

Located right in the middle of Murfreesboro's downtown square, Bluesboro is arguably the cleanest, most spacious and the most inviting of the town's many music-slash-bar venues. Because it's strictly 21 and up, the vibe feels a little more relaxed, with most of the patrons simply enjoying the live entertainment or crowded around the gargantuan TV in the game room to play video games and pool (an ongoing Wii tournament on Wednesdays promises the winner their very own gaming system). On Monday, draft beers are only \$3; Tuesdays are two-for-one; Thursday – college night – domestic drafts are only 50 cents; and on Sunday, domestic beers are \$4, imports are \$6. Check out the bar's equisitely designed website, that tirelessly lists every single artist that will grace the Bluesboro stage (www.bluesborolive.com).

Drink

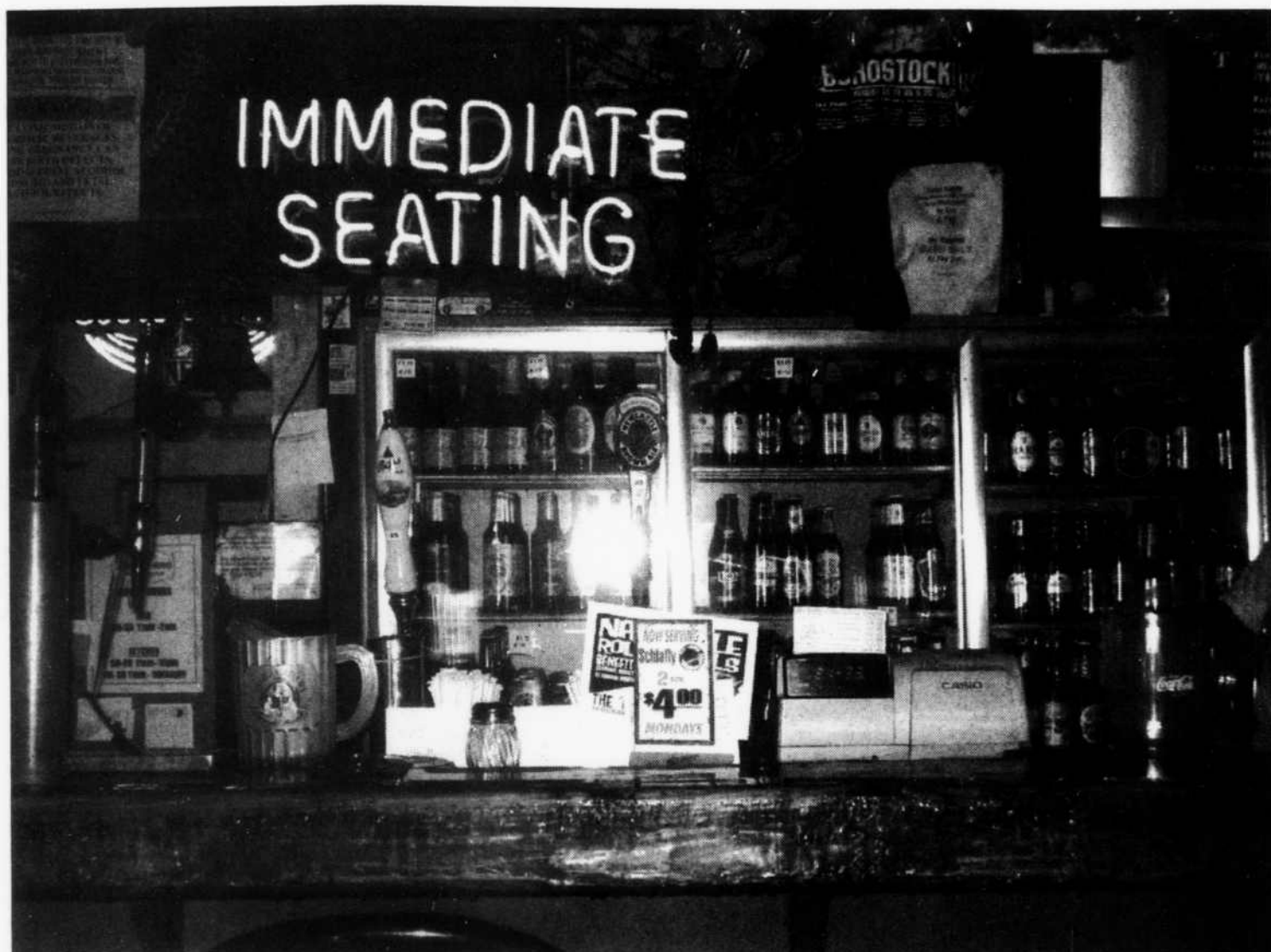
1695 Memorial Blvd.

Murfreesboro Food and Drink (more commonly known as, simply, "Drink") was supposed to be the area's high-class club. And, for a while, it kind of was. The DJ was well-known, the bartenders just as eager to make a martini as a pitcher of draft beer, and the dress-code a step-up from Gentleman Jim's "no shirt, no shoes, no service" rule. Over the past year, Drink has fallen to the wayside just a bit. It's dance floor is rarely jam-packed these days, and you usually spend the evening at a quiet table with your friends (though, to some, this might be a good thing). Wednesday is college night – penny beer and no cover, and Friday is ladies' night--free all night with \$5 Jäger bombs (because, really, what lady doesn't like a shot a Jäger?).

Bunganut Pig

1602 W Northfield Blvd. # 200

The classy Bunganut Pig celebrates Hump Day on Wednesdays from 4 to 10 p.m., and this means \$2 domestic beer, well drinks, house wine and half-price appetizers. The place stays open until 11, but the food stops at 10, so make sure you order food early. Their "old-English style fare" includes – among other items – stuffed mushrooms, the queen's



Photos by Sarah Lavery | Features Editor

The wide beer selection at The Boro Bar and Grill (above), located right across from the Murphy Center, attracts masses of students hoping to find their favorite obscure brew and listen to live entertainment. Bluesboro (below), books local bands nightly to make use of their expansive stage and sprawling bar space.



biscuits and shepherd's pie. The Pig usually hosts live music every night of the week.

Coconut Bay Café

This biker bar/restaurant offers huge drinks and live entertainment. On Sunday, there is two rounds of Texas Hold 'Em and \$1.75 longnecks until 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday feature food and drink specials on top of their seven-day-a-week happy hour with two for ones on beer, wine, margaritas and house well drinks from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday nights is karaoke. Friday and Saturday are all about the live music, starting at 9 a.m. and going strong until 1 a.m.

Campus Pub

903 Gunnerson Ave.

\$1 drafts every night and a foosball table pretty much sum up the appeal of the Campus Pub, tucked quietly behind Gentleman Jim's on blah street. There is a sizeable outdoor area, with wooden benches and plenty of people-watching opportunities. Most likely, you'll find yourself listening to Murfreesborians playing some insufferable version of guitar, their inebriated friends gleefully singing (or, can you call it singing?) along. Apparently, those who missed out on the pub's Sunday and Wednesday karaoke nights don't take no for an answer. But hey, so is the charm of the unassuming Campus Pub.

Nashville

Play

1519 Church St.

When you're inside Play, you can dance like no one is watching, surrounded by immaculately dressed drag queens, scantily-clad men and people just like you trying to have a good time. When you tire out from dancing the night away, you can enter a separate room and relax to an unfailingly entertaining drag show (at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m.). Wednesday is college night, with free admission when you show a college I.D. On Sunday, anyone who can prove they have a job (show a paystub or employee I.D. at the door) gets in free, with \$7 Long Island Ice Tea pitchers and an amateur drag show that will either enthrall or frighten you.

Lay'la Rul

909 20th Ave. S

Lay'la Rul prides itself on being a Nashville club that, for the time

you're inside its chicly decorated walls, makes you feel like you're not in Nashville. Plasma tv's, cream leather couches, a winding bar that can deliver obscure beer, dirty martinis or amazing sushi – it really does feel like a hot spot in L.A. or New York. The extensive Champagne selection – unrivaled by any other in Nashville – offers 18 different selections, three of which are sold by the glass, and one of which – the Veuve Clicquot "Yellow Label" (\$17) – is sold nowhere else in the state of Tennessee by the glass.

On the Rocks

1530 Demonbreun St.

On the Rocks feels like your run-of-the-mill Murfreesboro bar, just with a little bit more to offer. Stop in from 5pm to 7pm every day for \$1 drafts, 30 cent wings and 2-for-1 burgers. It's a lot cleaner than Gentleman Jim's, with an open-air restaurant flavor, patio seating, a brightly lit interior and music that spills out onto the street.

Bar Twenty3

503 12th Ave. South

Bar Twenty3 is yet another Nashville club that tries to transcend the Southern stereotype. You won't find any line-dancing or spot many cowboy hats. Wednesday is 80s night with free cover--expect remixes of 80s tunes and leg-warmer-wearing girls looking for an excuse to tease their hair into oblivion. On Thursday, the club reimagines itself as a "Discotheque," with \$2 domestics and \$3 vodka drinks.

Lot 7

125 12th Ave. S

There's just something about bars that try so hard to be swankier than all its neighbors – it usually ends up overly-crowded, the drink prices sky-rocket and the line at the bar becomes that much more mind numbingly long. Nevertheless, Nashville's glitteratti still flock to Lot 7, hoping to catch yet another glimpse of Pacman Jones taking shots.

Lipstick Lounge

1400 Woodland St.

Woman owned, Lipstick Lounge offers a famous karaoke night \$4 Pink-Panty-Pulldowns – a drink invented by the Lipstick Lounge ladies – on Tuesdays. Wednesday, \$5 Jäger bombs and martinis, and on Thursday, \$3 citrus shooters. Karaoke is at the bar at 9 PM all three nights, music trivia on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., movie trivia on thursday at 7 p.m., and two rounds of poker at 7 and 10 p.m. ♦

Ratings determine fate of fall TV

For better or worse, new fall lineup must beat system to prevail

By Neil McCormack
Staff Writer

As summer passes and fall begins, little dominates young adults' lives more than the start of a new school year. Between crying over the cost of books and complaining about that English professor who can hardly speak English, kicking back is about the last thing on our minds.

There is a respite from this grueling and stressful time, however, and it demands very little from us.

Enter our life-long friend, the television.

With fall comes the start of the new television season. Your favorite shows return from a multi-month hiatus, hopefully resolving the cliffhangers that made you miserable all summer. More importantly, however, new shows make their debut during this portion of the annual television cycle.

These new programs develop their devoted fan bases and, depending on their success, will live on or be briskly cancelled by their respective networks. Naturally, fans of cancelled programs usually feel outraged and empty as they wonder why their new favorite show has gone the way of the dodo. The answer has to do with a little word called "ratings."

A television program's rating is simply a determination of how many viewers were tuned in to it. Networks can then calculate how much they can charge advertisers. In the television industry, these numbers make the world go 'round. The question is: how are ratings

determined?

In the United States, the process for determining the size of a television audience rests with Nielsen Media Research.

The process they use is fairly simple. Across the country, 4000 homes are selected from various markets and demographics to provide a broad and supposedly accurate sample of the American audience. Within each sample home, a device called a People Meter records what programming each individual watches, while each viewer records what shows they tune in to in a diary. The results can make or break a program. If ratings are low, advertisers refuse to pay the big money that they will drop on higher-rated programming. The difference can literally be millions of dollars. In turn, a show with a consistent low rating may get the axe only a few episodes into its run.

With so much on the line, one would expect the Nielsen system to be nearly perfect. Often, however, the system falls far short of that expectation. One consistent complaint is that the current system fails to sample a large enough group to draw an accurate picture of the national audience. In 2004, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that there were around 110 million American households watching TV on a little more than 98 million television sets. In comparison, the paltry 4000 sample homes seem to fall short of truly representing so many viewers. Statistically, a small change in one of those 4000 homes could represent a massive change for the American audience, and the fate of a show may rest on

whether just one of those Nielsen homes was tuned in.

Another major complaint surrounding Nielsen's rating system is its inability to record viewership outside the home. Offices, restaurants, bars and airport terminals are not included in the sample. These are settings where multiple people are viewing a single program, and yet the program receives no credit for that audience.

Whatever flaws the system may contain, the fact remains that these ratings can make or break programming. There may yet be hope, however, to save your favorite show.

Though low ratings are often the harbinger of cancellation, occasionally, a show can avoid this fate. Throughout television history, nearly cancelled pro-

gramming has pulled through to remain on the air, thanks largely to a very devoted fan base. Some shows are even resurrected from cancellation due solely to the efforts of the devoted audience.

One of the best examples of how a fan base can save a show came in 1968, when fans of a struggling science fiction show called "Star Trek" inundated NBC with letters in a plea to save their favorite show.

The fans were successful, and though the show was cancelled the following year after just three seasons, the extra season may have pushed the program over the hump into phenomenally successful syndication. After worldwide success in reruns, the show spawned four

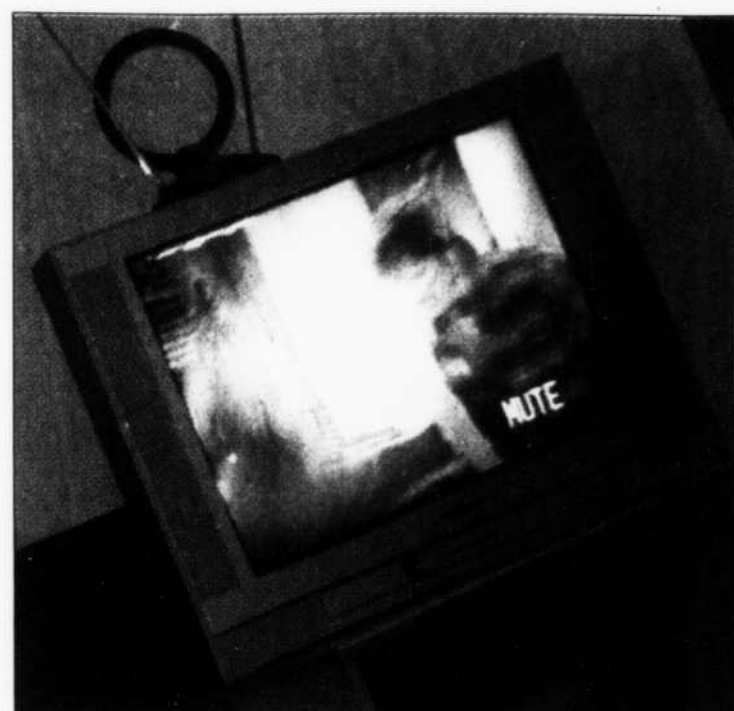


Photo from MorgueFile.com

As much as you love that space hookers show, if it doesn't get the ratings, it won't stay afloat.

See Ratings, 14

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Nearly Horoscopes: Back to School Edition

Aries

March 21 - April 19

You are anxious about starting back to school and well you should be: Jupiter has aligned with Saturn to make sure that all your classes are mysteriously dropped, all your books are over \$200 and your significant other says that they think rampaging elephants are more attractive than you - they are.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

The stars are looking good for you this month - until the second week of school. Then, you will celebrate a little too strongly at a back-to-school bash and when you finally wake up on someone's toilet seat, your wallet, shirt, watch and left eyebrow will be gone.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

The first day of classes for you are going to be difficult. Actually, you shouldn't even bother to show up, since you will ultimately crash and burn - just like you did with that hottie you macked on at Starbucks

who was way out of your league.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

This will be the best month of your life academically speaking, but as far as your personal life goes, beware! You don't have a significant other because you are not a unique and beautiful snowflake, or a family that loves you because, let's face it, you could annoy a brick wall.

Your friends don't care about you because you don't have any. Never mind that 'beware' then, you have no personal life to speak of.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Mars has a bone to pick with you this semester and it will most assuredly bankrupt and humiliate you past the point of return. On the upside though, those few shots of penicillin worked just dandy and you can return to asking out people who will say no,

because to be honest, there is not enough penicillin in the world that can fix that face.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

It should be Happy Birthday to you, but it won't be because you have officially alienated everyone around you. It might be due to the fact that you have nothing interesting to say and you insist on saying it anyway, or maybe just the fact that you haven't showered in two weeks. It's called a 'loofa' man.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

The thing you love most in this world will be gone in 15 days. It happened because you did that thing in that place that one time and now Uranus hates you. So does Mars. So does Venus. So do your professors. So does your mom.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Beware of your first class this semester because you will meet someone gorgeous, hys-

terically funny and absolutely perfect for you. But what you don't know about this hot tamale is that they will later take your money, your sanity and that idea you had for the term paper that decides the outcome of that class...stupid heifer!

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Venus is angered by your sleazy pick-up techniques at Bluesboro and has decreed that you will be mauled by a two-headed chihuahua with rabies, that to add insult to injury, is not house broken. Beware of wearing your favorite jacket in a dark alley! Also, beware of a guy named Rob. Don't say you don't know why!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The month is looking good for you. You will pass your first test, hook up with that foreign exchange student so that you can cut out that meaningless talking phase of the relation-

ship with and your worst fear won't be realized...that is as long as you don't piss off Mercury. Wait, nevermind. You will anyway. Sorry.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Don't read your horoscope. Trust me, it's better this way. It's sort of like when

you don't see a needle coming - it hurts less.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Beware of your usual whining around everyone that comes near you. One of these people will betray you - and if they don't they should because you really are annoying as hell.

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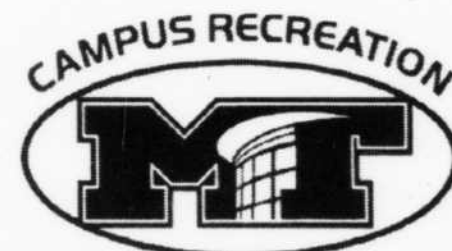
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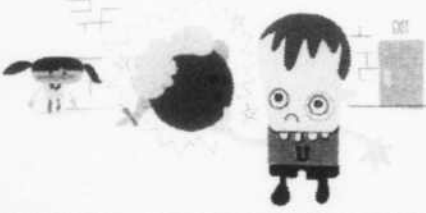
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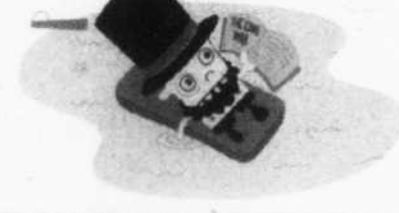
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Popularity, problems expand for Facebook

By Sarah Lavery
Features Editor

It might sound silly to scrutinize the social and cultural implications of Web sites like Myspace and Facebook, but in this day and age, it seems sillier to write the trend off as a passing phase.

The sites are so prolific that the current high-school and college-kid age bracket has been dubbed the "Myspace generation," a moniker that has become a blanket term for ages 16-25. Students have no problem mindlessly searching the millions of pages under the domains, playing both investigator and voyeur, searching for their next love interest or their new worst enemy.

As important of a cultural staple that Myspace has become, Facebook has always been the college-centric site. Once limited only to people with certified university e-mail addresses, thereby limiting the influx of 50-year-old "To Catch a Predator" guest stars, Facebook promised a purely collegiate experience.

Then the pressure of Myspace's immense and growing popularity must have gotten to the Facebook-powers-that-be, because that all changed.

Mark Zuckerberg, 23, originally started Facebook in 2004 as a socializing site for fellow Harvard University students, then evolving into a massive collegiate network. Over a year ago, the site opened up to allow users of all ages to create personal profiles to share with friends.

Facebook may have friends in colleges, but over the past year, it saw its slowest growth among college kids. Instead, because Facebook recently opened up to the wider public (and allowed developers to create applications on the site), its users include a vast majority of people beyond college and in high-school. Today, 4 million teenagers visit Facebook a month, and 3 million people aged 25 to 34; not very much less than the 7 million college kids who use it. Most surprisingly, it's people over 35 who make up Facebook's largest demographic - more than 10 million people, or almost 40 percent of the site's monthly visitors, are in this group, according to Salon.com.

The most controversial change in the site's global overhaul has been the news feed, a program that monitors the activity on its members' pages - a change in one's relationship status, the addition of a new person to one's friends list, the listing of a new favorite song or interest - and sends that information to everyone in your circle in a constantly updating news ticker. Basically, it's virtual gossip - just a little more intrusive.

But within hours of the new feature's debut, thousands of Facebook members had rallied behind a desperate, angry plea: Bring the old Facebook back.

The transition from a college-only member-base to internet free-for-all certainly has been met with a myriad of complaints, from groups entitled "As a stalker, I find Facebook's news feed an incredibly valuable tool," boasting hundreds of members to the largest with over 284,000 members called "Students Against Facebook."

The fact remains, though, that busy college students can't seem to get enough of Facebook's one-stop socialization.

"Facebook keeps me up to date," senior political science major Ashley

DeSabetino says. "It's so much easier than using a cell phone."

Aside from the negative reaction to Facebook's growth, some people renounce these social networking sites - not in spite of their popularity, but because of it.

"I don't have a [Facebook or Myspace] because everyone has one," incoming freshman Virginia Craddock says. "They're so overrated. The sites don't do anything, don't help anyone. Even though they have the ability to band students together for worthwhile causes, they don't."

Both Myspace and Facebook lost visitors last year, according to Nielsen/NetRatings, a Web-tracking service. The number of unique U.S. visitors at Myspace fell to 47.2 million from 49.2 million last year, and the number of visitors to Facebook fell 12 percent to 7.8 million from 8.9 million.

More Facebook controversy erupted Tuesday with reports that the site won't let people sign up with the last name "Gay," which has led to accusations of homophobia. It might not be up there with "Smith" and "Johnson," but blocking Gay as a surname could pose a bit of a problem. According to the 1990 census, "Gay" was the

774th most-common last name in the United States. Online LGBT Generation Q pointed out that "you're allowed to be Hitler, but don't even try being Gay on social networking site Facebook."

The issue will probably quickly boil over, but Facebook naysayers will remain. Protection of privacy has always been a big hot-button issue with social-networking sites. Recently, Facebook came under fire from a state attorney general who accused the fast-growing site of falling short in protecting young users from sexual predators.

"I don't think it's an invasion of privacy," freshman Lourdes Benarente says. "It's your decision to put it out there, and you control how much you want to tell the public."

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said in an interview his office had learned of "at least three" convicted sex offenders on Facebook's site and that may be the "tip of the iceberg."

"These individuals are using their real names after convictions for felony sexual offenses," Blumenthal told Reuters. "There may be thousands or hundreds of thousands using aliases or false identities who have never been convicted."

Facebook's immense growth appears to have increased the risk of predators and pornography infiltrating the site, problems that the larger and less restrictive Myspace has long endured. Last week, Reuters reported that Myspace deleted 29,000 convicted sex offenders from its own service, which attracts 60 million U.S. visitors.

Facebook's Chief Privacy Officer Chris Kelly told The New York Times the site has privacy features unlike other social network sites that segment users by age, organization and region and make it hard for adults to contact users under the age of 18.

In particular, Facebook makes an effort to protect underage users by preventing adults from contacting them if the adults are not affiliated with a specific school network, Kelly said. Kelly did, however, acknowledge that Facebook has detected sexual predators and other abusive practices on the site. Facebook made news again recently with a very public lawsuit, one that accused Zuckerberg and Co. of fraud, copyright infringement and misappropriation of trade secrets.

It seems as its popularity grows, Facebook is finding it harder and harder to keep its nose out of trouble.

ConnectU spearheaded the lawsuit, claiming Facebook stole its ideas. The same lawsuit was originally filed in 2004, but the suit was dismissed on a technicality. The company immediately refilled the suit.

In the allegations against Zuckerberg, the three founders of ConnectU, Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss and Divya Narendra, claimed Zuckerberg had agreed to help with the completion of software for their networking Web site.

According to the Associated Press, the three had requested Zuckerberg to finish the database before their July 2004 graduation, to which Zuckerberg allegedly consented.

Such statements were false and Zuckerberg never intended to provide the code and instead intended to breach his promise," stated the suit. "[Zuckerberg] intended to steal the idea for the Harvard Connection Web site, and in fact he did so."

Facebook-fans have rallied to their beloved social networking site's defense, creating groups such as one entitled "Facebook will shut down in seven days if 1 million people don't join this group" (so far, over 300,000 have joined).

Clearly, despite its many problems, there are more than a few college students that can't imagine life without Zuckerberg's creation.

Once upon a time, before the phrase "Add Me on Myspace" entered the pop culture lexicon and "Are you on Facebook?" became the newest pick-up line, the concept of a Web site that boasted your personal information - from your cell phone number, your relationship status, pictures from your last wild night out - would have undeniably seemed terrifying. But the "Myspace generation" seems to have become, for the most, inured to that whole "protection of privacy" thing, for better or worse. ♦

lion U.S. visitors.

Facebook's Chief Privacy Officer Chris Kelly told The New York Times the site has privacy features unlike other social network sites that segment users by age, organization and region and make it hard for adults to contact users under the age of 18.

In particular, Facebook makes an effort to protect underage users by preventing adults from contacting them if the adults are not affiliated with a specific school network, Kelly said.

Kelly did, however, acknowledge that Facebook has detected sexual predators and other abusive practices on the site.

Facebook made news again recently with a very public lawsuit, one that accused Zuckerberg and Co. of fraud, copyright infringement and misappropriation of trade secrets.

It seems as its popularity grows, Facebook is finding it harder and harder to keep its nose out of trouble.

ConnectU spearheaded the lawsuit, claiming Facebook stole its ideas. The same lawsuit was originally filed in 2004, but the suit was dismissed on a technicality. The company immediately refilled the suit.

In the allegations against Zuckerberg, the three founders of ConnectU, Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss and Divya Narendra, claimed Zuckerberg had agreed to help with the completion of software for their networking Web site.

According to the Associated Press, the three had requested Zuckerberg to finish the database before their July 2004 graduation, to which Zuckerberg allegedly consented.

Such statements were false and Zuckerberg never intended to provide the code and instead intended to breach his promise," stated the suit. "[Zuckerberg] intended to steal the idea for the Harvard Connection Web site, and in fact he did so."

Facebook-fans have rallied to their beloved social networking site's defense, creating groups such as one entitled "Facebook will shut down in seven days if 1 million people don't join this group" (so far, over 300,000 have joined).

Clearly, despite its many problems, there are more than a few college students that can't imagine life without Zuckerberg's creation.

Once upon a time, before the phrase "Add Me on Myspace" entered the pop culture lexicon and "Are you on Facebook?" became the newest pick-up line, the concept of a Web site that boasted your personal information - from your cell phone number, your relationship status, pictures from your last wild night out - would have undeniably seemed terrifying. But the "Myspace generation" seems to have become, for the most, inured to that whole "protection of privacy" thing, for better or worse. ♦

What's New

Recently, an influx of applications have become available on Facebook, from the mindless to the political. Here's a look at some of the most interesting (and hilarious) choices:

◆ **Superpoke:** Allows you to virtually throw sheep, drop-kick, tickle and "take sexy back from" your friends.

◆ **Top Friends:** Lets you list your favorite people on your profile.

◆ **Fortune Cookie:** Displays a daily-changing fortune on your profile page, so the whole world can see what fate has in store for you.

◆ **Where I've Been:** Creates an interactive travel map to pin all the cities, towns, and even suburbs you've visited.

◆ **Honesty Box:** Lets users send each other anonymous messages, removing any inhibitions, thus enabling strangers to let you know what horrifying, disgusting things they think of you. At least their feelings won't get hurt.

◆ **Zombies:** Allows you to bite your friends and make them zombies, thereby building your zombie empire. Seriously.

◆ **Happy Hour:** Buy your friends virtual tasty beverages, no fake I.D. required.

◆ **LOLCats:** "Im in ur prezants, stealin ur Chrstmaz." Need we say more?

◆ **Awareness Ribbons:** Display Awareness Ribbons spanning more than 400 causes to let people know the causes you support.

◆ **Election '08:** Add a presidential endorsement to your Facebook profile and let your friends know exactly where you stand.

◆ **Greek Family Tree:** your fraternity or sorority genealogy.

◆ **Pirates vs. Ninjas:** Who would win in a fight: Pirates or Ninjas? Add this application and find out.

◆ **Chuck Norris Fact Generator:** 'Nuff said.

◆ **The Sorting Hat:** Show off your favorite Hogwarts school by adding a house badge to your profile, and cast spells on your friends. Avada Kevadra!

◆ **Drunkometer:** Show the world how drunk you are and see your friends' states, too.

◆ **Friend Stats:** Which one of your friends has the most wall posts? Who has the longest first name? Countless random questions are answered on your page.

◆ **Virtual Mom:** Your online mothering can include free nagging, positive daily praise and motherly advice.

Features: "Ratings"

Continued from 10

spin-off series. Ten films would also follow with an eleventh in production, and "Star Trek" would become one of the highest grossing film franchises of all time. Yet four decades ago, had a group of devoted fans not supported the show they loved, it may well have faded into obscurity.

More recently, the CBS series "Jericho" (which was cancelled in May) experienced a seven-episode revival after fans sent tons of nuts to executives at the network, drawing the idea from a line on the show's season finale.

On the animated side, a now hugely successful animated comedy took a number of blows before it would find itself on steady scheduling ground. In 2000, Fox cancelled the then short-lived "Family Guy" after only two seasons. The show would live again for another season due to fan outcry, only to be cancelled a second time in 2002. The program found a home on Adult Swim, which drove its popularity to new heights. Fox reinstated the program, and it is now entering its sixth season.

Though these scenarios seemingly give hope to fans of struggling television shows, it should be noted that this is the exception to the rule. Television is a harsh and unforgiving medium.

Most poorly rated television shows will be pulled as quickly as they aired. To make matters worse, the fate of these programs rests on a system that is seriously flawed. From both a consumer and production standpoint, the outlook seems grim. In 2006 alone, over 40 shows were cancelled across five networks. The question has to be asked: how many of these programs might have been saved by a more accurate and comprehensive ratings system? Until many of the flaws that taint the current system are addressed, that question will continue to loom in the minds of audiences and content providers alike. ♦

What's New For Fall:

"Cavemen"

The Geico cavemen were pretty annoying in 30 second increments, so ABC decided to give them 30 minutes every week to grace our television sets.

Premieres Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7 P.M. on ABC

"Kid Nation"

So, reality TV goes all "Lord of the Flies" on us, setting up 40 kids, aged 8-to-15, with no adult supervision, in a deserted Western town. Yeah.

Premieres Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7 P.M. on CBS

"Pushing Daisies"

Basically, this guy's touch can bring dead people back to life, but if he touches them again, they go back to being dead. So what does he do, but revive his deceased ex-girlfriend, and spend an entire television series trying not to touch her, lest he kill her all over again. My head hurts.

Premieres Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 P.M. on ABC

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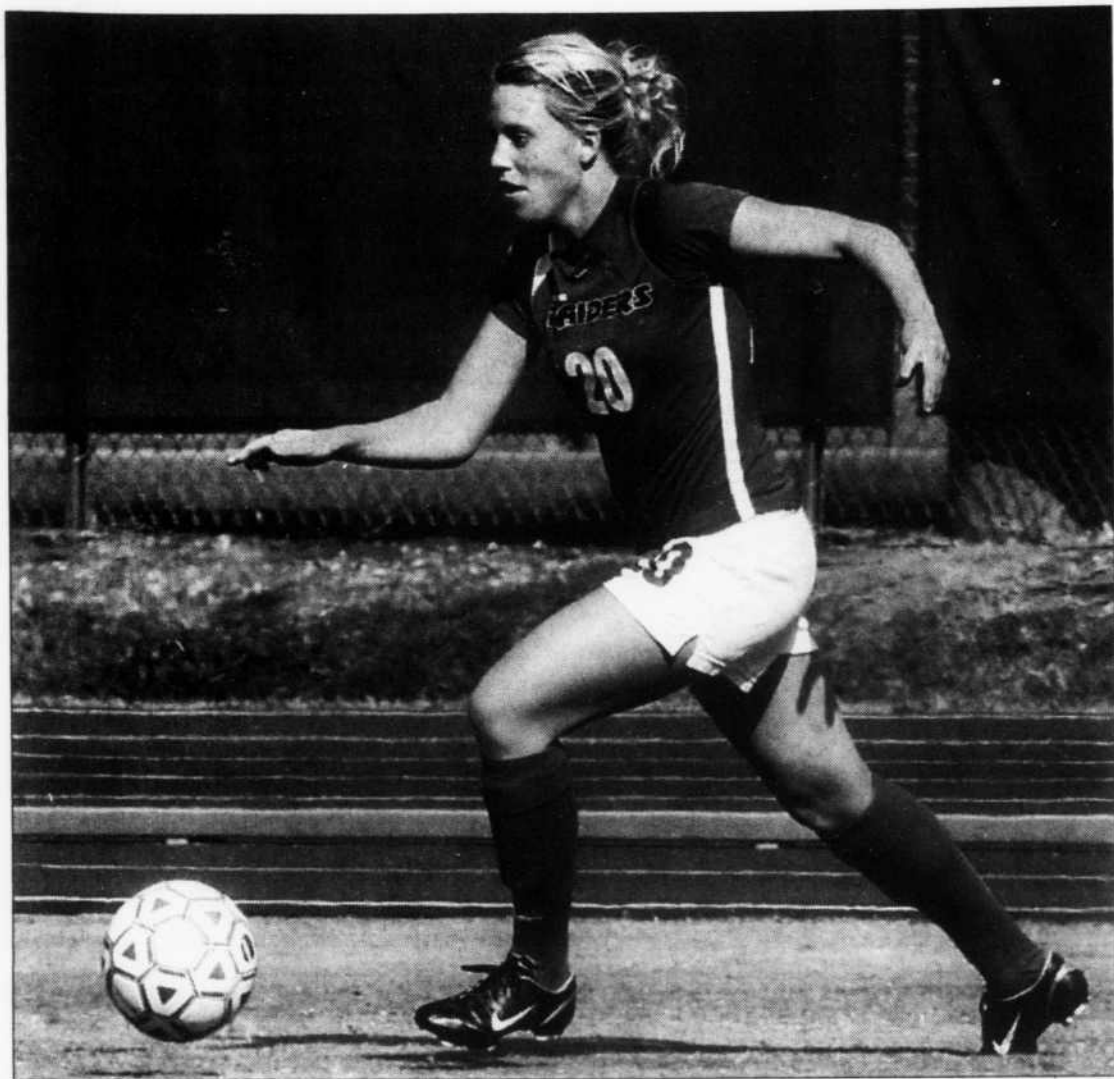
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Graphic by Matthew Adair

SPORTS

Kicking it with the soccer team



File Photo
Caitlyn Reeves (above), junior soccer defender. Reeves, a McKinney, Texas native, will vie for more playing time this season.

Tough schedule sets tone for 2007

By Dwayne Douglass
Contributing Writer

With all the success and excitement that MT sports brought to Murfreesboro last season, one may have accidentally overlooked the soccer program. This year the soccer team is out to make sure they give MT fans something to talk about. This time the topic will not be about football and basketball alone.

The soccer team is currently ranked second in the preseason and has also received some first place votes. They have been ranked in the top three for the past two seasons.

The team has several players who play well enough together to allow the team to be a success. The 2007 team consists of 13 veterans and 8 newcomers. Two players, Kala Morgan and Ingrid Christensen, are named to the Preseason All-SBC Team.

"It's a great honor to have players recognized. Both are good kids and work hard. They deserve to be awarded," says Coach Rhoden.

College athletes come and go from season to season. Sometimes players leaving can have a huge impact on how well the team will compete in the next season. Rhoden mentioned that he lost some key players like Rebecca Rodriguez and a few others, but he feels confident that he has athletes who are ready to step in and step up.

Recruiting is another factor that plays a huge part in how well a

team performs after a successful season. After a good season recruiting becomes both easier and harder for Rhoden and his staff.

"You become a victim of your own success," says Rhoden. The team may have several players wanting to play for MT because of the success of the program, but "you have to get players to help you get better and not stay the same," says Rhoden.

One reason the coaching staff has to assure they continue to get better is the difficulty of their schedule.

"The schedule this year is harder than those in the past. 2008 [will be] harder. We are trying to become a top program in the country. To be the best, you have to play with and against the best," says Rhoden.

I was thinking the players must have a lot of pressure on them after having several successful seasons and a tough schedule ahead. Holly Grogan, a senior on the team, said there is no pressure.

"We know what we could have done and we have not reached our potential," says Grogan. The senior talked about how all the players get along, have good chemistry, and are just ready to learn and improve on performance.

Although the first week of camp was very hot, the heat couldn't slow down these players on a mission.

"We just deal with it and do what we can. We can't control the heat," says Grogan.

Francesca Howells, a freshman

from South Wales, said "the heat is tough on locals, so it's definitely tough on internationals". She said this is the hottest temperature that she has ever experienced, but that she was not going to lose focus.

The heat has not been an issue at all for Kala Casiple. She even complimented the temperature, saying "[it's] nicer than Miami".

It will take a lot of searching to find players and coaches with as much passion for their team as you can find with MT soccer. The coaches and players are surely doing their part. Now it's time for the fans to join in and do their part. Fan support shows the MT soccer team that their hard work and success is not going unnoticed. The team may have broken records for attendance last year, but would like to see even more people come out this year.

"It is important to have fans from the start. If they come to our first two home games, they will come to more," says Rhoden.

MT will open the regular season this Friday at East Tennessee. After that they face Belmont in Nashville before heading home to play Tulsa and Mississippi State in the MT Soccer Classic/Youth Weekend.

All MT soccer games are free to the public. The team plays in a new stadium with comfortable seats. There is not a bad seat in the house. The first home game is September 7th at 4:30 pm. Soccer time is here and it is time to kick it with the MT soccer team.

Volleyball team starts strong

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee remained undefeated in Omaha after a Saturday win against Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks. The 3-0 win earned them the Creighton Bluejay Invitational crown.

Five Blue Raiders had 10 or more kills in the match. Junior Ashley Asberry led with a new career high of 15 and freshman Izabella Kozon continued to impress with 11. The Blue Raiders averaged over 20 kills per game while Stephen F. Austin only accumulated 49 total. Despite being behind late in the final match against Sephen F. Austin, MT left with the win due to their superior blocking skills.

The Blue Raiders scored four of their final six points off of blocks. Asberry and Mead picked up three block-assists each while Kozon and Scott shared the final.

Middle Tennessee head coach Matt Peck credited his returning players for the team's success in the tournament.

Peck was also pleased at the immediate impact that Kozon and Mead had on the court.

The Blue Raiders will play two more road games before returning home to play in their yearly tournament the Blue Raider Bash.

MT will be hosting the Bash on Sep 7-8. The tournament, held at Alumni Memorial Gym, kicks off with a game between Texas-Arlington vs. Georgia State at 10 AM. Directly following that match, MT will face local rivals Belmont at 1 PM.

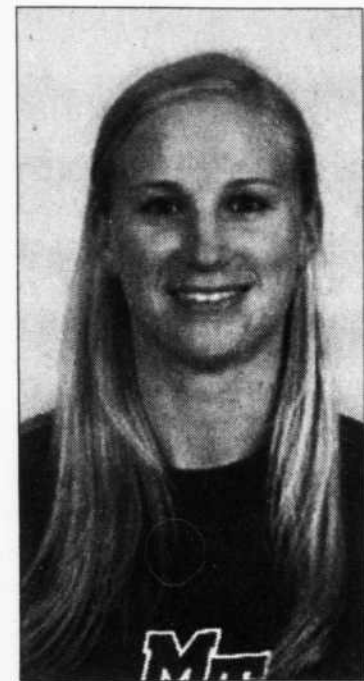


Photo courtesy of goblueraiders.com
Izabela Kozon, freshman.



Justin Keonin | Photography Editor

Sports previews football

Sept. 1 at Florida Atlantic

Sportacus: The people who set the five point spread against MT in this game must be the same people who think the Detroit Lions will have a break out season every single year. Why do people make predictions like this? Because if they get it right they look brilliant. Expect another multiple turnover game for Schnellengberger's Owls, and just half of last year's 271 rushing yards for the Raiders would be more than enough earn MT their first win.

MT - 23 / FAU - 10

Low: Middle Tennessee lost half of their defensive backs and all of their linebackers from the number one defense in the conference. With the addition of a new starting quarterback in Craddock, you have to expect some adjustment. If last year's game against FIU, the worst team in college football, is any indication then I'm sure Schnellengberger can come up with the right game plan.

FAU - 14 / MT - 12

Sept. 6 at Louisville

Sportacus: One player will determine the outcome of this game: Brian Brohm. I see this entire season as an effort for Brohm to prove to his former coach Bobby Petrino that he should be Atlanta's first pick in the NFL draft next year. The Heisman hopeful will be leading the first Cardinals team to ever start a season ranked in the top 10 by the AP. To make matters worse, Papa John's Stadium will be a much tougher field for the Raiders than LP was last year. Louisville will use this game to prove they are a BCS team. I promise you they won't overlook the Raiders this year.

UL - 42 / MT - 20

Low: However things should get interesting when the Blue Raiders travel to Papa John's Stadium to face the Cardinals. Just go back to last year's game at LP Field and remember the emergence of Damon Nickson as a kick returner. Blue Raider fans will also witness the emergence of Joe Craddock as a quarterback this year, with the help of his wide receivers and motivated blocking from the offensive line. This will also be the game where the kicker position is solidified by a marquee performance from Matt King.

MT - 17 / UL - 14

Sept. 15 at Louisiana State University

Sportacus: The Tigers have long been a team that blew national title hopes by losing games they shouldn't. Strangely enough they often lost those games at Home. Remember UT's come back from a 21-point deficit in 2005? Craddock with no arms has to be a better QB than any Clausen but I expect LSU to take advantage of MT's inexperienced linebacker core with short passes and power running.

LSU - 35 / MT - 24

Low: I am crazy enough to pick Middle over Louisville. I am not crazy enough to pick the Blue Raiders over LSU. LSU's only losses last year were to SEC opponents Auburn, a perennial national championship contender, and Florida, the national champion, by a combined 17 points. MT lost to South Carolina, a perennial bottom feeder in the SEC by 45 points. Enough said.

LSU - 45 / MT - 6

Sept. 20 vs Western Kentucky

Sportacus: What can I say about Western Kentucky that hasn't already been forgotten? Let's face it this game is an excuse to pack the stands, pad our schedule, and beat up on a state that never could decide if it was in the north or the south in the first place.

MT - 55 / WK - 3

Low: I'm only wasting time on Western Kentucky because my editor is sitting right next to me. It is time to stop acting like division 1-AA teams have a chance against us, even if they are in transition. We beat Western now. We will beat Western later.

MT - 38 / WKU - 9

Oct. 6 vs Virginia

Sportacus: When Thomas Jefferson first came up with the idea for the University of Virginia in 1800 he intended for it to be hands-down the best university in America and indeed it was. What Jefferson didn't count on, apparently, was that UVA's recruiting base in football would be severely hampered by it's close proximity to several major ACC and SEC schools and it's rigid academic standards. UVA- great tradition, crappy football.

MT - 17 / UVA - 9

Low: Many "experts" have picked Virginia to beat us with a broomstick at our own stadium. I am one of the few that feel we can defeat the "juggernaut" that is UVA. In my time I have seen UVA beat FSU to win the ACC championship. A decade later, I saw the Cavaliers beat another undefeated Florida State team in Charlottesville. Keeping that in mind, last year they lost to East Carolina and beat Wyoming in overtime by one point. They don't deserve to have a stadium.

MT - 24 / UVA - 14

Oct. 13 at Memphis

Sportacus: Conference USA is arguably the worst conference in football and this game will be a grudge match of sorts. No one wants that honor. If MT lost to Memphis it would prove that C-USA is only the 2nd worst. Luckily for MT and the Sun Belt, Memphis is also the worst team in the C-USA. They return 15 starters from last years 2-10 season and are expected to place last or next to last in the conference. I'm giving this win to the Sun Belt. I'm counting on at least one touchdown by the defense and special teams.

MT- 48 / UM- 20

Low: Count me in as one Middle Tennessee fan traveling to the Liberty Bowl for victory's sake. Memphis ranked in the bottom of the C-USA in defense last year and not far off in offense. Martin Hawkins was the 2nd worst quarterback in Conference USA last year with 13 interceptions. That doesn't mean Hawkins can't throw his share of touchdowns. Last season UM lost 5 games by 6 points or less. Either way, look for Damon Nickson and Bradley Robinson to put together their highlight tape during this game.

MT - 35 / UM - 21

Oct. 20 vs Arkansas State

Sportacus: The Indians like to run the ball. Plain and simple. Unfortunately for them, as a team that was ranked 117th in passing efficiency last year they will regularly face eight or nine men in the box. No one respects their passing game, which is a shame because they have a fantastic receiving core. The fact that their offensive line is depleted and MT's defensive line was third in the nation in tackles for loss makes their rushing game a non-factor. That said I don't expect them to score a single touchdown. At the same time, they have a pretty tough defense and MT can't score 30+ points in every game.

MT- 24 / ASU- 3 yArkansas State.

Low: Two years ago, I met a young lady who attends Arkansas State. She is real nice and a huge fan of her school. We don't get to speak very often but when we do, the conversation is great but it always leads to her saying something silly like they are going to win. This year when ASU visits Floyd Stadium, I can't wait to walk up to her, lift my hand...point my finger, and laugh in her face when the Blue Raiders add another victory to the list.. New jumbotron, same result.

MT - 42 / ASU - 10



The MT trophy case has been full for years, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro and his staff now prefer to let coaches display newer trophies in their offices.

-Photo by J. Owen Shipley | Sports Editor

MT wins SBC Award

By Richard Lowe

Assistant Sports Editor

Since Middle Tennessee State University became a full-time member of the Sun Belt Conference in 2000 success has become synonymous with its athletic program. The Vic Bubas Cup, given each year to the university that comes in first in the Sun Belt's all-sports standings, has been awarded to MT four out of the last seven years. During the 2006 - 2007 sports season, MT won or shared conference championships in football, volleyball, and women's basketball while enjoying post-season success in men's outdoor track and volleyball.

Chrissy Givens, SBC female player of the year, was as good an example of MT's recent dominance as any player. She was also

named first team all-conference, ESPN Academic All-American Player of the year, and was selected 31st overall in the WNBA draft after finishing her senior season.

Her head coach last year, Rick Insell, was the conference women's basketball coach of the year guiding his team to a 30 - 4 record. MT's 27-game win streak was the longest in the nation before it ended.

The football team was led by first-year head coach Rick Stockstill, who was also named conference football coach of the year. The Blue Raiders won a share of the Sun Belt Conference Championship and a trip to the first division I-A bowl game in school history. Damon Nickson, Tavares Jones, Erik Walden, and Franklin Dunbar were all named to the preseason all-conference team. Nickson and Dunbar were also

named to the 2007 All-America checklist by the Football Writers Association of America.

Like Insell and Stockstill, men's golf coach Johnny Moore, and men's outdoor track coach Dean Hayes were also voted conference coaches of the year for their respective sports.

Highlights from 2006: MT baseball defeating Vanderbilt - the number one team in the nation at the time- and Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom winning the 2007 NCAA National Championship in men's doubles tennis.

Since its inception, MT has won or shared 27 Sun Belt Conference Championships, 144 Ohio Valley Conference Championships, 135 NCAA Appearances, 10 Ohio Valley Conference All-Sports Trophies, 6 members of the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame, and 12 National Championships.

Welcome back MT: Letter from the Sports Editor

Thank the gods. Football season has returned. MT students, new and old, rejoice that a new sports year is upon us. If this is your first Sportacus column, let me run you through how they usually go. Twice a week I write about myself for a bit, tell a cute colloquial story, force an anecdote, give a shot out to my reader(s) (hi, Mom!), and then mention at most three stats. I will invariably receive hate mail for any mention of UT (even if it's negative) which I will invariably ask our editor in chief to print in full.

Well, at least that was how it worked last year. The times, sports fans, they are a changing. Say hello to your new sports editor. That's right, our new editor in chief was foolish enough to give me the reigns this year. I'd like to think the decision wasn't based solely on my being the only applicant, but that was probably the reason.

That being said, I am promising a big year here at *Sidelines*. The entire staff is dedicated to shaking things up and becoming more relevant. We are also taking a different approach to the sports section than the paper has in the past. Expect more columns, more insider info, more graphics, bigger pictures and more national news stories. We're taking more of a Web 2.0 approach to the sports page this year so feedback will not only be appreciated but also printed in a monthly mail bag column with reactions from our columnists.

(Note from the editor: this does not include feedback printed in Letters to the Editor as it is unethical to reply to content that was not intended to receive a reply)

So lets say you're new to MTSU, and you have no idea who I am or why I have referred to myself so much already. Well, first of all, this is a "letter from the editor." That's sort of how they work. Which also answers who I am. What it doesn't answer is what you, a new student, can expect in the ways of sport at this fine university. Real quick, lets run through the big three: Football, WBB, and MBB.

Last year, MT's football program was co-champion of the Sun Belt Conference and went to their first ever I-A bowl game. They are led by second year head coach Rick Stockstill and an exciting crop of talented assistants. The Blue Raiders are looking to take the all-out Sun Belt title this year and they have a good chance. High profile games at LSU and Louisville will help the



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Sports Editor

team gain national recognition, and the Raiders first ever home game against a "major" program (Virginia on Oct. 6) is a big step forward for the team. Depth is a major issue for the Blue Raiders, along with question

marks at line backer and offensive line but I'm still confident they should be in contention for the SBC yet again.

An in-depth preview of the 07 season - by myself and new assistant sports editor Richard Lowe - can be found on pages 15 and 18.

In basketball, MT was on the verge of an across the board break-out-year but Kermit Davis' men's squad had a rough preseason. A slough of injuries caused their season to be over before it even started but coach Davis is excited about how many returning starters the team has and spoke very highly of the team's off-season work ethic. Look for them to compete for the SBC title. This time is going to surprise a lot of people.

Coach Insell's Lady Raiders are in the exact opposite position. Last year's squad finished the season as a top-20 team. ESPN.com called them "America's team" prior to their unexpected loss against a very tough Marist team in the second round. The biggest difference between last year's squad and the 07-08 Lady Raiders is the loss of star Guard Chrissy Givens who is now playing pro-basketball in Turkey.

Givens' first reaction when she discovered a Turkish team was interested was, "it's going to be hot." No one argued with her on that one.

The Lady Raiders without Givens will be led by Amber Holt, a shy, soft spoken, monster of a player. She fights hard on the court but the question remains can she push her team in the locker room the way Givens did? After the loss of three key starters one might be tempted to think the Blue Raiders are in trouble but coach Insell is very excited about his incoming freshman and I know first hand that Holt is the real deal. I expect them to win their fifth straight SBC title and hopefully make it further into the tournament than the second round.

As for changes in staff at *Sidelines* go, my first reaction to being named sports editor was "it's going to be weird." No one argued with me on that one.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior English major. He can be reached at Myspace.com/lamsportacus. E-mails for the mailbag column should be sent to slsports@mtsu.edu.

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Craddock excited to start season

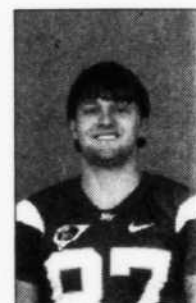
-By Jillian Davis and Richard Lowe

Contributing Writer and Assistant Sports Editor

Red-shirt junior quarterback Joe Craddock has been waiting for his chance for a long time. After playing behind former star QB Clint Marks for the last three years, Craddock is excited to take over the team this Fall.

When he learned he would need a minor surgery over the Summer he hoped that it would be the last delay of his career. Now fully recovered and anxious to get his first start, all the waiting may finally be behind him.

Sidelines sat down with MT's new QB to ask about his off-season, his health and his role as a leader for the Blue Raiders.



Craddock

Q: How did you judge your performance after the team's first scrimmage?

A: I judge all the things I need to do for my team mentally, like make checks, get out of certain plays and get into good ones that will help us win. I feel almost 100 percent and by September 1, I will be 100 percent.

Q: What are your goals for this season?

A: My personal goals are to lead the team. As far as team goals, win the conference [championship] again and go to another bowl game.

Q: In your first season as starting quarterback, what will you do to prepare yourself and the team for the season?

A: I'm going to try to do everything right and not try to make any mistakes. Coach Stock always preaches be perfect.

Q: Last season you were the second on the depth chart behind Clint Marks. What did you observe from him on being a leader for the Blue Raiders?

A: He was a great decision making QB. He made great decisions and I learned a lot from him making good decisions and staying positive with the team. Always keep the team upbeat and that's what I tried to take from him.

Q: How has overcoming a rough off-season affected your play and role as a leader?

A: It's really helped me to not take anything for granted. Go out there and take advantage of being out there today. Tomorrow could be your last day. I've really taken that to heart and put it towards my personal life and just have no regrets.

Q: LSU and Virginia are two big games coming up this season. How will you prepare the team and yourself for these games?

A: Prepare like it's just another game. We've got to go into every game trying to do our best and win and be perfect like Coach Stock says. If we do that, we'll have a good shot in every game.

Q: Virginia comes to Floyd Stadium. Where do the fans play a role in a big game like this?

A: It's going to be huge. We're looking forward to a sell-out crowd. It's going to be a real fun college football atmosphere. That will get us real juiced up and ready to play and I think the fans will be rockin' and it'll be a fun time.

Q: Do you feel pressure as starting quarterback for a team returning with a Sun Belt Conference championship and a bowl game appearance?

A: We're way ahead now [more] than we were last year. Going to a bowl game brought our team closer together as a team. I think that's really going to help us this year. Expectations are a lot higher this year than they have been. There's not necessarily pressure on me, just pressure on the team.

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Previews: Game-by-game look at fall 2007 season

Continued from 15

Oct. 13 vs North Texas

Sportacus: I generally try to give teams the benefit of the doubt on scoring at least 2 points. It's possible MT could be so busy scoring that Craddock could leave a shoe-lace untied, trip, and fumble near the goal line. It's just not possible against North Texas. My assistant editor just reminded me that they have 9 defensive starters returning. My answer was immediate, "How is that good? MT beat them 35-0". At this point in the season I expect Craddock to be firing on all cylinders at QB.

MT - 42 / NT - 0

Lowe: It's amazing what one-year does to a fan base. When Rick Stockstill was hired, many fans wondered could we finally beat North Texas? 35 points later the question was answered. This year, the Mean Green enter the season with new head coach Todd Dodge, who is fresh from the high school ranks. The one thing MT fans should worry about is the 9 returning starters on a defense that I am sure is tired of getting beat on. I'm calling this game a defensive battle and should be close.

MT - 10 / NT - 6

Nov. 3 at Louisiana-Monroe

Sportacus: When these two teams met last year, MT was down by seven at the half. ULM's defense was being stingy and their QB, Kinsmon Lancaster, was having a great night. It looked like MT might be in for a long night but Clint Marks, Desmond Gee, and Eugene Goss had a marquee second half and the MT defense prevented ULM from scoring another point. Marks and Goss may be gone, but Gee and that defense still remain.

MT - 27 / ULM - 14

Lowe: I'm sure ULM quarterback and Davey O'Brien Trophy candidate Kinsmon Lancaster hasn't forgotten that second half shut out and he will be out for revenge. ULM has always been a team that has made friends with the glass ceiling but this year they should break through. It looks like Heartbreak Hotel for the Blue Raiders.

ULM - 20 / MT - 14

Nov. 3 at Troy

Sportacus: Even if I'm wrong and this isn't 9-2 heading into this game, or even 8-3, this will be the biggest game of the year. A lot of people around Murfreesboro feel Troy stole MT's bowl game. I personally think they beat us fair and square, but I don't think they will do it again.

MT - 24 / Troy - 17

Lowe: Even though I can see this game going either way I have a feeling we will still lose. Troy returns the Sun Belt Player of the Year in QB Omar Haugabook and should take advantage of the home field advantage.

Troy - 17 / MT - 13

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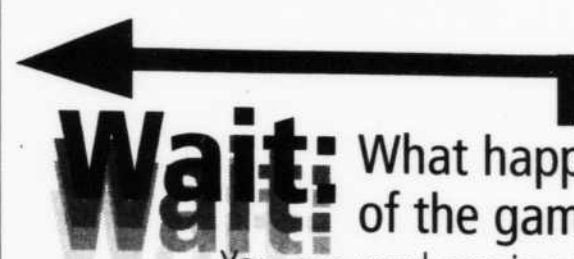
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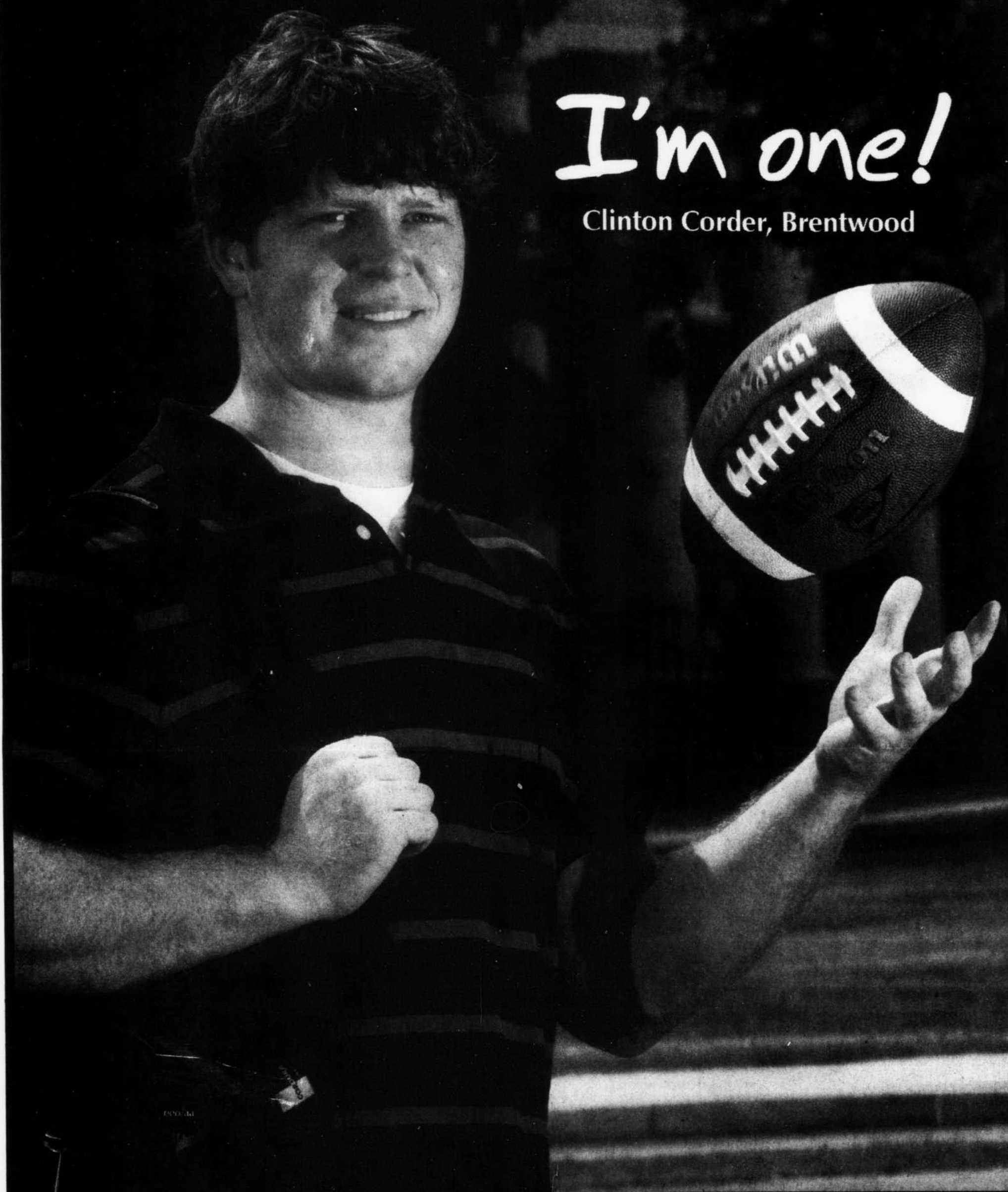
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