

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

Jennifer Holder, senior journalism major, stands outside the Keathley University Center Tuesday afternoon at an informational table to raise awareness for breast cancer. The booth is a joint effort between the department of pre-professional graduate studies and the textile, merchandising and design department. "We do this table every year to raise awareness," Holder said. "The cause is very important to the department."

MT student pilot missing

By Wesley Murchison
Campus Administration Editor

An MTSU student is missing after his plane did not land from a flight from Auburn, Ala. to Murfreesboro Monday.

The Tennessee Civil Air Patrol began searching for Jeremy Ryan Johnson, 24, around 11:45 a.m. Monday.

Johnson, from Huntsville, Ala., was flying from Auburn Opelika Airport back to Murfreesboro Municipal Airport in a privately-owned Beechcraft Musketeer.

According to Chad Gehrke, airport manager for Murfreesboro, Johnson was reported to have left Auburn around 6:30 a.m. and was due back between 8:30 and 9 a.m. that same morning.

CAP was contacted about Johnson's absence after several hours and the hangers were checked to see if he failed to report his arrival. Capt. Roy Giorgio, spokesman for the CAP Tennessee wing, said that a lot of times pilots fail to close their flight plans, and that he reached the hangers to check to see if any of the planes fit the description.

"I did a cursory ramp search myself and didn't see a Beech

Musketeer," Giorgio said. "Ninety percent of the time someone finds the flight."

Major Patricia Mitcham, public affairs officer for CAP Alabama wing, said that Johnson did not have a flight plan when he left Auburn Monday morning.

According to Giorgio and Mitcham, CAP wings in Tennessee and Alabama have both conducted flight searches tracing Johnson's flight within their respective borders.

At one point, according to Giorgio, there was a weak electron locator transponder signal, which is an emergency signal that planes emit when they go down, around Talladega, Ala.

There was also a report from a motorist traveling on I-65 of a plane going down in the Franklin area. Search teams also scoured the northwest Nashville area in response to an alarm, Giorgio said.

Giorgio said that these searches can last for weeks and as they progress resources tend to decrease.

"I have seen these [searches] go as long as three weeks," Giorgio said.

MT Poll reveals divided opinions of war, president

By Kelly Fitzpatrick
Contributing Writer

The results of the Fall 2006 MTSU Poll were released last week, revealing Tennesseans' thoughts on state and national issues such as President Bush, the war in Iraq, the economy and the upcoming mid-term elections.

A total of 549 Tennessee residents selected at random were surveyed from Sept. 19-30, and the results suggest Tennesseans are divided in their feelings on the state of affairs locally and nationally. The much-publicized U.S. Senate race between Democrat Harold Ford Jr. and Republican Bob Corker is in the spotlight, highlighting a clear-cut example of partisan division throughout the state.

"The results were drastically polarized along party lines," said Ken Blake, director of the poll and associate director of the Office of Communication Research at MT. The poll shows 42 percent of likely voters approving of Ford, while 43 percent favor Corker, leaving the two candidates in an extremely close race with less than a month remaining until mid-term elections.

Still, there seems to be consensus on several major issues facing the nation, especially on matters related to President Bush and the war in Iraq. A majority of Tennesseans at 53.1 percent disapprove of Bush's performance, with 39.3 percent approving, and 58.6 percent disapproving of his handling of the situation in Iraq. When asked if sending troops into Iraq was a mistake, 50.6 percent said it was.

Compared to previous years, such attitudes may highlight a point of change in public opinion. In the spring 2005 poll, conducted just months after the 2004 Presidential election, Bush had an approval rating of 54.7 percent.

"People are less and less pleased with President Bush and the war in Iraq," said Robert

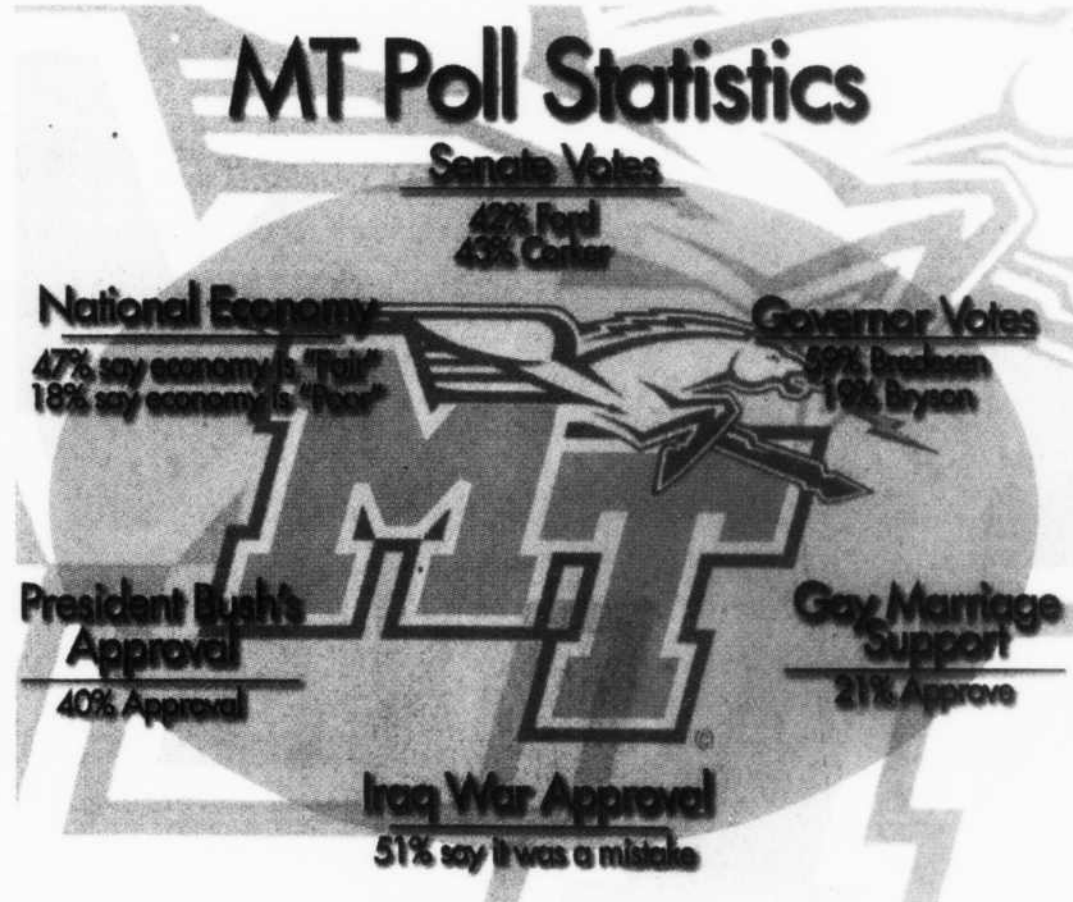


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

The MT Poll has been conducted annually since 1998 by MTSU students via telephone, and is sponsored by the College of Mass Communication's Office of Communication Research. The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points.

Wyatt, associate director of the poll and director of the Office of Communication Research, who also said the results reflect a general shift in the political climate. Although Tennessee is traditionally more conservative than the rest of the nation, Wyatt said more people are turning to the Democrats to represent their interests as the election nears.

Democratic incumbent Governor Phil Bredesen is likely to win his bid for re-election. Fifty-one percent of residents said they would vote for Bredesen when asked their choice if the election were held today. Only 19 percent said they would vote for his opponent, Republican Jim Bryson.

Similar results were found in the Mason-Dixon Tennessee Poll released on Oct. 1, conducted by the Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. Bredesen lead

Bryson 62 to 23 percent in a survey of 625 registered Tennessee voters.

Also present in the MT poll were regional differences in opinion. In Middle and East Tennessee, 40 percent of residents said growth has had a positive impact on the state by improving the standard of living and bringing more job opportunities, but only 21 percent of residents in West Tennessee feel the same. These differences often fall along the same lines as class, and minority groups tend to be less likely to report overall happiness in standard of living and job availability, Blake said.

Trends in Tennessee could be a good indicator of national perspective. Having such a diverse population of voters, including a large number of people from all points of the political spectrum as well as interest-specific voting

Visitors may pay

By Noel Rodriguez-Pak
Staff Writer

Future visitors to campus may be paying for parking if a new bill is passed by MTSU officials and the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The bill was proposed in April 2006 by parking services to charge visitors a rate of \$2 per week for parking, and is designed for long-term visitors that use campus facilities such as the MT Campus Recreation Center or the James E. Walker Library on a daily basis.

Currently MTSU has an "open campus" policy, which does not require visitors to pay for parking. They are able to receive a month-to-month pass, free of charge, to use services available to other students such as the recreation center or the library.

"It is only fair for both students and employees who pay for parking services since they are losing those spaces to people that do not have to pay for parking," said Nancy Weatherly, manager for the MTSU parking and transportation department.

These charges will not affect visitors that are attending special

event such as concerts, sporting events, workshops or conferences. Prospective students touring the campus, construction crew members and any visitors that could be on campus such as visiting parents, guests of the faculty, recruiters or any person who will be using the campus services for one to two days will not be charged either.

"The purpose of this bill is only to charge visitors that use campus services on a daily basis," Weatherly said. "We hope to deter fraud with this bill."

According to Weatherly, other universities have a "closed campus" policy and are adamant about charging for visitor parking.

The University of Memphis charges visitors \$6 per day and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga charges visitors \$3 a day and service and construction personnel \$27 per year. Central Washington University charges visitors \$10 per day while student permits are \$100 per year, she said.

"Long-term visitors should pay

Speaker promotes tolerance, not hate

By Jaz Gray
Staff Writer

When Bud Welch's daughter, Julie Marie Welch, was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995, he wanted her murderers dead without a trial. "Fry the bastards," Welch said.

Ten months later, he was an anti-death penalty activist on a hunger strike journey from revenge to forgiveness.

To share his story, Welch will be at MTSU Wednesday discussing the bombing, Julie's life and his opposition of the death penalty.

Julie was a translator for the Social Security Office and went to work in the Murrah Federal Building at 8 a.m. the morning of the bombing. Welch said she had an appointment an hour later translating for a Spanish man and his bilingual friend.

"Her office was on the first floor of the nine story building. She left her office to walk to the waiting room to get him and he brought

his bilingual friend with him. The bomb went off at 9:02 on Wednesday. All three [were] found together that Saturday."

Welch lived close enough to the bombing to feel the blast. After witnessing the house shake violently, Welch said his youngest son, Chris, asked him what had happened.

"I suggested that an airplane or something had run into a building," Welch said. "The weather was clear. Three or four minutes later, my younger brother called and said he saw black smoke. We turned on the radio, and they said there had been an explosion."

Welch turned on the television and, within minutes, he and his son were watching a CBS affiliate's helicopter circling the bombsite. Welch and his brother Frank originally thought the federal courthouse next to his daughters' building had been hit. He was shocked when he realized which building

See Welch, 4

Students are not learning U.S. history, study finds

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

American college students are not learning enough U.S. history to make informed civic decisions, a study by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute found.

The study, "The Coming Crisis in Citizenship," focused on the role of colleges and universities in preparing students to become "informed and engaged citizens."

The report was a multiyear research process that included a team of experienced professors, the ISI's National Civic Literacy Board and the University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy, all commissioned by the ISI, a non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization.

The executive summary of the report described the findings as "far from encouraging. In fact, [the findings] constitute nothing less than a coming crisis in American citizenship."

A large percentage of the seniors tested did not recognize the line: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," as a line from the Declaration of Independence.

"It is scary [to know that] 47.9 percent [of college seniors] did not recognize a pretty impressive document that has kept us going," said Janice Leone, interim chair of the history department. "[This study] shows the big gap in people's knowledge."

In the fall of 2005, the University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy took a survey of 14,000 randomly selected college freshman and seniors at 50 colleges and universities across the nation. The students were asked 60 multiple-choice questions in order to test their knowledge of U.S. history.

The report presented four key findings about students' knowledge and how colleges teach U.S. history, government, the market economy and the United States and the world.

A major finding is that United States' colleges and universities fail to increase knowledge about U.S. history and institutions. As a whole, the seniors tested scored 53.2 percent, which constitutes an "F" on the traditional grading scale.

The report found that a university's prestige does not pay off. In fact, colleges that ranked high in the U.S. News and World Report in 2006 ranked low on



Adjunct Professor Robert Evans Pickard teaches Survey of United States History I Tuesday night. A recent study reported that when college students do not learn history, they become uninformed citizens.

the ISI study.

Though it may seem obvious, the study also found that students do not learn what colleges do not teach. The learning of U.S. history and institutions decreases when students take fewer courses in American history, political science, government and economics.

Finally, greater civic learning goes hand-in-hand with more active citizenship. It was reported that students who learned a great deal of U.S. history "were more engaged in citizenship activities such as voting, volunteer community service and political campaigns."

The report also made suggestions for universities to help their students become better citizens through learning history. Of these five suggestions, MTSU meets three.

"MTSU is ahead of the curve in [relation to other institutions] to teach history of the country and the world today," said Amy Staples, associate professor of history.

The first suggestion was that

colleges and universities should begin to assess their effectiveness in teaching U.S. history and institutions.

"MTSU is working with TBR regarding setting up a system to make assessments of the general education departments, where U.S. History is a general education requirement," Leone said.

The second suggestion was to improve the number and quality of required courses in history, political science and economics.

"We already have required courses in the field of history, political science and economics," Leone said.

The report also stated that stewards of higher education should hold colleges and universities accountable. As a Tennessee Board of Regents university, MTSU is already fulfilling this recommendation.

"The Tennessee Board of Regents has a concern for citizenship. They require two semesters of American history for graduation," Staples said.

MTSU and TBR have specific mandated learning outcomes

for the students to not only fulfill their general education requirements, but also become informed U.S. citizens in the process.

The two suggestions that the MTSU history department did not meet include providing more information to parents, students and others who have a stake in the country's history education, and building centers of academic excellence on campuses specifically for teaching U.S. history.

In her classes, Staples said she provides a "historical content that is relevant for today."

Last week, Staples' U.S. history class voted whether or not to ratify the Constitution. Staples said she believes that this helps to provide the students with an understanding of exactly why the Constitution matters.

"Knowing dates does not make you a good citizen," she said, adding that it is the knowledge of historical events and their causes and effects that make good citizens who can make informed civic decisions.

MtvU challenges

By DeAndrea Mack

Contributing Writer

This fall, MtvU and General Electric have set out to challenge students to "green" their campuses in fresh, new ways.

The Ecomagination Challenge is a contest for the most innovative, creative and cost-efficient project to benefit the campus environment. College students are encouraged to form teams to propose a project that will keep their campus environmentally healthy. The contest winners will receive a \$25,000 grant to implement their idea, as well as a concert and festival for their campus on Earth Day 2007.

"We believe our audience is smarter than we are in terms of on-the-ground solutions," Stephen Friedman, general manager of MtvU, said. This is one of many reasons for extending this opportunity to college students.

As far as environmental issues are concerned, Friedman said there exists a "broader cultural awareness of this now" and it doesn't shock him that students "are leading the charge."

The contest opened for submissions Sept. 1 and the deadline to submit proposals is Dec. 1. MtvU and GE will then choose the top 10 entries, and the finalists' multimedia proposals will be shown in January on the Ecomagination Challenge website.

Select projects will also run on MtvU channels. Students will be given a chance to vote on their favorite project, and MtvU and GE will choose the winning project based partly on student votes, along with its environmental impact, cost efficiency and overall ingenuity.

Last fall, through a Student Government Association referendum, MTSU students voted to raise student fees to pay for spring energy initiatives. Eighty-nine

percent of voters agreed to add \$8 to tuition to take initiatives that would help better the environment. Of that amount, \$5 goes toward buying renewable energy sources, while \$3 benefits energy conservation and efficiency.

Among other clean energy initiatives at MTSU, Students for Environmental Action is taking on Campus Climate Challenge, which is a youth network of over 300 campuses in the United States and Canada.

"The goal is to get institutions of higher education to try and have 100 percent clean energy," Reggie Miller, a current SEA member, said. "It's a lofty goal ... ours will be about 10 or 11 percent."

The group also hopes to start policy change at a national level.

"We'll be the 11th largest purchaser of clean energy as far as campuses go, and the largest purchaser of clean energy in the South," Miller said.

The initiatives will begin when the tuition money for this year becomes available in the spring. The committee to allocate the funds consists of SGA members, faculty senators and other students.

In addition, SEA is sponsoring its annual Alternative Transportation Week, which will tentatively take place later this month.

According to Cliff Ricketts, professor of Agricultural Education, the Department of Agriculture may also have a grant to recycle used cooking oil from campus restaurants to run diesel engines.

MTSU is also working with Tennessee Valley Authority on the "Green Power Switch" program to produce electricity from environmentally friendly sources.

For more information on Ecomagination Challenge, go to <http://www.ecocollegechallenge.com>.

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Up All Night to Help the Kids Fight!

GOP concerned as even Repubs praise Tenn. Democrat's campaign

By Erick Schelzig
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Democrat Harold Ford Jr. has been one of the most effective political candidates this year. Just ask Tennessee Republicans.

"Junior, as I will call him, has done an excellent job of campaigning," said Jim Melton, 59, of Maryville in East Tennessee. "He has done an excellent job of appearing to be conservative. He is not."

Melton is backing Ford's Senate rival, Republican Bob Corker, in the highly competitive race to replace Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who decided to forgo another term to concentrate on a possible White House bid.

Tennessee hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1990, and the contest should have been relatively easy for Corker, the former Chattanooga mayor. Not only is Ford trying to buck the state's Republican trend, he is trying to become the first black senator elected in the South since Reconstruction.

Against those odds, the charismatic Ford, a 36-year-old centrist Democrat and five-term congressman, has waged a nearly flawless campaign, combining self-deprecating television ads with solid oratorical skills and a direct appeal to religious conservatives who would typically vote Republican.

In one commercial, Ford walks down the aisle of his Memphis church, sun shining through the stained glass windows, and says: "I started church the old-fashioned way — I was forced to. And I'm better for it."

"Here, I learned the difference between right and wrong," he says before accusing Republican opponents of "doing wrong," distorting his record on homeland security and military spending.

He settles into a pew and adds: "I won't let them make me someone I'm not, and I'll always fight for you. Give me that chance."

Ford's effort is making Republicans nervous.

"We have to get the vote out, or we're going to be in big trouble," said Doug Grindstaff, a Republican Party chairman in Williamson County, which encompasses the conservative suburbs around Nashville.

"I'm not confident at all," said Marc Trotter, 44, executive chef at the Nashville Convention Center and a Corker supporter. "That's why I'm going to make sure I get out and vote."

Polls show the two candidates locked in a tight race with early voting beginning Oct. 18. The outcome of the race is critical to control of the Senate, with Democrats needing to gain six seats to wrest the majority from the GOP. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has spent \$1.3 million to help Ford.

In a clear sign of unease, Corker overhauled his campaign late last month, replacing his campaign manager with the chief of staff for Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander, hiring a number of Alexander aides and moving his headquarters from Chattanooga to Nashville.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee has spent more than \$1.4 million on the race, including campaign ads targeting Ford. The campaign National Committee has chipped in \$968,325. All this money is separate from the millions Corker has raised.

In one RNC ad, an announcer says: "Border security doesn't just stop illegal immigrants; it stops terrorists. But Ford voted four times against funding for more border agents."

The ad shows a dark, shadowy figure walking down a hallway. Ford has complained about a Republican attempt to make his race an issue.

Race and family are ever-present for Ford, and he often finds himself answering for the latter. For all the talk of Ford's campaign skills, the two issues stand as major obstacles for him.

Ford comes from a powerful Memphis political family, with eight members who have served

as state lawmakers, local politicians or in Congress. His father has 11 siblings, and Ford has said he has 91 first cousins. It is a family touched by scandal.

His father was tried and acquitted on federal bank fraud charges in 1993. His uncle, Emmitt, resigned from the Tennessee House in 1981 after a conviction on insurance fraud. Another uncle, John, resigned from the state Senate last year after being charged with taking \$55,000 in bribes. He has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

In the first of three scheduled debates Saturday, Corker said Ford came from a family engaged in "machine-type politics." Said Ford, "Let me be clear: I love them." He urged Corker to stick to the issues.

The two debate again on Tuesday and at the end of this month.

Corker has had President Bush headline two fundraisers in Tennessee to raise \$2.6 million. The most recent was off limits to cameras and reporters — perhaps a reflection of Bush's low approval ratings in Tennessee. First lady Laura Bush was scheduled to attend a Corker fundraiser on Wednesday.

In one of his ads, Corker tells his mother, Jean, that he cut violent crime by 50 percent while mayor of Chattanooga.

"Fifty percent? Mmmm, not bad," Jean Corker responds, before giving her son an affectionate nod.

But analysis of the FBI's annual report, considered to be the most comprehensive source of crime data, shows violent crime dropped less than 30 percent during Corker's administration. That led Democrats to accuse Corker of lying to his own mother.

Ford recently campaigned with Mark Warner, the Democratic former governor of neighboring Virginia and another White House hopeful.

"There's a lot of things you can say about Harold Ford," Warner said, "but nobody's not going to call him independent."

CRIME BRIEFS

Tuesday, Oct. 3 — 9:12 a.m.
Mass Communication Building
Theft Over \$500
Complainant reported that two microphones had been stolen from the recording studio.

Tuesday, Oct. 3 — 11:18 a.m.
Sigma Nu House — Greek Row
Theft Under \$500
Parking services reported that one of the "orange parking boots" had been stolen.

Tuesday, Oct. 3 — 12:28 p.m.
Woodfins Lot
Simple Possession of Marijuana
Charles Christopher Hayes, 23, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was arrested for driving without a license and simple possession of marijuana.

Tuesday, Oct. 3 — 7:54 p.m.
Jim Cummings Hall lot
Leaving the Scene of an Accident
Victim reported that someone had struck his vehicle while it was parked in the Cummings lot.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 — 8:07 a.m.
Jones Field Lot
Vandalism Under \$500
Victim reported that his tire had been vandalized while parked near the baseball field.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 — 9:59 a.m.
Scarlett Commons Apartment 5
Vandalism Under \$500
Complainant reported the fire extinguisher box had been vandalized and the extinguisher itself missing.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 — 12:08 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft Under \$500
Victim reported that his textbook had been stolen while he went to the printer at the Walker Library.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 — 1:21 p.m.
Maintenance Lot
Traffic Violation
Jonathan T. Scudder, 27, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was issued a state citation for failure to obey a traffic control device and for violating the financial responsibility law.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 9:40 a.m.
Business Aerospace Building
Vandalism Under \$500
Complainant stated that someone had used chalk to vandalize the monuments in the BAS courtyard.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 11:57 a.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft Under \$500
Victim reported that one of his or her textbooks had been stolen.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 12:03 p.m.
Orchard Lot
Leaving the Scene of an Accident
Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the Orchard Lot, and the other vehicle had left the scene.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 1:30 p.m.
Business Aerospace Building
Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that some money had been stolen from an office in the BAS.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 3:09 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Fire Alarm
Complainant reported that some trash was on fire in the cigarette butt can outside the KUC.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 4:00 p.m.
Davis Science Building
Theft Under \$500
Victim reported that his backpack had been stolen.

Thursday, Oct. 5 — 5:41 p.m.
Keathley University Center Grill
Theft Under \$500
Victim reported that his MP3 player had been stolen from his backpack at the KUC Grill.

Friday, Oct. 6 — 11:34 a.m.
ROTC Lot
Officer found a vehicle that had been reported stolen to the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Friday, Oct. 6 — 12:34 p.m.
Greenland Drive parking lot
Leaving Scene of Accident
Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the Greenland Drive lot.

Friday, Oct. 6 — 2:57 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft Under \$500
William C. Lewis, 25, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was arrested for two counts of theft under \$500.

Saturday, Oct. 7 — 2:00 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Trespass Warning
Female subject was issued a trespass warning for attempted theft of magazine from the library.

Sunday, Oct. 8 — 3:26 a.m.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon House — Greek Row
Assault
Officers responded to the Emergency Room to speak with the victim in an assault that occurred on Greek Row.

Monday, Oct. 9 — 9:38 a.m.
Tennessee Livestock Center
Burglary
Complainant advised equipment shed was broken into and equipment was stolen.

Monday, Oct. 9 — 1:07 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Theft Under \$500
Victim called and stated that he had his iPod stolen from the locker room at the grill.

Monday, Oct. 9 — 8:34 p.m.
Corlew Hall
Burglary
Complainant reported that a small vending machine that contained over the counter medicine was broken into and all the medicine was stolen. The machine was located in the lobby of the Corlew Hall building.

Faces in the Crowd



Terry Yoder and his son, Jason, members of Grace Christian Fellowship, were on the KUC Knoll Tuesday handing out literature about their religion.

1) Why are you visiting MTSU?

We are here to encourage students in the authority of God's word and to show that Jesus is the answer.

2) How long and how often have you been doing this?

For almost two years, at least once a month on MTSU campus. We're on campus usually while classes are in session, from around 10 in the morning until about three or four in the evening.

3) Why do you, personally, do this?

I want to visit with the students and encourage those students with faith in God, and be open to what God might have me do in the lives of students that I come in contact with.

4) What religion are you?

I am from Grace Christian Fellowship, we are similar to the Mennonites in the sense that we practice modesty. We separate from the world and take His word as final authority.

5) Why are your children not in school?

This is a home schooled and I believe that they are a part of their education. They are learning how to interact with other people.

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Classifieds

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FOR RENT

Continued from last column

3BD/2BA House. 1/4 mile from campus and across from Greek Row. CHA, hardwood floors, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove furnished. Utility room with W/D hook-ups, deck, large yard. NO pets. Avail. June 1. \$375.00 deposit, \$800.00 per month. 615-895-0075

Rooms for rent. In a Christian house with two females, prefer two females of like faith. 450.00 a month due 1st of month. water electric and cable included. 615-895-2657 or 615-556-5809

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

Middle Tennessee Realty and Property Management Group, Inc. 615-893-2380. Mention this ad and get application fee waived.

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

SUBLEASER

Five Senses Restaurant and Bar Now hiring for the fol-

FOR LEASE

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

lowing positions: PM Chefs & Cooks Apply between 2pm and 4pm Tues - Fri 1602 W Northfield Blvd Suite 515 Georgetown Park Murfreesboro.

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

TRAVEL Spring Break w/STS to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas and Florida. Are you connected? Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Travel Free! Call for group discounts. Info/Reservations 800-648-4849 www.stsstravel.com

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

Wanted: Motivated students to assist National Honor Society in registering and acting as local officers. 3.0 GPA required. Contact: director@phisigmath-eta.org

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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MT professor becomes social columnist

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

From local student to local celebrity, Beverly Keel has lived multiple careers, but will always call MTSU her home.

Keel, an associate professor in the recording industry management department, took over Heather Byrd's celebrity column, previously "Brad About You" in *The Tennessean*. Keel's first column appeared in the Oct. 1 edition.

"The most interesting thing is the reaction to the column," Keel said. "Calls and e-mails, I've received a lot more local notoriety."

But it is not the columnist job that Keel said she looks forward to.

"Teaching is the best part of my professional life," Keel said. "It makes my heart feel good and I appreciate the relationships I have with my students. I have worked really hard and loved every minute of it. I'm embarrassed that I've been so lucky. I've been blessed with an amazing career, the center of which has been teaching."

In addition to teaching and writing for *The Tennessean*, Keel is also the new director of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies.

"I work closely with Ed Kimbrell, the past director, who was also my professor when I was a student," Keel said. "Kimbrell has been like a father figure to me and has guided and advised me for twenty years. My new office is even across from his."

Although Keel graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism, she has worked in print journalism and teaches RIM.

"I thought I wanted to do television news, but while in college I worked for Nashville Banner and discover that ink is in my blood," Keel said. "I got hooked and worked for the paper as a part time job for a couple years in college. I did a lot of driving."

Keel's schedule has not changed over

the years, driving is still a major factor. She begins the day visiting *The Tennessean*, driving to campus and returning to Nashville to cover stories at night. She also frequents Nashville for column content on weekends.

But even after all the travel, Keel said MTSU is still home.

"MTSU is my hub and anchor," Keel said. "Everything else is an offshoot. I may do other things, but they come and go. MTSU is a permanent home."

MTSU

Even after working for professional publications and businesses, Keel returned to MTSU in 1995 to teach recording industry management.

"My jobs have always been the same, there is a common thread that runs through everything that I do. People might respond to my teaching, my writings differently, but the skills I learned in college are the skills I use now."

In August, Keel was named the new director for the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. The chair organizes events centered on free speech for the College of Mass Communications.

"It's going great, it's so much fun. We are in the beginning stages of putting together a one-day event centered on war and journalism. Speaker panels are starting to take shape."

More events are also in the planning stages for the academic year, Keel said. One of the events will deal with photojournalism and the schedule is being worked on for late January or early February.

"Last year's Chair, Ed Kimbrell, put on a full-day conference. This year, I'm looking at more scheduled events over different times that can cover a broad area of topics."

The Tennessean

After Brad Schmitt, author of "Brad About You," left *The Tennessean* to join News Channel 2, co-worker and fellow

celebrity columnist Heather Byrd took over his column.

"Heather was doing 'Brad About You' temporarily. She did it in addition to her full time job. The paper asked me to help with the column and it evolved from there."

In addition to *The Tennessean*, Keel has written for *People*, *InStyle* magazine and *Oxford America*.

"I've been doing journalism in some form or fashion for about 15 years. The writing and reporting is nothing new. What's new is the attention to my job."

One of the best aspects of the column has been the access to the atmosphere of Nashville, Keel said.

"I'm so fortunate to have a front row seat to Nashville's cultural theme. For the column I always ask celebrities questions that people want to know. I don't really have horror stories, people are professional with me and it's a good gig."

History

Keel started her academic career at MTSU in 1984, graduating four years later with a degree in broadcast journalism. During college, she also worked as a columnist and sports editor for *Sidelines*.

"While at MTSU, I actually learned media writing from Ed Kimbrell on an electric typewriter."

After graduation, Keel attended Columbia University as a graduate of the School of Journalism.

"Ed Kimbrell was the person who really encouraged me to attend Columbia, a decision that eventually allowed me to come back to MTSU and teach."

Upon receiving her master's degree in 1989, Keel moved back to Nashville and worked for the Nashville Banner as a business writer, eventually concentrating on a music business beat.

She left the Banner after four years and worked for Polydor Records for a year. Keel then returned to MTSU in



Associate Professor Beverly Keel

Photo Courtesy of Beverly Keel

1995 to assume a full-time teaching position.

"My life would have been complete and fulfilled if I was only able to be a professor at MTSU. Anything else past

teaching is just icing on the cake. This school is a fabulous place to teach, the faculty is great and they all support each other. No other school anywhere else is as good as this one."

Yahoo! grant draws scrutiny

By James Hohmann

The Stanford Daily

After Yahoo! turned over information about Internet search records to the Chinese government that led to the arrests of journalists in 2004, protests arose from the international media and the U.S. Congress. So last month, when Yahoo! offered and Stanford accepted a \$1 million gift for the University's Knight Fellowship program to support press freedom in what many saw as an act of atonement, some critics worried the money came from a tainted source.

A barrage of emails ensued as past Knight Fellows from around the world wrestled with an ethical dilemma. The debate over the donation has largely died down, and the program's administrator says it is keeping the money, but the argument has become a symbol of constraints on press freedom abroad.

"I have accepted this fellowship because I know there are no strings attached to it from Yahoo!," said Imtiaz Ali, the first Yahoo! International Fellow, a BBC reporter based in Pakistan, in an email. "If the Yahoo! money provides an invaluable opportunity to one journalist to learn more, it's not a bad deal."

James Bettenger, director of the Knight Fellowships, told *The Daily* that program administrators were cognizant of the Yahoo! and China controversy when they deliberated on

whether to accept the gift.

"It served a need in our program, which is to provide stable funding for international fellows," he said. "It left the selection process entirely up to us. We thought this was a good thing."

The email exchange prompted an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a piece on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and posts on a prominent journalism blog.

The Knight Fellowship program counts some of the nation's most distinguished journalists as alumni.

Kevin Fagan, a current fellow and *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter, said newspapers frequently print ads from morally questionable entities, such as cigarette and alcohol manufacturers.

"It certainly is a conversation worth having, but I didn't see any question about taking the money from the get-go," he said.

The Knight Fellowship program, one of the most esteemed in journalism, brings selected journalists to the University every year to collaborate and to study. Fellows are typically reporters who are midway in their careers.

Journalists in countries with restricted press freedom will receive the new international fellowship, funded to last 10 years.

Ali said that constraints on press freedom remain an issue of concern through the developing world.

"Three of my journalist friends have been killed just in the last two years in the line of their duties," he wrote in an email to *The Daily*. "I know how difficult the life of their widows and children is now."

China's record on human rights has come under fire after recent crackdowns. An August Human Rights Watch report outlined how user information from Yahoo! has allowed the Chinese to crack down on journalists who had written or posted pro-democracy articles.

An alumni email list had rarely been used until the Knight Fellowship program made the announcement on Sept. 18. The dormant list exploded with debate, with a sizable majority of posters in support of accepting the grant.

International journalists were more likely to support accepting the donation, Fagan said, because they have seen firsthand the consequences of government intimidation.

"They seemed to feel most strongly about it," he said. "You would think they would feel feistier about this, but they were saying there's no question and we'll take what we can get."

But turning down the gift was not on the table, Bettenger said.

Yahoo! co-founder Jerry Yang said that his company was committed to supporting "open access to information on a global basis."

"We hope that fellows visiting from press-restrictive nations

will have the opportunity to bring change and enlightenment to their home countries," he said in the statement announcing the gift.

Still, some former fellows, like retired Eugene, Ore. Register-Guard reporter Don Bishoff, believed that taking the money sent the wrong message.

"For me, the underlying principle is that it is from a company that was complicit in fingering a dissident," Bishoff told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

But Srinija Srinivasan, Yahoo!'s editor in chief, told *The New York Times* that while Yahoo! was "profoundly distressed by the arrest" of Shi, the endowment was "not about regret."

Bettenger said it was good news that a prominent Internet company was taking a more active role in journalism education.

"This is, to my knowledge, the first instance of any of the Internet news providers making a contribution to this program or similar journalism programs," he said. "We think it is appropriate for companies like this to take responsibility for the improvement of journalism."

Ali, the recipient of the Yahoo! gift, said he was excited for the chance to study at Stanford and pledged that he "will always stand by my fellow journalists who face oppression anywhere in the world, no matter whoever is the oppressor or helper in his or her suppression."

Visitors: Parking fee

Continued from 1

because they are taking up parking spaces," Weatherly said, adding that the recreation center is in agreement and will add the charge to their membership rates.

"Other departments such as the aerospace and vision departments already pay for parking services for their attendees during their summer conferences," Weatherly said. "These conferences typically last two to three weeks."

In order to receive a parking

pass, visitors must go to parking services and receive a one-month pass free of charge. Visitors are allowed to park in either green or white zones.

The proposal was approved by the Traffic Committee in April 2006 and will still have to be approved by the president and executive vice president and provost of the University, as well as by the TBR. Even if the bill passes, it still has at least two to three years to become effective.

Welch: Promotes forgiveness

Continued from 1

had actually received the blast.

According to Welch, the rubble was about 20 feet high and there was a huge hole in the side of the building. "I gave up all hope at that moment," he said.

The first call Welch can remember making was to Julie's mother Leah. Welch and Leah had been divorced for nearly 19 years since Julie was six-years-old, but they had maintained a very close relationship.

Welch would stay by his telephone for two days after the tragedy knowing that, if Julie was alive, the first call she would make would be to her family.

"The thing she would do was call home. I

never got that call," Welch said. "I went to the bomb sight Friday. There was no purpose in going. They had the bomb sight blocked off three blocks around." Rescuers started to retrieve bodies of the victims the next day.

Welch was "just angry, full of revenge" and decided that he would drink away his pain. He said if he did not drink enough at night he could not have a sound sleep. When the hangovers started lasting all day, he realized "self medication with alcohol wasn't working."

Ten months after Julie's death, Welch, who said he had opposed the death penalty his entire life, decided to return to his position against capital punishment.

"The death penalty is all about revenge. When someone does something bad to you, it doesn't help to do something bad back to them."

Welch said that Julie's death transformed his life, experiencing forgiveness in 2000.

"In talking about Julie for eleven years, I am keeping her alive. I have an inner feeling. I want people to know who my kid was."

Welch explained that, if he were simply the father of a girl who was murdered in Oklahoma, no one would care. He believes people care not because of who she was or who he is but because of the event.

"Young people should know that not everyone seeks revenge. People can go from rage to reconciliation."

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Parking solution inadequate; fee unlikely to end problems

MTSU officials, along with the Tennessee Board of Regents, are considering a bill that would revamp the way that visitor parking is handled in a long-term scenario. The plan proposes charging \$2 a week for visitors to receive a parking pass. This is distinctly different from the current "no charge" visitor policy, though those who only come to campus once or infrequently would still be able to obtain a free temporary pass.

Nancy Weatherly, manager for the MTSU parking and transportation department, said the fee was only fair, since those who do pay for parking passes are losing those spaces to visitors who do not.

Parking has and likely always will be a huge issue on campus, and, while the number of visitors most likely does not account for a large part of it, it can be very frustrating to pay for a parking pass and miss out on a parking space because a tag-less car is already occupying it.

Charging visitors for a pass in order to justify their use of the space is a wonderful idea – it just won't work.

When it comes to parking and getting tickets, many people have mastered the system. It is all too easy for people who don't attend campus – or even people who do – to get into a car with no parking pass registered and park. When they get a ticket, if they acknowledge it at all, they simply call and say, "I don't go to school there," and that is that.

Some local high schools solve the problems with visitor parking by placing a large sticker on untaged cars, over the driver's side windshield. In order to have the sticker removed, violators must go to the office and pay the fine, after which, someone will come and safely remove the tag. If removed by hand, it will peel and break, leaving a mess on the glass. If implemented at MTSU, this should, of course, only apply to tag-less cars with no displayed visitor pass of any kind. Beforehand, the license plate number of the car should be checked against the ones in the computer database in parking services to make sure the student's tag has not just fallen off or been stolen.

As for parking violations committed by students with parking passes, there is, perhaps, another possible solution. MTSU would never approve allowing the city police department to issue real tickets to tag-less visitors and improperly parked student tags, since this revenue would belong to the city, and many student workers would no longer be needed. However, perhaps MTSU should up the price tags for parking violations – people would be less inclined to break the rules if doing so would break their banks.

Don't waste this life rushing to beat clock

Each week, I look for inspiration to write my columns. It can come from a conversation, a television show; basically, anything that either bothers me or intrigues me is fair game.

Unfortunately, this week's column was triggered by the death of a family friend. It was known a year prior that he would lose his battle with brain cancer and it gave everyone in his life time to prepare. Death is always a horrible thing, but does knowing ahead of time make it better?

I am sure the answer varies and no matter how much time we may have, it is never enough for something that significant. This leads me to my point: how much does society actually value time?

The biggest problem with society as a whole is that we take time for granted. I am the worst of the worst when it comes to rushing. My life is consumed with punctuality. Early is always on time and my biggest pet peeve is being late. Lateness and selfishness go hand in hand. I have lived with this mentality for 20 years, but now I am really starting to question it.

Am I rushing through my life obsessing about something that is actually harming me? Well, maybe so, but I do not place all of the blame on myself – I actually blame society.

I know that the whole blaming society thing is very typical but I feel that I have a valid argument. I am coming up in an era filled with fast food, high speed internet and infomercials that claim if you read a book you can become a millionaire in a week.

Everything needs to be quick, fast and in a hurry.

At times, speed is convenient, but are things a little too quick?

Quickness can be an advantage in certain circumstances. For example, it is very important that a 911 phone call be answered quickly, yet we have taken the concept of speediness to the extreme.

Do people value each other or



My 'Keep It Real' Policy
Shannon Mitchell
Staff Columnist

does everyone have their own separate agendas? I noticed this just last week. I was eating at my favorite restaurant when a woman made a scene about her service. She was mad because she did not like her meal and by the time her server bought something else everyone else at her table would be through and that would take too much time. Wow. Now, I am not going to say I have never complained at a restaurant, but that was totally unnecessary.

There are only 24 hours in a day and each second that passes is one that we will never get back. I, along with most of the United States, do a lot of time wasting.

I have been so guilty of holding on to my past and not allowing myself to move forward from various issues. It took time to realize that I was wasting time looking backwards. Why look back when there is so much time that I have yet to spend?

Life is amazing and if you truly think about mortality, time is the biggest factor. It is important to recognize the people around you. It is important to be aware of this hourglass we call life. There is no flipping the hourglass over to start again. Live life to the fullest and take less time rushing and more time absorbing.

Time is a rarity that should be rationed and used appropriately. It more rare than any diamond, more valuable than any jewel.

Do not rush through life without finding a purpose. Figure out what is important to you – the time is now.

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at srm3i@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

'Christian' ministers misrepresent faith

John 3:17 reads, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." Furthermore, in the book of Matthew, Jesus explains, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?... You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Christianity, like all major religions, is made up of many different groups, known as denominations. While the practices within denominations are slightly different, the overall message is the same: God is Love. As in all religions, though, there are oftentimes zealous extremists who replace the actual message with dogmatic rhetoric.

The "Christian" ministers from Open-Air Outreach who set up on the Keathley University Center Knoll last week were not preaching the Christian message. Instead, these preachers employed dogmatic rhetoric to incite students as they walked by the Knoll.

People who associate with Christian groups like this do not embody mainstream Christianity, rather, they represent those who



Hurtt Pride
Matt Hurtt
Staff Columnist

routinely drown their children and blow up abortion clinics – all in the name of God. These Christian extremists can be likened to those Muslims who kill in the name of Allah.

Not only is the message these so-called Christians preach wrong, but it tends to hurt the witness of actual Christians who try to let others see Christ through them.

As Jesus said, it's somewhat hypocritical to acknowledge someone else's inequity without realizing your own.

What is interesting about groups like this is that they make the news much more often than actual groups representative of their respective religion. This makes it easy for anti-religious individuals and organizations to denounce the religion in question.

Mainstream Christianity – and Islam, for that matter – must stand up against extremist groups like Open Air Outreach. Christians must show others that inflammatory speech is not something God intended Christians to use as a form of witness.

The true message is love. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only son," John 3:16 reads, "that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." The concept is not complicated, but it often gets lost during religious debate.

The ministers of Open-Air Outreach do understand the importance of sharing Christianity with others, even if their message is inaccurate. Before Jesus leaves his disciples, He gives them a directive – a directive that all Christians know as the Great Commission:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Amen."

Matt Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Greek-bashing does not solve anything

To the Editor:

I am so sick of having to pick up *Sidelines* every week and open it up to Greek hate mail. Are you not over it yet? We get it. A lot of "non-Greeks" out there do not like us. For goodness sakes, stop writing about it already. There are much more important issues out there than how you feel about our community. If you hate us that much do not spend life's precious moments away complaining about us.

In response to Andrea Hinch's complaining about the way Greeks campaign, ["Greek volunteers don't deserve praise," Oct. 9] how about the way "non-Greeks" try to win votes? "Hey! Vote for me I'm not Greek!" and all these intramural teams who creatively named themselves "We're Not Greek." Campaigning is supposed to be about who you are, instead of what you're not. If the most interesting thing about you is the fact that you're not Greek, then it's time for you to visit the Student Organizations page and find a hobby. Greeks account for 8 percent of the student body, but for some reason people think that it is harder for people who are not Greek to get elected King, Queen, etc. Think about it statistically – 8 percent v. 92 percent. Maybe it's just that Greeks care and they get out there and vote.

Stop all the letters back and forth about why Greeks are horrible and why they're awesome. I'm not writing this to change someone's mind about Greeks, I'm just writing this to tell you find something better to talk about now. There are bigger issues out there in the world, believe it or not. Any campus you go to is going to have issues with people who don't like Greeks, obviously it is not different here. You've beaten it into our heads enough, now let some opinions about other things appear on this page. If people do not like us, their opinion isn't going to change from some letter to the editor of *Sidelines*. And Greeks aren't going to turn in their letters just because some self proclaiming "non-Greek" trash talks us. Love us or hate us, we're here to stay. If you don't like us, just ignore us, but for the sake of journalism stop talking about it.

Kerri Gass
Freshman, College of Mass Communication

Be educated, open-minded about Greeks

To the Editor:

So the saga continues, the vicious cycle between the Greeks and *Sidelines*. You love us, and then hate us, we do wonders for our campus, and then we corrupt it with our "Animal House" ways. The cycle will continue, that is how our campus works.

However, I feel the non-Greeks on campus are thinking by us wanting to break stereotypes and show what all we do positively we want non-Greeks to love us and never say a bad thing again. That is not the case; we just want non-Greeks to be educated on the lifestyle of a Greek at MTSU.

We can go around all day debating about why Greeks are good and bad for MTSU and why people hate the Greeks and why they love the Greeks. I'm not going to debate about that any longer. I just want the opinions expressed about Greeks to be educated and open-minded. The people writing against the Greeks mainly express themselves as being liberal when most of the comments made are some of the most closed-minded comments expressed towards an issue.

I have recently realized it's somewhat ironic that you call the paper "Sidelines." It perfectly explains some of your staff that has voiced their opinion on Greeks. They stand and watch the game waiting to criticize the first thing that goes wrong. However, they have yet to "suit up" and fix the problems. In my eyes, Greeks are "in the game," we have our uniforms on – croakies and all may I add – and we are fighting out the game for a win on campus. We are in the Student Government Association, we support our athletics in attendance and we are the ones making a difference on campus. The fact that we make up less than 10 percent of the student population says something. The fact that we are such a small population but make such a big impact shows our true purpose at MTSU.

Now, for the non-Greeks that contribute to this campus, this does not apply to you. I was not a Greek freshman year and found ways to get involved. I cheered for MTSU and was in SGA. It is possible. SGA offers many committees for everyone to join. People that are non-Greek can do a lot for campus; it just takes that push themselves that Greeks get by joining a fraternity or sorority.

I just want this campus to have a mutual understanding for each other. We can't live in an "everyone loves everyone" world but we can understand each other. If someone wants to express their opinion towards Greeks, become educated about Greeks and understand our point-of-view. Because if you ask many Greeks their understanding of non-Greeks, it would be a lot more educated and open-minded than the opinions expressed by non-Greeks.

Lauren Ruth
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

Former drug offenders targeted unfairly

To the Editor:

Thank you for raising awareness of the Higher Education Act's denial of student loans to youth convicted of drug offenses. ["Drug convictions cost students financial aid," Oct. 5] Instead of empowering at-risk students with a college degree, HEA limits career opportunities and increases the likelihood that those affected will resort to crime. Speaking of crime, convicted rapists and murders are still eligible for federal student loans.

Most students outgrow their youthful indiscretions involving illicit drugs. An arrest and criminal record, on the other hand, can be life-shattering. After admitting to smoking pot – but not inhaling, former President Bill Clinton opened himself up to "soft on drugs" criticism. Thousands of Americans have paid the price in the form of shattered lives. More Americans went to prison or jail during the Clinton administration than during any past administration.

As an admitted former drinker and alleged illicit drug user, President George W. Bush is also politically vulnerable when it comes to drugs. While youthful indiscretions didn't stop Clinton or Bush from assuming leadership positions, an arrest surely would have. The short-term effects of marijuana are inconsequential compared to the long-term effects of criminal records. Students who want to help end the intergenerational culture war, otherwise known as the war on some drugs, should contact Students for Sensible Drug Policy at "http://www.ssd.org" or "http://www.ssd.org".

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Sharpe, MPA
Policy Analyst

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FEATURES

Biology department preserves the wild Collection of animal mounts protected from public

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

Entering the comparative lab of the Strobel Biology Complex is like somehow gaining admission to a zoo frozen in time – its winged, furry and scaled inhabitants eternally stuck between seconds.

To see this timeless menagerie in its entirety requires something of a backstage pass, however, because many of the animal mounts in the Biology Department's research and teaching collections are out of sight on rollout trays in locked cabinets, peeking out from partially opened wooden crates or beneath plastic shrouds.

Not exhibiting these animals, some of which are large and posed on elaborate displays, may seem counterintuitive, but it's done to protect and preserve – not to hide, biology professor Brian Miller said, who has overseen the acquisition of many pieces for the department.

"We're not a showcase museum – [the mounts] are teaching and research tools," he said. "They aren't hidden away; they're placed in a position where they can be protected."

To prevent their misplacement or accelerated decomposition, most of the collection, which also includes animal tissues, fluid-preserved specimens, skeletal remains and drawers of bird nests and eggs, needs to be out of reach to remain intact, Miller said.

"Whenever you're maintaining your collection, you have to try and do what you can to try and protect it," he said. "Most things are put away where they're not going to be bumped and rubbed by people."

Placing these mounts, some of which are more than 100 years old, within easy reach of passersby or visitors to the lab would endanger them unnecessarily, Miller said.

Whether through morbid fascination or simple curiosity, some people would touch the animals, not realizing the damage they could cause in the process.

So even if he looks slightly ignoble sitting under a plastic sheet, the department's lion mount is far better off, because in his case, curiosity wouldn't be deadly, but it could certainly denude him.

"It is impossible to keep people from petting these animals and rubbing them," Miller said. "If they were out in the hallway right now, they would be destroyed. Any touch that you have to them is a chance of pulling off more fur, and the more tattered [the mount] becomes, the less likely we are to put it on display ever."

Glassy eyes and patches of missing fur aside, the mounts viewable behind panes of glass and atop shelves are far from caricatures of live animals. From the bright-blue feathers on the outstretched wings of an African Abyssinian Roller to the arched back and hissing tail of a bobcat kitten obnoxious care to position the animals as if frozen in mid-activity.

In the past, these realistic poses were used to depict animals in field guides before cameras replaced brushes as the artists' tool of choice, Miller said.

"Before photography, people would go to museums to make their sketches and to do their paintings," he said. "That's one of the value of collections – the history associated just with the collections themselves."

Still, that scowling bobcat kitten is a prime example of how the principles of taxidermy have changed in recent years, Miller said.

"The ideas of taxidermy have really changed over the last 50 years," he said. "There's a transition that you get. During the early part of the 20th century, most mounts of animals would show them in a fairly aggressive pose. Later in the century, most taxidermists tried to make the animals look cuter."

Although they make up only a small portion of the department's collections, the animal mounts occupy nearly every available inch of wall space in the lab. Even when the new science building is finished, however, all the mounts probably won't be displayed, Miller said.

"Since we don't have display cabinetry, space is really at a primary in the science buildings right now," he said. "We have used every nook and cran-

ny that we have. I'd like to display some of the more interesting mounts, [but] even in the new building, there's not going to be space for that kind of thing."

Over the years, the department has acquired items from a variety of sources. In addition to private and institutional donations, faculty members have built up collections through their research operations, Miller said.

"We've got an ichthyologist, George Benz, who has a tremendous collection of marine fishes that he does research on," he said. "He's got a huge collection from his days in the oceans."

Some of the animal mounts, including the lion with the plastic cloak, a chimpanzee and a huge, white wandering albatross, are relatively recent acquisitions from the Nashville institution formerly known as the Cumberland Science Museum.

During its transition two years ago to becoming the Adventure Science Center, the Cumberland Science Museum donated a large amount of primarily bird-related material to MTSU, including study skins preserved specifically for the purpose of research.

Nature centers and other universities received parts of the collection as well, but MTSU was singled out, among other reasons, because of the biology department's strong emphasis on vertebrate zoology, said Herschell Parker, a former MTSU grad student working as the Adventure Science Center's curator and collection's manager facilitating the transfer of the collection with Miller.

"[At MTSU] the focus was right," Parker said. "The other [reason] had to do with what the board of directors told me they wanted to be done with the collection. They wanted the collection to be sent somewhere it would be taken care of, but [also] where it would be used to teach."

The Cumberland collection was made up primarily of private donations acquired during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. In addition to private contributions, however, the museum had another means of acquiring new mounts to add to its exhibits, Parker said.

"The museum had a live-animal room, and when the animals died, they would be taxidermied and added to the collection," he said. "People would bring injured animals, and they would live their lives in the live-animal room, cared for and used for educational purposes until they died and were added to the collection."

For animals that weren't acquired in such close proximity to collection managers, data sheets listing the relevant information about the animal's death and acquisition are of great importance. When researchers have access to this data, mounts can be used to study everything from genetic information to taxonomy – the identification and classification of species, Miller said.

"If you have the proper locality data, it allows you to look at past changes in the environment and species distribution," Miller said. "That's where the real value comes in."

Two years after the transfer of materials began, the university is still receiving materials from the Cumberland Science Center. Most recently, a set of data sheets came in that led to the realization that some of the birds in the collection dated from the 1870s.

These are the oldest items in the collection encountered so far, but many of the university's other mounts are almost as old, Miller said.

"The peccary is from about 1910 to 1915," he said, pointing to a pig-like animal on top of a cabinet. "There are some that are very, very old. I would imagine that the wolverine is of a comparable age – around the turn of the century."

Old though it may be, MTSU's immobile menagerie benefits those who have access to it by letting them see in the – preserved – flesh the animals they might otherwise only know through pictures or movies, Miller said.

"Computers make finding information about animals so simple, but they can be misleading," he said. "I think it puts it into perspective when you actually have the animals that you can look at and see how massive a lion head happens to be. It's very different from looking at a lion in a book, on a TV or even off the Internet."

National Geographic might just be editing out the plastic.



Photos by Adam Casto | Staff Photographer

Top: Smile! A simian friend lounges in the trees as part of the biology department's collection of animal mounts.
Bottom: A lion mount stands shrouded in plastic, protected from possible damage while awaiting his next prey.



Religion, society collide over arrested polygamist leader

By Deidre Ortiz

Contributing Writer

In recent years marriage and religion have been two issues at the forefront of the American dialogue. Americans can choose to practice any religion and can, more or less, marry anyone they choose.

In the case of Warren Jeffs, however, a 50-year-old polygamist leader who was arrested Aug. 28 for allowing underage girls to marry older men, there is the issue of perverse beliefs in marriage and religion.

Jeffs is being charged with two felonies of rape as an accomplice after being caught in Las Vegas during a routine traffic stop. He was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in May and since then had been running from the law.

Jeffs replaced his father, Rulon T. Jeffs, in Sept. 2002 as the prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the communities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. Jeffs was believed to reward loyal members with one or more wives, who were considered to belong to their husbands.

Jeffs often allowed the marriage of underage girls to older men, which outraged some students on campus.

"He deserved to be caught," said junior accounting major Jenni Kinsey. "What he was doing is illegal. You shouldn't force 14-year-old girls to marry grown men just because of their religion."

"Warren Jeffs was basically the community pimp," added senior animal science major Deborah Stephens. "Here you have a man that's supposed

to be a prophet of God telling women that you go to heaven only if your husband is satisfied."

Some confuse FLDS with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but Jeffs' beliefs are a completely separate division.

Jeffs and the followers of the FLDS justify their practices through a revelation of founder Joseph Smith in 1843. Smith wrote in Section 132 of the "Doctrine and Covenants" of the church, "If any man espouses a virgin, and desires to espouse another, and the first gives her consent, and if he espouses the second, and they are virgins and have vowed to no other man, then he is justified."

The LDS Church rejected polygamy in 1890, partly by force of the U.S. government as part of the Edmunds-Tucker Act in 1887, which authorized

seizure of LDS church real estate and imposed heavy fines on bigamists and polygamists.

History professor David Rowe, who teaches Religious Experience in America, believes that one of the underlying reasons for the U.S. rejection of polygamy may be "Americans' serious discomfort with odd religions."

Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob, and there is a long record of religious innovators being whipped, beaten and hounded out of town," Rowe said. "Where the line between protecting public safety and oppressing freedom of religion lies is very vague, so we have to be careful when we hear stories about religious radicals and their odd behavior."

Thanks to U.S. law, polygamy technically doesn't exist in the country. The issue of what constitutes plural marriages,

then, lies in who is defining the marriage.

"The first marriage is legal, meaning there is a civil process involving licenses and an authorized agent to perform the marriage," Rowe said. "Subsequent marriages are not legal, but religious. The state only accepts the first marriage as valid, though the [FLDS] church accepts all the marriages as valid."

The real issue, however, seems to be children being forced into illegal marriages.

"If child abuse is the real issue, then my feelings are unambiguous," Rowe said. "No one has the right to abuse people and then claim the religious privilege to do that. The state has an interest in serving as trustee for helpless people for whom no other trustee exists. They have to be protected."

For Warren Jeffs, it seems his religious 'privileges' may earn him some very real legal consequences.

Feel like you're missing something? Have no fear...

Health and Life will return Wednesday, Oct. 25.

SPORTS

MT softball wins inaugural Alumni Game

Blue Raiders come face-to-face with 2000 conference champs



Freshman Jessica Ives struck out in the fifth inning during the inaugural Middle Tennessee-Alumni game Saturday. MT won 8-1.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Saturday, Oct. 7
Alumni 1
MT 8

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee softball team hosted the inaugural Alumni softball game at Blue Raiders Field on Saturday.

As the former Blue Raiders from the 2000 OVC Conference Tournament Champion team took the field against the current Blue Raiders, among the former players were Jennifer Martinez, Stayc Preator and Amanda Kendall, the last of which, who answered the call to the mound for the Alumni.

Former coach Karen Green led the old Blue Raiders team during their only appearance in the NCAA tournament, so it was only fitting for her to coach the alumni in this game.

In the bottom of the first, MT Marta Davis and Shelby Stiner walked. Corrie Abel walked. Davis attempted to steal third but the catcher's throw from home was high. Davis crossed the plate for the first run. Stiner moved to second, but reached third on the throwing error. Abel walked and advanced to second on the error. Melissa Weiland ground out and brought Stiner home. Whitney Darlington bunted Abel home from third to make the score 3-0.

In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Raiders' Kristen

Reed singled. Samantha Floyd doubled to bring Reed home. Another double by Caitlin McLure scored Floyd from second. MT pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt got a single in her first plate appearance as a Blue Raider. Davis singled to score McLure from third.

By this point in the game MT was up 6-0 on the alumni. Former Blue Raider Amanda Kendall replaced Martinez in the bottom of the third. Martinez allowed five hits and six hits. She struck out three batters and walked three.

Alumni Liz Davis got things rolling in the fourth by hitting a double off Vander Lugt. She later scored on a throwing error to make the score 6-1. Davis also got a single in the seventh inning and went 2-for-2 in the game. Lugt replaced Floyd early in the fourth on defense at third when there were a few free substitution changes.

In the bottom of the fourth Justine Cerda hit a solo home run off of Kendall to make the score 7-1 in MT's favor. Ashley Cline and McLure reached base with two outs. Cline and McLure did a double steal. Cline scored on a throwing error to second by the Alumni.

Kendall finished after pitching two innings for the alumni. She struck out two batters and walked two. Kendall allowed two runs on two hits.

After the game Kendall asked

See Softball, 8

Religion. Politics. Football?



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

I'm a freak.

I'll admit it. I look more like the kind of guy who hated football players in high school than the letter-jacket-wearing athlete I was. I played ball my whole life and would give my right leg to play again, but sadly there is neither a good market for severed legs or one-legged athletes.

Sports are more than just trivial masculine strutting. To some they are every bit as important as philosophy, politics or religion. But anyone can see the consequences for choosing the wrong team than the wrong rebel army or religion are far less dire.

According to the dictionary on my iBook, the term fanatic has two meanings:

1. Somebody who has extreme and sometimes irrational enthusiasms or beliefs, especially in religion or politics.

2. Somebody who is very enthusiastic about a pastime or hobby. Also called fan.

What separates a fan and a fanatic? Apparently, only the focus of your enthusiasm. If you choose to be enthusiastic about an ideology or sect than you are a fanatic, but if you go nuts over the NBA playoffs, you're just a fan. And there is good reason that one should have such a negative connotation and the other seem so harmless.

Sports only seem important. That's the fun part. We know they aren't. Weighty topics like war, social security and capitalism versus communism are just too important to be harmless.

Last week two fanatics from Texas were kicked off campus for launching an offensive, evangelical assault on MT students.

"You're all fornicators!" they shouted to much applause. "Unless you sinners repent, you

WILL burn in Hell."

Their judgments were amusing at first, but eventually people got angry and started to shout back. Even my Christian blood boiled at the self-righteousness of the indignant, smug, starched-khaki-and-pit-stain-prophets. Life and death. Heaven and hell. There's a lot at stake in such debates. Inevitably, faces turned red, fists were clenched, and the true-believers had to be escorted from the premises.

What if those two men hadn't been Koresh-like evangelicals? What if they were just Dallas Cowboy fans taunting the Packers after a loss? What would the outcome have been? Could they be every bit as offensive and get away with it? Most of the time, yes, because fans are just another part of the game. They add to the joy and pain of winning and losing.

Last fall, I spent every Saturday and Sunday of the play offs in the same sports bar in San Francisco. Shanghai Kelly's is nationally known for the dedication and enthusiasm of the Steelers fans who gather there each and every time the black and gold take the field.

On one particular game day, the sea of Steelers fans was infiltrated by two blue and orange Denver jerseys. And even though they were out numbered 100-1, the Bronco fans began to brag the second they arrived, with one of them going over the line several times and being downright offensive. Most of us just laughed. We knew no matter what they said, and how we replied, everything would be decided on the field.

By halftime the Steelers were up 24-3 and the Bronco fans had snuck out a back alley. We were

See Sports, 8

MT soccer defeats UALR, ASU

Friday, Oct. 6
MT 3
UALR 0

Sunday, Oct. 8
MT 4
ASU 0

Next Game
Louisiana-Lafayette,
Friday, Oct. 13

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee soccer defeated Arkansas State 4-0 Sunday in Arkansas to finish their weekend road trip.

The Blue Raiders (12-2, 6-0) increased their winning streak to six games in the SBC and improved to 6-0 in the Sun Belt

conference and shut out both Arkansas Little Rock and Arkansas State.

"It was a good weekend for our team and it was good to go on the road and continue to have success because that's what you have to do in order to win championships," Middle Tennessee Head Coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "It's always tough to go on the road and win in conference play and our players have answered those challenges well to this point."

Junior Kaley Forrest scored the first goal of the game with as assist by sophomore Kala Morgan. Morgan was the next Blue Raider to score with an assist from Nenita Burgess. Freshman Jeanette Heltnetted her first career goal with an assist by Rebecca Rodriguez in the 38th minute to give MT a 3-0 lead. The final score of the game came from Holly Grogan to end the half with a score 4-0.

MT moved into third place on the single-season consecutive wins list with 12. They need one more win to tie the school record of 13

during the 2004 and 2005 seasons. Morgan scored her 13th this season and is currently tied for second place in the single season goals list. She moved into sixth place on the career list with 20 goals. Rodriguez got her 83rd career point with her assist.

Middle Tennessee opened their Arkansas tour Friday against Arkansas Little Rock with a 3-0 win in Little Rock. The Blue Raiders stingy defense allowed only one shot on goal, as MT pulled out their fifth straight shutout of the season.

Freshman Jen Threlkeld scored her second goal 10 minutes after the half. Kathrine Andresen assisted Threlkeld on the shot. Katie Daley scored the final goal for MT as she shot a laser from 15 yards out. Erynn Murray got her second shutout of the season and maintained her allowance of only one goal this season. Murray's goals-against average is 0.23.

"It just goes to show the quality depth of our team," Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "So many players have contributed to the

success of our team this season and the fact we do have 'team' wins and don't rely on certain individuals to carry us speaks volumes of the value each player brings to our program. This was another good win, a team win."

Middle Tennessee is currently on pace to shatter the defensive goals-against-average and least-goals-against this season. MT currently has only allowed 12 opponent goals against this season. They had 22 in 2004.

"Ours is a team defense and everyone plays a part, which is why the defensive numbers mean so much," Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "We take pride in our defensive play and the girls have been solid. It's important because everyone is involved, even our attackers, because we generate scoring opportunities from our defense."

The Blue Raiders continue their swing through the SBC with a two-game home stand against Louisiana-Lafayette Friday at 7 p.m. and Louisiana Monroe at 1 p.m.

MT volleyball sweeps ASU, UALR

Friday, Oct. 6
MT 3
UALR 0

Sunday, Oct. 8
MT 3
ASU 0

Next Game Florida Atlantic,
Friday, Oct. 13
Florida International
Sunday, Oct. 15

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee (14-5, 5-1) beat Arkansas State 3-0 (30-17, 30-19, 37-35) Sunday in the Convocation Center in Jonesboro, Ark. The Blue Raiders recorded their third Sun Belt shutout and 10th of the season.

The Blue Raiders held ASU (11-10, 4-3) to an attacking percentage of .154. MT's offense attacking percentage was .323 with 10 blocks in the series.

Sophomore Ashley Adams had 18 kills and, for the second time this season, she led both teams in kills. Adams' attack percentage was .485 with one service ace. J

Junior Victoria Monasterolo had 15 kills and 14 digs for her fourth double-double of the season. Leslie Clark had 57 assists and a career-high 15 digs. Quanshell Scott had 11 kills in the game.

On Friday, Middle Tennessee beat Arkansas Little Rock 3-0 (30-23, 30-25, 30-26). The Blue Raiders came back after losing a heartbreaker to North Texas last week to take their revenge out on UALR. By the end of the game, MT added another shutout to its list of vanquished opponents this season.

MT had 65 kills and committed only 15 errors in the series. The Blue Raiders' attacking percentage was .398. Adams had 16 kills and two errors. She also had an attacking percentage of .412. Clark got her first double-double in this game.

Scott had 13 kills and Ashley Ashberry recorded 12 kills. Jessica Robinson had 11 kills and Monasterolo finished with 11 kills. Junior Alicia Lemu'u finished with 17 digs.

Middle Tennessee continues their SBC play with six home games over the next week. Their first game is against Florida Atlantic on Friday night, marking the second time MT has played against FAU. The last time these two schools met, the Blue Raiders won 3-1.

The Blue Raiders then will take on Florida International on Sunday Oct. 13. Tuesday night October 15 they play against SBC rival Western Kentucky and Louisiana-Monroe on Friday Oct. 20. The last two games are Louisiana-Lafayette October 21 and New Orleans over the weekend.

Softball: Alumni lose to MT

Continued from 7

a couple of fans "Did you like that home run?" She said with a smile. "I knew the moment it left my hand that it was over the fence." Kendall explained that she lost her grip on the ball when she went into motion.

Kendall was a member of the Blue Raider squad that defeated a national ranked Texas A&M. Martinez and Kendall are listed on the Blue Raider history books in first and second place, respectively.

Column: Religion. Politics. Football?

Continued from 7

actually glad they had showed up that day. Their shame made our victory taste sweeter. But had they been religious zealots and had we been in the wrong church, we might have all died. Or killed them.

That's why I love sports. It's the one thing you can believe in, follow, and care about that much that won't ruin you if things go wrong. In the end, it's still just a

game. Sports have winners and losers, good guys and bad, the underdog against The Man. But no one has to die, go to jail, or worry about impeachment.

So before you sports fan, consider how much more fun they have arguing about quarterback controversies than, say, George W. Bush or the legality of an Israeli state.

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

At this time last year, Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born were celebrating a national championship.

This time around wasn't quite as memorable for the duo, however, as Middle Tennessee made an early exit at the Polo Ralph Lauren ITA National Championships in Tulsa last weekend.

The Blue Raiders got off to a promising start on Thursday with a convincing 8-4 win over 25th-ranked Miguel Reyes Varela and Luis Diaz Barriga of Texas in the first round.

Without warning, however, the tandem dropped a surprising 8-6 decision to LSU's unranked team of Ken Skupski and James Kluskey. Skupski was one half of the nationally top-ranked doubles team that Siljestrom and Born upset in last year's quarterfinals.

Unfortunately for MT, this installment had a different ending.

The Blue Raiders played solid and managed a late service break, but Born was broken on two different occasions to give the Tigers an 8-6 win.

"[LSU] played well and returned well, but we didn't win the big points, didn't cross well," Born told MT Media

Relations. "I should never lose my service game and I did twice in the match."

The loss broke a streak of six consecutive wins for Siljestrom and Born at the event, after the duo swept five straight matches in last year's tournament to give MT its second national championship in doubles.

Neither Siljestrom nor Born fared any better in singles. Born drew 103rd-ranked Milan Mihailovic of Texas in the first round of qualifying and lost 6-2, 6-7 (4), 4-6.

Born felt good about his game, but lamented his inability to finish out his opponent.

"I didn't play bad. My serve was good and my returns were good," he said. "I think my game was all right for the most part, but I didn't take advantage of my chances."

Siljestrom, ranked 32nd, received a bid into the main draw. The senior from Stockholm, Sweden got off on the wrong foot from the beginning when his bags were lost on the flight to Tulsa.

Without his familiar equipment, Siljestrom started weakly in his opening match and lost 2-6, 6-2, 4-6 to 61st-ranked Ivan Puchkarov of Oklahoma State.

Siljestrom, or "Doc," as he is referred to by teammates and fans, validated his nickname

with a methodical comeback in the second match. Down a set and a break to Virginia Commonwealth's 15th-ranked Arnaud Lecloerc, he rallied to win 6-7 (12), 7-5, 7-5.

That would be MT's last win of the tournament, however, as Siljestrom fell to 44th-ranked Peter Rodrigues of Duke 6-4, 7-5.

While Siljestrom and Born were competing in Tulsa, the rest of the Blue Raiders found success at the Georgia Tech Invitational.

Both Blue Raider doubles teams advanced to the Flight B Final, and were scheduled to play each other in practice this week to determine the champion.

In the semifinals, MT's Morgan Richard and Marc Rocafort defeated Jimmy Roesch and Brock Sakey of Central Florida by an 8-3 score, and the Blue Raiders' Marc Boiron and Joao Paoliello handled Mississippi State's Josh Irey and Eric Lim by an 8-6 margin.

The Blue Raiders will compete this weekend at the Volunteer State Challenge alongside Memphis, Tennessee and Vanderbilt in Knoxville, and will then head to Lexington, Ky., for the ITA Southeast Championships the following weekend.

Georgia Tech Fall Invitational results**Singles Quarterfinals**

Adrian Szatmary (Nebraska) def. Marc Rocafort (MT), 6-4, 7-6
Ricardo Gonzalez (Georgia) def. Morgan Richard (MT), 7-6, 6-3

Consolation - Quarterfinals

Joao Paoliello (MT) def. George Gvelesiani (Ga Tech), 6-3, 6-4

Consolation - Semifinals

Artem Kuznetsov (Miss. State) def. Joao Paoliello (MT), 7-5, 6-3

Doubles Flight B Quarterfinals

Rocafort-Richard (MT) def. Brian Crook-Andy Sobczyk (Furman), 8-6
Paoliello-Boiron (MT) def. Austin Roebuck-George Gvelesiani (Ga. Tech), 8-4

Sunday's Results**Doubles Flight B Semifinals**

Rocafort-Richard (MT) def. Jimmy Roesch-Brock Sakey (Central Fla.), 8-3
Paoliello-Boiron (MT) def. Josh Irey-Eric Lim (Miss. State), 8-6

Intramural sports score**Monday Night:****Flag Football:****Men's B League (8 p.m.):****Ridge Raiders beat Air Force ROTC 43-6**

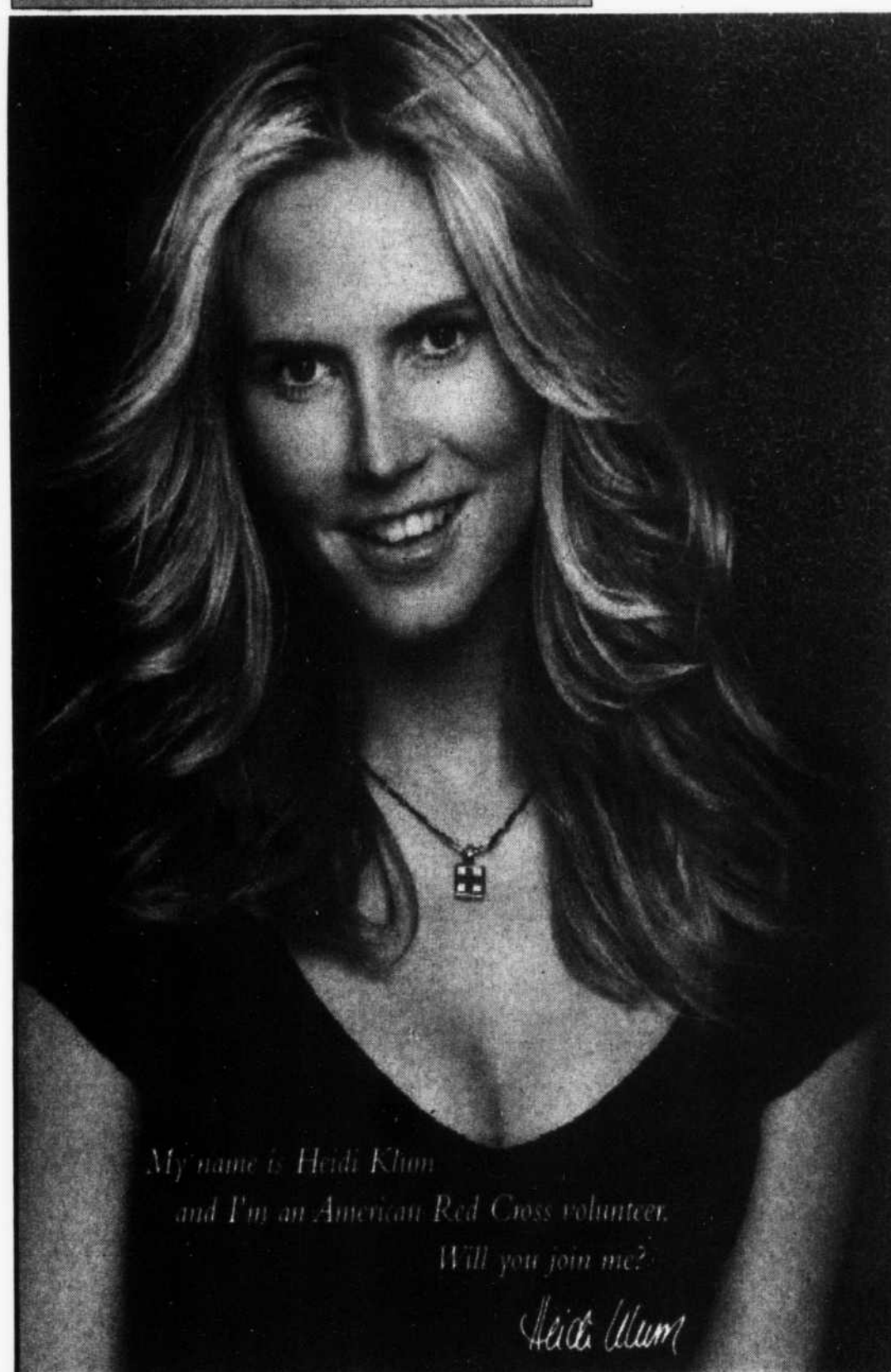
If you have any scores from any Intramural club games please email:

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Sports Editor
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