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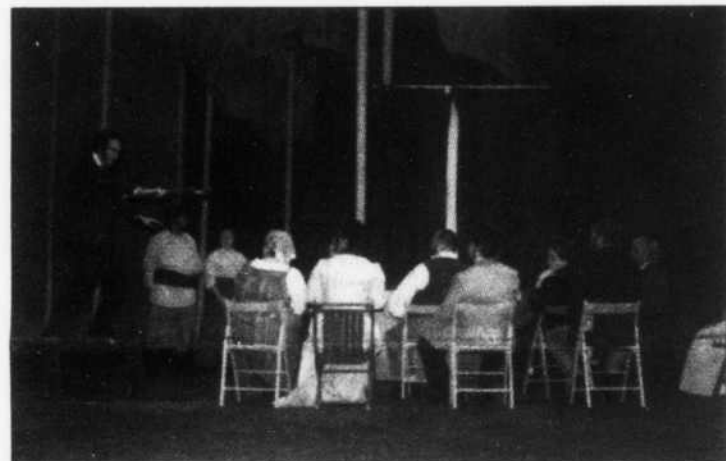
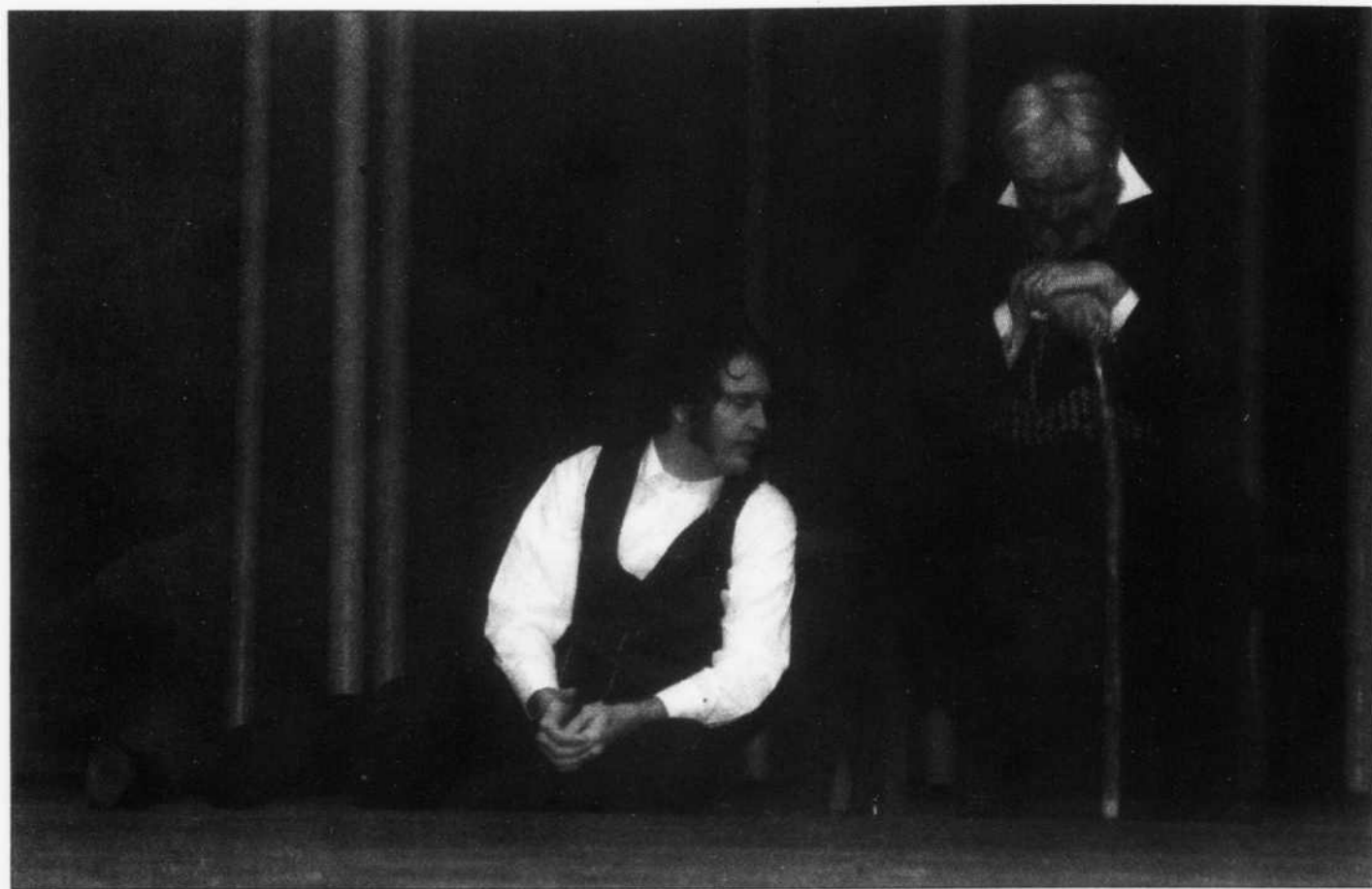
SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 80 No. 35

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

'The Sea-Gull'



Photos by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
The Sea-Gull by Anton Chekhov will be performed by the MTSU theatre department Nov. 12-13 and 17-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

(Above) Alex Wallace rehearses the opening scene of the play.

(Left) Wallace and other cast members rehearse a scene in which the play's characters view a play that Wallace's character has organized.

Police arrest assault suspect

By Erica Rodefer
Campus News Editor

Police have arrested the student who allegedly assaulted a female student in her dorm room last week.

The victim stabbed her attacker in the leg with a steak knife, causing an injury that required stitches, according to the police report.

Derrick J. Hairston, 19, from Chattanooga, Tenn., was charged with aggravated burglary and assault Monday for the incident that occurred at 3 p.m., Oct. 31.

The female opened the door to the assailant, letting him in her dorm room. He then hit her, according to the release campus police provided News and Public Affairs.

"This was a situation where [the assailant] knew the victim and took the necessary steps to go in, and it wasn't immediately known that he was there to do her harm," said interim Campus Police Chief Roy Brewer.

The assailant apparently had not followed the Housing and Residential Life policy that requires visitors to check in at dormitory front desks before entering a student of the opposite sex's living area.

"[The assailant] showed intent, you know, that he was there to do [the victim] bodily harm," Brewer said.

Brewer said that students liv-

ing in dorms who are concerned about their safety might want to take extra precautions before opening their doors to a stranger or even an acquaintance.

"The female dorms all have peepholes," Brewer said. "I suggest if they don't know who it is, don't open the door. If they know it's an adversarial situation, don't open the door."

According to Brewer, had the victim been more careful, the entire incident might have been prevented.

"I can't tell you exactly what occurred in the room, but there was a peephole there," he said. "It could have averted the situation had there been a better look."

Currently, security in the dorms has not been strengthened in response to the occurrence.

"There is a process [for security] in place that is sufficient," Brewer said.

"Anyone that wants to go to extravagant means to get in, you're not going to be 100 percent secure," he added. "[But] there is a satisfactory process in place."

Hairston was released on bond, which was set at \$7,500, according to the Rutherford County Sheriff Department dispatcher.

Hairston's court date will be available later this week. ♦

Writing Center hosts Open Mic

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

The University Writing Center will host an Open Mic Night this Thursday, Nov. 11 at 7:30.

The night is open to writers who specialize in fiction and non-fiction, as well as songwriters from all genres.

Poetry, short stories, plays and journal submissions are a few of the possible materials that can be presented at the reading.

Writing Center Director Trixie Smith encourages writers to attend and wants to ensure that writers understand there are no limits to the material they are able to present.

"Any kind of writer - songs, rap, plays, poetry, comedy, critical essays, literary journals... are welcome," Smith said.

Open Mic Night is intended to introduce writers to an environment conducive to creativity and showing the value of an audience.

"I think it is important for writers to have an audience," Smith said. "It helps make concrete the idea that we write for real audiences and need to be able to clearly communicate to them."

There are incentives to being an audience member as well, even if you are not a writer or do not plan to read your work at the event.

"Other enticements to come and be a part of the audience include food and door prizes for attendees," Smith said.

Open slots are also available following the scheduled reading

times for interested students who wish to read but are not sure about signing up.

This Thursday will be the first Open Mic Night of the semester.

The event took careful planning in terms of choosing a date and time convenient to students, Smith said.

Open Mic Night is part of a series of changes at the writing center this semester.

"We want to cater to all of the different types of writing people in the MTSU community create," Smith said.

The center holds writing groups on a weekly basis. Groups are open to writers that are interested in improving their writing, in fiction or non-fiction, including research writing groups.

The writing groups are intended to allow writers to present their work in a setting where they can receive constructive criticism.

Alan Coulter heads one of the writing groups that meet on Thursday and plans to submit some of his poetry.

Other members have signed up to read their material as well.

"We're planning to have one Open Mic Night each semester. So one should definitely look for people in the spring," Smith said.

The Writing Center is located at Peck Hall, Room 325.

Students interested in signing up should contact the writing center at 904-8237, send an e-mail to uwcenter@mtsu.edu or stop by the center and sign up in person. ♦

Kitsch art can affect ways of thinking

By Erika Decker
Staff Writer

Assistant art professor Nadine Hawke addressed the role of kitsch art in popular culture in her honors lecture "Kitsch in Synch: Analyzing Popular Arts."

"The term kitsch is often associated with the term bad taste," Hawke said. "It is also used very broadly to include anything that is considered bad taste."

Hawke gave examples of classic kitsch art like snow globes, pink flamingoes and salt shakers resembling John and Robert Kennedy.

"Usually how you know you're dealing with kitsch is someone says 'I can't believe you have it, wear it, say it' and that type of stuff," Hawke said. "Go to Dollar Tree [or] Dollar General, and there it is."

Hawke explained that many view kitsch as a kind of pseudo-art.

It has many elements of art including color and design, but it comes short of being true art, she said.

She described elements many would attribute to kitsch.

"When you look at kitsch... it's usually not well-developed intellectually or design-wise, so it's like a sketch. Second is that

it's cheap or relatively cheap. Another is that it's considered aesthetic junk or rubbish," Hawke said.

She said that kitsch has not always been around in popular culture. It is a relatively modern occurrence.

"Most will say that [kitsch] came about with the industrial revolution, where you had the ability to create lots of stuff on mass levels cheaply for a large audience," she said.

Another element of kitsch Hawke addressed is how it is sometimes used as an attempt to elevate a person's status.

"Kitsch is used to seek status... you're trying to make

yourself look like you come from one class that you don't belong to," she said.

Hawke said this use of kitsch is somewhat odd, because kitsch items tend to be made out of imitation materials.

"They won't use the real materials because that's too expensive or too cost-prohibitive," he said.

Other qualities of kitsch Hawke discussed are cuteness, lack of sophistication and lack of propriety.

She also talked about what some believe to be the effects of kitsch on society. She said that

See Kitsch, 2

Museum sponsors MTSU student art exhibit

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

The Smith County Heritage Museum in Carthage, Tenn., will open a museum exhibit featuring the work of MTSU doctoral students in public history on Nov. 15.

The exhibit, "Turning Point: The Modernization of Smith County, 1880-1930," features the technological and social advancements of Smith County and its residents.

"I've always believed that with museum studies, the best thing is to get out there... at the ground level," said Brenden Martin, associate professor of history.

Martin explained how the project with Smith County started a few years in fall of 2002. After viewing an old warehouse that would later become the museum, Martin was ready to get to work.

"They had an exhibit space, but no exhibit," Martin said.

Smith County has a rich history, from the Native Americans that first settled in the area to the first road that stretched across the state of Tennessee, Martin said.

Legendary steamboat captain Thomas Ryman docked his fleet of steamboats in

Smith County at the Cumberland River.

The Gore family, including former Sen. Albert Gore Sr. and former Vice President Al Gore Jr., are from the county near Carthage, Martin said.

With all this history, the need for an exhibit was evident to the town members and Martin, he said.

From there, Martin's students pursuing a doctoral degree in Museum Studies and Public History started work on mock-ups for the exhibit last semester. The students broke up into individual sections to plan out the thematic exhibit.

The students conducted their own research before designing and fabricating their exhibits in 10 sections. Students examined photographs from the time period and historical artifacts solicited from local newspaper advertisements and Smith County genealogical groups.

Topics ranged from agriculture to industry and even religion.

The goal was for each student in each individual section to examine how Smith County changed in the four-decade time span with "the advances of technology and

See Art, 2



Professor Bren Martin and student Evan Zimmerman work on the exhibit in Smith County.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you think Destination
Rutherford is a good idea?

Voter turnout sets records

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

More than 113 million U.S. voters visited the polls for this year's election. After counting provisional, absentee and write-in ballots, statisticians expect the total to be close to 120 million.

In Tennessee, 2.4 million citizens voted. More than one million of these votes were from early voting, an impressive increase from previous election years. Unofficial election data from the Tennessee State Election Commission shows that this is an approximate increase of nearly 345,000 voters in Tennessee.

With 400,000 new registrants since the 2000 election, this number reflects that voters truly felt the pull to come out to the polls.

Nationwide, the election had the largest voter turnout since the 1968 election. Curtis Gans, director for the Nonpartisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, claimed that after the all votes have been counted, around 60 percent of the eligible American voting pool cast a ballot.

When examining the youth vote, Gans stated that nationwide, 18 to 24 year olds represented 9 percent of the voting population, with no apparent increase from the 2000 election. Statistics for 18 to 29 year olds did not change either, hanging on to 17 percent of the voting population.

Gans also said that Tennessee

had what appeared to be the highest voter turnout in state history. Other states shared impressive turnouts, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Seventy percent of Rutherford county's registered voters participated in early voting and election day polls, election officials reported. Nearly 85,000 registered voters in the county voted, with about half that number derived from early voting totals.

Exit polls, the longstanding indicator of voter attitudes and opinions, were conducted by nonpartisan group Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International. The polls provided insight to the voter turnout demographics and are the most detailed statistical information about voters and voting trends currently available.

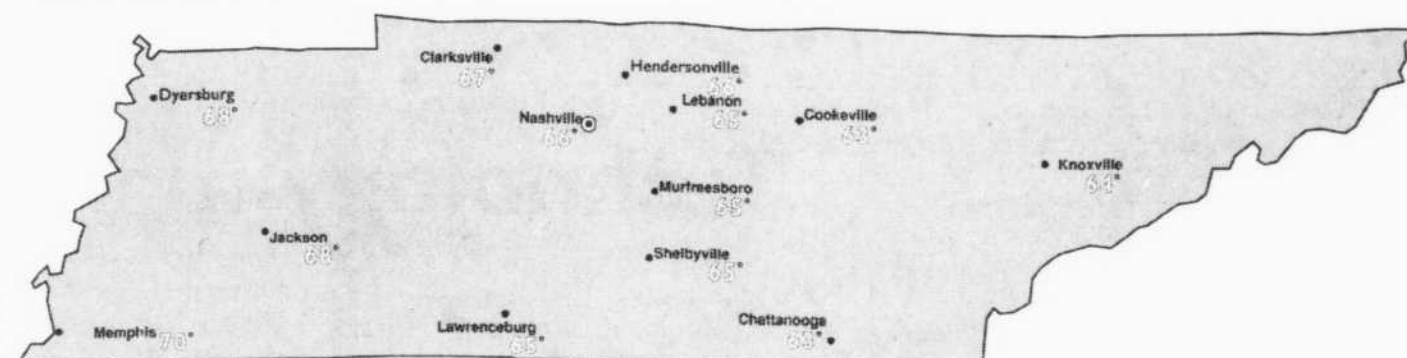
Exit polls reflected that in Tennessee, 55 percent of voters were female, 45 percent male. Of those, 16 percent were considered "young voters," between 18 and 29. The majority of voters were between 45 and 59.

Seventy-six percent of those polled said that they had decided on whom they were going to vote for at least one month before the election.

Fifty-eight percent of overall voters strongly or somewhat approved of Bush's presidency, and the job that he has done, and 96 percent of those answering said that they strongly approved of Bush, voted for Bush. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Bredesen says TennCare on 'life support'

Governor cancels budget hearings to work on program

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

PULASKI, Tenn. — Gov. Phil Bredesen has asked federal regulators to place his TennCare reform proposal on hold while its fate sits on the chopping block, in danger of being cut to a basic federal Medicaid program.

Bredesen, who has canceled budget hearings as he and his staff wrestle with TennCare, said the program is on "life support."

The governor scheduled a news conference for Wednesday to discuss the troubled program, but stopped short of saying he would announce its demise.

"We're trying this week to come to some final conclusion

on what we do," he said after receiving an award named in former Gov. Ned McWherter's honor from Methodist College.

The governor has blamed the TennCare's problems on lawsuits brought by advocates of enrollees, who have won multiple court decisions which Bredesen says force costly coverage.

Bredesen said the advocates are not backing off, giving little hope that the TennCare program can be massaged as he has suggested.

"It's on life support right now," he said. "It's virtually impossible to go ahead without having some help, some relief, from all these various court decrees and consent agreements."

Gordon Bonnyman of the Tennessee Justice Center, who has led much of the court battle, said he and other advocates are being unfairly blamed for TennCare's troubles.

Bonnyman, who met privately with the governor last week, said advocates have bent over backward to accommodate Bredesen's reform proposals but just don't agree the final package is the right fix.

"This is not a game of chicken," he said.

Bonnyman said he feels like a scapegoat as Bredesen marches toward eliminating TennCare.

"Most of all I'm deeply concerned," he said. "It's not an exaggeration to say people's lives are at risk."

McWherter, who was in office when TennCare was launched in 1994, said he agrees with the choices Bredesen is making and wishes the courts would give him the chance to make it work.

Bredesen wants to keep enrollment stable at 1.3 million people, but reduce costs by cutting some benefits. Stripping the program to basic Medicaid could cut about 400,000 people from the rolls.

"That's very sad," McWherter said. "I hope that doesn't happen."

TennCare is a \$7.8 billion program that provides health care for the poor, disabled and uninsured.

Projections say spiraling health care costs, along with TennCare in its current form, could eat up as much as 40 percent of the state budget by 2008.

Estimates say a basic Medicaid program would save the state about 20 percent, although it would also lose federal matching money with the cutback. Bredesen said there's a 60-day notification period to go through if he decides to go ahead and kill the program this week, launching a complex federal approval process as the enormous program would be unraveled.

"You trade this model in, you are not going to be able to do as well again," Bonnyman said. "You lose it, it's gone." ♦



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From the Editorial Board

Football games need student-friendly perks

A *Sidelines* poll released today ("Why don't they get it?" - p. 6) revealed that roughly half of the students polled had not attended a Middle Tennessee football game this season.

Even worse, nearly two-thirds of those same students had no plans to attend the final home football game on Saturday.

Some respondents didn't even realize Saturday's game is the last MT home game.

Most students are aware, however, of the attendance problems the Blue Raiders are facing, but they don't seem to care.

When asked why they do or don't attend football games, many said they're simply not football fans.

And those students are exactly the demographic the athletic department needs to target.

In order to reach an average of 15,000 fans per home game, the marketing department needs to come up with clever and beneficiary promotions for all students, not just football fans.

Heck, they could just steal other schools' plans: as reported last week in *Sidelines*, Louisiana-Monroe gives away a semester's worth of tuition at every home game.

Promotions should be student-friendly, not fan-friendly. Only 20 percent of those polled who have actually attended a game knew the starting quarterback is Clint Marks, so those attending now aren't going for football.

Football is a cultural event in the South, and MT games should be treated as such.

Oh, and rally towels aren't going to cut it. Students want to directly benefit from these games, and the best way to do it is by offering them something they want: money, or something close to it.

La-Monroe also gives away personal parking passes at home games. Who here wouldn't kill for a white parking pass, much less go to a free football game?

Some will declare that it's a crying shame that students here have to be bribed to go to football games. MTSU students should naturally want to support their school, they'll say, and students should consider their duty to attend home games.

Perhaps that's true at other schools, but not here, not now. If the athletic department is serious about staying at Division I-A, it's time to break out the goodies. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Global warming a threat to future of the world

Start investing in canoes and lifevests, kids. We're all going to be up to our waists in ocean soon.

Well, maybe not that soon.

According to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, a report by scientists on the state of the planet's northern ice cap, much of the Arctic may be gone by the year 2099 as a result of global warming.

This on top of reports published earlier this year by the National Geographic Society that the Greenland icecap also has the potential to melt significantly in the next 100 years.

Should Greenland become more, well, green, sea levels could rise up to 27 feet around the world. In layman's terms, this would mean the flooding of every major U.S. coastal city from Boston to Miami.

Fish would be the only ones celebrating Mardi Gras on Bourbon Street. Low-lying, population-dense areas such as the Nile River valley and the nation of Bangladesh would become uninhabitable.

It sounds like an impossible scenario straight out of a big-budget Hollywood movie. But all it would take for this to happen is a 3 Celsius degree rise in global temperature - something that many scientists agree is entirely possible in a century's time, following current trends.

It's a hundred years away though, you say. It's nothing to worry about. Quit being a liberal scare-monger and relax and all of that.

Think, people. Sure, we can slack off about being green now. But what happens a few generations down the road, to our grandchildren who will have to grapple with environmental problems that could have been solved decades earlier? Why should they have to foot the bill for something we've made a mess of?

That's not something I would want to pass down to the future. Renewable energy needs to be a priority of our nation, not only to free the world from economic dependence on nations with less-than-kosher governments, but to ensure that world will be recognizable to future generations.

Unless you like commuting by canoe, of course. ♦

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

Technology makes start of life clear

Since the 1973 passage of *Roe v. Wade*, one pivotal issue has fueled the continuing abortion debate - the origin of life. Some said, and still say, life begins at conception. Others claim it begins at birth.

Through the 1970s and 80s, many of us accepted or at least acquiesced to a pro-choice philosophy - myself included. After all, the womb was a mysterious place where few ventured.

Yes, some of us had seen the amazing 1965 photos Lennart Nilsson took, via an endoscope, of a fetus still in the womb. But those were still shots. And still pictures of a translucent form with finger buds just didn't stack up against a woman's reproductive right.

In the late '70s a new technology arrived on the obstetrical scene - one I was privileged to see first hand. Just weeks before the birth of our daughter in 1980, my husband and I marveled over a Polaroid-type picture that looked more like a mass of gray and black shadows, than baby. It was an ultrasonic "photo" of our expected child.

While this technology caused me to think a little harder about the pro-choice issue, I still acquiesced to the logic that a woman should be able to choose what happens inside her body.

In the early '90s, pro-life groups began decrying partial birth abortion. Most of us had never heard of

According to Whom?



Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist

such a thing. However, in 1996 when Brenda Pratt Shafer, a former abortion clinic nurse, testified about the procedure before a congressional judiciary committee hearing, we not only heard about it, we were shocked. Shafer said the following:

"Dr. Haskell went in with forceps and grabbed the baby's legs and pulled them down into the birth canal. Then he delivered the baby's body and the arms - everything but the head. The doctor kept the baby's head just inside the uterus. The baby's little fingers were clapping and unclapping, and his feet were kicking. Then the doctor stuck the scissors through the back of his head, and the baby's arms jerked out in a flinch, a startled reaction, like a baby does when he thinks that he might fall. The doctor opened up the scissors, stuck a high-powered suction tube into the opening and sucked the baby's brains out."

After her testimony, support for abortion on demand dwindled. In a 1992 Gallup poll, 34 percent of

Americans - the highest percent for any Gallup poll - favored abortion under any circumstance. In 1997, after Shafer's testimony, Gallup found only 22 percent felt that way.

With the turn of the century, another scientific breakthrough shook the abortion battle clear down to its roots - that of 3-D ultrasound. And once again I've been privileged to experience this technology first hand.

Two years ago my daughter became pregnant with her first child. Because the pregnancy proved to be high-risk, for four months she had weekly ultrasounds - some of which were 3-D. What an amazing scientific feat. No longer are the photos gray and black shadows; they show a whole baby in living color.

Those ultrasounds revealed something very interesting about the fetus living inside my daughter. More often than not, the pictures captured the unborn little girl pulling on her ear. Today, Emma Grace, though a bit small due to her premature birth, is a happy and healthy 21-month-old. Today, she also pulls on her ear whenever she is tired.

Last month my daughter gave birth to her second child, a son. Though this pregnancy was normal, the doctor performed several precautionary ultrasounds. During these "photo sessions," we

discovered Noah liked to keep his right hand in front of his face. Today Noah is a darling four-week-old who, when sleeping, puts his right hand up to his face.

In October of last year, Gallup again conducted a poll on abortion. Only 26 percent of Americans said abortion should be legal in all circumstances.

Earlier this year, Dr. Stuart Campbell of London, England released his research on activities of intra-uterine babies - research conducted via 4-D ultrasounds. Campbell discovered that babies at just eight-weeks gestation move their limbs. At 11- to 12-weeks gestation they leap, turn and jump.

It's been said the results of this year's election were a mandate on moral values. Perhaps they were. More than that though, I believe they were a mandate on the issue of life.

As more and more parents and grandparents see their pre-born children and grandchildren jumping or pulling on their ear while in the womb, more and more will start saying life does begin at conception.

And with that knowledge, the argument that has fueled the abortion debate will naturally fade away. ♦

Juanita Thouin is a senior journalism major and can be reached at jlt3e@mtsu.edu.

Lack of creativity evident in modern popular music

The other day as I sped down the highway on my way to work, Ashlee Simpson's "Pieces of Me" came on the radio, and I thought to myself, "Ashlee Simpson must be the greatest song writer of our generation!"

Just before my ears began to bleed and I went deaf, I tried to remember what my friend Ben had said about her performance on Saturday Night Live, being that I didn't see it. Hmm, was it that she was one of the best performers he had ever seen on the show? No.

Was it that her voice quality was remarkable? No. Ah, maybe he said something about a stupid little dance called the hoe-down, and the fact that her voice started coming through the speakers while the mic was still at her waist. Yes, I think it was in fact the third one.

Could it be true that, maybe, just maybe Ms. Simpson is not as great a musical genius as we all thought? I decided to investigate further, so I downloaded the clips from SNL. She looked quite foolish indeed. Then I heard the reasons why she had to lip synch the song.

At first the producers of SNL said it was because her throat was coarse. Then she blamed it on her band playing the wrong song. (When in doubt, blame the band, or in this case the only people with talent.)

Lastly, it was blamed on her having "stomach problems." Her father/manger then took the blame for her lip-synching the song, but she later contradicted the statement, saying it was her idea.

With so many versions of the same story, I didn't know what to believe. Could it be that there is another plausible alternative? Perhaps Simpson can't really sing and has no real talent whatsoever. I know what you are thinking: but her album went No. 1.

For me, Simpson is the epitome of what is wrong with the music industry today.

We are all too often force-fed mediocre, at best, music from "artists" because they look good and fit nicely into a mold.

Simpson fans make about as much sense

Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller
Staff Columnist

to me as the voters in Ohio.

It didn't always use to be this way. I can remember a time, I like to call it the '90s, when people actually wrote their own songs and could play instruments.

Then Total Request Live took over. People with real talent where forced to take a backseat to pretty people who had their voices mixed, and remixed, in the studio. Eventually we fall further down the spiral to where we are today, in a musical depression.

However, there is still good music out there, you just have to dig deeper for it. College radio is a good place to start.

On our own 88.3 WMTS-FM, you can find a very eclectic array of music. One of my favorite shows, "Spread the Word" (Thursdays 12-2 p.m.), always has interesting music and thought-provoking conversation.

I have also even heard that you can download music off the Internet, not that I have ever done that myself.

Lastly, I would recommend getting out and actually seeing a live show. These are the people pouring their hearts and souls into their music, especially the unsigned acts.

Make a positive impact on music by boycotting TRL and not buying that pop CD. Your eardrums will thank you later.

Just remember, friends don't let friends listen to bad music. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached at bigharf@comcast.net.

Correction

In the campus brief entitled "Record Label looking to hire students" (Campus Briefs, Nov. 8, pg. 1) the ZIP Code was printed incorrectly. The correct ZIP Code for the record label and the university is 37132, not 47142.

Sidelines regrets the error.

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.

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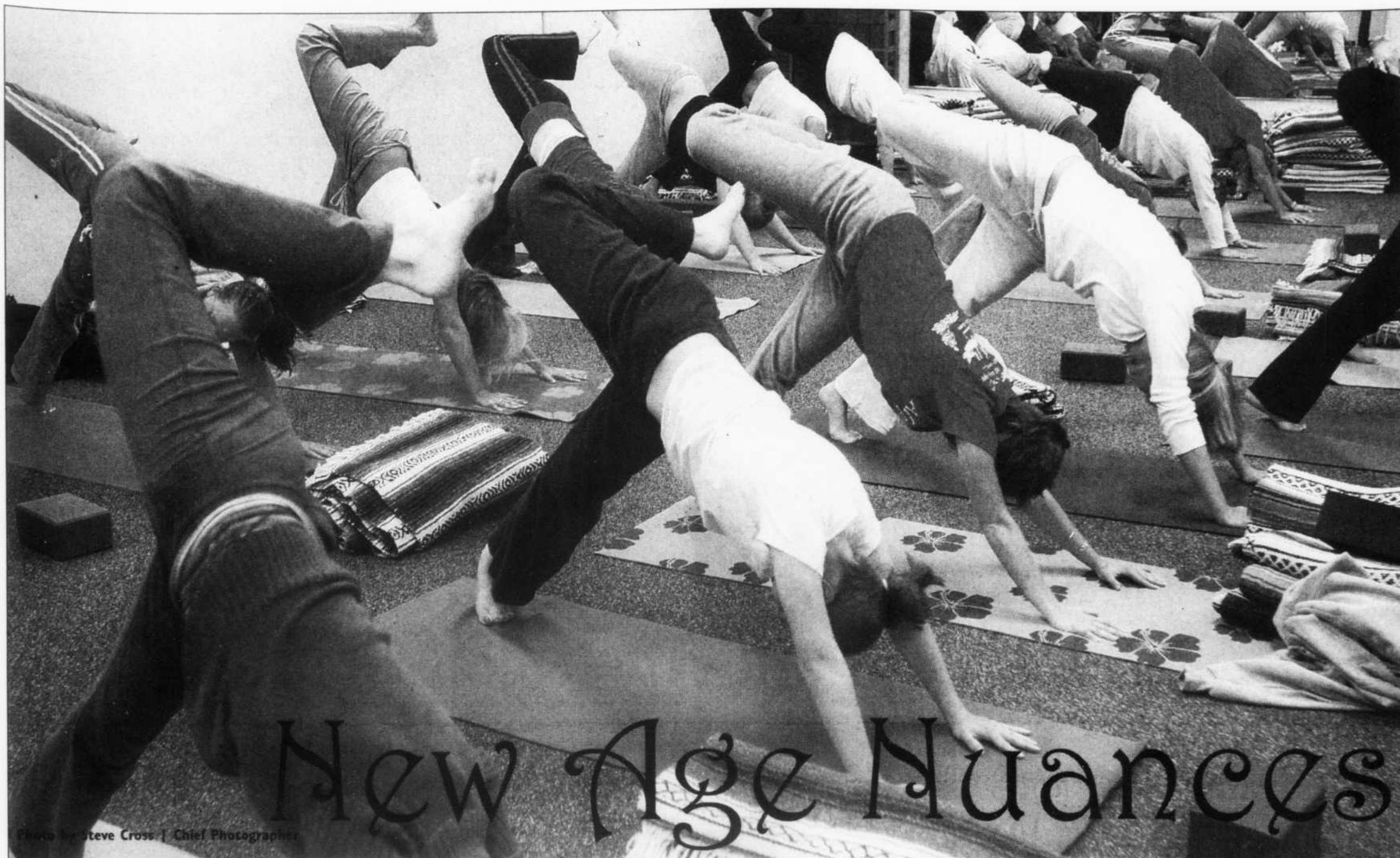
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New Age trends are reviving locally, affording a rise in spiritual awareness

By Brandi Fleck
Staff Writer

New age trends are ancient practices that are re-emerging into the community because people need alternatives to traditional western culture for fulfillment.

Stone Keepers, located on Lytle Street in Murfreesboro, is owned and operated by a sole family as a hobby. Sophomore anthropology major Carrie Adams manages the store along with her mom and dad.

She says that the store started out as just a polished stone store. The family liked using lapidary equipment, which is saws and wheels, to cut and polish rough stones from all over the world.

Ramona Adams, owner of the store and Carrie's mother, would do wire wrappings, which means putting a gold or silver cage around the stone to make it jewelry.

"Gradually, people started coming in and asking for stones that actually do stuff and I was

like, 'what?'" Ramona says.

So, Ramona started studying Asian cultures on her own and delved into the meanings of different stones.

She explains that some rocks are minerals and can help health problems. For example, lithium stones help bipolar disorder.

Stone Keepers prides itself in being community-driven, and it gives customers a sense of intimacy. There is a big brown table in the back of the store where people just sit and read

tarot cards or talk.

The owners even have potlucks, drumming sessions, workshops and bonfires at their house. Carrie offers massage therapy and says Stone Keepers is going to provide more classes to get waning involvement up again.

She says pendulum, Wicca 101, jewelry, herb and past-life aggression classes are in the works. They are taught by members of the community that are available and have a skill of interest to offer.

"Magic for convenience is bad. I refuse to sell spell kits like Wal-Mart because a spell is a focused prayer, and if someone doesn't have the energy to say what they want with a rock and a candle on their own, then it's not worth it," Ramona says.

Laura Smith is a graduate student at MTSU studying industrial organizational psychology.

She moved from Nashville three months ago and began feeling out the Murfreesboro community at Stone Keepers.

"[Capitalist exploitation] is two-fold. It's good because the information should get out to everybody because it's true, but its unfortunate because personal intention is a big thing and to not take magic seriously is a big waste. It's just another thing to spend money on," Smith says.

Ballroom dance and yoga instructor at the National Dance Club in Brentwood, Tabitha Snowbarger, 24, is also weary of capitalist intentions.

Snowbarger says that all the

do-it-yourself videos and books that are on the market can be potentially dangerous.

"If you do advanced moves without an instructor, you can get hurt. The basic moves may be fine," Snowbarger says.

Snowbarger has instructed yoga for about seven years and explains that she had to master certain techniques before a person can become certified.

She says that yoga originated in India and started as a spiritual act with the goal to get people at one with their body and spirituality, so they could express themselves more freely.

The yoga Snowbarger teaches is more physical and focuses on keeping her dancers balanced, stretched and breathing smoothly while they dance. It helps prevent injuries during dancing and promotes good posture.

Snowbarger is originally from California and says that there yoga was the trendy thing to try, but her market here promotes health.

"In a way our society is becoming more cultural. The generation that's emerging is looking for something other than what's traditionally in our country," Snowbarger says.

Kevin Hildebrand, 43, is a student of the dance club and an employee at the Bridgestone plant in LaVergne. He does not take yoga, but has had experience with Tai Chi.

He says that his experience was more physical and similar to yoga because of stretching and balancing. He gained

strength without traditional western weights. Hildebrand has also used herbs and supports their effectiveness.

Also turning from the mainstream path of medicine, junior nursing major Jennifer Gay is a certified doula, or childbirth assistant.

She attends laboring women during childbirth to massage, educate and comfort them either at hospitals, homes or birthing centers. She plans on attending Vanderbilt University after graduation to become a midwife.

Within the last two years, having a midwife has become more popular in America. In 2002 only 3 percent of pregnant women used one. Today, 7 percent do.

"Women are more educated with the Internet and various resources and they don't want unnecessary c-sections and medical procedures. Doctors concentrate on treating a complication when it occurs, which is not healthy for the woman or the baby, but midwives practice preventative measures," Gay says.

She says it is hard to hear about midwives because mainstream doctors do not like the fact that they take away from their profits.

She says that modern medicine, which is only about 200 years old, treats delivering babies as a commodity, whereas midwives see it as a needed service. ♦



Photo submitted by Brandi Fleck

Stone Keepers, a local New Age store, sells Eastern religious paraphernalia.

Study abroad yields enrichment

By Bryan Robinson
Contributor

Although Renee Christie was closing in on graduation, her cap and gown couldn't have been farther from her mind in the spring 2004 semester.

Most students have pre-semester worries. Questions about professors, scheduling, book prices and roommates can add a feeling of uncertainty on campus as a semester begins.

But Christie, a media design major, was studying in France.

Going abroad for education is not a new concept at MTSU or any other college. What might be new to some is the fact that the requirements are not as strict as one might think, Rosemary Kew, an assistant professor of French and Latin said. Kew is the head of the MTSU exchange with Normandy.

"You only have to have two semesters of French," Kew said. "You might be a fashion industry major or a business major; you might be graphic design... but one could have [that] experience on your résumé."

Along with two semesters of French, students must attend a pre-departure orientation, said Anne Sloan, the assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She added that the orientation covers things from adaptability to common sense that students need to use in other countries.

Even though the classes are in France, a student meets more than French students, said Seth Wood, a business administration major who became friends with a group of Irish students while studying abroad.

"I don't know why, [but] I love their sense of humor," said Wood, who added that he was around them so much that he acquired a slight Irish accent by the end of the exchange.

Along with the friendships students forge, they also gain experience through internships that are available. Kew said that students have served as interns at local businesses, area radio stations and a French museum, among other places.

In addition, students who attend for a year have the option

to teach conversational English at a local school. Nephi Stogner, a student double majoring in Spanish and French, chose this option.

"I was [teaching] in a school called a ZEP school ... a Zone of Educational Priority, which is a school for difficult students in difficult areas," Stogner said.

The point of the class was to get the students, comparable to junior high students, to speak in English, Stogner explained, by doing activities to get the French students to begin conversing.

After the year or semester in France, Kew said, a student who has participated in an internship must write a paper describing his or her experience. All other exchange students must keep in correspondence with the adviser. She said this is done with monthly e-mail, which will eventually be written in French.

Kew said that the program is not just for French majors, and Christi encourages all students to study abroad.

"A lot of people don't study abroad because they don't think

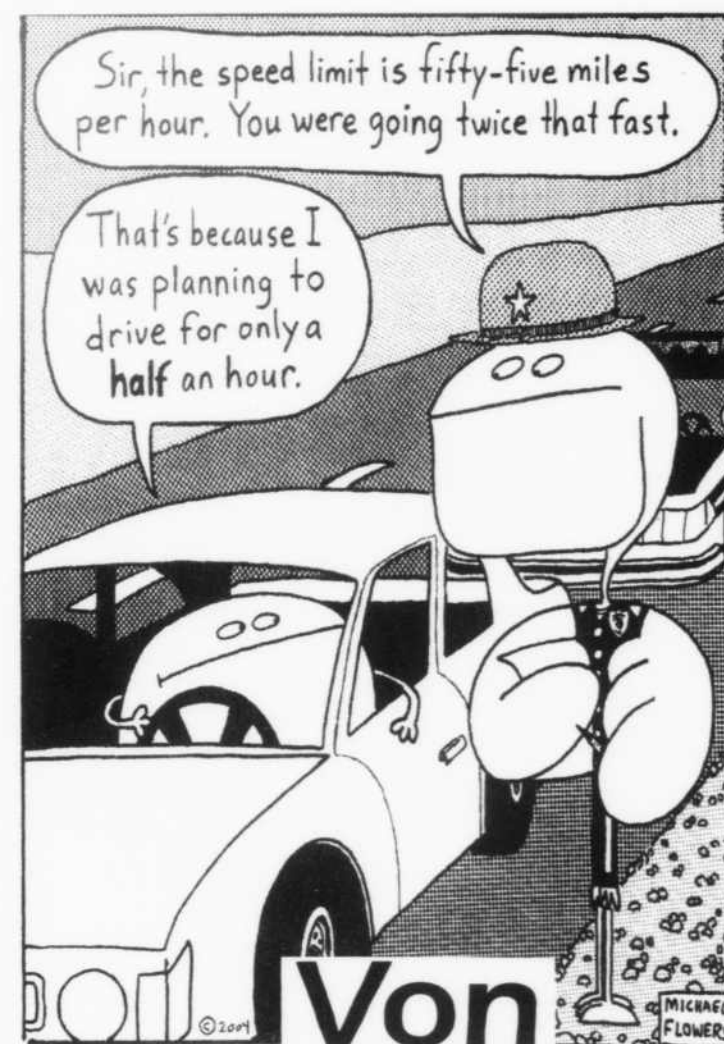
that they can," Christie said, "but you can."

Students pay MTSU tuition, housing and meal plan costs and then pay for their tickets and spending money. Kew emphasizes that there are scholarships available to help students pay, which are kept up mostly through alumni donations.

"This is just another example of how private support from our friends and alumni are positively impacting the lives of our students," said Joe Bales, vice-president for development and university relations.

"Some of the alumni who give back to the university have studied abroad and are well aware of what an enriching experience it can be," he added. "The university is grateful for the support we receive from those who donate to the scholarship fund."

For information and dates concerning the study abroad program in France, contact Kew at 615-898-2283 or through e-mail at rakew@mtsu.edu. ♦



WHY DON'T THEY GET IT?



Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

Many students aware of attendance problem, according to poll

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

In 2001, after 47 years in NCAA Division I-AA play under the Ohio Valley Conference, the Middle Tennessee football program was officially granted Division I-A status and became a member of the Sun Belt Conference.

All sports jargon aside, MT was simply ready for bigger and better things. During their time in the OVC, the Blue Raiders snagged 11 league titles, qualified for the I-AA playoffs, and made an appearance in four bowl games.

Additionally, during MT's final season in Division I-AA Floyd Stadium was drawing an impressive crowd, with an average of 21,816 in paid attendance.

After two years in NCAA limbo and despite four home games this season in Division I-A, the MT athletic department is now facing the fact that although Floyd Stadium is larger, the crowd has actually grown smaller.

On August 5, 2004, the NCAA announced that all Division I-A schools must have an average of 15,000 people in attendance or face losing the coveted I-A status.

Through four home games this season, the Blue Raiders are averaging 13,024 fans per game.

The Money Issue

What's so great about Division I-A anyway? Sure, the media recognition is great, more athlete scholarships are wonderful, but let's face it: Division I-A status is important because schools receive portions of the revenue generated by the NCAA's media contracts. In many cases this is about \$150,000, as quoted by Binghamton University, a non-football school currently seeking I-A status.

The costs of I-A status include stadium renovations to accommodate higher seating capacity requirements and an increase in the amount spent on athletic scholarships to meet NCAA regulations, to name a few.

MT is also spending large amounts on publicity and entertainment at games to draw in the fans. This includes the \$82,000 MT spent on rapper Big Boi, which only ended up drawing 13,931 fans.

With that in mind, *Sidelines* conducted a poll of 223 students (1 percent of the student population at MTSU) to find out how much students care about MT football and why they attend football games - or why they don't.

Student Awareness

Less than half of those surveyed (47

percent) had attended an MT football game this season, and 38 percent of total participants intended to attend the final home game.

Despite these low numbers, 74 percent of those surveyed knew of the NCAA attendance regulations and the risk of losing I-A status.

Only 10 percent of students surveyed were able to identify the starting quarterback, and that may be a generous number. Any answer that sounded remotely like Clint Marks was counted. Unfortunately, "that left-handed guy" and "he sits next to me in class" couldn't be included.

Fifty-four percent of students were able to correctly identify Floyd Stadium, although Murphy Stadium, Miller Coliseum, Blue Raider Field and "MT-o-Dome" had impressive showings as well.

The numbers look a little more promising when only those that have attended a football game this year are counted. Of football attendees, 63 percent knew the name of stadium, but only 20 percent knew who the MT quarterback was.

Losing Team and Rivalry Theories

It is generally accepted in society that most people enjoy winning and don't enjoy losing. But with a 4-5 record, MT is winning almost half the

time. This does not directly explain poor attendance.

Vanderbilt has not had a winning record since 1982, but the Commodores consistently average more than 20,000 fans a game. Why? Because of opposing team turnout.

One glance at the Vanderbilt Stadium on a Vandy-Tennessee game day proves the theory. Sure, maybe a section or two will have some black and gold speckled about, but the overwhelming color is Knoxville orange.

"We've got a good team; we've played some large teams in the past, but this year there aren't any," sophomore aerospace major Tom Ritter said.

Schools depend on rivalries to generate revenue. The Blue Raiders currently lack that strong rivalry. The Blue Raiders will face Troy in the final game of the season this year in the first annual "Battle for the Palladium" in an attempt to build a rivalry, but that game is at Troy this season.

Western Kentucky is usually a strong MT foe in other sports, but WKU plays I-AA football.

The Time Issue

Work, work, work. For many students, working on the weekend is the only option. Two p.m. games on

See Poll, 8

'Sidelines' Sports Student Poll

Poll conducted Nov. 4-8 of 223 MTSU students (see "How the poll was done" on p. 7 for more information):

1. Have you attended an MT home football game this year?
Yes 47.1% (105)
No 52.9% (118)

2. Do you plan to attend the final home game on Saturday?
Yes 38.1% (85)
No 61.9% (138)

3. What is the name of MT's starting quarterback?
Clint Marks 10.3% (23)
Don't Know/Other 89.7% (200)

4. What is the name of the football stadium at MTSU?
Floyd Stadium 54.7% (122)
Don't Know/Other 45.3% (101)

5. Were you previously aware that MT must average 15,000 fans per home game in order to avoid penalties from the NCAA?
Yes 73.5% (164)
No 26.5% (59)

6. Do you live within 10 miles of MTSU?
Yes 74.9% (167)
No 25.1% (56)

Year in school:
Freshman 33.2% (74)
Sophomore 21.1% (47)
Junior 22.0% (49)
Senior 22.0% (49)
Graduate Student/Other 1.8% (4)

Of those who have attended a home game this year:

1. Do you plan to attend the final home game on Saturday?
Yes 63.8% (67)
No 36.2% (38)

2. What is the name of MT's starting quarterback?
Clint Marks 20.0% (21)
Don't Know/Other 80.0% (84)

3. What is the name of the football stadium at MTSU?
Floyd Stadium 70.5% (74)
Don't Know/Other 29.5% (31)

4. Were you previously aware that MT must average 15,000 fans per home game in order to avoid penalties from the NCAA?
Yes 85.7% (90)
No 14.3% (15)

5. Do you live within 10 miles of campus?
Yes 85.7% (90)
No 14.3% (15)

Of those who have not attended a home game this season:

1. Do you intend to attend the final home football game on Saturday, Nov. 13?
Yes 15.3% (18)
No 84.7% (100)

2. What is the name of MT's starting quarterback?
Clint Marks 1.7% (2)
Don't Know/Other 98.3% (116)

3. What is the name of the football stadium at MTSU?
Floyd Stadium 40.7% (48)
Don't Know/Other 59.3% (70)

4. Were you previously aware that MT must average 15,000 fans per home game in order to avoid penalties that could result in dropping the team to Division I-AA?
Yes 62.7% (74)
No 37.3% (44)

5. Do you live within 10 miles of campus?
Yes 65.3% (77)
No 34.7% (41)

Of those who live within 10 miles of campus:

1. Have you attended a football game this season?
Yes 53.9% (90)
No 46.1% (77)

2. Do you intend to attend the final home game?
Yes 42.5% (71)
No 57.5% (96)

How the poll was done

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Here's a breakdown of the poll and the methodology behind it:

Who: 233 students who are currently registered at MTSU were polled. The number 233 was chosen relative to MTSU's fall 2004 enrollment figure of 23,322. Therefore, this poll represents 1 percent of the student population at MTSU.

While this number may seem small, remember that many polls concerning the presidential election polled 1,000 respondents to represent a nation of more than 290 million people.

When: This poll was conducted Nov. 4-8.

Why: The purpose of this poll is twofold: First, this poll is meant to be a general measure of students' knowledge of and interest in the football team. Hence, the general information questions on the team (quar-

terback and stadium) and the personal attendance questions.

Secondly, this poll was designed to measure the impact of *Sidelines'* coverage of the NCAA attendance requirements on the student body. Since 74 percent of respondents said they previously knew of the attendance requirement, we feel our continuing coverage of the requirements has been effective.

How: This poll was conducted using three methods. First, we conducted random questioning in the Grill at the Keathley University Center on Thursday, Nov. 4. Approximately 20 percent of our respondents were polled in this manner.

Secondly, we passed out poll sheets in several classes in varied subjects including, but not limited to, accounting, Earth science, psychology and foreign language. To protect the identity of our respondents, we have opted not to detail specific class

sections.

Finally, we conducted random calling on Sunday, Nov. 7 and Monday, Nov. 8 using the campus directory. We called only numbers with an 898 prefix, however, to ensure we called students on campus and avoided calling personal cell phone numbers.

Also, some students were called who are personal friends or acquaintances of the *Sidelines* sports staff, but those respondents number less than 10. No *Sidelines* staff writer or editor participated in the poll.

As a final note, the results of this poll are by no means scientific. This poll was conducted simply to give students an outlet to voice their reasons for attending or not attending football games in an effort to better understand the campus attitude toward MTSU football and the athletic program in general. ♦

MT cry: wait 'til next year

Sports commentary



Mark Emery
Staff Columnist

Yes, Middle Tennessee fans, the Sun Belt Conference is all but lost, but have no fear, because there is always next year.

This is not to say that MT's season is over. They still have two games left and an outside chance at finishing the season with a winning record if they win both games.

Next year, however, this team will be full of high expectations.

The Blue Raiders only have three seniors who have started on offense this year. Of course, the biggest one of the three is Kerry Wright, who is having a solid year with 889 receiving yards and eight touchdowns.

The team will also be losing another starter at wide receiver in Pedro Holiday, who has 11 receptions for 149 yards and a touchdown. But the team will have Chris Henry and Cleonard Saintil, who are currently second and third on team in receptions and yardage.

The offensive line will be losing starter Joe Evilsizer, but

otherwise this group will have one full season of working together. They will pave the way for sophomore Clint Marks, who is having one of the best years in school history.

Marks is currently second in the MT record books for most completions in a season with 216. With two games remaining, he only needs 33 to break the record held by Wes Counts of 249.

Marks is also currently second on the single-season list for passing yards with 2,377 and a 72 percent completion rate.

All three of MT's running backs will be returning next season. Although none of them have had a stellar season, they will have a chance to improve.

Eugene Gross has been the starter throughout and is only a sophomore. Junior Lee Baker has been a solid back-up for the Blue Raiders and freshman Terry Jackson has shown at times that he has potential to be a great running back.

On defense, the team will be losing three players that have consistently started throughout the year.

The group will take a big loss on the defensive line as they will lose Jerry Vanderpool and Thomas Johnson. Both players have anchored the middle of the

line and have a combined total of 49 tackles and 4 sacks.

The team will have three freshmen and two juniors returning next year to help anchor the defensive line.

The biggest loss on the defense may be the loss of line-backer Alvin Fite, who leads the team in tackles with 60 and also has two sacks.

The team will still have Dennis Burke and Marcel Horne, who rank second and third in tackles, respectively.

The secondary will be returning everyone that has started the last few games. Bradley Robinson and Damon Nickson are both freshmen cornerbacks and will improve with every game.

Jonathan Harris, Kevin Copeland and Jeremiah Weaver will all be returning next season in the safety positions.

These reasons and hopefully many more should get the Blue Raiders excited about next year.

But the season is not over. Perhaps the Blue Raiders can win their last two games and finish above .500 to begin moving in a positive direction. ♦

Mark Emery is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at mpe2b@mtsu.edu



Respond to this week's poll at www.mtsusidelines.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

PIANIST

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

Part-time Babysitter wanted for professor preschool children on Tuesday afternoons in Franklin area. \$9/ hr. 898-2038.

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

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

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

Jason's Deli Now Hiring!!!

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Lead Vocalist Wanted-Rock group relocated from Memphis area looking for vocalist with showmanship and crowd awareness. Need strong voice with R&B influence. Originals similar to The Urge, Living Color, Fishbone, The Isley Bros. call 615-896-0628.

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Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair.

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Wedding Gowns for sale. Elegance on a budget! We sell gently used wedding gowns; store displays photography props, discontinued styles. Original Retail to over \$2000! Our prices \$159-\$299! See photos online at www.tresjolis.com. Call Lashae 427-2411 or Kristin 589-0083. Also sell hairpieces and wigs.

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Canon Elan II EOS camera w/ Canon 28-75mm lens and Canon Speedlite flas. All 4 years old. \$300 obo. Riding Lawnmower: \$200 obo. Please email amj2d@mtsu.edu or call 865-466-9219.

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Beautiful brand new, NEVER worn wedding dress for sale. Has a wonderful flower design tank Aline style., about 3-4 ft. train. Size 2 A MUST SEE!! Paid \$750, will take \$500. If interested please call 615-308-9623 or email at ars3g@mtsu.edu.

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'98 Blazer For Sale 4x4, 4Dr Excellent Condition. Need to Sell! Call 931-592-2494.

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Roommates

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

2 Female Non-smoking roommates needed to share 3 BD 2 BA house, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$325 a month-All utilities included 931-639-3711.

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

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

Subleaser

Subleaser Needed for apt. in University Courtyard. It has 4 BD and 4 BA and only one current resident. Please call 901-508-4606.

Sterling University Gables. Female subleaser needed for spring/summer semester. \$335/mo. Utilities included w/ internet. Awesome roommates, just moving to Fla. Lease starting in Jan. Call Maggie at 770-778-1498 cell

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

Female subleaser needed. University courtyard 1st floor. Fully furnished 4BD/4BA \$395/mo utilities included and internet access. **1st Month Free-Move in Now!** Call Katie at 770-778-1497 or 770-459-7435.

2BD/2BA apt. @ Raiders Crossing. Lease is from Jan1-Aug 13. Completely furnished to include full-size washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, & stove. Also included: high-speed internet, private balcony, pool & hot tub, volleyball court, BBQ grills, fitness center, tanning bed, and computer lab. All inclusive rent \$485/person pays for water, sewer, trash, pest control, internet, modern furniture, electricity, premium cable, and intrusion alarm. Awesome deal. Call 615-504-5963 or 615-542-2820.

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

Female subleaser needed. 4BD//4BA University Courtyard. 3rd Floor(No Noisy people above!) Rent is \$375, All utilities included, **Will**

give \$150 to move in and take over lease! Take over lease starting in November. Call 615-907-9655 or 423-718-5484 Carmen.

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

Female sub-leaser wanted for one bedroom in a two bedroom two bath apt @ Univ. Courtyard. Located on 1st floor 2/no noisy neighbors above or around. This apartment usually rents for \$525 but get in NOW for \$495 w/a \$99 dep. Move in ASAP, lease will end in July. Contact me ASAP at (615) 907-0794 or hnp2b@mtsu.edu

For Rent

2 BD apt. within walking distance to campus. Utilities included. Available Nov. 1st. \$575/month, \$275 deposit. Call 414-1759 for apt. No calls after 5pm.

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove, refig, D/W, washer/dryer, furnished, screened back porch, 1 mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

Got friends? Looking for an apartment? 4 BR/2 BA, remodeled apartment; very close to campus; \$295 per month / per bedroom. 615-758-9298.

Apartment for rent at the Woods. Free utilities, cable and high speed internet. Free month of December. \$389/mo. Call 615-633-8691.

Pets

Month-old pit bull FREE has shots and is good neutered, but I am too busy to care for it! Not paper trained.

Beautiful white kitten with bright blue eyes needs a loving home. He is neutered and will give paperwork. Please call 516-457-0904.

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Blue Raiders miss chance at first

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team fell short of taking over first place in the Sun Belt East Division with a 3-1 (27-30, 33-31, 21-30, 21-30) loss to Arkansas State (23-7, 10-3 Sun Belt Conference) Sunday afternoon.

The loss dropped the Blue Raiders (15-12, 8-4) to third place in the East Division and fourth overall with only one week remaining in regular season play.

The Lady Indians remained undefeated at home in front of a crowd of 652 on Senior Day at the Convocation Center in Jonesboro, Ark. ASU seniors Tessa Millikan, Giedre Tarnauskaite and Caitlyn Mitchell played their final home match.

"Today there was a lot of emotion on the court because of Senior Day. The three seniors have played a key role in bringing ASU back on top of the Sun Belt Conference," Lady Indians head coach Craig Cummings told

ASU Media Relations. "For Tessa to have 31 digs was huge today, because we needed every single one of them against a team the caliber of Middle Tennessee."

The Blue Raiders had a chance to grab the top spot in the division after Arkansas State defeated Western Kentucky (9-3 SBC) Friday 3-1. MT defeated the Lady Indians 3-2 on Oct. 1 at Alumni Memorial Stadium in Murfreesboro.

Sunday, however, ASU held MT to a .144 hitting percentage and recorded 15 total blocks and 81 digs in the win.

The teams battled back and forth in Game 1, as each team had a lead of at least three points before tying at 27. ASU came up with the final three points to win the game thanks to two kills from Giedre Tarnauskaite and an ace by Katie Peil.

Both teams picked up offensively in Game 2. MT came back after being down 23-28 to tie the game at 28 off a kill from Dara McLean, and then tied the game

again at 29 with a block by Lindsey Sisco and Andressa Lyra.

The two teams remained neck-and-neck, going into extra points after tying at 30 and 31. The Blue Raiders ended the game by scoring the final two points off a kill by Keke Deckard and an error by ASU.

In the victory MT averaged a .294 hitting percentage. Deckard recorded 10 of the 20 kills for the Blue Raiders in Game 2.

The Lady Indians dominated Games 3 and 4, however. MT had costly errors as the Blue Raiders into five MT attack errors. The MT offense registered attack percentages of .079 and .078, respectively, in the final two games.

ASU recorded four blocks and 17 kills while hitting .375 in Game 4. The Indians had only two attack errors in that game and closed the match with a 10-3 run, ending any opportunities for a Blue Raider victory.

ASU's Tarnauskaite had 21

kills and 19 digs, while Soulsby added 14 kills on a .379 hitting percentage. Mitchell recorded her 16th double-double this season with 10 kills and 12 digs.

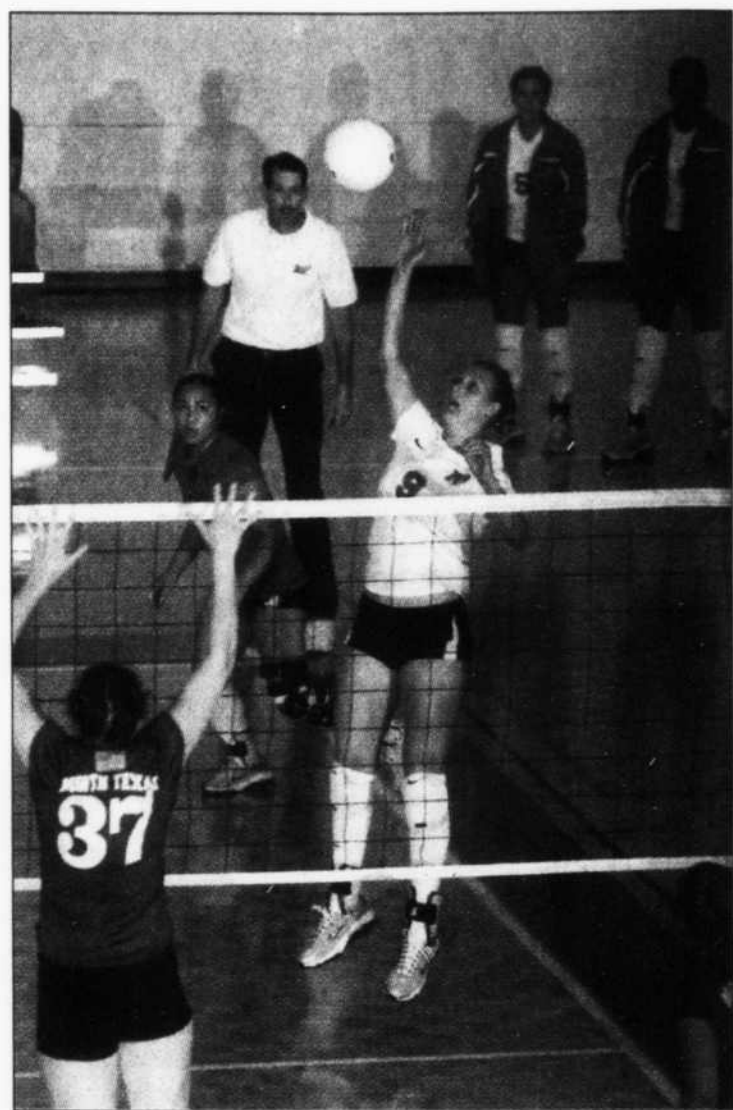
Deckard had a match-high 25 kills for the Blue Raiders along with 12 digs. Libero Alicia Lemau'u had 26 digs, but McLean, who entered match as one of the conference leaders in kills and hitting, was held to just 12 kills and a .053 attack percentage.

The 23 victories for ASU are the most for the Lady Indians since 1999, when they went 28-7 and were conference co-champions. The Lady Indians finished 14-0 at home with the win.

The Blue Raiders hosted Georgia State in their final home match yesterday at 7 p.m. *Sidelines* will have a full report on that match in tomorrow's edition. ♦

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore Andressa Lyra had 10 kills and 12 digs in the Blue Raiders loss at Arkansas State.



McCollum bemoans injuries



Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

Linebacker Marcel Horne (41) had seven tackles in Saturday's 44-10 loss at NMSU.

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The injury status of the team and this week's contest with Louisiana-Monroe were the two main topics during Middle Tennessee's weekly football press conference on Monday.

"This past week was a tough trip on us. Right now, looking at our team, we look like a tired, beat-up football team," MT head football coach Andy McCollum said.

Coming off a 44-10 loss at New Mexico State, McCollum had many concerns, most of which involve his team and their numerous injuries.

McCollum mentioned many of these injuries. "Every time we looked around we were mixing and matching, but we had some guys who did play hurt that I am proud of," McCollum said.

"[Defensive lineman] Jeff Littlejohn is playing hurt. Roy Polite and Damon Nickson, two freshmen corners, were playing hurt. [Linebacker] Dennis Burke played the whole game hurt," he said.

"We had to move some guys around since we lost Eugene Mustin. We also lost [running back] Eugene Gross during the game and that was a blow [and] we lost DL Jerry Vanderpool during the game. It just goes on and on," McCollum said.

This problem is coupled with the fact that MT has endured nine straight weeks of play without

an off-week to get healthy and regroup.

McCollum admitted that this week "will be a busy week for our trainer."

One bright spot for MT that was mentioned was the play of punter/kicker Colby Smith. He averaged 46.1 yards per punt and converted his only field goal attempt on Saturday.

The news got better for MT this week, as he was named a finalist for the Lou Groza Award, given to the best placekicker in the country.

Going into this week, MT will be given a good chance to prepare and rest. McCollum believes playing at home will be a key factor in Saturday's game, and he also believes that the team's problems are fixable.

McCollum has a great deal of respect for Louisiana-Monroe.

"They have some guys who have played in a lot of football games. I think about their safety Chris Harris. I think he's one of the better players in the league and have always thought that," McCollum said.

"[Quarterback] Steven Jyles has played in a lot of games, so they are an older Raider team with experienced guys playing," McCollum added. "We've got to get ready for a much improved [UL-Monroe] team coming in here."

The game will be MT's final home game of the year, and kickoff is set for 2 p.m. ♦

Poll: Some students avoid games at all costs

Continued from 6

Saturday afternoon games are simply not very convenient to many of those we spoke to who comprise the working population of the student body.

Other schools are facing the same problems. Miami of Ohio football was recently faced with dwindling numbers, though nothing near MT's dilemma.

"What we discovered last year and this year is that the students like night games, and they're the largest single entity we market to," Miami athletic director Brad Bates told the *MU Enquirer*. "Also, we're finding that our 30- to 40-year-old alumni who have kids have Saturday morning and

afternoon activities and can't make afternoon games."

The Slippery Slope

MT seems to be doomed to a downward spiral in football attendance. Many students polled attend games to socialize, but after hearing about dwindling attendance, those students could also lose interest.

Some students suggested a winning season would do the trick. Other students seemed determined to stay away from the football team at all costs.

"I'm not a football fan, and there's just about nothing MTSU could do to get me to a game," sophomore foreign lan-

guage major Christine Peterson wrote. "I actually resent greatly all the money spent on attend games. If the average is low, take a hint!"

The fate of the team's status is in the hands of its supporters and students. If MT fails to average 15,000 fans next season, the team will begin a probation period that may lead to a lowering of division status within the next ten years.

Students know about the jeopardy of the school's I-A status. The question now is, do they care? ♦

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Spring 2005

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