

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Monday, Aug. 27, 2007

Meet the Dean of
Mass Comm

See News, 2

Middle East Center
attracts students

See Features, 5

To UT or not to UT?
The loyalty question

See Sports, 7



Graphic by Bryan Law | Contributing Photographer

Bombs threaten campus

MTSU one of seven colleges to receive e-mailed warnings

By Christin Pepple

Campus News Editor

On Monday, Aug. 27, MTSU received a bomb threat along with six other colleges across the country in the form of anonymous e-mails sent to several of the administrators.

The other colleges that these threats were made to included Princeton University, Clemson University, Carnegie-Mellon University of Pittsburgh, the University of Alaska, the University of Chicago in Illinois and the University of Oregon.

"The university received these e-mails before lunchtime on the first day of school after which we made a campus-wide notification to the students to be on the lookout for suspicious activity," said Buddy Peaster, chief of public safety on MTSU's campus.

The threats spanned the country and each e-mail sent to the seven universities was different. No specific building or location was directly threatened in the e-mail to MTSU. It only said that there were bombs in several locations on or around the campus.

Some of the e-mails sent to other universities; however, had specific locations targeted and the officials of those campuses conducted thorough investigations of each area.

"The University of Alaska which was one of the colleges to receive an e-mail notified the local FBI office, who contacted their Digital Evidence Task Force. We have also notified our local FBI office and they will conduct an investigation," Peaster said.

The campus police officers were instructed to walk through various buildings and check for any devices that could be dangerous. Several of the other colleges brought in K-9 units to check their grounds according to Peaster. No bombs have been found as of yet.

"We must start out looking at situations like these as valid threats, no matter how they are made or whether the indicators of the threat are consistent with the specificity of any of things that can prove the validity of a threat," Peaster said.

Peaster said that the number one informant the public safety office has is its community, rather than its officers.

"The public, our community is the first set of eyes and ears that we really have. Even though we do patrols and things, our first and swiftest line of defense is the public informing us of anything dangerous," Peaster said.

MTSU has been in contact with several of the other universities to compare the threats and see if any continuity is found that might identify who was responsible for them.

"We ask people to be very observant and watchful. The fact that we were not singled out makes you think that the person was just picking colleges at random and making a joke, but we still take it very seriously," said Tom Tozer, director of news and public affairs.

Peaster concluded his statements with a firm affirmation that the public safety office is continuing in its efforts to ensure the safety of the MTSU campus.

"We want to let the public know that we will follow up with these threats and that we will do what we can to help with the situation at MTSU and all over the country," Peaster said. ♦

Finesse Mitchell comes to MTSU

Staff Reports

Comedian Finesse Mitchell performed at 8 p.m. in the Murphy Center on Wednesday as part of the scheduled events for the Week of Welcome.

Mitchell was previously a cast member of Saturday Night Live until he left the show last season to pursue his production company and his movie career.

His performance was preceded by a freshman pep rally sponsored by the Student Government Association named "Be a part from the start," that began at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. The rally included speeches from coaches and a demonstration by the cheerleaders.

"We were really looking forward to a great turnout with lots of freshman participation," said Ashley DeSabetino, vice president of administration and public affairs. ♦



Photo by Ryan DeBooy | Contributing Photographer
Comedian Finesse Mitchell performs for students at Murphy Center as part of Week of Welcome.

Recent rain fails to ease drought

Murfreesboro cools down for a few days, but the heat will return soon

By Mary Rose Fox

Community News Editor

Rain finally came to Middle Tennessee yesterday, but Rutherford County is still more than 10 inches below the average rainfall this year.

Although temperatures haven't broken 100 degrees the last few days, with the humidity it has been sweltering.

"There are not many people alive today that have gone through a weather pattern like this," said Extension Agent Mitchell Mote, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

In fact, for over a week the temperature has been neck in neck with the records of 1954 and 1983. In both years, this week averaged more than 100 degrees.

"That has made an impact on people," Mote said. "People have to take precautions that they don't usually have to," especially with outdoor jobs such as laying asphalt, trimming trees and working on roofs.

And many trees have lost their leaves or the leaves are brown, making it look like autumn is already here.

"Some trees are dropping they're leaves for the second time already. Once after the freeze, and again because of the heat and the drought," Mote said.

Some trees have spent so much energy trying to put more leaves on the branches, and Mote said that they may not have enough reserved power to produce green leaves next year.

"There'll be a lot of dead trees," he said.

Many have suffered from both the heat and drought the past few months, especially farmers.

"Harvest is really now just starting," said Mitchell Mote, extension agent of UT's Institute of Agriculture in Murfreesboro. But "overall [crop yield] is going to be lower." He said that yield will vary from field to field, depending on rainfall and irrigation.

In rural areas, cattle can be found in barren pastures huddle closely under trees to avoid the harsh sunlight.

"Lots of farmers are reducing herd size [because] the forage base is not there" for them to eat, Mote said.

See News, 4



Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor
A corn field on Rutherford Blvd. shows the toll the drought has taken on the area. Although rain has come, many crops are destroyed.

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 93°
LO: 72°

Friday



HI: 88°
LO: 66°

Saturday



HI: 91°
LO: 69°

Sunday



HI: 91°
LO: 66°

Vol. 83 No. 2 - www.mtsusidelines.com

Meet the Dean: Anantha Babbili College of Mass Communication

By Chrisn Pepple

Campus News Editor



Anantha Babbili

Q: How long have you been in your position as dean and what had you done previously?

A: "I am approaching my sixth year as Dean of the Mass Communications college. Before this appointment I was a faculty member at Texas Christian University. I taught Journalism courses, became a departmental chair and then director of the department before I came to be a dean at MTSU."

Q: What exactly does holding your position entail?

A: "Dean is the chief academic officer. Everything that goes on or is being planned within the college, the dean is responsible for."

"We are the heads of academic offerings, facilities, technologies, personnel or faculty and staff, innovations, space, classrooms; these are all things that are embodied under the dean's leadership."

"We [dean's] strive to serve the academic mission which is one of excellence, student centeredness and creating partnerships; we oversee and initiate."

Q: What changes have you made since you have assumed your position?

A: "We have strengthened technological support for student learning. We have enhanced the high quality of the faculty to engage in teaching and scholarship. We have produced strategic plans that identify what we should do in the next two or three years. We have completed raising \$1 million for the EMC upgrade and we continue to improve on alumni contacts and national advisory boards for our college."

"We are building international programs and local partnerships. We have a fine group of departmental leaders who assist the dean in achieving goals."

Q: What should students know about the programs your college offers?

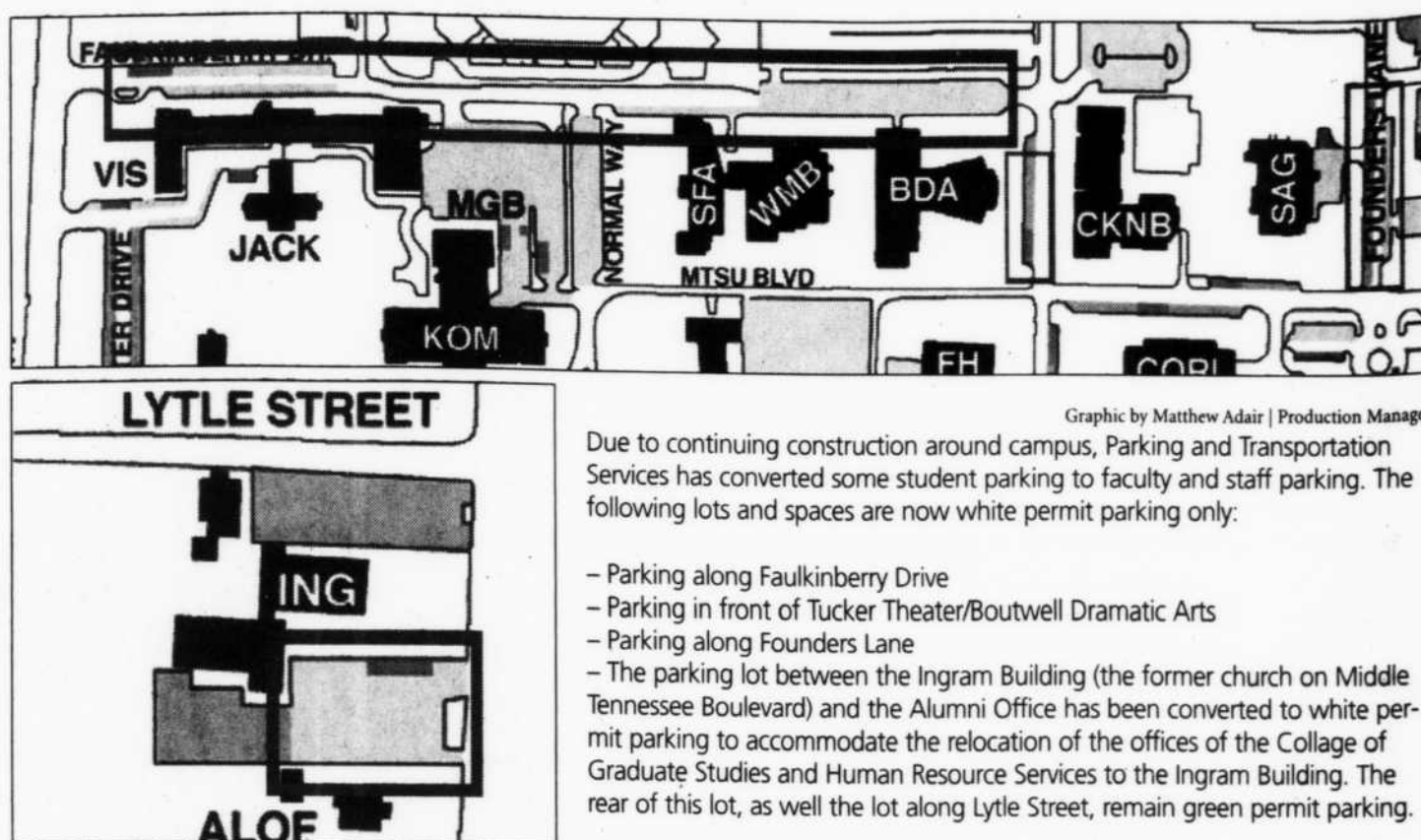
A: "We want students to know that we are a dynamic field, constantly changing and requiring special skills and technology."

"Our program is exciting for all of the majors in Mass Communications; recording industry, electronic media communication or journalism, we have a lot to offer students."

Q: What do you have in mind for the future as far as your programs are concerned?

A: "We are going to engage in deep examination of the curriculum so that it will be a lot of crosstalk between departments to explore the inter-departmental offerings."

"What we are doing is helping students to gain the best education possible."



Graphic by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

Due to continuing construction around campus, Parking and Transportation Services has converted some student parking to faculty and staff parking. The following lots and spaces are now white permit parking only:

- Parking along Faulkinberry Drive
- Parking in front of Tucker Theater/Boutwell Dramatic Arts
- Parking along Founders Lane
- The parking lot between the Ingram Building (the former church on Middle Tennessee Boulevard) and the Alumni Office has been converted to white permit parking to accommodate the relocation of the offices of the College of Graduate Studies and Human Resource Services to the Ingram Building. The rear of this lot, as well the lot along Lytle Street, remain green permit parking.

Student increase limits campus parking space

Students forced to park outside of campus or get ticketed

By Andy Harper

Managing Editor

MTSU began the first week back with a rearrangement of parking space designation for students and faculty.

In total, there were about 150 parking spaces converted from student availability to faculty, said Ron Malone, assistant vice president of Events and Transportation Services.

"I park way across oblivion to get to class," said Justin Williams, computer science freshman.

However, despite complaints about parking, Malone said that parking is not the problem.

"There is no problem with parking at MTSU," Malone said. "The problem is students want to find the most interior spaces."

Malone suggested that students park in

the exterior lots and ride the Raider Xpress into the interior of the campus.

"Riding the buses will cut down on the amount of traffic," Malone said. "The buses run from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will get students to classes a lot quicker than hunting for the perfect spot."

A suggestion to fix spacing problems was for students to purchase parking passes.

"I hate not being able to buy a spot because I have to walk from the Murphy Center," said Sandy Alexander, mass communication senior.

The reason for the conversion of green parking space to white was to compensate for faculty parking lost with the Recreation Center construction.

"We had an increase in faculty as well and it is important to have them be accessible to their classrooms," Malone said.

Despite exterior lots, students still note the lack of spaces available for green passes.

"Do they know there are 22,000 of us?" said Kelli Cook, mathematics education senior.

Even in early morning hours, students, like Kisha Ledlow, sociology junior, have had trouble with parking.

"I have an 8 a.m. and thought I could get here at 7:45 a.m.," Ledlow said. "I almost got hit trying to get a parking spot. People get tickets, but there isn't enough spaces."

One of the biggest problems is the inconvenience of closing sections of the university to host events, said Melissa O'Grady, library assistant with a white parking pass.

"Is he not aware of the parking issues like when TSSAA comes into town?" O'Grady said. "They shut down an entire lane of Middle Tennessee Boulevard." ♦

Got a tip for the team? Got a gripe, complaint or scandal? We would love to hear about it!

slnews@mtsu.edu

GRAND OPENING!



Not your average guitar shop.

Murfreesboro's newest guitar shop is now open!

"We have a STAGE for performers, a SOUND ROOM for the rockers and LESSONS for the eager."

Featuring:

Roxy's Retro Shoppe

Roxy's Retro Shoppe is your new supplier for vintage band t-shirts, rockin' jewelry and purses you can't find anywhere else!



1370 W. Clark Blvd / 615-896-5151

To: MTSU Community

From: Dr. Gene Fitch, Jr.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student Life

Re: Call for Proposed Rule Changes

Date: August 29, 2007

As you are aware, the University Rules Committee annually reviews MTSU's promulgated institutional rules. This material appears in the publication, Student Rights and Responsibilities, and in the MTSU Traffic and Parking Rules pamphlet.

* I anticipate that TBR will establish a firm deadline for submission of proposed rule changes. For this reason, suggested revisions to our current rules should be forwarded to me no later than Friday, September 21. Proposals must contain the following information: (1) the text of the rule as it now appears in the Student Rights and Responsibilities publication; (2) the text of the proposed change (with additions bolded and deletions specifically noted), and, (3) a statement of rationale which supports or otherwise justifies the proposed change. In the event a proposal is for a new rule, rather than a revision, the same should be noted, and item (1) above disregarded. I would prefer that proposed rules and changes be submitted through e-mail as an attached document in MS Word. My address is gfitc@mtsu.edu.

I should note that amendments to parking regulations are considered by the University Traffic and Parking committee. Suggested changes in these rules can be directed to Ms. Nancy Weatherly (nweather@mtsu.edu), Parking Services, again no later than September 21, 2007.

Notice of meetings of the University Rules Committee to the general campus will be made through the *Sidelines* and via e-mail.

Thank you.

Student Organization Fair

Presented by the Office of Leadership and Service

September 5th 10 AM - 2 PM

Keathley University Center Courtyard

The Student Organization Fair provides MTSU students with the opportunity to get involved on campus through joining Student Organizations.

Honor Societies, Greek Life, Sports Clubs, Departmental Organizations, and Special Interest Groups will all be represented.

GET INVOLVED!!

Drug card helps the uninsured

Students without healthcare save money on prescriptions

Staff Reports

A new program in the state is making it possible for people without prescription benefits and without insurance to pay reduced rates for medication.

The Tennessee Drug Card program allows anyone, including students, to pay less for prescription medication by simply printing off the online form.

The program, which is now in 15 states, got its start in 1995 in Baton Rouge, La.

The program is only three months old in Tennessee, but the card can be used at more than 900 pharmacies across the state.

According to the news release, an individual can save up to 75 percent on prescription drugs, and the average savings is 30 percent.

"The program has no restrictions or participation requirements, and there is no enrollment required to obtain a card," the release stated.

Harry Sayle, director of the program, said that for people who are uninsured, "it's a slam

dunk." But Sayle said it can benefit individuals who have health-care coverage that doesn't include certain medications.

After receiving a prescription from a physician, a hospital or Health Services, a student with no coverage can print off the form from tennesseedrugguard.com and bring it with the prescription form to a pharmacy.

Sayle said that there are hospitals supporting the measure. After treating individuals with limited or no insurance, some hospitals are giving them the card to use once they leave.

"Our program is going to cover the vast majority of prescriptions," Sayle said, adding that more than 90 percent of prescriptions are included in the program.

Sayle said that this is an important program for students to be aware of, and that it is available to anyone.

"It can be used by students' families too." ♦

The MTSU Office of Leadership and Service Presents the Seventh Annual

VOLUNTEER FAIR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10 AM - 2 PM

Keathley University Center Courtyard

The Volunteer Fair provides information to MTSU students about volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community.

RYMAN AUDITORIUM

THANKS FOR CHOOSING US NASHVILLE'S BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC AGAIN THIS YEAR!

NISSAN CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

INTERPOL with LIARS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

A SOLO ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE BY **DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL** with MAX BENIS & JOHN RALSTON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18 & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 WITH SPECIAL GUEST

KINGS OF LEON BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB and Manchester Orchestra

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

NICKEL CREEK Tickets On Sale Friday, September 21 at 10 am

Tickets available at all ticketmaster outlets, Kroger, Macy's, the Ryman Box Office, ryman.com, or (615) 255-9600.

Ryman Auditorium is a National Historic Landmark, open daily as a museum.

HISTORICALLY 2001 • 116 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH • DOWNTOWN NASHVILLE • RYMAN.COM

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

EMPLOYMENT

P/T Clerical position in Smyrna. Great work environment. Will work with school schedule. Saturdays a MUST. Call 223-1287.

Wanted in your area; Cheerleading, Baton Twirling, Dance and Tumbling Teachers. Must have own transportation and be good w/kids. Please call 615-896-4683 or 615-347-3595.

Part-time retail staff needed, weekends and evenings. Apply in person, provide resume. On Target Indoor

Continued from last column

Shooting 915 Thompson Lane 890-2960

Need a job? Home City Ice needs you! Flexible scheduling; minutes from campus; up to \$14.00/hour. Apply online at homecityice.com or call (800)843-8901 ask for Jon or Derek.

Child Care Position Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings. Excellent references and background check required. Apply in person M-F, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Mark's UMC, 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.

COOL new pizza joint

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

opening downtown, hiring all positions. Opening October 1st. Applications available at Five Senses Restaurant, Tue.-Sat. 1-4 pm. 1602 Northfield Blvd.

PT Work Good pay, flex scheds, customer sales/svc, conditions apply, all ages 18+, 832-8448 workforstudents.com

FOR RENT

One to three bdrm properties available close to MTSU. Including newly remodeled condos. Call 895-5314 for current listings, pricing and availability.

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

House 5 min.'s from MTSU. \$450/mo. includes utilities. Deposit required. No smoking. Call Micaiah 615-653-6507 View house at: www.mecomputerservices.com/Horncastle

House for rent 3 miles from MTSU. 3 Bdrm/1 Bath, washer/dryer. \$750/Month, \$400/Deposit. No Pets, No Smoking, Serious inquires only. 615-238-4833

FOR LEASE

2 bedroom apt. in Historic District of M'boro.

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

Electric, water & gas furnished, many EXTRAS. No Pets. Available now. \$400.00 deposit \$750.00 per month 615-895-0075 or 615-347-1676.

Historic House-1 bdrm apt. Hardwood/carpet, CH/A, appliances and utilities furnished. \$500 per month w/lease and deposit. 890-0075 or 347-1676.

FOR SALE

ROOMMATES

OPPORTUNITIES

#1 Spring Break Website!

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.

Spring Break '2008 Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free! Best Prices Guaranteed to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas, S. Padre and Florida. Call for group discounts. 1-800-648-4849 www.stststavel.com

SERVICES

Julie Lampley

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

Photography offers wedding packages starting at \$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area. Contact us at (615) 799-9618 and see galleries at www.pbase.com/jlampley

SALES

POLICIES

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

Continued to next column

Continued from last column

FEATURES

Middle East Center looks forward

By Sarah Lavery

Staff Writer

Professor Allen Hibbard seems to always be in a rush these days. Between running MTSU's Middle East Center and teaching courses in English, welcoming Fulbright scholars that have traveled across the world and showing them around Murfreesboro, Hibbard has plenty on his plate this fall semester.

Scholars have come from around the world to contribute to a new department at MTSU, traveling from places like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco and Yemen, to settle – for at least a little while – in Murfreesboro.

The Middle East Center just celebrated the end of its inaugural year, a successful beginning that has attracted students and professors of diverse backgrounds in pursuit of one common goal: an understanding of one common area that begs for a fresh and conversant perspective.

In 2004, the idea for the center evolved during discussions between President Sydney McPhee, Vice President of Development Joe Bales and Representative Harold Ford, Jr.

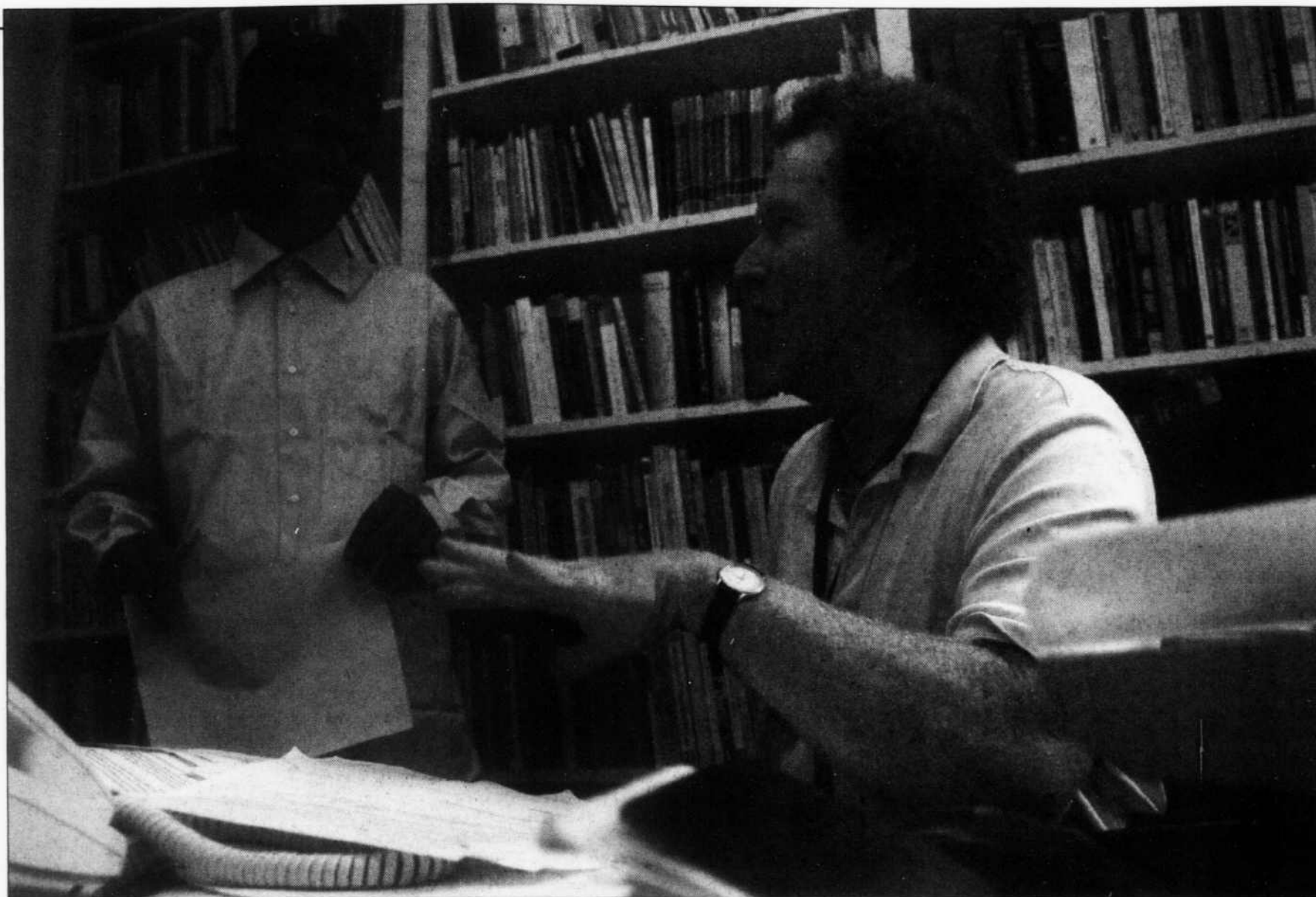
"We were very fortunate to have administrators and outside help," Hibbard says. "One of the things I discovered is that [the center] works successfully because it has had the support of the leadership of the university. They saw it as a legitimate social and cultural need."

McPhee sought Ron Messier's advice, a professor of Middle East history with extensive research and teaching experience in the field. Using other successful collegiate Middle East Centers as a model, a concrete plan was developed for MTSU to follow suit.

"One needn't make an argument for the need for Middle Eastern studies today," Hibbard says. "You could ask, 'Why didn't we start 10 years ago?' Then, we would've known more as citizens, and perhaps been able to avoid some of the things that are going on right now politically. But a university should be in the business of providing students with opportunities to learn about other cultures and develop skills in language. That's part of the mission of a good, comprehensive university."

According to the Modern Language Association, enrollment in Arabic courses jumped 92 percent between 1998 and 2002. At the time, only 10 percent of U.S. colleges offered Arabic courses. The events of Sept. 11, 2001, and emerging battles in the Middle East seem to have pushed the percentages much higher.

"[Middle Eastern studies] have been made even more com-



Professor Allen Hibbard speaks with one of MTSU newest additions – Khalid Al-Daoudi, a resident of Oman. Al-Daoudi will assistant teach courses in Arabic as part of the Middle East Studies Program. As well as offering a minor in the field, the Middle East Center attracts scholars and students from around the world interested in a common goal.

Photo by Justin Keoninh | Photography Editor

elling given the nature of relationships that have developed between the United States and various cultures in the Middle East," Hibbard says. "You read about it in the paper everyday; they affect our lives. You might know people fighting there or have lost people there, and yet, you might not even understand exactly the nature of their culture."

Hibbard and his colleagues have seen several traveling scholars come and go within the center, including Younes Riyani, lecturer and doctoral candidate at Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tetouan, Morocco, who returned to his homeland last month.

The Fulbright Scholar spent the past academic year at MTSU working on his doctoral dissertation. Specifically, Riyani is examined American impressions of Morocco between 1912 and 1956, the time of Spanish and French colonization.

"There is a chasm between the polit-

ical society and the academic society," Riyani told the MTSU Record. "So the academic society has the spirit to create an equal dialogue between cultures, between civilizations."

Muhammad Masud traveled from Yarmouk University in Jordan to teach Arabic at MTSU in the Fall of 2006.

More recently, Khalid Al-Daoudi has crossed the cultural border from Oman – right outside of Saudi Arabia – to assistant teach courses in Arabic for the curriculum.

Plans are under way to bring Abdul Aziz Said, founder of American University's Center for Global Peace, and Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, to MTSU this fall in conjunction with conferences on diversity and the Holocaust.

In just one short year, the program has seen the approval of an interdisciplinary minor in Middle East studies, an introductory course in the subject,

classes in a first-year Arabic and Hebrew and a community outreach program aimed at middle and high-school teachers.

The Middle Eastern studies minor, encompassing classes in Arabic and Hebrew, history, literature and music, among others, has attracted students with varied career and personal aspirations.

"We have [students] wanting to go into the FBI, to help amend their studies in Mass Communications, as well as some heritage students," Hibbard says. "And then we have students in the class who are purely just interested. It's been interesting to see how students have come to the minor for various reasons."

The center has been able to set-up headquarters this semester in room 104 of the Midgett Building.

A sign that reads "Shalom, ya'll" greets interested students when they enter the office. Hibbard's bookshelf is

rife with novels discussing the plethora of issues in the Middle East. The other office in the center is empty, awaiting the arrival of new Arabic teacher Kari Neely from Michigan.

Al-Daoudi introduced to the United States and eager to experience what MTSU has to offer and, in return, to share a little bit of the culture from his homeland with its students.

"I'm very proud of the way in which we've worked with a group of people here from different disciplines – mass communication, engineering, foreign languages, English, economics," Hibbard says. "I've been delighted to see the development of ties between these people, creating a new space within the university for those of us who have common interests to come together. I'm hoping this will become a second home for those with interest in the Middle East." ♦

Summer ends, fall fashion begins

Eight key items to have for fall

By Nikki Jackson

Staff Writer

With the sweltering heat coming to a teasingly close end, it's time to start saying goodbye to summer fashion and hello to bundling up. Don't throw away the flip-flops and trapeze tanks just yet, though – we have at least a month of heat left.

Integrate some of these eight pieces into your already existing summer style and you'll be ready to go by the time the leaves start falling.

♦ **Wide leg pants:** While last year was all about the skinny jean, this season, wide leg pants are making a comeback. Look for styles that are fitted in the hips and thighs and pair with a fitted top to avoid an overly baggy look. If you're on the shorter side, make sure to add stilettos or invest in a good tailor. Skinny jeans aren't totally on their way out, for better or worse. Pair them with flowing, trapeze tops for an interesting perspective on volume.

♦ **Cropped jackets:** This season's cropped jackets feature fun trapeze silhouettes and lots of volume. Styles with retro details such as polka dots and a rounded color keep a modern edge when paired with skinny jeans and ballet flats. Styles with three quarter and bracelet length sleeves are perfect for fall, while wood and tweed fabrics will work for winter. This style is great for school, as well, with a versatile look that can be made casual or dressed up. Pair with a funky vintage t-shirt or long cami and flats for school, and pump up the drama with high-heels and more figure-conscious clothes underneath.

♦ **Ankle boots:** Ankle boots are still going strong. The most popular runway styles feature skinny heels and laces. Those looking to make a statement can pair them with skirts. Target's Isaac Mizrahi line offers stylish pair for the

budget-conscious shopper. For the ultimate in fall chic, pair them with similarly colored tights.

♦ **A Statement coat:** Investing in a stand-out coat is a great way to revamp your summer and fall wardrobe. This season, it's all about eye-catching colors and bold patterns. A sophisticated coat can turn a frumpy outfit into a fabulous one.

♦ **Tights and leggings:** Tights and leggings will still be big this season. Last year's basic black styles will be replaced with patterns and textured looks. Use them to dress down your favorite dresses. Instead of the cropped styles that were ubiquitous last season, this fall's tights are longer and more streamlined, resembling a great (and more comfortable) pair of skinny jeans.

♦ **The mini dress:** Summer's mod mini dresses can easily make the transition into fall with the addition of a cardigan or jacket. Layer over a thermal tee for a more bohemian look, or pair with flat riding boots and tights to stay warm on campus. The flowy, voluminous trend is still in full-effect, if not slightly trumped by fall's demand for texture and rich shades.

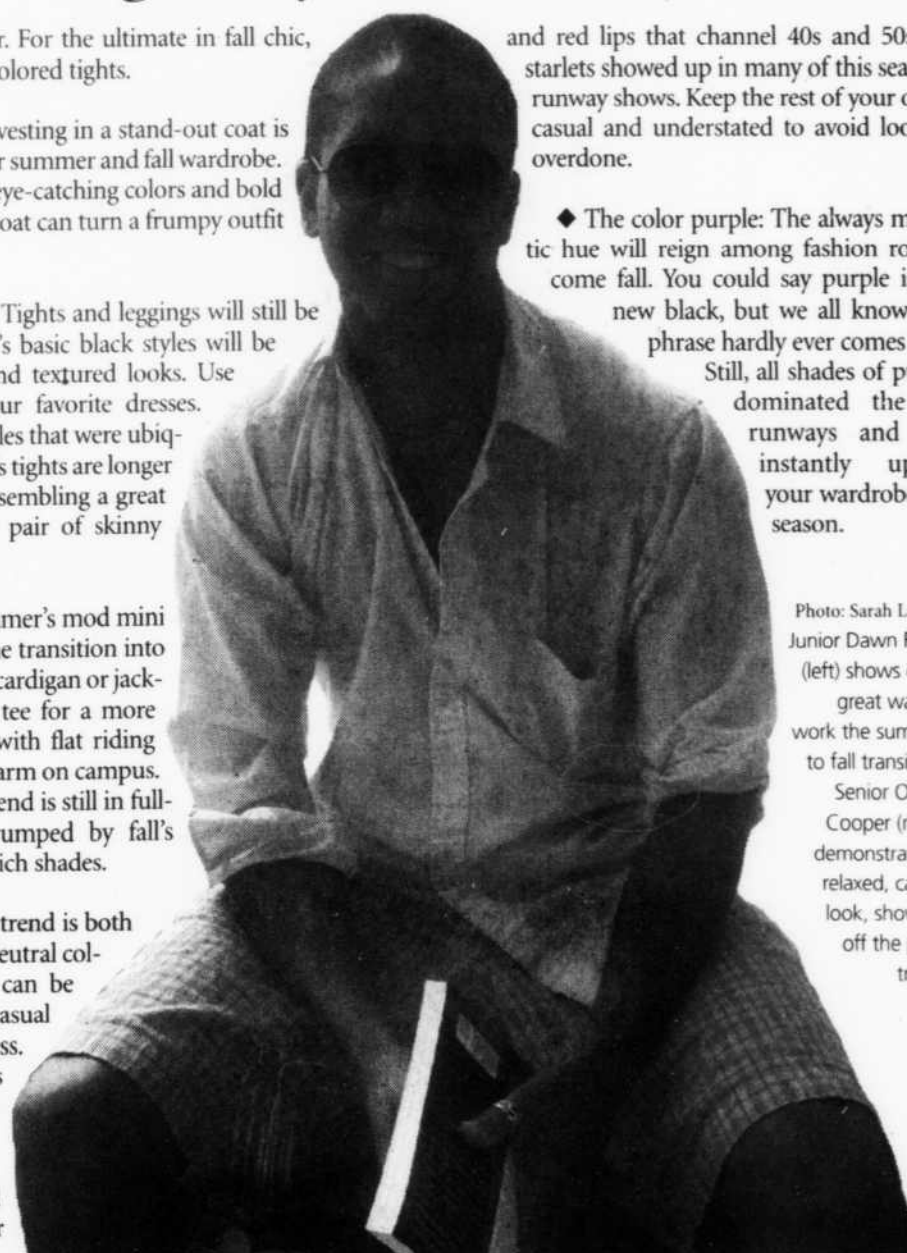
♦ **Long sweaters:** This trend is both comfortable and classy. Neutral colors like black and grey can be worn with jeans for a casual look or thrown over a dress. Details like toggle closures keep this look stylish and interesting.

♦ **Old hollywood glamour:** Soft, wavy hair

and red lips that channel 40s and 50s era starlets showed up in many of this season's runway shows. Keep the rest of your outfit casual and understated to avoid looking overdone.

♦ **The color purple:** The always majestic hue will reign among fashion royalty come fall. You could say purple is the new black, but we all know that phrase hardly ever comes true. Still, all shades of purple dominated the fall runways and will instantly update your wardrobe this season.

Photo: Sarah Lavery
Junior Dawnn Fugh (left) shows off a great way to work the summer to fall transition.
Senior Owen Cooper (right) demonstrates a relaxed, casual look, showing off the plaid trend.



OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Response to bomb threat left too many in the dark

Remember that game you used to play when you were a kid called Telephone? The usual setup consisted of a room full of people, all spread out, where one person would whisper a sentence to the person next to them, who would then pass it on. By the time the message reached the other half of the room, it was always hilariously garbled well beyond the original sentence. The same thing happened on campus this past Monday, although the results and the subject matter were anything but humorous.

The first day of classes is stressful enough without having a classmate burst into the room asking if anyone else had heard that there were bombs found on campus. In actuality, certain faculty members had received e-mails that morning warning of three booby-trapped bombs hidden on the campus.

Just after 11 a.m., President Sidney McPhee sent out a mass e-mail informing students about the warning, though many did not receive the message, and even less had the time or ability to check their inboxes between classes. Those who did attempt to spread the word, resulting in the Telephone-like mess that spread through the campus like wildfire.

The letter students received spoke of preventing alarm and assuring readers that the threat was taken seriously. However, MTSU's actions in the face of these threats seems anything-but serious.

Preventing panic is one thing. Failing to reasonably inform your students of a possible threat to their safety is another. Sending an e-mail on what is already the most hectic day of the year is not just lazy, but dangerous. Many students were left unaware of the threats, and the garbled version they did hear from their peers did nothing to comfort the or prevent panic.

MTSU has many systems in place to inform students, such as the tornado warning system, or even word-of-mouth spread by faculty and professors. The MTSU Department Fair, held that day on the Knoll outside the Keathley University Center should have been postponed, as it presented an obvious target in the event of an actual emergency. Other large gathering places like the KUC dining areas should have had the same treatment.

In the days after the Virginia Tech shootings, MTSU faculty and the Department of Public Safety promised us better communication and plans and procedures to keep us safe in the event of a treat or a crisis here at our own school. It's a shame to see they never materialized.

Letter to the Editor

Animal-rights activists outraged

To the Editor:

In response to the column "Bad Newz: Vick is screwed" [Aug. 1], I would like to compliment J. Owen Shipley on a moving and impassioned opinion piece on the Vick dog fighting situation. Shipley speaks to the feelings of most Americans when they hear about the horrific abuses these dogs suffered. Following pressure from groups like PETA and other concerned citizens, companies like Nike and Reebok have dropped Vick from their sponsorship, and the NFL is taking steps to remove him from the spotlight. This is just the beginning for Vick though, and the deeper the public looks into this case, the more people are calling for him to be immediately suspended without pay. As Shipley mentions, humane officers and other law enforcement officials routinely break up illegal dog fighting rings and confiscate dog fighting paraphernalia, including "rape racks," treadmills used to build the dogs' endurance and drugs used to "jazz up" the dogs.

However, according to the Vick indictment, even if the losing dogs were fortunate enough to survive the fight, they were "sometimes put to death by drowning, strangulation, hanging, gun shot, electrocution, or some other method." There's no doubt that people love sports, but they love dogs more, and when they hear about these animals being killed in such violent and cruel ways, they want justice for the victims. Thankfully though, we can all take steps to reduce animal suffering. For more information, visit peta2.com to sign the petition against dogfighting, and learn how we can all make compassionate choices for animals.

Ryan Huling
College Campaign Coordinator, Peta2.com

**Are you smarter than a
box of hammers?
Do you have an opinion
about anything?**

**Sidelines office
Mass Comm 269
Anytime**

slopinio@mtsu.edu



Titans trump Veterans Day

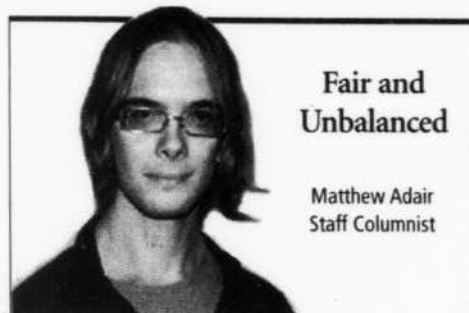
Veterans Day is traditionally a solemn day of remembrance, when we show our respects and eternal gratitude for the sacrifices and struggles of the men and women who have served in the armed forces since our nation was founded. It is a day to celebrate what has been won through their victories and to show reverence for what they paid to make that celebration possible.

From the noise being made around town, though, Nashville and the National Football League have an entirely different take on this day that the country has celebrated for almost 70 years. The Nashville-Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council, the body responsible for the city's Veterans Day parade, has decided that the event will have to be delayed until Nov. 12. This is due to the heavy traffic and lack of available police to clear the parade route on the holiday, caused by the Tennessee Titans' game against the Jacksonville Jaguars at LP Field.

Essentially, a 30-year-old parade paying tribute to soldiers young and old has just been preempted by a football game.

The veterans are, naturally, depressed about the announcement. Fred Tucker, chairman of the coordinating council and a retired marine, told the *Nashville Scene* that, while he would prefer to have seen the parade take place on the actual holiday, the fact is that it would seem that more people would prefer to watch a football game.

What's worse than the fact that the NFL went ahead and scheduled a game on the 11th day of the 11th month, despite its importance to our country, is the fact that Nashville's government doesn't really seem to care about the matter. The *Nashville Scene* reported that Mayor Bill Purcell's spokeswoman, Sandra Roberts, said that the mayor thought it was better to have the



**Fair and
Unbalanced**

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

parade on a Monday, instead of on a day of worship.

However, when *Sidelines* contacted Roberts about the parade and why the mayor would have implied that veterans couldn't march on a Sunday, but the Titans could play a game then, she said that the mayor's statement had been taken out of context. Purcell had not known about the coordinating council's decision to move the parade until asked about it by the *Scene*, and had no hand in the decision.

Thus, while Purcell is probably very guilty of putting his foot in his mouth, he had no control over what was happening. His office, or, more likely, someone subordinate to him, should have had some say. Maybe then, a compromise could have been reached.

In fairness, the Titans have said that they will pay their own tribute to veterans during the game, while one veteran, Glen Tilley, has asked publicly why the two events can't be integrated into a single celebration. Which sounds like a fair agreement, again, if city officials had stepped in and taken some control of the situation.

However, this would have required them to know what was going on. According to Roberts, nobody in the Metro government knew about the change in the parade date until after the fact. The *Scene* implied that

talk radio station 99.7 FM, WTN accused Purcell of moving the parade. The mayor's office told *Sidelines* that WTN told them that they did not accuse the mayor of moving the parade.

It is almost impossible to say, then, where responsibility for this situation falls. The *Nashville Scene* has, in its grand tradition of reporting, sensationalized the story to make Nashville's leaders look as incompetent as possible. Mayor Purcell and the Metro government have managed to be caught completely unaware of a major change in a pretty notable event right in the middle of their own city, something that you'd think the mayor of one of the largest cities in the country would be better informed about. Finally, the NFL has made itself look incredibly insensitive for not contacting the Nashville-Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council to see how it could involve their celebration with events being planned by the Titans.

It may be that each is equally responsible for dropping the ball by not doing something constructive to remedy the situation. Whatever the case, it seems that Nashville's veterans are still the losers here. Some will still gather at the War Memorial Building to mark the holiday. However, to the people of Nashville, a football game is of higher priority than a celebration of service to this country. This fact is sad and disgraceful.

Saddest of all, though, is that no one is willing to take responsibility for what has happened. It seems that the only people here fighting the good fight are the veterans. Haven't they fought enough battles for one lifetime?

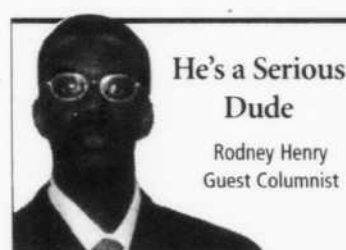
Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Prepare for graduation

As Heather Schablick, a senior account executive of Katcher, Vaughn & Bailey, an award winning Public Relations firm in Nashville said, "The time is upon us - graduation season. Just one month from now, another crop of PR graduates will be entering the "real world" - transitioning from the world of final exams and nightly homework to 8-to-5 jobs and water cooler conversations. The question is, are these graduates ready? And if they aren't, do we have anyone to blame but ourselves?"

Although these are words of a public relations executive focused on the internship programs in which college students work, they address a deeper issue. Are college graduates ready for life?

The years most students spend in college are full of course work. This becomes less and less important as classes follow classes until that day of graduation finally arrives. So, what in higher education has changed to cause what current college students are experiencing? In the first half of the 20th



**He's a Serious
Dude**

Rodney Henry
Guest Columnist

century the aim of higher education was to prepare students to be the leaders of Big Business; they were educated to contribute to Corporate America. Times have changed and Big Business does not seem to be at the heart of higher education any more. Students today are learning how to swim with the tide and get through the tough times. Simply put, they are just barely getting by. Who's at fault for the lack of ambition of these college students?

Of course, this tremendously important problem should not be placed on one group; each party must take its slice of the blame and change it for the better. Simply being a critic is not constructive, but lets look at how things can be improved from a student's standpoint. We may set a trend among college

students.

The first step for getting the attention of college students and having a lasting effect is to speak clearly. For example, if you don't understand the course work, ask for help before the week of finals. This may sound crazy, but we have all had that class we did not care about. We let things get to the point where we could see that "F" on our transcript. We need to prevent things and not just allow them to happen. Students must act in advance. Speak to the professor before midterms, ask how you are doing in the class if you don't know, but you should have some sort of idea. As college students, we need to reject that idea of speaking to the professor and showing interest in your studies equates to being a teacher's pet. If you think that, it may be because you just do not care enough to speak up.

Secondly, as college students we must all have a higher level of focus on our major courses. Too many students are not applying themselves in the courses that are in their major fields, at least give extra effort in

courses that are in your major. That said, plan for your future after college. Consider what you would like to do with your career. It may not work out as planned, but I have seen when interviewing with companies that after showing my plans they have a better understanding of the potential I have as an employee.

Lastly, with the extra effort and your newfound focus, go the extra mile. It may sound like too much work, but if the work is too much now, it will certainly be too much in the years to come. It is better to find out you don't like something early than to find out after years in the industry. Therefore, read some books outside of class on your chosen field, meet with some professionals that are where you would like to be in the next 5 or 10 years after graduation. It is important to be ready, not just for the workplace, but to be prepared for life after graduation.

Rodney Henry is a senior marketing major and can be reached at rmh2n@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee
State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: (615) 904-8357
Advertising: (615) 898-2533
Fax: (615) 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Letters Policy:

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

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters.

We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

Editor in Chief
Managing Editor
Campus News Editor
Community News Editor
Opinions Editor
Features Editor
Sports Editor
Assistant Sports Editor

Manda Turner*
Andy Harper*
Christin Pepple*
Mary Rose Fox*
Evan Barker*
Sarah Lavery
J. Owen Shipley
Richard Lowe

Photography Editor
Online Editor
Production Manager
Advertising Manager
Business Manager
Sidelines Adviser

Justin Keonin
Marcus Snyder
Matthew Adair
Jeri Lamb
Eveon Corl
Steven Chappell

*denotes member of editorial board

SPORTS

MT fans gone wild

"I am Sportacus"

By J. Owen Shipley
Sports Editor

A recent controversy over the content of a WMTS sports radio show has re-ignited the overplayed "should we cover UT" debate. Whenever UT is mentioned on campus, whether or not it is relevant to MT, someone gets ridiculed and outed as a Vol lover. Once and for all I've decided to make clear my stance on the issue. This column is addressed directly to the UT haters, so make sure you're logged in to your favorite message board and get ready to fire up those wireless keyboards. As Dane Cook would say, "it's on".

I have always fought against the idea that a university paper should have its hands tied when it comes to covering national stories. When I became sports editor, one of my first goals was to include more national stories in Sidelines so long as it didn't take the place of a more relevant local story. A great example would be the 2007 Women's Basketball NCAA tournament. After the Lady Raiders second round elimination I decided to continue to cover the tournament because March Madness is a nation-wide obsession. Most NCAA stories were received with little to no complaint. That is, until the national championship game rolled around.

If Pat Summitt had lost I would have loved to cover it but she didn't. She is the winningest coach in any sport in American history and since UT absolutely steamrolled Rutgers in the championship game, I had a responsibility to cover it that way.

In came the hate mail. Through the wonderful forum that is the internet that I was called a complete loser, who was degrading his school, and hurting MTSU by even mentioning UT. Apparently, I don't have enough friends on myspace.com either.

The idea that mentioning UT degrades MT's image in any way is ludicrous. My goal is for MT to someday move itself from regional obscurity to national recognition. The number one way schools have accomplished this in the past is through their athletic programs. My problem with the anti-UT nuts is that they say that any mention of the Vols hurts the cause of the Blue Raiders.

This is a defeatist attitude, competition is done on the field. I am proud enough of my university to let the players decide. My job as a journalist is to cover news and a regional team that is part of a national story should be covered. Any reporter covering national sports who refused to mention UT would be about as credible as a Gerry DiNardo press conference. No one wants the Blue Raiders to succeed more than I do, several times last season my heart was broken after MT losses. Not once in the last ten years has my heart been broken by a UT loss. I honestly don't care for UT in any way but I'm not afraid of them.

I'm proud enough of my school to write the truth and not avoid the monster under the bed. Why? Because UT isn't a monster. It's a school that has less students than us, a football coach who couldn't discipline a player if his life depended on it, and a sleeping dog for a mascot.

Fans so insecure they act like children at the mention of UT make me sad. They are an embarrassment and give MT a bad name. ♦



Photo by Trey Walker | Contributing Photographer
Construction is already under way at Middle Tennessee's Reese Smith Field for the 2008 season. The field itself will remain unchanged as the exterior is rebuilt.

Renovations started

Staff Report

Construction trucks on Reese Smith Field were the sight this week as phase II of renovations have begun.

Renovations began in 2005 with the addition of a new scoreboard and message board, as well as FieldTurf around the home plate area. Also added were new lights, infield surface, and outfield wall.

So far the biggest addition, literally, has been the Lee Victory

Wall of Champions in left field on the outside wall of Floyd Stadium. The banner was dedicated later last season in a ceremony before the Blue Raiders took on Western Kentucky and honors the program's conference championships and NCAA Tournament appearances.

The press box was removed Wednesday and the aluminum stands were removed earlier this week as well. Construction is scheduled to be complete in time for the home opener for the Blue Raiders. ♦

Blue Raiders season opens with tough game at FAU

Owls look to avenge last year's 35-14 loss to Blue Raiders

By J. Owen Shipley

Sports Editor

MT's football season officially begins this Saturday at 3:00 pm CST in Ft. Lauderdale, FL when the Blue Raiders take the field against the Florida Atlantic University Owls.

For the second season in a row, MT's season starts with a division opponent from Florida. Sports analysts at several major college sports publications seem to think this year's opener will be tougher. While most predictions have MT within a touchdown, the popular pick this year is FAU.

When MT head football coach Rick Stockstill was asked about how it feels to start the season as the underdog he seemed unconcerned.

"You have to make somebody the underdog and somebody the favorite. I'm sure this based on the people we have to replace and the people [FAU] has returning, plus it is an away game," Stockstill said.

"Last year... we were at home, we had an experienced line, a three-year starter at QB, and we had a lot of experience overall. Now we are going on the road and a playing a team with experience. [This year] we are the inexperienced team going on the road. I'm just saying last year the cards were probably stacked more in our favor with the experience."

The loss of Clint Marks, who holds a handful of all time passing records at MT isn't as significant as the loss of Eugene Gross. Gross rushed for 208 yards in MT's 35-14 homecoming win over the Owls last year and his back up red-shirt senior DeMarco McNair will be starting in his place. McNair and sophomore Phillip Tanner will need a big game to mirror last year's rushing totals.

While MT is returning their entire defensive line and their back ups, the linebacker, offensive line, and defensive secondary positions are all depleted. FAU on the other hand is returning nearly their entire team.

FAU's defensive line, which was strong in 2006, should be even better this year as FAU fields one of the most experienced teams in the school's history. In his weekly press conference Coach Stockstill said they were a major concern.

"I thought Florida Atlantic's defense really dominated our offense last year, especially up front," Stockstill said. "We couldn't block (Jervonte Jackson) and half of our rushing yards came on two plays. We didn't throw much... because the game didn't dictate that we do that. We have to play better than we did last year to hang with them."

While coach Stockstill is notorious for minimizing every possible advantage his team has- he referred to last year's 35-14 win over FAU as barely surviving after the game- the Blue Raiders were statistical losers of that last meeting. MT scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams. Big plays such as Damon Nickson's 94 yard kick return, and Justin Rainey's 50 yard fumble return helped MT secure the win.

MT can't count on big plays to win games and Stockstill knows that. While MT's head coach prefers to use stats to remind his players to respect FAU, his opponent Schnellenberger is using a different number set to motivate his players.

"We don't want to get run out of the ball park like we did last year," Schnellenberger said. "The score is what matters."

When Schnellenberger says what matters, people listen. His football pedigree is as impressive as it gets. As an NCAA head coach, he won a national championship with Miami in 1983. As an offensive coordinator for Bear Bryant at Alabama he was also a part of the Crimson Tide's 1961, 1964, and 1965 national championship teams. In between those two jobs he worked for the 1972 Dolphins, the only team in the history of the NFL to finish a season undefeated, as an assistant to Don Shula.

Since coming to FAU, Schnellenberger has pledged to revamp their football team the way he did Miami's 28 years ago. Now in his ninth year

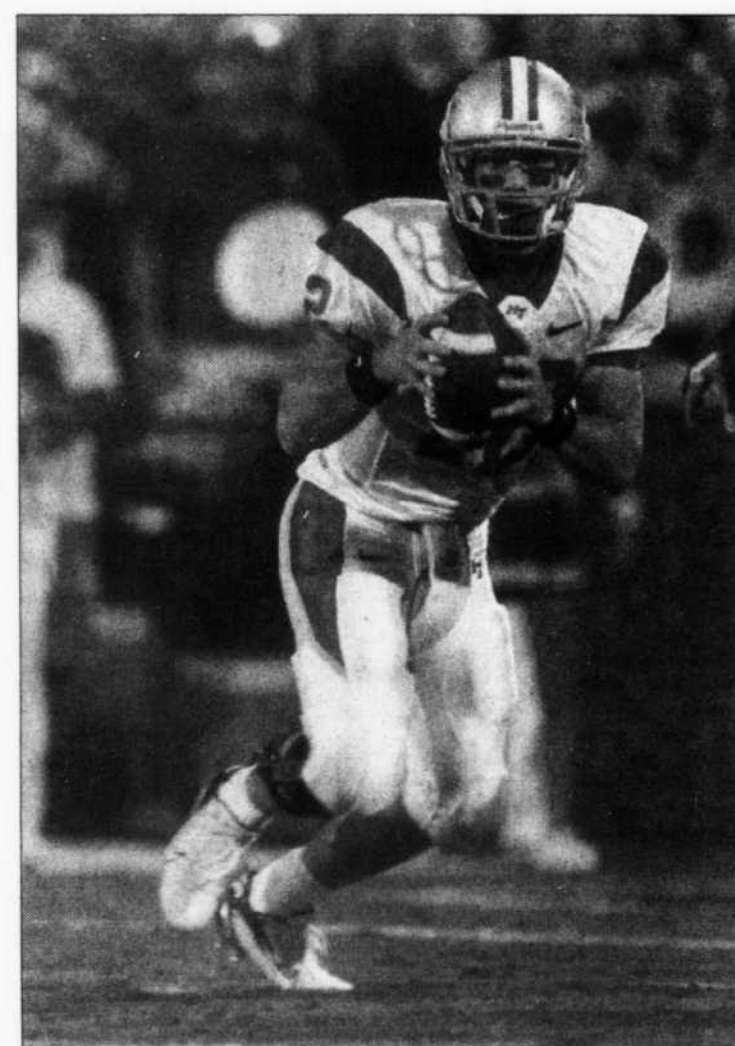


photo courtesy of MT media relations
Red shirt junior Joe Craddock begins his first season as a starter this Saturday against the Florida Atlantic Owls. He replaces 3 year starter Clint Marks at quarterback.

as head coach for Florida Atlantic he has yet to win the Sun Belt Championship. ♦

Kick off: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL

Radio: 106.7 FM / 1450 AM / 89.5 FM

Broadcast Team:
Charlie McAlexander and Chip Walters

Weather: 89 degrees Fahrenheit

No need for UT

"The Lowe Down"

By Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

When I woke up on the first day of school and heard a University of Tennessee football preview on WMTS, I knew the storm was coming. As the assistant sports editor of Sidelines and sports director for MTTV Channel 10 and 88.3 FM WMTS, life can get hectic. Maintaining a professional stance can become difficult when certain issues that linger on this campus day to light.

Later that come, there were posts on several message boards discussing the fact that there was a DJ on MT's student radio station killing the university's image because he discussed UT. Never mind that he gave a nearly 30 minute football preview of MT before discussing UT, the mere fact that he brought up UT brought anger amongst the MT internet community.

I have followed MT's athletic program for three years, adding new television and radio shows to the aforementioned stations without much praise from many outside of the athletic department. Praise is the last thing on my mind, though, when the sight of basketball, football, and soccer players approach on campus asking where my camera is so they can get on it.

Sadly, the reaction is mostly received outside of the athletic department is the fact that, at times, the campus stations cover other schools outside of MT, in particular the University of Tennessee. As a student who is not from this state, I am still waiting on someone to come up to me and give me a good reason on why I should shut out the Volunteers as a whole. Mentioning the Volunteers winning a game or championship is not meant to throw salt in a wound, rather report a story that has relevance in the MT community. UT is on the Lady Raiders' schedule for the next two years so the fact that I mention who won the national championship should motivate fans for next season, not make them turn on the media members reporting the story.

Tennessee Sports Central, a show on MTTV, showcases MT athletics every week. There is no reason to mention another team in depth when we have the most successful athletic department in the Sun Belt Conference since 2000. Not a week has gone by that a story about a high-profile opponent being added to a schedule, a highly rated recruit coming to MT, or a new construction project on campus has come across the newswire. When other schools are mentioned it is not to fill up space in programming but to inform MT fans that new opportunities to raise the profile of this university and its athletic department have arrived. If certain fans avoid mention of schools like UT then it will come across as fear rather than pride.

Outside of UT, there is no other school in the NCAA we avoid speaking about. Fans can't wait for the opportunity to speak about Western Kentucky and they are the second most successful program in the Sun Belt Conference since MT has been a full-time member. Fans also readily call out Vanderbilt on message boards everyday because of their lack of willingness to play games in Murfreesboro. Sadly any mention of UT is seen as forbidden in these parts, even if it is beneficial to the Blue Raider fan. ♦

MT Volleyball in Moscow

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee volleyball team will looking to keeping their winning streak alive as they head to Moscow, Idaho this weekend. The Blue Raiders will be playing in their second tournament of the season in the Idaho Invitational against No.21 Oklahoma, Idaho and No.35 Oregon State Friday August 31- Saturday Sept 1.

After sweeping the Bluejay Invitational and beating Iowa State to go 4-0 on the season the Blue Raiders face a little tougher challenge in Oklahoma. This is the first meeting with all the school involved and last year Oklahoma made it to the third round of the NCAA volleyball tournament.

"We do a tape exchange with the schools involved," MT coach Matt Peck said. "That will give us an idea of what they're doing offensively and defensively. What their players are like."

"First off we have the advantage because we're very athletic and we run our offense really fast," Peck said. "So, that keeps the other team from being able to setup their defense. There are not a lot of teams out there that aren't as athletic as we are."

MT opens the tournament facing Oklahoma, who is coming off a series sweep in their Sooner Legends Nike Invitational over the weekend.

Sooners' Anne Stadel was named MVP of the tournament and joined fellow Sooners' Mariana Blum and Julie Chester in the all-tournament team.

Stadel averaged 3.89 kills, while hitting .647 in the series. She finished the tournament with ten kills and two blocks assist against Alabama.

Coach Peck feels that the size and the conditioning that the team went through over the summer will help the team in facing Oklahoma.

"We're a good size team," Peck said. "We have [a full team] and we don't have any injuries. We had the whole team in summer school and they were working on strengthening and conditioning. They are in great shape."

"Oklahoma is a very good team," Peck said. "They won their tournament this past weekend. I think we match up pretty well."

Idaho comes into the series 1-4 on the season after being swept by Washington State. In that game the Vandals had five players in the double digits in digs, but it was the 25 attacking errors and 10 service errors that lead to their defeat.

Idaho will be looking to get back on track in their tournament this weekend and with a little help from Kelsey Yonkers, who was 64-51 in digs advantage and eight blocks.

The last team MT will face is Oregon State, who upset Hawaii in the season opener. Last year Oregon State was 3-26 on the year and looks to be trouble for any team in the tournament.

"They finished last year 3-26 and this year they upset Hawaii in Hawaii," Peck said. Hawaii is a Top 10 program usually and its going to be an interesting weekend for us. The more we play schools like these the better we're going to be."

"We just have to smart when we play these teams," Peck said. "We just got to do what we do best and defend the other team at what they do best."

If MT sweeps this tournament there is a chance that the Blue Raiders could jump into the Top 25 and as far as coach Peck knows no Sun Belt team has been ranked in the Top 25 in volleyball.

The Idaho Invitational starts at 5 p.m. August 31. ♦



Sophomore Jessica Ives, of Chattanooga, prepares for a base hit in last year's home game against Belmont.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Softball coach hired

Nevar replaces Podlesny after sudden departure

By Dwayne Douglas
Contributing Writer

After completing her most successful season as Blue Raiders softball coach, Leigh Podlesny decided it was time to make a change in her life. Without much warning, Podlesny gave Director of Athletics Chris Massaro her resignation.

"I was shocked," said Massaro.

The departure of Podlesny was shocking because the Blue Raiders finished last season with a 30-30 record. Massaro said the team was showing a lot of improvement. Coach Podlesny won 8 games in her first year. She then lead the team to 19 wins in her second year and 30 wins in her third and final season.

Her final season's 14-9 record in the Sun Belt Conference was the best record for MT since they joined the SBC in 1999.

"All MT programs should be competing

for Sun Belt titles. We always set that expectation," Massaro said. He said the school was just looking for the best fit for the team.

"Head coaching experience is always a plus, but not a requirement," Massaro said.

However, he was able to hire a coach that brings many years of experience to the MT softball program. Sue Nevar, the new head coach, comes to MTSU with 11 years of head coaching experience.



Nevar

Massaro pointed out that Nevar had incredible success while she was the head coach at Kent State. Some of that success includes taking Kent State to the College World Series in 1990 and winning Coach of the Year in the Mid-Atlantic Conference.

Nevar is also someone that Massaro sees as being successful at recruiting softball players to MTSU. "She will be able to demonstrate to 17 and 18-years olds that she knows what she is doing," says Massaro.

In statements released earlier this week

Nevar echoed Massaro's hopes with her comments on recruiting in the mid-state area.

"Our first priority is to bring productive student-athletes from the Midstate into our program and there are very capable recruits in the area to make that happen," Nevar said. "We will recruit at the highest level and against all of the other programs in the area, including Tennessee and the rest of the SEC."

"I honestly believe there are many high-level athletes in the Midstate who could play at Middle Tennessee and be very productive. There is no reason that a top-notch athlete from this area need to look any further than Middle Tennessee for a quality education as well as a great softball program. I am confident we can elevate Middle Tennessee softball to the next level using our selling points of excellent staff, great facilities and the community energy and excitement," Nevar said.

A short-term goal for the softball team is

See New Coach, 9

New Procedures for Fee Adjustments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Coach: Nevar hired after departure of third year coach

Continued from 8

to receive national recognition. To get to that level Massaro believes that the team will need a couple of good players and better pitching. "Pitching is key," Massaro said. He believes the team also needs a leader who knows how to lead the team to that goal. "[Finding that] leader is the most important part," he said. He then mentioned that he is comfortable that Nevar can take the team to the point of National recognition.

Nevar has been out of head coaching for some years but this is not something Massaro sees as a problem. He was looking for someone with "fire and energy" and said that Nevar showed that in her interview. He also spoke on how some coaches are better after taking some time off. "Some of them appreciate it more," he says. Although Nevar has not been coaching, she has stayed active with softball in other ways. She has spent the past few years teaching hitting and pitching lessons, and has served as a softball scout. Nevar's first season will be a success to Massaro if the team plays up to their ability and performs on a consistent basis. He will not

get caught up in the wins and losses. Massaro said he will not see it as a success if the team win the Conference Championship, but does not play up to their ability. The softball team will have a whole new staff to help them play up to their ability. The first change up has already been pitched and the Athletic Department was able to hit a homerun by landing Coach Nevar. The new head coach now has to hire her staff so that the MT softball team will be just as successful as the Athletic Department. ♦

Feel like your life's a waste?

Come work for *Sidelines*

Sidelines is looking for distributors to deliver our newspaper across MTSU. Applicants must have a driver's license and proof of insurance. If interested, or if you have questions, please call Steven Chappell at extension 2337, or Eveon Corl at extension 5111.

Vol. 83 No. 1

www.mtsusidelines.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Today, Fall 2007

Editorially independent

Welcomes new students to university

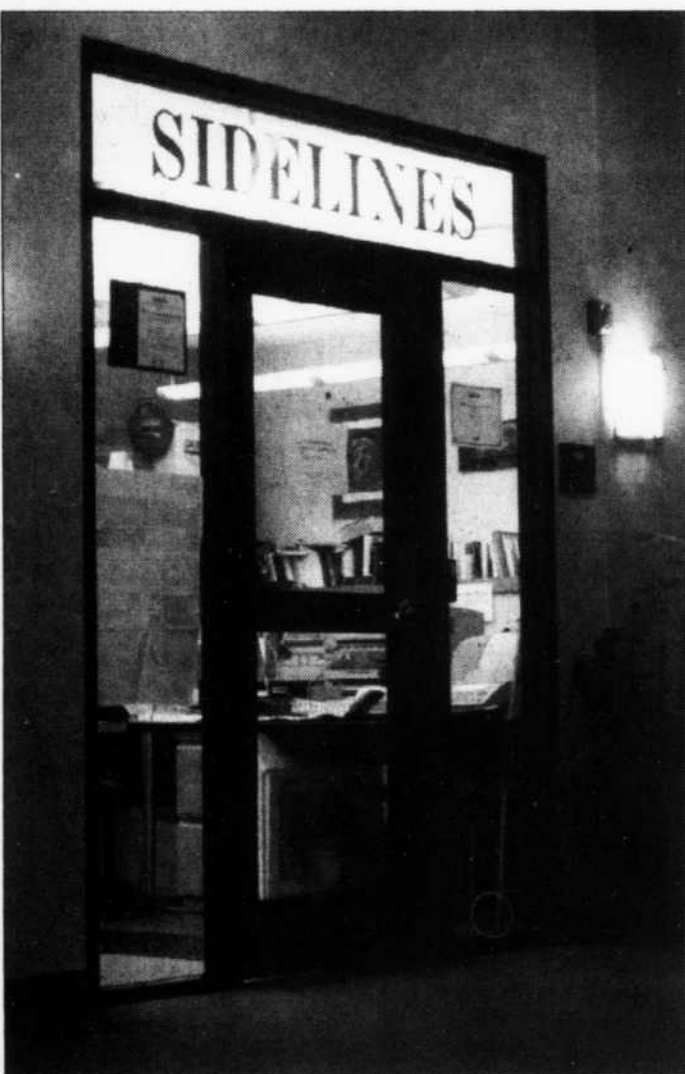


Photo by Matthew Adair | Production Manager
Sidelines is your source for what's going on around, campus, town and beyond.

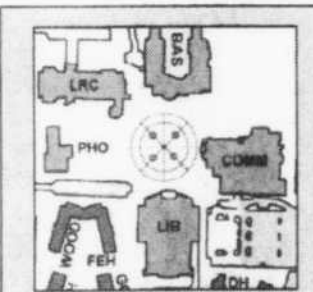
Opportunities await incoming, transfer students; campus newspaper provides useful information

Staff Report

The staff members of *Sidelines*, the student-run newspaper of MTSU, wish to welcome all new and transfer students to our university as they start their first semester here.

There's a lot to get used to here: from continuing construction on roads and around buildings and the winding corridors of Peck Hall, to the knot of people and vendors outside the Keathley University Center and the never-ending search for a good parking spot, you have to wonder if you're really prepared to deal with everything that's being thrown at you.

Which, thankfully, is exactly why you have us. The newspaper you have in your hands right now is your guide, twice-a-week, to everything and anything going on around campus and Murfreesboro. From news and opinions to sports and entertainment, we provide you with what you need to get by each week.



Sidelines is in the Mass Communications building, located between Walker Library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

We're your newspaper, and we mean that— all of our staff are students like yourself, so we see what's happening from the same vantage point as you do. Which means that you, too can join us, and be part of the award winning team that keeps MTSU informed of what's going on.

If you'd like to join the *Sidelines* team, or if you're just interested in meeting our staff, drop by our office. We're located on the second floor of the John Bragg Mass Communications Building, room 269.

You can also visit our Web site, and get the news delivered right to your computer. Sign up for it at www.mtsusidelines.com. While you're there, you can also comment on stories, and let everyone know just what you think about what's worth talking about.

Whether you join our staff, or just like to read the newspaper, we hope you enjoy your stay here, and we hope that *Sidelines* will be an important part of your life here on campus. ♦

COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE:

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

Get in the REC!



Meet at the Rec: Where Fun and Fitness Come Together

Hours of Operation

Regular Hours through Dec. 16

Monday - Thursday	6 am - 11 pm
Friday	6 am - 8 pm
Saturday	9 am - 8 pm
Sunday	2 pm - 10 pm

Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 1 - 3	Closed
-------------	--------

Fall Break

Oct. 13 - 16	Closed
--------------	--------

Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 21	6 am - 8 pm
Nov. 22 - 24	Closed
Nov. 25	2 pm - 10 pm

Christmas/New Year Holidays

Dec. 15	9 am - 8 pm
Dec. 16	2 pm - 8 pm
Dec. 17 - Jan. 15	Closed

Where There is Always Something to Do:

- Energize and de-stress;
- Relax and have fun in the pool;
- Get lean and mean in the weight room;
- Grab the excitement of outdoor adventure;
- Learn a new skill;
- Keep the competition alive with sports and games;
- Or just chill with friends!

FITNESS FALL 2007

Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday	Friday
Step, Monday only, Hall 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Abs and Tons, Hoan 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Spin, Hall 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Step, Wednesday only, Hall 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.		
Yoga, Hoan 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.		
	Spin, Tommy 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	
Water Aerobics - Deep Water 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Water Aerobics - Shallow Water 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
Belly Dancing, Monday only, Hall 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Abs, Jessica 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	
Belly Sculpt, Wednesday only, Hoan 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Yoga, Jessica 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	
Plates, Wednesday only, Hoan 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.		

AQUATICS FALL 2007

PROGRAM	DATES
	Sept. 10 - 20
	Levels A, B, 1, 2, 3, 4
Learn-to-Swim	Adult Beginner/Intermediate (18+)
	Oct. 1 - 12
	Levels A, B, 1, 2, 3, 4
	Adult Beginner/Intermediate (18+)
Discover SCUBA Free	Ongoing - First Tuesday Each Month, Beginning September
SCUBA Class	New Class - First Tuesday Each Month, Beginning September
Spring Board Diving	Monday and Wednesday 4 - 6 p.m. Sept. 3 - Dec. 19
Water Aerobics	Sept. 10 - Nov. 19
Water Safety Instructor	Nov. 2 - 11
Water Fitness Instructor	Oct. 6
Lifeguard Course	Oct. 19-28

INTRAMURALS FALL 2007

League/Event	Registration	Play Begins
Ultimate Frisbee (\$15) Captains' Meeting September 6 (5 pm)	September 5	September 10
7 vs 7 Soccer (\$40) Captains' Meeting September 13 (5 pm)	September 11	September 17
Coed Volleyball (\$45) Captains' Meeting September 19 (6 pm)	September 13	September 17
Golf Tournament (4 Man Scramble) (\$200) Captains' Meeting September 30 (1 pm)	September 14	September 30
Flag Football (\$40) Captains' Meeting September 27 (5 pm)	September 25	October 1
Indoor Volleyball (\$35) Captains' Meeting October 11 (5 pm)	October 9	October 17
Racquetball League Captains' Meeting October 18 (5 pm)	October 17	October 22
TIRSA Shootout (\$200) Captains' Meeting November 2 (5 pm)	October 26	November 2-4
Table Tennis (\$5) Captains' Meeting November 3 (5 pm)	October 31	November 5
Dodgeball Tournament (\$25) Captains' Meeting November 8 (5 pm)	November 6	November 12
3 on 3 Basketball (\$10) Captains' Meeting November 20 (5 pm)	November 20	November 26

Officials Training

Sport	Training Dates	Location
Soccer	Monday, September 10, 6 pm Tuesday, September 11, 6 pm Wednesday, September 12, 7 PM Thursday, September 13, 7 PM	Honors College 100 Honors College 100 Honors College 100 Intramural Fields
Flag Football	Monday, September 24, 6 pm Tuesday, September 25, 6 pm Wednesday, September 26, 7 PM Thursday, September 27, 7 PM	Honors College 100 Honors College 100 Honors College 100 Intramural Fields

OUTDOORS FALL 2007

League/Event	Location	Cost
Beginner/Intermediate Kayak September 7-9	Green River, NC	\$35/\$40/\$45
Raft the Ocoee September 15-16	Ocoee River, TN	\$40 (students only)
Kayak Roll Clinic September 18-19	Rec Center Indoor Pool	\$10/\$12
Belay Clinic September 19	Rec Center Climbing Wall	\$10/\$12
Raft the Ocoee for a Day September 22	Ocoee River, TN	\$25 (students only)
Whitewater Kayak October 7	Hiwassee River, TN	\$15/\$20/\$25
Fall Break Surfing/ Beach Camping October 12-16	Wrightsville Beach, NC	\$125/\$150/\$175
Backpacking the Smokies October 13-16	Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN	\$45/\$50/\$55
Belay Clinic October 17	Rec Center Climbing Wall	\$10/\$12
Day Trip Rock Climbing October 28	Kings Bluff, TN	\$15/\$20/\$25
Mountain Bike Trail!! November 2-4	Tsali, NC	\$40/\$45/\$50
Caving Snail Shell Cave November 11	Rockvale, TN	\$10/\$15/\$20
Lead Belay Clinic November 13	Rec Center Wall	\$10/\$12
Belay Clinic November 14	Rec Center Wall	\$10/\$12
Kayak Roll Clinic November 14-15	Rec Center Indoor Pool	\$10/\$12
Horseback Riding/ Hiking LBL November 17-18	Land Between The Lakes, KY	\$65/\$75/\$85
Skiing/Snowboarding In Tahoe! December 16-21	Lake Tahoe, NV	\$825/\$850/\$875

Programs and schedules are subject to change.

For more information about Campus Recreation programs, call our office at 898-2104 or check our web site at:

www.mtsu.edu/~camprec

Missing Issue(s)

