



Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 33

Monday, November 7th, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

Sunny
75/54

Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro: \$2.13

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Blue Raiders take first home win of season

For the Blue Raiders, it's good to be back at home and winning football games.

For the Middle Tennessee football team, this came true with an impressive 45-7 victory over Arkansas State on Saturday evening at Floyd Stadium.

"It's huge, we have been talking about how we got to win at home, and we got to take this place back," MT quarterback Clint Marks said. "We did it big time tonight."

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'Collage' accepting spring applications

Collage, the literary and arts magazine of the Honors College, is now accepting applications for Spring 2006 staff members.

Staff members must maintain a 3.0 GPA, but they do not have to be members of the Honors College.

Interested students may pick up applications outside Room 224 in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building. Completed applications must be submitted by Nov. 8 at 4:30 p.m. Applicants should also submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an MTSU faculty member.

The following positions are available: managing editor, visual arts editor, assistant visual arts editor, literature arts editor, online editor, designer and several editorial review staff positions.

All staff positions will be chosen before final exams. Students chosen for staff positions will serve for one semester.

For more information, contact Suzi Bratton at collage@mtsu.edu.

Students receive Predators discount

Special ticket prices are being offered through Wed., Nov. 9 to the MTSU community for the Thursday, November 10th Predators game. The game begins at 7:00 PM at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

The Predators are offering mezzanine seats for \$20 (regular price is \$36). To view the location of the seats, visit <http://www.nashvillepredators.com/tickets/seatchart.asp>. The Predators will donate \$2 from each ticket sold to the Sports Marketing Scholarship in the Department of Management and Marketing.

For more information or to order tickets, call Jon Salge, Predators Group Sales Representative, at 770-2115. Tickets can be picked up at Will Call.

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Commissioners confirmed, Electoral Act passed

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Election Commissioner Apryl Clark saw two of her nominations for Election Commission approved at the Student Government Association meeting Thursday, and an amendment to the Electoral Act passed its first round of legislation.

Freshman Steven Altum and sophomore Brandon Palma were approved with little opposition by a large majority of the Senate.

"What I really want to do for the SGA with my position is to help with more voter turnout," said political science major Altum. "Even though voting online is more accessible, I still

don't think enough people take advantage of it."

According to Altum, there are some recent violations of the election code that need to be addressed, but the most important thing for now is to find more ways to get people to vote.

Clark presented Altum for the first time to the Senate for nomination at the meeting on Thursday. According to Clark, Altum was a candidate for the freshman senate, but was not elected. However, he was still very interested in participating in SGA and wished to do so through the election commission.



Clark

Clark's second approved nomination, Palma, was not present at the meeting and was unavailable for comment. Clark did not return calls for comment.

The meeting also saw the first approval of Senators Ian Campbell and Michael Jackson's Amendment to the Electoral Act, demanding oversight of the nomination process.

"The bill passed by about an 80 percent pro-vote," Campbell said. "The rest was abstained votes and only one Senator had any dissension against the proposed amendment, saying it appeared to be an attack on the election commissioner."

According to Campbell, the amendment must pass another senatorial vote

and then it will be presented to the student body in a referendum for approval.

"I think that the amendment will do just fine the second time around," Campbell said. "I know that some thought that applying the amendment to the election commission first might have been a personal attack on the commissioner, however, seeing as that is the area that contains the most controversy, it is better to resolve it first and then move on to apply the amendment to other forms of nomination and election."

Aside from Campbell and Jackson, two other senators sponsored the amendment: Courtney Ledford and

see SGA, page 2

So you wanna be an idol?



Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Alicia Allen was one of the finalists in the MTSU Idol competition, which showcases local musical talents hoping to make the bigtime.

Study habits differ between men, women

Differences in male, female brains make grade performance vary

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

A recent study explored the differences in learning style and performance between men and women, finding correlations between academic success and lifestyle elements such as habits and partying.

In February and March of 2005, Student Monitor, a company that conducts market research studies of college students age 18-29, found evidence suggesting that women are better academic performers than men.

Eric Weil, a managing partner of Student Monitor, said the results of the original study, which analyzed textbook usage among 1,800 college students, led researchers to uncover the trend of female academic superiority.

"There's a correlation between good habits, buying textbooks, not partying as much and good grades," Weil said in a recent phone interview from his Ridgmont, N.J., office. "We wanted to know what that correlation was. What really came out of the study, however, was that all of those things were true, but that there was also a huge, huge difference between men and women."

According to the study results, men are more likely to party more; study later at

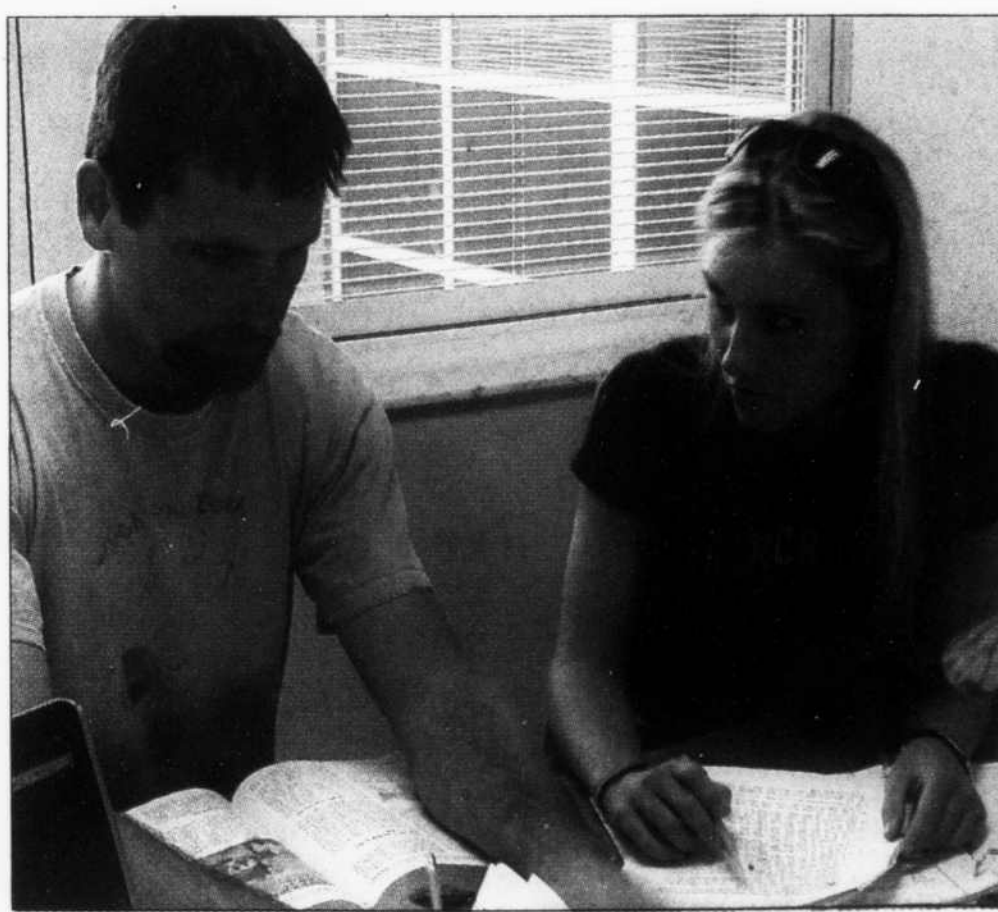


Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Darryl Webb (left) and Amanda Frazier study in the James E. Walker Library. Men and women don't process information in the same way, experts say, leading to a difference in learning styles.

night, less often and less efficiently and, as a result, perform worse academically.

"It seemed, in general, that there was a larger percentage of females with a higher GPA and graduating in four years," Weil added. "If you look at the statistics, you'll also see that females tend to outnumber males at colleges."

Weil said the conclusions drawn from the research were reflected all across the nation.

"I've not heard of a single school that has called us back and told us that the experience on their own

campus that differs the results of the study," Weil said.

Although the study results, educators have been aware for some time of the differences between the sexes in the classroom.

"Males and females don't think the same way," professor of educational leadership Janice Hayes said.

"Males will study better one way and females study better another way."

"Their brains are different," she continued. "Boys tend to be deductive in their thinking, going from gener-

al principles and then to ancillary ideas. They tend to do deductive reasoning more quickly than females. Females tend to be more inductive, moving from more general concepts to more abstract concepts."

Hayes also said that an educator's approach to teaching different genders must take these differences into account if they want to effectively communicate ideas to both sexes.

"I have to tell you that knowing this information changes how I teach," she

Low student participation in Japanese exchange

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

The International Conference on Cultural Diversity sponsored a series of workshops on the MTSU campus last Wed., Nov. 2, including a lecture on the Japan-United States exchange program.

MTSU Professor of Economics and Finance Kiyoshi Kawahito presented the workshop, one of five that met in the afternoon. His lecture focused on reasons why the exchange program was not as developed as originally intended, and what universities could do to encourage participation.

According to Millicent Nelson, the conference program co-chair, each of the workshops emphasized a different environment for communication that participants could choose based on their interests.

"There's something for almost everyone," Nelson said.

The workshops' themes included diversity in business, education and health care. Nelson said each of the workshops fit into this year's conference theme of communication in a multi-cultural environment.

Audience interaction and group discussion were stressed to the presenters, but the workshops also had to be of interest to the attendees and meet the conference theme, Nelson said. Since MTSU hosted the conference, she said the workshops would be both scholarly and interesting.

Kawahito's workshop centered on diversity in education in regards to exchange programs at MTSU and other American universities. He outlined major factors that played into the lack of participation by American students in the Japan exchange program.

Kawahito said there were only about 1,400 American students in Japan last year compared to the 20,000 Chinese students. Currently, he said there are nine MTSU students studying in Japan.

He said many Japanese students are eager to study in the United States, but do not have the opportunity because there are not enough American students willing to exchange.

He said many American students are intimidated or simply unable to communicate in Japanese at a level that the universities demand. He said this in part was due to the "arrogant attitude" of Japanese universities. He said they feel they are making a contribution to the international community by providing the opportunity to study in Japan.

Stephanie Floyd, a student who attended the workshop, said despite having studied Japanese, she would be intimidated to study in Japan due to the language barrier. Floyd, a junior studying interior design, said she felt Kawahito's comments on the arrogance of Japanese regarding their own language held true, though she would still enjoy the experience.

In order to remedy the language barrier, Kawahito suggested that the Japanese schools offer a more English-friendly environment by providing the necessary paperwork and teaching courses in English.

Another major prohibitive factor was the difference of the semesters in the American and Japanese academic calendars. In order for an American

see Conference, page 2

see Women, page 2

Scripps Howard executive visits campus for Conference

By Emily Stahl
Staff Writer

"It's at the front of my brain all the time," said the woman who sat silently confident at the dean's conference table. She had a look of assurance reflected in her eyes and a softness in her voice that seemed to back up everything she said.

Judith G. Clabes is the president and chief executive officer of the Scripps Howard Foundation, which is based out of Cincinnati, Ohio, whose mission it is to support excellence in journalism, journalism education and professional development, according to the company's Web site, www.scripps.com/foundation.

On this day in particular, she spoke about diversity.

Clabes, who joined the College of Mass Communication Board of Visitors last spring, stopped in at MTSU recently for the 2005 International Conference on Cultural Diversity, held Nov. 2-5. Her itinerary included, among other events, speaking to several journalism classes, a tour of MTSU's horse science facilities and a panel discussion.

"I got connected with Middle Tennessee State primarily through our company's interests in Nashville—Shop at Home Network and Great American Country," Clabes said. "Shop at Home asked the foundation specifically to make a connection here to see how we could get involved with the [journalism] program."

After expressing some performance anxiety about Friday's panel discussion, Clabes went on to say that the purpose of her visit was to develop the program, meet

some students and get to know the faculty a little better.

"But in terms of the Conference on Cultural Diversity," Clabes continued, "it's an issue that the Scripps Howard Foundation has been interested in for a long time. We have put a lot of money into helping the nation's newsrooms become more diverse."

Diverse newsrooms, Clabes said, come from an awareness that the media is not as connected as it should be to its diverse community.

"Our society's news pages do not reflect the depth of an understanding of those communities, and if you are an editor that truly wants to do what's right, then you want your newspaper to reflect everyone in your community and not leave people behind."

Clabes conveyed a subtle sadness as she explained that, unfortunately, a lot of people get left behind.

"They don't have a voice, and it really is an obligation of journalists to give them a voice," she said determinedly.

Clabes can speak confidently on diversity, thanks in part to her background. She grew up in Henderson, Ky., during the late 50s and 60s, and remembers when schools were integrated during the Civil Rights Movement.

Her family now owns a quarter horse farm in Fort Mitchell, Ky., where they break and train quarter horses.

After holding several positions in the field of journalism, Clabes joined Scripps Howard Foundation in 1996.

"As someone involved in the media, you get educated in a lot of ways—you care about the news, you care about what's going on, so you're basically a generalist," Clabes said. "And you need to know a little

about a lot of stuff, and not a lot about anything. So I think you're more aware of things that other people can afford to just let slide because it's part of your job to be aware of things."

Clabes said that it is important for newspapers to bring in a diverse staff that reflects the community on which they are reporting.

"I was just determined that I wasn't going to be one of those statistics that had an all-white newsroom," Clabes said of her experience. "You just have to have it as a core of your being that [having a diverse newsroom] is what you are going to do no matter how hard it is."

So what does she think is the catalyst to diversity in the media?

"At the beginning is education and convincing diverse student populations that the media—particularly print and the news aspect of the media—is a clear option for them," Clabes said. "They don't see themselves there much, and we have to change that."

"Journalism schools have got to do a better job of recruiting and training [minority students]," she added.

As the interview in the dean's conference room neared an end, Clabes was asked what she deems her greatest accomplishment in life.

With the same softness in her voice, she replied that her family is her greatest accomplishment.

"To come to the end of your career and your life and say, 'Gosh, I had the family I wanted and I had a job I loved; that's what matters.' ♦

From SGA, page 1

Matthew Bullington.

"This amendment is definitely a step in the right direction," Ledford said. "Making the application more open, more inclusive and more obvious, helps to lessen the 'good ole boy' system of appointment."

The amendment is a very progressive. It takes us out of the dark ages of cronyism and into a new age of representing more diversity and truthfulness," Jackson said.

Senator Spencer Wood agreed with Ledford and Jackson, saying that this amendment would allow a breakaway from affiliations of organizations and clubs to provide a better representation of the student voice.

Other meeting business included the SGA reviewing their Senate By-Laws. Speaker of the House Clay Kennedy read through all By-Laws and the Senate proceeded to approve any corrections that needed to be made and approve any additions to articles.

The SGA also split into sub-committees of Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Internal Affairs and Student Life to discuss ideas for each individual area.

The Academic Committee proposed more student involvement with college deans. They also discussed honors college classes and the "H" option, proposing that a committee should be formed to look into making more upper division honors courses available.

The External Affairs Committee discussed student and teacher appreciation. They proposed a possible student appreciation day for Dec. 2 and a faculty/staff appreciation day for Dec. 7 in the form of a breakfast.

Internal Affairs Committee talked about collaborating with External Affairs to accomplish more public relations work among the senators and to encourage better attendance.

Finally, the Student Life Committee talked about organizing promotional events for the basketball season and a canned-food drive. They were also very interested in making the SGA student suggestion box more accessible to the student body as a whole. ♦

From Women, page 1

said. "I provide lots of opportunities for students to interact and work in groups. I take breaks when I teach to let them process. I try to work to use the research to design each of my lessons to teach towards how males and females study."

Research shows that the basis for this developing trend is both cultural and biological.

"Our expectations of females fit in with having them sit and be quiet and read books; there's a cultural expectation," Hayes said. "There's more than that, it has to do with the hormones in the brain. Estrogen in the brain makes a more calming effect and testosterone in the brain makes men more aggressive."

Associate professor of biology Amy Jetton also pointed to the influence of hormones on learning ability as significant, particularly their influence on the ability to concentrate.

"A more important difference you would see between the genders is the hormonal difference which affects the ability to focus," Jetton explained. "One important point is that males are at their peak hormonally during college. During that time, they are most prone to being easily distracted."

"For females, once they establish their basic hormonal levels, they tend to have just a couple of days out of every four weeks where they would have higher hormonal levels and would be more prone to having difficulty concentrating," she added.

Jetton explained that although the influence of hormones has been studied, evidence of a great biological disparity has yet to appear. In effect, she said the jury is still out on the subject.

"There's not any good evidence, that I'm aware of, that there's this great disparity between the genders," she said. "It's more that they perform better in different situations."

"There are neuro-anatomical differences that indicate that females are perhaps less lateralized, that they would use more different parts of the brain to do something, but that's based on really old data done with a small testing group."

In general, male students were accepting of the results and expressed little surprise at their gender's apparent trailing position in the academic race.

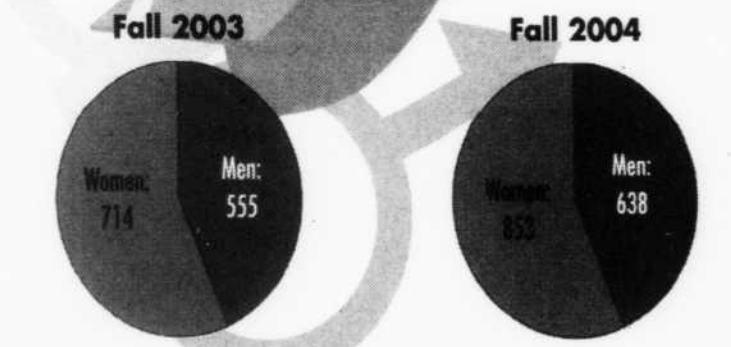
"I'd say the results are very accurate," freshman English major Paul Kakanis said. "In my experience, a lot of guys procrastinate and put work off

Enrollment and degrees by sex

Undergraduate population



Number of Degrees earned



until the last minute. Guys are more prone to play video games and party."

However accurate the results might be for the rest of his sex, Kakanis' good grades and study habits mark him as an anomaly, according to the study. He attributes some of his academic success to his environment.

"Living in the honors [dorm] makes a difference," he explained. "You've got a support group of other people taking honors classes, and the library is right next door."

Justin Soltau, a freshman aerospace major who transferred from Chattanooga State, said he thought the results were accurate as well, even though he said his study habits were better than those of males in the study.

"I think the results are very accurate," he said. "I think women have better time management and know when they need to get work done, so they have time for other things. I think [guys] get distracted too easy; it's harder for us to focus."

Women also acknowledged their superior study habits, but gloated less than might be expected.

"I'd say the results are 80 percent accurate," junior organizational communications major Amber Bland said. "I would say most girls fit the results. I know I study more than my brother, but that may be because he has the ability to get good grades if he tried."

I have to work harder than him, but I do work harder."

Sarah van Wicklin, a sophomore English major, said that her good study habits are based on personal expectations.

"I study every day, except Friday and Saturday, because I feel guilty if I don't," she said. "I know girls that just socialize all the time, and they've failed some classes. You don't work hard for someone else or to prove them wrong, you do it for yourself. That's what you have to have to motivate yourself. If you do it for somebody else, it might not be what you really want."

Despite their acceptance of the findings, there remains a determination on both sides to improve their sex's performance.

"I'll work harder to prove them wrong," Soltau said. "Now that I've been here a while, it'll be easier to motivate myself to make the right decisions."

"I guess it would suck to be a guy," Bland said. "I'll definitely work harder. Gotta keep the man down." ♦

From Conference, page 1

student to study one semester in Japan, they would have to sacrifice an entire school year.

Kawahito said the most successful exchange takes place with Japanese universities such as Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, which have adapted their calendar for the program.

Kawahito said measures should also be taken in the United States to provide more opportunities for exchange between universities. He said if schools or other organizations offered more financial aid, it would be possible for more students to study abroad.

Also, if American schools offered a program to teach English to foreign students, more Japanese students would be able to study in the United States. According to Kawahito, MTSU offers no such program, though there is a private language school nearby that he suggested could be integrated with MTSU.

Kawahito said the exchange program is important and beneficial for American and Japanese students. He said since the United States is a major business and trading partner for Japan, it would help students to learn more about each other's cultures.

"[Japanese students'] careers will directly or indirectly involve working with Americans, so they should have the experience," Kawahito said.

He said the fact that English is an international language makes the program beneficial for Japanese students, but is a disadvantage for

Americans. He said American students don't have the same incentive to study other languages, and their worldview is therefore limited.

The exchange program would allow American students to expand their worldview and look back on their culture objectively. He said since there is a huge Western civilization bias in education, the program gives students a new perspective.

The major factor that would stimulate the program would be for universities on both sides to abandon their arrogant attitudes and make themselves more attractive to foreign students, Kawahito said.

Kawahito said the first exchange program at MTSU with Japan 10 years ago. The first students from MTSU went to the Japanese university Kansai Gaidai in 1995. He said since the school is so accommodating for international students, it has become very competitive.

"We have secured at least two slots per semester," Kawahito said, though the slots are not always filled.

Currently, MTSU students have the opportunity to exchange with six different Japanese, Korean and Thai universities or teach English in Japan after graduation. Kawahito also sponsors a Japanese field study that will take place in May of 2006 with an application deadline in December. ♦

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That gang is one of three well-organized pirate groups on the 1,880-mile coast of Somalia, which has had no effective government since opposition leaders ousted a dictatorship in 1991 and then turned on each other, leaving the nation of 7 million a patchwork of warlord fiefdoms. ♦

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**November 9, 2005
JUB Tennessee Room
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for more information
www.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn**

Opinions

page 4
November 7, 2005



From the Editor

Last Halloween, *Sidelines* offered up more tricks than treats, and the tricks weren't fun for everyone.

Our satire issue last week was one in a long line of satirical Halloween and April Fool's. Last fall, there was no Halloween issue because it was so close to the election, but generally we forgo information on our two favorite holidays and terrorize young minds.

The theme, "Flash Takes Over," probably made little sense to all but the most dedicated *Sidelines* enthusiasts. All three of you.

Whether logical or not, *Flash* has become something of an Alamo for the *Sidelines* staff. Our beloved entertainment paper took a different direction this semester, delving into more satire, community interests and alternative journalism. Actual entertainment coverage was limited to local music.

The idea was to do something more exciting than review *This Week's Big Album* and *This Week's Big Movie*. As it turned out, it was dishonest to advertisers, who were paying to advertise next to such content. After weeks of hand-wringing, our adviser, Fern Greenbank, cancelled *Flash* for the rest of the semester.

The theme seemed like a funny joke, but upon retrospection, it was really just a lot of navel-gazing. Unfortunately, that wasn't the worst of it. *Flash* was neither the first nor the last conflict between the staff and Greenbank, and the story, "Students Against Advisers trying to oust...their adviser," was at best a venting of frustration and at worst a personal attack.

Journalists bear an awesome responsibility, and it was unethical to use it that manner.

Part of the issue's "editorial write-off" also deserves a mention. While satire is not to be taken as truth, there is usually some sprinkling of truth in it. Part of the "write-off" said, "We will not call the Homecoming Queen a cheater."

While it was the editorial board's position that she should have been disqualified, it was dishonest to imply that this year's queen, Jenn Myers, was a cheater. Myers did nothing of the sort, and we apologize if the fake editorial created that impression.

Some of the rest of the content might have been overly offensive, and perhaps some of it betrayed the personal views of the staff. We watch too much Comedy Central, and last Halloween, we failed to consider the community's standards over our own. For typical issues, we go about gathering news objectively, suppressing our own prejudices. And we leave out the boob jokes, too.

If you have any concerns with the Halloween issue, or *Sidelines* in general, please feel free to email me at sleditor@mtsu.edu. ♦

Social security numbers dangerous form of ID

From their time of birth, every person in the United States has a number tacked on beside his or her name.

This number becomes their identity as soon as they are out in the world. It follows them through school, college and, eventually, into the workplace. Why even bother adding a name when all you're going to be known by is a number?

Here at MTSU, your Social Security number becomes your identification for many things.

When buying a parking permit, your Social Security number is one of the first things they ask for.

When you need to visit Health Services, they don't even ask for your name when you call to make an appointment. All that they ask for is your Social Security number.

When you walk in, there's a computer where you are asked to type in your Social Security number in order to sign in. Anyone could be standing over your shoulder reading as you type, and your Social Security number is one of the most personal things that you could possibly have.

When other people have access to your social security number, it only opens you up to identity theft. With your Social Security number, someone could apply for credit cards in your name, causing you to eventually receive a massive credit card bill.

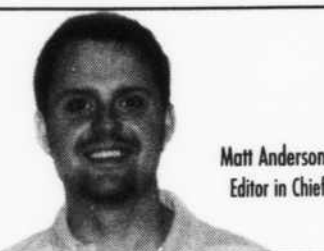
You hear all the time on the news how you shouldn't give out your Social Security number to anyone, because it can only cause problems.

However, every time you turn around on campus, you're being asked for it.

Your social security number should not be the only way for anyone to identify you. Every student should have an individual student identification number if only for his or her own safety.

Once upon a time, it was acceptable for your Social Security number to be your only form of identification in a company or a bank, but times have changed, and MTSU should change with them.

One professor on campus



Matt Anderson
Editor in Chief

Texas: keep better track of your death row inmates

Charles Victor Thompson, a Texas death row inmate, escaped Thursday from the Harris County Jail. The escape sparked both a nationwide manhunt and the obvious question: How did he do it?

What's disturbing, however, is the way in which he escaped: He walked out of the jail.

Thompson was arrested and convicted in 1999 of killing his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend, Dennise Hayslip and Darren Keith Cain, according to an article on CBSNews.com. Thompson was then resentenced by a new jury in appeals court on Oct. 28.

On the day of his escape, Thompson met with an attorney who was not even Thompson's actual attorney on record, according to the article.

Once alone in the room, Thompson removed his handcuffs and prison garb and donned what authorities said appeared to be the clothes he wore to his sentencing.

According to the article, Thompson used his inmate ID card as a fake ID by placing a piece of tape over the part of the ID that indicated he was an inmate.

Apparently, this badge wasn't looked at very closely, as Thompson was allowed to walk out when he said he worked for the



Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Texas Attorney General's office.

The big problem here is the lack of security. When dealing with death row inmates, one would expect the process of meeting the inmate to be a bit more involved. Perhaps the signing of something, a show of identification and verification that the visitor was, indeed, Thompson's attorney would have been a good start.

The person who met with Thompson the day he escaped was not even the attorney on record for Thompson. Authorities know the man's identity, but have not yet released it because he is considered a witness in the case.

The sheriff's department is conducting an investigation to determine how Thompson escaped, which will hopefully indicate areas in which security could be tightened.

In the meantime, residents of Texas will just have to be on the lookout for a man

who looks like he killed his ex-girlfriend six years ago.

Authorities believe Thompson had an accomplice in the escape, according to Lt. John Martin of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. According to the article, there is no evidence of Thompson being helped from inside the jail, but Martin said that has not yet been eliminated as an option.

The reward is \$10,000, which, while a large sum of money, is hardly incentive enough to go chasing after an escaped killer with a shotgun and a net.

Procedures involving how inmates are monitored while in jail, especially in transit from cells to visiting rooms and the like, should be revisited to ensure that any possible breaches in security are avoided. If this kind of escape happened in Texas, it can happen elsewhere as well.

Martin did attribute the escape to human error, which is notable on his part. The best thing for the sheriff's department to do now is to find Thompson, lock him up again, and ensure that he is treated as a death row inmate who has escaped from jail. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached via e-mail at visa717@aol.com.

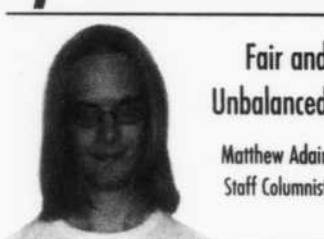
Play necessity for healthy mental development

Pop quiz time, everyone: when was the last time you didn't have anything to do (or anything you were supposed to be doing) and could just play?

Time's up. Set your pencils down and pass up your papers. Odds are, a number of you were staring blankly at your quiz for a while, unable to remember. I'm also sure that one or two of you ignored the directions and thought that the kegger you went to when you were supposed to be working on your term paper counted as play.

As a society, we seem to have lost touch with the importance of play, and even of what "play" actually means. Most of us associate the idea with frivolous and unimportant activity, effort directed towards no useful end. It is unhealthy enough that adults feel this way. What is worst of all, though, is that the ones who bear the brunt of this attitude are children.

We put an emphasis on the product of a child's work, as opposed to how a student comes to understand something. This is the logic behind



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

not only things like standardized testing, but the idea of cramming a child's schedule with activities, or that children should have a "schedule" at all. People want their children to make something of their lives, and will stop at nothing to make sure that happens.

This is a wonderful goal. Who would want to see their kids amount to nothing in life? Therein, though, lies the problem in all of this. In rushing our children from place to place, we've become obsessed with having them meet objectives and standards, and fail to see the value in just letting explore the world themselves.

In all of this doing, we've forgotten to let kids just play.

Play isn't just mindless fun, the things you do when you haven't got anything else to do. It's what you do when you can't figure something out, when something is bugging

your curiosity enough to make you want to pull it apart, poke at it or turn it all around.

Social scientists have been talking and writing for decades about how important play is to growing up. Constructing knowledge, they tell us, helps us better connect ideas to practical use, encourages creative problem solving and generally makes us better able to deal with a changing world. When we play, things become important to us because we find reasons for them to be important.

It's no wonder, then, that the post-Sputnik generations have seen a rapid rise in the occurrence of mental disorders. Today, one in five children is believed to have some sort of identifiable mental or emotional disorder. Most telling is that eight to 10 percent of children and adolescents have some kind of anxiety disorder, six percent are clinically depressed and five percent have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

While it's impossible to blame any one thing for all of these problems, the often rigidly structured lives more

and more parents are putting children through are undoubtedly fattening the wallets of psychiatrists from sea to shining sea.

However, all of that money hasn't seemed to have bought our children much happiness. We're turning them into miniature adults, complete with complaints that they're too busy to do some of the things they would like to do, like hang out with their friends to aimlessly have fun. Everyone here seems to be benefiting, except for the ones that all of these models and plans are supposed to help.

A number of us will be parents some day, and some already are. Don't we, as the previous generation, owe our children happier, saner lives than the ones we are living? We should stop trying to overthink children's lives and simply let them play how they would like to, instead of packing every second with opportunities for us to shine as the World's Greatest Parents. ♦

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

Letters to the Editor

Administration's actions not sexist

To the Editor:

This is in response to Sandi Van Orden's "Bush's sexist nomination fails to provide diversity." It seems as though she wants to overlook the rest of the Bush administration - and hide several important facts from her readers.

If President George W. Bush was actually sexist (or racist, for that matter), would he have appointed females to four of the fifteen positions on his cabinet? Would six of the fifteen members be considered racially diverse?

Condoleezza Rice, a black female, holds the position of Secretary of State, the first black female to do so. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings is female, as well; not to mention Secretaries Gale Norton and Elaine Chao, of the Departments of the Interior and Labor, respectively.

If Bush were truly sexist, would he have appointed these accomplished women to the positions they currently hold? There are plenty of men that could fill the positions just as well.

It seems that, in her rage, Ms. Van Orden has forgotten that the Bush administration is full of diversity. Sure, Bush's recent nomination, Samuel Alito Jr., happens to be male, but he has also had years of judicial experience. Maybe Bush feels Alito is the next best choice for Associate Justice.

This should not be about who is male or female, black or white. This should be about experience. Nominating someone to a position of importance based solely on sex or race, Ms. Van Orden, is shallow and ignorant.

Matthew Hurt
Freshman, College of Liberal Arts

Garages alternative to more lots

To the Editor:

While riding the bus, I continue to see the progress being made on the other side of Rutherford Blvd. The expansive field of dirt is soon to be yet another parking lot. The idea is to get people to park there instead of finding a place closer to where their classes are and ride the bus to class. I'm all for trying to solve these kinds of traffic and parking problems, but we need competent people behind the scenes.

Already, there are parking lots surrounding the campus. Adding yet another one is not the answer. We already see plenty of parked cars on the way to class. Instead of seeing the aesthetically pleasing parts of our campus, we first see the obvious parking problem. Instead of the lot that is being constructed now, what we should be seeing is a parking garage across from Greek Row. Even better would be a garage for the on-campus residents, since it would be nice to have a safe place to park or find a place to park close to your dorm. Garages would be much better than filling all unused land with lots.

It's much easier to find a parking space at Opry Mills on a holiday weekend than it is here. Unless we want to add a Rainforest Cafe in the KUC, or turn the crater by Greek Row into a wave pool, give us a campus that doesn't look like we're walking to the mall or some amusement park.

Sooner or later MTSU needs to accept that many campuses its size (and smaller) have parking garages. Hopefully, they'll realize this before students are engulfed with more lots.

Trace McAlister
Sophomore, College of Mass Communications

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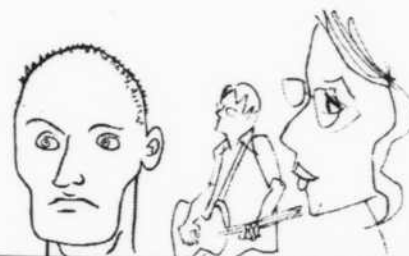
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Living

Where did that bacon come from?

Wednesday's Farm Festival to celebrate food production with area schoolchildren

By Landon Earps
Contributing Writer

In our fast paced, get-it-done-yesterday world, many people don't have time to sit and actually enjoy a meal, let alone thoughtfully ponder where it came from.

For many people, the thought of where food comes from never extends beyond the name brand on the packaging or the store in which it was purchased. Children are especially susceptible to falling into the mindset that their beef is made at the local fast-food restaurant and that Colonel Sanders hatches the chickens himself. This is where MTSU's Farm Festival, set for Wednesday, Nov. 9, comes into play.

The festival begins at 9 a.m. at ends at 3 p.m. It is free and open to the public, including MTSU students who are encouraged to attend. They can try their hand at milking a cow and sample how much better soybean-derived Biodiesel smells and burns compared to regular petroleum diesel.

The Farm Festival is a celebration of food production put on every other year by the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience with the goal of reaching out to the community and teaching kids about where the food they eat comes from.

"It's about teaching urban kids whose primary experience with where beef comes from is McDonalds," said Dr. Kevin Downs who is the associate professor of poultry science and coordinator of the Farm Festival activities.

For Warren Anderson, professor of plant and soil science, the urbanization of Middle

Tennessee is one contributing factor to the public's lack of knowledge concerning food production.

"For the past five years, Middle Tennessee has been in the top ten areas of the country for urbanization," Anderson. "A lot of people have felt like they've lost that connection with the ground."

Also, teaching agriculture has taken a backseat to the increasing demands of the school curriculum.

"Everybody's got a lot to do now," Anderson said. "People in education are having more and more demands put on them. Sometimes you just don't feel like you have enough time to do the job."

The Farm Festival is put on as a way to help fill the void.

"We hope the Farm Festival stimulates teachers to send the information back to the classroom," Downs said as he dipped his spoon into a container of yogurt under the watchful eyes of the chicken skeletons perched on top of his chicken case. "I'm excited to see the teachers excited."

The idea of a Farm Festival began five years ago as collaboration between Downs and a former faculty member.

"We saw a need for the department to do a better job reaching out to schools," Downs said.

Over the years, Downs has seen the festival grow into a big event. At the first festival there were 500 children and parents. This year, Downs expects over 2,000 pre-K through sixth grade students from 30 schools. MTSU's own Project HELP is attending this year's festival.

Project HELP is an early intervention service center that helps children with special needs from birth to three years of age.

"At our school we do monthly themed units and this month our theme is farms," said Amy Dobson, a teacher at Project HELP. "Most people take for granted how many children have never even seen a cow, so this is going to be a good experience for them."

Dodson views the Farm Festival as a way for the special needs kids at the school to broaden their horizons.

"Living in Murfreesboro, not many chil-

dren ever see a farm or animals," Dodson said. "You sing the song 'Old McDonald Had a Farm,' but you may not know what a farm is."

Displays at the Farm Festival this year include tractor equipment, the products made from agricultural plants, a beehive display and milk and cookies produced by MTSU's dairy.

"We're trying to make the connection that 'Kroger's didn't produce this,'" Downs said.

Despite all the displays, everyone realizes that the things the kids get the most excited about are the animals.

"Animals are the big thing. Kids just want to see the animals," Downs said.

This year, the children will have an opportunity to hold baby chickens, see a sheep shearing display, pet goats and nursery-aged pigs and even hand milk a cow. One discovery the children can make is the similarity between the skin of a pig and another even larger animal.

"A pig's skin is similar to an elephant's skin" Anderson said. "When you touch a pig you can close your eyes and think of an elephant."

A lot of work goes into preparing the Farm Festival. Planning for the event begins during the summer and requires most of the faculty and staff in the school as well as student groups like the Block and Bridle Club and Sigma Alpha. The festival also receives help from outside groups such as the Rutherford County Farm Bureau Women's Group. All those involved feel that the Farm Festival would not be a success without the help from groups both inside and outside the university.

"The most rewarding part is just seeing the expression on their face," Anderson said smiling through his white goatee in his cramped office that is being used to store the displays.

For students, both big and small, who do attend, Anderson hopes that they leave with at least one thought.

"Plants are neat." ♦



MTSU FARM FESTIVAL Nov. 9th

Photos provided by Kevin Downs | Poultry Science professor and coordinator

Top: This horse was a big hit with community children at the 2003 Farm Festival.

Middle: In 2003, children were amazed by seeing pigs close up.

Below: Children got to pet calves among other farm animals, which will also be an attraction this year.

Nightlife Boro's 'never seen'

Plans changed, doors opened later than expected, but turnout remained high at newest Boro club

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro Food & Drink – or Drink as it's more commonly known – finally opened its doors Oct. 5.

Located in what used to be Fuddrucker's at 1695 Memorial Blvd., Drink employs 30 people who tend to Murfreesboro's clubbing crowd. Sporting itself as "the hottest college party in Murfreesboro," Drink opens at 9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and closes at 2:30 a.m.

Vice-President Mike Goza says, "Murfreesboro has never had any-

thing of this magnitude before. [This kind of] nightlife has never been seen here."

The original Drink club is located in Chattanooga; the plans for one to hit Murfreesboro started a year ago. Murfreesboro was an attractive city because of its growth, Goza says. In fact, according to the Web site www.murfreesborotn.gov, Murfreesboro has "grown over a pace that is five times the national average." Plans for more Drink locations are underway for Jackson, Tenn., Athens, Ga. and Knoxville.

Three hundred people can fit



Photo provided by morguefile.com

inside the club, either groovin' away on the dance floor, lounging on the plush VIP leather couches or comfortably seated on the silver industrial chairs placed around the interior. Two dancing poles, prime for nubile

young bodies, extend from the bar top to the ceiling on the bar behind the sunken dance floor.

Goza explains that a good crowd shows up on Wednesday and Thursday nights since Wednesday is

College Night with \$2 longnecks, and Thursday is Greek Night. Friday is Ladies Night, which means girls do not pay a cover charge until 11 p.m. Every other night Drink is open there is a \$5 cover charge.

"Saturday is Saturday. It's a mar-quee night," says Goza.

Drink has advertised a little over the radio and distributed a lot of flyers, but also relies heavily on word-of-mouth.

One misconception Goza feels people have about Drink is that they charge high prices for their liquors and beers, and that's not true. Customers will expect to pay \$2 for domestics and \$4 for imports. The club also sports a well list that is very extensive.

"We don't sell any cheap liquor in the building," Goza adds.

Rod Youree, Drink's manager, says where most clubs will mix a Cosmopolitan with cheap vodka, Drink will serve their customers Absolut.

see *Nightlife* page 6

A never-ending battle

By Sarah Lavery
Staff Writer

Work and school are two seemingly different concepts that almost all students have to intertwine at some point in their college career.

For some, working enough hours to put food on the table and to keep the electricity on is a reality they will never have to face. For others, it is a balance that must be maintained meticulously throughout their years at MTSU.

Finding a way to harmonize a dedication to making money and making the grade is of the utmost importance to the majority of students.

"The thing that has kept me

going is determination and sheer will just to see things through," says Hillary Robson, an MTSU english graduate student.

She works, on average, 50 hours a week at various jobs in order to complete education.

"There's a high level of expectation for the quality of work produced in graduate school; and it requires a lot of time. When you have to work 40-plus hours a week just to pay your bills, it can become very frustrating. There's not a lot of choice involved for me when it comes to either—I have to work, and I have to go to school. Putting it into absolutes sometimes makes things a bit easier for me psy-

chologically," Robson says.

At this stage in life, it is often seen as the parents' responsibility to see their children through financially.

However, students who depend entirely on support of their family through college often find themselves lost when thrown into the reality of being an adult.

"I really do admire parents that contribute to their children's education," Robson says. "Economic circumstance is what prohibited the financial contribution from my family and so it became my responsibility to fund my college career. I'm very proud of my ability to balance getting my education and surviving

Certain Students share how they balance work with school and survive

economically. That said, if I'd have had the financial contribution of my family, there is a possibility that it would have made the process of getting my undergraduate and graduate degrees easier."

Students like Erin Porterfield, an MTSU sophomore broadcasting major, enjoy this relief. Though this does lessen a lot of the burden, not working is still not an option for her.

"If I ever get in a jam, [my parents] help me out. They do pay for my school. I have to work and I have to make good grades in order for them to do that, though," Porterfield says.

The burden became too

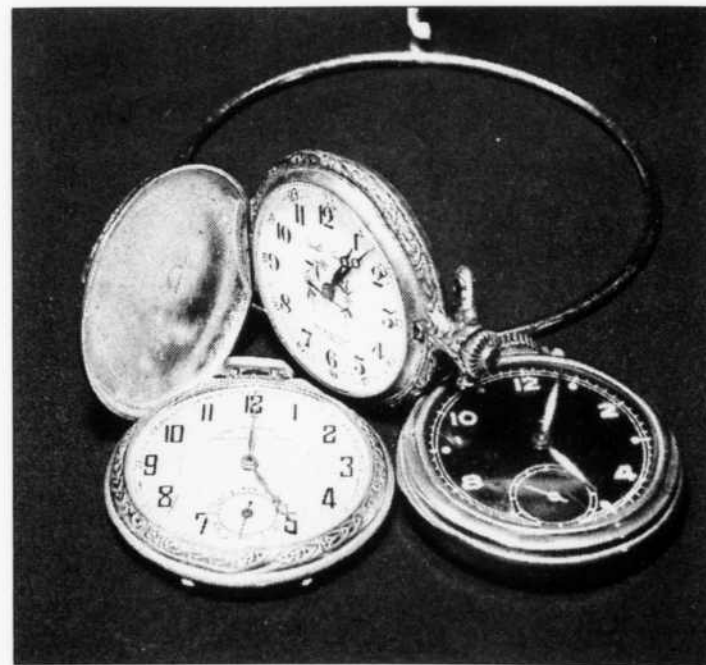


Photo provided by morguefile.com

see *Battle* page 6

Mental Health Awareness Group founded

President wants to help students know where to find resources

By Abby Sliger
Staff Writer

Crazy. Nutbag. Lunatic. Mental illnesses carry a stigma, but one campus organization is hoping to ease the perceived disgrace through education and awareness.

Active Minds, a newly formed mental health advocacy group, hopes to support those on campus with mental illnesses and help them get the help they need. While the members have no training in counseling, the group can help point students in the right direction.

"Most mental illnesses are curable," Active Minds founder and president Amber Walker says. "But when diagnosed people think 'OK, things are going to be OK now.' It's only the beginning. A good analogy is like when you blow out your knee; you still have to do therapy."

"And there are different ways to approach mental illnesses," Active Minds secretary and psychology major Nikki Myers says. "There's talk therapy, cognitive therapy – it's not just going and taking pills. It's more of a path."

The group hopes to educate MTSU students about mental illnesses by posting flyers or posters about common mental illnesses and by inviting everyone to their meetings. Active Minds wants to share the warning signs of mental illnesses, so people showing these signs or seeing these signs in their friends can get the help they need, Myers and Walker say.

Walker also wants to let students know about the counselors on campus. Myers agrees and says the counseling centers on campus seem to be hidden. Both say that mental illnesses are common on campus.

"Stress is one of the major causes of failing, not drugs and alcohol, but stress can lead to drugs and alcohol," Walker says. "Suicide is the number two leading death of college students."

"And the life transition to college can cause anxiety and depression," Myers says.

Active Minds is actually a chapter in a larger, national organization.

Alison Malmon founded Active Minds in response to her brother committing suicide, Walker says.

According to the website, activeminds-soncampus.org, Malmon's brother, Brian,

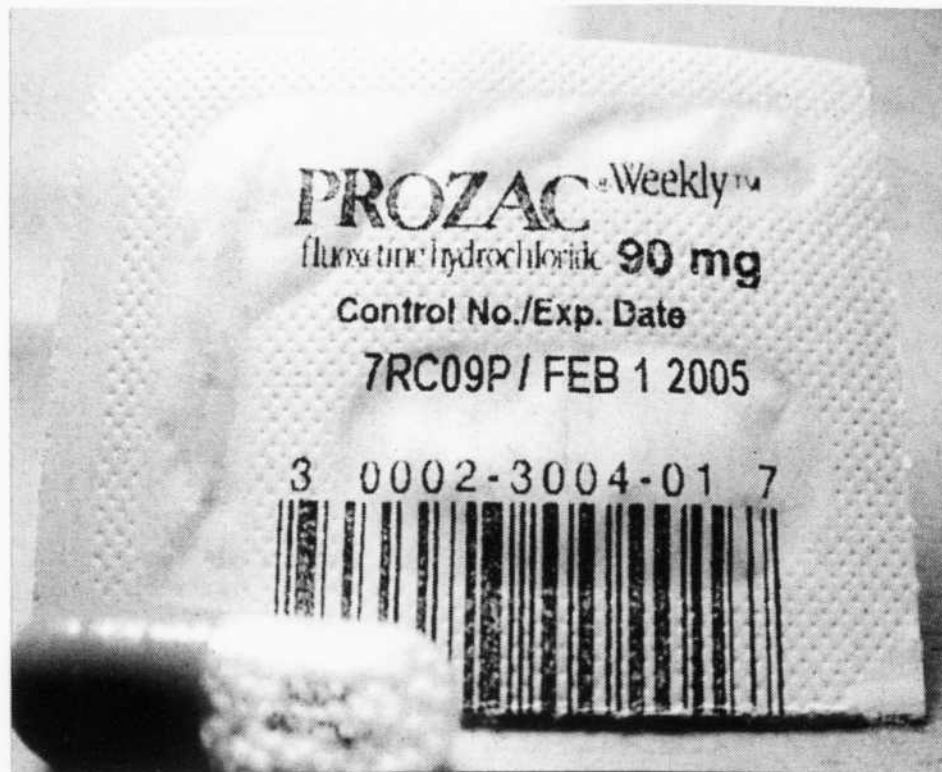


Photo provided by morguefile.com

Active Minds secretary, Nikki Myers says approaching mental illness is more than just taking pills.

dealt with depression and psychosis but concealed his symptoms from everyone around him. Brian began receiving treatment for what was later diagnosed as schizoaffective disorder, and a year and a half later, according to the Web site, he took his own life.

Malmon saw that her own campus didn't talk about mental illness, and according to the Web site, she set out to change that by starting Active Minds. Today, there are over 20 campuses across the nation and one campus in Canada with an Active Minds chartered group, according to the Web site.

During high school, Walker says she had a major shift of depression, and her classmates thought she was weird because of it. Walker says her isolation made her want to "raise awareness about mental illness because it's not talked about." While online one day, Walker found the Active Minds Web site. She has been working for a year and a half trying to get the MTSU chapter of Active Minds approved. That was last semester.

Since Active Minds is still trying to get established, Walker and Myers say they aren't planning many big events, but they hope to have an end-of-the-semester program dealing with finals and stress relief.

The group would also like to do something in alignment with other groups on campus, Myers says.

Everyone is invited to join Active Minds.

"People think you have to be a psychology major to join, but you don't have to be," Walker says.

We're looking for people interested in the cause. Lots of people have had mental illnesses themselves or know someone who has," Myers says.

The next meeting of Active Minds is tomorrow, at 6:30 p.m. in Keathley University Center, Room 315 and every other Tuesday. The next two meetings will be general interest meetings. Walker and Myers can be reached at activeminds@mtsu.edu or on the MTSU Active Minds website at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~acminds/>.

From Nightlife page 5

There is also a full kitchen. The menu might not be as extensive as the well menu, but it's good food, Goza says.

Drink's DJ, on typical night, starts off with hits from 80s. As the night progresses, and the club really starts hoppin' around 10:30-11 p.m., Top 40 songs are played then dance tracks.

Goza is hesitant to say what really prevented Drink from opening its door when most people expected.

He does say, "[We] came in with an idea to do certain things then things changed."

But that doesn't matter now. What does matter is that Drink has enjoyed a tremendous turnout since it's opened.

"We've still got some things to work out," Goza says.

"We're doing better than I expected."

No doubt the turnout will be even bigger with the exciting events Drink is hosting in the very near future.

Trishelle and Steven from MTV's *The Real World: Las Vegas* are visiting Drink Nov.

17 for the Reality Rocks Real Life Tour. The tour is a casting call for TV shows like AETV's *Inked*, NBC's *The Apprentice*, CBS' *Survivor* and ABC's *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. Ten people in attendance at Drink that night will be selected for the next round in New York.

On Dec. 1, Playboy playmates Lindsey Vuolo and Lauren Anderson will be at Drink to conduct a \$100,000 hunk search.

Big Drink even has something big planned for New Years, though neither Goza nor Youree are telling.

"It's a surprise," Goza says with a grin.

Expect Drink to be around for years to come, providing Murfreesboro with a happening place to party.

"We're in for the long haul," Goza says. "Longevity is key with us."

Drink is available to rent Sunday-Tuesday. ♦



Photo courtesy of www.partyatdrink.com

If you have a loved one in Iraq or serving in the military and would like to talk about how it affects you at school, at your job, your personal life, etc, please e-mail 500-900 word stories to sfeatures@mtsu.edu. No journalism experience required. Please include your name, classification and major. Turn in by Tuesday, November 15th by noon.

-Brandi Fleck, Features Editor

From Battle, page 5

much for Porterfield, who moved back home with her parents after a year of struggling to pay her bills and keep up her grades while living on her own.

She says, "I have more time for school now without the stress of money. I still work 20 hours a week, but it feels like nothing compared to before."

The nature of the job also has much to do with the ensuing stress. Working at certain jobs where manual labor is frequent and you are left feeling exhausted is undoubtedly going to come in the way of completing homework and getting to class on time.

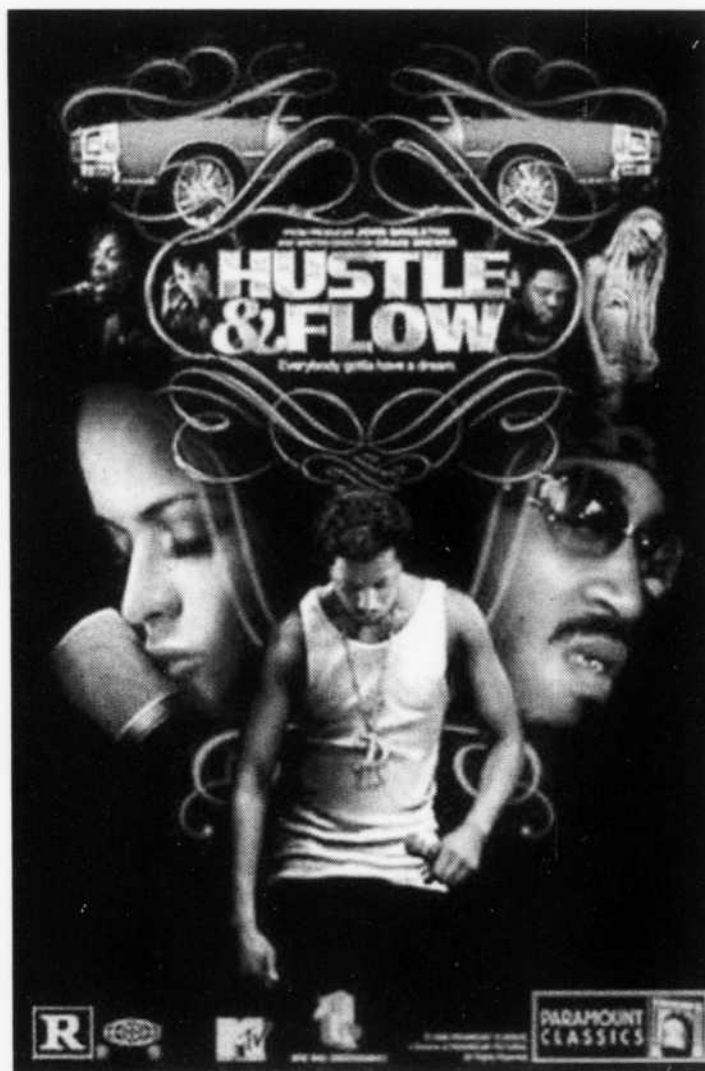
"I felt like work was too much when I worked at Sonic last year and lived on my own," says Porterfield. "I didn't even pay attention in class. At the same time, I didn't have enough money for rent. I started worrying more about money than school. It seemed the more I worked, the more I worried, and the worse the grades became."

SUNY College at Brockport in New York estimates that 57 percent of all college students work while in school, and that one in 10 students work and go to school full-time.

Those "lucky" students who breeze through college without ever having to earn a dime on their own will likely be faced with a harsh reality when graduation comes around. Studies have shown that students who work part-time tend to be more focused and more adept to balancing their schedule; furthermore, post-graduate career-endorsers will be demonstrating a strong work ethic.

If education is a priority, then students, like Hillary Robson, will find a way to cease the constant battle and carry on with life.

"Work comes in the way of my education on a daily basis," she says. "I honestly think I work too much, but I don't have much of a choice. If I don't work, then I don't have any money to pay my rent or to buy gas, and that reality adds a lot of pressure. I try to not ever let my academic work suffer—I've lost sleep many nights to make sure that assignments are done and completed to the best of my ability. The most important weight of responsibility is on the individual to want to get an education and make it happen by any means necessary." ♦



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Blue Raiders trounce Arkansas State in first home win of season



Blue Raider runningback Ronald Steed looks on as quarterback Josh Harris (16) faces off against the Arkansas State defense.

Blue Raider offense comes to life in crucial home victory

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

For the Blue Raiders, it's good to be back at home and winning football games.

For the Middle Tennessee football team, this came true with an impressive 45-7 victory over Arkansas State on Saturday evening at Floyd Stadium.

"It's huge, we have been talking about how we got to win at home, and we got to take this place back," MT quarterback Clint Marks said. "We did it big time tonight."

Not only did the Blue Raiders end their three-game home losing streak, but put themselves back in the Sun Belt Conference race for the title to the New Orleans Bowl.

It especially helped their chances with conference leader and next week's opponent Louisiana-Monroe, which lost to Florida International 31-29 earlier in the day.

"We just want to win games, win at home," MT head coach Andy McCollum said. "Is it in the back of our heads? Yeah. Do we talk about it? Yeah. Our goals are still in front of us. This conference could come to a lot of teams with two losses in the conference. All we got to do is continue working, and taking it one at a time."

The scoring started early for MT on the very first drive of the game going 80 yards in 14 plays ending with running back Eugene Gross popping it in from the goal

line to make it 7-0.

The defense then made a big stop on ASU's first offensive possession by halting their drive with a stop on 3rd and 1.

In the beginning of the second quarter, the Blue Raiders added a field goal.

After ASU punted, the Blue Raiders only needed two plays to score again. This time, Clint Marks used pin-point accuracy to find Bobby Williams for a 49-yard score.

"It really was a great ball by Marks. He threw it up in the air and the defender didn't see it and I stuck my hands out and made a great catch," Williams said.

Williams had two catches for 60 yards.

The defense stepped up again with an interception by Keon Raymond that was returned to the ASU 14. On the next play, Marks connected with Nick McAfee for the touchdown.

Next, it was the special teams turn to play a role in the victory. MT's Sean Mosley crashed through the line and blocked the punt. Devarick Scandrett then picked up the ball and illegally for-

MT 45
Arkansas State 7

Next Game:
 November 19
 at North Carolina State

ward passed to J.K. Sabb who took it in.

"We were able to rush it and get pressure on them, and I pushed the wing into the back of the punter and got a block," Mosley said.

However, the ball was put on the ASU 12, and three plays later, Gross scored from two yards out, making the halftime score 31-0. On MT's first drive of the second half, Marks found Cleannord Saintill on a beautiful 30-yard strike to extend the score 38-0.

In the 4th quarter, Ronald Steed ended the MT scoring with a one-yard plunge. Nick Noce found Gary Vincent for a 13-yard score for ASU's only points of the game.

Marks finished the game by going 14-for-23 for three touchdowns and one interception. ASU's Noce was 15-for-24 for one score and one pick.

Gross rushed for 75 yards and two scores, and Sneed had 67 yards with a touchdown.

"We got our opportunities, and we took advantage of them," MT offensive line-man Franklin Dunbar said. "They gave us the short field to work with and we knew we had to put it in. So we tried our best to put them in."

Antonio Warren had 113 yards rushing for the Indians.

MT is now 3-4, 2-2, while ASU drops to 4-3, 3-2.

The Blue Raiders close out the home part of the schedule next Saturday against Louisiana-Monroe at 2 p.m. ♦

MT soccer team loses 1-0 decision to ASU in Sun Belt semifinal

Staff Reports

One of the most successful seasons in Middle Tennessee soccer history came to an excruciating halt in a 1-0 loss to host South Alabama in the semifinals of the Aeropostale Sun Belt Championships in Mobile Thursday night.

South Alabama's Jenn Edgar scored the game's only goal in the eighth minute and the Jaguars (12-4-1) held on to secure the victory.

"South Alabama is a good team, and they are playing at home with their fans," MT coach Aston Rhoden said. "We gave up an easy early goal and that, unfortunately, was the difference. We had our opportunities, there's no doubt about that. I think the last 20 minutes or so we played in their half but we couldn't get a goal. That has been one of the things that has hurt us this year it came back to bite us."

Senior keeper Danielle Perreault turned in a dynamic performance in goal, saving four shots and denying South Alabama goals on three breakaways with the game hanging in the balance. Her play kept MT in the game, but the offense couldn't get any of its 16 shots to find the back of net.

"Everyone fought hard but it just didn't come for us," said Perreault said. "South Alabama was able to get an early goal and we just didn't get it back. I thought our defense really stepped up. Jordan (LeFan) really did well coming into a position (at defender) she hasn't played until this tournament. I was able to make a couple of saves to keep us in it but we couldn't find a way to get a goal. It's a tough one but when we get over the pain of this loss I think we will realize how much we accomplished this season."

The Blue Raiders were on the attack for the majority of the final 20 minutes but South Alabama bunkered and never caved under the relentless pressure. The MT offensive attack generated eight corner kick opportunities, including six in the final 45 minutes, but none resulted in a goal.

MT again was hampered by injuries. The Blue Raiders were without Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year Ingrid Christensen and freshman standout Katie Daley, who was unable to perform after pulling a hamstring in the second half of a 1-0 double-overtime win against Troy

in the quarterfinals.

LeFan earned the start at defender for the first time in her Blue Raider career and performed admirably, as did the usual defensive stalwarts - Katy Rayburn, Sara Wohlhueter, Nenita Burgess, Claire Ward, Kaley Forrest and Nenita Burgess.

Kala Morgan, who scored the winner in MT's win against Troy, enjoyed her best all-around game as a Blue Raider and kept the pressure on the South Alabama defense; however, in keeping with the theme of the defensive struggle, Jaguars keeper Kelsie Langford was always true to the task with eight saves in the match.

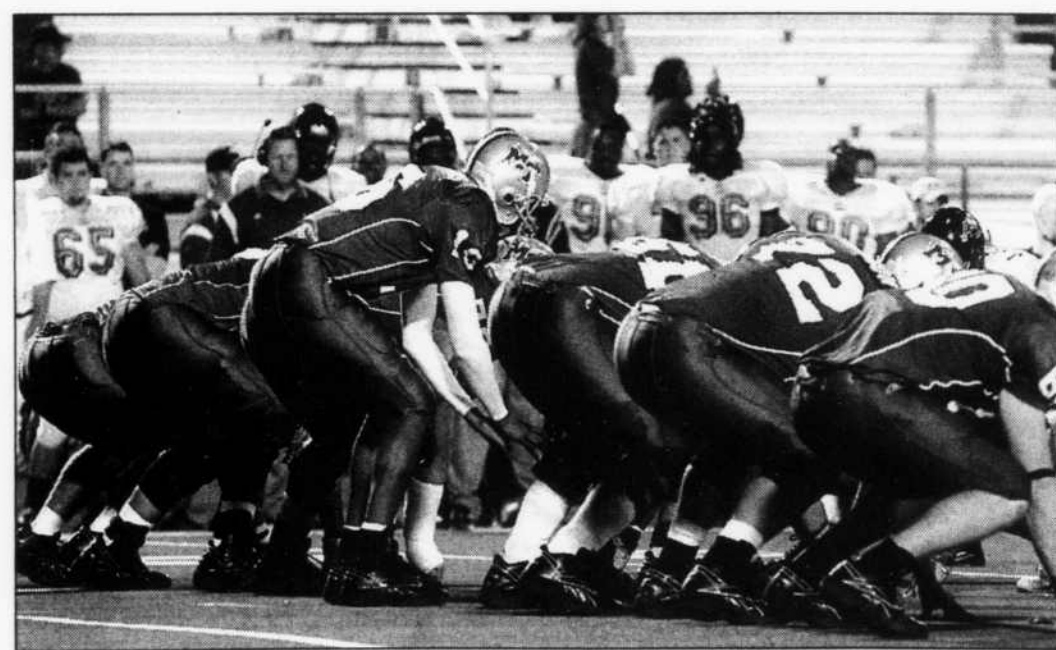
MT (13-5-2) tied the single-season record for wins this season, despite numerous injuries and utilizing the services of several newcomers playing their first year of Division I soccer.

In the end, however, the team was unable to avenge its only conference loss of the season and fell to the host in the semifinals for the second straight season.

"I am proud of how the girls responded given the injuries that we have had, and I'm proud of the overall team effort," Rhoden said. "It was great to see some of the young players step their game up in a really big match. LeFan adjusted to being a new defender and Morgan really stepped up and played one of her better games. They made a difference in the game."

"We had a tough schedule this year and it was set up that way to help us for this tournament. We had a lot of new players and they came in and helped us win a lot of big games. For us to have the start we did in conference play (0-1-2), which is not normal for us, and still finish second in the league and put ourselves in position to contend for a NCAA berth is a great testament to how those kids did and the future we have. We have had good leadership from our four seniors (Perreault, Meli, Rachel Holmes and Melissa Wellman) and they have meant so much to our overall success, not only this season but during their careers." ♦

Entire team's compelte performance leads to MT victory



Blue Raider senior quarterback Josh Harris takes a snap in the team's 45-7 win against Arkansas State on Saturday. Harris completed three-of-four passes for a total of 50 yards in the contest.

By Jonathan Hutton
 Staff Writer

Let out a sigh of relief Middle Tennessee fans - the Blue Raiders won at home.

A complete game finally came together for MT on Saturday night in a 45-7 trouncing of Arkansas State. Head Coach Andy McCollum said the big win could be attributed to making things happen and not committing

dumb penalties.

"We didn't have a lot of last yardage plays, and we didn't have the stupid penalties to hurt us on offense," McCollum said. "I think when you do that, we moved the ball pretty good against a team that shut out Florida Atlantic [two weeks ago]."

"To see our team play through the adversity that we've been fighting through, to see us play a total team

effort, to be able to do it at home...we talked about having a passion and they went out and played with a passion," McCollum said.

ASU entered the game averaging 31 points per game and 409 yards of total offense. On Saturday, MT held the Indians to seven points and just 265 yards of offense, compared to the Blue Raider's 412 yards in the game.

Senior middle linebacker Dennis Burke said Saturday's

victory was the most complete game the Blue Raiders have played this season.

"From the start to the finish we came out firing, hitting people, and executing, on defense and offense," Burke said. "This is the most complete game we've played."

A big part of the MT success was not committing costly mistakes. Two weeks ago against Louisiana-Lafayette, the Blue Raiders were flagged 11 times for 112 yards worth of penalties. This week, MT focused on discipline and improved in that aspect with just five penalties for 26 yards.

"We were consistent tonight," quarterback Clint Marks said. "We didn't hurt ourselves with stupid penalties that put us back in third and long situations. We didn't have that tonight. We were consistent and we made plays."

Marks said the main motivation was trying to show the fans what kind of football the Blue Raiders were capable of playing.

"We've been talking about how we've got to win at home," Marks said. "How we've got to take [Floyd Stadium] back. We did it big time tonight." ♦

Lady Raiders extend streak with win against Ark.-LR

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

Nothing can stop the Blue Raider volleyball team right now.

Last Friday night, the winning streak continued with a 3-0 (30-18, 33-31, 30-24) sweep of a tough Arkansas-Little Rock squad at Alumni Memorial Gym. The streak is now at 11 in a row, 10 consecutive at home.

Game 1 started out well for the Blue Raiders by jumping off to an early 7-1 and they just coasted to the win.

However, in Game 2 was much different for MT. This game went back and forth for both teams. The Blue Raiders pulled ahead with a team block to end the game.

Game 3, started out the same way in a nip and tuck affair, but the Blue Raiders slowly pulled away to finish the match.

Four MT players had double digits in kills. Ashley Adams led the way with 15, while Victoria Monasterolo and Andressa Lyra each had 11, and Quanshell Scott added 10. Monasterolo also had 10 digs.

Ivanka Davidova led the Trojans with 10 kills, and Ana Carolin Buccini had 12 digs.

This was the first game for the Blue Raiders in nine days, after

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From Volleyball, page 7

the Florida International game last week was cancelled because of hurricane damage.

"I think they played us very well," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "We have been off for long days and some of the things tonight that happened like we had a lot of missed serves are not typical of our team. I told them in there [that] we haven't played in almost two weeks, so that showed a little bit, but we had some big matches tonight."

The Blue Raiders are now 24-2, 8-1 on the season, while UALR is 17-9, 8-3. MT is 2nd in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division. UALR stays in 3rd. ♦



MT's Megan Sumrell (4) and Quanshell Scott (10) attempt a block in the team's shutout of Arkansas State.

Titans comeback thwarted by Browns in 20-14 loss

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Reuben Droughns outran his embarrassment and brought the Cleveland Browns a win.

Droughns, arrested earlier in the week on a drunken driving charge, rushed for 116 yards and caught a crucial third-down pass for 51 yards, powering the Browns over the Tennessee Titans 20-14 on Sunday.

Following his arrest, the 27-year-old Droughns expressed deep regret for his mistake and letting down his teammates and Cleveland's fans, who by the fourth quarter were chanting "Reuben, Reuben" with the Browns comfortably ahead.

Droughns added four receptions for 73 yards, but he spent most of the final six minutes in the locker room being treated for leg cramps.

In the third quarter, Droughns caught a short screen pass over the middle and weaved 51 yards to set up

Jason Wright's 6-yard TD run — Cleveland's first rushing touchdown in nearly a year.

Dennis Northcutt caught a 58-yard TD pass and Phil Dawson kicked field goals of 37 and 19 yards as the Browns (3-5) held off a late rally by the Titans to snap a three-game losing streak.

Dawson was wide right from 39 yards — his first miss in 17 tries this season — with 39 seconds left, and without any timeouts. Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair drove the Titans to Cleveland's 28 with two seconds left.

McNair was nearly sacked but managed to muscle a pass toward the goal line on the game's final play that was picked off by Brodney Pool as time expired. But that didn't end the afternoon for Titans rookie cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones and Browns safety Sean Jones, who exchanged pushes and shoves before being separated.

Cleveland quarterback Trent Diller, whose job secu-

rity was becoming more uncertain with each loss, finished 18-of-34 for 272 yards in blustery conditions and threw his only interception on a desperation heave to end the first half.

Browns punter Kyle Richardson, too, atoned for some lousy performances by placing three kicks inside the 20-yard line.

Tennessee's Chris Brown had a 15-yard TD run in the fourth and Erion Kinney a 24-yard scoring reception for the young Titans (2-7), who have lost four in a row but now get a bye week to get rested and healthier.

McNair went 18-for-14 for 235 yards, Brown carried 22 times for 95 yards, and brought the Titans within 20-14 on his 15-yard TD with 7:13 left.

With William Green and Lee Suggs injured, the Browns activated Wright from the practice squad on Thursday. After Diller hit Droughns underneath for 51 on the inside screen, Wright

took a handoff and powered his way into the end zone for his first career TD, giving Cleveland a 17-7 lead.

It was the Browns' first rushing TD this season and their first since Nov. 28 of last season — a span of 50 quarters.

Dawson's 37-yard field goal gave the Browns a 20-7 win early in the third quarter.

Lamont Thompson's 38-yard punt return helped set up Tennessee's tying touchdown late in the first half.

Taking over at his own 46, McNair completed passes of 19 and 11 yards to rookies Bo Scarfe and Roydell Williams before finding Kinney over the middle to make it 7-all.

Northcutt had become a forgotten man in Cleveland's offensive scheme, failing to catch a pass in each of Cleveland's past two games. But Diller didn't hesitate going to the speedy wideout, hitting him to put the Browns ahead 7-0 in the first.

Northcutt also had a key 31-yard run on a reverse in the fourth. ♦

Cutler's interception seals win for Florida

By Mark Long
AP Sports Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Backup cornerback Reggie Lewis had been targeted, picked on and consistently abused for most of the night.

By the second overtime, he did something about it.

Lewis stepped in front of Jay Cutler's first pass in the extra period and gave No. 13 Florida a 49-42 victory over pesky Vanderbilt on Saturday night.

Cutler threw for 361 yards and four touchdowns, including two in the final 2:17 of regulation to send the game into overtime.

"We are very disappointed," Commodores coach Bobby Johnson said. "We had an opportunity to win the football game and we didn't take advantage of it."

Vanderbilt and Florida exchanged touchdowns in the first overtime. Jeff Jennings ran 8 yards for a score for the Commodores, then Chris Leak answered with a 9-yard TD pass to Chad Jackson.

Jemelle Cornelius made a leaping, 16-yard touchdown catch in the back of the end zone that put the Gators ahead in the second overtime.

Cutler tried to throw an out pass on the ensuing play. But Lewis stepped in front of the receiver and picked it off.

"We didn't play great, but we did what we had to do to win," Florida coach Urban Meyer said. "A win is a win."

Florida (7-2, 5-2) now can win the Eastern Division by beating South Carolina next week and having No. 11 Georgia lose either of its final league games against Auburn and Kentucky.

Vanderbilt (4-5, 2-4) needs to beat Kentucky and Tennessee to become bowl eligible for the first time since 1982.

Leak finished 32-of-41 for

257 yards with three touchdowns.

But Cutler was clearly the better quarterback Saturday night — doing more with less surrounding talent. He finished 28-of-42 with two interceptions.

"Jay Cutler is a big-time quarterback," Meyer said. "That's an NFL quarterback."

The Gators seemingly had the game wrapped up with 4:11 to play when Markus Manson's 2-yard TD run made it 35-21.

Cutler then directed a 61-yard scoring drive in 1:54 and capped it with a 2-yard pass to George Smith with 2:17 to play.

Andrew Pace recovered the onside kick for Vandy, and Cutler went to work again. He sliced up Florida's secondary — most of it against Lewis, who replaced injured starter Vernell Brown — and found Earl Bennett wide open in the end zone for a 6-yard score with 54 seconds remaining.

Johnson was ready to go for a 2-point conversion, but a celebration penalty against Bennett forced the Commodores to kick the extra point. Johnson called the penalty "stupid."

Florida might not have led if not for Cutler's two turnovers in regulation.

He had a pass bounce off Marlon White's chest in the first quarter and picked off by Brown.

The Gators scored on the ensuing possession to make it 14-7 in the second quarter.

Cutler botched a snap on Vandy's second play of the third quarter, and two plays later, Chad Jackson scored to make it 21-14.

But Cutler's biggest gaffe came in overtime — trying once again to pick on Lewis.

"It's unfortunate that I made the mistake," Cutler said. "I let the team down." ♦

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