

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

Step Afrika rocks campus

By Andrea Huffman

Contributing Writer

Step Afrika, an international ethnic dance company that was brought to campus by the National Panhellenic Council, performed Monday at Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m. after NPHC's Step Off at 4:30 p.m. outside Corlew Hall.

The former fine arts chairman and student programming watched the Step Afrika performers at a convention last year and decided to bring the program to MTSU.

Step Afrika and the NPHC Step Off switched stages from a more modern version of stepping to its deeper African roots.

Over two hundred people gathered for the event. As the stage lit up, few knew what to expect from this new definition of "stepping." Many think of stepping as raising a foot off the ground and placing it back to a stationary position. Step Afrika demonstrated this definition, but in a much more entertaining way to the crowd and more elaborate in its execution.

NPHC, consisting of nine fraternities and sororities, came together yesterday evening and brought MTSU students several displays of stepping.

"One of the main things that freshman will be able to see is the Greek unity that we have now," said Brian Bradshaw, senior mass communications major and NPHC Chairman of the step show. "We are doing so much more with each other because we are not going to continue to be divided. So we are coming together to do more things and be more effective on campus as well."

Bradshaw said that NPHC was going to showcase each fraternity and sorority to introduce themselves to the campus, freshman, faculty and visitors that

viewed the show.

"Showing the freshman that we are here for them whether they want to join a Greek organization or not, they should feel free and more comfortable, because we are family here," said Justin Phillips, junior electronic media production major and NPHC president.

The NPHC Step show was a preview of what students would see in the later performance of Step Afrika in Tucker Theatre. As a mass crowd of students gathered around the back patio of Corlew Hall, all the participating fraternity and sororities were getting warmed up to represent their own Greek organization.

"Only a few members of each sorority that have time to learn the steps, are the ones who perform," said Valerie Briggs, junior interdisciplinary studies major. "It's like a peer review step process; you have to have the coordination to step. Each fraternity and sorority makes up their own steps, chants, and everything including the beats on their own each year."

The participating NPHC fraternities and sororities were Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, and Delta Sigma Theta, who dedicated their step performance to the Jena 6 controversy in Louisiana.

Step Afrika was after the NPHC Step Show shortly after 7 p.m.

"It's something to experience," said Edgard Izaguirre, junior business major and fine arts chairman. "It's an amazing event, that teaches and demonstrates origins of African ritual dances, and explains how and why African American fraternities and sororities step."

See Step, 2



Photo by Ryan DeBooy | Staff Photographer

Step Afrika, a nationally recognized dance program, comes to MTSU to display a new take on stepping that uses older African dance moves.



Photo by Justin Keonih | Photo Editor

The National Panhellenic Council sponsored a step off between the NPHC fraternities and sororities behind Corlew Hall.

Student's Taserings generates debate

By Travis Reed and Andrew Miga

Associated Press

Video of police Taserings a persistent questioner of Sen. John Kerry became an Internet and TV sensation Tuesday, generating fierce debate about free speech and the motives of the college student involved — a known prankster who often posts practical jokes online.

University of Florida President Bernie Machen said Monday's takedown, in which the student loudly yelled, "Don't Tase me, bro!" was "regretful." He asked for a state probe of campus police actions and placed two officers on leave.

The student in the middle of it all, 21-year-old Andrew Meyer, had no comment after he was released on his recognizance on various charges following a night in jail.

But details from his online writings and videos raised the question of whether his harangue during the forum was genuine or some kind of stunt.

Meyer, a senior telecommunications major from the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Weston, has a Web site featuring several homemade videos. In one, he stands in a street with a sign that says "Harry Dies" after the latest Harry Potter book was released. In another, he acts like a drunk in a bar while trying to pick up a man dressed in drag.

The site also has what is called a "disorganized diatribe" attributed to Meyer that criticizes the Iraq war, the news media for not covering the conflict enough and the American public for paying too much attention to celebrity news.

Another site had pictures of Meyer making a woman's face and making a suggestive pose as he stood behind a fake cow. The site listed his activities as "getting wasted" and "being ridiculous."

Machen would not say whether the university had any previous conflicts with Meyer but indicated some such issues would come up in the investigation. He declined to elaborate and would not say whether he thought the latest episode was a prank.

Various videos of the arrest had been viewed more than 1 million times on YouTube as of Tuesday evening and were in heavy rotation on TV news.

About 100 students gathered on campus Tuesday to plan protests, some wearing T-shirts denouncing police violence.

Benjamin Dector, a liberal arts junior speaking for the group, called for the officers to be disciplined. Tasers to be banned on campus and the charges dropped.

"For a question to be met with arrest, not to mention physical violence, is completely unacceptable in the United States, especially in the halls of education," Dector said.

University police said in a news release that officers had been summoned by the forum's sponsors to escort Meyer from the forum's stage, though organizers disputed that and said his microphone was cut off after he used a sexually

See Florida, 3

MT to play first home game

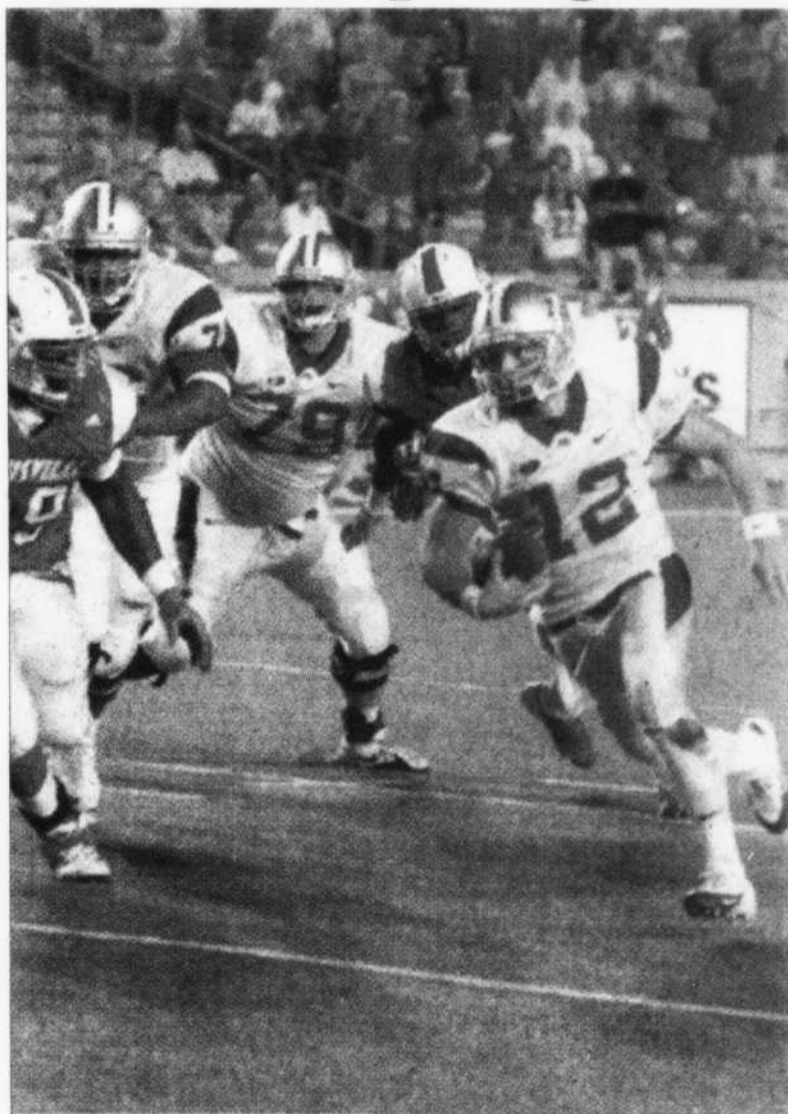


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

r-Jr. Joe Craddock had a career game against Louisville just two weeks.

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will play their home opener against Western Kentucky, Thursday, revitalizing an old Ohio Valley Conference rivalry that has been put on the shelf for 16 years.

This is the 58th time the teams have met with MT holding the series edge winning 29 games to Western Kentucky's 27 with one tie. However, this is the first game these two have played since 1991. The last time these teams met the Raiders won 23-21.

Western Kentucky is currently a Division I-A Independent, but they will join the Sun Belt Conference and be eligible for postseason play in 2009. Before entering Division I-A, the Hilltoppers were a Division I-AA powerhouse.

"We are playing a very good football team," Stockstill said. "They won a national championship in 2002. They finished in the top 15 in 2003 and 2004."

"We're gonna show people that WKU football is the real thing," Western Kentucky coach David Elson said before Western Kentucky's first Division I-A game against Florida. "We're not going to be No. 120 out of 120 in the nation very long." Western Kentucky uses two quarterbacks one of which, David Wolke, is a Notre Dame transfer.

"Both David Wolke and K.J. Black are good passers and I think both are

good passers," Stockstill said. "It's not a big discrepancy as far as one being the runner and one being a passer. Both are good quarterbacks and obviously if you are good enough to sign at Notre Dame then you must be pretty good. David is an excellent quarterback and K.J. is the same."

Middle Tennessee (0-3, 0-1 SBC) is coming off a 44-0 loss to No. 2 ranked LSU. In that game, the Raiders were unable to generate 100 total yards.

"I am disappointed in our overall record, but I continue to see progress," Stockstill said. "We are playing so many young guys who have never played Division I football and there are growing pains when you do that. I like the way we compete and finish games."

The Raiders were able to make defensive stops on 3rd down in the red zone, which forced the Tigers to kick three field goals inside the Raider 20 yard line.

"Middle Tennessee is the best 0-3 team in the country," Elson said. "They are extremely big, fast and athletic in all three phases of the game. We have a big challenge coming off the Eastern Kentucky win to be ready to play on Thursday night."

This will be MT's first game against a non-ranked opponent since the season opener against Florida Atlantic.

The game will begin at 6 pm. At Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium which has undergone some recent renovations, including the installation of a new jumbotron called "The Blue Tube." ♦

MTSU does its part for Katrina

See News, 2

Student survives crash; marches with band

See Features, 5

New Student Seating announced

See Sports, 10

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



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Photo by Justin Keohnih | Photo Editor
The National Panhellenic Council sponsors a step off competition between the NPHC fraternities and sororities outside of Corlew Hall.

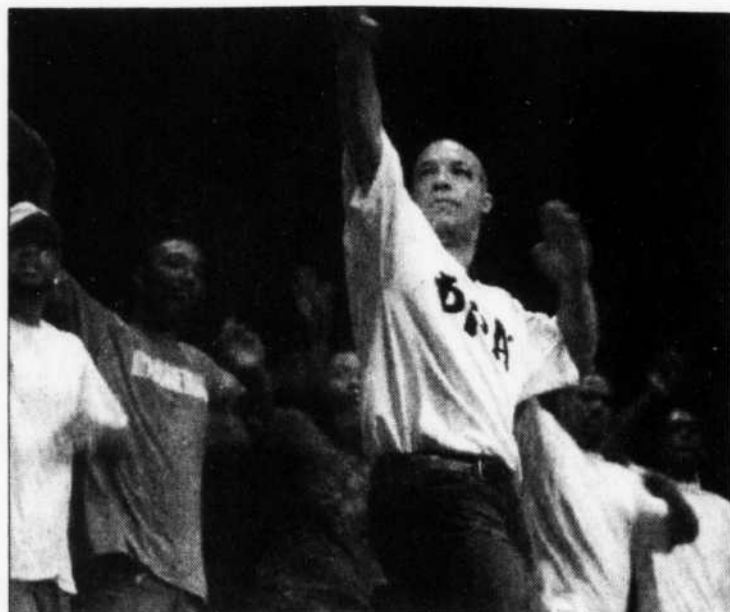


Photo by Ryan DeBooy | Staff Photographer
Dancers from the nationally recognized, Step Afrika bring a new aspect to stepping by using moves from older African dancing.

Step: Step Show and Step Afrika

Continued from 1

Step Afrika was founded in 1994 by their executive director, Brian Williams. It began as a cross-cultural exchange program with the Soweto Dance Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

While visiting South Africa, Williams watched as the mine workers danced and that reminded him of a greatly represented step that he knew of his own and learned in college. In South Africa it's called 'the gumboot dance.'

From there, he launched the first production of Step Afrika in America and they began to tour all over the country.

Washington D.C. is the com-

pany's home and became a part of one of its most widely-recognized arts organizations. The first production of Step Afrika was performed at the Kennedy Center as a part of their Imagination Celebration Series.

"Stepping is a high energetic dance that was created by African American college students," said Step Afrika show performer, Aseelah Shareef.

"In the early 1900s African Americans began to attend colleges and universities in larger numbers. In doing so, a need was created to form their own fraternities and sororities. These organizations were formed to help students socially and academically, while also helping the community." ♦

Sorority recruitment week begins

By Tiffany Gibson
Contributing Writer

Sorority Rush Week Events

Wednesday Sept. 19:
Values Night, 5 p.m. Murphy Center

Thursday Sept. 20:
Greek tailgate/football game
MTSU vs. Western Kentucky 4 p.m. Walnut Grove

Friday Sept. 21:
Philanthropy Night 4:30 p.m.
Murphy Center

Saturday Sept. 22:
Theme Day 11:30 a.m.
Cummings Hall

Sunday Sept. 23:
Preference Night 4:30 p.m.
Cummings Hall

Monday Sept. 24:
Bid Day 5 p.m. James Union Building

Sorority Recruitment week began Wednesday, Sept. 19 and will continue until Monday, Sept. 24 with a new theme entitled "Find Your Passion," created by Cassy Venable, Panhellenic president.

"Recruitment can be an intimidating and scary process but we want students to come out and make the most out of their college experience," said Carrie Smith, coordinator of Greek Life.

The first event of Sorority Recruitment week was Values Night, which is an opportunity for students interested in recruitment to learn about all seven sororities by meeting members of each group. Values Night took place on Sept. 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

The second event is the Greek Tailgate and Football Game against Western Kentucky scheduled for Sept. 20. The Greek Tailgate and Football Game is a tradition that takes place at Walnut Grove at 4:00 p.m., and consists of food and preparation for the first home football game.

Each student will be given a shirt and assigned a group to walk to the stadium with. During the game students will have the opportunity to celebrate and cheer along with their future sisters.

"By surrounding yourself with positive people you become more encouraged yourself," said Morgan Rogers, freshmen apparel design major.

Philanthropy Night is the next event in sorority recruitment week and will be held on Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the Murphy Center.

Philanthropy Night allows students to visit six sororities to learn about the philanthropic organizations that each individual sorority supports. Throughout the night

each student will be expected to take part in a service project supported by each philanthropic organization.

"Sororities stand to enrich the lives of their members. Sorority women are challenged to go above and beyond in all aspects of their lives, including scholarship, leadership, friendship and community service," said Megan Ryan, Alpha Chi Omega president.

Theme Day will be held on Sept. 22, as each student visits four sororities and becomes closer to their decision process in narrowing down their choices to two sororities.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Cummings Hall lobby each student will start a day of activities that allows them to get to know each sorority better. Throughout the day students will be entertained with skits, songs and other activities.

Preference Night is referred to as the most important night of recruitment besides Bid Day.

Preference Night will take place on Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m. in Cummings Hall lobby. Students will visit their final two sororities. When leaving preference night, students are required to know their choice for sorority involvement.

The last day in recruitment is referred to as Bid Day. Bid Day will be held on Sept. 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the JUB.

During this time sororities will recruit students by issuing them bids. Following the ceremony, everyone will proceed to Walnut Grove to be officially welcomed by sorority sisters.

Smith hopes to encourage young women to become more involved throughout their college years.

"By joining a sorority you become a more well-rounded individual," Smith said. ♦

Concert will raise money to aid Southern University

By Kandra McKinney
Contributing Writer

In February, a partnership began between MTSU and Southern University at New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Tom Tozer, the director of News and Public Affairs said that MTSU has done a great deal by helping academically, exchanging faculty and communicating with the Southern University at New Orleans by the online internet communication.

"One of our own, Dr. McPhee, went down to New Orleans and decided that we should make a difference, so we started a partnership early this year," Tozer said.

Gloria Moultrie, vice chancellor of community outreach and university advancement at the Southern University at New Orleans, said that they were happy that MTSU was helping them get back to "normalcy."

Many people still do not know the extent of the damage in New Orleans, such as eighty percent of the city being damaged by wind or flooded with water, according to

Moultrie. She said that homes received 11 to 12 ft. of water and that the university received about 11 to 14 ft. of water.

"Imagine MTSU and all of Murfreesboro was wiped out by water and wind," said Moultrie. "You take everything for granted, but it all disappears."

"It was an unimaginable thing," said Harold Clark, special executive of community outreach and university advancement. "All of New Orleans was surrounded by famous places and Canal Street [French Quarter] has a lot of history and museums."

Moultrie said houses were destroyed, vehicles were in trees, trees had fallen into the streets and that no ambient sounds, such as birds chirping or dogs barking, could be heard.

"When I went back to my house, I had to have on pants, a long sleeve shirt, goggles, mask and get a Hepatitis B shot. Mold was everywhere and there was such an odor from the water. I couldn't touch anything," Moultrie said.

The Southern University is making

progress by having 45 trailers of faculty working with the campus.

The first phase of moving back onto the campus is in November and they will get to use the first floor of the gym and then the library, cafeteria and administrative offices will follow.

"We are hoping to be complete in 2009 and to be whole again," Moultrie said.

The Prism Concert, which is a benefit concert to raise money for the Southern University, will be held in the McLean School of Music located in the Tucker Theater on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will include the marching band, vocal groups and other small groups of musicians. It will also have two speakers from the Southern University, Moultrie and Clark. The prices are \$10 per MTSU student and \$20 for everyone else.

"MTSU has done an outstanding job. We really believe that this benefit will help and we, on behalf of our university students, would like to say thank you. We appreciate all the efforts," Clark said. ♦

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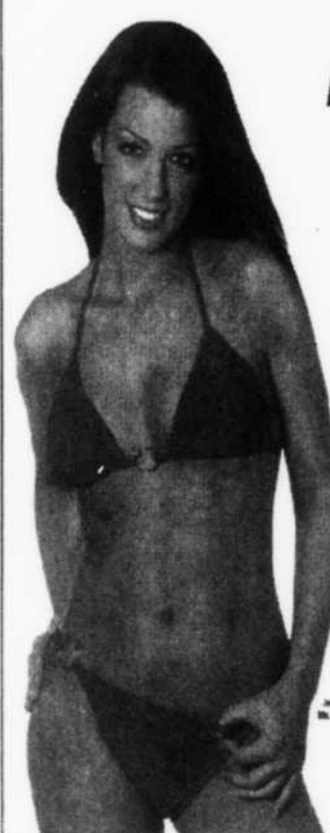
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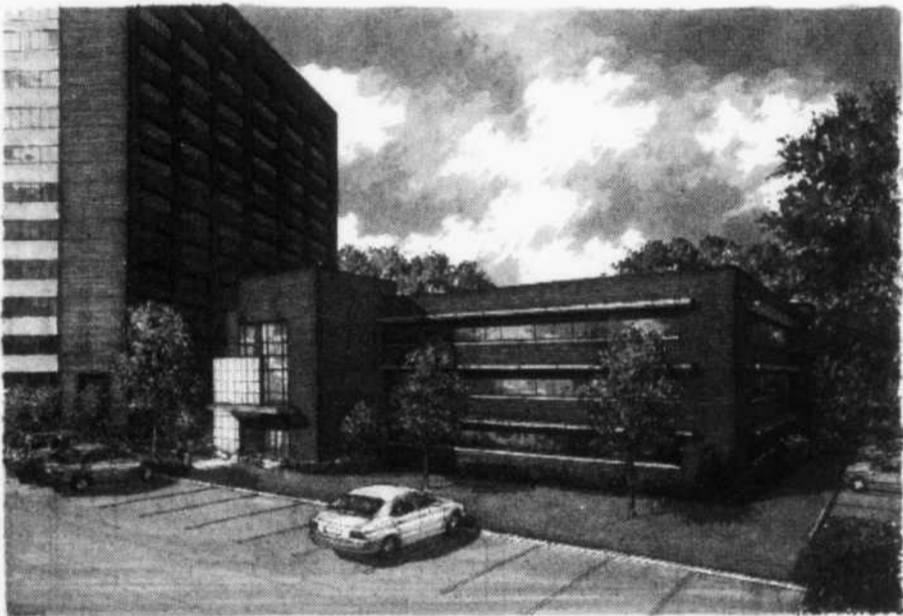
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CRIME BRIEF

Sept. 12, 7:36 a.m. Theft – Under \$500 Middle Tenn. Baptist Individual advised she saw two students pick up a parking barrel and put it in the trunk of a maroon Malibu.	William Smith, IV William Hunt, Jr. Sept. 14, 1:34 a.m. Sex Offense - Indecent Exposure Blue Raider Drive William Smith, IV	Theft – Under \$500 James E. Walker Library Cell phone was stolen.	Sept. 15, 5:12 a.m. Driving w/Expired Tag Unregistered Vehicle Old Main Circle Ashley Atherton	Jeffrey Halford, Jr. Sept. 16, 2:07 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Zeke Anderson	and file charges in reference to an assault that happened on campus last week.	Sept. 17, 12:05 p.m. Theft – Under \$500 MTSU Campus Individual reported her debit card had been stolen and used.	Sept. 18, 8:10 p.m. Theft – Under \$500 Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building
Sept. 12, 9:40 a.m. Traffic – Hit & Run Gracy Hall Subject called to advise someone hit her vehicle – a dark green Spirit.	Sept. 14, 8:13 a.m. Burglary-Forcible Entry Theft – Over \$500 Maintenance Lot William Oglesby Taran Parker	Sept. 14, 1:35 p.m. Traffic – Hit & Run Orchard Lot Subject advised someone hit his blue Nissan Altima. Bumper was knocked off.	Sept. 15, 11:08 p.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Pi Sigma Phi House Erica Jo Podolsky	Sept. 16, 2:04 a.m. Sex Offenses – Indecent Exposure Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Andrew C. Ward	Sept. 17, 11:39 p.m. Driving on Closed Road Alumni Drive Brian Melton	Sept. 18, 8:17 p.m. Vagrancy-Trespass Warning James E. Walker Library Subject was reportedly misusing computer on 2nd floor. Subject was trespassing and left campus.	
Sept. 12, 11:51 a.m. Miscellaneous James E. Walker Library Vehicle hit while here for We-Haul.	Sept. 14, 10:01 a.m. Theft – Over \$500 Murphy Center Items missing from coach's office.	Sept. 15, 12:39 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 MTSU Blvd. Alexander L. Kessler Henry C. Ingram, III	Sept. 15, 11:20 p.m. Evading Arrest Possession of Alcohol & Tobacco – Under 21 Greek Row Male Juvenile 16 YOA	Sept. 17, 5:53 a.m. Driving on Suspended License w/o Insurance Vehicle Accident with Injury Alma Mater Drive Crystal Rivero	Sept. 17, 11:57 p.m. Vandalism – Under \$500 Cummings Hall Subject reported someone poured soap in hallway and ripped a table top off a study table.		
Sept. 13, 12:44 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Gracy Hall Adam Scales Leon Lovrenovic	Sept. 14, 11:26 a.m. Non-aggravated Assault Recreation Center Individual came to fill out a report regarding an assault by her supervisor.	Sept. 15, 2:01 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Sigma Nu House Johnathon M. Eakin	Sept. 16, 12:20 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Pi Sigma Phi House Jordan R. Kelley	Sept. 17, 10:59 a.m. Vandalism – Under \$500 Sims Hall Area coordinator called advising there was graffiti on Sims Hall.	Sept. 18, 9:46 a.m. Vandalism – Under \$500 Fairview Bldg. Subject filed out a report in reference to her vehicle.	Sept. 18, 10:17 p.m. Possession of a Weapon on Campus DUI 2nd Offense Davis Science Bldg. Lot Adam Brown	
Sept. 13, 9:42 p.m. Vandalism – Over \$500 Recreation Center Light pole fell over.	Sept. 14, 11:31 a.m. Vandalism – Under \$500 Keathley University Center Subject called to report graffiti on KUC Knoll outer wall.	Sept. 15, 2:53 a.m. DUI 1st Offense Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 MTSU Blvd. Seren Sommers	Sept. 16, 1:36 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Matt Roberts	Sept. 17, 11:36 a.m. Non-aggravated Assault MTSU Campus Subject came to report	Sept. 18, 10:17 p.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Davis Science Bldg. Lot Mark Richards		
Sept. 14, 1:34 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Blue Raider Drive	Sept. 14, 12:19 p.m.	Sept. 15, 2:53 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 MTSU Blvd. Tanner Wallace	Sept. 16, 2:01 a.m. Alcohol Consumption – Under 21 Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Adam Pimpkin				

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Parking changes during WKU game, career fair

Staff Reports

The first home football game for this year will be on Thursday night, Sept. 20. With classes in session, administration has developed a plan to ease traffic and parking congestion for this event. Students on campus should leave their cars parked and walk to the game or to class. Adjunct faculty should try to arrive early. With fans arriving at 5:00 p.m., the south side of campus will be less congested for exiting the campus. Please make note of the following closings: Greenland Drive lot — the lot will be blocked off all day on Thursday, Sept. 20, for the game. Students who normally park in this lot are encouraged to park in the Tennessee Livestock Center lot. The Raider Express will be running to the Livestock Center lot instead of the Greenland Drive lot during that time. KOM lot — the lot adjacent to the Midgett Building behind KOM will be closed at 2:00 p.m. for reserved parking. ROTC lot — the lot behind Jones Hall will be closed at 1:30 and will be reserved for evening faculty and staff. Faulkinberry Drive — both ends will close at

4:00 p.m. Exiting will be permitted at the east end onto Nursing Building Drive. Blue Raider lot — the lot will close at 2:00 p.m. and will be reserved for media parking. Woodfin's lot — the lot will be closed at 6:00 a.m. due to Career Fair that will be held in Murphy Center. It will open at 12:00 to those with appropriate passes/credentials, current MTSU parking permit, or those who pay \$5.00 will be admitted. At 12:00 p.m. access will be controlled in the Tennessee Livestock Center lot. Only those with appropriate passes, current MTSU parking permit, or those who pay \$5.00 will be admitted. At 2:00 p.m. access will be controlled in the Maintenance lot and the S Curve lot. Only those with appropriate passes/credentials, current MTSU parking permit, or those who pay \$5.00 will be admitted. All ADA parking will remain in its current locations and will be enforced as always. No individual displaying a valid ADA placard or plate will be turned away from an available ADA space and no vehicle without the appropriate ADA placard or plate will be allowed to park in the ADA spaces. ♦

Florida: Student tasered

Continued from 1

after he used a sexually explicit term. Police added that Meyer was Tasered because he resisted when officers were attempting to place him in handcuffs. His lawyer, Robert Griscti, said it appeared Meyer was shocked after the cuffs were applied. Just before Monday's scuffle started, Meyer asked a woman to tape his exchange with Kerry. One officer said the woman was "there to film him" and that Meyer asked, "Are you taping this? Do you have this? You ready?" before beginning his question. Another officer said the 22-year-old woman said she was in line to ask a question ahead of Meyer when she was asked to tape, but she did not know him. Meyer refused to leave the microphone after his allotted time was up, police said. He had asked Kerry about impeaching President Bush, why he didn't challenge the 2004 election results and whether he and Bush were members of the secret society Skull and Bones at Yale University. After Meyer repeatedly and loudly refused to walk away, two officers took him by the arms. Kerry can be heard saying, "That's all right, let me answer his question." Audience members applauded, though it was difficult to tell whether it was for the officers' action or Kerry's remark. The audience for the most part sat quietly and watched the fracas.

Meyer struggled for several seconds as up to four officers tried to remove him from the room. He screamed for help and tried to break away from officers with his arms flailing, then was forced to the ground and ordered to stop resisting. As Kerry told the audience he will answer the student's "very important question," Meyer yelled at the officers to release him, crying out, "Don't Tase me, bro," just before he was shocked. He was led from the room, screaming, "What did I do?" An officer, however, said in the police report that Meyer's "demeanor completely changed once the cameras were not in sight" and that he was "laughing" and "lighthearted" on the way to jail. Kerry, D-Mass., said Tuesday he regretted that a healthy discussion was interrupted, and said he never had a dialogue end that way in 37 years of public appearances. "Whatever happened, the police had a reason, had made their decision that there was something they needed to do. Then it's a law enforcement issue, not mine," he told The Associated Press in Washington. Meyer was arrested on charges of resisting an officer and disturbing the peace but the State Attorney's Office had yet to make the formal charging decision. Police recommended charges of resisting arrest with violence, a felony, and disturbing the peace and interfering with school administrative functions, a misdemeanor. Griscti said Meyer was resting and wouldn't speak with reporters. "He's had a long night, obviously," Griscti said. ♦

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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AS AN AMERICAN

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SMALL COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

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FEATURES

Justin Hughes marches on

After surviving plane crash, student will walk again with Band of Blue

By Matt Biniakewitz

Contributing Writer

A year ago, doctors told Justin Hughes that he might never walk again, but on Sept. 20 Hughes will march onto the field with the MTSU Band of Blue the same as everyone else.

A native of Springfield, Tenn., Hughes had known that he wanted to fly from an early age. During high school he was an active part of the marching band, playing the trumpet. He made sure to take advantage of every opportunity he had to fly.

On June 26, 2006, Hughes and a friend, Mitch Wilson, were flying two passengers from Tennessee to Phillipsburg, Pa., and were making their final approach when a sudden burst of turbulence forced them into the Allegheny National Forest. Wilson died at the site of the crash while Hughes and the passengers were stranded for eight hours in the wreckage.

When the paramedics finally found the crash site, Hughes was rushed out of the forest on a four-wheeler and immediately sent into surgery. Parts of his skull were shattered, his lower L4 lumbar was destroyed along with lacerations to the spinal cord, his nose and left shoulder were fractured, and his right lung had collapsed.

Jessica Graves, a senior history education major, had been dating Hughes for two years at the time. "They told us that he might never walk again and that he might have permanent brain damage," says Graves, "but thankfully they were wrong."

After a month in and out of hospitals, Hughes was finally home for only a short time before he had to face the decision of whether or not to start his freshman year in college. Against the wishes of his family and friends, he declares, "I told them I was going to school, I didn't care."

"I had already registered for classes and I was looking forward to being in the Band of Blue and I didn't want my injury to hold me back from what I wanted to



Photo by Patrick Casey | Contributing Photographer

Junior aerospace major Justin Hughes practices with the Band of Blue. On June 26, 2006, Hughes and a friend, Mitch Wilson, were flying two passengers from Tennessee to Phillipsburg, Pa. when a sudden burst of turbulence forced them into the Allegheny National Forest. Wilson died at the site of the crash while Hughes and the passengers were stranded for eight hours in the wreckage.

do," says Hughes. So he started his freshman year in a wheelchair; going to physical therapy every other day, leaving for classes 20 minutes early to make it on time, and sitting on the sidelines during football games.

"For a little while I thought I wouldn't walk again, but you can't think negative when you have a goal to reach. I kept my head up and told everyone I'd

walk again," recalls Hughes. He practiced walking every day between classes and by October he was walking with a cane.

When asked how he felt about Hughes' recovery, Craig Cornish, the director of athletic bands, declares, "In 25 years of teaching I've never seen anything like it. He had the will to put his life back together when most people wouldn't." Cornish feels like

Hughes' story is an inspiration, and at this point it clearly is.

This year, Hughes will pick up his trumpet and march onto the field at MTSU's first home game.

"There are times when I find myself asking 'Is it too fast?' or 'Is he o.k.?' but he's back to being healthy and it's definitely a victory," says Graves.

Hughes, on the other hand,

exclaims, "I can't wait to be back on the field, and I'm glad WKU is bringing their band so we have a chance to show off! It feels awesome to be back on the field. I upgraded from therapy to making shapes on a field."

While off the field, Hughes plans to continue his major in aerospace. "Right now I'm fighting with the FAA to get my medical back. I might have to

switch to aerospace administration, but I will fly again."

These days, Hughes is working on his scuba diving certification and planning to write a book after graduation about his victories and defeats.

"The one piece of advice I would give people," says Hughes, "is to not let anything hold you back from what you want to do." ♦

MTSU program provides opportunity for writers

By Katy Coil

Staff Writer

Sponsored by MTSU's College of Continuing Education, the Writer's Loft program has aided writers from all over the country to develop their creative writing skills through the assistance of mentors.

The program was founded by Roy Birkhead, the Director of Marketing for the College of Continuing Education, after Birkhead, a writer himself, completed an M.F.A. program at Spalding University. He decided to create a similar program for aspiring writers without the two to three year coursework and cost of upwards of \$30,000. Birkhead's brainchild, the Writer's Loft, is modeled after an M.F.A. program and offers a three semester program costing \$1,000 per semester, allowing students a flexible schedule to work around.

Lance Ikard, the Writer's Loft coordinator of the past three years, believes the program is invaluable to those that attend: "Our commitment to the students is that if you come, you will leave a better writer. The course is intended to give writers a better ability to write."

The camaraderie among the Loft's attendees is due in part to the atmosphere of the program.

"It's a very fluid, flexible, open atmosphere. These folks need to be writing not in a classroom. They need to be writing in their homes or anywhere they want to write. Hopefully, the mentor they're assigned to is one skill level above them and has writing experience and publishing experience to get the job done," Ikard said. "I think it does enhance and accelerate interest in writing. It either gives them the skill, the knowledge, and the competence to go on writing and become published. Also, having this certificate on the program helps one get into an M.F.A. program."

Writers in the program have no set mold, as Ikard noted. "The objective of the Writer's Loft is to provide a mechanism by which creative writers can improve their skills. We've had several students go on to complete M.F.A. programs. We've had students all the way from high school all the way to retirement age. The program gives people

flexibility to do this around their lives."

The one thing in common among the writers involved in the Writer's Loft is their love of their craft.

"It's definitely a higher level learning phenomenon taking place," Ikard said. "Anyone can act, but how do you know when you've become an actor? It's obvious that the people in here have a need to write and have an ability to write. This would be an excellent program for anyone, any age who is interested in creative writing."

According to Ikard, the only qualification applicants to the program need is "the ability to write and the desire to write."

Molly Culbreath, who is taking over as coordinator this semester, has seen how the program's mentors have helped participants. "It's a program for people that are drawn to writing, a program that introduces them to where they are in their writing and the mentors have had lots of experience and are there to help [the writers] navigate that first experience. Just from hearing some of the students talk about their experiences, it seems like they're moving on to accomplishing their goals and expanding their goals. I think that is the beauty of the program, allowing them to reach and expand their goals."

Culbreath says that the Writer's Loft provides writers with a place to go to express themselves creatively. "If writing is a student's thing, this provides more of an outside creative aspect to their coursework. This is an outside venue where

if they want to participate with a group of non-traditional students and network, they could expose themselves to many different groups but also expand their writing. From the student

angle, it would be an extension of that which they've received in the classroom and in their coursework."

Upon finishing the program, Culbreath wants participants to leave as better writers. "I would like when a person completes this program for it to provide them with guidance to improve writing skills and help them achieve their goal, whether it be songwriting, screenplay, poetry, short story. Whatever genre they want to pursue."

A recent alumnus of the Writer's Loft and professor of Religion and Philosophy at Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Michael Potts joined the program after seeing an ad for it in *The Tennessee Writer*. "It seemed like a fairly well designed program. It gave the opportunity to work with mentors and to have work critiqued. I wanted to have mentoring so I could write fiction," Potts said.

Potts started writing poetry after taking a class in 1998 and became involved with writing fiction through the Writer's Loft. "I wanted to see if I could do it; if I could expand my repertoire of writing."

He learned a lot from the Writer's Loft. "I learned how far I had to go to write good fiction. I read a lot of good books and learned of the

“ The only way to get better at writing is to take criticism. You have to take disappointment and have a lot of patience. ”

Michael Potts
Methodist University philosophy professor and Writer's Loft participant

amount of revision it takes in a novel. I learned to write better stylistically and in a more succinct style, to write more and not be wordy," Potts said.

As a result, he has been able to write and have his first novel edited as well as start on his second novel.

According to Potts, those involved with the Writer's Loft should "be able to take criticism. The only way you can get better at writing is to take criticism. The only way writing improves is if you can take criticism and learn from it. You need to be a reader to be a writer, you need to read literary fiction, like Hemingway, and if you want to write genre fiction, read the best authors in that genre. You have to take disappointment, criticism, and have a lot of patience."

June McCash came to the Writer's Loft orientation as an observer and left ready to join the program. "I came just to check out the quality and have been surprised by the quality of the readings and the backgrounds of the people here. It's just an interesting and positive program. I think the program has a lot of potential."

McCash heard about the program by first seeing an advertisement for it on a door in the MTSU library. She then looked for the program up on the Internet and talked with people involved before she decided to attend the orientation. McCash has published six books but they weren't fiction or poetry, like she hopes the Writer's Loft will help her pursue.

"I started writing seriously fiction and poetry. I was looking for a good quality network of writers and this seemed like a good place to start. And here I am," McCash said. She hopes the Writer's Loft will "help honing my skills as a writer, as a creative writer. Creative writing is rather different from academic writing. I'm really starting a new career and when starting a new career, it's good to network."

She believes the Writer's Loft "...has a lot of potential for this university if the Writer's Loft became as powerful for this university as some other writing programs around the country."

Anyone interested in participating in the Writer's Loft can fill out an application for the January session from the College of Continuing Education or by going online to mtsu.edu/theloft. ♦

OPINIONS

We the People

By now, there have been millions of views on YouTube showing University of Florida student, Andrew Meyer, being Tasered by campus police at a forum with John Kerry.

The horrifying part is that people have to watch YouTube to see the three minutes leading up to the brutality. News reports have not focused on the blatant excessive force used, but instead on how annoying Meyer is. When did being obnoxious become a crime? It seems the video has been edited by news stations to portray the story most suitable for their audiences.

Another scary observation is that some people aren't appalled when they watch the video. Apathy isn't the problem. Instead, some students at MTSU have watched the video and laughed hysterically throughout. Even after hearing him beg not to be Tasered, hearing and seeing the Taser used on him and hearing him scream and moan in pain, fellow college students a few states over have found humor in Meyer's torture. Another human's suffering has become a joke. The attitude is reminiscent of the clips of the soldiers torturing captives at Guantanamo Bay, smiling and clearly finding pleasure in another's misery.

If you have seen Meyer's rant leading up to the Taser episode, the punishment appears frighteningly excessive. It mentioned in various news stories that one of the reasons Meyer was asked to leave the microphone was because he was using sexually explicit language. Of course, the four-minute video, not shown on those stations, shows him asking Kerry a valid question. He asked him why President George W. Bush had not been impeached for going to war under false pretenses, when former President Bill Clinton had been impeached over a blowjob.

In one video, a police officer can be clearly seen pointing the Taser gun at Meyer shortly after his mic was turned off. This was long before he began "resisting arrest." And it appears the only reason it wasn't used then was because there was an officer blocking Meyer's chest.

Using a Taser should not be taken lightly. People have died from being Tasered.

But if you listen closely, Kerry can be heard in the background, whining to police that he wouldn't mind answering Meyer's questions.

It was not just a case of excessive force. Some video feed has very sharp audio, in which curses and screams and even crying can be heard from the students.

But what can't be heard is Meyer being told he was under arrest. If he was never told he was being arrested, how could the police legally restrain him? No recitation of the Miranda Rights can be heard, either.

It's an unfortunate day when we have to rely on Web sites such as YouTube for news. The people taking those videos are ordinary citizens, not journalists. Now who is more reliable?

And what happened to free speech? There was no hate speech. There was simply an obnoxious college student questioning authority in a non-threatening manner. Again, being obnoxious is not a crime.

Monday was national Constitution Day, when people across the United States reveled in their rights as citizens. Here on our campus, we had an open mic on the Knoll where dozens of students lined up to express themselves, exercising their First Amendment rights, spitting out gems such as "Hillary Clinton will win the election because she's riding the bullshit wave." No one was escorted away or arrested. On that same day, Meyer was being Tasered for saying "blowjob" and asking Kerry if he was part of the Skull and Bones.

Way to remind us how free we really are.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Stop stealing from State

Many people have given in to the temptation to steal office supplies. Mostly, it's just little things—some pencils and pens, because we've lost ours. Some Post-It notes, because they're handy to have around. That stapler on your coworker's desk, because they lost yours and you've got to staple the TPS report together because you've run out of three ring binders to put it in.

We don't really think much of these actions, because it doesn't seem like it could hurt. Is anyone really going to miss that pen, after all? We do, when that pen was bought with our tax money.

It isn't just pens and staplers, though. The state comptroller's office published a report in August detailing financial audits in Tennessee's 95 counties. 25 of them, including Rutherford and Williamson Counties, reported cash shortfalls, many of which totaled several thousand dollars. In all, almost half a million dollars was reported missing across the state.

Where is it going? Apparently, it's going into the pockets of state workers.

A Williamson County parks department manager was accused of stealing \$45,000 over seven years. A Rutherford County schools clerk used a government credit card to buy \$2,400 in groceries and personal items. According to a Tennessee article published Wednesday, they are among many involved in the loss of state funds.

Jim Arnette, director of the Division of



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

County Audit, told the Tennessean that he felt that a lack of adequate policies was to blame for not stopping many cases of theft, and that a lack of resources is the reason why nothing has been done to change the fact.

This seems like a weak answer, especially given that it doesn't seem like it would take much to actually prevent internal theft. In many cases, it seems like a more vigilant workplace and tighter bookkeeping would have prevented, or at least caught, most of these incidents before they turned into thousand-dollar losses for the state.

It takes money to pay for the people and resources needed to handle this, though, and apparently the state can't hold onto enough of its money to get its work done. Barring that, though, it is up to government offices to make use of the resources they do have, however limited those might be, to keep a tighter watch over state property.

The state should consider having its employees be their own watchdogs. While this would seem the equivalent of putting

the fox in charge of the henhouse, it might not be such a bad idea in practice. All of us have known since we were children that nobody likes a tattletale, and no one likes it when someone talks about us behind our backs.

Perhaps if we rewarded employees for noting cases of office theft, everyone would stop to think before skimming a little off the top of the cash drawer. The guilty party would wonder who might be watching, and who would be willing to tell to get some extra vacation time, while anyone watching would have to consider if allowing someone to get away with state money is worth it, when doing the right thing would reward them in both the short and long runs.

This, of course, sounds horrible, and would create an atmosphere of paranoia that would make any office a stifling place to work. No one would want to work under such conditions. It may, however, take such drastic measures to convince employees and others that crime does not pay.

I'd prefer that all involved could be mature, and be responsible for what they are asked to watch over. When people aren't willing to play by the rules, though, then someone has to step in, whether they like it or not.

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

Letters to the Editor

Taser of student inappropriate

To the Editor:

Well, nothing like a little moral outrage to get your blood pumping at 5:30 a.m. It was about that time Tuesday when I first saw the video of University of Florida campus police taser a telecommunications student questioning John Kerry at an open forum. Since then, I've watched the video at least 20 times—each time with increasing horror. Last time I looked, we still enjoyed free speech in the United States, although the Bush administration has winnowed away at so many of my freedoms it's admittedly tough to keep track of the ones that so far have survived the onslaught.

Last time I looked, freedom to question our leaders was a right, too. Was the senior obnoxious? Yes, he was, very obnoxious. Last time I looked, that's not a crime. Watch the video carefully. Did the student resist arrest? No, he did not. In fact, he repeatedly holds his hands in the air. Yet, that was one of the charges against him when he was booked and jailed. Jailed after excessive force was used by ill-trained cops. And on a university campus, where students should be encouraged to speak out—and speak out forcefully. And in America, at least the America our founders envisioned.

Sharon H. Fitzgerald
Council Bluff Parkway, Murfreesboro,

Bob Glenn saves the day from evil

To the Editor:

Thank God. Just as the grim hordes of liberals blackened the horizons and the limits of free speech were under attack from groups and interests right here at MTSU, one man had the courage to step forward.

Who knew that, among our university officers, the students and faculty had an ally? That, deep within the countless ranks of the enemy, we had an agent of freedom and justice who was not only well acquainted with the civil liberties granted to common men and women by the Magna Carta, but was also armed with the rarest of historical knowledge: that humanity existed at the beginning of time?

Who could guess that after a lifetime of pain, struggle and self-sacrifice spent on the corpse-strewn battlefield of academic administration, our hero would still have the strength to lift his pen and deliver the challenge, as he did in last Monday's paper, to rise up and speak our minds mere centuries after our founding fathers did the same?

Without Bob Glenn, many of us would never have realized that unlike in a marketplace of goods, standing idly by and allowing a sale based on malicious lies in a marketplace of ideas is a democratic ideal, and that poor logic and emotional manipulation are appropriate and welcome in a place of learning. Our right to "just not look at" huge and offensive displays if we don't want to be visually assaulted, almost identical to our right to "just dodge a punch," would have been forgotten in our thoughtless rush to preserve our school's integrity had he not stood bravely against the public outcry.

On behalf of the students and faculty of MTSU, I thank our Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management for his stirring reminder that the difference between an act of expression and an act of suppression is whether or not he agrees with it. Robert K. Glenn is a man who, as surely as he himself remembers the beginning of time, will be remembered until the end of it as a tireless crusader for free speech zones and the religious right.

Evan Cole
Basic and Applied Sciences

Gen. Petraeus pulls the party line

To the Editor:

General David Petraeus is in the military. And in the military, if you want to get along and make rank, you support the chain of command. And that's the way it is, from the lowest ranking boot camp recruits to the highest ranking generals and admirals. The president is at the top of the chain of command, so whatever he says goes. Period. No questions asked. It's a way of life in the military. To get to the rank of four star general, you have to be the master at cheezing the boss. Petraeus is the master.

Bill Humble, US Navy, Ret.
Miami Ave, Nashville

Arrrrrrrrgh!
Yesterday was
International Talk
Like a Pirate Day.



Get in here and write for
Sidelines, ya scurvy bilge-rat!!
slopinio@mtsu.edu

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SPORTS

Jena's saga

The Lowdown

Richard Lowe

While many local and national media entities are focusing on the arrest of O.J. Simpson, many college students and civil rights organizations are protesting a story that has been ongoing for a year now and has finally reached a national boiling point.

Before he was arrested, Mychal Bell was the star running back for the Jena Giants. His mother says he used to spend weekends sitting on the couch and watching the NFL, dreaming that one day he could play pro football.

I played with and against people who have that same dream. I still watch them every Saturday hoping they can achieve that dream. The transition from player to fan was an easy one for me because I was given every opportunity to earn a spot at the next level. For Bell, every opportunity I was given has been taken away because of a decision he and five other males made, based on their emotions towards racial hatred.

His football dreams of playing his way out of his hometown started to fade when a group of white students hung three nooses, in school colors, from an oak tree on the campus of Jena High School to keep black students from sitting under the "white tree."

As a result, incidents off campus took place between blacks and whites, including fights at parties, an older white male pulling a rifle on younger black males and someone setting fire to the school itself.

The straw that broke the camel's back was an incident involving Bell, Bryant Purvis, Jesse Beard, Carwin Jones, Theodore Shaw and Robert Bailey, collectively known as the Jena Six. The six black males attacked Justin Barker, a white student who allegedly yelled racial epithets at them. The black men were charged with attempted murder. Five of the teens were charged as adults and immediately placed in jail.

Today has been marked as a day of protest in support of the Jena Six. Activists from all over the country will be swarming Jena for rallies. On college campuses nationwide, the same is taking place. I'm not asking you, the reader, to pick a side in this situation, but to be aware. The struggle for racial equality has not ended.

I am lucky enough to have been born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, a place where class relations are not a problem because many of the higher-class neighborhoods are located close to the lower-class neighborhoods. The city's economy is diverse, with a large section of the business base being controlled by African-Americans. This does not mean that this city does not have its own share of issues. There are underlying racial issues, but significant improvements have been made since the days of civil rights marches and rallies of the 1960s.

The one thing Atlantans have in common with the residents of Jena, and every other town in America, is their love for football. Kids and adults watch high school football on Fridays, college football on Saturdays, and the NFL on Sundays. Kids play their hearts out every week just to be able to walk through the halls of their high school as heroes.

Of all the stories that are being written about the Jena Six, I feel that one important thing is being neglected. While the punishment certainly does not fit the crime, I don't feel like enough people realize what that punishment really means for a boy like Mychal Bell.

Whether he is acquitted or not, his hopes have been stolen from him. He will never know if he could have made it at the next level because he was raised in a town so filled with racism that it choked the life out of his greatest dream.

Richard Lowe is a junior Broadcast Journalism major. He can be reached at rlowe@mtsutv.org

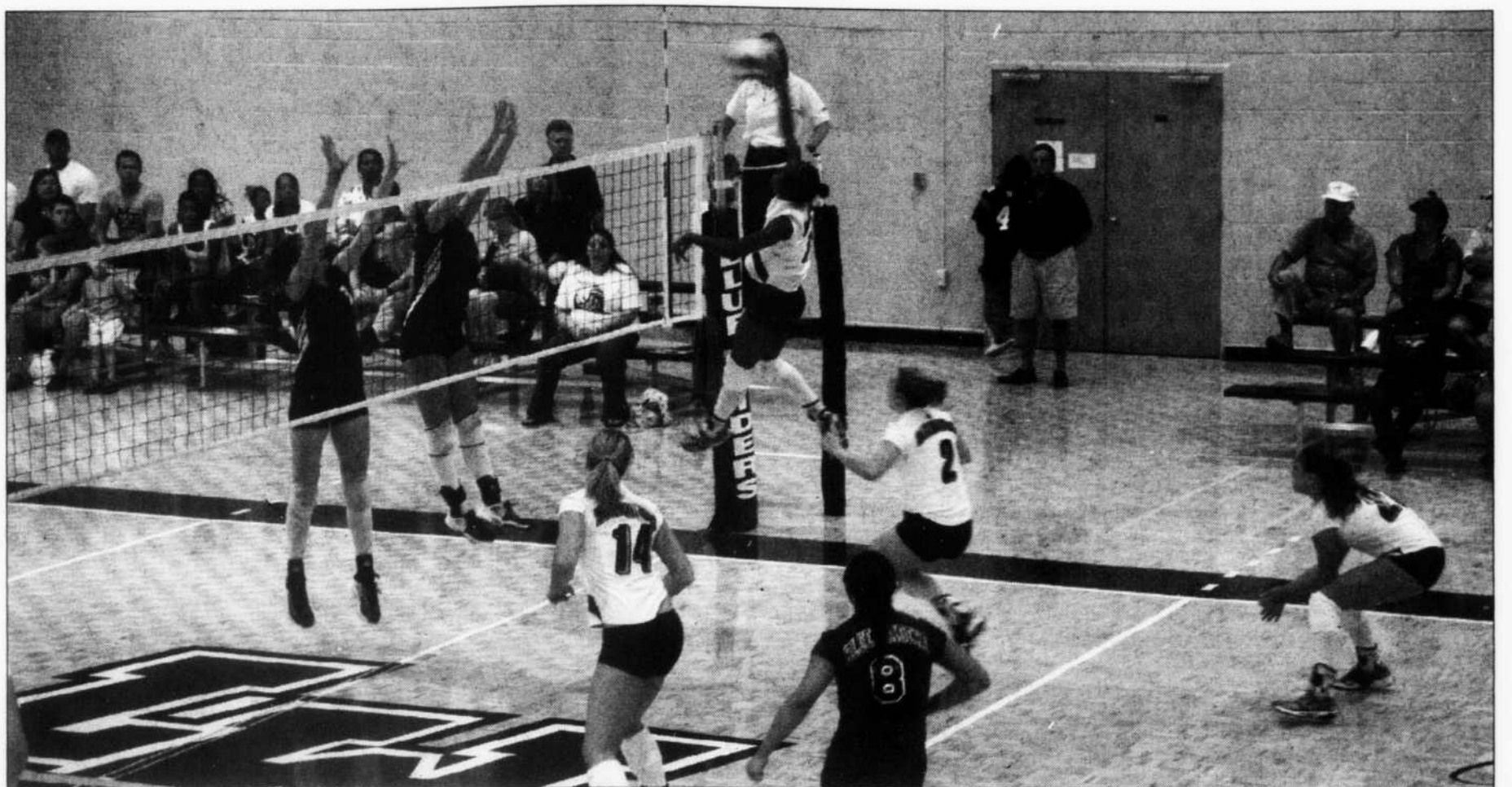


Photo by Chris Barstad | Staff Photographer

After a tough non-conference schedule the Blue Raiders are ready to start playing the Sun Belt portion of their schedule.

VB Begins SBC schedule

By Clarence Plank

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team heads down to Alabama this weekend to open their Sun Belt Conference play against South Alabama and Troy.

The Blue Raiders have a chance to defend their conference championship against two tough teams.

MT head coach Matt Peck feels that the team is up for the task of competing in the SBC, but knows that everyone is now looking to knock off the defending conference champions.

"I think the teams in the conference know that we are the team to beat," Peck said, "Both teams are capable of playing well."

MT has beaten the Jaguars six times in the last four years and look to keep that streak alive after this weekend.

South Alabama is coming off a 3-0 win over Alcorn State, pushing the Jaguars record to 5-5 on the year, which tops the most wins they had for the 2006 season.

Shannon Vanantwerp is on pace to be her school's

4th person to have over 1,000 career digs. She had 19 digs in the game. The Jags had eight blocks.

The Blue Raiders have been preparing for the conference schedule by playing the teams in the non-conference, like Connecticut and Oklahoma.

"I think we will do better," Ashley Mead said, "As a team I think we have really learned a lot. I think we'll be stronger and play more as a team."

This time around the Blue Raiders are hoping to stay on top and continue to work as a team as the season progresses.

This weekend, MT travels to Troy (9-7) and faces a team that is on a winning streak. Troy has beaten Kennesaw State, Mercer, Winthrop and Georgetown.

Last season Troy took MT the distance before losing 3-2 in five matches here in Murfreesboro. It was a different story at Troy, where MT had no problem in sweeping the Trojans 3-0.

"We won it last year, so we have a target on our backs," Ashley Adams said. "Everybody wants to beat us and we can't go into this saying that we won last year and we're going to win this year. Western [Kentucky]

won it last year, so we said they're not going to win it again."

The Trojans will be playing against Western Kentucky and MT over the weekend and they are looking forward to see how they match up against both of these teams.

This is the fifth meeting between Troy and MT overall and the first time this season.

"Everything is riding on us that we have to win," Adams said, "We played some really tough non-conference teams and I think that is going to prepare us to play in our conference."

The Raiders finished their non-conference schedule with a record of 13-1 and will be looking to retain their SBC title after the season is over. They just have to go through the rest of the SBC to get there.

MT gets ready for action at 7 p.m. this Friday night in Mobile, Ala. Against South Alabama and will face Troy at 7 p.m. Saturday night in Troy Ala. Both of those games can be heard on GoBlueRaiders.com. ♦

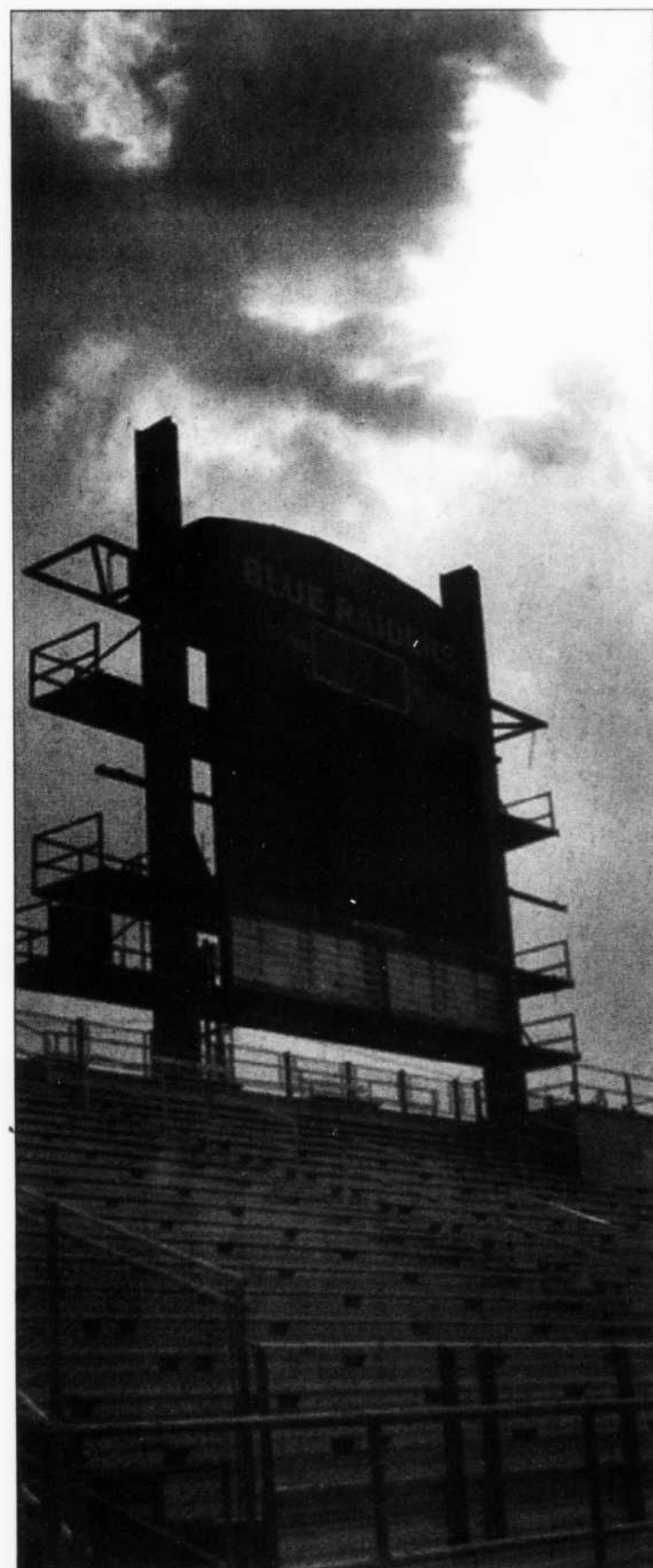


Photo by Ryan DeBooy | Staff Photographer

The MT Department of Athletics announced this week that Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium's new video system would be named the "Blue Tube".

Sun Belt teams moving on up



Coldplay-action

Chris Martin
Staff Columnist

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That's what they were scheduled to do. Oklahoma state graced them with their presence in exchange for what they figured would be an easy win. The Cowboys figured they would fly into Troy, Alabama, notch an easy win and be thanked for the experience.

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So laugh all you want at the Ragin' Cajuns and Mean Greens of the Sun Belt but I'm proud to say I'll be watching SBC football this weekend.

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(Charlie McAlexander, pbp/ Chip Walters, color)
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MT's now a football university



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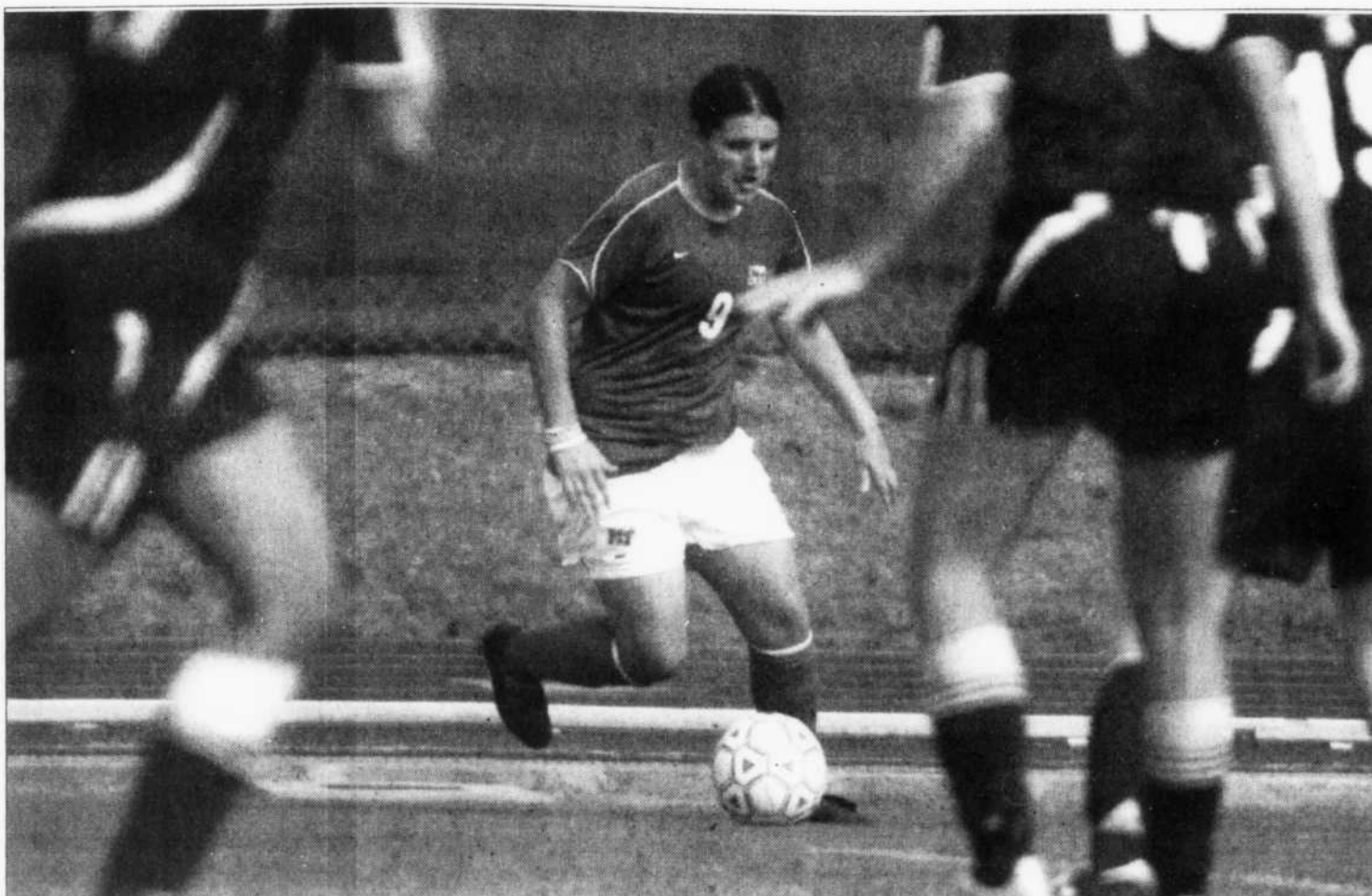
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Which is why I am proud to represent them.

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Today, like every other day, I realized I had subconsciously stopped at that entrance. Staring into it like a crystal ball, a smile crept across my face and I said the words I don't get to say often enough.

"Thank god for home games."



Senior Kala Morgan looks to lead the Blue Raiders this weekend at the Oklahoma Soccer Classic. She has three goals for the season thus far.

Photo by Ryan DeBooy | Staff Photographer

MT heads to Oklahoma

By Brian Estes

Staff Writer

The women's soccer team will play the Long Beach State 49ers on Friday as the Blue Raiders prepare for conference play. The game will be played in Norman, Okla., as part of a tournament hosted by the Oklahoma Sooners. The Blue Raiders will face the Sooners on Sept. 23.

"We go down to Oklahoma and play two very tough opponents. It will certainly put our young team to the test," said Blue Raiders coach Aston Rhoden.

Rhoden said that Blue Raiders senior forward Holly Grogan, who has tallied three goals and three assists this season, will be out for the Long Beach State game after having emergency appendix surgery. He also said that sophomore forward Jen Threlkeld suffered a concussion Sunday against Alabama A&M, and senior defender Ingrid Christensen is nursing a hamstring. He is optimistic that both will play Friday.

Rhoden said the varying styles presented by the two teams will present a challenge similar to what the Raiders will face during conference play.

"Long Beach State is very possession-oriented," said Rhoden. "They have a very indirect style of play. There is a lot of movement around the ball and a lot of short passing. Oklahoma is a bit more direct. There is longer passing, and more athleticism. Both teams play totally opposite of each other."

Rhoden said he is anticipating a tough game from the 49ers.

"Being a team from out West, they're very good. They have good technical abilities and will be well-coached. There are a lot of returning players, so I expect they will have good leadership as well," said Rhoden.

"I'm Norwegian, so I don't know anything about their team. All I know is they're really good," said Christensen. "We have to play a lot better."

As for the Sooners, Oklahoma has a very physical style of play and typically finish in the top half of the Big 12 Conference, Rhoden said. "In the Big 12, there's a vibe that you have to have a strong, physical team with good work ethic," said Rhoden.

One of the keys to the game will be getting production out of the experienced players, Rhoden said.

"We also have to finish off the opportunities we get," said Rhoden. "We've been creating a lot of opportunities, but taking advantage of them is going to be critical. What's most important to us is, can we play the way we think we should at this point in the season?"

Threlkeld leads the team with five goals scored, and Kala Morgan and Grogan are tied for the team lead with three assists this season.

In addition, the Raiders posted their first shutout this year with a 2-0 win over Alabama A&M last Sunday. Morgan and freshman Kelly Downs tallied goals for MTSU, while freshman goalkeeper Kela Casiple made eight saves.

"Thirty seconds into this game, we knew we were going to win," said Christensen.

The victory was the first on the road for MTSU this season. ♦

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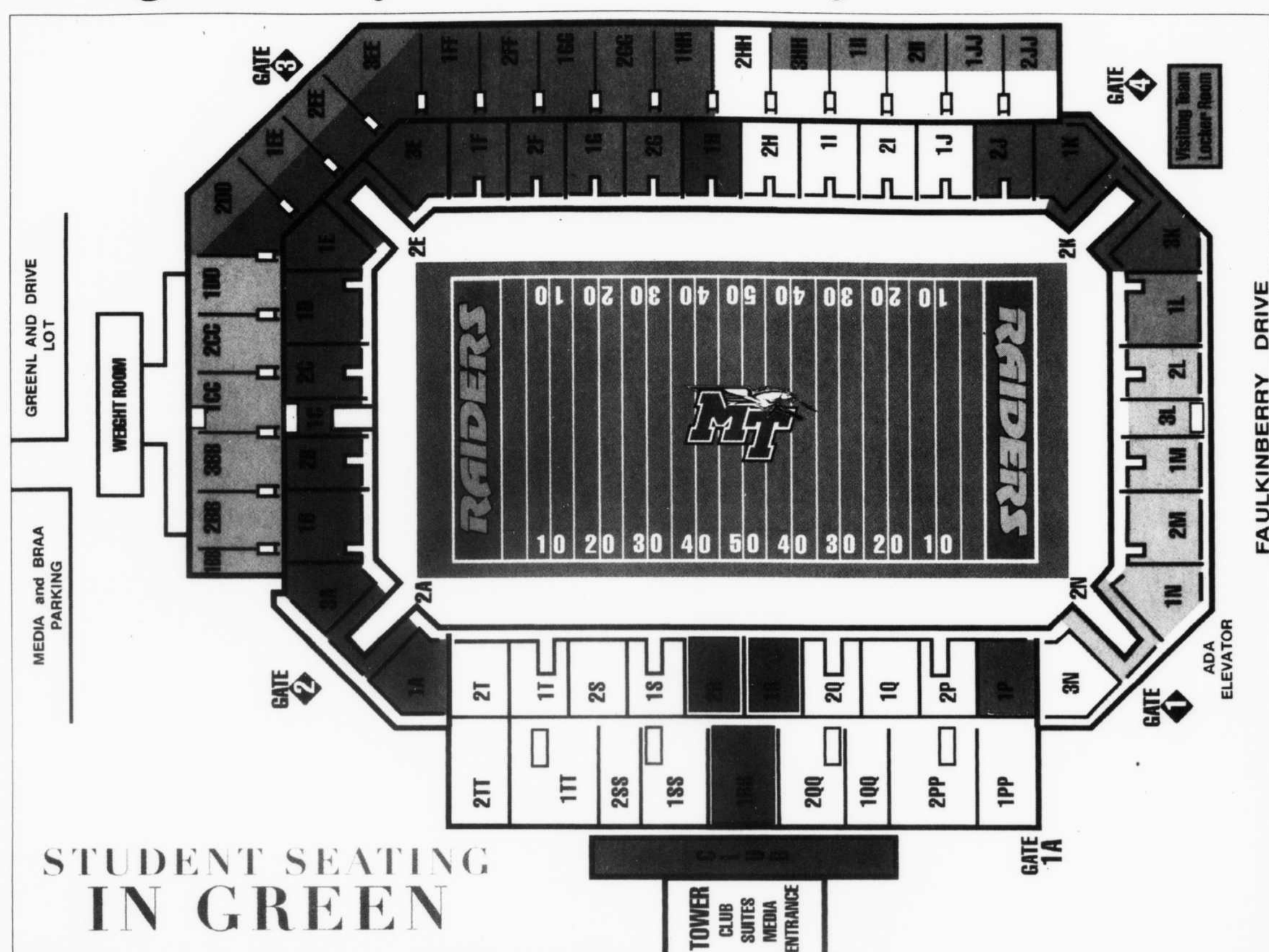


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New student seating announced for Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium



graphic courtesy of MT Media Relations

The SUPP Overall Top-25

No.	Team	Fraction	Pts
1.	USC	0.9324	979
2.	LSU	0.9095	955
3.	Oklahoma	0.8857	930
4.	Florida	0.8333	875
5.	West Virginia	0.7800	819
6.	Texas	0.7067	742
7.	California	0.6676	701
8.	Ohio State	0.6638	697
9.	Penn State	0.6324	664
10.	Wisconsin	0.5952	625
11.	Rutgers	0.4971	522
12.	Oregon	0.4581	481
13.	Boston College	0.4381	460
14.	South Carolina	0.3800	399
15.	Alabama	0.3514	369
16.	Clemson	0.3267	343
17.	Texas A & M	0.2486	261
18.	Hawaii	0.2429	255
19.	Virginia Tech	0.2343	246
20.	Louisville	0.2200	231
21.	Georgia	0.2076	218
22.	Nebraska	0.1886	198
23.	Kentucky	0.1819	191
24.	South Florida	0.1486	156
25.	Georgia Tech	0.1467	154

Also receiving votes:

Arkansas 0.1390
 Missouri 0.0629
 Arizona State 0.0467
 Cincinnati 0.0390
 Texas Tech 0.0343

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Blue Raiders

(0-3)

VS.

(2-1)

Hilltoppers

Western Kentucky

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium

MT finally returns to Floyd

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will play their home opener against Western Kentucky, Thursday, revitalizing an old Ohio Valley Conference rivalry that has been put on the shelf for 16 years.

This is the 58th time the teams have met with MT holding the series edge winning 29 games to Western Kentucky's 27 with one tie. However, this is the first game these two have played since 1991. The last time these teams met the Raiders won 23-21.

"Our players understand there has been a rivalry here in the past and they understand the fans from both schools and the passion they have for this game but no one on this team has experienced it." MT coach Rick Stockstill said. "They will appreciate the rivalry now that Western Kentucky is coming into the (Sun Belt) Conference. The rivalry will build once they have to play them every year and with the close proximity of the schools."

Western Kentucky is currently a Division I-A Independent, but they will join the Sun Belt

Conference and be eligible for postseason play in 2009. Before entering Division I-A, the Hilltoppers were a Division I-AA powerhouse.

"We are playing a very good football team," Stockstill said. "They won a national championship in 2002. They finished in the top 15 in 2003 and 2004."

"We're gonna show people that WKU football is the real thing," Western Kentucky coach David Elson said before Western Kentucky's first Division I-A game against Florida. "We're not going to be No. 120 out of 120 in

the nation very long."

"We are playing a very good football team," Stockstill said. "They won a national championship in 2002. They finished in the top 15 in 2003 and 2004."

Western Kentucky uses two quarterbacks one of which, David Wolke, is a Notre Dame transfer.

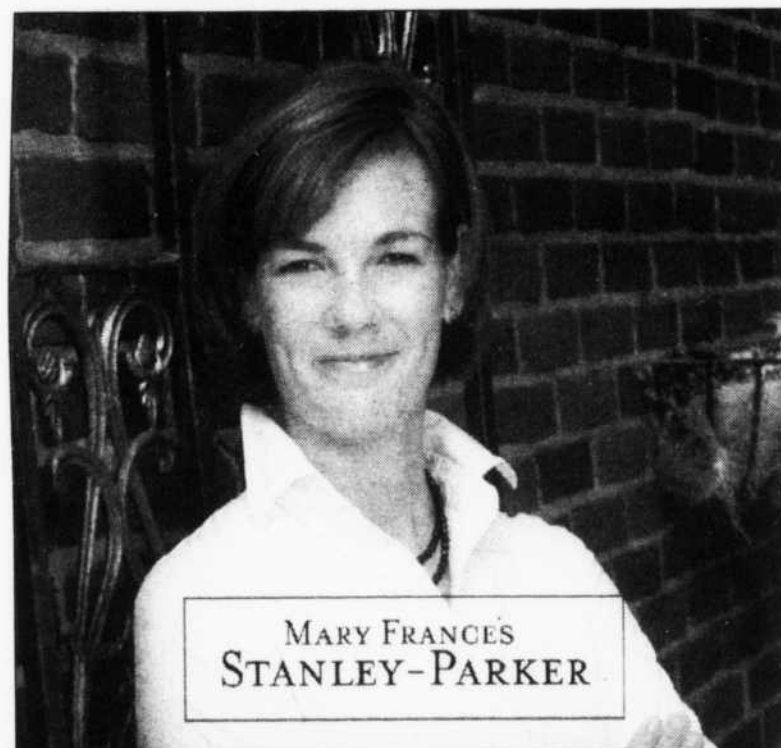
"Both David Wolke and K.J. Black are good passers and I think both are good runners," Stockstill said. "It's not a big discrepancy as far as one being the runner and one being a passer. Both are good quarterbacks and obviously if you are good enough to sign at Notre

Dame then you must be pretty good. David is an excellent quarterback and K.J. is the same."

Middle Tennessee (0-3, 0-1 SBC) is coming off a 44-0 loss to No. 2 ranked LSU. In that game, the Raiders were unable to get into a groove on offense and as a result, were unable to generate 100 total yards.

"I am disappointed in our overall record, but I continue to see progress," Stockstill said. "We are playing so many young guys who had never played Division I foot-

See WKU, 3



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MT: Football School

By J. Owen Shipley

Sports Editor

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See Sportacus, 3

SBC on the rise

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Sportacus

Continued from 2

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WKU: Home opener preview

Continued from 2

ball and there are growing pains when you do that. I like the way we compete and finish games."

The Raiders were able to make defensive stops on 3rd down in the red zone, which forced the Tigers to kick three field goals inside the Raider 20 yard line.

"Middle Tennessee is the best 0-3 team in the country," Elson said. "They are extremely big, fast and athletic in all three phases of

the game. We have a big challenge coming off the Eastern Kentucky win to be ready to play on Thursday night."

This will be MT's first game against a non-ranked opponent since the season opener against Florida Atlantic.

The game will begin at 6 pm. At Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium which has undergone some recent renovations, including the installation of a new jumbotron called "The Blue Tube." ♦

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