

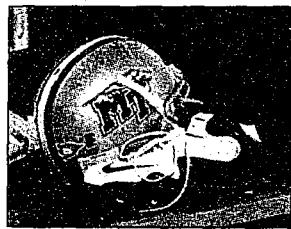
OPINIONS



One journalist's Gonzo account of the madding crowd last Tuesday on the Knoll

PAGE 5

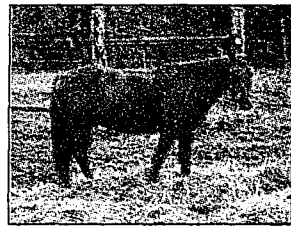
SPORTS



Blue Raiders defeat FAU Owls 27-20 in last-minute drive Saturday

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FEATURES



Horses offer classroom knowledge and hands-on experience as human professors

PAGE 4

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 16

Student pricked by needle in Pepsi machine

STAFF REPORT

A student was stuck by a hypodermic needle late Thursday afternoon after reaching into the change dispenser of a Pepsi machine located in Peck Hall.

The senior, who asked not to be named, reached into the coin return box after purchas-

ing a drink and pricked her right thumb around 3:45 p.m. by a needle that she was not aware was there, said MTSU Police Chief Buddy Peaster.

The student was treated at Middle Tennessee Medical Center, where she was later released.

"Evidently, she put the needle in a bag and took it with

her to the ER," Peaster said. "It might be a one-of-a-kind thing or it might be something very serious."

Police have said that it is too early to determine whether foul play is expected.

MTSU police picked up the syringe from MTMC after being contacted by the victim; the needle has been logged in

as evidence at the station.

Peaster also warned students to pay attention in general around campus, even in the most mundane of tasks.

"If you're stuck by an unsterile needle, you're contracting any disease that person it's been in contact with has," said Dr. Pat Spangler, medical director of MTSU Health

Services. "If a needle has been laying there a long time out in the air, there's not a big chance of bodily fluids."

Spangler said that the disease medical centers usually check for patients who've been pricked by needles is tetanus, though all blood-borne diseases or bacterial infections are considered.

Spangler also said it is possible to contract HIV through needles, though the possibility is low. Studies show it is much more likely to contract HIV and AIDS through sexual intercourse than by being pricked by a needle.

Anyone with information about the nature of this incident should call MTSU po-



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Students happily and legally deface a giant wall outside the Keathley University Center on Wednesday afternoon. The wall art will eventually be auctioned off for charity.

Students' graffiti raises money

STAFF REPORT

Hundreds of students gathered to tag up a graffiti wall the MTSU Student Programming Fine Arts Committee constructed in front of the Keathley University Center last Wednesday.

"We are funded by the student body," said Will Cameron, a sophomore photography major. "We wanted to host this promotional event to get students, especially new ones, involved."

The committee built the wall and provided spray paint for any students who wanted to make donations in order to paint on it.

"People could give donations of whatever they wanted," said Alison Ford, a freshman digital animation and studio art major. "We probably saw over 100 students come and [contribute] to the wall."

Along with the student wall, the committee also created a wall and had professional artists

from WorkForce Rebellion paint it. DJ Kidsmeal provided music while the event took place.

"WorkForce Rebellion is a crew from Nashville that does murals all over the city, as well as Rockettown and other exhibitions," Cameron said.

Cameron said they are planning on putting up sections of the professional wall in the KUC lounge for display and will eventually put them up for auction and give the money to charity.

New building ground broken

By MARIE KEMPH
Staff Writer

Lawmakers, MTSU administrators and officials from the Tennessee Board of Regents came together Friday morning for the groundbreaking of the new College of Education and Behavioral Science building.

President Sidney McPhee said that the \$32.7 million construction project for the building will provide the MTSU community with new opportunities and the tools necessary to ensure high-quality teachers.

"The building is designed to enhance the students' time at our university," McPhee said.

McPhee said the new facility will include almost 1,000 classroom seats, 87 faculty offices, formal and informal gathering areas, labs, conference rooms, and an auditorium that will seat 100 people.

The project is scheduled to be completed by 2011, and open for operations for the spring 2012 semester, McPhee said. As of now, the project is meeting construction deadlines and has stayed within the projected budget.

EDUCATION, PAGE 2

Theatre Dept. brings award-winning musical to MTSU

By ROZALIND RUTH
Staff Writer

The Tony Award-winning musical "Ragtime" will be performed by MTSU's School of Music in the Tucker Theatre Nov. 6-8.

The musical, written by Terrence McNally with music by Stephen Flaherty, is based on a Tony Award-winning book.

"Ragtime" presents many narratives about different social groups living in America at the turn of the 20th century.

Erica Simmons, a senior liberal arts major who plays the role of Sarah, said the music is her favorite part of the play.

"It draws them — music unifies us in culture," Simmons said.

Different races are all sepa-

rated at the beginning of the show, but they all come together through music.

"It's a simply fantastic play," said Raphael Bundage, director of choral activities and producer of "Ragtime."

"It's wonderful to see our diverse student body come together and put on something like this."

The production has more than a 40-member cast, as well as the costuming and technical crew comprised of students and alumni.

"This [production] is especially grand and large," Bundage said.

The show will have a live full orchestra of about 20 players, said Bundage. The orchestra musicians will be students from the School of Music.

"That's how the composer intended it and that's how we

do it," Bundage said.

Deborah Anderson, director of "Ragtime" and a professor in the school of speech and theatre, said she enjoys making the stories come alive on stage.

"Ragtime" is a departure from other MTSU productions due to its large size," Anderson said.

Justin Durham, Tucker Theatre's facility director, designed "Ragtime's" set, which has three levels of scaffolding.

"I wanted the industrial look," Durham said.

Richard Browder, choreographer of "Ragtime" and MTSU alumnus, said the choreography is based on dance trends of the time, as well as traditional musical theater choreography.

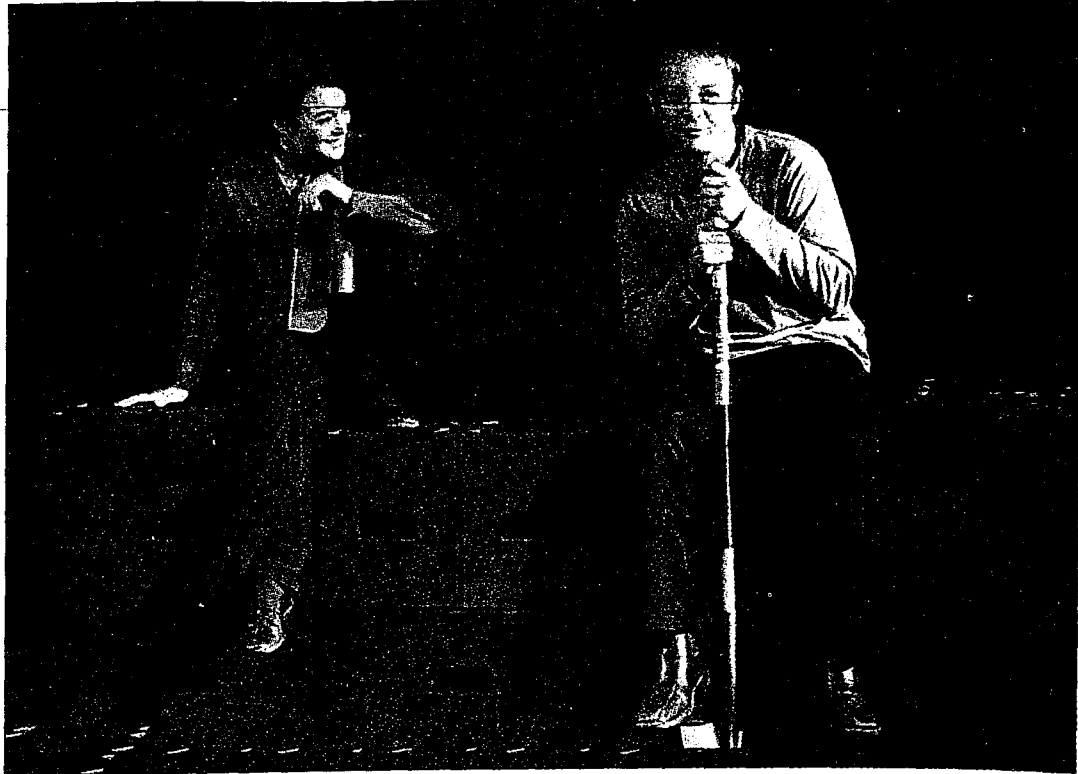


Photo by Chris Donahue, contributing photographer

Kayla Bratton and Norman Hanks rehearse for Tucker Theatre's upcoming presentation of "Ragtime."

RAGTIME, PAGE 2

CRIME BRIEFS

Oct. 25, 9:39 a.m.

Drug Abuse

Scarlett Commons Apartments

Joshua Grant was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana.

Oct. 25, 12:36 p.m.

Burglary

Greek Row

Student of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity came to station to report theft of textbooks from his room.

Oct. 25, 6:45 p.m.

Traffic

Baird Lane

Charlene Odgie was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

Oct. 26, 10:10 a.m.

Vandalism

Murphy Center

Subject advised that a door to the racquetball court was damaged the night of the step show. Estimated loss is \$150.

Oct. 27, 12:08 a.m.

Traffic

Scarlett Commons parking lot

Chelsey Collins was issued a state citation for illegally parking in a handicap space.

Oct. 27, 2:23 p.m.

Assault

Keathley University Center

Officers responded to a call involving an authorized group on the KUC Knoll. An officer observed one of the group members being pushed. Michaela Morales was arrested for simple assault.

Oct. 27, 3:51 p.m.

Theft

Scarlett Commons Apartments

Report of a stolen bicycle.

Oct. 28, 11:24 a.m.

Theft

James E. Walker Library

Report of a stolen wallet.

Oct. 28, 3:28 p.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Reported vandalism to a light pole.

Oct. 28, 5:34 p.m.

Harassment

Greenland Drive parking lot B

Reports of a subject making threatening remarks and gestures.

Oct. 29, 2:16 p.m.

Theft

Recreation Center

Subject called wanting to report his locker being broken into and his laptop being stolen.

Oct. 29, 3:40 p.m.

Theft

Rutherford parking lot

Report of items stolen from a vehicle.

Oct. 29, 4:20 p.m.

Theft

Felder Hall

Report of a debit card being stolen from dorm room.

Oct. 29, 8:00 p.m.

Malicious Mischief

Peck Hall

Report of a hypodermic needle in a vending machine at Peck Hall.

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 1

Charles Manning, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, spoke during the groundbreaking ceremony, and briefly touched on the economic issues surrounding higher education.

"We will spend the money just as fast as we can," Manning said. "Despite the state problems, MTSU's role is important to the surrounding communities. I am overwhelmingly pleased with this project."

The initial funds allocated to pay for the construction of the new building were approved two years ago, before the economic recession and do not consist of student fees. State lawmakers approved funding the project with a mixture of cash appropriations and state bonds.

Earlier this year, school officials were concerned that state lawmakers would not follow through with providing the money for construction costs, due to budget cuts and the recent scrutiny of the increased tuition prices enacted this year.

"Lawmakers made a tough decision to support construction," McPhee said, adding,

that without the continued support and lobbying efforts by some state lawmakers, including former Rep. John Hood who is now employed at MTSU, the new education building would not be possible.

"The new building will enhance the image of teacher education and encourage more students to enroll," Tom Tozer, director of news and public affairs, said while officiating as master of ceremonies.

Tennessee state Senator Bill Ketron, Reps. Joe Carr and Jim Tracy, were also among the distinguished guests in attendance, and mingled with school faculty and administration following the ceremony.

"These are exciting times at MTSU," McPhee said, adding, the school was recently named as one of the "Top 100 Public Universities in the Nation," by "Forbes Magazine." MTSU is currently ranked 57th and is the only Tennessee school included in the rankings.

McPhee said he was honored by the recognition, and that the new facility is just one example of how important it is to continue to meet the demands of current and prospective students.

RAGTIME FROM PAGE 1

"It's very stylized," Browder said. "It's not your typical modern Broadway [dancing]."

The costumes are more traditional to the time period said alumnus Trish Clark, costume designer for "Ragtime." Clark said the costumes will help the audience recognize which social group a character belongs.

Shawn Lewis, an alumnus who plays the part of Coalhouse Walker Jr., said he thinks students should come to see "Ragtime" to support the arts and their fellow students.

Michael Morrison, a senior liberal arts major who plays Henry Ford, said "Ragtime" tells how different races were separated, but through music and art they come together.

Justin Nelson, a chorus member of "Ragtime" and junior in general music education, said he chose to audition for "Ragtime" because he felt like he could relate to the story because it deals with issues of diversity.

Carole Presley, a junior liberal arts major, said she feels fortunate to be in a show that deals with issues of racism and discrimination.

"The nature of the show is so diverse and so real," Presley said.

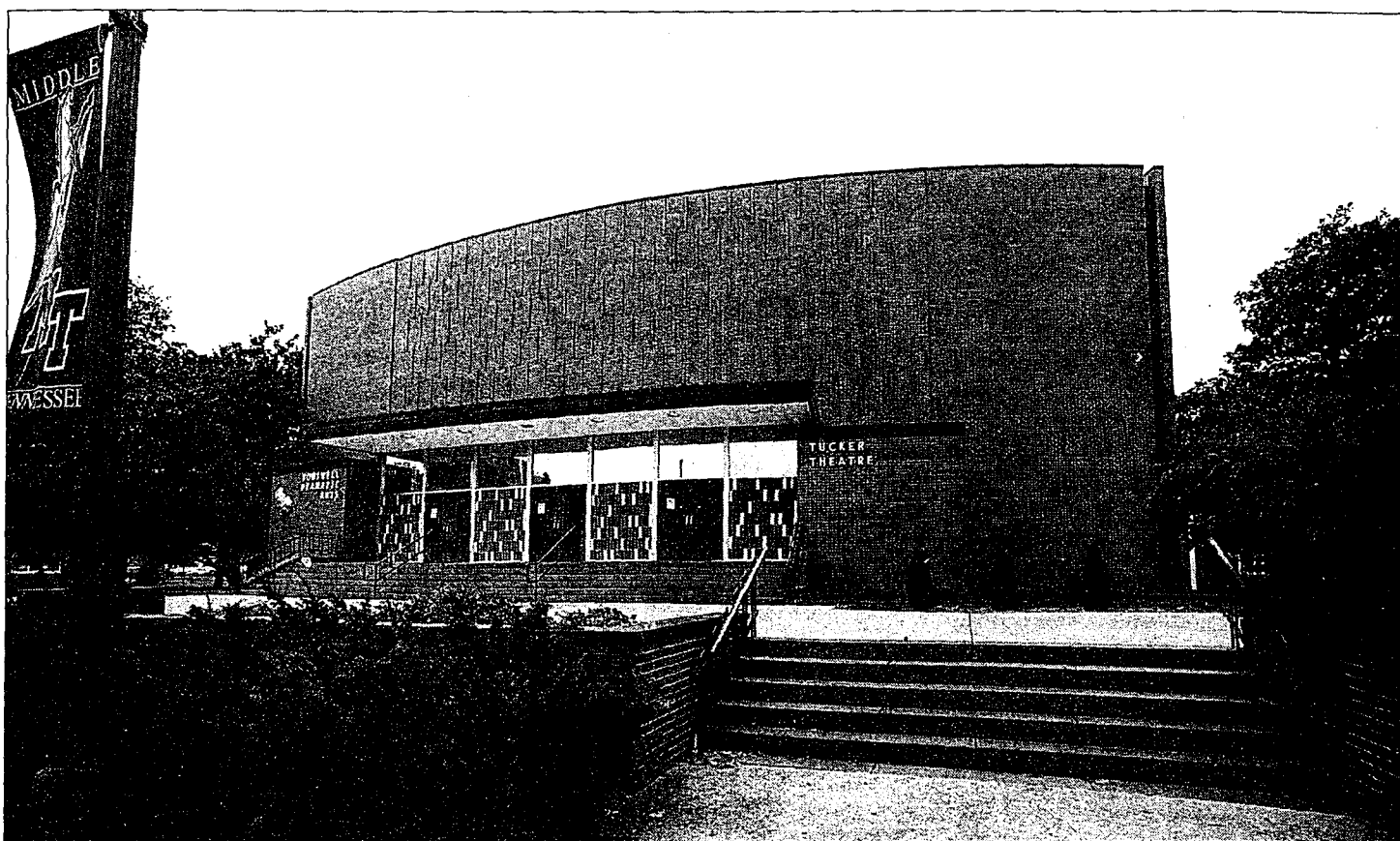


Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer

Tucker Theatre will close in March to undergo a \$1.4 million renovation. The closing displaces two pre-scheduled performances.

Theater closes for remodeling

Current facilities don't meet ADA accessibility standards

By BRETT POE
Staff Writer

Students in the Department of Speech and Theatre can expect big changes next semester for Tucker Theatre as the facility undergoes renovations beginning in March 2010 to improve compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards for accessible design.

Renovations are scheduled to be completed in early August 2010, in time for the start of the fall semester.

President Sidney McPhee started talks with theater manager Justin Durham last year to appropriate funds to the department and begin making needed changes to the theater. Once the stimulus money was approved through the state budget, Durham got the phone to go ahead with the project, a call he'd been waiting for since July.

"Once the money was there, talks could begin with the dean's office and the provost office," Durham said.

About \$1.4 million is budgeted for the project, according to Jeff Gibson, director of Tucker Theatre. Plans for the theater include refurbishing the original seating, which has been in place since 1964, redesigning the main lobby, increasing square footage and creating a new space for the box office.

The main purpose behind the renovations, however, is to bring the theater up to ADA codes, providing wheelchair accessible ramps up to entrance as well as improving accessibility to control areas in the theater.

Restrooms will also be updated, including the installation of a family restroom to meet ADA requirements.

Durham said he thinks the impact of the project will be two-fold.

"On an academic side, for our disabled students, accessibility will be so much easier," Durham said. "People think of [Tucker Theatre] as rundown. They will want to see the updates after the renovations. It's an opportunity to grab our patrons and keep them coming back."

Gibson said he thinks that the timing of the project will work out for the best, and the project should have minimal impact on students' abilities to perform.

"This is the time to do it," he said. "I'm extremely ecstatic for the renovation."

Two performances are scheduled for the department after renovations begin, but Gibson sees the challenge as a learning experience for the students.

"Appalachian Roots," a play written by students, is scheduled to begin touring to local elementary schools in April, according to Gib-


son. Without the use of Tucker, he said he's hopeful the actors might be able to perform on campus in the Alumni Memorial Gym.

Durham said he thinks touring the show locally will give the students valuable learning experience in repeatedly setting up and tearing down a show, preparing them for a tour of the show in Ireland beginning in May.

The other affected performance is the Spring Dance Show. The dance is now being planned as a "found-space performance," Gibson said. "It's a sort of avant-garde idea; you don't have to have a theatre space to perform."

Though Gibson and Durham said they are still exploring options, one possible location for the dance show may be the tennis courts or another type of athletic space.

Neither performance has yet to be cast.



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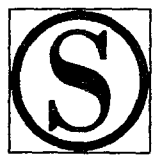
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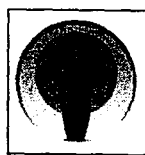
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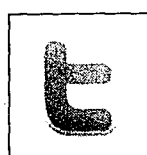
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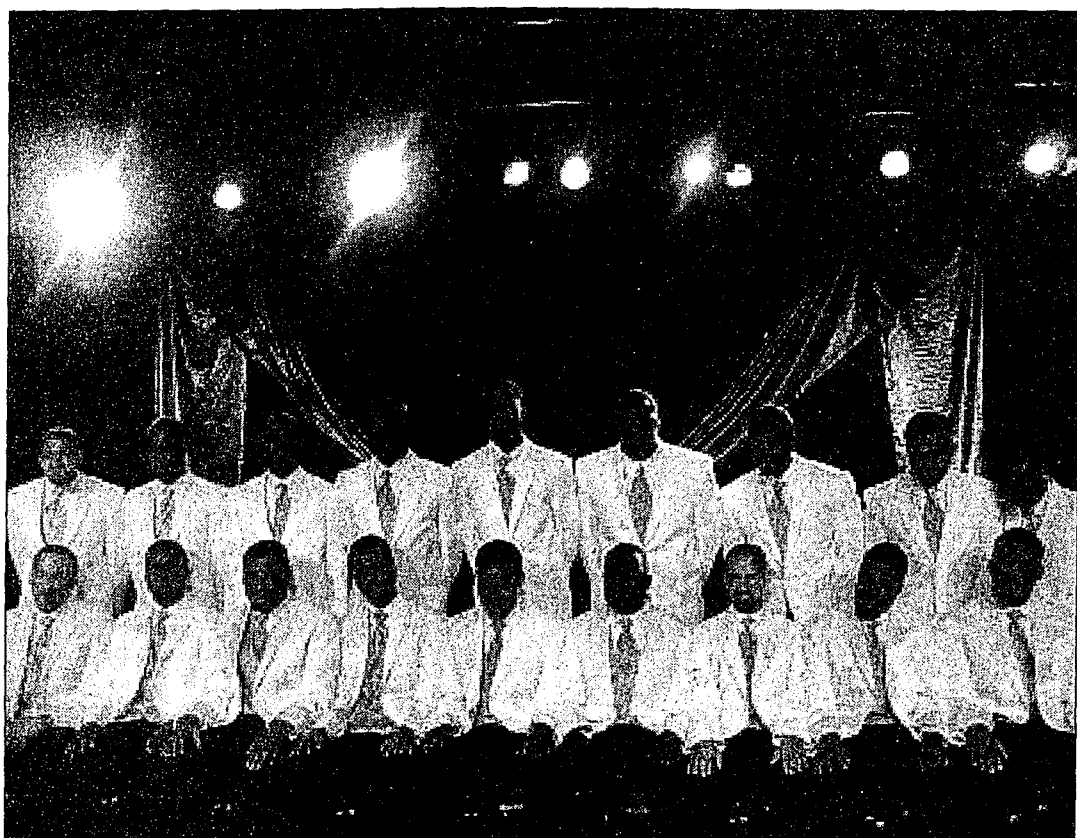


Photo submitted by Jeremy Johnson, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
The gentlemen of Alpha Phi Alpha pose for their 24th annual Ms. Black and Gold pageant on Wednesday.

SGA discusses preacher

By MARIE KEMPH
Staff Writer

The recent arrest of student Michaela Morales, involving the PinPoint Evangelism preachers, became an issue of debate during the Student Government Association's meeting last Thursday.

Senator Erika Maclin, a representative of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, was the first to bring up the issue and questioned the decision during the weekly meeting.

"Why is our campus so open to have trespassers like that here?" Maclin asked.

The discussion of the First Amendment rights of the three men and free expression in general became the topic of debate for the evening.

"Organizations are allowed to be on campus once all the appropriate information and paperwork has been filled out," SGA President Brandon McNary said. "There's been talk of why this group was allowed, but it is a First Amendment issue."

The incident took place two days prior to the SGA meeting and involved assault allegations between Michaela Morales, a junior social work major, and John McGlone, a preacher with PinPoint Evan-

gelism. The female student was later arrested, and the incident is still under investigation.

"People need to understand what the First Amendment means," said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

He added that people cannot support free speech strictly for their beliefs; they must support it even when a group's message is incompatible with their own.

Fitch said a workshop held to discuss the U.S. Constitution would be more beneficial, adding that MTSU is a public institution, and students need to understand that free speech applies to everyone.

"We cannot ban people from campus based on views," he said. "I will not apologize, and school administrators will not apologize for abiding by the law."

Others were concerned about the possibility of the group returning to campus, what possible procedures should be taken in the future and if groups deemed "inappropriate" or "hateful" could be denied access.

"This group is mentally dangerous," Senator Brenna McDaniel of the College of Mass Communication

said, adding that she had researched the group on YouTube, did not like the group's controversial message and does not want them back.

At-large Senator Drew Dunlop said that the SGA needs to review the approval process, and that there was not enough security at the event.

Senator Brandon Thomas of the College of Liberal Arts proposed that the SGA should host a workshop to educate students on how to react properly to controversial groups. Senator Chelsea Curtis of the College of Liberal Arts disagreed, and said a workshop is unnecessary.

McNary also addressed rumors about the accusations that Fitch was there and saw all of the incident.

"Dr. Fitch and I were in a weekly meeting in the KUC Conference Room 210," McNary said. "His secretary, Susan Thorton, got him out of the meeting to tell him what was going on."

Fitch said the rumors about him were completely false and unfounded. He said that police are investigating the allegations involving Morales and McGlone, and if any are true, then the appropriate school officials will address that particular issue.

Ms. Black and Gold crowned

Winner of pageant will go to hometown of Memphis for state-wide competition

By CHRIS MAYO
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Room of the James Union Building was packed with students eager to see who would be crowned in the 24th Annual Alpha Phi Alpha Miss Black and Gold Pageant Wednesday night.

Fourteen young women competed in the pageant, but it was Jasmine White, a sophomore biochemistry major, who walked away with the crown and a \$300 scholarship.

"Words can't express the way I feel," White said. "I'm just honored to be representing the prestigious Kappa Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc."

White will hold the title of Miss Black and Gold at MTSU for a year, and she will also go on to compete in the state competition that will be held in her hometown of Memphis on Nov. 21.

White said that she will be a lot more comfortable there with her family and church to support her.

"I was shaking in my

knees," White said. "Before I went on stage each time, I said a little prayer to calm me down."

Also receiving scholarships were second runner-up Miacia Porter, a junior journalism major, and first runner-up Brittany Holt, a sophomore business major. Holt will take White's place if she can't perform her duties.

Dornedria Cross, a sophomore mass communications major, won the title of Miss Congeniality. Kay Lana Tate, a junior accounting major, won the People's Choice award. This award was determined by the audience placing money in the box of their favorite contestant. All the proceeds went to the March of Dimes.

The eight judges came from across the state and judged the contestants on several criteria, including academic achievements, oratory ability, performed talent, physical poise and appearance.

The master and mistress of ceremony were former Student Government As-

sociation president Sondra Wilson and Reverend James McCarroll of Murfreesboro's First Baptist Church East.

The event started with an opening dance by all 14 contestants, followed by a showcase of the women in both casual wear and swimwear. Each contestant showed off their own particular style and were escorted by the men of Alpha Phi Alpha.

The contest continued with the talent showcase, which featured music, dancing, baton twirling and poetry.

Asia Muhammad, a senior basic and applied sciences major, blew the crowd away with her piano medley, which blended excerpts of works by classic composers Beethoven and Mozart with melodies from modern hits. Her performance earned her a standing ovation and the talent trophy for the pageant.

"It was a humbling experience [to walk with them]," said Jozmen Robinson, president of Alpha Phi Alpha. "They were very impressive, and it was a great show and we had a great crowd."

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of Nov. 9

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring 2010 semesters:

Managing Editor	Copy editor
News editor	Assistant editors
Sports editor	Staff writers
Features editor	Staff photographers
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To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out a staff application. These positions are open until filled.

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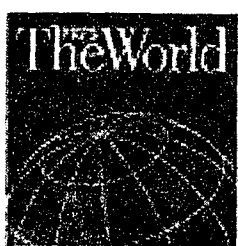
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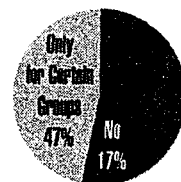
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FEATURES



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Horses enlighten, engage students

By ALLISON ARMSTRONG
Contributing Writer

Few people think of the horse as a collegiate teaching tool. The horse is an animal of extraordinary grace and speed, more like a work of art than a textbook or a set of equations.

Still, the horse is a valuable educational tool, one that students and professors at MTSU utilize nearly every day of the school year.

Granted, the school stables aren't located in the heart of campus, and horses don't roam the green spaces on campus or clatter down the hallways of the Davis Science Building. Take a 15-minute drive, however, and you'll find the MTSU Horse Science Center, located just off Thompson Lane.

The program is part of the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience and is dedicated to educating students about all aspects of the modern equine through classroom work and hands-on experience.

Like any other department on campus, the HSC is full of professors and students on a daily basis. Some 86 majors and nearly 100 minors attend their horse-related classes in the center. One additional element, however, makes the HSC unique. It's attached directly to the school stables, where the ingredient that makes everything possible is housed: horses.

One swing of the door leaves the traditional classrooms and lobby of the HSC behind, and suddenly the aroma of horses, pine shavings and leather prevails. If you are a horse person, such scents are synonymous with heaven.

And if you are a Horse Science student, you know that college never smelled so good.

The Horse Science program is unique in that "professors" are not limited to the two-legged variety. In addition to its talented human faculty and staff, the program utilizes some 45 horses for both riding and judging classes, as well as a small herd of breeding stock.



Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Every horse on the property possesses some quality or skill that makes it a valuable teaching animal.

"All of these horses have something to show every rider," says Christine Henry, a sophomore from Marietta, Ga.

She entered MTSU in May 2008 and began working at the barn in June.

Henry has ridden every school horse available in the stables, so she knows what she's talking about.

"The horses bring the textbook material to life," Henry explains. "Without them, we'd only have bones," she says, referring to the skeleton of the horse that stands in the corner of one of the HSC classrooms.

The school horses are either donated by their owners or bred and raised there. They range in age from foals to 20-somethings, and come in all shapes, sizes, colors and skill levels. Many were award-winning show horses before they came to the center.

Most of the school horses came to the university both for a second chance and for a good home, according to Henry. At least one horse in the MTSU barn might have ended up dead had she not come to the program.

"Crossword was a show pony who had some terrible experiences with [horse] trailers," Henry explains. "She destroyed at least two trailers

and probably would have been euthanized if she hadn't been sent here instead. Fortunately, she can live here on the property year-round."

Crossword is used for both equitation classes and equestrian team lessons. She has taught countless people how to hone their skills during her time in the program.

"These horses come here for a second chance," Henry declares. "They love their jobs, and they are treated like the superstars they are."

Of course, Crossword is just one of many school horses who help educate students who come through the program.

"The horses at MTSU have been a great influence on my

education in helping me to understand horses, how they function and what makes them tick," says Carol Gaw Laine, a Horse Science sophomore from Lebanon, Tenn.

While Laine has always been passionate about horses, she was deathly afraid of them until just a few years ago.

"MTSU's horses have helped me come to know what is typical equine behavior and response, and [have] lessened my fear tremendously," she says.

Owen the Big and Comfy are two horses who have had a tremendous impact on Laine.

"I learned, and continue to learn, to have patience with Owen and [to] ask him to do things in a way he under-

stands," Laine says. "Owen's size is very intimidating, but with help, I have learned to see him for what he is and not what he appears to be."

Laine has, in the past three years, progressed from being afraid of horses to competing in her first two jumping shows this past summer.

"I have learned so much from the horses in the program," she explains. "To ride correctly takes a huge amount of physicality, but mentally it is way more involved. [The horses] have taught me to stay in the moment and to be present with them, not thinking of anything else."

Patrick Kayser, professor of equine health and equine reproductive physiology, finds that having the horses nearby improves his teaching style as well. Since the center keeps Tennessee Walking Horse breedingstock on the property, Kayser's Equine Reproduction and Breeding classes are able to witness elements of the horse breeding industry firsthand.

In addition to being four-legged teachers, both Heydare and Seve serve as good ambassadors for the program to the public.

"A lot of people [from the community] come to see our horses," Kayser says. "We are one of the signature programs of the university, and we are well-recognized as a leader of equine education in the horse community."

Whereas any student can ask any professor to elaborate on his experiences, it takes a special language to communicate with a horse. Teaching that language to students is what Horse Science is all about.

"Students often limit themselves by their own expectations," Kayser says. "[If] you push them to exceed their own expectations, they begin to realize what's possible, and they really progress forward from that point."

If they could talk, the MTSU school horses would undoubtedly agree with him.

'PARANORMAL ACTIVITY' HAUNTS MOVIE THEATERS

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER
Staff Writer

Scary movies are in season, and one of the products of this year's Halloween season is the movie "Paranormal Activity."

The film may not present the murdering slasher America has come to expect from horror films, but it finds the means to deliver the shivers to audiences just as well.

Combining the documentary through-the-lens style and agonizing suspense, "Paranormal Activity" is a contribution to the horror genre that really gets you into the holiday spirit.

Directed by Oren Peli, "Paranormal Activity" uses the mockumentary approach so the entire movie feels like real footage or video documentation.

"Paranormal Activity" distinguishes itself with static, set camera angles that create horrifying suspense.

The film begins without a title or credits. It merely has a notice from the producers thanking the families responsible for "providing the footage." The film focuses on the couple **Katie** (Katie Featherston)

and Micah (Micah Sloat) and the strange occurrences that happen inside their house.

Katie is convinced that since she was a child, she has been followed by a strange and haunting presence, but Micah is skeptical and gets a video camera to try and document the invisible intruder as they sleep.

Director: Oren Peli

Starring: Katie Featherston,
Micah Sloat

Rating: R for language

Run Time: 86 minutes



After a while, there are enough strange occurrences and video footage to convince Micah there is a problem. Instead of hiring a doctor like Katie begged, Micah decides to take the matter into his own hands.

Micah's arrogance in taunting the apparition and constantly documenting every step causes the couple to get into spats of

fighting. Things only get worse for the couple when Micah brings a Ouija board into the home against Katie's wishes.

While I sympathize with Katie and her horrifying situation, I find Micah to be an arrogant, egotistical jerk who put his lover's life in danger just to prove he is in control of a situation he does not fully understand.

Despite the crazy events happening, he always seemed to make Katie's fears humorous. Micah's character is pretty irritating, but that kept me pulled into the movie.

Unlike most horror films, where the movie immediately throws the audience into scary or grotesque images popping out of nowhere or demented killers running amok, "Paranormal Activity" uses subtlety to ease the audience into a good scare.

The movie is about an hour and 36 minutes long, and at least half an hour of the film is spent getting to know the lovers and their house.

Peli's direction causes a kind of anxiety that the first part of the movie almost



Photo courtesy of Dreamworks

Katie rocks back and forth against the bed after an encounter with the entity in the haunted house she shares with Micah.

made me forget it was a horror film. I was rudely awakened from that illusion and was ripped right back into reality every time the lovers went to bed. The film is not based on a true story, but the way the movie felt real added a pleasing touch.

One downside to "Paranormal Activity" is how

the movie is pretty slow to get into the action. Like the movie "Jaws," the feeling of suspense and anxiety are emitted when watching the film because of how little you actually see the antagonist.

That normally is not a bad thing, and it definitely sets it apart from movies

like "The Blair Witch Project", but when you wait over half an hour in an hour and a half long film to see any action, it gets to be a little too much.

One of the reasons the movie has become so popular is how they released it to the masses. Paramount Pictures originally placed the fate of the movie and where it is played solely in the fans' hands. In order to watch the movie, fans had to go to the "Paranormal Activity" Web site and demand that the movie be available to theaters in their area.

According to the film's Web site, more than 1,000,000 people from around the country demanded the film play in their city. In response, Paramount Pictures agreed to release the movie nationwide on Oct. 16.

"Paranormal Activity" is a decent movie for being both a low budget movie and a mockumentary.

In all honesty, the film did not live up to the hype it was getting, but it still can leave you looking over your shoulder at night. I give "Paranormal Activity" 2 ghosts out of 4.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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

RAGE AND LOATHING on the KUC Knoll

"Hell" and "sin" punctuated the general din of an unruly crowd. One man held a tall sign printed in the Wild West font with a laundry list of the Lord's malcontents: fornicators, drunks, thieves, immodest women and especially God-haters.

The sidewalk foamed with at least a hundred people wiggled out on enmity, nicotine and adrenaline. They held signs. "Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster," "Ninja," "No one expects the Spanish Inquisition" and "He's gay," scrawled on the ripped-off back of a spiral notebook.

We were somewhere around the Knoll on the edge of the quad when the rage began.

A woman with dark curly hair in a white vest strolled by, then turned and screamed something at the top of her lungs about "loud hypocrites." I turned. She looked at least three levels of pissed-off higher than the rest of the crowd, who seemed to be enjoying themselves in some sick way. She kept walking.

I was distracted by the man with the Bonanza sign, with a protester shouting literally inches from his face. The kid, tall and lanky, was leaning down into the shorter man's face and gesturing about his head. They bobbed around the grass for a few steps until preacher man clutched his sign and started hustling towards a cop car rolling across the lawn.

I pushed over to the officer, who was clearly not amused. I wondered how often she saw a few hundred raving lunatics in one place.

"I'm expressing my Constitutional rights!" he shouted at her. She held both at arm's length. The kid melted away. The cop turned towards the crowd, thronging around the man standing over the sidewalk. They were really starting to seethe for this guy. I ran back up the steps. The scene was starting to fill up as the sidewalk closed and the preacher traded insults with the people. The keening of the immediate group of protesters became seriously loud.

I heard another unspecific shout back towards the quad. White vest lady was shouting, dangling what looked to be a rosary from one hand, her face twisted into a Cheney scowl. I thought she left, but lost her in the shuffle when the first cop showed up. Now she was back, but on the opposite side of the crowd closer to the building. I worked my way up the sidewalk close to the wall where the man was shouting. He was perched at the very edge of the concrete lip, reaching over the crowd and really giving it to them.

The crowd closest to the flower box pushed really close. Students were starting to climb up onto the ledge with the man, who ignored them at first. The "he's gay" sign hovered next to his ear, much to the delight of the mob.

It was then that I wished for the 1960s, when people protested by silently turning their backs on their antagonists. I also wished for a hip flask. The situation was clearly on the brink of getting out of hand.

I stepped up on the grass out of the melee for an instant to find the photographer. Another reporter was nervously sucking a cigarette. There were at least a handful of people in the flower box behind and surrounding camera preacher, getting really close. He changed tactics from screaming in general to scream-



The Pen is Mightier
Evan Barker

ing at people in specific, as the slurs flew.

Photog and I dove back in, pushing close to the box, just to the right of the main sidewalk where the most vocal opponents were clustered. We were totally surrounded by now. People stood across the sidewalk under the trees, up on the smoking porch and near the building. The squad car sat on the lawn towards the photography building as the officer worked into the crowd.

There's nothing like being in a very blended mob as an older white man shouts hellfire down at you. Kind of like feeling the last few hundred years vicariously. Down with The Man! Solidarity!

I saw the lady in the vest up on the ledge. She

couldn't have been more than six inches from the preacher, who clung to the corner of the concrete lip where he'd been for at least 15 minutes by now. This woman was in full-blown loathing, shrilly having it out. I could hear her over the group. This marked a clear escalation of tension. For the first time, he started to look outnumbered. No place to go with this lady up in his grill.

"Take your hands off my breasts!" Oh shit.

Preacher was totally trapped. His sign wavered overhead. Vest girl was turned to face him, screaming like a hellhound. Her arms

were at the height of her chest. Preacher man feebly raised an arm. I wondered if he wished that he'd quit while he was ahead.

"Take your hands off my breasts!"

I had a sickening vision of a statue in Baghdad toppling off its pedestal. In grotesque slow motion, the tall sign rolled nautically towards the photographer and me. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine. Three hundred people gasped. Free speech crushed. Might makes right.

His arms flung out as he rolled off the ledge and collapsed in a heap under his sign on the step below. There was a half-hearted cheer and a handful of the mob laughed. For an instant, I saw the girl in the vest standing alone on the wall, totally expressionless, a huge empty space to her side. The crowd crushed in. She wandered off the wall and circled around the crowd, directly into the cop, who led her back. The man still rolled facedown, a small group kneeling around. The rest of the mob tittered uneasily.

Nine squad cars appeared from all sides. The crowd began to dissolve.

The standard questioning: who pushed whom? How did he fall? Did you do it?

"I didn't do anything wrong! Arrest me! Carry me!" Hands in the air.

The police circled in, sending people away.

The preacher got up, paramedics and police attending. As he walked away, "Do you have anything you want to say?"

"I forgive her."

The lady moved behind a squad car to be frisked. In an instant, she was in the car. A man came up threatening to sue —she was defending herself, he said.

Thus, the ignorant and angry turned a peaceable assembly into the random and hurtful. Christ had nothing to do with the events on the Knoll, except forgiving us all, I hope.

Evan Barker is a senior English major and the Opinions Editor of Sidelines. He can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

Second chance college Nontraditional like me

Beth Silva

I graduated high school in 1993. I had a full scholarship for my college courses. I went to college because it was the right thing to do, because I thought I wanted to do "something" in business. At that time, I lived with my parents and worked. All expenses were paid. I remember my challenge was to wake up when the alarm clock went off; it was so easy to snooze for 15 more minutes. I wasn't always late, just sometimes. I had a lot of friends and I could easily pass the day socializing at school. My normal schedule was go to school, go to work, come home and do homework as late as I needed, for as long as I needed, wherever I wanted. And, my weekends were free for me.

Then I met my (ex) boyfriend and I was stupid enough to let him convince me to drop out of college so we could be rich with our own Internet business! What a crock! We didn't get rich; far from it. I still don't have a degree and I'm still not a millionaire (can you believe it?). Nowadays, I can't find 15 minutes for Pilates, let alone, snooze with my alarm clock.

My new schedule is: wake up, eat breakfast, wake my son up, get us to the daycare before 8:00, go to class, study, pick him up at 4:15, feed him, bathe him, put him in bed by 8:00, and I usually fall asleep around midnight. Excluding weekends, I have about four and half hours a day, without my son (no unnecessary distractions — a collegiate parent's dream).

However, in addition to being a full-time student; studying, doing homework and writing papers, my husband and I have a business, with very unpredictable and undependable income. Each week, I spend a few hours balancing the books and collecting late payments from delinquent clients. To make life even more interesting, we have a vacant house, out of state. That means we pay rent plus a few hundred dollars, two times a month, with one income. And, since I am not "working" I get to post and manage the ads and interview potential renters. Occasionally we drive four hours on the weekends to show the house to potential renters. We try to spend "family time" together on Sundays (which is also a great day to study).

So, once again, 12 years later, I'm a full-time student. This time, there is no turning back. Yes, I have many more challenges and responsibilities this time, I am so much more focused and determined, I will graduate and I will be a teacher very soon.

My word of advice to all students: stay focused, make a small sacrifice now that will pay off in the future.

This essay won the Nontraditional Student Week essay contest hosted by the office of Off-Campus Student Services. Beth Silva is a freshman business education major and can be reached at ets2m@mtsu.edu. November 2-6 is Nontraditional Student Week.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Keep eyes peeled while retrieving your drinks, change

Everyone loves a practical joke. However, when that practical joke turns into a rush to the emergency room, well, that's just not funny any more.

It's a sad day when students have to worry about finding something other than change in the coin return slot of a Pepsi machine. In this case, it was an unsterile hypodermic needle.

To date, there are no confirmed instances of contaminated needles turning up in pay phone and vending machine coin returns, let alone a case of someone actually contracting diseases this way, according to snopes.com, a urban legend reference page. However, there's a first time for everything.

The fact of the matter is, it's incredibly unlikely to contract HIV or hepatitis through a needle that's been sitting in the open air of a coin return, but don't go looking for one.

However, no matter how odd it seems, freak incidents do occur. So, if you go to buy a frosty beverage, keep your eyes peeled.



Listen to the editorial board podcast online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions

Pastor clarifies Jesus's message

Guest column

Robbie Russell

On Wednesday, I opened up my Twitter to find several tweets that read "MTSU student jailed in assault of preacher." After reading the article and viewing several videos on YouTube I couldn't help but feel frustrated.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the free speech area of the Knoll in front of the Keathley University Center, evangelist Tracy Bays quoted a fragment of John 8:11 when he said "go, and sin no more." As is often the case, however, scripture quoted absent of context breeds confusion, frustration and sometimes even violence; I believe that was the situation on Tuesday. In fact, the full story captured in John 8:1-11 shares a substantively different message than that preached that day but a strikingly similar backdrop.

The story shows Jesus in another of His battles with the religious legalists of His day. Trying to trap Him into a misstep they could use against Him, they brought a woman who'd been caught in an adulterous relationship. Knowing the law condemned the woman to be stoned to

death, they asked Jesus what He thought should happen to her. His response was that anyone there who had never done anything wrong should throw the first stone. One by one, each of those who had called for her execution walked away ashamed. Jesus then addressed the woman, asking her who was left to condemn her. No one she answered. Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Jesus wasn't condoning her behavior; nor was He suggesting it was possible for her to never do anything wrong again. Jesus had just risked His own life by challenging an angry mob to save this woman. His hope was that she would now recognize the harmful lifestyle she was engaged in and change in ways that would ultimately bring her joy and fulfillment. His motive — love.

The crowds that threatened the woman that day, that called her names and condemned her did so under the banner of legal, moral and religious grounds. Sound familiar? It is easy to attack those engaged in lifestyles or behavior that we find objectionable. Unfortunately,

many who call themselves Christians are known more for what they're against than what they're for. While there are certainly standards in the Bible that guide us in life, those standards are for our benefit, and our motivation for living and sharing these standards should be the same as Jesus' — love.

The most familiar verse in the Bible is John 3:16. It's a verse that explains God's sacrificial love for mankind. Fewer are as familiar with the text that follows in John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." The message of Christianity, and therefore the message of Christians, is not a message of condemnation but a message of love and hope. Anything else is a perversion of the Gospel and wrong on many levels.

Robbie Russell is a pastor and director of the on-campus organization The Point, which holds a weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 7 pm at New Vision Baptist Church, 1750 N. Thompson Lane. Guests are always welcome.

Got a news tip?

email it to sleditor@mtsu.edu or slnews@mtsu.edu

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Byron Wilkes*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Sports
Chris Welch
slsports@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Andy Harper*
smanage@mtsu.edu

Asst. Campus News
Emma Egli*
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Photography
Jay Bailey*
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Alex Moorman
slnews@mtsu.edu

Asst. Features
Faith Franklin
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Asst. Comm. News
Dustin Evans
slstate@mtsu.edu

Asst. Sports
Richard Lowe
sports02@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Evan Barker*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor
Allison Roberts
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features
Katy Coil
sifeatur@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

* denotes member of editorial board

SPORTS

Blue Raiders ground FAU Owls

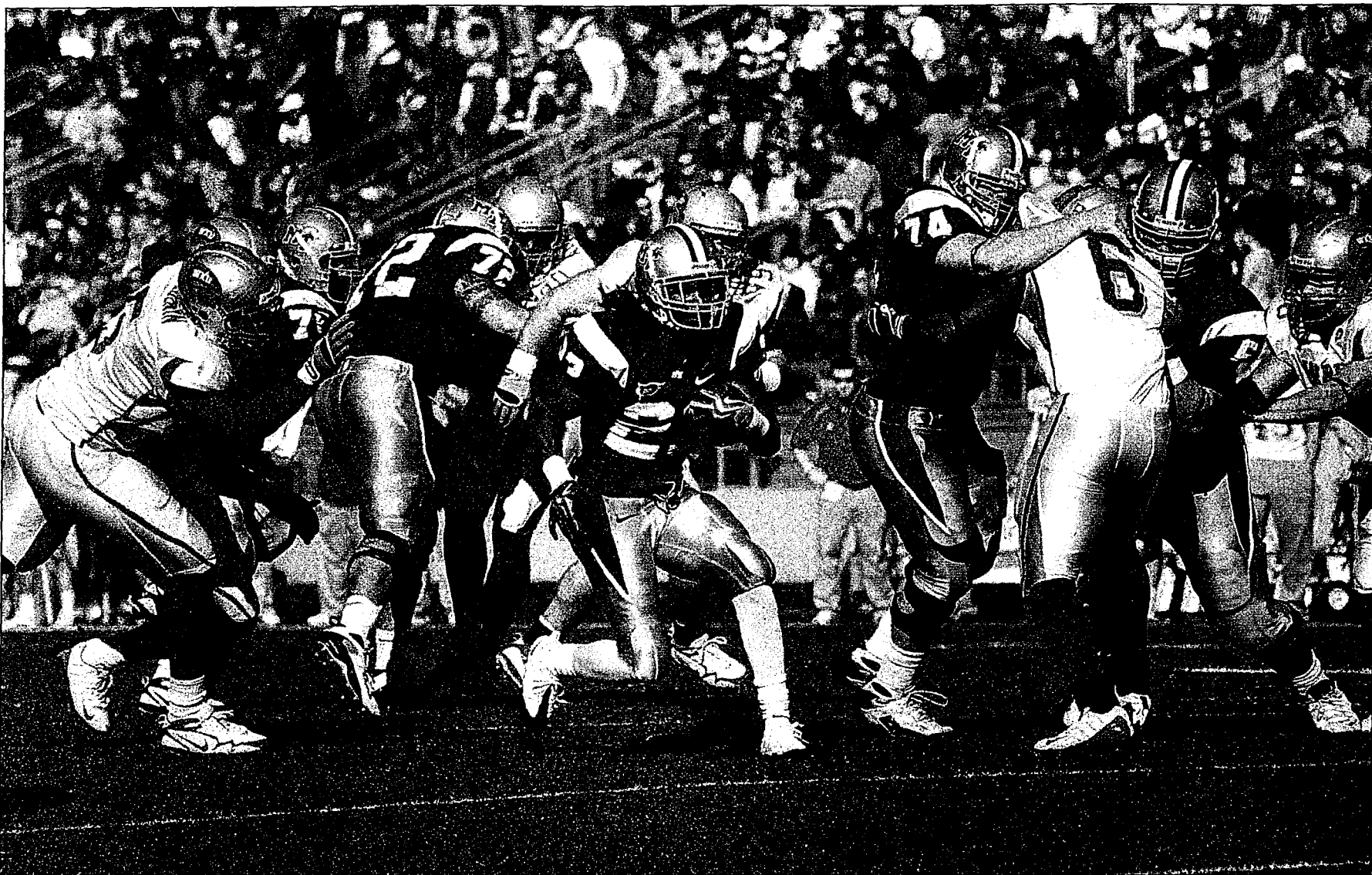


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Running back D.D. Kyles sprints past the Western Kentucky defense at the Homecoming game Oct. 24. Kyles had a career day and rushed a total of 140 yards during the game.

Fourth quarter touchdown by Dasher, Kyles bring MT victory

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Quarterback Dwight Dasher broke a 74-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter as the Blue Raiders came from behind to beat Florida Atlantic University 27-20 in Boca Raton Saturday.

Dasher and D.D. Kyles, who had a career day, both rushed for over 100 yards, with Dasher's fourth quarter run giving him 108 for the day and Kyles accumulating 140 in just his second career start.

The Owls scored the first points of the game late in the first quarter after two stalled possessions by both teams. A Dasher fumble on the ensuing Blue Raiders drive gave FAU good field position, which they were able to convert and jump out to a 10-0 lead at the 3:30 mark of the first quarter.

MT's first points came less than two minutes later when SaCoby Carter blocked a punt by Owls' punter Mickey Groody, which was picked up



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Wide receiver Harold Turner rushes the ball during the Blue Raiders' Homecoming game Oct. 24.

by Sherman Neal and ran all the way back for a touchdown.

Groody's next punt attempt on the ensuing possession went just as poorly, as he was tackled in the backfield by Neal before he could get a punt off.

The play set MT up at the Owl 37-yard line, but the Raiders were unable to move the ball effectively and settled for a 46-yard field goal by Alan Gendrau to tie the game at 10.

The Owls promptly marched on the Blue Raiders, ending with an 18-yard touch-

down pass from quarterback Rusty Smith to Cortez Gent to regain the lead, 17-10.

FAU drove and attempted a field goal on their next possession, but senior cornerback Marcus Udell was able to break through the line and block the kick to keep the Blue Raiders down by only one score.

Udell then intercepted a Smith pass, eventually setting Gendrau up to nail a 27-yard field goal to end the half.

The Blue Raider defense held its own in the second half, only allowing a 42-yard

Athletics to run football attendance competition

STAFF REPORT

MT's athletic department, in partnership with Student Programming, has announced the "Run for the Bowl" student attendance competitions.

The contest is for student organizations on campus and will continue for the remainder of the home football schedule.

Student organizations that register will compete to bring the largest percentage of their group to Middle Tennessee's last three home football games. The winning organization will have their choice between a 50-inch Flat Screen TV, a \$600 Visa gift card

or a pizza party.

The athletic department also announced a special on ticket prices for the remaining three home games of the 2009 season.

Fans can get a ticket to all three remaining home games for just \$30 or the last two for \$20.

The last three opponents for the Blue Raiders at home this season is Florida International (Nov. 7), Louisiana (Nov. 14), and Arkansas State (Nov. 21).

MT currently stands at 5-3 with four games remaining on the schedule. They are one win away from being bowl-eligible but will have a better shot at gaining a bowl bid with more wins.

field goal by Ross Gornall at the start of the fourth quarter.

MT only needed 1:02 to tie the game as they went 80 yards on the ensuing possession, with Kyles capping off the drive with an 8-yard touchdown run.

Danny Carmichael finished with a career-best 15 tackles, with Cam Robinson contributing 14 of his own.

The Blue Raiders return to Floyd Stadium next week to host Florida International University.

Volleyball victorious at first home game

By ETHAN LANNOM
Staff Writer

The MTSU volleyball team took on the Jaguars of South Alabama Friday night. The Blue Raiders played at home for the first time in five matches.

Coming into the match, the squad had been on a tremendous run, winning its previous eight matches. During the stretch, the teams Middle Tennessee defeated included Western Kentucky, Denver, North Texas, Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State.

The streak dates back to Oct. 9, and the Blue Raiders look to continue similar great play.

In the match, the team had 31 kills with a .318 attack percentage. Meanwhile, the team held South Alabama to 22 kills with a measly .026 hitting percentage.

Junior Izabela Kozon was the lone Blue Raider with double-digit kills as she notched 15 for a .414 attack percentage.

On Oct. 26, Senior Leslie Clark was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week. She was the first setter this season to receive the weekly award. Fri-

day night, Clark maintained her excellent run, leading the offense with 31 assists, five kills and four block assists.

Defensively, senior Janay Yancey had a team high five block assists and junior Alyssa Wistrick recorded three.

MT was dominant throughout, especially early in the match, holding the Jaguars to a -0.78 hitting percentage and 11 kills in the first two sets. The final tally was a straight set win 25-19, 25-15, 25-18.

On Saturday, the Blue Raiders took on rival the Troy Trojans, which would round off the weekend's play.

Kozon again led MT with 11 kills and was the only Blue Raider with double-digit kills. She had a .345 hitting percentage and also posted four digs defensively.

As a team, MTSU had 35 kills for a .287 attack percentage.

Janay Yancey, Alyssa Wistrick, and sophomore Stacy Oladinni each recorded three block assists. Overall, the Blue Raiders had eight blocks on the night.

The contest proved to be closer in the second and third sets. However, MT wrapped it up in straight sets 25-11, 25-

22, 25-21.

After starting the season fluctuating greatly with a 5-6 record, the Blue Raiders have since went 14-1, bringing their record to 19-7. The team is now an astounding 12-1 in the Sun Belt Conference.

MT is currently on a 10-game winning streak, with its last loss coming at Florida International on Oct. 4.

This pair of straight set wins also continued MT's streak of five consecutive matches winning three sets to none. During this recent run, the Blue Raiders defeated UL-Lafayette, UL-Monroe and New Orleans as well.

The MT volleyball team will be back in action next week when it plays Florida Atlantic and Florida International at home in Alumni Memorial Gym. These matches will finish up the home matches for the season.

The Blue Raiders take on Florida Atlantic Friday night at 7 p.m. Senior night events will take place before the match. On Saturday, MT will take on FIU in a battle for the Sun Belt East Division title.

MT soccer season ends with loss to Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The regular season of Blue Raider soccer came to a close on Friday night when the team dropped a 2-0 match to rival Western Kentucky at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

The Hilltoppers would score once in each half to take the win.

"We played a very solid WKU team," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We did not play as smart as we could have, and our mistakes were costly."

"Our primary focus now is on the conference tournament, and we hope to make a good run at it."

The Hilltoppers came to the Blue Raider campus with a 14-4-1 record (9-2 in the Sun Belt).

WKU began the scoring for the night in the opening 45 minutes, when Mallory Outerbridge hopped around a pair of Blue Raider defenders before taking a shot from outside the box into the back of the net at 23:02. MT's goalie, sophomore Rebecca Cushing, attempted to block, but failed.

MT would fail to take more than two shots during the opening 45 minutes, and as the period ended, the team trailed by one.

The second period would be much of the same for the dilapidated Blue Raider team. WKU would again find the goal at 51:38, as Kellie Walker and Kelsey Meyer both led to Kaylyn Pratt for another score from 10 yards out.

There was hope in the last minute, as sophomore midfielder Laura Lamberth took a shot at 44:00, but it would be blocked by the Hilltoppers as well.

Sophomore midfielder Luisa Moscoso was the only MT athlete with more than one shot through the match. The Bogotá, Columbia native held fast with two attempts at Hilltopper keeper Libby Stout. Morgan Thomas and Lindsey Goad paced WKU with three shots each.

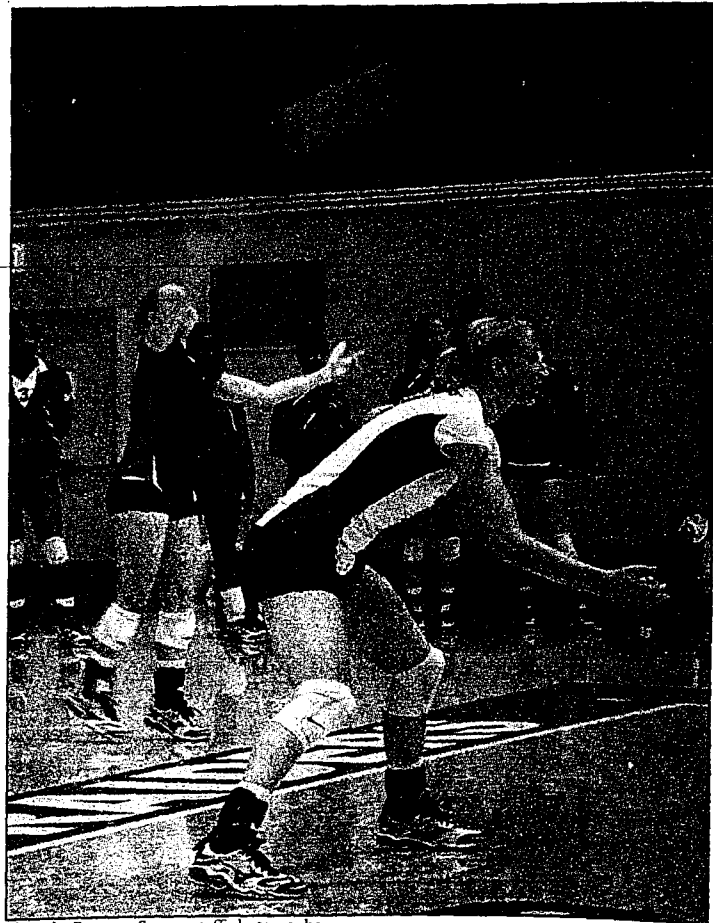


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Ashley Waugh serves against Troy during Friday's game against Troy.