

Credit card woes put students deeper into debt.

Features, page 17

MON
76°/52°

TUES
76°/52°

WED
78°/56°

MTSU athlete receives first Player of the Week award.

Sports, page 20

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 1

Campus welcomes new students

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

The department of New Student and Family Programs will be hosting Week of Welcome for students and faculty to participate in free events from Friday, Aug. 28 through Wednesday, Sept. 9.

"These events will give new students an opportunity to get out and meet each other, as well as get familiar with Murfreesboro," said Rob Patterson, coordinator for New Student and Family Programs.

The week begins with We-Haul, a two-day event where volunteers help students move into their residence halls.

"Primarily we focus on helping the incoming freshmen, but we have grown to have so many events in recent years that we pretty much spread volunteers out all across campus," said Jacqueline Victory, director of Student Organizations and Services.

Victory said they get help predominantly from student organizations, as well as a lot of outside community help.

"We can expect to have about 500 volunteers sign up," Victory said. "Most are from churches around the community, but we also get help from Greek organizations, Student Government Association and

campus ministries."

There will be a Mexican dinner and music the first Friday night on the Keathley University Center Knoll, as well as a showing of "The Dark Knight" on a projector.

Patterson said the following evening information booths will be set up in front of the KUC for students to visit.

"It just gives them a chance to get those frequently asked questions answered so that they can become better acquainted with campus," Patterson said.

There will also be a street fair with carnival games for students to participate in and dinner catered by Aramark later in the evening.

"The game booth at the street fair will be run by student affairs administrators that volunteer," Patterson said. "This gives students a perfect opportunity to meet some of their administrators."

The university convocation is scheduled to be held the following Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Murphy Center with guest speaker Michael Gates Gill, author of the summer reading, "How Starbucks Saved My Life."

"He will discuss his memoir and how students can apply it to everyday life,"



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Haley Jones, freshman nursing major, and Andy Boaz, Haley's grandfather, move boxes into her new apartment just before fall semester.

Patterson said. "There will be a president's picnic following the convocation in the Keathley University Center Knoll."

Meet Murfreesboro is scheduled to be held on the

Knoll on the Tuesday and Wednesday after classes have started.

"We have over 50 businesses that come on campus and showcase their products and services," Patterson said.

"There will be free samples from restaurants, coupons and drawings."

One of the biggest events taking place during Week of Welcome will be guest comedian Ralphie May's show at 8

p.m. in the Murphy Center.

"We took student suggestions, and after factoring in our budget, we let students vote and they chose Ralphie," Patterson said.

WELCOME, PAGE 3

WE-HAUL (All Day)

DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6:30 AND AN OUTDOOR MOVIE WILL BE SHOWN IN THE KUC COURTYARD DURING THE NIGHT.

University Convocation

Sunday, August 30th

GUEST SPEAKER MICHAEL GATES GILL, AUTHOR OF THE SUMMER READING, "HOW STARBUCKS SAVED MY LIFE," WILL SPEAK AT 2 P.M. IN THE MURPHY CENTER.

Meet Murfreesboro

Tuesday, September 1st

COME SEE WHAT MURFREESBORO HAS TO OFFER FROM 10 AM - 2 PM IN THE KUC COURTYARD.

Department Fair

Thursday, September 3rd

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 11 AM - 1 PM. FREE COOKIES AND LEMONADE WILL BE SERVED AT 12 NOON. AND BLUE RAIDER BASH WILL BE HELD AT 6 PM. ALL IN THE KUC COURTYARD.

Volunteer Fair

Tuesday, September 9th

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 10 AM - 2 PM IN THE KUC COURTYARD.

Dance the Night Away

Friday, September 11th

COME AND DANCE WITH MTSU IN THE JOB TENNESSEE ROOM FROM 8 PM - MIDNIGHT!

WE-HAUL (All Day)
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29th
DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6:30 AND AN OUTDOOR MOVIE WILL BE SHOWN IN THE KUC COURTYARD DURING THE NIGHT.

Friday, August 28th

Classes Begin

Meet Murfreesboro
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd
INFORMATION BOOTHS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 10 AM - 4 PM. THERE WILL ALSO BE DINNER AND A STREET FAIR AT 6 PM IN THE KUC COURTYARD.

Monday, September 7th

Labor Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Student Organization Fair
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS YOU WANT TO JOIN BETWEEN 10 AM - 2 PM IN THE KUC COURTYARD.



Graphic by Shelley Vernon, production manager

Health care debate comes to Tucker Theatre

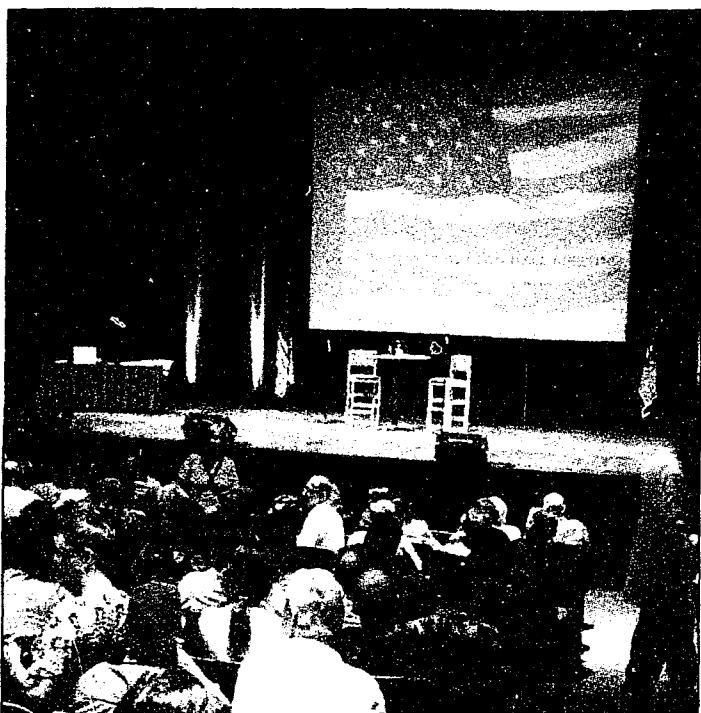


Photo by Dust in Evans, assistant community news editor

Members of the community gather in Tucker Theater for the town hall meeting.

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

Congressman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., spent the duration of his Congressional recess covering a series of telephone town hall meetings, one-on-one sessions and a large-scale town hall meeting for district 6 at Tucker Theatre.

Residents of Middle Tennessee attended the town hall meeting at Tucker Theatre to discuss, amongst other issues, their interests in regards to congressional options of health care reform. After previously making no plans for a town hall meeting, Gordon accepted *The Daily News Journal's* invitation to have a moderated event on Aug. 24.

"Health care is a really personal issue," Gordon said. "I

was concerned about having an open meeting because there had been so many protests outside my office, [and] I didn't want to see anyone get hurt."

“MTSU has the opportunity to influence not only the local debate, but the direction that this country is going into.”

TONY CANI
STATE DIRECTOR FOR THE TENNESSEE CHANGE THAT WORKS CAMPAIGN

Gordon said he felt the town hall meeting was very civil, and that under the moderation of *The Daily News Journal*, both sides of the debate were heard. However, he said the evening would have been better spent discussing mutually respect-

ed ideas, as opposed to arguing about disagreements to legislative decisions that have not been made.

"People have strong feelings about issues, [and] I

didn't think it would be constructive to have a shouting match between two sides," Gordon said. "I wish there was more of an effort tonight to talk about things that we agree upon."

Tony Cani, the state director of the Tennessee Change

That Works Campaign at Service Employees International Union, said the debate in Middle Tennessee was not only more civil than other debates throughout the nation, but that Middle Tennessee may prove to be a more powerful region in the debate.

"One of the most important areas in the entire country for health care reform is Murfreesboro and Middle Tennessee because our congressman, Bart Gordon, is an influential member who could be the person who kills or passes reform," Cani said. "We are finding that people in Middle Tennessee are polite and want to be a part of this discussion."

HEALTH, PAGE 6

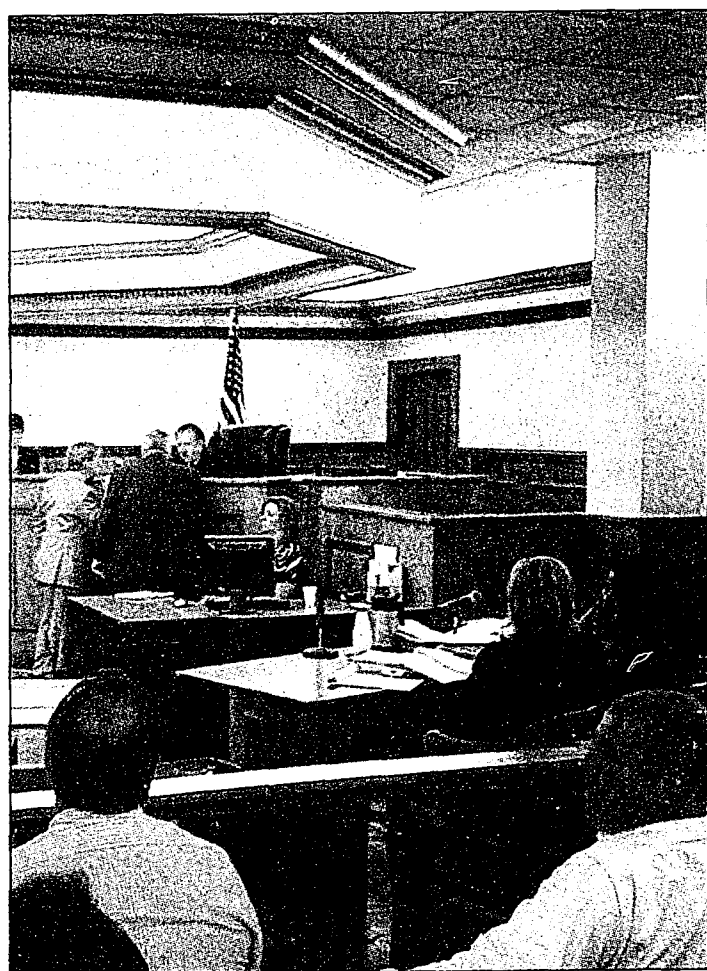


Photo by Dustin Evans, assistant community news editor
The trial for Startlett Custer began July 13 and concluded on July 15. Her sentencing is set for Sept. 4.

Starlett Custer awaits final sentencing

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

Starlett Custer, the MTSU student charged with reckless endangerment and reckless aggravated assault from the Bell Street Lot dispute, awaits her sentencing on Sept. 4.

Custer received a guilty verdict from a jury of her peers on July 15 and will return to the courtroom of Hon. David Bragg to receive her final sentencing.

"On the reckless endangerment charge, a misdemeanor, she is looking at anywhere from straight probation on that up to 11 months and 29 days in jail," Assistant District Attorney Paul Newman said. "On the reckless aggravated assault, that is a felony charge, and she is looking at anywhere between two and four years either on probation or in jail."

Newman said Judge Bragg will make the final sentencing and he will determine what amount of time, if any, she will spend incarcerated.

Custer was involved with an altercation with Ashley Ramsay, who also attended classes during the fall of 2008. Custer and Ramsay were involved in a dispute over a parking spot that became violent.

"I am satisfied that justice was served," Ramsay said immediately following the delivery of the verdict. "I have been scared over the past year, and I am happy I'll be able to sleep at night again."

Joe Brandon, the attorney for the defense, said that there were numerous aspects about the case that leave him questioning the verdict. He said the fact that Ramsay's car was never searched, and that the MTSU Department of Public Safety refused assistance from other local police departments leave the case unfounded.

"I could not imagine anyone saying that they



Custer

would not like to know what was in the other girl's car or that they would not like to know that the

other girl's car had been searched," Brandon said. "It is absolutely incredible that you could let your mind rest easy that Ms. Custer committed this offense."

MTSU Chief of Police Buddy Peaster said that the decisions made during the crime scene were essential to the safety of the students, faculty and staff. He said that despite claims of arrogance and incompetence, his staff did everything they could have during the incident.

"The scene in the parking lot was MTSU property, [and] for us not to work on that case would have been irresponsible on our part, not arrogance," Peaster said. "Our focus has to be on trying to do the best we can and [providing] the best case we can for the prosecution, and then work with the framework of what the system is supposed to be in order to provide fairness to everybody involved."

Brandon said that Custer could be eligible for alternative relief, including split-confinement, parole at 30 percent of her sentence or probation. However, in the event of incarceration, Brandon said that they will begin the appellate process.

Brandon said that while the sentence could leave Custer with incarceration or freedom, she is willing to accept whatever may come her way.

"Just because she is in a difficult situation, a storm season in her life, she's not willing to let go of wanting God to be in control," Brandon said. "Frankly, she has a tremendous peace about her and has throughout the case."

Benefit concert makes move for cancer patients

By MEGAN MCSWAIN
Staff Writer

An outdoor benefit concert is scheduled for Friday Aug. 28 to help raise money for Franklin County cancer patients.

For the eighth year, the Craig Brock Foundation is putting on its Cancer Steals Music Heals event, which is more commonly known as the Craig Run Concert. The concert, held in downtown Cowan, Tenn., relies on donations to assist Franklin County members who have cancer, said foundation member Jim Brock.

"[The concert] has good music, good food, good times and is a way for people to support a good cause and help our fellow man," Brock said.

Craig Brock, Jim's brother and whom the foundation was named after, lost his battle to a rare form of cancer in June 2001, Jim said.

"It was my brother's dying wish to have a foundation that helps [other cancer patients]," Brock said.

The event is free and open

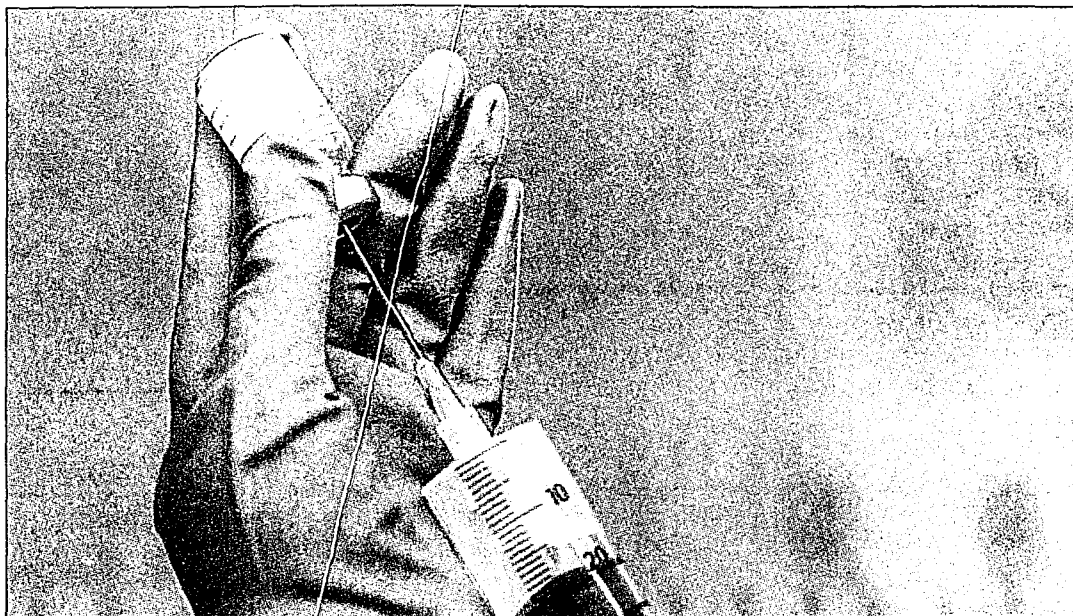


Photo courtesy of Morguefile.com

Benefit concert helps raise funds to provide transportation to people battling cancer.

to the public. Attendees will be charged only for food, but the foundation accepts donations.

Brock said the foundation and its proceeds help transport patients to and from treatment appointments.

One of the foundation's goals for the Craig Run Concert is to raise money to help buy a van to transport patients to their appointments so they feel more comfort-

able, Brock said.

"When [Craig] was traveling to treatment he had to deal with the pain and embarrassment of being sick in public and having people stare at him," Brock said.

Brock said the foundation wants to help make things like transportation easier for cancer patients and their families and provide emotional support in addition to

physical support.

Brock said the concert will feature local acts, including The Penrose Experiment, Jay Clark, Peckerwood, Two Dogs Rose and Southern Proof.

In addition to the concert, attendees can enjoy a new Civil War museum exhibit, which was designed by Middle Tennessee State University's Public History Department.

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WELCOME FROM PAGE 1

The MTSU department fair will take place in the following Thursday, giving students an opportunity to learn what types of services are available to them. Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president, said the Blue Raider Bash, a pep rally sponsored by SGA Athletics and New Student and Family Programs is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. at the KUC Knoll.

"After some of the athletic directors speak there will be some live bands playing," McNary said. "The cheerleaders and dance team will teach the crowd the fight song, and there will be games and giveaways."

After Labor Day, there will be a volunteer fair hosted directly by the Department of Student Organizations and Services.

"The volunteer fair is outside community agen-

cies as well as some departmental offices on campus, looking for student volunteers," Victory said. "Examples include the Red Cross, Project Help, the student chapter of American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity."

Victory said the student organization fair held on the last day of Week of Welcome allows any registered student organization to set up a booth for students to visit.

"They get to showcase to the campus what they have to offer and let students know that they are there," Victory said. "We usually have 100 organizations that are represented."

Patterson said the ultimate goal for Week of Welcome is for students to realize how much MTSU has to offer, as well as make new friends.

"It's the perfect opportunity for them to get better acquainted with campus and to make connections," Patterson said.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Haley Jones, freshman nursing major, moves boxes into her new apartment in preparation for the fall semester.

Greeks hold 'Greekfest' to increase fall recruitment

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

Greek Fest, sponsored by MTSU Greek Affairs, is a free event scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the Keathley University Center Knoll to help increase recruitment.

The event is for all students, Greek and non-Greek, held in an effort to spread information about each Greek organization on campus.

"Greek Fest is a great and comfortable way for incoming and current students to learn more about each organization and what it has to offer them," said Brandon McNary, vice-president for the Interfraternity Council, Student Government Association president and member of Sigma Nu.

The event will have booths for each organization along with food and music by disk jockey Braddy Daddy, a Sigma Nu and DJ for Club 527 in Murfreesboro.

"Each Greek organization will have a table set up with information on their fraternity or sorority

to help find potential new members," McNary said.

Angela King, the new Greek Life director, said that Greek Fest helps the Greek community tell others about their organizations.

King said that while she had not been to the Greek Fests in the past, she was sure that this type of event would definitely boost recruitment.

"This event will show prospective members what it means to be Greek," King said. "People who attend will learn about each organization and see how great it is to participate in an organization on campus."

King said that this event will be fun for everyone and beneficial not only to students not involved in Greek Life but to the ones that are already members because it will bring people together to learn about each other.

"This is a great event for new students to learn about the different organizations," King said. "It's also great for the Greeks because it brings the organizations together as a community."

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Nashville metro city council parks handguns

Ban on guns in parks legislation reinstated by city officials days before provision would have taken effect

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

In a 22-18 vote on Tuesday, the Nashville Metro Council passed legislation to reinstate the ban on carrying guns in parks. The legislation is part of a provision that allows any municipality within Tennessee to overturn the recently passed legislation, which enables residents with handgun permits to carry their weapons into parks and recreational facilities in the state. "What we are doing is keeping with the most sweeping [U.S.] Supreme

"The question tonight is not about whether or not we are in support of The Second Amendment in our Constitution," LaLonde said. "It is a question of what constitutes a 'sensitive place.'" Opposition rose on the floor of the council from some members, like Councilman Bruce Stanley of District 14, Councilman Eric Crafton of District 22 and Councilman Jim Hodge of District 30. Stanley said that while security is an issue, it is important to remember that the small group of handgun permit owners is

not be infringed," Hodge said. "It's not about guns in parks, it's about your word's worth." Hodge said that if he were to vote "yes," he would have to resign from his office. He said that his word's worth meant more to him than this legislation, and he would have to "keep his word." LaLonde said she is saddened that the debate has brought an idea that supporters of the measure are somehow less supportive of the Constitution. "Tonight it has even gone so far as to say that we are not living up to our oath of office," LaLonde said. "I think it is perfectly reasonable for us to say that our metro parks, more than 50 of which are within a half-mile of our elementary schools, can be said to constitute a 'sensitive place' - Guns do not belong there."

Prior to the passage of the bill, Councilman Sam Coleman of District 32 moved to deter the motion until one meeting had passed, which would occur following the Sept. 1 passage of the state legislation. He said the Council needed more time to determine if certain rural areas should be exempt from the ban, and what areas required the ban. The motion to deter was immediately tabled by a 21-20 vote after Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors cast the tie-breaking vote. A motion of previous question brought an immediate vote on the matter, resulting in the passage.

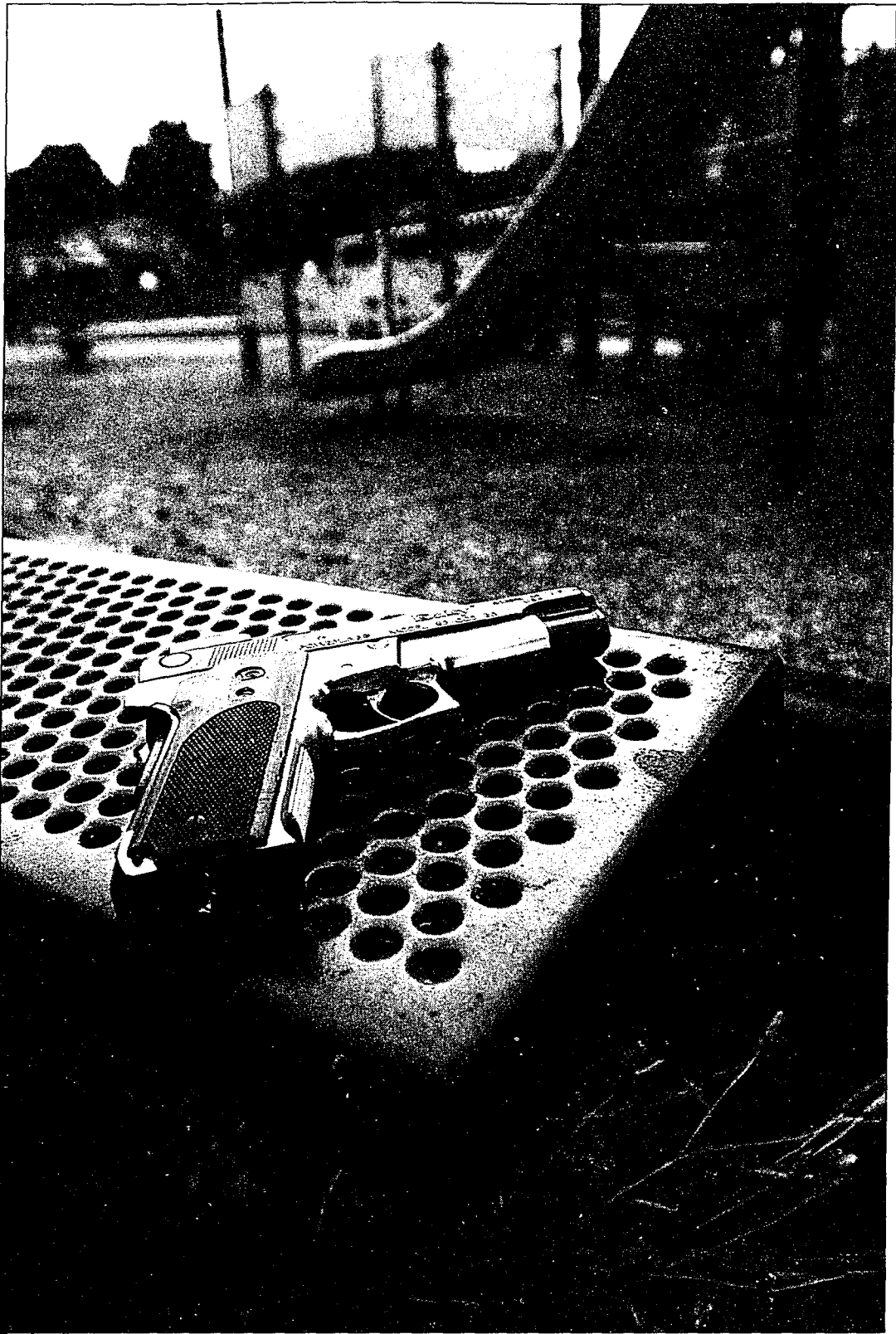


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Nashville Metro Council overturned the state law that would allow guns in parks.

“I think it is perfectly reasonable for us to say that our metro parks, more than 50 of which are within a half-mile of our elementary schools, can be said to constitute as a sensitive place - Guns do not belong there.”

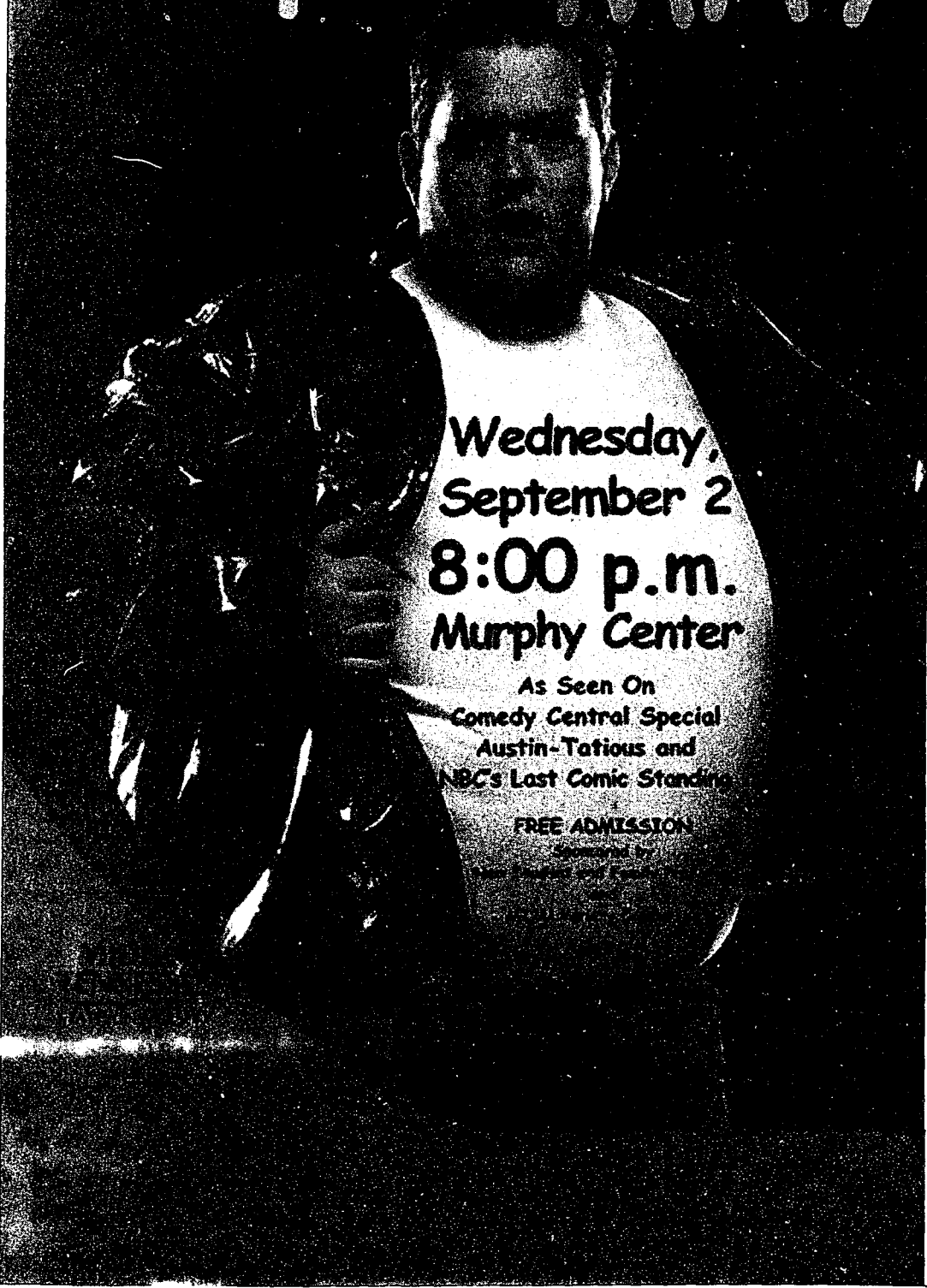
KRISTINE LALONDE
REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT 18

Court decision in favor of individuals' rights to carry guns that has ever been done," said Councilwoman Kristine LaLonde, the representative of district 18. LaLonde said that following District of Columbia v Heller, the US Supreme Court decided that certain areas of land required provisions that prohibit the right to bear arms. She said these "sensitive places," as Justice Antonin Scalia called them, are necessary to recognize and are not a violation of The Second Amendment.

licensed in the safe practice of gun use. Crafton said with only eight park rangers and park usage of around 1,000 people, he would be better able to protect his family with the use of a personal firearm. Hodge, however, said that the question at hand was a deeper matter of Constitutional rights. "Because of my oath of office, I will support the Constitution of the United States, which states the right of the people to keep or bear arms should

Week of Welcome 2009

RalphieMAY



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Construction projects continue through fall

By BEN UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Numerous roads were closed on campus throughout the summer, but despite continued construction and renovation on campus, all roads are set to re-open on Aug. 29 in time for the fall semester.

Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, said construction will begin soon on a new sidewalk that will run from the Campus Recreation Center parking lot along Blue Raider Drive to the walk in front of Womack Lane Apartments along Alumni Drive. The construction may temporarily close one lane of Blue Raider Drive.

Two of the three paved parking rows in the gravel lot next to the Rec Center are still closed from construction to bury pipes that started earlier this summer.

"I was told the spaces would reopen once the construction finished," said Cindy Brown, a parking services worker. "However, a chain link fence is still blocking the area, even though the project is complete."

The white tag faculty lot adjoining the Davis Science Building has opened after it was closed for most of the summer due to construction.

Stacey Clevenger, director of Retail Operations for Aramark Campus Dining, said the plan is to have McCallie Dining Hall open during the ongoing remodeling of Corlew Residence Hall. McCallie is currently in the first stage of a renovation and expansion that should be finished by January 2010.

Renovation of the grill area in the Keathley University Center is complete and the refurbished dining area is now open. Clevenger said the new grill area offers more seating and a mall food court style with new menu and restaurant choices, including an Einstein Brothers Bagel shop.

Construction for the KUC and McCallie Dining Hall was delayed early in the summer because of permit issues.

"We had trouble getting on the agenda [of the fire

marshall],

Tozer said. "His office was busy it took us a while to get someone out to issue the permits."

Clevenger said he was assured that the crews were back on schedule shortly after the permits came in. McCallie Dining Hall now features a more streamlined layout, but has less seating than last semester. Phase two of the renovation will expand the seating and is scheduled to finish spring 2010.

In addition to the renovation of Corlew Residence Hall, the construction of the new Student Union Building located beside the Mass Communications Building will continue for the next few years.

Tozer said the university may have access to the building as early as 2011, but that will depend on a lot of variables.

Tozer said students who are new to campus should take the virtual campus tour available on the university Web site. The tour gives the name and function of every building on campus during a simulated walk-through.

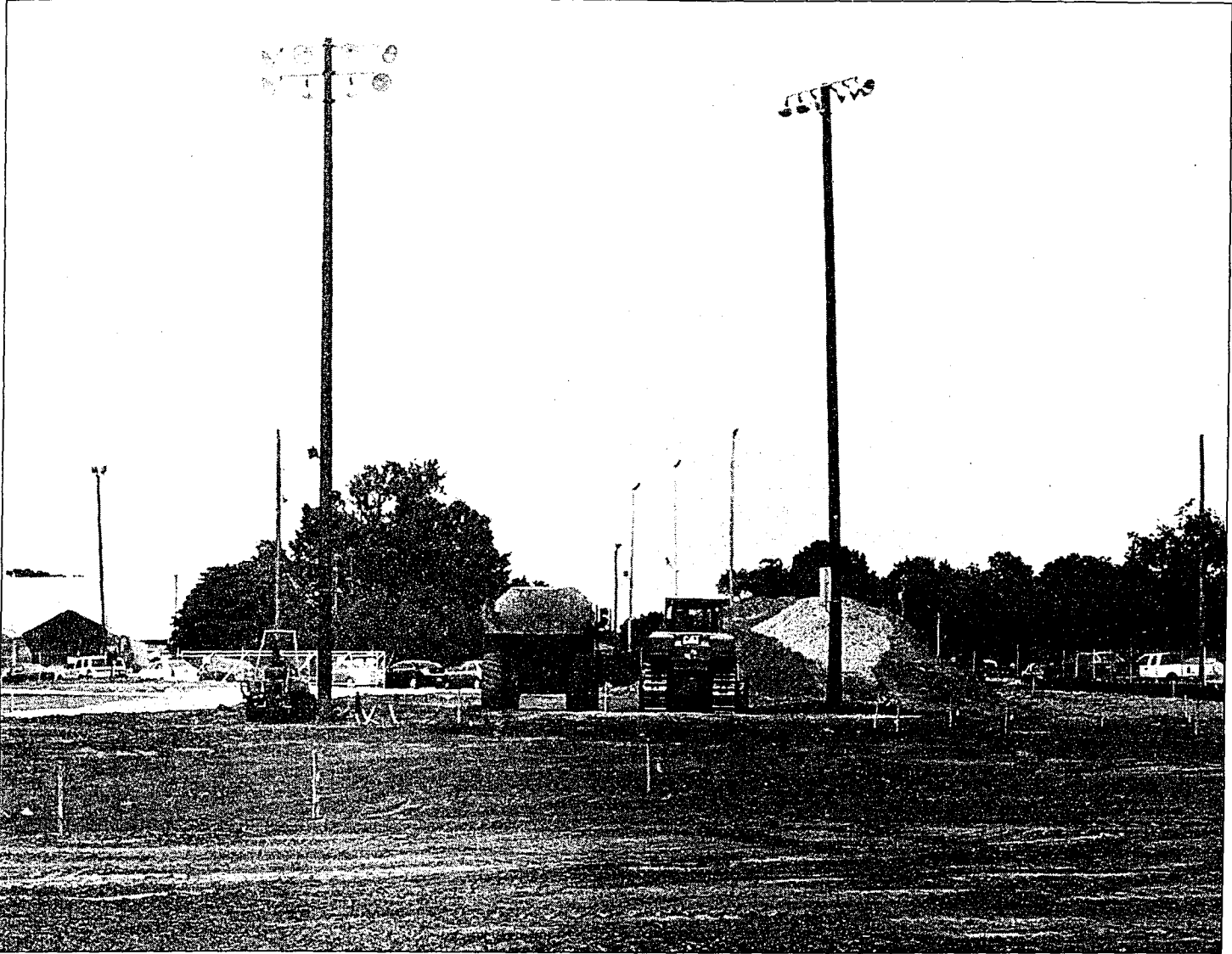



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Construction on the new Student Union Building will continue throughout the academic year. No time has been set for completion.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Renovations of Corlew Residence Hall will be complete after 2010.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
The renovation of the KUC Grill was completed this summer in preparation for the upcoming semester.



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Campus maintenance creates problems for summer workers

By BEN UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Construction and renovation projects have caused various power and water outages around campus throughout the summer and could potentially continue through the fall semester.

A construction administration press release said the largest project of the summer was the installation of water and steam lines along with power ducts for the Campus Recreation Center and the new student union building.

Several buildings lost power last month, including the Parking and Transportation Services building.

"The building lost power twice around 12:45 p.m. on Aug. 24," said Rachel Johnson, a graduate and parking and transportation services worker. "The outage slowed down the employees who were issuing new parking passes to students."

Shane Kelly-Eversum, a student supervisor at the James Union Building cafeteria, said the JUB lost both power and water during August. Eversum said the water outage began during the weekend of Aug. 14, and the staff had to improvise in order to serve various

sports camps.

"We still had steam power, but not water," Eversum said. "We collected water from the Keathley University Center, cooked the food in the JUB and served the football, volleyball and soccer teams in the Murphy Center."

Eversum said he was told the water was off to fix a cracked pipe below the building. Water service resumed on Aug 21.

Caitlin Rozell, a junior mass communications major and student worker at the Rec Center, said she was not aware of any power outages.

"The Rec Center did lose hot water for showers and swimming twice during the summer," Rozell said. "The most recent time was Aug. 20."

Jay Wallace, director of Construction Administration, said in a press release that the university would open bidding on a project to replace a sewer line running through Walnut Grove. Wallace said the line was designed, but that he was not sure they could finish it this summer.

Several other maintenance upgrades are scheduled for the future, such as a heating, ventilations and air conditioning upgrade for the Cope Administration Building.

Democracy in action in the sixth district

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

Congressman Bart Gordon's town hall meeting at MTSU's Tucker Theatre gave residents the opportunity to speak with their Congressional representative during the House recess.

Gordon, the representative for the sixth district of Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives, said he originally planned on having one-on-one meetings with residents and a telephone town hall for the security of his constituents, however, after The Daily News Journal offered to host and moderate the event, he agreed to attend.

"I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to serve all of you in the United States Congress," Gordon said. "There are some things that I like about my job more than others, but one of the things I like most is the opportunity to try to help people."

Residents questioned Gordon about his voting record, the recent stimulus package, cap and trade. However, the predominate topic of the town hall was the health care reform legislation that is sweeping through Congress.

"I'm in a rage because the nations in Europe are all covered by public policies," said James Murray, a resident of Murfreesboro. "I would like for a person in this country that gets sick or injured to be able to walk into a hospital and get treatment and not have to worry about how much it is going to cost."

Gordon said that his decisions on the stimulus vote, his support of "Pay As You GO" and the work he has done with HR3200 in the House Energy and Technology Committee were attempts to repair the economy.

"We have an unprecedented situation that is happening right now [because] we haven't had a recession like this in over 70 years," Gordon said. "I

think probably all of our parents said 'to get out of the hole, you have to stop digging.'"

Gordon said PAYGO was a vital program in reducing the national deficit, and he is working to see that it becomes reinstated under the new administration.

"I support PAYGO," Gordon said. "We were able to get from the largest deficit in our Nation's history down to a surplus in five years."

Gordon said PAYGO was repealed during the Bush administration, but Congress will reinstate the program – leading to a reduction in the federal deficit.

Many residents who attended the meeting were protesting health care reform, omnibus spending and government-funded abortions.

"We are very upset about the direction that the administration is taking us and we feel that [Gordon] is supporting it," said Vicki Twitty, a resident of Murfreesboro.



Photo by Dustin Evans, assistant community news editor
Hundreds of people gathered at the town hall meeting on Monday to discuss the future of health care.

Despite a growing number of violent protests and demonstrations around the country that have occurred so far during the recess, Gordon said the residents

of district six were more of a civil crowd. However, he said he would like to see less argumentative discussions and more cooperative conversations.

"I think it was a very civil meeting today," Gordon said. "I wish there was more of an effort tonight to talk about things that we agree upon."

HEALTH FROM PAGE 1

Cani said that as a graduate of MTSU, Bart Gordon would be very interested in hearing from MTSU students. He said they may be among the most influential residents to the Congressman.

Gordon is seated in a senior position in the House Committee for Energy and Technology – a key committee for HR 3200, a prominent piece of reform legislation in the house, said Cani.

"MTSU has the opportunity to influence not only the local debate, but the direction that this country is going into," Cani said.

Cani said that students are in a very difficult position when it comes to affordable health care. He said that many students are dropped from their parent's insurance plans between the ages of 21-25. He said legislation, like HR 3200, could assist students with this and other health care problems.

"One thing that the proposal will do is allow you to keep [parental] insurance until you are 25," Cani said. "It is a real simple way to help people that are just starting out their life, to not be run over by the fear of overly expensive health care costs."

However, many residents of the sixth district attended health care rallies and town hall meetings to protest any version of "socialized medicine." Tamara Hogshead, a resident of Christiana, said that these policies could not only be inefficient, but also detrimental to the American people.

"I am a registered nurse – I have been for 22 years, and I have seen what government health care is like," Hogshead said. "Our country cannot afford socialized medicine."

"It is the most inefficient form [of health care], and the rest of the world has started to realize that," Hogshead said.

Gordon said that while there are numerous foreign nations that are running successful government health systems, he is interested in finding a plan made specifically for America.

"I don't want to take their [foreign] system and put it on top of ours," Gordon said. "I think we can have a uniquely American system and I think there are changes that need to be made that will make our health care system better than all."

Brenda Baggett, a resident of Murfreesboro, said the foreign countries who have universal health care systems are such failures that the residents of the foreign nations travel to

America to find coverage. She also said the failure of programs, like Medicare, would be echoed in any American health care reform that is not strictly tort reform.

"I have read 800 and something pages [and] there are too many ways and loopholes to kill old people by just taking a pill and dying off," Baggett said. "I'm tired of taking care of people who are too darn lazy to work."

Kelly Ensky, another resident of Rutherford County, said that even with a public option, she is not looking to receive a handout.

"I want to pay for coverage and I can," Ensky said. "There are 47 million people that don't have health care, [and] we don't want it for free."

Cani said that there have been many misconceptions and egregious lies, like Patsy McCaughey and Sarah Palin's "death panel" scare, that have been influencing decisions by people who may not be as savvy at discerning information. He said that even

"I am not going to support any of these bills if they are going to make a single payer plan."

BART GORDON
REPRESENTATIVE 6TH DISTRICT OF TENN. AND U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

how potential legislation could be funded has been misconstrued.

"If we just threw government money at this, it would fall," Cani said. "We know that two-thirds of the cost [of HR3200] is covered by handling inefficiencies and changing the care."

Cani said that the rest of the cost of HR 3200 would be funded with a tax on the wealthiest individuals in the country. He said in the sixth district, the surtax, which is proposed at \$500 thousand for individuals and \$1 million for a two-person household, would affect 1,870 households, 6 percent of the district's population.

Gordon said that it is important to remember that proposals like HR3200 are only one of many unfinished bills that are being discussed in Congress. He said even HR 3200 has 90 more amendments that will be discussed when the House reconvenes.

"There are three bills in the House and two in the Senate," Gordon said. "There is not a health care bill – there is not an Obama bill."

Vicki Twitty, a resident of

Murfreesboro, said her main concern with any reform legislation is to keep insurance and care in the private sector. She said that a public option would lead to bureaucratic decisions that would interfere with the quality of health care.

"We don't want the government involved in our health care," Twitty said. "There are too many problems with our country."

Gordon said that he also would not support a public option if it could turn into a single payer system. He said that any single payer system could lead to a public or private monopoly that would inherently cause problems for the country.

"I want to have health care that is more affordable for individuals and small businesses, [but] I don't want to force anyone into a so-called 'government run program,'" Gordon said. "I am not going to support any of these bills if they are going to make a single payer plan."

Gordon said he is interested in learning more about the co-op system that is also be-

ing debated in Congress. He said that many co-ops, like the Farm Bureau could unite individuals and small business owners to spread the risk and the cost of care.

"There are a lot of folks that work for a small company, they may be self-employed or they may have a pre-existing condition and they are not big enough to join a large health care group and get benefits," Gordon said. "I would like to find a way for those individuals to get involved in a large plan to be able to pool themselves together and be able to have access to affordable health care."

Mike Cannon, a senior philosophy and sociology major at MTSU and a resident of Murfreesboro, said the co-op does not appear to be the most effective plan for reform.

"The problem with the co-op is that no one has a plan for it," Cannon said. "The co-op is abstract whereas the public option has a concrete plan."

Cannon said he is still fighting for the public option even though it may not appear to be "on the table" for many in Congress. He said the public



Photo by Dustin Evans, assistant community news editor
Members of Middle Tennessee gather together at the town hall meeting to discuss health care reform.

option would offer competition with private insurers allowing a lot more people the opportunity to afford care.

Gordon said the bottom line is that by reducing the inefficiencies of our current health care system, we would be able to work with programs like PAYGO and the stimulus package to tackle the greater problems within the economy.

Gordon said that Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton and Newt Ging-

rich, former Speaker of the House, have agreed on an Internet technology system to integrate medical technology to reduce duplicative paperwork and other errors.

"There are many kinds of inefficiencies that we can improve upon," Gordon said. "We can reduce \$81 billion a year if we can integrate that technology."

On one hand, Gordon said he also wants to eliminate the donut hole in the Medicare part

D restriction and the end of excluding people with preexisting conditions from getting the insurance they deserve.

On the other hand, Gordon said he does not think illegal immigrants should receive taxpayer-funded health care, and he wants people to be able to choose their doctors and remain with their current providers if they are insured.

"That is where I think we should be," Gordon said. "Talking about the things [that] we can agree upon."

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Shakespeare comes to Centennial Park

By MEGAN MCSWAIN
Staff Writer

The Nashville Shakespeare Festival's 22nd annual Shakespeare in the Park will showcase the second play of the season on Thursday, August 27 at Centennial Park.

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" is a totally silly play about three guys who know just enough about Shakespeare to think they can [perform] all of Shakespeare's work in less than two hours," said Denise Hicks, director of the play.

Hicks, who is also the festival's artistic director, said the play is for all audience types.

"For people who love Shakespeare, [the play] is a blast because there are references to every play he wrote," Hicks said. "And for people

who hate Shakespeare, it's really funny because it makes a lot of fun of the way the characters die in the tragedies."

Hicks said Shakespeare in the Park is a casual and low-pressure way to enjoy some great actors doing some really funny stuff.

"You can expose yourself to something you might not do normally," said Nancy VanReece, executive director of the festival. "It's fun and it's an opportunity to participate and have a community event."

VanReece said Shakespeare in the Park is a family-friendly event that also welcomes dogs. Attendees can picnic or buy food from any of the vendors on location.

Although the plays are free, Hicks said the festival is asking a \$5 minimum donation per person to the "Save Our Shakespeare" campaign. The

campaign allows the festival to provide a professional Shakespearean experience and employ people in Middle Tennessee.

"We accept cash, check or credit card at the park, but if [attendees] forget to bring anything they can also go online and donate through our Web site," Hicks said.

Because of the struggling economy, the festival has lost some corporate and foundation support, VanReece said.

"Fortunately, people are really stepping up this year and giving twice as much as they ever have before, and we are really encouraged by the response of the public," Hicks said.

For more information about Shakespeare in the Park, play schedules or to make a donation to Save Our Shakespeare, visit nashvilleshakes.org.



Photo courtesy of The Nashville Shakespeare Festival
The Nashville Shakespeare Festival began performances of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" on Thursday.

CURRENT EVENTS

The Cove
Winner of the 2009 Sundance Audience Award
Now through Sept. 3
Monday – Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday – Sunday, 12:40 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Location: Belcourt Theater
Admission: \$5.75 - \$8.50

Chuck Close Prints: Process and Collaboration
Now through Sept. 13
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Admission: Thursday and Friday 5 – 9 p.m. - Free with college ID
Adults: \$8.50, Seniors and Military: \$7.50, Students: \$6.50

Week of Welcome: MTSU Department Fair
Aug. 27, 12:00 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Courtyard
Admission: Free

Music City Barbeque Festival
Aug. 28, 4 – 11 p.m.
Aug. 29, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Location: Riverfront Park
Admission: \$10 day pass, \$15 two day pass

Week of Welcome: Meet Murfreesboro
Aug. 28-29, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center knoll
Admission: Free

Smoke on the Mountain
Aug. 28 – Sept. 13
Location: Nashville Theaterworks
For information and tickets call: 615-915-0461

Week of Welcome: Comedian Finesse Mitchell
Aug. 29, 8 p.m.
Location: Murphy Center
For more information, contact: 615-898-2454

Week of Welcome: Blue Raider Bash/ Big Fat Blue Raider Bake Off
Aug. 30, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Cummings Hall
Admission: Free

CRIME BRIEFS

Jul. 30, 9:49 a.m.
Vandalism
Greek Row
Housing maintenance called wanting to report a broken window on the front of the ATO house.

Jul. 30, 2:10 p.m.
Theft
MTSU Campus
Subject came into the station wanting to report all of the campus newspapers being stolen from racks around campus.

Aug. 1, 4:23 a.m.
DUI
Rutherford BLVD.
Kyle Kazor was arrested for DUI 2nd offense, driving on a revoked license and violation of the Implied Consent Law.

Aug. 2, 12:08 a.m.
Vandalism
Scarlett Commons
A Scarlett Commons RA called reporting that someone discharged two fire extinguishers on the first floor of building six.

Aug. 2, 2:01 a.m.
Vehicle Stop
Off Campus
Rachel Cox was issued a citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Aug. 2, 2:55 a.m.
Traffic Offense
Off campus
Corey Dortch was issued a state citation for not driving on the right side of the road.

Aug. 2, 4:12 a.m.
Vehicle Stop
Alumni Drive
Jason Davila was arrested for driving under the influence.

Aug. 2, 8:40 p.m.
Theft
Scarlett Commons
Bicycle seat and baggage carrier stolen on campus.

Aug. 2, 11:52 p.m.
Vehicle Stop
Middle Tennessee Boulevard
Trevino Shondra Williams was issued citations for violation of registration and a light law violation.

Aug. 3, 5:28 a.m.
Miscellaneous
Wiser-Patten Science Hall
Aramark requested an officer look into the possibility of the tampering of a door lock.

Aug. 3, 1:17 p.m.
Theft
Corral Lot
A catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle.

Aug. 4, 5:14 a.m.
Traffic
Rutherford Boulevard
Samuel Allen was issued citations for the violation of a light law and driving on a suspended license.

Aug. 4, 12:52 p.m.
Vandalism
Murphy Center
There was an attempted theft in the classroom area of the building.

Aug. 7, 5:50 a.m.
Sex Offense
Kappa Alpha House – Greek Row
Lloyd Wilson was arrested for indecent exposure.

Aug. 7, 10:02 a.m.
Theft
Nicks Hall
A bicycle was reported stolen from campus.

Aug. 7, 11:57 p.m.
Warrant
Rutherford Boulevard
Paul Stewart Womack was arrested for an outstanding warrant of fugitive from justice.

Aug. 8, 1:40 a.m.
Drunkenness
Gentleman Jim's – 2115 E. Main
Brian Edwards was arrested for public intoxication.



Aug. 9, 2:17 a.m.
Arrest
Pi Kappa Alpha House – Greek Row
Robert Michael McDonald was arrested for four counts of possession of a weapon on school grounds and one count of public intoxication.

Aug. 10, 12:28 a.m.
Possession/Drug Abuse
Nicks Hall
Shepherd Welch was arrested for felony possession of marijuana with intent to re-sell, Mark Humes was issued a citation for simple possession of marijuana and Zachary Cash was issued a trespass warning.

Aug. 10, 2:36 a.m.
Warrant
Gentleman Jim's – 1325 Greenland
Nicholas Phillips was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Aug. 11, 3:08 a.m.
Traffic
East Main St.
J.C. Howard was arrested for driving on a revoked license and his first offense of driving under the influence.

Aug. 11, 9:44 a.m.
Theft
Peck Hall
Personal property of over \$500 was reported stolen.



HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

ATHLETIC TRAINING

This major is designed to prepare students for the profession of athletic training through a holistic integrated health care/medical model with numerous academic and clinical expences. Students who graduate from this program and pass the national certification examination will be qualified to be employed as a certified athletic trainer in secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional athletic teams, hospital/sports medicine clinics, industrial/occupational preventative medical clinics.

EXERCISE SCIENCE

This major opens up several career opportunities such as these:
Exercise Instructor- Athletic Trainer- Biomechanist- Cardio Pulmonary Rehab Specialist- Dietician/Sports Nutritionist- Exercise Physiologist- Medical Doctor- Fitness Director- Occupational Physiologist- Personal Trainer- Physical/Occupational Therapist- Teacher- Researcher- Strength and Conditioning Coach.

HEALTH

Working in the community, schools, hospitals and worksites, our students apply their talents and passions to improve the health of us all. Our students have found career oportunities all over the county. Here are a few of the companies our students have found opportunities with:
Murfreesboro YMCA- Vanderbilt Hospital- St. Clair Senior Center- Middle Tennessee Medical Center-Rutherford County Health Department- Nashville Cares- Domestic Violence Program- Sarah Kennon Research

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education major is designed to prepare teacher candidates by providing current knowledge for developing curriculum and effective teaching styles. This curriculum includes courses such as Teaching Physical Education, Application of Technology to Teaching, Innovative Teaching Strategies, and Teaching Students with Disabilities.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

You can get paid to play—Now that would be fun!
Recreation and Leisure Services offers an opportunity for students to obtain a B.S. degree and prepares them to work in outdoor recreation, recreational therapy, or in recreation administration. Our students are employed with Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation, Vanderbilt Stallworth, Special Kids, Cruise ships and with Morale, Welfare and Recreation in various branches of the military.

ACTIVITY CLASSES

Physical Education Activity Courses are designed to prepare students for participation in lifetime physical activities. These courses are listed as prefix PHED.

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Dr. Jasmin Kwon (H – N) kwon@mtsu.edu
Dr. Gina Pisut (O – Z) gpisut@mtsu.edu

Apparel Design:

Dr. Teresa Robinson (A – L) trobinso@mtsu.edu
Dr. Lauren Rudd (M – Z) lrudd@mtsu.edu

Several courses (TXMD) are available for students to take prior to applying for official admission to the TXMD program. Application to the TXMD program requires a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and completion of the required thirty credit hours.

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.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Engage like never before

School is starting up once again. During this time of year many students make a lot of new investments. They invest in textbooks, clothes, computers and decorations for their dorms or apartments. Unfortunately all of these investments have a low rate of return compared to the number one investment many students overlook. Many students fail to take the time to invest in becoming informed students. Many are not informed about issues on campus. These are the very issues that affect their future as students as well as future graduates.

This is the year for students to get involved, in fact, we at *Sidelines* challenge students to become informed and be heard. We understand that not every student can attend every demonstration, however if each student does their part to exercise the voice afforded to them as a member of this school, we would all be a lot better off.

The most obvious and important issue to students is the budget. Since last fall, President Sidney McPhee has warned the university of looming budget cuts that have finally arrived. Due to the current economic climate, the change has arrived and its effects can be seen across the university. He released a series of reports informing the general MTSU population of his plans.

McPhee's effort to be transparent was a great opportunity for students to stay informed. Whenever the leader of the university makes an attempt to share information about issues directly affecting the students, we should be receptive.

This was not the case last year when McPhee held his series of town hall meetings. The student attendance was minimal compared to the population of the university. The most obvious change is the hike in tuition. However, this is only the beginning. The funds gleaned from raising tuition cannot combat MTSU's overall budget deficit.

In the fall, McPhee clearly said, "there are no sacred cows" referring to the academics at the university, as well as positions held by professors and university officials. In order to save majors, personnel and programming students must be able to clearly articulate the need for them. Students must first be informed themselves in order to articulate their needs.

One way to exercise a voice is to make use of your elected representatives in the Student Government Association.

This is your university and your education. Don't let it change without making your voice heard.

Welcome back from the president

It is my pleasure to welcome new and returning students to campus for what promises to be yet another exciting and productive year. As president of MTSU, I want you to know that you are an important part of this institution, and we take pride in the fact that you have chosen MTSU to pursue your studies.

Our university offers a dynamic and stimulating environment for a diverse student population and is recognized throughout the country and around the world as an outstanding place to learn, live and work.

You can be proud of the fact that, just recently, your university was recognized by *Forbes* among the top 100 public colleges and universities in America, a ranking which also had us leading all public institutions in the state. Although we take seriously our distinction of being Tennessee's best



Letter from the President
Sidney McPhee

comprehensive university, we recognize that this status could not have been achieved without the support of the entire university family—students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni.

Yes, here at MTSU, we consider ourselves family, and we work hard to help each student become an engaged member of our campus community. Although we have nearly 24,000 students, we take pride in creating the nurturing feel of a small campus

but offering all of the benefits and amenities of a large institution.

If you are new to campus, you will soon see that you are part of a safe, close-knit community of scholars which recognizes that college is more than just classes. While your academic success is our first priority, we are also committed to providing opportunities to enhance each student's physical, emotional, cultural, spiritual and social well-being, depending on their own personal interests.

In demonstration of this commitment, we encourage students to be engaged in activities and groups, both on and off campus. With approximately 225 registered student organizations and a very active Student Programming Council, we have groups and activities for almost every interest. Should you find that we have not addressed your specific in-

terest, there are opportunities for you to provide the leadership to develop a new program or organization.

Our aggressive approach in getting students involved on campus is designed not only to supplement your experiences in the classroom, but also to provide general recreation and entertainment as well as opportunities to interact with other students of similar interests, values and backgrounds.

Without a doubt, there is much to do and see here at MTSU. If you are a new student and have not already done so, I urge you to spend some time on our Student Affairs Web site. It provides a number of options for helping you to learn more about how you can become involved on our campus.

I also recommend that you view our new virtual tour of campus. It will provide you with an opportunity to

become more familiar with the university and its facilities, while also giving you a chance to see what some of your classmates think about MTSU and how they are involved on campus. You can access this tour from the MTSU Homepage or at mtsu.edu/virtualtour.

As your president, I realize that the beginning of each school year brings with it a number of interesting new challenges and anxieties for students, both old and new. I encourage you to view those challenges as opportunities and move forward in the tradition of other MTSU scholars who have successfully completed the journey on which you now travel. Best wishes to each of you for a successful academic year.

Sidney McPhee is the president of MTSU. He can be reached at smcphee@mtsu.edu

Death penalty requires second look

Recently, there has been considerable debate about capital punishment in Tennessee after Nashville jurors found Letavis Cobbins, 26, of Kentucky, guilty of 33 charges of murder, rape, car theft and robbery.

Cobbins is one of five men and one woman being prosecuted for the 2007 deaths of Channon Christian, a 21-year-old former University of Tennessee sociology student, and her 23-year-old boyfriend Christopher Newsom. The deaths were particularly brutal, including repeated sexual assaults and reportedly a chemical wash used in an attempt to wipe out DNA evidence.

The jury decided that, while the group subjected both victims to particularly ghastly deeds, that Cobbins' case did not merit the death sentence, much to the vocalized anguish of the Christian and Newsom families.

The families claimed that it wasn't fair, that their respective son and daughter were let down by the outcome of this trial and that this case especially merited the employment of America's most severe form of punishment: death.

Yet, the families aren't the only ones betrayed by the trial's outcome. People have weighed in on the trial on various Web sites, from Facebook to the Knoxville News Sentinel, either happy or (more often) angry at the jury's decision not to kill Cobbins.

On the Boston Herald Web site, the suggestion that the group of six suspects were actually racists, and Newsom and Christian were victims



From the Editor

Byron Wilkes

of a hate crime, was thrown around until one upset user wrote "[The] death penalty [is] far too humane for them and prison [is] too easy."

This person's words imply a broader question concerning the status of the American correctional system and the subject of capital punishment. Who comprises the more than 2.3 million incarcerated Americans, and among them how do you know who deserves death?

Answering those questions is beyond difficult—it is philosophical. But for many U.S. citizens, prison life and death row affect them everyday, even when they're not the ones behind bars.

When discussing something like capital punishment, it is of the utmost importance to recall the human element universal to our existence, from the convict to the police to the 12 jurors who ultimately decide the fate of their peer. As Alexander Pope said, "To err is human; to forgive, divine."

Take the case of Cameron Todd Willingham of Texas. An article at dailykos.com delineates his case and subsequent details, most notably the discovery years later that

Texas fire marshals were using flawed means to piece together a case against Willingham.

Willingham was convicted and executed of murdering his three infant daughters after an accidental fire burned through their house in 1991. He was killed by lethal injection in 2004, though experts would later find the methods for his prosecution both obsolete and questionable.

Willingham's case brings about the other side of the death penalty, an absolute worst-case scenario for "when the system fails." Although his story represents only one of numerous death row stories, it reveals that there must be accountability when an innocent man or woman is killed. Doesn't it stand to reason that accountability still exists when the state kills someone who really is guilty?

Over the summer, I attended a meeting of Mississippians Educating for Smart Justice in Jackson, Miss. as part of my internship. The group's goal is educating the public on reasons to abolish the death penalty and met, appropriately, in a church basement.

I was fortunate to listen in on that meeting, and the evidence MESJ presented certainly reinforced some of the major questions with capital punishment being discussed today.

In Mississippi, there are 57 men and 3 women on death row, and 200 prosecutions have ended in the execution of an inmate, more than 50 percent of whom were black. I found this interesting compared to Newsom and Chris-

tian's case, since, of the 233 victims of Mississippi's executed inmates, more than 70 percent were white.

The last bit of information really struck home with me, perhaps because Mississippi is my native state or because of the jarring effect of social reality. It begs obvious ethnic, class and occupational questions and a closer dissection of what "a jury of your peers" really means.

The severity of human atrocities like those that Cobbins was convicted of cannot be overstated, but the room for human error and bias is something unavoidable when discussing capital punishment.

Perhaps the most chilling case the MESJ brought up was Michelle Byrom of Tishomingo County, Miss. Byrom is on death row after being convicted along with her son to hire a man to murder her husband, Edward Byrom Sr. Yet not even a confession letter and admission of guilt from her son, Junior, couldn't exclude her from the trial events that followed.

Byrom suffered physical and sexual abuse in childhood and left home to be a stripper after quitting school, though not before being gang-raped twice there.

Her alcoholic husband abused her emotionally and physically, and forced her to make pornographic videos, however, the tapes were excluded from the trial.

Byrom was diagnosed with double pneumonia on the day her husband died, but the fat stack of medical records given to the judge didn't have an ef-

fect. Prior to trial, Byrom was diagnosed with severe depression, personality disorders, alcohol dependence, lupus and Munchausen's syndrome. She had also been attacked by dogs in her past, and was prescribed a veritable cocktail of manufactured drugs (Zoloft, Librium, Prilosec, Paquinil, Talwin, Darvocet and Soma, to name a few).

Yet, the judge took only a short recess during the sentencing phase. Junior's confession letter was excluded, and Byrom's trial counsel waived a jury for sentencing, not to mention the fact that a competency hearing was never held.

Perhaps the most telling thing Byrom did was incriminate herself each time the police brought up her son's name, though truthfully mother's intuition has little or no bearing in the courtroom.

My point in bringing up Byrom's case (and others) isn't to prove that she is innocent of the crime of which she's been acquitted, but to inspect the larger picture of the process and punishment with which she now has to live and die.

There is no clear-cut way of viewing capital punishment; to say the death of one human authorizes the death of another is inherently flawed. What's more flawed is blindly accepting a form of punishment older than most current governments without an informed debate.

Byron Wilkes is the Editor-in-Chief of Sidelines. He can be reached at sleditor@mtsu.edu

**Sidelines is looking for staff.
We need photographers, writers and
designers for the fall semester.**

**Mass Comm, Room 269
sleditor@mtsu.edu**

Students give back by going Greek

Greek Life at MTSU is truly a great experience. People often think that fraternities and sororities are all about drinking and partying, but as a member of a sorority, I know that it is so much more. Greek Life is a one-stop college experience. My sorority has helped me develop as a person, while still having fun.

Being Greek is about being part of something special. Each organization has a rich history and tradition that dates back to the 1800s.



Guest Greek Column
Mallory Phillips

Being Greek is about building relationships and being a friend. Not only do you connect with the people in your own organization, but you also build relationships with other

Greeks. Honestly, I do not know how I would have made it through college without my sisters by my side.

Being Greek is about giving back to the community. Every organization has a national philanthropy and we all do thousands of service hours each year.

Being Greek is about being a scholar. We all have GPA requirements and many organizations have study hours. We are students first, and it is nice to have brothers and sisters

“Greek Life is a one-stop college experience. My sorority has helped me develop as a person, while still having fun.”

Greek life at MTSU is really diverse. If you look within each organization you will see a range of different personalities. We all have athletic people, smart people, religious people, singers, dancers, quiet people, loud people, and yes, we even have some party animals. We have all these different types of people, yet we all respect each other and we share a special bond. We may have our differences, but at the end of the day, we are still sisters and brothers.

Being Greek has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Greek life may not be for you, but it is definitely something to look into. You never know what you could be missing.

Mallory Phillips is a senior mass communication major and the vice president for recruitment of Alpha Delta Pi, Epsilon Tau and can be reached at adpivp@gmail.com

Rep. Gordon appreciates residents' opinions, concerns about health care reform

By BART GORDON
TENN Representative

As our country hashes out reform proposals for health care and other important issues, hearing from the people I represent is especially important to me. I want to thank those who attended my Town Hall meeting in Murfreesboro on Monday, Aug. 24. I also want to thank MTSU for allowing us to use Tucker Theatre and providing support staff to make the event possible.

Everyone has a right to speak their mind and be heard. During Monday night's event, people in Middle Tennessee demonstrated a belief in this principle as attendees who were for and against health care reform were able to voice their opinions and ask important questions.

Bringing needed reform to our health care system is no easy task. That's why we need to slow down and ensure that we get it right.

Getting it right means that any reform plan must make health care more affordable for individuals and small businesses. It must make health insurance portable – if you change or lose your job, your health coverage should remain intact. It also has to prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions or refusing coverage when an individual gets sick.

I also want to be clear that I will not support a final bill that creates a single-payer government-run health care system, provides health care coverage to illegal immigrants or raises our federal deficit by a nickel.

Again, I want to thank everyone who attended the Town Hall meeting at MTSU, as well as all those who have taken the time to share their opinions with me during my Telephone Town Hall meetings, Face-to-Face office hour events, by e-mail or by visiting or contacting one of my offices.

Ted Kennedy beacon of light

The name “Kennedy” has become ingrained in the landscape of our American culture. They are a family that we have been fascinated with for the past half-century. It's safe to say that the Kennedys have seen their share of tragedies over the years: the assassination of a President, brother, and son, the death of another brother running for the same office, a drunk driving episode that left a young woman dead and another's own political ambitions to be questioned, and the countless others that have reverberated throughout the years. Edward Kennedy, or more affectionately referred to as Teddy, was one in a long line of players who shaped the American political culture throughout the latter part of the 20th century. He passed away Tuesday night after a lengthy battle with brain cancer.

Kennedy is admired because he embodies what many Americans seek in their politicians today. He had a sense of purpose, calling health care reform the “cause of his life.” Although he never passed any legislation that provided major sweeping changes to the health care industry in



I'm just sayin'
Sam Ashby

the U.S., he did, however, pass bills over the years that added small steps toward change in the area. Some of these include the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, which “ensures access to health care coverage for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, are self-employed or have pre-existing medical conditions,” according to a statement listing his accomplishments released by his Senate office.

Other systemic health care reform bills include the 1960s act that placed community health centers across the country that specialized in serving low-income families and those who may not be covered under a health insurance plan.

Health care reform was not the only issue he pur-

sued adamantly. He was a voice for the disadvantaged, and was also a strong supporter of national defense. I don't want to spend the rest of the time listing his accomplishments, but I think it's important to take note of a part of what he has worked to change here in America since his first election in 1962. Why, one might be asking, was Ted Kennedy such a giant in the American political landscape? Why did he convey that sense of hope, long before Barack Obama came along? The answer is far greater than his last name, or in the deeds of his famous brothers.

It lies in his character and in his passion and love for this country. Edward Kennedy came from a privileged family, and many might argue that this may leave him out of touch with the everyday working American, but Kennedy didn't let his wealthy upbringing stop him from understanding the issues that millions of Americans face on a daily basis. He never gave up, and he always did his best to understand the issue at



Photo courtesy of Morgue File
Ted Kennedy died on Aug 25 after he lost his battle with brain cancer

hand. That is what Sen. Kennedy will be remembered for most. That is his legacy, and that is why so many Americans look up to him. I am in no way saying that Ted Kennedy wasn't a seasoned politician, because he was. He knew how to play the political game, and he played it well. He believed that as long as things were moving forward then progress was being made.

Although the passing of Sen. Kennedy marks the end of an era in American politics, it also marks the start of a new one. It is obvious that many Americans looked up to Kennedy and other politicians like him.

Luckily, there are signs that many across the country are taking on the spirit that Ted Kennedy was known for. One can see it every day on college campuses, in the workplace and at home: a passion for America and a drive to serve those who are less fortunate. As long as we keep our eyes on the important objectives, as long as we put aside our petty differences and continue to work together as one nation, then we will continue to live up to the spirit of Sen. Kennedy and so many that have come before and after him.

Sam Ashby is a freshman liberal arts major and can be reached at sa2s@mtsu.edu

COMICS

...AND JOHNSON, THROWS ANOTHER INTERCEPTION!

DIDN'T YOU SAY JOHNSON IS THE SON OF A FAMOUS QUARTERBACK?

YEP.

HE SURE DOESN'T PLAY LIKE THE SON OF A FAMOUS QUARTERBACK.

NOPE.

FANS-SEE THIS! ©2009

MEDICAL RECORDS, MARCIA SPEAKING.

by MARK BLOOM & MARK WILSON

PEEE YOW!

Bobby, it's your turn to take out the trash.

What a chore!

... and if you could please have the chef make sure my steak is well-done this time... I don't mean to be a bother!

Robbie and Bobby

spacefrontierboy@gmail.com

Jason Poland

Mourning death of civility

It seems like the country has been arguing for quite a while. Debate is a cornerstone of democracy, but for years, the quality of discourse has sadly diminished. The current healthcare debate, if it may be so called, is a prime example. People can't seem to disagree gently anymore.

Videos of Congressman Bart Gordon's recent town hall meeting at MTSU show chanting, shouting, jeering and booing – all before Gordon took the stage. While speaking, he was shouted down and drowned out. He was called a liar, and shouts of "fire Bart" punctuated the meeting. From the tone of his greeting, one may surmise that Gordon abused kittens and babies, spouted anti-Semitic rhetoric, and refused to escort old ladies across the street. The fact is, his greatest offense to many of the people in the meeting was that he disagreed with them.

Interestingly enough, Gordon was unable to control the subject of the debate, which kept being steered back to abortion, although that was never one of the stated topics of the town hall meeting. Congressman Gordon seemed to be under the impression that the meeting was convened to talk about



The Pen is Mightier
Evan Barker

healthcare.

Political history is rife with examples of heavy-handed and insensitive abuse. Condoleezza Rice was called "Aunt Jemima" in 2004 by Madison, WI radio host John Sylvester. The point was supposedly that Rice was incompetent to be Secretary of State and that she was appointed in the name of tokenism. Valid point, but was the stereotype necessary? Why not just say "tokenism" and trust one's audience to be smart enough to understand the point? We get it.

There is also the case of Ann Coulter, whose epitaphs for the left include "traitors" and "baby-killers," and who regularly accuses those who disagree with her of treason. As a reminder, treason and murder are crimes punishable by death. That's a pretty

weighty thing to say to someone who merely holds a different opinion than you.

If you belong to one of those tea party protests, you might be a "teabagger," which is not a term for a tea drinker. It's actually a euphemism whose definition is unprintable.

When then-presidential candidate Barack Obama and his wife Michelle bumped knuckles onstage at a political rally, Fox News commentator E.D. Hill called the gesture a "terrorist fist jab." It couldn't have been an accident. Of course, she subsequently lost her show's time slot to Martha Ingraham, but by that time, the damage was done. The rhetoric was already spoken.

If you're a Hispanic nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, you may be a racist, according to Rush Limbaugh. If you're the biracial President of the United States, you may be a racist, according to Fox News pundit Glenn Beck. Since the civil rights era, "racist" is a loaded term, not that one would know that nowadays.

Most students are too young to remember the McLaughlin

Group of the mid-nineties, a political roundtable including Pat Buchanan, Eleanor Clift and others. The show was exciting for many reasons, not the least of which because it regularly degenerated into a shoutfest. It was famously parodied by comedian Dana Carvey of Saturday Night Live in the personage of McLaughlin, who hilariously shouted "WRONG" to all of the panelists. How right he was.

The point of these examples

cal fallacy of the straw man, by which a soft-bellied enemy is set up and knocked down with ease. "Some say..."

In this difficult era, with our muddy national debate, with healthcare, defense, terrorism, wiretapping, deficit, abortion, war and gay marriage, the need to have delicate, deliberate conversation has never been greater. Our problems will never be solved by petty name-calling. This seems like an obvious point, but it bears repeating.

As students of a university, we are the ones on the front lines in the propaganda wars. We are the ones spending

time learning, reading, studying and following the national debate. We are the ones who will inherit the poor solutions of today, as our parents inherited the problems of yesteryear. If our methods and solutions do not become more civilized, the latent tensions in our country could erupt in violence and strife, the likes of which have not been seen in decades.

Looking back, the violence of the sixties seems so un-

necessary since people generally approach these very sensitive issues with more tact nowadays. This trend is reversing, however, which threatens to stall progress on any one of the pressing issues our country faces right now. This cannot happen. Taken alone, each one of our country's problems is very serious, but none are too great that they cannot be overcome with co-operation, open-mindedness, and civil discourse.

We must approach sensitive issues with fact, not emotion. Health care is not about killing your grandmother. Deficit issues are not about selling your grandchildren. Gun rights are not about destroying the Constitution. To believe these oversimplified reductions is to give the argument, and the country by extension, short shrift.

Wouldn't it be tragic if historians of the future looked back on our time and concluded that we destroyed the country by refusing to simply listen to each other? Wouldn't it be sad if we pummeled ourselves into oblivion?

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

“When pundits and other opinion-shapers wish to divide and conquer those with whom they disagree, they naturally degrade their opponents to the point of absurdity.”

is that the quality of our national discourse is degraded severely by our mere failure to be polite and converse instead of shout. When pundits and other opinion-shapers wish to divide and conquer those with whom they disagree, they naturally degrade their opponents to the point of absurdity. Bear in mind any old propaganda, like World War II caricatures of Japanese people, or blackface minstrelsy. Look for the logi-

Johns don't learn lesson at prostitution ed

We know what happens when we get caught speeding – we go to drivers' education. Following this example, Nashville Metro does a similar program for a different type of offender – those caught soliciting prostitutes.

A few Saturdays ago, about 40 men shuffled into a Nashville church to attend a "John School" – a type of prostitution education where men caught with hookers go to be lectured about their crime of paying for sex.

The school includes former prostitutes, health officials, psychologists and police officers who all give varying perspectives on why men shouldn't pay for sex.

Kenny Baker, a cognitive behavioral therapist and the program's director talked to CNN about the program and its clientele.

"Prostitution doesn't discriminate," Baker said to CNN. "Most of these men don't have a prior criminal history, so our goal is to help these folks understand why they put themselves in a bad position, to prevent it from happening again."

My guess Mr. Baker – these men wanted sex.

The argument about the legalization of prostitution has been going on in our country for some time. It's a debate that rages on between men and



Yeah, Whatever
Andy Harper

women; conservatives and liberals; feminists and chauvinists.

Some think it should be illegal completely – citing a variety of reasons from the conservatives' "attack on the

validity of this program, but I feel inclined to explain that I fall into the latter school of thought. Prostitution should be institutionalized. Women and men who choose that particular career path should be offered a safe work environment, health insurance – including regular STI testing – and federal and state taxes should be collected.

But as it stands currently, prostitution is illegal. If this is the culture that we choose to abide by, then punishments for offenders should be equal for both the prostitutes and the johns (or janes).

Commonly, prostitutes

Metro Police Web site.

For first time john offenders, the John School is also assigned. The John School system has been in place since the early 90s in Nashville. But is the school actually efficient?

If it's anything like drivers ed, it's probably treated as a minor annoyance – an inconvenient punishment for a minor crime. Going 20 miles over the speed limit would get you more of a punishment.

According to the CNN article, "Some evidence suggests that John Schools are working. A study released in 2008 by Abt Associates Inc. for the federal government looked at the John School program in San Francisco, California. It's one of the largest programs in the country; more than 7,000 johns have attended since 1995."

Sex Workers Outreach Project, a California organization that is working to legalize prostitution disagrees with the efficiency of the John School.

"John School doesn't do that much," Carol Leigh, a member of SWOP told CNN. "The reality is they aren't spending that much time on the johns and they will just go to other venues. This also doesn't target the violent offenders who are the real problem."

It seems that as much of



Photo courtesy of morguefile.com

of prostitution, the assault of "family values," and the victimization of women; we still promote a "good ole' boy" culture where the hooker is to blame and the john just wanted to get off.

Over two thousand years later, we are still more apt to cast stones at the harlot but pat the patron on the back, tell him we are disappointed and laugh about it later on.

If we are going to keep prostitution illegal, it should be illegal for all parties on the same level. All parties should receive jail time, all should receive heavy fines and all

should be held accountable for the same crime in the court of public opinion.

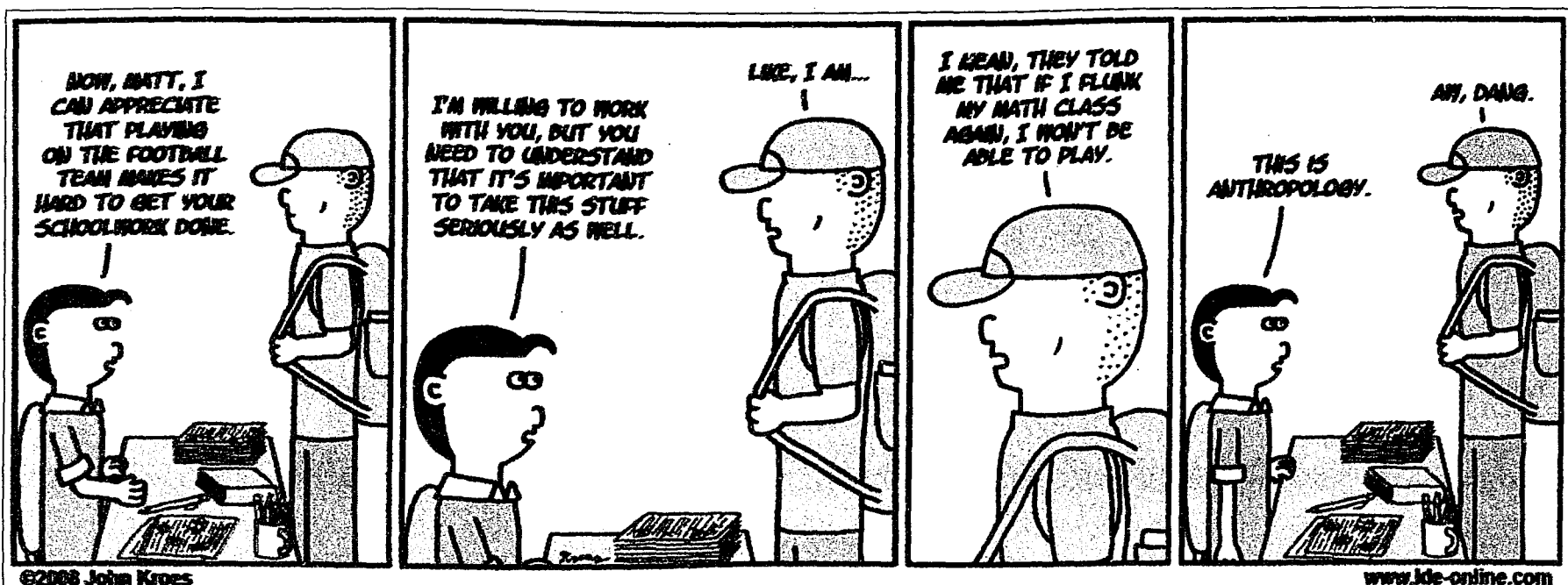
This, ultimately, makes the John School system laughable. We aren't punishing them. We are patting them on the back, telling them that they've done wrong, but we forgive them. The legal system and culture, however, is more than happy to bury a hooker under a pile of rocks at a moment's notice.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at harper.andy@yahoo.com

Sidelines Haiku

We need some writers
We want you to work for us
Cheeseburger and fries

COMICS



DO YOU CHECK YOUR CREDIT SCORE?

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES

ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT YOUR PROGRAM WILL BE AFFECTED BY BUDGET CUTS?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Student finances crunched by credit

Using credit cards to pay off loans, school supplies is putting students deeper in debt

By ELIZABETH WARREN
Contributing Writer

When the alarm sounds at 8 in the morning, Anna turns over to shut it off. After waking up, she rolls out of bed to begin her morning routine. A part of this routine is checking her e-mail, Facebook and bank account online. She replies to e-mails from professors and friends, which puts her into a pretty good mood.

When she logs into her bank account, the good mood disappears. All she sees is the red negative sign that says she is still indebted to her bank. This negative sign represents her lack of responsibility and education when it comes to personal finances. She recalls all of the times she kept using her debit card even with prior knowledge that the money wasn't there.

This scene may seem familiar to a number of college students throughout the U.S. Relying on credit, overdrafting from bank accounts and lacking the economical knowledge of today's economy has become a major

problem for students.

"Times are hard right now when it comes to money, but I just try to do the best I can with whatever I already know and have," said Shere Ramsey, senior psychology major at Middle Tennessee State University.

Students are relying on credit without comprehending the baggage that comes along with it. They do not understand how long it may take to pay back credit card balances or the interest that those cards may carry.

Out of the 500 students who were surveyed by the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Literacy, 64 percent already use one or more credit card and 61 percent have credit card debt.

The survey also found that 44 percent of those questioned were clueless to the Annual Percentage Rate of their main credit card and 81 percent of those students drastically underestimated the time it would take to pay off their credit cards only making the minimum payment.

CREDIT, PAGE 12



Photo Illustration by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Pedestrians stay safe in crosswalks

Statistics, students show that pedestrian, vehicle traffic can mix with dangerous results

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

When I'm driving, especially through a heavy pedestrian area, I always stop right before I come to the crosswalk for those who might be crossing the street.

Last Thursday, I came to a stop at an intersection on Greenland Drive right in front of the crosswalk line. I looked in my rear view mirror to see a jaywalker standing behind me.

The man was trying to cross the street while cars were coming to a stop at the light and other cars were coming from the opposite direction. He would take a step forward, see a car coming and step back. I wondered to myself why this man was putting himself through the obvious mental turmoil of trying to navigate across the heavily trafficked street, when right in front of my car, a mere five feet away from him, was a crosswalk. If he had walked five more feet and pushed a button, he could have leisurely walked across the street. He could have already been on the other side of it by that time.

Tennessee state law maintains that a pedestrian is anyone not

inside a vehicle, and it is illegal for pedestrians to cross anywhere but the designated crosswalks or pedestrian tunnels. It is also illegal for pedestrians to walk along roadways when sidewalks are present. If there is a crosswalk sign or traffic light, the pedestrian is given the right of way only when the crosswalk or traffic light allows them to. Traffic Control Signals Law 55-8-110 states, "No pedestrian facing such signal shall enter the roadway unless such entry can be made safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic."

In instances where there are no lights, like on many Middle Tennessee State University streets, the pedestrian always has the right of way over a vehicle. Naturally, pedestrians who cross in places where crosswalks are not provided are required to yield the right of way to all oncoming vehicles.

Autumn Cross is one student who thinks pedestrians on campus need to pay more attention to reduce accidents and make things easier for drivers.

"I try to stay on the crosswalk as much as I can, but I don't think people use the crosswalks

too often," she says. "They like cutting corners and taking shortcuts. Pedestrians can do anything they want, but drivers have to worry about hitting them and getting charged with vehicular manslaughter. Drivers have to be a lot more patient with pedestrians because pedestrians have a preconceived notion that they won't get hit."

However, Cross thinks that if pedestrians used more common sense, things would be safer for both pedestrians and drivers.

"I do think that we're all adults," she says. "We should know how to look left and right before crossing the street."

She believes the most likely place on campus for drivers and pedestrians alike is the roundabout on MTSU Boulevard and Blue Raider Drive.

"On the roundabout, people don't even know where to start walking," she says. "There is barely any sidewalk there for them to cross in the first place without getting hit."

The Tennessee Department of Transportation reports that there are 4,600 pedestrian deaths annually and approximately 70,000 pedestrians in-



Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Though it is against Tennessee law for pedestrians to cross outside the crosswalk, the fault is often put on the driver in pedestrian/vehicle collisions.

juries involving pedestrian/automobile incidents in the state. The National Highway Association reports every 113 minutes, a pedestrian is killed during a traffic-related accident and another 5,000 are injured.

If a pedestrian is hit by a motor vehicle that is operating at the speed of 40 mph – such as on roads like Greenland Drive and Rutherford Boulevard – there is an 85 percent chance the pedestrian will die.

Pedestrians who are struck by vehicles are also likely to sustain traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and quadriplegia.

CROSSWALKS, PAGE 13

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MOVIES

Aug. 28
The Dark Night - KUC Courtyard - 8 p.m. - FREE

Aug. 31- Sept. 4
Star Trek - KUC Theatre - 7p.m. and 10 p.m. - \$2

MUSIC
Pimpalicious - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Jescoe, Dishwater Blonde, J. Sexton and the big love choir-Wall Street- 9 p.m.

bobby joe thorazine- The Boro- 9 p.m.

Infected Mushroom - Exit/In- 9 p.m.

Steff Mahan, Ghostfinger with Oblio- The Basement -7 p.m. and 9 p.m.-\$8

Aug. 29

Incredible Heat Machine/ Moon Tax- Club 527 - 11:30 PM - \$5

T.H.B.- Wall Street-9 p.m.

Bittersweets w/ James Wallace and Naked Light- The Basement- 9 p.m.

Aug. 30

JACKYL, Eclipse- Club 527- 9 p.m.-\$15

Lovely Eggs w/Cars Can Be Blue and Sam Lowry and Circumstance-The Basement- 8 p.m.- \$5

Aug. 31

Alyssa Bonagura with The Staves, The Jompsom Brothers with Solshakr and Death on Two Wheels, - The Basement- 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.- \$10

Sept. 1

Ozric Tentacles- Exit/In- 7 p.m.

Sept. 2

The Kick Off! Featuring DJ Tommy Wong, Willie the Kid and La the Dark Man-Exit/In -8 p.m.- \$20

Sept. 3

Overzealous, Brandy Robinson- Wall Street- 9 p.m.

Magic Vetenen, Schtompta & Child TV Stars- Club 527- 11 p.m.- \$5

Evil Bebos, DJ Kidsmeal, Look What I Did and NRE (Nathan Ellis)- Exit/In-8:30 p.m.

Sept. 4

HOUSE PARTY 6 DJ's- Club 527- 9 p.m.

Eastern Block, And The Relatives and Stardeath and White Dwarfs-Exit/In- 8 p.m.- \$10.

Leaving Tennessee - A Going Away Concert Chris M-lam with Matt Woods, Nick Pagliari & Moriah Harris- The Basement- 8 p.m.- 7\$

Sept. 5

SKY HI, The Get Easy- Club 527- 11 p.m.- \$5

The Good Side with The Drownout, The Worsties, and The Last Good Year- Exit/In- 8 p.m.

OTHER

Sept 2.

Ralphie May - Murphy Center - 8 p.m. - FREE

Aug. 31

Poker - Graffiti Bar - 8 p.m. , 10 p.m. and 12 p.m.

CREDIT FROM PAGE 11

According to a study conducted by Sallie Mae, the leading company for college students, nearly 30 percent of students charged their tuition to a credit card last year. This is an increase of 6 percent from 2004.

The study also stated that 92 percent of undergraduate students charge their books, housing and school supplies to a credit card.

Students are utilizing their personal bank accounts as well. Fifty-four percent of those surveyed by CEEL have overdrawn their bank account before.

Not only are the majority of students uneducated about credit cards and personal finances, but also they are dependent on loans for educational purposes.

David Chambers, Associate Director for the Middle Tennessee State University financial aid office, said that

12 thousand students have applied for loans for the 2009-2010 academic year resulting in \$93 million worth of credit that must be paid back with interest.

Though students have the ability to say no to credit cards and loans, most universities aren't helping their cause. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group found, after doing a study of numerous colleges throughout the country, that credit cards are promoted to students by companies setting up tables outside of student unions or popular buildings on campus.

The companies offer free gifts like T-shirts and pizza if the students decide to sign-up.

The realization of how uneducated students are about handling their personal finances is daunting. Only 35 percent of these students had ever taken a personal finance class. Most of their financial information and understanding came from their

parents.

The solution to the dependency on credit in students of all ages is to educate and to realize that we all must manage money to achieve many of the goals that we all have. Students have to be given the tools to manage their own money correctly. Education should start at a young age so that responsibly handling money becomes second nature.

John Lee, professor of the Personal Finance class at MTSU and a certified financial planner said everyone should take a personal finance course because learning how to handle personal finances is a lifetime progression.

"Addressing such issues as the fact that today, the average undergraduate student leaves college with debt of \$20,000; that many will misuse credit and destroy their credit score; that poor practices and bad decisions will haunt them for years requires an investment of time and effort to learn and develop good financial habits," Lee said.

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CROSSWALKS FROM PAGE 11

The goal of the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Safety is currently to decrease these numbers by 20 percent by 2011. The kicker here is if you hit one of these pedestrians walking outside of the crosswalk, the driver is often the one who is penalized.

Pedestrians often hire lawyers to allege the accident was not their fault and the car's driver should be blamed, even when the pedestrian was not in the

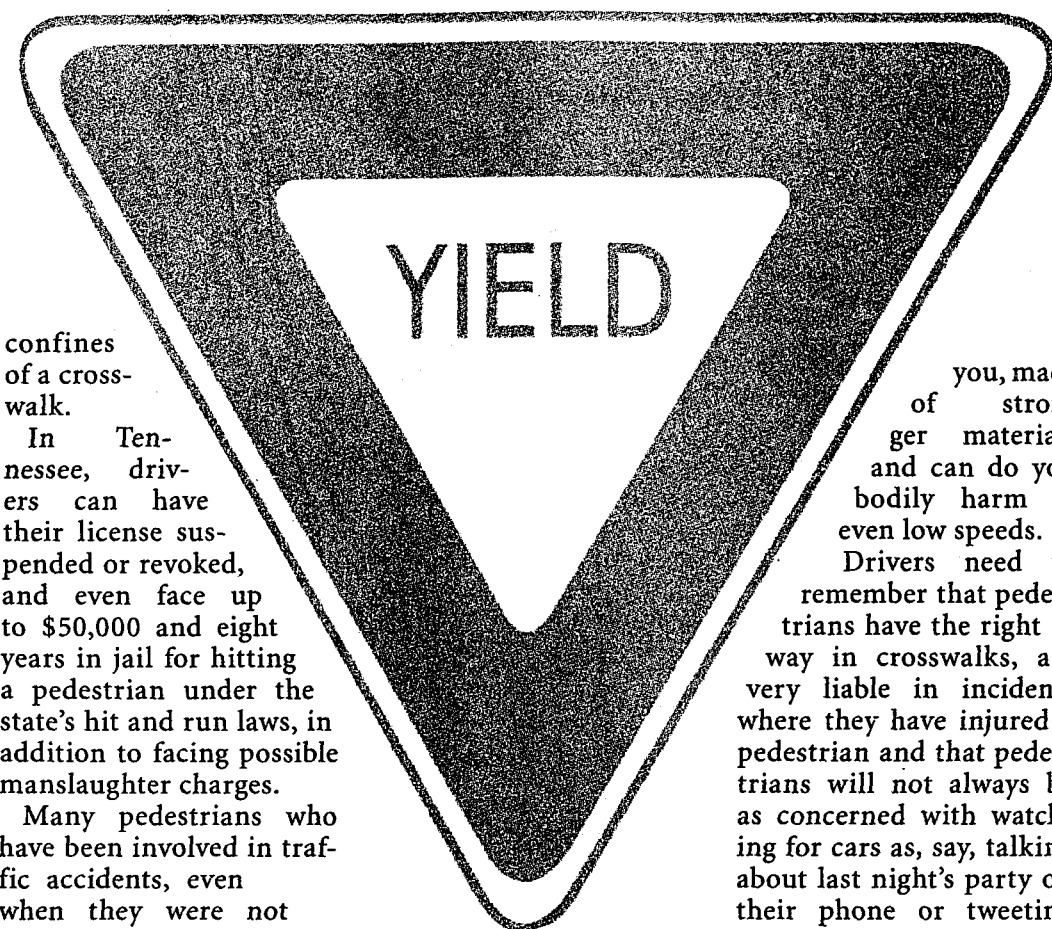
says, "Regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, the law specifically requires YOU, as a driver, to exercise great care and extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians." The manual does encourage pedestrians to keep on sidewalks and use crosswalks, but acknowledges that not all people are intelligent, law abiding citizens with their personal safety in mind.

I don't know where the man from Greenland Drive is now, or even if he made it across the street. The

accident free. At a large school like MTSU where students travel by cars, on foot and bicycles, mingling almost non-stop, it is a wonder there are not more pedestrian injuries.

The simple solution to keeping our campus free of pedestrian related accidents and to make it easier for everyone to get back and forth is to stay alert.

Pedestrians need to use the designated crosswalks, stay on sidewalks rather than walking in roads and remember the basic fact that cars are bigger than



confines of a crosswalk.

In Tennessee, drivers can have their license suspended or revoked, and even face up to \$50,000 and eight years in jail for hitting a pedestrian under the state's hit and run laws, in addition to facing possible manslaughter charges.

Many pedestrians who have been involved in traffic accidents, even when they were not obeying the law themselves, will hire an injury lawyer and sue the driver for medical bills, court costs and other relating expenses to higher sums.

Despite the fact that pedestrians are supposed to cross "safely" and "without interfering with any vehicular traffic," the Tennessee Driver's Manual clearly

light changed and I turned before he had managed to negotiate his way into the next lane.

What I do know is that he was an accident waiting to happen. Crosswalks were invented for a reason: to keep those traveling out of cars as well as those traveling inside of them safe and

you, made of stronger materials and can do you bodily harm at even low speeds.

Drivers need to remember that pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks, are very liable in incidents where they have injured a pedestrian and that pedestrians will not always be as concerned with watching for cars as, say, talking about last night's party on their phone or tweeting "walking to class."

**For more information
on Tennessee
pedestrian laws, visit
tntrafficsafety.org**

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A PREVIEW OF 2009-10

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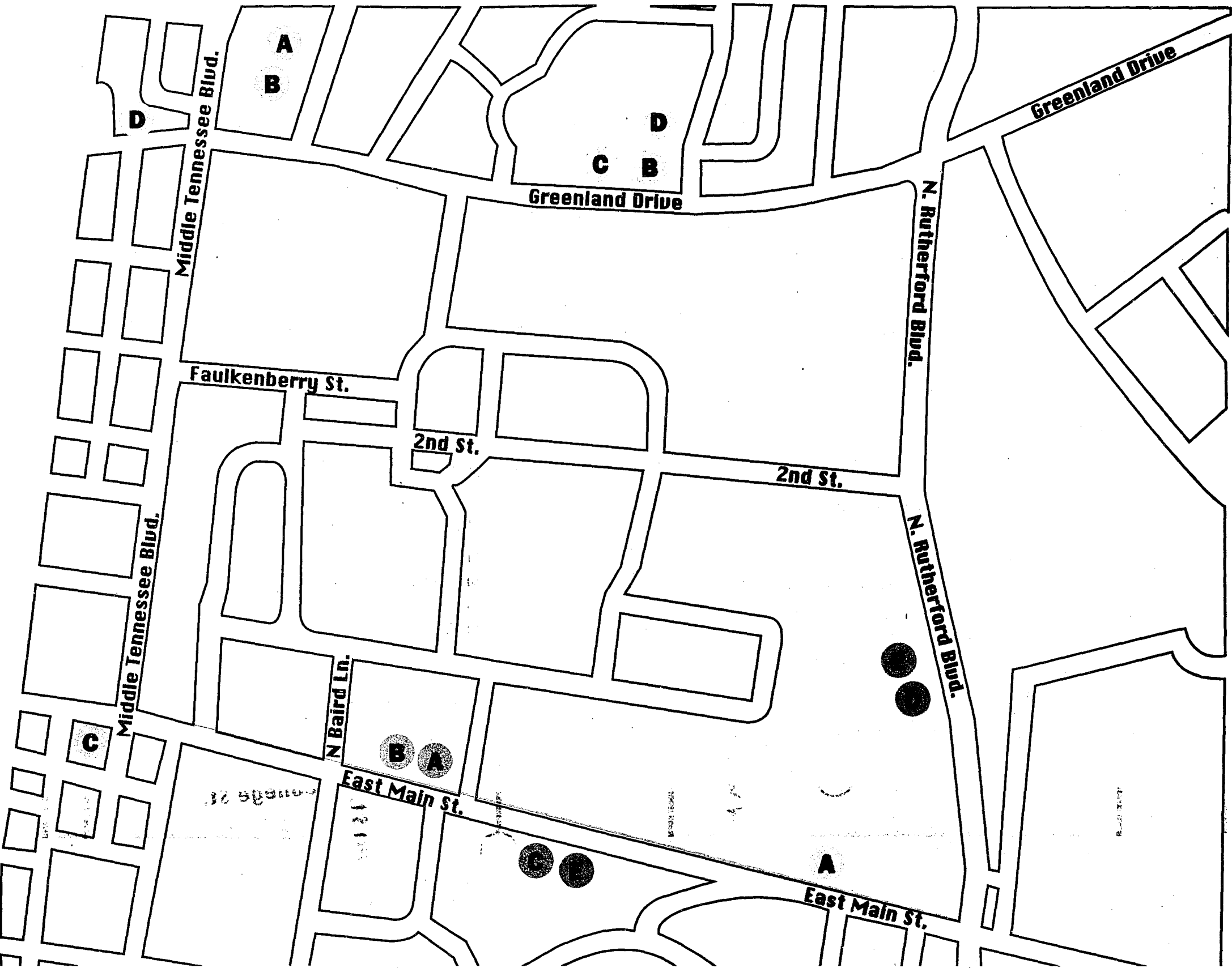
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Know Your 'Boro!

Moving in and starting classes can be boring and even tedious for students. Fortunately, Murfreesboro has plenty of places to go and things to do you can't find anywhere else. Below is a map of things around MTSU, and on the opposing page is the downtown area. Obviously the lists are partial, but we tried not to give away the adventure of discovering Murfreesboro!



Restaurants

- A Far East Restaurant**
MON-SAT 10:30 a.m.- 9:30 p.m.
SUN 10:30- 3 p.m.
1529 East Main St.
If you're looking for original Asian food close to campus, look no further than Far East Restaurant. You'll definitely get the most food for your money than anywhere else, and it's only a short walk away.
- B The Green Mango Asia Café & Marketplace**
MON-SAT 9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
1513 East Main St., Suite C
The Green Mango affords a lighter side of Asian cuisine, with small dishes. It also boasts a small Asian grocery for your exotic in-dorm cooking needs.
- C Slick Pig BBQ**
TUE-SAT 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.
1920 East Main St.
Before you think you left your favorite barbeque joint back home, try Slick Pig Barbeque. The ribs, cornbread and sundry side items rule here, and be sure to try Slick Pig's 99 cents barbeque sandwich on Tuesdays.
- D La Siesta**
SUN-THU 11 a.m.- 10 p.m.
FRI-SAT 11 a.m.- 11 p.m.
1111 Greenland Drive
La Siesta is perfect for satisfying the urge for delicious, authentic Mexican cuisine. With affordable prices and drink deals, you might need a siesta.
- E Chicken Shack**
MON-THU 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.
225 North Rutherford Blvd. Suite L
Chicken Shack offers all types of chicken, from delicious wings to tenders. Try the Smack-Yo-Mama seasoning or another, spicier flavor!

Beer

- A University Package Shop**
MON-SAT 9 a.m.- 11 p.m.
2834 Middle Tennessee Blvd.
University Package is a warehouse of wines and liquors located in a convenient suite next to two gas stations and other stores. Stop here for all your party's needs.
- B Beverage Mart**
MON-SUN 8:30 a.m.- 11 p.m.
2830 Middle Tennessee Blvd.
Beverage Mart has a nice beer and cigar selection, as well other groceries. Beverage Mart also has a post office for your mailing and shipping needs.
- C University Center Market**
MON-WED 8 a.m.- 12 a.m.
THU-SAT 8 a.m.- 1 a.m.
SUN 10 a.m.- 11 p.m.
1156 East Main St.
Known more commonly as Davis Market, this store offers a wide selection of beer and kegs as well as snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. Urban legend has it that upon entering this store located across the southwest corner of campus, you will never leave Murfreesboro.
- D Premium Wine and Spirits**
MON-SAT 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 p.m.
225 North Rutherford Blvd. Suite H.
Premium Wines & Spirits offers variety and low prices every day but Sunday. Drop by for tax-free Tuesdays and Thursdays!
- E The Beer Depo**
MON-WED 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
THU-SAT 9:30 a.m.- 12 a.m.
SUN 11 a.m.- 10:30 p.m.
2002 East Main St.
The Beer Depot sells beer, tobacco and beer-related accessories. It has the widest beer selection nearest campus with lots of unique brands for beer aficionados, and also better known domestics.

Bars/Nightlife

- A Gentleman Jim's Bar**
B MON-SAT 2 p.m.- 2 a.m. SUN 2 p.m.- 12 a.m.
2115 East Main St. & 1325 Greenland Drive
Don't be fooled by its name, because Gentleman Jim's throws pretentiousness off at the door and revels in the age-old honky-tonk tradition of having a good time. With two locations both adjacent to MTSU, these bars are perfect for those living on-campus and looking to get home safely.
- C The Boro Bar and Grill**
MON-SAT 11 a.m.- 2 a.m.
SUN 11 a.m.- 12 a.m.
1211 Greenland Drive
This popular venue is a Murfreesboro legend, having seen many musicians play its stage. The Pink Spiders got their start here, and local acts frequent the line-up along with good beer and a chill vib
- D Mark's Campus Pub**
MON-SAT 10 a.m.- 3 a.m.
SUN 10 a.m. - 12 a.m.
903 Gunnerson Avenue
Located right next across from campus, Mark's Campus Pub has been catering to MTSU sports fans for years. Since it's open before noon, you can call ahead make it there for its lunch special and back to class in time.

Downtown Murfreesboro

- Maple Street Grill

MON-THU 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.
FRI 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
SAT 4 p.m.- 10 p.m.
109 North Maple St.

The Maple Street Grill offers intimate dining for lunch and dinner. On Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., the Grill hosts "Music in the Boro" with a special musical guest.

- Anastasisa's LLC

MON-SAT
10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
115 North Maple St.

Anastasia's is a local clothing shop known for a great jewelry collection and clothes. Make sure to shop frequently for the latest styles!

Marina's On the Square -

MON-THU 11-9
FRI-SAT 11-9:30
125 North Maple St.

Marina's is an Italian restaurant open for lunch and dinner. With a respectable wine list and a timeless atmosphere, this Murfreesboro classic is where Italy meets Tennessee.

- Wall Street

MON-FRI
7 a.m.-2 p.m., 5 p.m.-3a.m.
SAT 6 p.m.-3 a.m.
SUN 9 p.m.- 3 a.m.
121 North Maple St.

Not to be mistaken for a stockbroker's restaurant, Wall Street patrons are considerably more laid back than those in the rat races. At Wall Street you'll find good bar food, drinks and authentic Murfreesboro nightlife.

Blue Rooster Bar & Music Hall- bar -

MON-SAT 5 p.m.- 3 a.m.
SUN 5 p.m.-12 a.m.
114 North Church St.

Blue Rooster Bar & Music Hall is more than just its name—it's good times in Murfreesboro too. With constant musical acts and a slew of drink specials, this bar is not for the faint-hearted.

- Liquid Smoke/Humidor

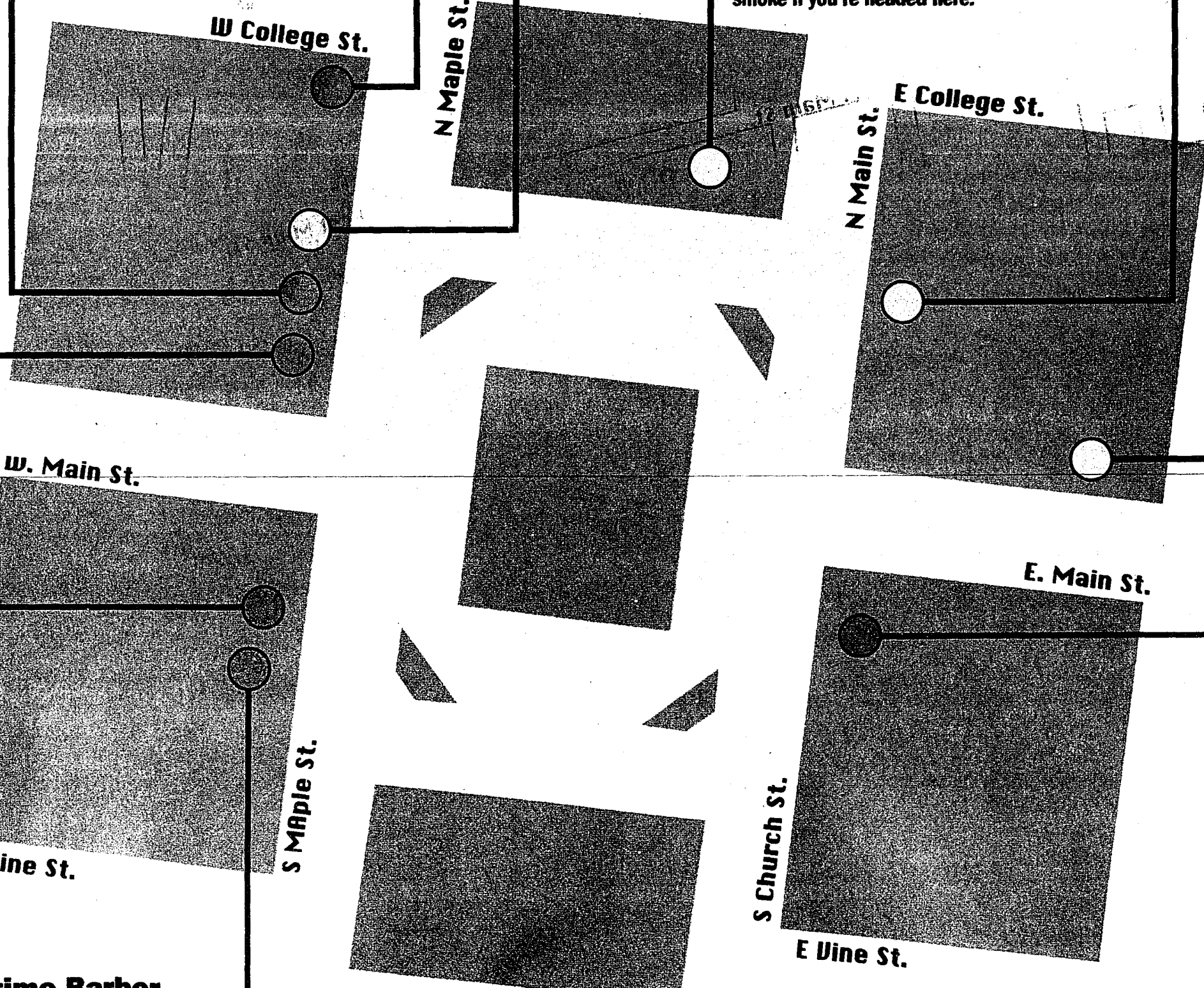
MON-WED 2 p.m.- 12 a.m.
THU-SAT 2 p.m.- 1 a.m.
2 North Public Square

Liquid Smoke is Murfreesboro's premier cigar bar, with Humidor (a fine cigar shop) located next door. For a relaxed and fun night, look no further than Liquid Smoke, but don't complain about smelling like smoke if you're headed here.

City Café -

MON-SAT
6 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.
113 East Main St.

Every town has its own local "city café," and Murfreesboro's isn't too shabby. Drop in and say "hey" to the regulars and enjoy some old-fashioned Southern cooking.



- Past-time Barber Shop and Pool Hall

MON-SAT
8 a.m.- 2 a.m.
116 South Maple St.

All customers, young and old, that get their hair cut at Pastime have the express opportunity to shoot some billiards directly afterward. Much like a mullet, Pastime offers business in the front and a party in the back.

- Urban Image

TUE-SAT
9 a.m.- 6 p.m.
106 South Maple St.

This stylist offers fashionable haircuts right on the square. Closing time depends on stylists' appointments, though Urban Image does take walk-ins.

Trendy Pieces - Clothing Retailer

MON-SAT
10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
111 South Church St.

Trendy Pieces is an eclectic clothing store with something for everyone. Whether it's western shirts for guys or summer dresses for the ladies, Trendy Pieces has something for everyone.

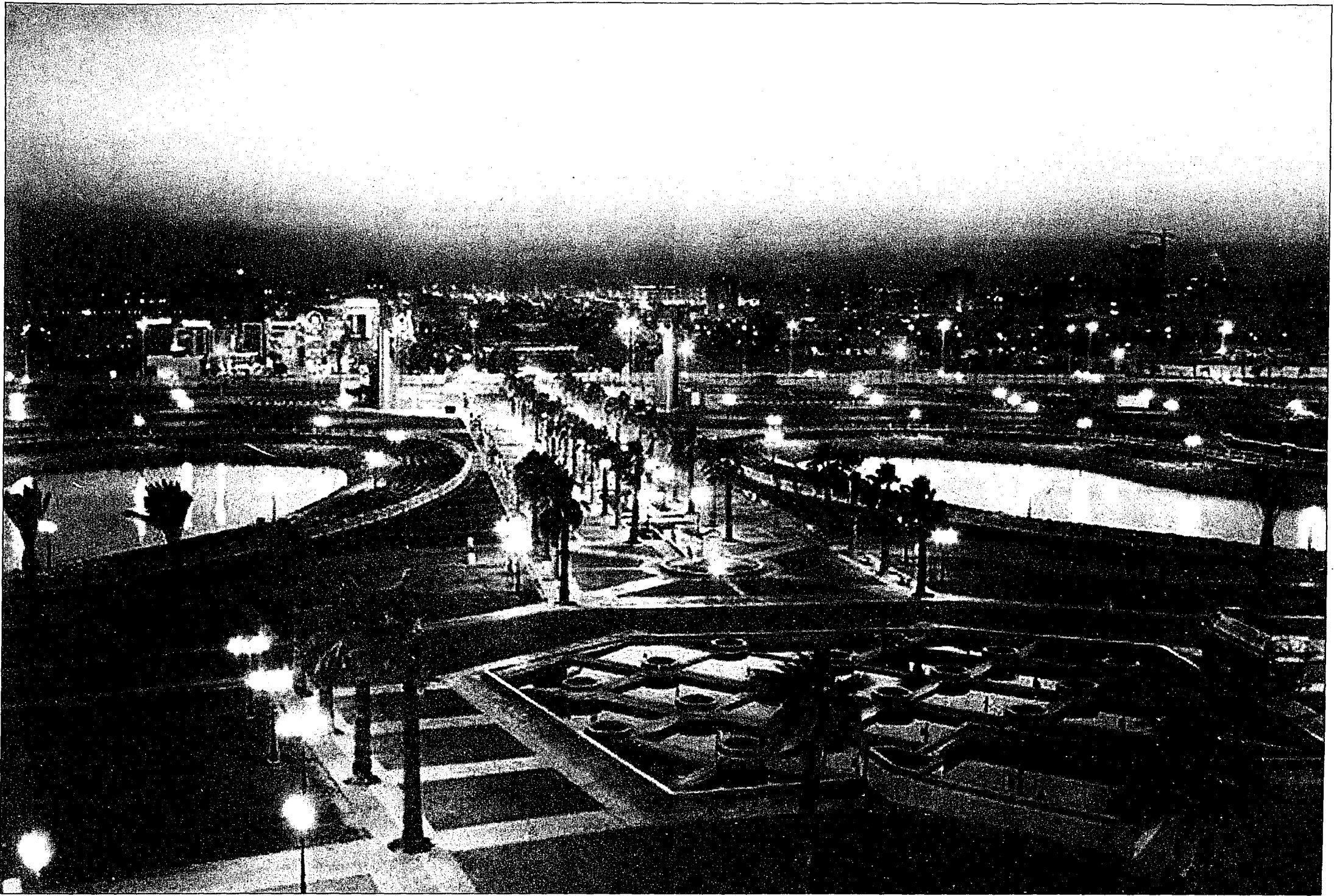


Photo courtesy Badr Alhanaki
At night, the Alkhobar Corniche in Al-Khobar City in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia lights up the aesthetic fountains and palm trees. The city is a major tourist destination for Saudis and internationals alike.

International student shares goals

Badr Alhanaki is one of many exchange students coming to MTSU this fall

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

Once again, a new crop of students has come to MTSU and every year, a select group of international students come to give and take away experience from the university.

Badr Alhanaki is one such student who has come from Saudi Arabia to MTSU to get his Masters of Accounting and his C.P.A. Badr's first experience in America was attending the University of Texas in Arlington.

"I had two choices: to study at the University of Texas there or to come here to MTSU," he says.

Badr chose to come to MTSU because of the College of Business' reputation. He said he had a good first impression of the university.

"I didn't realize people would be as nice as they are," Badr says. "They are very nice here."

Much of this niceness Badr attributes to Tennessee, which is known as the Volunteer State.

"When I heard that, I knew why the people were so nice," he says.

Badr hopes to make friends with American stu-

dents and has already gotten to know some of his fellow international students.

"Here we have friends from all over the world: Korea, Thailand, from Libya and China," he explains. "It's a really good environment when all these people come from different places."

"You can always contact them and you can learn from them."

Badr advises international students to take advantage of learning from other students while they are abroad.

"My advice for all international students who come to America is that they must communicate and keep active with other international students," he says. "Learn some words in a new language."

"That will always stay with you."

Though Badr is staying in America with his wife, who also has a scholarship at MTSU, he has family back at home. Badr and his wife have found that technology helps them stay in touch with family back in Saudi Arabia.

"We keep in contact in many ways, through the internet and phone," Badr

says. "We also use video, my webcam, to keep in contact."

"It can be hard because it seems like yesterday I was with them and now I'm a thousand miles away."

Badr does receive the occasional care package from home with items he cannot find in the U.S.

"Two times I have received things in the mail that I couldn't find here," Badr says. "One was a special type of dates they have in Saudi Arabia."

He hopes that his younger brothers and sisters will be able to take advantage of attending an American university, like he has.

"I would like my brothers and sisters to study in America, in the best universities in the world," he says. "It would increase their value and give them great opportunities in life."

Homesickness is common for many students who have come to school from far away, but Badr says the best way to counteract it is to focus on your goals and ambitions at school.

"All the international students that come here will miss their families, but they know they will achieve their goals and bring things back home with them," he says. "I know I will bring back the good things I have learned from American culture and the knowledge I have gotten."

"When I go back, I will have a Ph.D. and can



Photo courtesy Badr Alhanaki
Palm trees dot the Alkhobar Corniche in Al-Khobar City, known for its gardens, picnic spots and beaches.

teach there."

His other goals are more culturally centered.

"I want to learn some things about American culture," he says. "I'd like to understand American life and the sweetness of the culture."

One of the ways he plans on exploring American culture is by joining activities offered at MTSU.

"I want to see what activities MTSU has and if they have something I enjoy, I will join," he says.

Coming to America wasn't too much of a surprise since he had been exposed to some of it through Saudi Arabian media.

"Maybe there is some difference between our culture and American culture, but you couldn't call it a shock," he says. "The way buildings look, the way people talk are familiar."

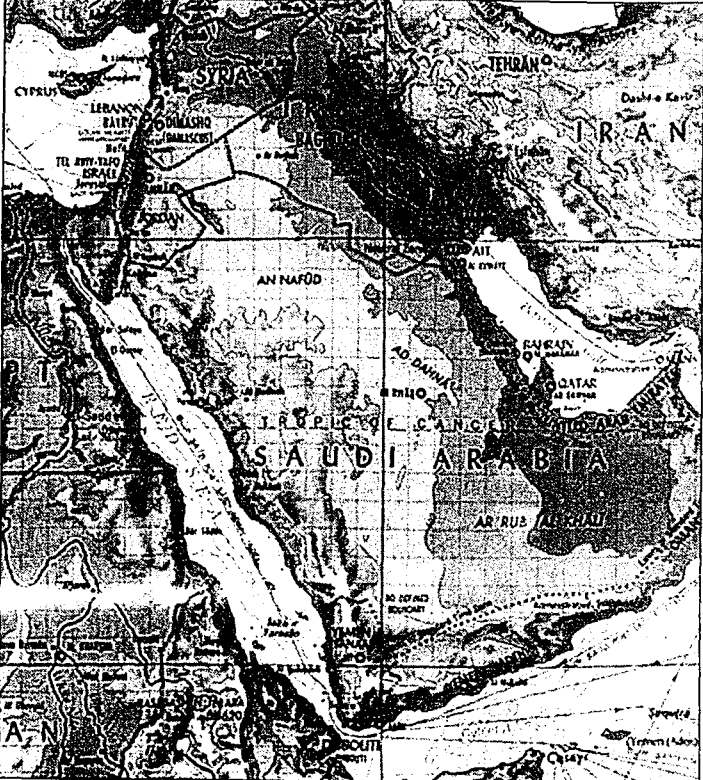
"Saudis see a lot of American movies, read a lot of American books and see a lot of American news. It all goes back to the globaliza-

tion of the world."

There are some misconceptions about Saudi Arabia Badr would also like to clear up for American students.

"I want them to know many things, mainly that Saudi Arabia is not a desert," he says. "It is a diverse place, just like here."

"It has green mountains and beaches, and it is one of the most developed countries in the world."



Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East and is surrounded by countries including Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Oman and Yemen.

Facts about Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East and is located in what is known as the Persian or Arab Gulf.

The country was formed in 1932 by King Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, who merged the warring Bedouin tribes. His family is still in power and Fahd bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud is the

current King and Prime Minister of the country.

Saudi Arabia is home to some of the most sacred cities in the religion of Islam, including Mecca, Medina, and Jeddah, where the tomb of Eve is located.

The capital city of Saudi Arabia is Riyadh, which is also the largest city in the country. Its

population of over 5 million.

Many of the words used in the English language trace their origins back to the Arabic language, among them alcohol, alkali, admiral and alchemy.

The Saudi Company, ARAMCO, is the world's largest producer of oil. Saudi Arabia has 26 percent of the world's share of present oil

production.

The country provides public housing for students and people with low incomes and public employees and provides aid in many developing countries across the world.

The median age in Saudi Arabia is 21.6 years old, with 22.9 as the average age for male and 19.9 years old for females.

Summer successes push Heypenny to top concert

Crazy costumes are one facet of band's individuality

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Wherever Nashville-based band Heypenny goes, a flair for entertainment and eye-grabbing performances are sure to follow. As keyboardist/vocalist Ben Elkins, guitarist Kevin Bevil, bassist DJ Murphy and drummer Aaron Distler sit back stage, people duck in and out contributing to the friendly conversation.

This possibly owes to the fact that the warm and affable vibes Heypenny projects on stage is apparent in the band's personalities offstage, or maybe it is because conversation strays from the questions and leads off into the reminiscing of car rides with the band and memorable Nashville shows.

"When Ghostfinger played here for Next Big Nashville, they went out with a piñata and gave everyone Whiffle Ball bats and played death metal and had people just go at it," Distler laughs. "I'll take that to my grave," he adds seriously.

The shows they have played over the course of the summer exemplify that fact. First there was the Road to Bonnaroo competition, where Heypenny paraded through the crowd toward the stage dressed in vaguely Sergeant Pepperesque marching band uniforms in popping pastels.

A set played at Bonnaroo in June followed an experience detailed in humble awe on Heypenny's MySpace. Then in early August, the EP "CopCar" was formally released

at Mercy Lounge, similar to previous shows in that Heypenny has a blatant tendency to take the word "entertain" to the extreme.

Heypenny is one of those bands that spring from Nashville. Every show is conducted in a wildly convivial fashion – whether the band is donning bright, candy-colored trench coats or playing covers such as Beyonce's "Single Ladies" or Harry Nillson's "Coconut."

The music coordinates well with a loud appearance and oddball charm: key-oriented and glittery melodies mix with stiff-sounding vocals in a Beck-meets-Dr. Seuss kind of way. "Oh No," which can be found on the EP "CopCar," is one witty and whimsical example of classic Heypenny quirk. It is dominated by Elkins' choppy, minimally melodic voice over keys. "Parade" has the same bizarre appeal, with simplistic, mechanical-sounding verses alternated with smooth, dreamy breaks on the keys.

Elkins makes little attempt at poetry, arranging words in a familiar way that comes off as though he could easily be saying the lyrics rather than singing them.

Like many local bands, they dance further outside the questionable boundaries of "indie-rock" with what they're doing. Like older brothers trying to entertain a younger sibling, the shocking caliber of exuberance in the music and delivery is hysterical and endearing. Their sound, appearance



Photo courtesy of Heypenny
Local band Henpenny has a unique fashion sense along with a party pop sound that separates them from most groups.

and stage shows portray Heypenny as the "fun-loving, youthful, jovial kind of band" that Bevil describes.

But as far as full-length albums are concerned, Heypenny hasn't gotten there yet. "It takes a lot of money and a lot of other stuff we're not real good at," Elkins adds. Currently, the band's money goes mostly towards shows. "It takes less money to cre-

ate a good show," Murphy says plainly.

Heypenny's most recent blowout live event was the early-August EP release party for "CopCar," a four-track compilation including a demo of the erratic, up-tempo title track and a coloring book. The band says the idea for a coloring book first arose when the "Parade," video was shot, featuring the band once again in pastel marching band uniforms and in some scenes dancing through a high school hallway. When Elkins returned to the high school to speak with the band director, the kids expressed such an interest in learning the dance featured in "Parade." The band was struck with an idea for instructional coloring books.

The idea finally manifested

with the EP release. Included were pictures of robots and other images from the "CopCar" video hand-drawn by Murphy, who also built and

They have to. Anyband that wants to last can no longer cut it through pigeonholed music and a typical show. Bands are going to greater lengths

to make a show an experience, and some are releasing albums and EPs free of charge.

"To survive in a band these days, you have to figure out new and unconventional ways of putting out music," Bevil says, "The old model doesn't work anymore."

In the name of survival, Heypenny has poured "millions of hours" into really making a show just that – a show, and exhibiting the "controlled immaturity," as Bevil says, that Heypenny is all about.

HENPENNY, PAGE 18

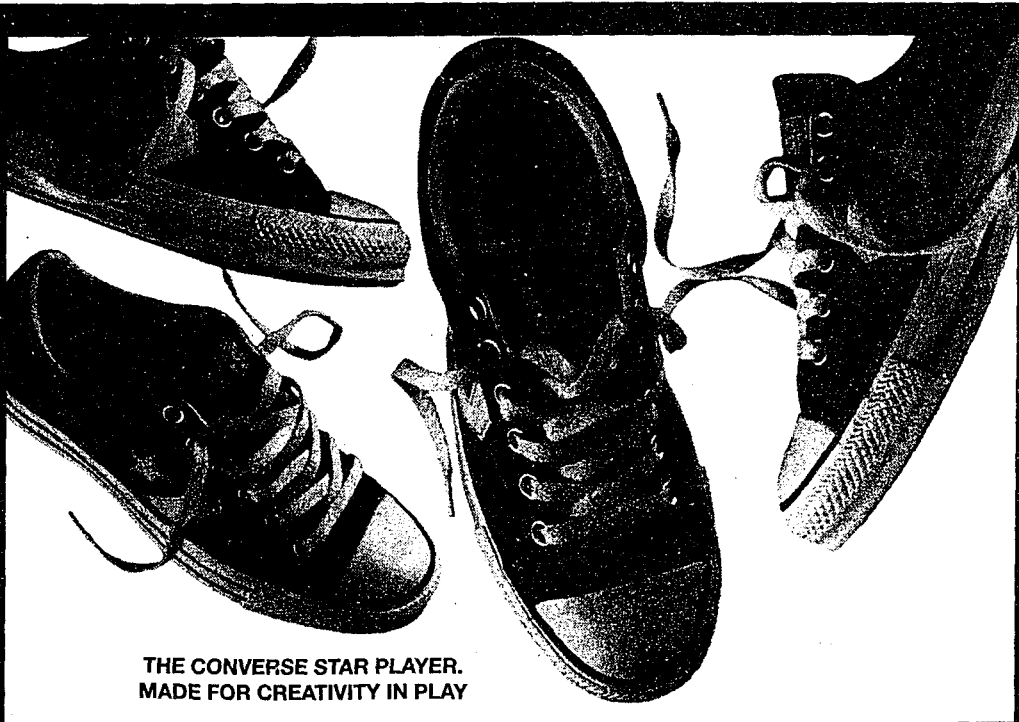
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‘Basterds’ booms at box office

Long-awaited film team-up between Pitt, Tarantino storms movie theaters

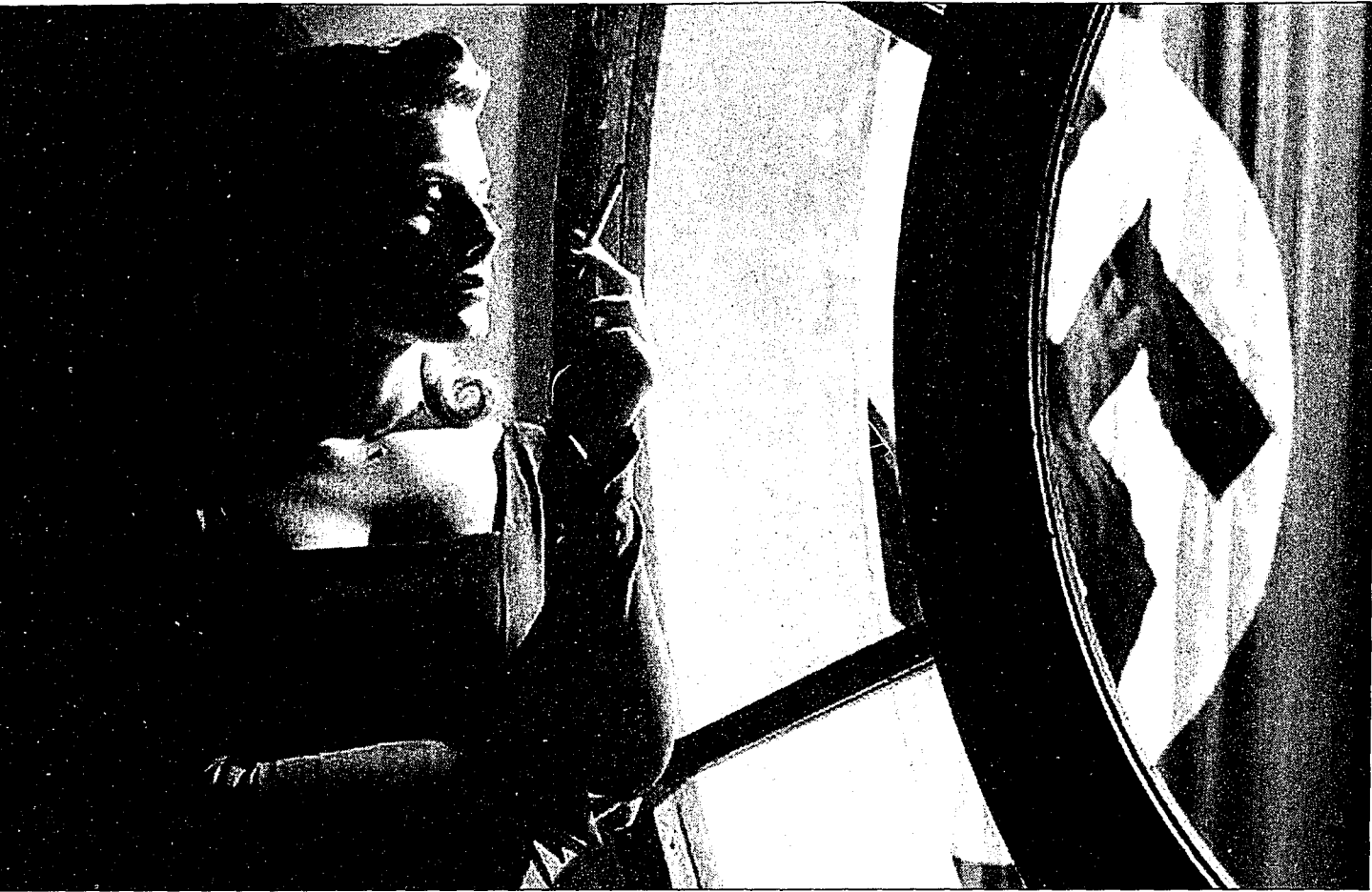


Photo courtesy of Universal Studios
Shosanna Dreyfus (Laurent) prepares for the film premier at her cinema. The film marks Laurent's first appearance in an English-language film.

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

Dark comedy never looked so good as when Brad Pitt and Quentin Tarantino teamed up for the excellently funny World War II military fantasy, “Inglourious Basterds.”

The film was inspired by Enzo Castellari’s 1979 film of the same name, but the two have little in common besides the basic plot structure of American soldiers going behind German lines.

After 10 years of writing the script and a long-standing promised collaboration between Pitt and Tarantino, “Basterds” might become one of the most popular, if not highly quotable, films of the year.

In a sort of alternate universe of World War II, Lt. Aldo Raine (Pitt) is from Maynardville, Tenn. and has only one goal in the war: to kill as many Nazis as possible.

To achieve this goal, he recruits some of the most elite Jewish-American soldiers, including Donny “The Bear Jew” Donowitz (Eli Roth), who enjoys taking a bat to the head of Nazi sympathizers.

They recruit members such as Hugo Stiglitz (Til Schweiger), a German Jew who infiltrates the

Nazi army and kills several high-ranking members before the Basterds free him from prison.

Afterwards, Raine and the Basterds are roaming the French countryside, searching for, killing and scalping any Nazi they encounter.

The reputation of the Basterds spreads so quickly that Hitler personally interrogates any survivors, and German soldiers are left quaking in their barracks after hearing about the attacks the Basterds are waging. The Basterds

are quickly becoming a legend among the German army and thus become the most wanted men in occupied France.

Nazi Colonel Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz) is also in France, searching for any Jews. He pressures a countryside dairy farmer into giving up the locations of the Dreyfus family, hidden under the farmer’s floorboards.

The Nazis execute the family, except for daughter Shosanna (Mélanie Laurent) who manages to flee to Paris. After some years

have passed, she runs a cinema in Paris with her lover and assistant Marcel (Jacky Ido).

Shosanna has tried to keep her real identity a secret, changing to the alias Emmanuelle Mimieux. However, Emmanuelle catches the eye of Frederick Zoller (Daniel Brühl) a famed Nazi war hero. Zoller won’t take “no” for an answer and has German propaganda director Joseph Goebbels (Sylvester Groth) change the premier’s venue to Shosanna’s theater.

The film, titled “Nation’s Pride,” is about Zoller’s exploits and starring Zoller. When Shosanna realizes all the Nazi bigwigs will be under her roof, she and Marcel conspire to kill all of them with explosive nitrate film.

Meanwhile, the Basterds have learned that their prime targets are all coming to Paris for the French premiere.

British soldier and German film expert Archie Hicox (Michael Fassbender) joins the Basterds as well as German actress and double agent Bridget von Hammermark (Diane Kruger). Together they infiltrate the film. What ensues is one of the most brutal Nazi-killing fests perhaps ever portrayed on screen.



Photo courtesy of Universal Studios
Brad Pitt, who plays Lt. Aldo Raine, is featured in one of the film’s posters. Pitt and Tarantino’s collaboration has been long awaited by fans.

Pitt is snarky, witty and extremely comical in his role as Lt. Raine, full of sass and backwoods wisdom. His habit of carving a Nazi symbol into the foreheads of anyone the Basterds lets go – so they’ll have a uniform they can’t take off – is perhaps his signature moment in the film.

Laurent is magnificent in her role of Shosanna, stealing scenes as the ultimate woman out for vengeance. A particularly tense scene for the character is when she is face to face with Colonel Landa, who is trying to remember who she is while a waiter pours milk and dishes out cream between them.

Though some controversy has risen over the “Nation’s Pride” sequence, since the film was made by Jewish actor Eli Roth and his brother, the film is completely background to the final scenes of the film, casting the Nazi sympathizers in a less than desirable light. The best part, however, is the “personal touch” Shosanna inserts.

A few words of warning are necessary, though.

This film is not for the squeamish. As often with Tarantino, there are some violent machine gun scenes, high-powered explosions, not to mention some graphic scalping.

Those of you who run at the sight of subtitles will have to sit this one out since much of the film is in French, German and even Italian.

The film does a lot to dispel the Hollywood rule that “German soldiers speak only English, even when alone with other German soldiers.” All in all, I’d say maybe a little less than half of the film is in English.

Also, the film is set in an alternate, fictional World War II era, so don’t complain if everything about the film isn’t historically accurate.

The film is really an everyman’s film, catering to both those who came for the Tarantino brand of action flick as well as those who are in depth studies of film itself.



Director: Quentin Tarantino

Starring: Brad Pitt, Melanie Laurent, Christoph Waltz, Eli Roth, Michael Fassbender, Diane Kruger, Daniel Bruhl and Til Schweiger

Rating: Rated R for strong graphic violence, language and brief sexuality.

Run Time: 90 minutes

HEYPENNY FROM PAGE 17

And it does seem that Heypenny is constantly in a good mood and gives the impression that the band members don’t have a bad word to say about anyone. Where the absurdly upbeat vibe generates from has a simple explanation.

“That’s who we are as people,” Elkins says. “And our shows are just a magnified version of who we always are.”

“I’ll tell you this,” Distler cuts in. “When I first started playing shows with

these guys, I guess we went to St. Louis – it was about a five hour drive – and I sat in a constant state of bewilderment in the backseat of DJ’s Outback.

“It’s literally like watching a show. They will sing and harmonize with each other for 30 minutes straight. No one listens to any music, until I start forcing people to. They will just sit there and amuse each other for hours on end. So yeah, it’s just their personalities.”

One hope that Heypenny has is that other bands, especially in Nashville, will tackle its live events with enthusiasm

and innovation.

“You’re on a stage and you have lights shining on you, and you’re really, really loud,” Elkins says. “Why would you get up there and look like a regular person? You’re obviously wanting to be something else, so why not take it to the next step?”

He isn’t suggesting that bands emerge onstage costume-clad like Heypenny, only that bands find ways to accent the stage, and shake things up.

As Elkins says, “Put on a show.”



Photo courtesy of Heypenny
Heypenny keyboardist/vocalist, Ben Elkins demonstrates his skills with the aid of bandmates, guitarist Kevin Bevil and bassist DJ Murphy.

SPORTS

Know your enemy: SBC Football '09

This summer, in an effort to better understand MT's competition, *Sidelines* analyzed the up-and-coming football squads of the Sun Belt Conference. For those of you who missed the coverage, here is a recap:

Arkansas State

University

By RICHARD LOWE
Online Sports Editor

The 2008 season started out with a bang but ended with disappointment for Arkansas State University. The Red Wolves started their season at 4-2, with victories over Texas A&M on the road and MT and University of Louisiana in Monroe at home. The start automatically put Arkansas State in the discussion to contend with Florida Atlantic University and Troy University for the Sun Belt Conference Trophy. But a disastrous finish to its season left the team with a 6-6 record, its third in the last four years.

Head coach Steve Roberts will be looking to break the glass ceiling this year with

Last Year's Record: 6-6

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Oct. 31 at Louisville

Key game in 2009: Nov. 14 at Florida Atlantic University

Key Players: DE Alex Carrington and RB Reggie Arnold

several key players returning for their final season with ASU.

In order for ASU to be successful, the team will need both DE Alex Carrington and RB Reggie Arnold to have lights out seasons. Both players have the potential to win the offensive and defensive conference player of the year awards but they must carry the load for their team. Arnold will be looking to be the eighth player to rush for 1,000 yards in four consecutive seasons. If Carrington has another season like last

season, he will rank as one of the top sack artists in ASU history.

But if the Red Wolves want a winning record, then the team will need to win late in the season. Playing three of the final four games on the road will be a difficult task. A victory over FAU will certainly build confidence for this team, but a loss could sink this team for the rest of the season, and that's with two of the final three games being against the University of North Texas and Western Kentucky University.

Florida Atlantic

University

By RICHARD LOWE
Online Sports Editor

Florida Atlantic University started its year off as if the team completely forgot how to play football. Now to be fair, the team did face then-11th ranked University of Texas, Javon Ringer (who was one of the nation's best running backs at the time) and lost on a Hail Mary pass at the MT Blackout Game. FAU did eventually prove that it's not how you start a race but how you finish it.

The team won six of the final seven games, including an overtime thriller with Florida International University and a Motor City Bowl victory over Central Michigan University. Head coach Howard Schnellenberger will be looking to win his second Sun Belt Conference Cham-

Last Year's Record: 7-6 (Motor City Bowl Champions)

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Sept. 19 at South Carolina

Key game in 2009: Nov. 21 at Troy University

Key Players: QB Rusty Smith

pionship in three years.

Early season momentum will be what the Owls need in order to be successful. In order for that to take place, the team cannot get embarrassed by a South Carolina team that plays well out-of-conference and at home. With Rusty Smith at quarterback, FAU can defeat anyone as long as his defense allows him to stick to the game plan.

If the Owls want another SBC Trophy, the team will have to defeat Troy. Ideally, FAU would want to come into this game with a maximum of one conference loss. Any more losses than that could

mean FAU is just playing spoiler to Troy's title hopes.

This game could also determine the winner of the SBC Player of the Year between Smith and Troy LB Boris Lee.

Either way, FAU's success must start and stop with QB Rusty Smith running the show. He is the best offensive pro prospect in the conference and has the skills to be a high round draft pick. If Smith has a great year to finish his career then FAU will be in the New Orleans Bowl as the Sun Belt Conference champions.

Troy University

By ZAC DEFRANCESCA
Staff Writer

Troy walked away with its third Sun Belt Conference championship last year. Its only conference loss was a one point loss to the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The team even pushed LSU to the limit late in the season but fell 40-31 in Baton Rouge, La. However, very little else went wrong for the Trojans as they led the Sun Belt with 32.8 points a game. They represented the conference in the New Orleans Bowl and lost in

Last Year's Record: 8-5

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Sept. 12 at Florida

Key game in 2009: Sept. 26 at Arkansas State University

Key Players: QB Levi Brown and LB Boris Lee

overtime to the University of Southern Mississippi 30-27.

Head coach Larry Blakeney is looking forward to this season in which he returns his top offensive weapons.

A trip to Arkansas State could upset any plans to make it four years in a row as conference champs. It is also

the game before the team plays host to rival MT so Troy could overlook Arkansas State. If the Trojans do, they could find themselves playing must-win games throughout the remainder of the season.



File photo

Receiver Patrick Honeycutt looks for a hole in the defense in the Blue-White Spring Game on April 18.

Middle Tennessee

State University

By RYLEE PATRICK
Staff Writer

During the 2008 season, the MT football team experienced a series of highs and lows, while setting several school and conference records. The team finished the season 5-7 overall with a 3-4 record in Sun Belt.

Entering the third year under Head Coach Rick Stockstill, the Blue Raiders faced several setbacks, including having just 71 total scholarship players, tying for the fewest seniors of any team in the nation and having an offensive line that combined for a total of four years playing experience.

Nevertheless, the Blue Raiders were able to record several wins that assisted the team in earning several honors, including one of ESPN's "Plays of the Year" for the last second Hail Mary that brought down Florida Atlantic University during a nationally televised game.

Following the season opener against Troy, MT fought its way to a 24-14 victory over the University of Maryland Terrapins, an ACC team that

Last Year's Record: 5-7

Toughest Opponent in 2009: Sept. 5 at Clemson

Key Game in 2009: Oct. 3 at Troy

Key Players: QB Dwight Baker and WR Patrick Honeycutt

spent time in the Top 25 and competed for an ACC title up until the last two weeks of the season.

After beating the Terps, the Blue Raiders nearly beat out University of Kentucky, but came up one yard short as the clock ran out, leaving MT with a loss of 20-14 against UK.

The Blue Raiders played five of the first eight games on the road before winning a three-game streak against University of Louisiana-Monroe, Western Kentucky University and University of North Texas, respectively.

During the UNT game, MT was able to score a 52-13 victory against the Mean Green in the team's final home game of the season.

The Blue Raiders claimed 489 yards of total offense as tailback Phillip Tanner scored a Sun Belt record six touch-

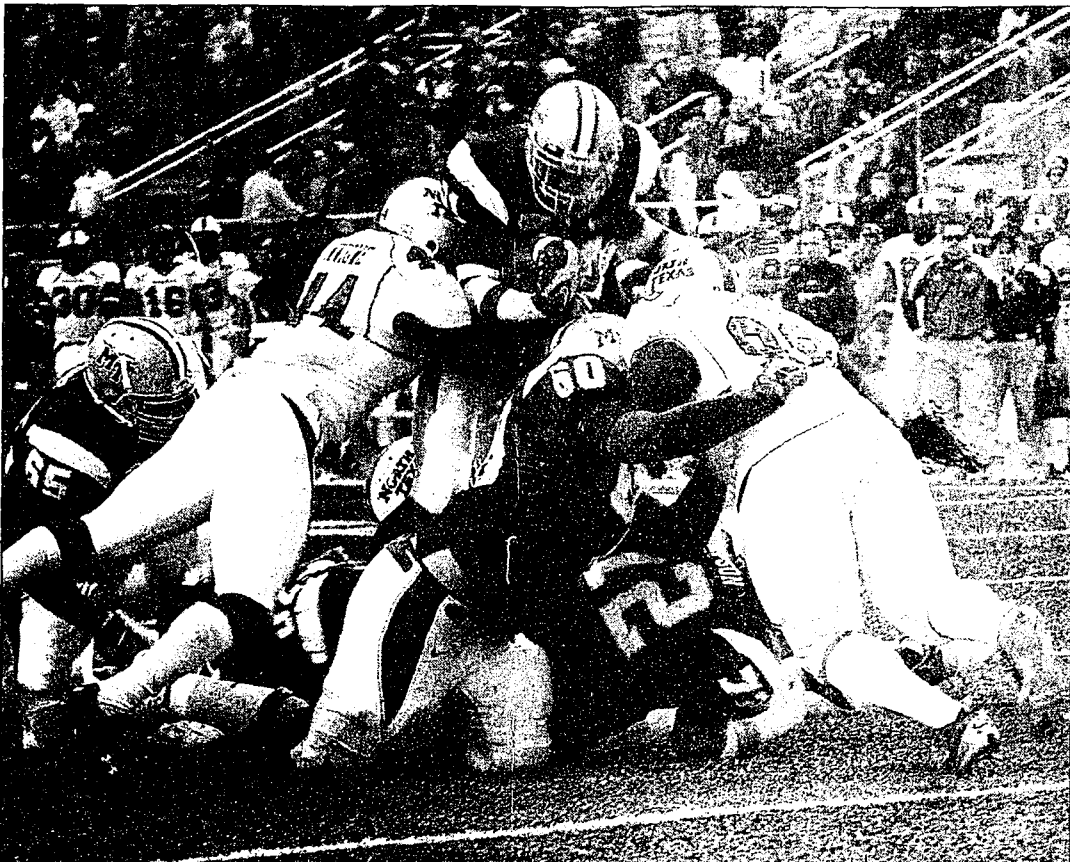
downs. His 36 points also set a single-game Sun Belt conference record, earning him the Walter Camp National Offensive Player of the Week honors for his performance.

During the UNT game, Tanner also tied MT's single-game touchdown and scoring records as he garnered 159 rushing yards on 14 carries, contributing to his 301 all-purpose yards-the third-most in school history.

Competing for bowl eligibility, MT went up against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in the final game up the season but handed over three turnovers in the final nine minutes of the game, falling to ULL 42-28.

During his season performance, senior QB Joe Craddock had a school record 10 200-yard passing games.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 22



File photo

Senior RB Phillip Tanner dives for the score to cap the 52-13 win over North Texas on Nov. 22, 2008.

University of

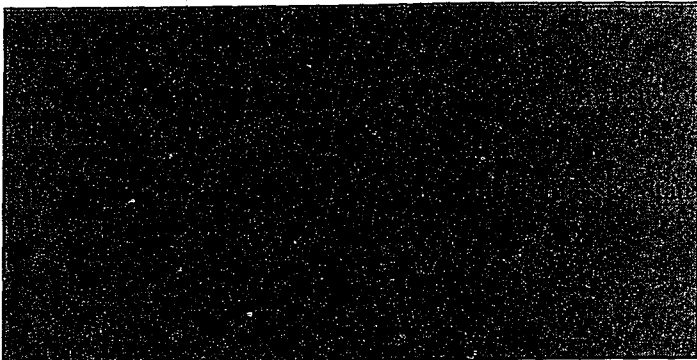
North Texas

By ZAC DEFRANCESCA
Staff Writer

The 2008 season began with North Texas taking on some of the most potent offenses in the country. Tulsa, Rice and LSU each pounded the Mean Green to the tune of a combined 174-49. These offensive juggernauts set the tone for the rest of the season, as the North Texas defense gave up less than 40 points just twice all year. The offense, which is what head coach Todd Dodge was hired for, never got going either. Dodge's vaunted air attack averaged just 8.9 yards per reception last year, the worst in the nation.

Dodge said this year will be a good improving year with players more comfortable in the offense.

Last season the Mean



Green started the season with an uphill climb defensively. This year the start is much easier for them with the only horrific opponent being the Crimson Tide. The teams' other non-conference opponents are Army, Ball State University and the University of Ohio.

In order to improve in the Sun Belt, and eventually win the conference, the Trojans must win games in the Sun Belt Conference. This will have to start against the first conference opponent of the season, which just happens

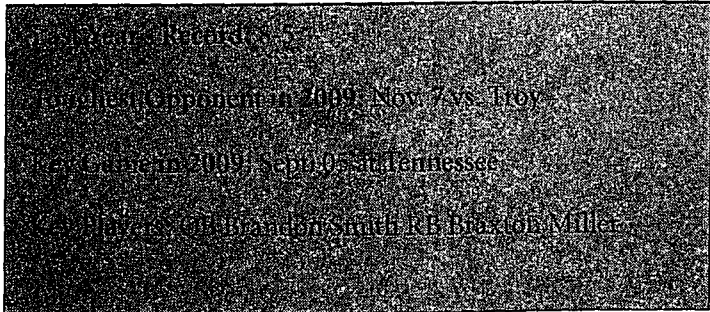
to be the team's rival, MT. If North Texas wants to return to any sort of respectability then the team must start with a win against a team that the Mean Green used to dominate.

Head coach Todd Dodge's top recruit was his own son Riley, whom he stole away from Texas. In order for his offense to run right and have the Mean Green potentially be able to outscore opponents Dodge must perform well for his father. If not it may be another 1-11 season for the Mean Green.

Western Kentucky
University

By RICHARD LOWE
Online Sports Editor

Many football coaches wish they were in the position that David Elson found himself in six years ago. Western Kentucky University won the 2002 Division I-AA National Championship with Elson serving as



defensive coordinator. After the season, Elson was promoted to the head coach position. Now after two seasons as an inde-

pendent, Western Kentucky becomes eligible for the Sun Belt Conference championship and gains the opportunity to accept bowl bids. "It is always exciting when you have something to shoot for," Elson said. "Our guys did a great job the last two years giving great effort when they knew the postseason was not an option, but hav-

ing that [opportunity] as a goal is a great thing." The Hilltoppers have been able to generate excitement on campus and in the city of Bowling Green, Ky. Across campus, school spirit has reached new heights with student attendance up 80 percent since 2006. "There is a buzz and a level of excitement during game weeks and on game day that we have not had before," Elson said. "Our students are really excited about it." About eight hours down the road, one observer will be heavily interested in what success can come to Western Kentucky's transition to the FBS level. Western Kentucky opens its season on Sept. 5, on the road at the University of Tennessee.

MT soccer athlete
earns Player of Week

Sophomore forward garners first such award of Sun Belt season, helps team crack Top 10

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Sun Belt handed out its first Player of the Week award of the season to MT's sophomore forward soccer-star Shan Jones on Tuesday. The award is the first such accolade of her career.

"We are certainly pleased Shan got this award, especially given the good results all the teams had over the weekend," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We are hoping she can continue to play well and remain injury-free."

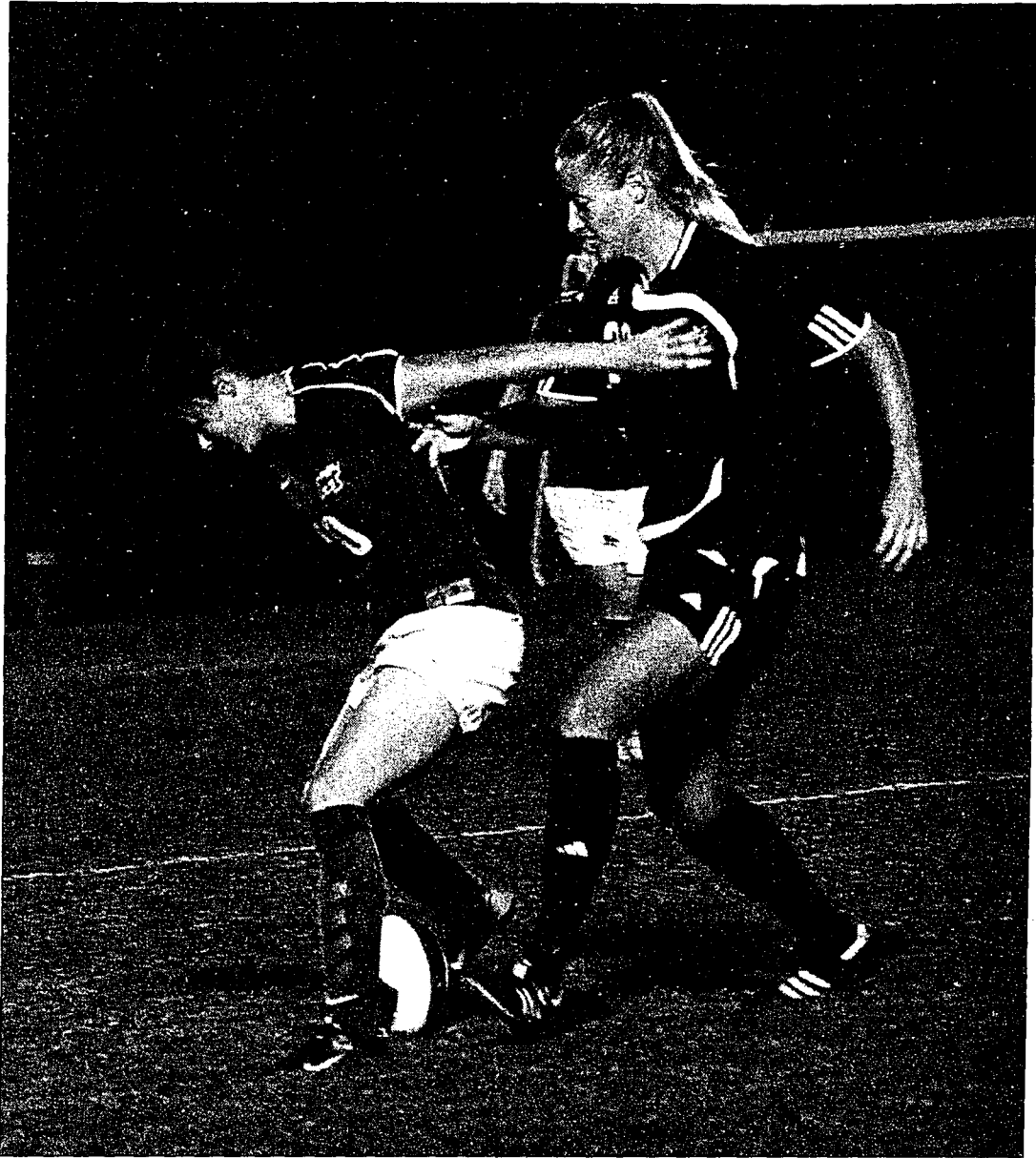
"We are certainly pleased Shan got this award, especially given the good results all the teams had over the weekend. We are hoping she can continue to play well and remain injury-free."

ASTON RHODEN
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE SOCCER

Jones is the first Blue Raider to garner the Player of the Week award since Holly Grogan was awarded the title in October of 2007. The Welsh native gibes the Blue Raider program the 15th award in overall history, and is the seventh different MT athlete to receive it.

Jones' opening week was one for the books. The forward scored an MT record-ting four goals in the home-opening 11-1 win against Alabama A&M last Sunday. Jones scored the first two goals of both halves to equal the school standard. She also added an assist against the Bulldogs.

Earlier in the week, Jones helped the team in a 4-0 victory against Tennessee Tech. On the week, her four goals and 10 points are currently the highest scoring in the Sun Belt. The four scores against Alabama A&M came on only four shots, enough to make a 100 percent scoring percentage. She has only taken six goal attempts in two matches for a 66.7 percent overall shooting percentage through the week. Jones earned a 2009 Pre-season All-Sun Belt Team pick following a rookie campaign her freshman year, in which she was tabbed the 2008 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year and named First Team All-Sun Belt. She was also recognized on the Soccer Buzz Central Region All-Freshman Team. The MT soccer team also moved into 10th place in this week's National Soccer Coaches Association of America, South Region Poll following two back-to-back victories. The Blue Raiders are also the only team among



File photo
Shan Jones wrestles to keep the ball away from a Troy defender in the 2-0 Blue Raider win on Oct. 3, 2008. Jones was awarded the season's first Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week award on Tuesday. the Top 10 to play two matches in the opening weekend. MT also holds the only 2-0 record among the twelve teams in the league. Jones and company will lead an attack against a 1-0 Dayton, a team ranked No. 1 in the Mid-Atlantic Region by the NSCAA after the first week of games. The Blue Raiders will return to action with a pair of games in Dayton, Ohio, this weekend. The set begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, against Wright State, before a Sunday match that starts at noon against Dayton.

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The University
of Louisiana at
Lafayette

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

The Ragin' Cajuns began 2008 losing three of their first four games to the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Illinois and Kansas State University. They bounced back, rattling off four consecutive wins against the University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of North Texas, Arkansas State University and Florida International University, bringing them into bowl discussions. Unfortunately for them, they dropped the next three games

Last year's record: 6-6
Key Departures: RB Tyrrell Henroy, QB Mike Desormeaux
Toughest opponent in 2009: Sept. 12 vs. Kansas State
Key game in 2009: Oct. 10 vs. University of North Texas

to the University of Texas-El Paso, Florida Atlantic University and Troy University before ending the season with a win over MT to bring their record to the .500 mark. Despite being eligible, they were not invited to a bowl game.
Arguably, UL's two best players from 2008 are no longer with the team and its production will be difficult to duplicate. Fenroy's 1,406

rushing yards and Desormeaux's 1,139 will not be easy for the crop of running backs and quarterbacks still there. It's going to be running back by committee in Lafayette, La. with seniors Undrea Sails and Matt Dupre likely getting the bulk of the rushing at least at first. Sails is the early favorite for the starting spot, said the Ragin' Cajun's head coach Rickey Bustle.

"He's the leader in our competition right now," Bustle said. "He would have had a bigger role last year if he wasn't hurt most of the year. "And if that doesn't work we've still got Draylon Booker and Julian Shankle."
The three backs in the field with experience combined last year for just 70 carries for 276 yards. To compare, Fenroy alone had 226 carries.
"This kind of gap is hard to fill, but we've got a good group of young players we're confident in," Bustle said.
The departure of Desormeaux opens up another competition among several players vying for the starting quarterback job. Whoever wins

will be stuck with the task of trying to reproduce 1,876 yards passing and 13 touchdowns. Brad McGuire is the likely candidate to win the job, but this position could be done by a rotating series of backs as well.
"We have two good quarterbacks with different styles playing for the job," Bustle said. "When we figure out who our guy is, we will have to just make the offense around them."
In the start of a tough three-game stretch, including Louisiana State University and the University of Nebraska following this week two game, the Ragin' Cajuns will host the Wildcats in what likely isn't a winnable game, but is certainly their only chance at

a victory in that stretch.
"Our whole schedule is tough," Bustle said. "You have to bring your 'A' game to beat anybody right now."
After the brutal stretch with KSU, LSU and Nebraska, UL comes home to host the Mean Green in what could be the indicator of how the rest of the season will go. With the possibility of starting the season with a 1-3 record, a loss at home to the team that finished last in the Sun Belt Conference in 2008 could be devastating, not only for the team's record but team morale. Unlike last year, this team is not built to handle a slow start, and by the time things start to turn around it could be too late.

Volleyball set for
challenging season

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

When the 2009 volleyball season begins this Friday, the Blue Raider team will look to set yet another milestone year, as it has done since head coach Matt Peck took the helm in 2004.
The Blue Raider volleyball team ended the 2008 season by advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the third consecutive time. The team hopes to do the same this fall.
MT racks up a roster of accolade-earning athletes, including All-American senior setter Leslie Clark and junior Izabela Kozon, an All-Sun Belt selection. Also returning are seniors Ashley Waugh and Ashley Mead.
All in all, MT returns eight letterwinners, along with seven newcomers.
"2009 is shaping up to be one of our best teams here at MT," Peck said. "We

now have additional height to compliment our athleticism. The caliber of players we brought in for 2009 is very high and it's probably our best incoming class.
"We have some other surprises this year and a different look and I think that will surprise some teams as well."
Injuries plagued the team in the 2008 season. Junior middle blocker was lost just two weeks into the season. Three other players were hurt or played through injuries at one point during the season.
"The team has very high expectations for 2009, especially after our injury-laden year in 2008," Peck continued. "Everyone is healthy, and the summer has seen great strides in strength and conditioning for everyone."
MT will need to be as healthy as possible during the 2009 season as it will prove to be one of the most challenging in recent memory.

The Blue Raiders open the season on Friday, when they play Kansas at 7 p.m. as a part of the Middle Tennessee Invitational. In addition, Xavier and Murray State will also visit Murfreesboro for the tournament.
The following weekend, MT will host the Blue Raider Bash. Georgia Tech, Northern Illinois, Northern Iowa and Ohio all plan to compete in the tournament.
"We are mainly going to focus on getting ready for our nonconference matches," Peck said. "Our nonconference schedule will go a long way in determining where we end up at the end of the season."
"I feel having 11 matches against NCAA teams from 2008 will certainly test us. Playing former NCAA Champion Washington is a great opportunity for us to continue our climb as a program."

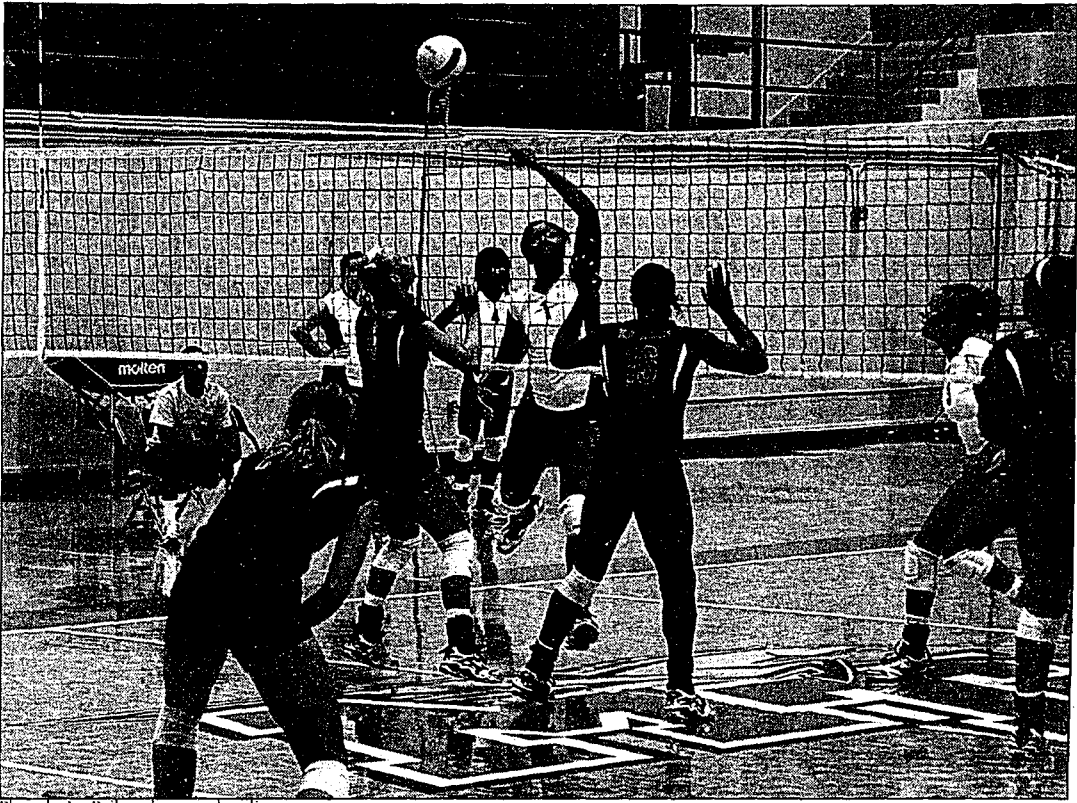


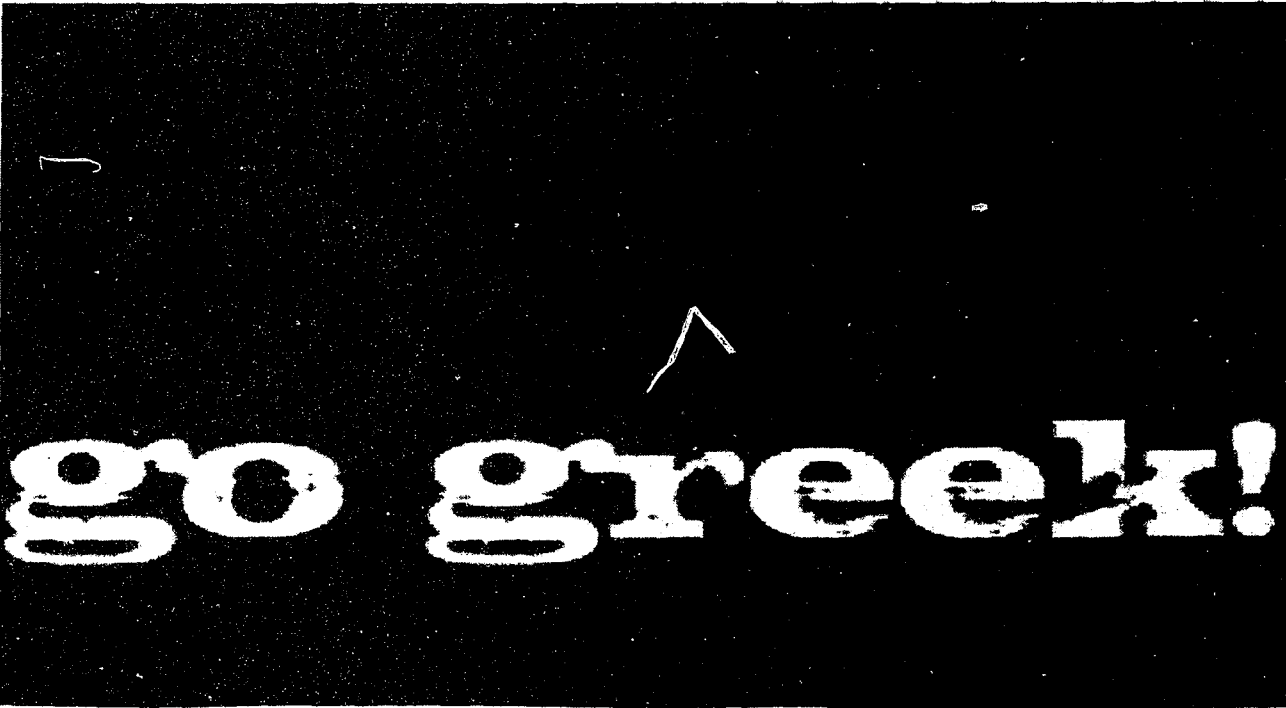
Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
The Blue Raider volleyball team prepares for their season opener with an intersquad scrimmage on Tuesday in the Alumni Memorial Gym. The team will put their skills to the test on Friday against Kansas.

The Blue Raiders will play nine teams from the 2008 NCAA Tournament this season. Teams such as Albany, Florida International, Northern Iowa, Ohio, St. Louis, UAB and Western Kentucky will all face off against MT.
The team will play three straight matches against teams from the 2008 Tour-

namment with eight of its 11 matches against those teams within a two-week period.
"We have a very tough pre-conference schedule, the toughest in the Sun Belt, and I would like to get through that first," Peck said. "We are playing some tough opponents and are going to be challenged early and I think

that will help us when we get to the Sun Belt season"
MT opens up the team's challenging 2009 season with Kansas, Friday at 7 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Gym. The matches against Murray State and Xavier follow on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

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RECRUITMENT 2009



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FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 19

He also set top five single-season marks in touchdowns, passing yards, completions and attempts as he threw for 2,677 yards to claim the second-best mark in school history.

Four of the Blue Raiders received all-conference recognition as a result of their season performances.

Defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins and safety Jeremy Kellem each earned a spot on the All-Sun Belt Conference second team, while quarterback Joe Craddock and linebacker Ivon Hickmon each earned honorable mentions.

For the 2009 football season, MT has 45 lettermen returning, including 20 on offense, 22 on defense and four specialists.

Top returners on the offense include junior starting quarterback Dwight Dasher and senior running back Tanner.

Several wide receivers also return, including senior Eldred King, who shared the team lead last season with 51 catches for 598 yards and four touchdowns, and returning senior Patrick Hon-eycutt, who took the other half of the team lead with 51 catches for 513 yards and three touchdowns.

Sophomore wide receiver Malcolm Beyah returns as a starter. As a true freshman, Beyah claimed 33 catches for 550 yards and six touchdowns.

Senior Desmond Gee, formerly a running back, has switched positions and will now be playing as a wide receiver in the upcoming season.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Danny Carmichael will be returning as the starting middle linebacker. Carmichael had 62 tackles and 27 assists, as well as three sacks and one interception for the 2008 season.

Juniors Jeremy Kellem and Kevin Brown return as the starting safeties. Kellem had 46 tackles and 26 assists, along with two interceptions and one sack, while Brown had 50 tackles, 18 assists, one interception and one sack.

Returning senior Alex Suber and junior Rod Isaac claim the starting corner positions. Suber recorded 20 tackles and six assists, while also claiming two interceptions and one sack. Issac finished the season with 27 tackles, five assists and one interception.

Sophomore Alan Gendreau will be returning as the starting placekicker. As a true freshman, Gendreau made 10-of-14 field goals and all 32 of his extra-point attempts.

Returning senior David

DeFatta returns as punter. DeFatta completed 62 punts for 2,534 yards, including a season-long 71-yard punt.

The Blue Raiders will be losing 11 lettermen, including 10 graduating seniors: Craddock, Hickmon, Jenkins, Lonnie Clemons, Anthony Glover, Andrew Harrington, Wes Hofacker, Matt King, and Ted Riley.

The Blue Raiders lost several players during the season due to injury and a couple more during spring training.

Returning junior offensive lineman Jake Padrick (knee) has been limited during spring practice, but is expected to be back at full strength in the fall.

Junior offensive lineman Brandon McLeroy (shoulder) has been limited during the spring, but is expected to be back in the starting lineup this coming fall.

Junior offensive lineman Colin Boss (shoulder) has also been limited during the spring, but is expected to return in the fall.

Returning freshman wide receiver Marcus Thurmond (knee) missed most of spring practice.

Returning senior cornerback Alex Suber (broken jaw) is expected to be a starter in the fall.

Returning junior defensive lineman Jarrett Crittenton (ACL) was injured during spring practice.

The Blue Raiders inked 29 new scholarships for the 2009 season, recruiting players in several different positions to provide strength and depth.

Arthur Williams from Glenwood High School in Phoenix City, Ala. is a three-star wideout who became MT's first commitment back in August.

Roderic Blunt from Everglades High School in Miramar, Fla. had more than 200 hundred tackles and 16 sacks in his last two seasons, while also forcing four fumbles during his senior year.

Blunt was ranked the No. 43 middle linebacker in the nation by Scout.com and played football in high school with MT junior defensive end Emmanuel Perez.

Junio Prudhomme from Naples High School in Naples, Fla. played quarterback in high school, but moved to safety. Prudhomme runs a 4.5-second 40-yard dash.

The Blue Raiders begin the 2009 season on Sept. 5 with a season opener against Clemson University at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC. The Clemson Tigers are a member of the ACC.

The first home game of the season will take place on Sept. 12 as the Blue Raiders face the University of Memphis Tigers in Floyd Stadium. The Tigers are Conference USA members and will be visiting Murfreesboro for the

first time since 1953.

The Memphis game has been tentatively decided upon as the "Blackout" game of the season, following the tradition that began during the 2008 season with the Blackout game against Florida Atlantic University.

Following the Memphis game, the Blue Raiders will hit the road to compete against the University of Maryland Terrapins at Byrd Stadium in College Park, Md., on Sept. 19. Maryland is a member of the ACC.

For the third away game of the season, MT will be facing the team's Sun Belt Conference foe, the University of North Texas Mean Green at Fouts Field in Denton, Texas on Sept. 26.

The Raiders will then confront the University of Troy Trojans, another SBC rival, on Oct. 6. The Troy game will be nationally televised on ESPN2 from Movie Gallery Stadium in Troy, Ala.

MT will return home for two consecutive games as the team faces the Mississippi State University Bulldogs, SEC members, on Oct. 17 at Floyd Stadium.

The following week, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers are scheduled to visit Murfreesboro on Oct. 24 for MT's third SBC game of the season. The WKU game has been set as the Homecoming game for the 2009 season.

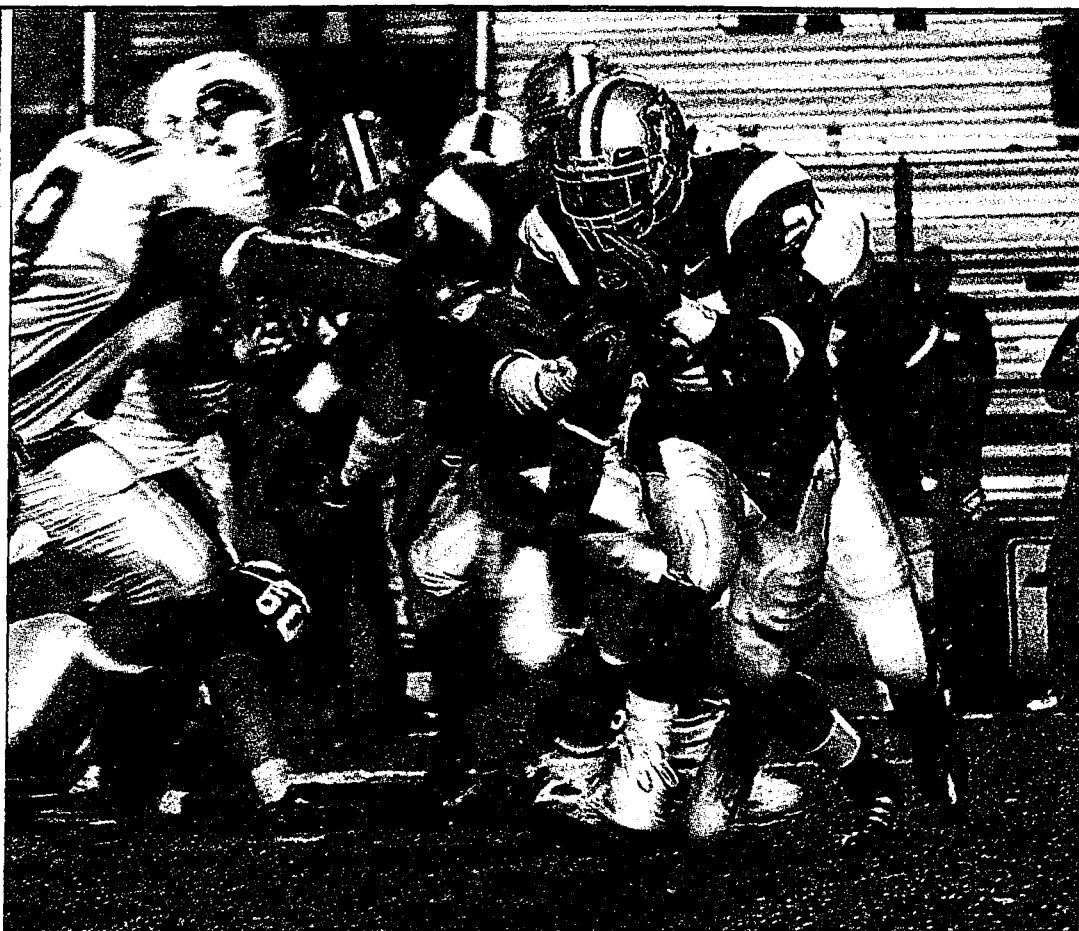
Following Homecoming, the Blue Raiders leave home once again to face another SBC foe, the Florida Atlantic University Owls, at Lockhart Stadium in Boca Raton, Fla. The game is scheduled for Oct. 31.

After returning home, the Raiders will spend three consecutive SBC games at home, beginning with a game against the Florida International University Panthers on Nov. 7. During this weekend, MT will also host its annual Family Weekend.

On Nov. 14, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin Cajuns will pay a visit to Murfreesboro as they face the Blue Raiders at Floyd Stadium.

For the final home game of the season, the Blue Raiders will be lining up against the Arkansas State Red Wolves. The ASU game is scheduled for Nov. 21, and will end the three-home game streak for the Raiders.

After playing their final game at Floyd Stadium, the Blue Raiders will once again return to the road to face their final SBC foe, the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The team will take to the field on Nov. 21 to compete against the Warhawks. The game will take place at Monroe Stadium in Monroe, La.



File photo

Senior running back Phillip Tanner sprints past a ULM defender in last season's decisive 24-21 win.

University of

Louisiana at Monroe

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

The 2008 season didn't start well for the Warhawks, as Auburn University thumped them 34-0 in week one and came up a point short against the University of Arkansas Sept. 12. A win over Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University the following week was the high point of the first six games, as three more losses followed to Tulane University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Arkansas State University. The highlight of the season came Nov. 1 when the Warhawks edged Troy 31-30 at home. Losses to MT and Ole Miss, followed by a win at FIU, finished off the year.

Lancaster's departure leaves ULM searching for someone else to lead its offense. The quarterback threw for 2,040 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2008, as well as rushing for 803 yards. He finished his

Last year's record:	4-7
Key Departure:	QB Kimson Lancaster
Highest opponent in 2009:	Oct. 31 at Troy University
Key game in 2009:	Sept. 26 at Florida Atlantic University

career at ULM with 1,557 yards rushing, the most by a quarterback in the school's history. Several candidates are competing for the job, including junior Trey Revell and senior Scott Love. Revell has limited playing experience, attempting 28 passes in 2008, completing 14 of them for 129 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

With a schedule that includes games at the University of Texas, Arizona State University and Kentucky, the Warhawks have a tough road ahead of them to get to bowl eligibility. Since none of those games are likely winnable, the Halloween showdown against the defending Sun Belt Conference champs

in Troy, Ala. should be the biggest test of how much, if at all, the team has improved.

The Warhawks will likely start the season losing to Texas and Arizona State, with a good shot at a win over Texas Southern University. The week after their trip to ASU they travel to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. to take on the Owls in what could be a big morale game. The team is looking at two potentially lopsided games the first three weeks of the year, and this game will be a good chance to rebound and gain some confidence going into the rest of the schedule. If ULM can't turn it around here, the outlook for the rest of the season does not look bright.

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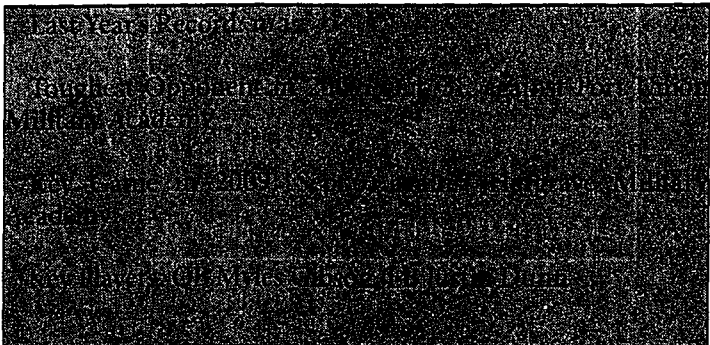
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University of South Alabama

By RICHARD LOWE
Online Sports Editor

Last year, the University of South Alabama announced that it would develop a football program that will begin play this season. The Jaguars will play a 7-game schedule this season with all of their games taking place at home. The team's first full schedule will be next season with the NCAA transitional period starting the following season. South Alabama will play its home games at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, which is already home to the Senior Bowl and the GMAC Bowl. Leading the program is Joey Jones, who is already a well-known figure in the state. He played college football at the University of Alabama before



playing professionally in the USFL and NFL. He made his name in the coaching circles by guiding Mountain Brook High School to a state championship game, two semifinal appearances, three quarter-final appearances and four region titles. He was hired by Birmingham-Southern College to be their head coach before leaving a year later to become the head coach at South Alabama. In his short time at South Alabama, Jones

said he has already noticed the excitement building in Mobile, Ala. "Anywhere you go here in Mobile, it seems like someone is always asking you about the season," Jones said. "You see a lot of South Alabama Football t-shirts everywhere you go." Just recently, South Alabama hired a new athletics director. Joel Erdmann will be taking over for Joe Gottfried, who announced his retirement earlier this summer.

Erdmann will be expected to not only help build the football program but also keep the athletics department at South Alabama "top-notch." "We have to make sure we are planning appropriately and executing appropriately to put a tremendous product on the field," Erdmann said. When making the jump to the FBS level, prior success cannot be expected to carry over easily. In Western Kentucky's case, while competing these last two seasons as an independent in the NCAA transitional period, the Hilltoppers were a combined 9-15. The 38 percent winning percentage in that two-year span was the football program's worst since the 1994 and 1995 seasons in which the Hilltoppers went 7-14 for a 33 percent winning percentage. Coach Elson notes that get-

ting back to winning consistently can take a while. "Our program has 511 all-time victories so our fans are used to winning," Elson said. "Our plan from day one has been to do this the right way; we want to be successful as fast as possible, but this process cannot be microwaved." "The vast majority of our players are coming to our program from high school, and only three of our five recruiting classes have been signed since we made the announcement that we were going to 1-A football. It takes time, but we are headed in the right direction." While Elson's team prepares to take their field to compete for a conference championship, Jones will be preparing for the program's first game. Jones explains that long-term goals have already been set

for the program. "My goal is to be the No. 3 team in [Alabama]," Jones said. "Alabama and Auburn are the top dogs in the state, and I'm sure they always will be." Jones is also well aware of his nearest competition once he joins the league. "[Troy University's head coach] Larry Blakeney has done a tremendous job," Jones said. "Troy is one of those programs in this country that has gone from playing 1-AA ball to being a force in Division I; they have done a great job against other schools as well so it's going to be great competition. I can promise you that." South Alabama will play its program's first-ever game against Hargrove Military Academy on Sept. 5.

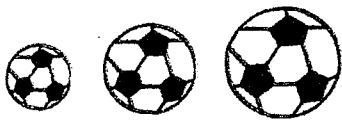
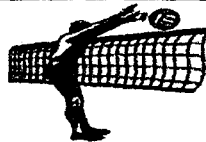


photo: courtesy of goblueraiders.com
SHAN JONES

SUN BELT
PLAYER OF
THE WEEK



CLASS: SO-1L
POSITION: F
HEIGHT: 5'4
HOMETOWN: Y FELINHELI, WALES



ATHLETIC CALENDAR

AUG 28

VBL VS. KANSAS STATE (7:30 PM)

AUG 29

VBL VS. MURRAY STATE(1:00 PM)
VS. XAVIER (7:30 PM)

SEPT 4

WSC VS. OKLAHOMA (7:00 PM)
VBL VS. GEORGIA TECH (7:00 PM)

SEPT 5

FB AT CLEMSON(5:00 PM)
VBL VS. NORTHERN ILLINOIS(2:00 PM)
VBL VS. NORTHERN IOWA(7:00 PM)

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CLEMSON ROAD RALLY



The Student Government Association is sponsoring a Road Rally to Clemson, South Carolina, **September 4-6** to watch the Blue Raider football team dominate the Clemson Tigers. The **cost** is \$125 which **includes roundtrip transportation, 2 night hotel stay at the Clemson Ramada, t-shirt, and game ticket.** This will be the **ONLY ROAD RALLY** for the fall semester and it is an opportunity you do not want to miss.

Extended deadline: Sept. 1st 4pm

Sign up: KUC 208

For questions, contact Sarah Ayache, sgavpapa@mtsu.edu

Student Government Elections

Student Government Elections are an opportunity for students to be a part of the most prestigious student organization on campus. It is the job of senators to be the voice of their fellow peers by writing and voting on legislation that reflects the concerns of the student body and to better the campus.

Elections will be held Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 for Freshman Senate. Graduate Senate newly opened senate seats for all colleges, at large, and undeclared as well as Homecoming King and Queen.

For more information contact Patrick Mertes, Election Commissioner at 898-2537 sgaelect@mtsu.edu or come by the SGA office KUC 208 or visit the SGA website www.mtsu.edu/sga

Important Dates:

- * Monday, August 31 — candidate packets available in the SGA Office, KUC 208
- * Tuesday, September 8 — election packets are due in SGA Office, KUC 208, by 4:00 p.m.
- * Tuesday, September 15 — candidate eligibility announced
- * Thursday, September 17 — mandatory meeting for qualified candidates (Location: TBA)
- * Saturday, September 19 — campaigning begins
- * Tuesday, September 29 - Thursday, October 1 — Elections

