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An editorially
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Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Campus media features election coverage

Sidelines, MTTV-Channel 10 and 88.3 WMTS will all have election night coverage. MTTV's coverage begins at 7:30 p.m. with live coverage from the Cyber Cafe and the Public Square.

Sidelines will have results and analysis of local elections in Wednesday's paper.

WMTS talk show "Spread the Word" will be covering and analyzing local and national elections Tuesday night at 10 p.m.

OWLS celebrate

Nontraditional Students

MTSU Older Wiser Learners will celebrate National Nontraditional Student Week will be Nov. 8 – 12. Nov. 9, the OWLS will sponsor an all-day faculty and staff Open House at the Adult Services Center in Keathley University Center room 320. A dinner will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11 in the KUC, Room 320.

Groups sponsor

non-partisan voter rally

Women for Women and Vox (voices of Planned Parenthood) will be hosting Pep Rally for the Polls, a non-partisan voter pep rally, tomorrow at 1 p.m. at the KUC knoll. The event will begin with a march around campus, followed by a HBO's film "Iron Jawed Angels" at 2 p.m. The College Democrats and the Raider Republicans have confirmed participation. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Courtney Wood at clw2f@mtsu.edu or Liz Estes at eae2b@mtsu.edu.

Campus Rec offers water safety course

Campus Recreation will be offering a Water Safety Instructor course from Friday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 14. It costs \$125 for MTSU students, \$135 for MTSU faculty and staff and \$145 for guests. Applicants must be 15 years old by Nov. 14 and have the ability to swim at Level 4 of American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program.

Chi Alpha meeting to discuss religion, science

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship group will host "The Forum" tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building room 123. "The Forum" is a regular weekly meeting. This week the topic for discussion is "Do Christianity and Science Contradict?" This event is open to the public. For more information contact J.R. Becker at 347-1080.

Ministry holds auditions for talent showcase

Doers of the Word college ministry is holding auditions for a talent showcase, "Soul Expressions" today from 5-7 p.m. in the KUC, Room 215. All singers, rappers and poets are encouraged to come. Each possible contestant must bring a copy of their lyrics to the audition. Those who are interested in auditioning should e-mail Dorian Lee at dal2i@mtsu.edu or Rodrik Watkins at rew2g@mtsu.edu for an audition time. ♦

Polls show race too close to call

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

The latest Democracy Corps poll taken between Oct. 29 and Oct. 30 has John Kerry up 48 percent to Bush's 47. Likely voters nationwide were polled, and the margin of error is 4.4 percent.

A Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll taken in the same period showed both candidates tied at 46 percent. Registered voters nationwide were polled, and if the respondent was unsure, they were asked which way they lean. The margin of error is 3 percent.

The latest Reuters/Zogby poll has the candidates tied at 48 percent. The poll used a rolling three-day sample of likely voters between Oct. 28 and Oct. 30. The margin of error is 2.9 percent.

With the race a dead heat, voters face an avalanche of polls, each with its own methodologies and quirks. Journalism professor Ken Blake said that opinion polls have credibly predicted presidential elections since the 1930s.

"What the polls are quite accurately telling us is that the election is close," Blake said. "The best polls can do is reflect the closeness of the race."

Blake offered two strategies for voters to use when looking at polls. He suggested selecting a single polling firm that is known to be credible, or he suggested taking "an informal average of polls."

Blake uses the latter strategy, with the understanding that pollsters use different methodologies.

"If you look at all those different polls, using their respec-

tive methodological variations, I think you can come up with a pretty good idea in general for how things are going for each candidate," Blake said.

He noted that some polls call likely voters, while others call registered voters. Different populations can yield different results. Both methods have their strengths and weaknesses.

When pollsters call registered voters, Blake said they're actually reaching voters who included their telephone number in their voter registration information.

"That winds up being a pretty small subset of registered voters," Blake said. "So you're moving farther and farther away from a true random sample of [the population]."

The MTSU poll, which Blake runs, is a random sample of the general population. This is a more random sample, but around 80 percent of respondents will say they are registered to vote when many are not.

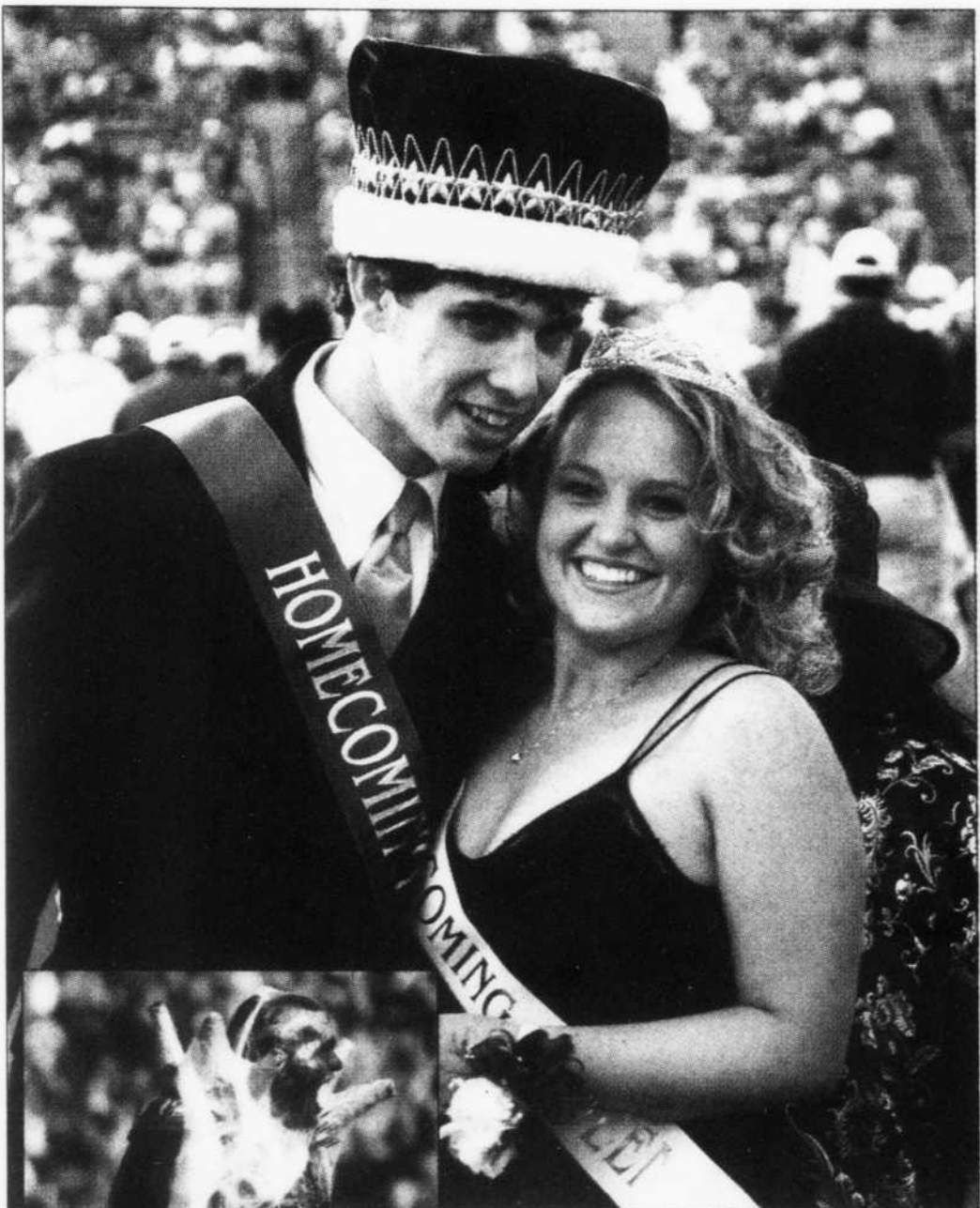
"The key thing to keep your eye on is that nobody, and I mean nobody, knows who is going to go to the polls on Nov. 2," Blake said. "That's a really hard number to get a hold of."

"A lot of the variation that you're seeing in the polls is due to pollsters using different approaches to try to figure out who that population's going to be."

In its "Consumer's Guide to the Polls," *Slate* states that opinion polls are "full of additives and preservatives, subtractions and selective multiplications, none of which are generally published."

See Polling, 3

Homecoming 2004



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

(Above) Steven Helton and Candice Haynes were crowned this year's homecoming king and queen at Saturday's football game against Utah State.

(Left) Beej Ashbury shows his homecoming spirit by dressing up for the Raiders' win Saturday, 21-0.

Journalists compare Iraq and Vietnam wars

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

Vietnam's continuing impact on America and its parallels to the war in Iraq were the topics of discussion by a visiting panel of journalists Thursday.

"The Echoes of Vietnam: Iraq, the Election and the Memory of War," sponsored by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence, featured A.J. Langguth, former reporter for *The New York Times* and author of "Our Vietnam: The War 1954-1975"; Ed Fouhy, former Saigon bureau chief for CBS News and Bill Kovach, former

Washington bureau chief for *The New York Times* who covered the anti-war movement during the Vietnam war.

The panel talked at length about how Vietnam continues to resonate with the generation of Americans who experienced the war.

"You can't have a discussion about [the war in Vietnam] except in a political context where it's used to make some claim about who you are 30 years later," Kovach said.

Americans have never engaged in an open public conversation about the Vietnam War and the general reaction to

the first war the nation ever lost, Kovach pointed out.

"[The lack of discussion] has left a reservoir of anger or guilt among the broad population that is susceptible to political manipulation," he said.

"Those who had the opportunity to avoid the draft took full advantage of it," Kovach said.

According to Kovach, the guilt about how they behaved during the Vietnam War affects how that generation views current politics.

"[After Vietnam, the Democrats were] staking their political success or failure on

the sense that the public was not supporting the war, and the Republicans began to take the position that they were the party that would defend America against all our foes," Kovach said. "George Bush and John Kerry both have been unable to get off that message."

Langguth agreed.

"You can't just talk about it logically," he said. "You have to remember that we're a product of everything we've lived through, and there are all these guilts — and they can be irrational — but they do affect how we respond and how we vote."

"[Vietnam was] a huge

specter that haunted that generation," Fouhy said. "There is a huge population of people who are in dominant leadership roles, certainly personified by Bush and Kerry. Their different responses to the Vietnam War are very much a part of it."

Wendell Rawls, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and journalism professor at MTSU, moderated the discussion.

Rawls said he finds the fault in "the idea that American journalists are... to be supportive of and maintain morale in the armed forces."

See Wars, 2

Riding for the Environment



Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

Students participate in a community bicycle ride, Tour 'de Murfreesboro at 1 p.m. Saturday. This was the last event of Alternative Transportation Week, sponsored by Students for Environmental Action. The bicycle ride was followed by a party with live music.

Paddling at issue for county schools

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Among the challenges facing the Rutherford County's school board this year is continued student population growth, rezoning and changing the corporal punishment policy, a school board official said.

Mark Byrnes, an MTSU political science professor who was elected to the school board in August, said he has been outspoken on his opposition to corporal punishment in Rutherford County schools.

The county is one of only three in middle Tennessee that still allows paddling of students.

Rutherford County is facing a lawsuit filed by a grandmother whose grandson was paddled without her knowledge or consent at a Smyrna school.

Byrnes said while a strong argument can be made to ban the practice altogether, he would at least like to amend the policy so that parents will be notified if school officials intend to paddle a child.

"The county policy does not require that the parent be notified before the child receives corporal punishment," Byrnes said. "That's what I hope to

See Paddling, 2



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

What did you do for Halloween?

Opinions 4 ¥Living 5 ¥Sports 6 ¥Classifieds 7

Last-minute guide to the issues

By Lindsey Castleman, Ashley Hicks
and Kristi Nabors
Contributors

You have watched the debates, read the newspaper and heard all of the mudslinging. However, if you are like most Americans, you may still be confused on where each candidate stands on the issues. Fortunately, the dirty work has been done for you.

With only a few hours before you head the polls, it is time to cram with your Campaign 2004 study guide on the issues that a randomly selected group of MTSU students noted as

being most important to them. All of the issues come from the candidates' official Web sites as well as from the *New York Times* Campaign 2004 section.

When you go to the polls tomorrow, remember that the character issue, which has been a centerpiece of these campaigns, is important, but issues of education, the war on terrorism, and civil rights have a much greater impact on your life.

No matter whom you are voting for, make sure that your vote is an educated one.



Sen. John Kerry

Education

Sen. John Kerry would like to establish a National Education Trust Fund that will help give schools the proper funding for programs such as No Child Left Behind and will reward schools that meet national standards.

Kerry wants to create a plan that will offer teachers more training and better pay in disadvantaged schools. In return, teachers will be held to higher standards as a way to ensure that teachers who do not belong in the classroom don't stay there.

School's Open 'Til Six is Kerry's plan to support after-school programs by keeping children out of trouble and assisting working parents.

His goal is to fund programs that allow students to stay after school until 6 p.m.

Kerry's goal for higher education is to make college more affordable by allowing students to earn the equivalent of the cost of their state's four-year public college tuition through volunteering for national non-profit organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club.

He also supports creating a College Opportunity Tax Credit that will allow families to receive a tax credit of up to

\$4,000 for every year of college.

Kerry hopes to entice states to keep tuition down by offering federal aid to states that comply.

War and the Military

Kerry feels that the war on terror cannot be won by military strength alone.

He wants to restore a global alliance to combat terrorism and restore peace in Iraq because he believes that no force on earth is more able than the United States and its allies.

Kerry wants to modernize the military, improve our ability to gather information and utilize U.S. strong points to better combat and even prevent terrorism.

Kerry plans to redraw the plans for restoration in Iraq and implement new ones that will benefit the people more efficiently through education and security force training.

Gay Rights

Kerry wants to open marital benefits up to same-sex couples.

Kerry spoke out against the Federal Marriage Amendment in July 2004, which attempted to put a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages. He said that the amendment distracted

the government from "the important work of the American people - funding our homeland security needs, creating new and better jobs and raising the minimum wage," which was not getting done.

He has a record of supporting the lesbian and gay community through his sponsorship of the Hate Crime Prevention Bill and the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act.

Kerry publicly opposed the Clinton administration's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy banning gays from the military.

He was one of 14 senators who voted against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Abortion

Kerry is a pro-choice supporter.

He said he will only nominate individuals to the federal bench whose record demonstrates a pro-choice platform.

He is for health plans that assure women coverage for contraceptives and direct access to OB/GYNs.

Kerry wants to lift the ban on stem cell research due to its potential to help combat illness such as Parkinson's Disease. ♦

President George W. Bush

Education

President George W. Bush's plan to help young children includes support for the Head Start program. He wants to increase federal given to states that integrate the Head Start programs into their existing pre-kindergarten and childcare services.

Bush would also like to enhance early childhood education by funding research to develop more effective ways to teach children literacy and math skills and by funding faith and community-based organizations that prepare parents to assist in their child's education.

Bush's plans for higher education include increased federal funding such as increasing Pell grants for students who take demanding course loads in high school, with the hope that those students from low-income backgrounds will be more prepared for college.

Bush's goal is to make college more affordable by reducing interest rates for student loans, increasing student loan limits and expanding repayment options.

War and the Military

Bush believes we will either fight the terrorists abroad or

face the consequences at home.

Bush wants to continue educating and assisting the fifty million people liberated from totalitarian regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. He believes this action will help cultivate a safer world.

Bush wants to continue training the Iraqi military and plans for the Iraqi people to hold their own democratic election, much like the Afghans, in the coming year.

He has said he does not want to rest the United States' safety in the hands of other nations.

Bush wants to establish a National Counterterrorism Center to be our government's knowledge bank for information about known and suspected terrorists.

Bush has begun restructuring the U.S. military presence overseas in hopes to better support servicemen, servicewomen and their families. Bush hopes this restructuring will bring home many Cold War-era forces while deploying more flexible and rapidly deployable capabilities in strategic locations around the world.

Gay Rights

Bush supports marriage as a union between a man and a woman. ♦

Bush has fought judges who sought to legalize same-sex marriages in defense of traditional marriage.

Bush plans to continue protecting the Defense of Marriage Act.

Bush will persist in urging Congress to pass the Federal Marriage Amendment and to send it to the states for ratification.

Abortion

Bush supports a culture of life.

During his term as president, Bush oversaw the passage of four bills that protect the unborn, including the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. He also ended federal funding of international organizations that promote abortion.

Bush plans to defend the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, which he signed into law.

Bush does not want to fund abortions with federal money.

Bush will continue to support abstinence education in schools and the parent's right to involvement in their minor daughter's pregnancy.

He will continue to support ethical stem cell research, which does not implement the use and thereby destruction of human embryos. ♦

Wars: Media neglects news coverage in Iraq

Continued from 1

During the discussion, he mentioned Anne Garrels, the National Public Radio reporter who spoke at MTSU in August about her experiences reporting from Baghdad.

"It's another Vietnam," Rawls said Garrels told professors in private. "I'm not optimistic because everybody from the grunts to the generals to the diplomats will tell you, 'It's Vietnam all over again because the troops are not very well-trained. They're frightened. They're terrified... [The soldiers] fire all over the streets at anyone who moves.'"

But Garrels has never report-

ed those things, Rawls pointed out.

"None of the people who seem to know these things are reporting [them]," he said.

MTSU student Robbie Sexton attended the panel discussion to learn more about the Vietnam War.

"I'm from a younger generation. I'm a freshman coming in. I don't know anything at all about Vietnam," he said. "Lots of people talk about the war [in Iraq] right now with the election going on, comparing it to Vietnam. It's good to see the real similarities between [Iraq and Vietnam] because the election is next week." ♦

Paddling: Student growth problematic for school board

Continued from 1

achieve: that no corporal punishment is meted out until the parents have given their permission."

Byrnes said the board is dealing with many issues this year, including population growth, planning for new school construction and rezoning schools.

"One of our biggest issues is growth, how to keep up with growth," Byrnes said. "The student population is growing at such a fast rate that we really need to be building about two and a half new schools per year.

That's the main challenge right now, how to maintain quality and have enough places to put all these kids."

Much of the growth in the student population stems from new housing, which Byrnes said makes it difficult to predict when an area will need more room for students.

"It's hard to predict how fast some of these subdivisions are going to be built and how fast they will be sold," Byrnes said. "But then you also have the problem of funding, which the county commission controls. So we can ask for all the schools that we want to, but that does-

n't mean they will be funded."

Byrnes said that while two new schools will open in 2006, for the 2005 school year the county will likely have to use more portables to deal with overcrowding.

Byrnes said rezoning will be another issue that will likely come up this spring when planning for the next school year.

"Again, it goes back to growth," Byrnes said. "Growth causes you to build new schools, and when you have new schools, you have to rezone."

Byrnes said that problems

arise when too many parents want their children to go to the new schools, or when too many parents want their children to remain at their current school.

He said that the board will try to help the situation by planning this spring for rezoning in the 2006 school year when the new schools open. By planning ahead, Byrnes said he hopes people will have time to get used to the idea of changing schools.

"There's just no way to avoid rezoning," Byrnes said. "I am not looking forward to that part of the job. There is no way to make everybody happy." ♦

KERRY - EDWARDS
Campaign Headquarters

Murfreesboro: 1087 Old Salem Rd. (at Samsonite Blvd.)
Tel: 494-5220

Smyrna: 244 South Lowry Street
Tel: 223-0330

Rutherford Co. Democratic Party Headquarters
410 New Salem Rd., Suite 100, Murfreesboro
Tel: 494-5755

Visit our website: www.rcvke4.com

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Tel: (504) 582-2111 x114
or email: jep2005@jemb-nola.org. The application can also be found at www.jep2005.us

Tracy, Gardner answer 'Sidelines' tough questions

Jim Tracy, R - Shelbyville, is running for State Senator against Larry Trail.

What is the biggest problem facing Tennessee today?

The biggest problem facing our state is leadership. We need to bring common sense, conservative leadership to the State Senate. For too long, we have elected people who do not represent our beliefs and values. We are at a crossroads and it is time for change. It is time to send someone to Nashville who will be a voice for all people, not just an elite few, someone who will be a leader, and set an example for the constituents in their district. I will provide that leadership.

Why should a college student vote for you?

A college student should vote for me because I want to bring common sense back to the State Senate. Students want to have confidence that their legislators are using state funds in the most effective way possible. A college student should also vote for me because I will be accessible. I will be out in the community and have an office right here in Murfreesboro where students can come and share their ideas with me.

What should be done with any budget surplus?

The budget surplus should go back to the local counties and municipalities first and then back to the taxpayers. A couple of years ago, Mr. Trail voted to take money away from counties and municipalities which then forced them to raise property taxes. We need to restore this state shared revenue. Another common sense piece of legislation is the Taxpayer Bill of



Tracy

Should the 1 percent sales tax increase be kept in place? Why or why not?

I think that as the economy continues to grow, we need to roll back the sales tax. We have a \$400 million surplus this year. With a surplus like that, it is only common sense to reduce the tax burden.

How should the inequities (i.e. rural, urban, suburban schools) in K-12 education funding be handled?

We had a good first step this year in equalizing teacher pay. My opponent called the settlement "stupid" and that is really unfortunate. We need to offer many accelerated and advanced courses in rural schools as well. Again, to help fix this problem, we need to restore the state shared revenues to the counties and municipalities so that those rural and urban schools get the financial resources they need.

What specifically will you do to help make college more affordable for Tennessee students?

To make college more affordable, I will first look at efficiencies that could be realized through combining parts of the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. I will also work to increase scholarships and grants. Tennessee state colleges are still

a relative bargain, but we must ensure that those who choose to attend have the financial ability to do so.

What do you propose to control TennCare's spending growth (or should it be scrapped altogether)?

To save TennCare, drastic changes have to be made. First of all, we need to have an audit of the rolls so that only those who are on it should be on it. Secondly, we need to look at some form of co-pay system where enrollees can pay into the system. Thirdly, benefit limits must be looked at. If we continue to give a blank check to TennCare and its enrollees, the state will suffer.

Should the state constitution be amended to disallow same-sex marriage?

Yes, the state constitution should be amended to define marriage between one man and one woman. There is no question that this is an important issue. States like Massachusetts are allowing same-sex marriage and it is only a matter of time before same sex couples come to Tennessee and want to be recognized as married. Marriage is between one man and one woman, period. My opponent passed on a vote to define marriage between one man and one woman. We need to make it clear by having a constitutional amendment to define marriage between one man and one woman.

Should the state constitution be amended to restrict abortions?

Yes, we should pass a constitutional amendment to restrict abortions. We need to give the power to set abortion rights to

the legislature and get it out of the Tennessee Supreme Court. My opponent voted for taxpayer funded abortions and voted pro-abortion 12 out of 13 times. I am a firm believer that killing an unborn child at any phase is wrong, and I will work to ensure that our tax dollars are not spent on killing unborn children.

What is the biggest problem facing Tennessee today?

The biggest problem facing Tennessee is the fact that not all children are learning to read in grades K-3. This is a problem that will continue to grow, if the budget is not gotten under control and funds reallocated to help the problem areas.

Oscar Gardner, R - Murfreesboro, is running for State Representative against Kent Coleman.

Why should a college student vote for you?

As a college student, you're going to be entering into the work force full time. There will be a great deal more taxes to pay and you will certainly be affected by state laws.

It's important for a college student to prepare for his/her future and vote for the right officials.

I believe I would be the right one. I want to bring back some common sense values to the legislature and keep taxes lower, keep a state income tax out and preserve the great values of this wonderful state.

What should be done with any budget surplus?

There was a \$400 million surplus last fiscal year. Very little was put into a rainy day fund. Most of it will be put into an



Gardner

ever-increasing budget next year. I believe that that money should go back to the taxpayers, at least lower the sales tax on food and prescription drugs.

Should the 1 percent sales tax increase be kept in place? Why or why not?

Absolutely not. The state legislature has to be more responsible with the taxpayers' money. It makes no sense to charge the taxpayers more than is necessary to run state government. In a good economy like we have now (\$145 million in sales tax revenue above the prediction) if we keep taxing and spending, we will be on the road to a state income tax - which I oppose!

How should the inequities (i.e. rural, urban, suburban schools) in K-12 education funding be handled?

The lottery was instituted in the state of Tennessee in hopes that it would help more kids go to college. I think it has most certainly done that; however, it's capable of more.

I believe that more funding needs to go to the lower grades K-3 to ensure that every child learns to read.

What specifically will you do to help make college more affordable for Tennessee students?

I would help to make the lottery more efficient, so that students can continue to us it for their financial needs in college. Through the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights," I would help to clean-up the state budget, giving taxpayers more control over

where their money goes. It would also help to give money back to the taxpayers in times of surplus, putting more money in their pockets to help with the higher educational expenses.

What do you propose to control TennCare's spending growth (or should it be scrapped altogether)?

TennCare is so important to many people across the state. I don't believe that it can be scrapped altogether. However, it does need to be reformed.

I believe that once the state's budget is under control, it will be easier to do. I believe in a Taxpayer Bill of Rights, which would help the budget. I believe that we also need some tort reform. When trial lawyers are gotten under control from outrageously large healthcare suits, I think we'll see the price of healthcare and prescription drugs go down considerably.

Should the state constitution be amended to disallow same-sex marriage?

Marriage is most certainly between one man and one woman. I believe that we should do whatever it takes to keep it that way. If that is amending the constitution, then we need to do it.

Should the state constitution be amended to restrict abortions?

I am a very strong pro-life advocate as well. I do believe that abortions should be done away with. I will do whatever it takes to protect the sanctity of life. ♦

Kent Coleman and Larry Trail declined to answer our questions.

Polling: Polls yield accurate results regardless of methodology

Continued from 1

It says one way to assess a poll is by looking at the questionnaire. Most polls post the questions asked online.

"The trial heat," when a pollster asks who a respondent will vote for, is another factor.

Respondents answer questions differently depending on whether the trial heat comes at the beginning or end of a call.

Regardless of methodology, polls can yield accurate results. But what impact do they have on the electorate?

"The electorate reacts to

polls," Blake said. "I also think the polls react to the electorate. I'm not sure you can establish one way directions of causality there."

"Pollsters, journalists, the electorate and politicians do what they do in elections in the context of very complex rela-

tionships. I'm not sure that you can say public opinion polls drive public opinion. Sometimes they do." Reflecting on the recent MTSU poll, Blake said that since the 1960s, voters generally don't have a "broad and deep knowledge of public issues." Voters take shortcuts

and focus on a handful of issues, or they may make a gut decision on morality and leadership.

"That's certainly not the ideal citizen that we learn about in high school civics class, but there's some evidence that when you take all of those individual opinions informed and unin-

formed as they may be and put them together ... overall democracy does a pretty good job of communicating the will of the public to those who make public policy."

"[Public opinion] has a way of averaging out fairly sensible public policy." ♦

Bart Gordon Stays in Touch



Bart Gordon stays in touch in a lot of different ways. He has regular open meetings and call ins, and he is a familiar face on special days in our community.

But there is another way Congressman

Bart Gordon stays in touch. Every morning, no matter if here at home or in his office in Washington, Bart begins his day by reading personal letters from people like you and me.

For Bart, it is another way of staying in touch. For us, it is a way to let him know when we have a problem, an idea, or a concern.



Bart Gordon is fighting the sale of Tennessee lakes.



Bart Gordon will make the government pay back the Social Security trust fund.



Bart Gordon supports the Patients' Bill Of Rights which allows patients and their doctors to make key medical decisions.

And because Bart Gordon stays in touch, he has made a difference on things that matter to us. Bart Gordon doesn't just come around at election time asking for our votes. He is here all the time,



He listens, he cares, he gets things done.

listening to us, standing up for us, and every morning, reading our letters.



Bart fights for smaller classes, safer schools and better access to higher education.

Paid for by the Congressman Bart Gordon Committee

From the Editorial Board

Polls taking focus off more important issues

Over the course of this election year, voters have been subject to an onslaught of public opinion polls, many of which contradict each other due to their individual methodologies.

Most polls don't call cell phones, which is the only means of communication for many college students. Some polls don't count the votes of people who didn't vote previously. Some polls only call voters who write in their phone numbers when they register. The massive youth vote has added an unpredictable element to the election this year and many polls are virtually ignoring it or else have no way to gauge its impact.

Many newspapers and television media spend untold amounts of money and resources to perform and report on these polls, but its time for the voters to ask why. If an undecided voter picks up a newspaper and reads an entire story about poll results, how exactly has that story helped this voter understand the issues in order to participate in our democracy?

What this creates is a society of readers who put too much emphasis on what others are saying about the election. The ability to think rationally and reasonably about the issues is lost because the media has essentially made your decision for you.

If you look at the actual questions of these polls, you will find that a majority of them test how effective each campaign's spin and attacks have been. They don't ask questions about the respondent feels about the economy — they ask how do they think candidate A is handling the downturn in the economy. So the respondent is forced to answer only how the campaigns want them to.

By incessantly covering polls, the media does a disservice to its readers and its no wonder why so many people are confused about Social Security, healthcare and the economy.

It is a waste of resources on the media's part and it's gotten pretty annoying for voters. Pundits throw poll numbers around like verbal jabs and overinflate the actual importance of the polls. They've dominated the news and essentially pushed the issues out the door. Voters don't need the media to predict the outcome of the election. We'll all know soon enough. Voters need the media to help them make sense of the complicated issues in this campaign and very few media outlets have done a good job of that. ◆

From the Opinions Editor

'Runoff' to the polls to make your votes count

Right now, a hotly contested election is going on that may decide the future of an entire nation. Citizens are highly polarized. The polls are up in the air, and no one knows just what might happen after all the ballots have been cast.

If you think I'm referring to this Tuesday's electoral contest between President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry, you're actually wrong.

The election in question is a runoff vote in the Ukraine between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and his Western-leaning challenger Viktor Yushchenko. The two failed to win enough votes to take a decisive victory, sparking a return to the campaign trail.

The concept of a runoff election might seem a little alien to U.S. voters. But foreign nations aren't the only places that take advantage of runoff voting: Citizens in Louisiana have been taking part in runoff voting since the early 1990s.

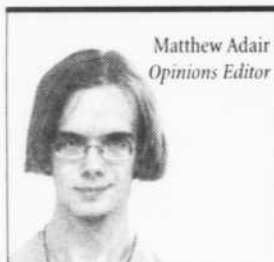
This leaves one to wonder: Why is this not a more common practice here? Instant runoff voting could remove a great deal of snags that could potentially plague the electoral process here in the United States.

If voters could mark down which candidates they favored from most favored to least, there would be no such thing as a wasted vote. People at the extremes of the political spectrum could mark down their favorite third-party candidate and at the same time mark down a Republican or Democrat that they also liked.

Think about it. The 2000 election could have gone in an entirely different direction if all the people who voted for Ralph Nader could have marked down that they also favored Al Gore. The election could potentially have been decided without a fight over hanging chads or a proclamation from the Supreme Court.

It's an idea that everyone, regardless of political affiliation, should at least consider. Anything that offers the people more power (and less confusion, for that matter) is something absolutely essential to our republic. ◆

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



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Nation needs to get out more of the vote

With the presidential election being just a day away, I've been wondering how low we can get the voter turnout this year.

Less than 50 percent of eligible voters have voted in the last two presidential elections this country has had. In fact, 1968 was the last time more than 55 percent of eligible voters showed up at the polls.

I know that the reason so few people vote in this fine example of democracy is that they know their votes are pretty meaningless. Only a small portion of people are represented in this two-party system, namely elites. What motivation does one have to vote when there is no candidate who represents their views?

This got me curious about how some other countries look compared to the United States in terms of number of political parties and voter turnout. I looked up some statistics up and found interesting results.

For one thing, many of the other countries I looked up don't elect a

Human, All Too Human



Eric Blevins
Staff Columnist

president, only a parliament. Therefore, I decided to focus on parliamentary elections in my research.

According to statistics from the International Institute for Democracy, as well as the Electoral Assistance Web site, the United States averages a 52 percent turnout in congressional elections from 1990 to 2000.

However, the highest turnout in a non-presidential election year is 39 percent.

In contrast, Italy has three political parties and their lowest turnout in more than 50 years was 85 percent. Greece has four political parties and their lowest

turnout in 20 years was 84 percent. Norway has five parties. Their lowest percentage since 1948 was 73 percent. The Netherlands has five parties. Their lowest percentage since 1946 was 70 percent. Australia has five parties. Their lowest percentage was 81 percent. New Zealand has five parties. Their lowest percentage was 76 percent.

The lowest percentage any of these countries has is 18 points higher than the U.S. average.

That is a pretty significant difference. That makes the United States look pretty bad, but when people don't have candidates that represent them, they don't have a good reason to vote.

The two-party system is the worst, because the parties become so similar, but the people have the illusion that both sides of the political spectrum are represented.

You may have noticed the Republicans trying to appear less conservative and the Democrats trying to appear less liberal in

order to appeal to moderates. Neither of them wants to make significant policy changes for fear of losing votes.

Both parties appeal to elites, because they keep the system of power in place. No alternative parties are allowed to enter the picture and no radical change takes place.

Those of you who still think your vote is important have fun on Election Day. I'm sure as soon as the election is over, your country will improve immediately.

Personally, I hope the electoral college vote ties this year so the House of Representatives gets to pick the president.

The Supreme Court chose last time and we need to get as many elites involved in this process as possible.

Maybe that will show the people how little power they have. ◆

Eric Blevins is a senior recording industry major and can be reached at ericleb@hotmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

Board exaggerates Bush's failings

To the editor:

Sidelines' endorsement, for Sen. John Kerry, is of no surprise ("Why we are supporting Sen. John Kerry in 2004," Oct. 27).

Well, that's not the whole truth. I should have said, "The Editorial Board's endorsement..." My first statement is an example of not telling the whole truth, of taking words out of context, and not fully understanding the piece of literature itself. The Editorial Board uses this tactic against George W. Bush. I came clean with the truth. Read and learn how their editorial does not.

The Editorial Board uses Bush's statement, "Some would call you the elite. I call you my base." On Oct. 19, 2000, Governor George W. Bush attended the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, which raises money for Catholic hospital charities in New York City.

The above quote was taken from this fund-raiser, which raised \$1.6 million for medical care for the poor. How do I know?

I watched it on C-SPAN four years ago.

Guess who else was there? Vice President Al Gore was there. At this event, Gore stated, "The Al Smith Dinner represents a hallowed and important tradition, which I actually did invent." He also stated that he has 13 daughters. So, I guess we should take Gore's statements as the truth and how he really feels, right? Gore was born two years after the dinner was founded and has three daughters. Both candidates were making fun of themselves, as is tradition at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner.

That's right: Bush was still governor and making fun of himself and raising medical care for the poor and Gore was there. But, the Editorial Board doesn't want you to know that.

Nor does Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," which uses the clip of Bush stating these words. Moore doesn't tell you the whole truth either.

It is the opinion of this individual that, heck I would even bet money on my opinion, that the Editorial Board obtained their idea from that movie. When the Editorial Board of *Sidelines* and Michael Moore use the same deception, it is a strong implication to the readers of this newspaper that the thinking patterns of the Editorial Board are one-sided, that their thoughts are skewed.

Two more points: One, the Editorial Board "respects a woman's right to choose what she does with her own body." This statement implies that they favor abortion. Editorial Board, do you respect an unborn woman's right to choose what she does with her body? How can you be for a woman's right to do anything when you support the very act of destroying the only way in which we (the human race which includes women, men, African-Americans, Hispanics, Caucasians) are brought into this world so that we can make our own choices? Second: "We believe that global input prevents war on a scale of World Wars I and II." I almost laughed when I read this statement. There was global input pre-World War II, due in part to the (failed) League of Nations and the global depression of the 1920s and '30s, and that didn't stop the Nazis. As history recalls, Winston Churchill, not yet the Prime Minister, warned the rest of the world about Nazi Germany. The majority of the nations that heard his cry for help called him a war-monger. If the world had exercised its power given to them by the Treaty of Versailles, which was supposed to limit Germany's function of industrial build-up, if the world had listened to Winston Churchill with his "global input," then perhaps World War II could have been prevented.

By the way, *Sidelines*: Your online weekly poll, "Who are you going to vote for?" has a grave error. Michael Peroutka is shown as the Green Party candidate. In reality, he is the Constitution Party candidate. The Constitution Party is a very conservative party and not the Green Party.

Luke Anderson
Senior, Aerospace Dept.

Editor's note: The mistake in the poll was discovered late last week. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the poll, it would be impossible to re-run the poll this week the same way the poll on the pornography debate was. As a result, party names have been excluded from the poll results at the bottom of this page. We at Sidelines apologize for the mistake, and will ensure that similar errors are not made in the future.

One more day until Armageddon... Election Day. slopinio@mtsu.edu

In defense of suspense

Are you afraid of the dark? No, really. Are you?

Which of these two scenarios would frighten you more? Scenario A, in which you are trapped in a dark and abandoned house, wrapped in shadows, and totally alone. Every so often, you might hear a sound that you cannot explain, and see shadows move across the windows that don't seem to be cast by anything in the room.

As you wait for something to happen, you begin to think that you would almost rather find a monster lurking at the top of the stairs, because nothing could be worse than this sense of foreboding that's settled over you.

Scenario B finds you in that same house, with a bunch of your buddies. This time, as you creep over to the staircase, something heavy falls on top of you! It's a body! This is the point where you run, terrified, up the staircase into the arms of the monster and/or psychotic killer. Which is more frightening?

The first scenario is a classic example of suspense, whereas the second would most likely be found in a slasher flick. Unfortunately, it seems like our culture leans more and more towards being 'startled,' as opposed to being 'frightened.' Most people don't even notice the difference.

This weekend, I drove up to Adams, Tenn., the home of the Bell Witch. As the tour guides will tell you again and again, the Bell Witch phenomena is the single most documented haunting in American history.

However, which of these two would you guess would cost more money? On the one hand, we had a trek into an eerie, underground cavern where paranormal activity has been witnessed and recorded for more than 200 years or a 15 minute "Haunted Hayride" during which people in costumes jump out of the woods to supposedly frighten the passengers.

If you guessed that the hayride would cost more, you'd be right. The question I ask you is, why? Why would someone pay more for a man in a costume than for a chance to visit an area that's been proven to be haunted?

Is it because on a thing like a Haunted Hayride, or a Haunted Prison, etc., we know that there will be something there to at least attempt to frighten us? Have we become too desensitized to be frightened by good old-fashioned suspense anymore?

A couple of weeks ago, I checked out the horror section of a video store, and came to the sinking conclusion that if Alfred Hitchcock were alive today, he would be laughed out of Hollywood for being "lame."

Despite attempts by directors like M. Night Shyamalan, Gore Verbinski and Takashi Shimizu to bring back the use of suspense and buildup, people still complain that films like "The Village" and "The Grudge" are "too slow."

Here's my advice to those people, and the ones who would choose the second scenario over the first: The next time that you are in a movie theatre, pay more attention to the camera angles, the use of light and shadows and the music. Don't wait impatiently for the next big scare. Savor the suspense, and allow the buildup to actually build.

You might find that a lingering sensation of dread does much more to unsettle and frighten you than just a series of quick, unconnected moments of being startled.

After all, if you're going to pay to be frightened by something, you should at least make certain you get your money's worth by allowing yourself to be scared properly. ◆

Manda Turner is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at seren.star042@gmail.com.

Gathering Fuel in Vacant Lots



Manda Turner
Staff Columnist

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Letters Policy

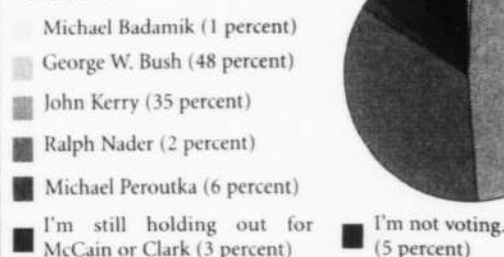
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Sidelines online poll results

Who are you going to vote for?



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "What did you do for Halloween?" 254 people voted in this poll. Results are not scientific.

Nashville's music roots: uncovered

Students share Nashville's musical history through extension of Hall of Fame exhibit, community-wide involvement with project

By Brandi Fleck
Staff Writer

Getting back to the musical roots of Nashville is a goal for certain MTSU students who are helping uncover an almost unrecognized history.

Sophomore English major Tobi Hancock and senior art education major Katie Mirgliotta are taking on leadership roles in a mural project that is based on the Country Music Hall of Fame's temporary exhibit, "The Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm and Blues 1945-1970." R&B was a genre that directly impacted Nashville's Music City, USA status.

Not only are these students helping extend the life of the exhibit, but they are getting the community involved, which was exactly what Michael Gray, curator of the exhibit, had in mind.

"I always hoped that this exhibit would be the starting point of discussion. It tells much collectively in hopes that people will pick up the ball and tell their own stories or interpretations to a broader audience," Gray says.

Hancock and senior liberal studies major Hillary Robson research the images they think are important to the mural. They present their work to Mirgliotta, art students at Watkins College of Art & Design and Riverdale, Oakland and Stratford high schools.

The art students will then take the ideas from the presentation and work on different sections of the mural. When all the images come together, the result will be a mobile mural

that travels from county to county or even state to state sharing Nashville's rich musical history.

"It's good to know there's more than country music in Tennessee. This [project] gets rid of labels and it just shows how blind the world may be," says Mirgliotta, who is originally from Ohio.

Mirgliotta appreciates helping other students have a chance to produce real art that people in the community will see. The students involved will also gain a sense of roots that they may have been unaware of.

Stratford High School art teacher Michael Qualls emphasizes how the mural project will help overall improvement of student performance. He said the culture of the school is generally very gang-related with low achievers that come from poverty. Qualls says that test scores have significantly risen and he hopes to see them keep rising.

"These kids don't know what a college student looks like and they are afraid of not going to school. I think it will prepare them and help them feel more comfortable," Qualls says.

Among the main concentrations of the presentation are the Tennessee Collegians Band; the Bijou Theater; The Club Del Morocco on Jefferson Street; Ted Jarrett, songwriter, producer and manager; Bill "Hoss" Allen, WLAC disc jockey; performers Ray Charles, Etta James and Bobby Hebb; record shops in Nashville; record labels; and the Jim Crow atmosphere.

Ray Charles would hand pick jazz musicians from Tennessee State University's Tennessee



Murals made by students will eventually travel from county to county for display.



Photos provided by Brandi Fleck

Collegians Band to fill in spots in his own band.

Hancock is amazed at the racial barriers that were broken by music. In the exhibit there is an image of young Bobby Hebb on stage with the Smoky Mountain Boys, an all white band.

"Bobby Hebb is central to the exhibit because he wrote the most successful song, 'Sunny,' that came out of that era," recording industry professor, John Dougan says.

The Decca record label used race as a marketing technique. "Black" music was encompassed by Race Records, and white country was put in the Hillbilly category.

"Building musicians had to be done racially, but that doesn't mean people weren't listening and learning from each other. Segregation presents contradictions because music transcends any kind of class or race. There's a certain ethic amongst musicians that music is what matters

and not the people making it," history professor and New Deal historian Kris McCusker says.

However, the Capitol Hill urban renewal project of the 1950s hurt the industry. The R&B scene on Fourth Avenue North was destroyed, and then I-40 was the death of R&B culture on Jefferson Street. The Bijou Theater stood where the Municipal Auditorium now stands.

Hancock says another goal of the presentation is to show pic-

tures of what stands in those historical spots now to show the effects of redevelopment.

For more information on "The Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm & Blues 1945-1970" exhibit, call 800-852-6437, or go to www.countrymusichalloffame.com. Look for panel discussions and book signings as upcoming events.

In the words of R&B musician Cecil Gant, "Nashville jumps, yes it jumps all night long!" ♦

Married students take on large load of responsibilities

By Adam Flowers
Staff Writer

"I don't know how they do what they do," says Virginia Ellis, the secretary at MTSU's Adult Services Center. She's talking about the students here at MTSU, and there are more than you may realize who balance a full-time academic load with the responsibilities of supporting a family.

While they may appear to simply be regular students with an extra ring on their finger, married students face a torrent of responsibilities along with the stress of simply trying to graduate. Being married is not easy anyway, and neither is being a college student. Doing both at the same time can be a colossal undertaking.

"It's harder than you think it's going to be," 29-year-old senior television production major Jeremiah Davis says. Davis and his wife Christiane have been married for a year and three months.

For Jeremiah and his wife, money is the biggest stressor. Along with being a full-time student, having a part-time job and commuting from Nashville, Davis has husband-sized responsibilities at home. But as he says, "the loan money definitely helps."

Both Jeremiah and Christiane are from California, but now that they're married, Jeremiah is able to pay in-state tuition, which helps out a bunch.

While things may be tough right now, Davis is hopeful for the future.

"Things will get a lot easier once I graduate, get a job and start making some money," he says.

Shaun Fields, a sophomore aerospace major, faces similar difficulties. Shaun has been married for seven years, has a child, works part-time on campus and commutes 45 minutes from Columbia, Tenn.

It's not easy being a husband, a father and a student all at once.

"You've got to take care of your responsibilities

at home as well as fit time in to study," he says.

But after high school and before beginning college, Shaun served for seven years in the armed services, so he was well-prepared for the challenges college had to offer.

Even with the added stress and responsibility facing students with families, they often make the best students. Virginia Ellis has gotten to know many such students over the years.

"They're pretty serious about getting through with school. They're not here to mess around," she says.

With families to support, they have a lot more riding on their efforts. Many non-traditional students are honors students here at MTSU.

There are a number of services offered to students with adult responsibilities at MTSU. The Adult Services Center offers numerous types of support. These include academic service scholarships (\$1,500 a semester for six semesters), advisor information, schedule books and social organizations such as OWLS, or Older Wiser Learners.

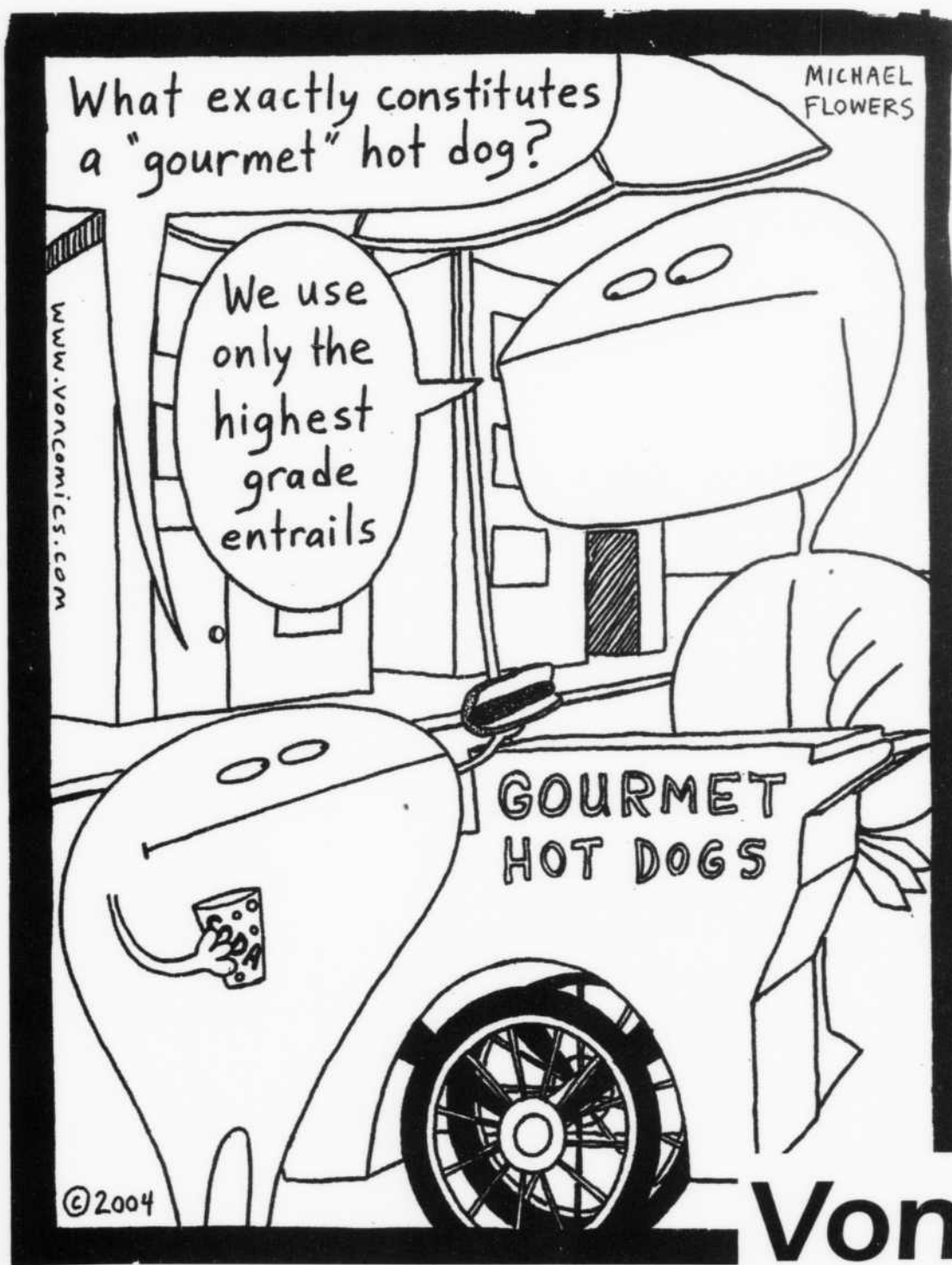
The Center can also be a place to simply have a cup of coffee and some good conversation. And since many non-traditional students are not on campus during regular hours, the Adult Services Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

There are numerous other campus services offered to students with adult responsibilities at MTSU. One of them is the family housing and childcare offered at Womack Lane Apartments.

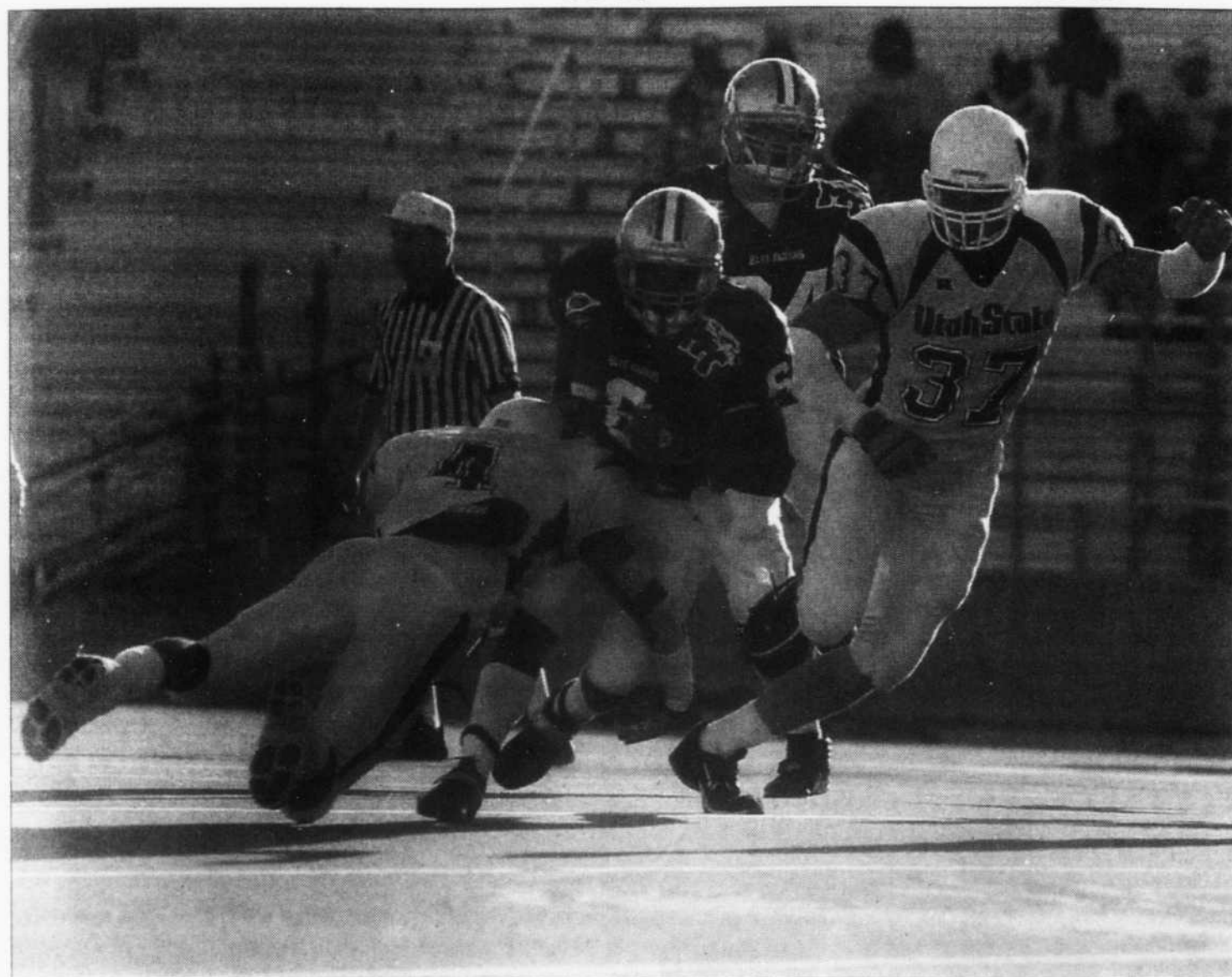
The MTSU Child Care Lab at Womack Lane is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and currently cares for 48 children between the ages of 3 and 5.

"They are a remarkable group of kids," student worker Junisha Smith says.

So being a married student has its ups and downs, but it is definitely possible. At least when the stress seems unbearable, you have your husband or wife to help you get through it. ♦



MIDDLE TENNESSEE 21 UTAH STATE 0 MT defense aggravates Aggies



Blue Raider junior Lee Baker led the MT running game with 52 yards on nine carries in a 21-0 win over Utah State.

By Cody Gibson and Colby Sledge
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee defense recorded seven sacks and Kerry Wright added two touchdowns as the Blue Raiders defeated Utah State 21-0 before an announced crowd of 14,208.

The shutout was the Blue Raiders' first since a 28-0 victory over Louisiana-Monroe on Oct. 14, 2000.

"This is the strongest game we have played as a team," junior linebacker Dennis Burke said. "This is a young defense and we are all coming together. All we needed were some snaps together."

The defense set the tone for the game

early in the first half by not allowing Utah State a first down until midway through the second quarter. The MT offense, on the other hand, struck quickly with a 77-yard drive on its first possession that ended with a 1-yard Eugene Gross touchdown plunge.

That score would be all the defense needed, but the MT offense wasn't finished. After the Blue Raiders forced one of 10 Utah State punts, MT quarterback Clint Marks found wide receiver Kerry Wright across the middle for a 58-yard touchdown.

Wright was recently left off the list for the Fred Bilitneko Award, which goes to the nation's top collegiate receiver, when semi-finalists for the award were

announced earlier this week.

"I try not to think about awards," Wright said. "I saw that list, and I thought I should have been on there. I know those guys are good, but we had a good game today and made the most of our opportunities."

Wright made the most of his opportunities as he piled up 167 yards and two touchdowns on nine catches. Wright had one miscue, however, when he fumbled in the second quarter, setting up the Aggies at their own 44-yard line.

USU was unable to gain a first down, however, and was forced to punt.

The Blue Raiders then put the game away

See Win, 7

Winning is great, but a little too late

Sports commentary



Jonathan Hutton
Staff Columnist

Another Sun Belt Conference win late in the season once again is irrelevant to the Blue Raiders season, as North Texas is on pace to win the conference by default.

After going to watch our Blue Raiders handle Utah State Saturday afternoon, I found myself watching North Texas play Louisiana-Monroe on SBC-TV. I wondered how year after year, the Mean Green find a way to defeat every SBC team they face.

What is it going to take for Middle Tennessee to get to the position that UNT is in right now? The answer is simple: You earn it.

MT cannot rely on North Texas to lose late in the year so that the Blue Raiders can go to New Orleans. Sooner or later, the Blue Raiders will have to just simply win against the Mean Green.

The latest standings are out for the SBC and, as usual, the Blue Raiders are behind the Mean Green in the standings.

If MT had won in Denton, Texas on Oct. 2, the Blue Raiders would be on top of the SBC and controlling their own path to a bowl game.

Even in 2001, when the Blue Raiders began the season 5-0, a winless North Texas squad beat MT 24-21 and took away the Blue Raiders' trip to the New Orleans Bowl.

The games have always been close, but the Blue Raiders haven't gotten the job done.

I am one of the Blue Raiders' biggest supporters

when it comes to player ability and coaching staff. They have the ability to go the distance, but they have to win that one key game early in the season each year.

If MT beats North Texas, I would guarantee they would be headed to New Orleans. How? Because everyone else will beat each other. It happens every year.

You may ask why going to the New Orleans Bowl is critical for the football program.

The bowl game gives the Blue Raiders an opportunity to play a Conference-USA opponent, most of which have national recognition of some shape or form.

Imagine for a moment the opportunity to play a Memphis or a Louisville or a Cincinnati.

Playing one of those teams and possibly winning the bowl appearance will give MT's football program the recognition it wants.

It would bring fans to home games and possibly give the Blue Raiders a Friday night game on ESPN.

But back to reality: With three games remaining, MT has the chance to finish out its season 6-2 in the conference and 7-4 overall, which isn't bad considering the way the Blue Raiders started the season.

A winning record would also help erase the memories of two straight 4-8 seasons.

Hopefully this winning streak is a sign that MT football is on its way to the top. Winning the final three games would definitely be a good start to the climb. ♦

Jonathan Hutton is a sophomore mass communications major. He can be reached at jdh3x@mtsu.edu.

Blue Raiders win two, clinch top seed

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's soccer team moved one step closer to its first Sun Belt Conference championship on Friday as the Blue Raiders defeated South Alabama 5-1 in a battle of nationally ranked offenses.

"Obviously the team was very focused," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said. "Our seniors did a great job in leading the team today. They knew what was at stake and they went after it."

MT exploded for five first-half goals to put the Jaguars in an early hole. The scoring commenced in the 10th minute, when Danielle LaDuke finished on a breakaway for her sixth goal of the season.

"We tried to put it away early," LaDuke said. "There was a lot of pressure on this game because we had everything to lose. We definitely came out today a little stronger than usual."

The Blue Raider offense, ranked second nationally, did not disappoint the fans at Blue Raider Field. Just a minute after LaDuke's score, Debs Brereton netted back-to-back goals in the 11th and 12th minutes, staking MT to a 3-0 advantage while giving the senior 15 goals for the season, a new school record.

"We needed to win, and we came out and played very well," Brereton said. "We defended as a unit, we attacked as a unit and we scored a lot of early goals. That's what we needed to make sure the other team's head went down and ours stayed up."

Brereton also provided an assist in the 25th minute, finding Laura Miguez for her fourth score of the season and 27th of her career, also a team record.

Rachel Holmes capped the scoring for MT off a Holly Grogan assist near the end of the half.

Perhaps most impressive on this day,

however, was the Blue Raider defense. Facing a South Alabama squad ranked third nationally in offense, MT was nearly impenetrable, allowing no shots on goal in the first half and seven in the second.

Tanya Allegretti's goal for the Jaguars late in the game was the lone mistake in an otherwise stellar performance.

"Our plan was to not give them time to play offense," Rhoden said. "We knew that they were the kind of team that, if we allowed them time and space, could pick us apart. We thought if we could get a couple of early goals and then hold on defense, it would put them in a position they aren't used to, which is chasing the game."

MT (12-4-1, 6-1-1) defeated Louisiana-Lafayette 2-1 yesterday at Blue Raider Field to clinch the No. 1 seed in this week's Sun Belt Championships. *Sidelines* will have a full report on Sunday's match in Wednesday's edition. ♦

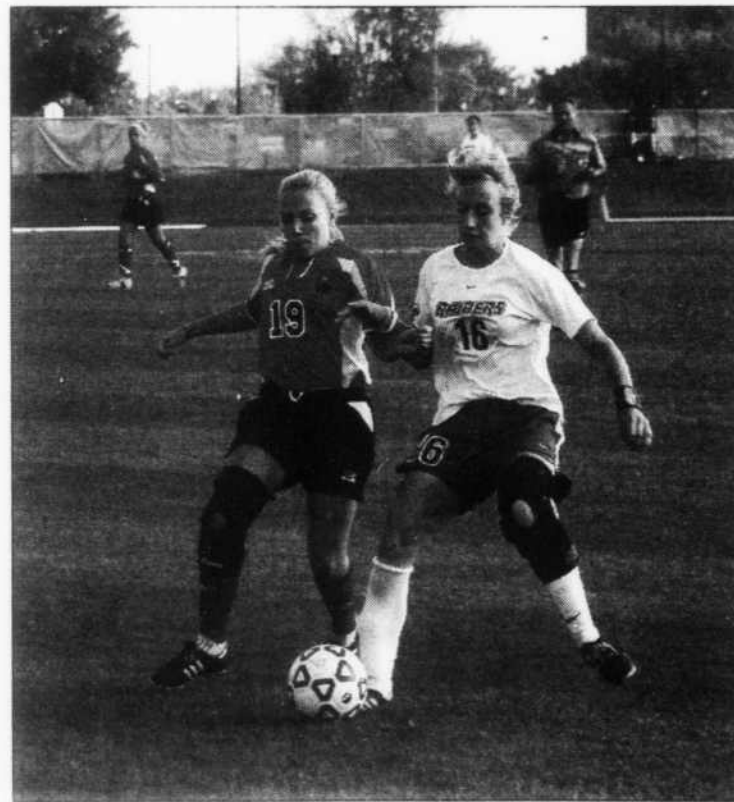


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Holly Grogan had an assist in Friday's 5-1 victory.

Volleyball team defeats FIU 3-0

By Colby Sledge and Jon Leffew
Sports Editor and Asst. Sports Editor

Dara McLean hit a career-high seven service aces as the Blue Raiders closed out their home schedule with a 3-0 (30-23, 30-16, 32-30) win over Florida International on Friday.

McLean and fellow senior KeKe Deckard were honored before the game as part of Senior Day. The two hitters have combined for 2,827 kills in their careers at Middle Tennessee, and both played a role in MT's victory.

With the win, the Blue Raiders clinched a spot in the Sun Belt Conference tournament that will take place later this month.

It also marks the second time this season that MT has swept a conference opponent by the score of 3-0.

The Blue Raiders won game one by the score of 30-23 after committing just one attack error. The Golden Panthers held a 20-18 lead, but MT took advantage of nine straight points to eventually come away with the victory.

In the second game, the Blue Raiders jumped out to a 12-10 lead, then won 18 of the last 22 points to win the game.

The Blue Raiders used a .473 attack percentage in game two and six kills from Deckard to increase the lead to 2-0.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT's Megan Sumrell had 41 assists in a 3-0 win over FIU.

The Golden Panthers once again held a lead in game three, but once again failed to capitalize.

Oksana Zabalueva and Ruth Flemig combined to help FIU to a 17-13 lead, but the Blue Raiders went on an eight-point run to reverse the lead. McLean registered four aces to lead the way.

The Golden Panthers would make one last run, but the Blue Raiders eventually pulled away by the score of 32-30.

McLean finished with 13 kills and Deckard added 12. Quanshell Scott led the Blue Raiders with a .667 attack percentage and finished with seven kills. Andressa Lyra had seven digs and Megan Sumrell finished with 41 assists.

The win improves the Blue Raiders to 13-11 overall and 7-3 in the SBC.

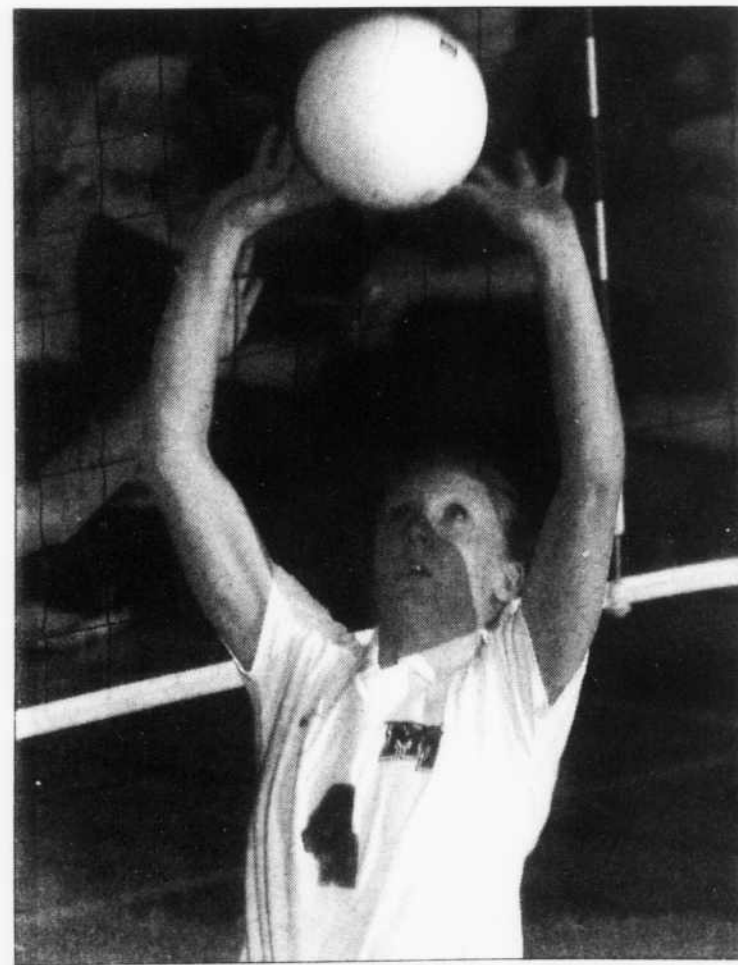
The Golden Panthers are now 3-18 overall and 2-8 in conference play.

Oksana Zabalueva and Anna Dmowska led the Golden Panthers with 10 kills each. Alyse Santisi had six digs and Dyionna Smith had 31 assists.

The Blue Raiders will return to action on Tuesday, traveling to Chattanooga to take on the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Lady Mocs in a non-conference match.

They will then travel to Little Rock to take on the Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans.

The Golden Panthers will return to action on Sunday, traveling to New Orleans to take on the Privateers. ♦



MT defense chooses right time to have best game

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's defense played its best game of the year and recorded its first shutout in more than four years.

The Blue Raiders last recorded a shutout on Oct. 14, 2000 against the University of Louisiana-Monroe, a span of 48 games.

The Blue Raiders were coming off a game in which they allowed 323 yards against Idaho, the fewest yards the MT defense had allowed this season.

Against Utah State the Blue Raiders allowed only 156 total yards, marking the first time MT held an opponent under 200 total yards since 2001. That happened on Nov. 3, 2001 against Arkansas State, when the Blue Raiders allowed 174 yards.

The Blue Raiders kept the pressure on the

Aggies quarterback Travis Cox, as they recorded seven sacks, which tied for the second most in school history. Freshman Erik Walden, starting in his second consecutive game, recorded two sacks for the Blue Raiders. Freshman Antoine Owens also had two sacks in the game.

"We're getting our confidence up a little bit," MT junior linebacker Dennis Burke said. "We know we can go out there and play and take care of what we can take care of. We've just got to keep it rolling. We've got six quarters under our belt and three more games to go."

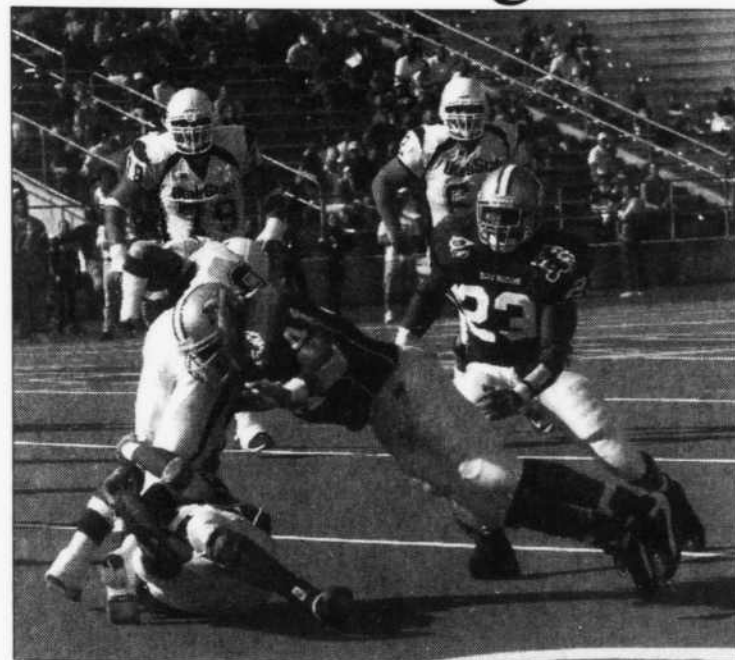
Horne's "six quarters" refers to the MT defense's six consecutive shutout quarters. Saturday the Blue Raiders allowed the Aggie offense to cross into MT territory only three times. The furthest USU advanced was the MT 46-yard line.

The MT defense held USU quarterback Travis Cox to only 76 yards passing, down significantly from Cox's average of 188 yards passing per game. The Blue Raiders were also able to shut down Tony Pennyman, the Aggies leading receiver. Coming into the game Pennyman had 32 receptions for 457 yards, but the Blue Raiders limited Pennyman to only 3 catches for 12 yards.

"I think we played a great game," MT freshman cornerback Bradley Robinson said. "At halftime we told the offense they don't have to score any points, because we knew we could shut them out. We went out there and did it in the second half." ♦

Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

MT linebacker Marcel Horne wraps up Utah State's Raymond Hicks.



Win: Third straight at home

Continued from 6

in the fourth quarter with a 42-yard pass from Marks to Wright.

Marks finished with 317 yards on 22-of-32 yards passing, the most passing yards allowed by USU since ULM threw for 470 yards in 2002.

MT redshirt freshmen Erik Walden and Antoine Owens each had two sacks as the Blue Raiders increased their season

total to 20 sacks, good for second in the Sun Belt Conference.

The MT punt coverage team also dominated the Aggies' return team. USU led the country in punt return average coming into the game, but the Blue Raiders held the Aggies to 21 return yards on four punts.

MT evened its record at 4-4 (3-2) as the Blue Raiders moved to second in the conference behind North Texas. The Aggies (2-6, 1-3) lost their fourth straight game. ♦

Three Blue Raiders injured in fight at club on Saturday

Staff Reports

Three Middle Tennessee men's basketball players were injured in a fight at private club in Murfreesboro and were admitted to Middle Tennessee Medical Center Saturday morning.



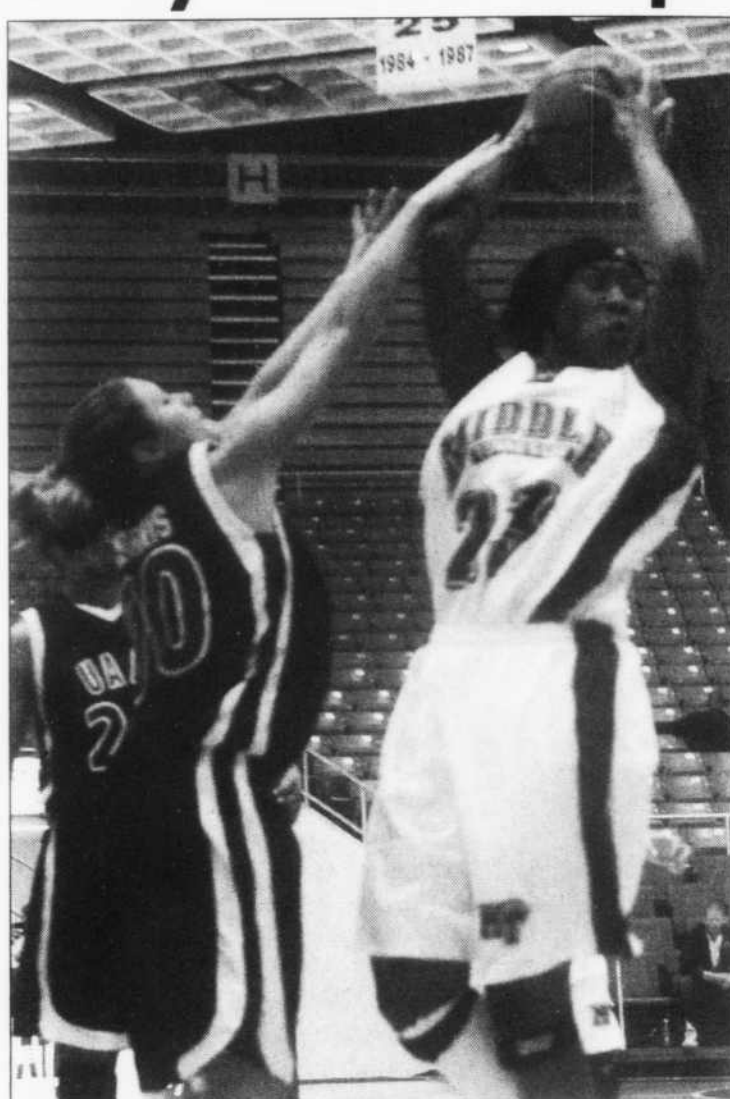
Christmas

Sophomores Alex Weekes, Keith Christmas and freshman Brian Lake were treated and released after a fight broke out at the Elks Lodge on Greenland Drive at 1 a.m. No police report was filed, and Davis told *The Tennessean* the players would not be suspended.

Davis could not be reached for comment. ♦



Weekes



File Photo

Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders in scoring last year.

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders get set to open their season with an exhibition game against Henderson State tonight at 6 p.m.

Henderson State finished last year ranked No. 12 in Division II after they were able to make it to the NCAA Division II Final Four. This year they are ranked No. 4 by the Division II Bulletin publication.

The Lady Reddies are led by forward Aesha Carter and guard Saprina Reed.

Carter, a 6-foot-2-inch senior, finished second last year in the Gulf South Conference in rebounding, was sixth in blocked shots and was tenth in scoring with 14.5 per game. She was named MVP of the GSC and the NCAA South Regional tournaments, and also received second-team All-GSC honors.

Reed, a 5-foot-9-inch senior, led the Lady Reddies in scoring last year with 16.3 per game. She also led the team in steals with 122. Last year she received first-team All-GSC honors.

"The team knows what it's going to take if we want to be in

Hot Springs [Arkansas] in March," Lady Reddies head coach Jeff Caldwell told HSU Media Relations. "We must have the same desire and play with the same intensity."

The Lady Raiders are coming off a season in which they advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament before losing to Notre Dame.

The team has standout Patrice Holmes returning for her final season. She was picked by the Sun Belt Conference coaches to be the SBC Player of the Year. Last year she averaged 15.7 points and six rebounds per game.

Krystle Horton, a sophomore forward, was second on the team in scoring with 15 points per game and was also selected to the Preseason All-Sun Belt Team First Team.

Tia Stovall, a junior forward, was the third leading scorer last year with 10.7 per game and was voted to the Sun Belt Preseason Third Team.

After the exhibition game with Henderson State, the Lady Raiders will remain at home and play in another exhibition game against Georgia College and State University on Saturday. ♦

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

PIANIST

Part-time position available for pianist in local Baptist Church. Please call 893-4885.

Part-time Babysitter wanted for professor's preschool children on Tuesday afternoons in Franklin area. \$9/ hr. 898-2038.

Water Aerobic Instructors Needed for 5-6 pm. class at Campus Recreation beginning Oct. 25. \$10/hour. Training available if interested. For more information, call Pam at 2255.

Asst. mgr. needed for luxury student community in Murfreesboro. Strong marketing and resident retention skills required. Previous student housing experience preferred, but will consider other experience. Candidate must be highly organized, possess good communication and analytical skills, and be customer oriented. High energy level absolutely necessary. Please email resume to dkenworthy@collegepark.org.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

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Wedding Gowns for sale. Elegance on a budget! We sell gently used wedding gowns; store displays photography props, discontinued styles. Original Retailers to over \$2000! Our prices \$159-\$299! See photos online at www.tresjolis.com. Call Lashae 427-2411 or Kristin 589-0083. Also sell hairpieces and wigs.

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Canon Elan II EOS camera w/ Canon 28-75mm lens and Canon Speedlite flas. All 4 years old. \$300 obo. Riding Lawnmower. \$200 obo. Please email amj2d@mtsu.edu or call 865-466-9219.

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4, ZR18 Yokohama Parada Tires with 18" Niche Road Wheels. \$1500 obo. Call Mike @ 533-0273.

'92 Hyundai Excel Runs great, cold air, great gas mileage! Must Sell!! \$950 or Best offer 893-8934.

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Roommates

2 Female Non-smoking roommates needed to share 3 BD 2 BA house, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$325 a month-All utilities included 931-639-3711.

Male, non-smoker roommate wanted to share 3 bd/2ba with female. 20 minutes from campus. Must sign 6 months or 1 year lease. \$350 plus 1/2 utilities. \$100 deposit required. Call Lisa 615-415-9302-leave msg.

Subleaser

Female sublesser needed. University courtyard 1st floor. Fully furnished 4BD/4BA \$395/mo utilities included and internet access. **1st Month Free-Move in Now!** Call Katie at 770-778-1497 or 770-459-7435.

2BD/2BA apt. @ Raiders Crossing. Lease is from Jan 1-Aug 13. Completely furnished to include full-size washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, & stove. Also included: high-speed internet, private balcony, pool & hot tub, volleyball court, BBQ grills, fitness center, tanning bed, and computer lab. All inclusive rent \$485/person pays for water, sewer, trash, pest control, internet, modern furniture, electricity, premium cable, and intrusion alarm. Awesome deal. Call 615-504-5963 or 615-542-2820.

Campus Crossings 2BD. Rent \$505/mo. All girl apt. 1 Rm. vacant during spring semester. All utilities included. Call Shea at 615-218-1888. Lease until July, stating Jan. 1st!!

Female sublesser needed. 4BD//4BA University Courtyard. 3rd Floor (No noisy people above!) Rent is \$375. All utilities included, **Will give \$150 to move in and take over lease!** Take over lease starting in November. Call 615-907-9655 or 423-718-5484 Carmen.

Need female roommate to sublease 4 bedroom house starting after school commences in Dec. Rent is \$240/mo including all utilities, cable and internet! Right directly across from Murphy Center. Can walk to class. Please call 516-457-0904.

For Rent

Private and elegant. Near I-24 and MTSU 2-3 BD 2 1/2 BA Townhouse with many extras. \$700-\$800/month + deposit. No Pets 615-896-9811.

2 BD apt. within walking distance to campus. Utilities included. Available Nov. 1st. \$575/month, \$275 deposit. Call 414-1759 for appt. No calls after 5pm.

New 3 BR, 2BA CH/A, stove refig, D/W, washer/dryer, furnished, screened back porch, 1 mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

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Subleasing

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North Texas continues streak with victory

Compiled by sunbeltsports.org

Troy 47, Idaho 7

TROY, Ala. (AP) – DeWhitt Betterson rushed for 184 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries, leading Troy to a 47-7 victory over Idaho on Saturday.

Betterson passed Ted Horstead to become the all-time leading rusher for Troy (4-4, 2-2 Sun Belt Conference), which has won 24 of its last 25 games at Movie Gallery Stadium. He sat out the fourth quarter.

Idaho (2-7, 1-4) lost five interceptions and a fumble and has been outscored 298-98 on the road this season.

The Trojans, coming off a near-upset of No. 19 LSU, scored on Johnny Faulk's 79-yard fumble recovery, Leodis McKelvin's 60-yard punt return and Laverne Johnson's 24-yard interception return.

Betterson had TD runs of 8 and 56 yards, leading a ground game that produced 280 yards.

Freshman quarterback D.T. McDowell, making his second career start, was just 3-of-12 for 48 yards with an interception for Troy.

Michael Harrington was 10-of-24 for 163 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions for Idaho. Brian Nooy was 8-of-18 for 98 yards and was picked off three times.

North Texas 45, Louisiana-Monroe 30

DENTON, Texas (AP) – Jamario Thomas ran for his NCAA-record-tying fourth 200-yard game and set the NCAA record for

most yards by a freshman in his first seven games as North Texas beat Louisiana-Monroe 45-30 on Saturday night.

Thomas, who entered the game as the nation's leading rusher at 166.2 yards a game, also scored three touchdowns as UNT (4-4, 4-0 Sun Belt) won its 22nd straight conference game.

He ran 41 times for 218 yards for his third straight 200-yard game. He tied Herschel Walker of Georgia and Ron Dayne of Wisconsin with four 200-yard games as a freshman.

Thomas passed 1,000 yards with a 10-yard run on the game's first play, becoming just the fourth freshman to reach the milestone in seven games. His seven-game total of 1,215 is the best ever, surpassing Marshall Faulk's 1,157 in 1991 at San Diego State.

Thomas hit the 1,000-yard mark just a week after Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson accomplished the same feat. Faulk and Emmitt Smith were the only other freshmen to do it. Smith did it for Florida in 1987.

Thomas had touchdown runs of 17, 2 and 4 yards, the last one putting UNT up 28-7 before halftime.

Louisiana-Monroe (3-5, 2-2) pulled to 28-17 when Mason Denham scored on a 1-yard run on the opening drive of the third quarter.

But then Scott Hall threw two touchdown passes in a 2:17 span to put the Mean Green up 42-17 late in the third. Hall finished 8-of-12 for 145 yards and the two scores.

Andy Blount, who caught a 53-yard TD pass from Hall, finished with 103 yards on three catches. Johnny Quinn scored on a 2-yard reception and an 85-yard punt return.

Indians quarterback Steve Jyles completed 22-of-44 passes for 218 yards and a touchdown. He also had 103 yards rushing and

another touchdown.

New Mexico State 56, Florida International 31

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) – Buck Pierce passed for a career-high 367 yards and three touchdowns and the New Mexico State defense scored on two interceptions for a 56-31 win over Florida International on Saturday.

Pierce, a senior, completed 27-of-35 passes to lead the Aggies (3-5) in the non-conference shootout.

The two teams combined for 1,144 yards in total offense – 646 for New Mexico State and 498 for Florida International (2-4).

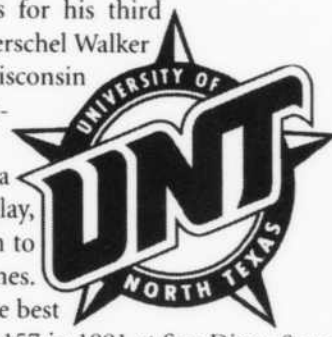
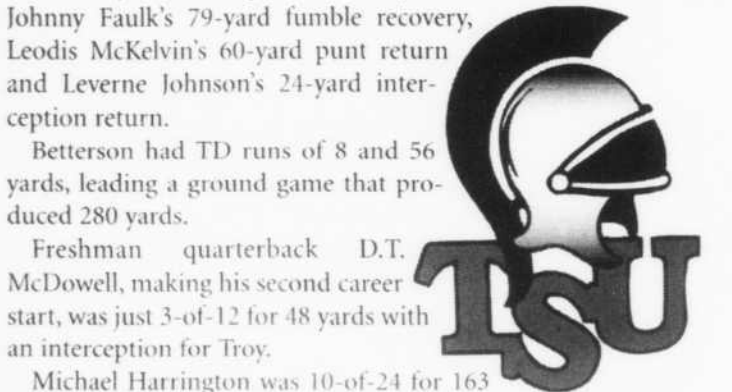
New Mexico State needed all the big plays it could get to hold off the Golden Panthers and senior running back Rashod Smith, who finished with 230 yards rushing on 24 carries and a school-record four touchdowns.

Smith had 204 yards in the first half, most of that coming on a pair of touchdowns that covered 73 yards and 76 yards.

The Aggie defense rallied in the second half to stop Smith and forced Florida International passers into four interceptions. Defensive backs Gill Byrd and Matt Griebel returned their interceptions for 48-yard and 64-yard touchdowns, respectively.

The Aggies, who led 31-28 at halftime, also got a pair of touchdowns from sophomore receiver Tim Tolbert, who caught five passes for 126 yards.

Chandler Williams led Florida International with six catches for 98 yards, and quarterback Josh Padrick completed 13-of-22 passes for 164 yards. ♦



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Spring 2005

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- Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

**Deadline for Applications:
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