

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 52

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Working for a unified America

We've come a long way, but there's still room for improvement.

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COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements. With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students. You will not be able to access the campus via Wornack Lane.

Due to construction, several lots have been rezoned. All legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, or other marks. Be sure to check the posted signs BEFORE you park your automobile. If it is not marked, don't park!

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~parking.

Students decide 2008

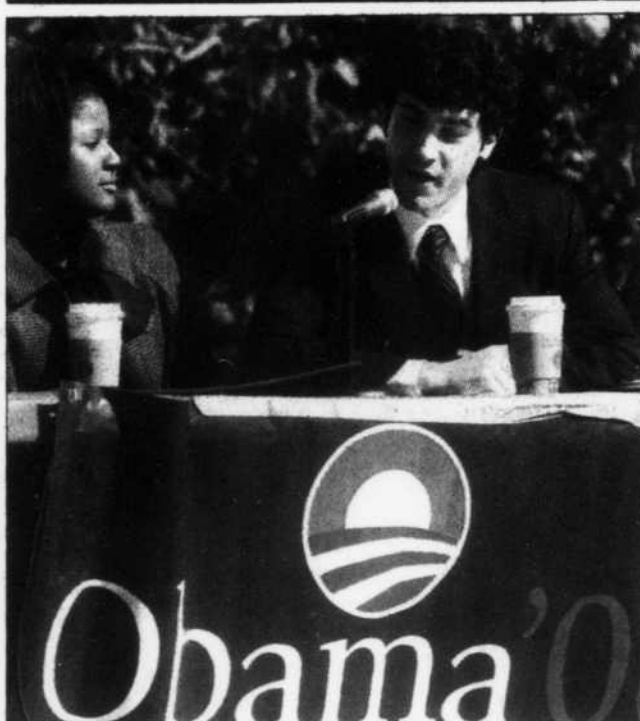
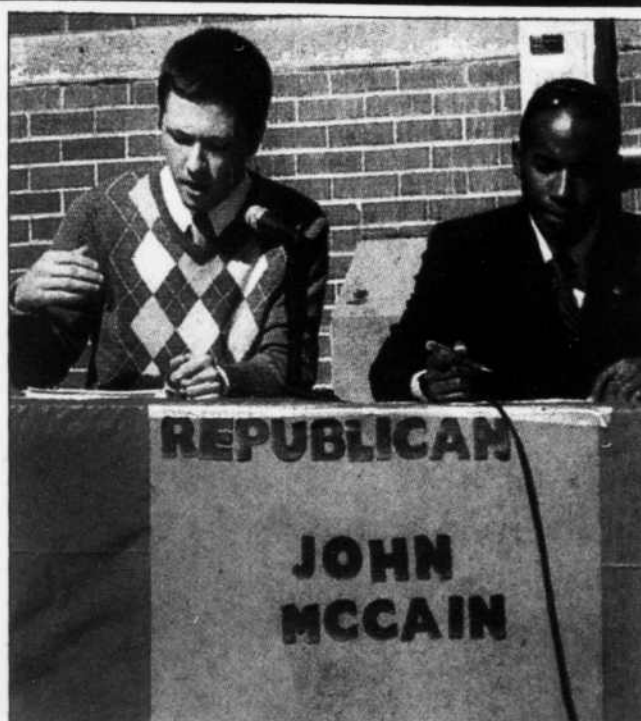


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Democratic and Republican students speak for their respective presidential candidates at a debate in front of the KUC.



Democrats, Republicans tackle issues on the Knoll

By ANDY HARPER
Managing Editor

Americans for Informed Democracy held its second student political debate this semester on the KUC Knoll Wednesday.

Two Republican students and three Democrat students debated the positions of John McCain and Barack Obama on various issues including gas prices, the economic "bail out" plan, Iraq, college educational costs and healthcare.

"I enjoyed the debate," said Alex Favazza, senior music education major. "I have so much respect for these five individuals who can stand in front of a crowd and help people explain different political viewpoints."

When discussing gas and energy, both sides agreed that their candidates supported the exploration and use of environmentally friendly energy sources as well as offshore drilling. Each side also agreed that the current economic crisis was affecting college students.

However, both differed on nearly every other issue brought to the table. Republicans said that McCain would prefer to "win the war in Iraq than win a presidential election," while Democrats noted that the war was over and spoke briefly about Obama's "16-month phase out withdrawal plan that will hopefully have troops out of Iraq by 2010."

A major difference affecting students covered during the debate concerned government standard-

ized loans.

Democrats said that Obama planned on making the first \$4,000 spent on college education tax deductible as well as allowing for tax deductions for people who complete one hundred community service hours.

Republicans said that college scholarships and loans should be "hand ups, not hand outs" commenting that college education should be earned through hard work and studies and not having the "government had you a check to go to college."

"Today was a great example of what good political discourse should be," said student Republican debater Matt Hurtt, senior history and po-

DEBATE, PAGE 3

Student body to vote on increasing activity fee

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

Students will be able to vote on a referendum for a \$20 increase in the student activity fee on Nov. 18 through 20 for funding for the 2009 and 2010 school year.

The proposal for an increase was first tabled by the SGA senate but was recently brought up again and passed.

After the fee increase was brought up a second time, all members of the senate except for one voted for the increase in order to have it voted on by the student body.

"Members of the senate felt that it wasn't necessarily their decision to make," said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life. "They felt it was up to the student body to decide whether or not there should be an activity fee increase."

To answer any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, Fitch posted a "talking points" guide on the SGA Web site to thoroughly explain the student activity fee funding. The guide explains the reasons for the increase as well as a chart that shows where allocated funds will go.

"I felt it was important to clear up any misconceptions that [students] are getting about the fee increase," Fitch said. "The intent of this information was not to persuade them one way or the other but to bring them up to date before they vote on the matter."

Students taking seven hours or more pay the current \$20

FEE, PAGE 3

Tunnel of terror screams safe sex

Students learn about STDs, pregnancy

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

The Health and Human Performance Department with Student Health Services informed students about sexually transmitted infections, diseases, prevention, pregnancy, adoption and domestic violence at the Tunnel of Terror on Wednesday.

The June Anderson Women's Center, AGAPE, Teen Pregnancy Center, Contraceptive Info, the Pregnancy Center of Columbia, Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, the Sexual Assault Center, the Pregnancy Support Center, Planned Parenthood, STI Free! Inc., the Rutherford County Health Department and First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center participated in the event.

"We think it's important because we know that over 70 percent of all STIs occur in the 16 to 24 age group, so we want people to be aware of what the possible consequences are so they can make safer decisions about their behavior," said Casie Higginbotham, instructor in Health and Human Performance Department.

Higginbotham said that the Tunnel of Terror will replace the springtime event, the Tunnel of Love.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Chris Stepanick and Kylie Padgett take notes for their class at the Health and Human Performance's Tunnel of Terror.

"This is replacing that because we want all the 1010 students to come here, and their enrollment is the highest in the fall," Higginbotham said. "In the springtime we will still have an event, but it will be alcohol and drug focused instead of the Tunnel of Love."

The Tunnel of Love focused on three STIs and three STDs such as syphilis, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, Chlamydia and HIV/AIDS.

"This can increase [students'] knowledge," said Beverly Corlew,

instructor in Health and Human Performance Department. "A lot of the students, especially freshmen, don't have the knowledge of STIs out there and the facts with them, so we're trying to get 1530 and university 1010 classes to be able to see all the information."

Corlew said that students from human sexuality classes also participated in the Tunnel of Terror by wearing signs around their necks for a particular disease so they could answer further questions.

"You get a chance to inform ev-

eryone about the STDs and what they can do to you," said David Matikke, senior community and public health major and student volunteer.

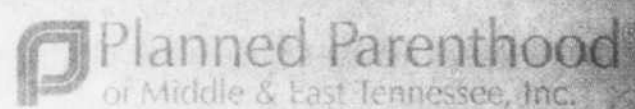
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REAL.

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT RAPE
**SO WE CAN
PREVENT IT.**



"This project is funded under an
agreement with the State of Tennessee."

ACTIVITY FEE FROM PAGE 1

student activity fee. If students vote for the doubling of the activity fee when the referendum goes out, then the amount of money allotted to the five main categories – student organizations, SGA, student programming, sports clubs, distinguished lectures – will double as well.

"One of the biggest misconceptions I think students are getting is that an increase in the activity fee would result in a tuition increase," Fitch said. "This is not true. Students

pay tuition and they pay fees, and most fees are rolled into one category called program service fees."

The talking points on the student activity fee increase also lists similar fees that other universities in Tennessee require their students to pay.

"Every school's different on how they determine their fees," Fitch said. "Other schools break it up and divide their fees, making it hard to determine what the final fee really is."

Students will be able to vote for or against the activity fee increase through their Pipe-

line accounts. E-mails will be sent out with a link that students can follow to vote. There will also be a link that thoroughly explains the legislation so that students are well informed before they vote.

"Regardless of where students stand on the matter, I think it will be a popular item in terms of student interests," Fitch said. "Whether they agree or disagree with raising the student activity fee, at least they are voicing their opinion by voting."

For further information regarding the student activity fee, visit mtsu.edu/~sga.

DEBATE FROM PAGE 1

who support the beliefs of a candidate sometimes debate them better than the candidates because they are usually extremely in favor or opposed to the belief themselves."

"I think we covered a lot of topics of interest to students, issues that have an immediate impact on our lives," said student Democrat debater Ryan Ferraro, senior political and pre-law major. "It was nice to see so many people today interested in the political process."



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Student Referendum November 18-20, 2008

In November, students will be asked to go to the polls and vote on a proposed an increase in the Student Activity Fee. The referendum asks students to consider a \$20 per semester increase for those individuals taking 7 hours or more. The proposed increase would provide additional funding to the SGA, student organizations, sports clubs, Student Programming, and the Distinguished Lectures series.

The SGA believes it is important for you to make an informed and educated decision regarding your vote. For this reason, we have created a web page that explains the proposed increase. For more information, please visit the SGA website www.mtsu.edu/~sga. Click on the link that reads, "Want to know how the fee increase impacts you?"

The referendum will be conducted on-line, similar to previous elections. All students will receive an email with a link that will take you to the voting website.



Photo by Alex Treneff, staff photographer

Student Katie McCormick participated in a fall festival this past Tuesday evening, sponsored by Raiders for Young Children for Mercury Court Preschool. Read the story online at mtsusidelines.com.

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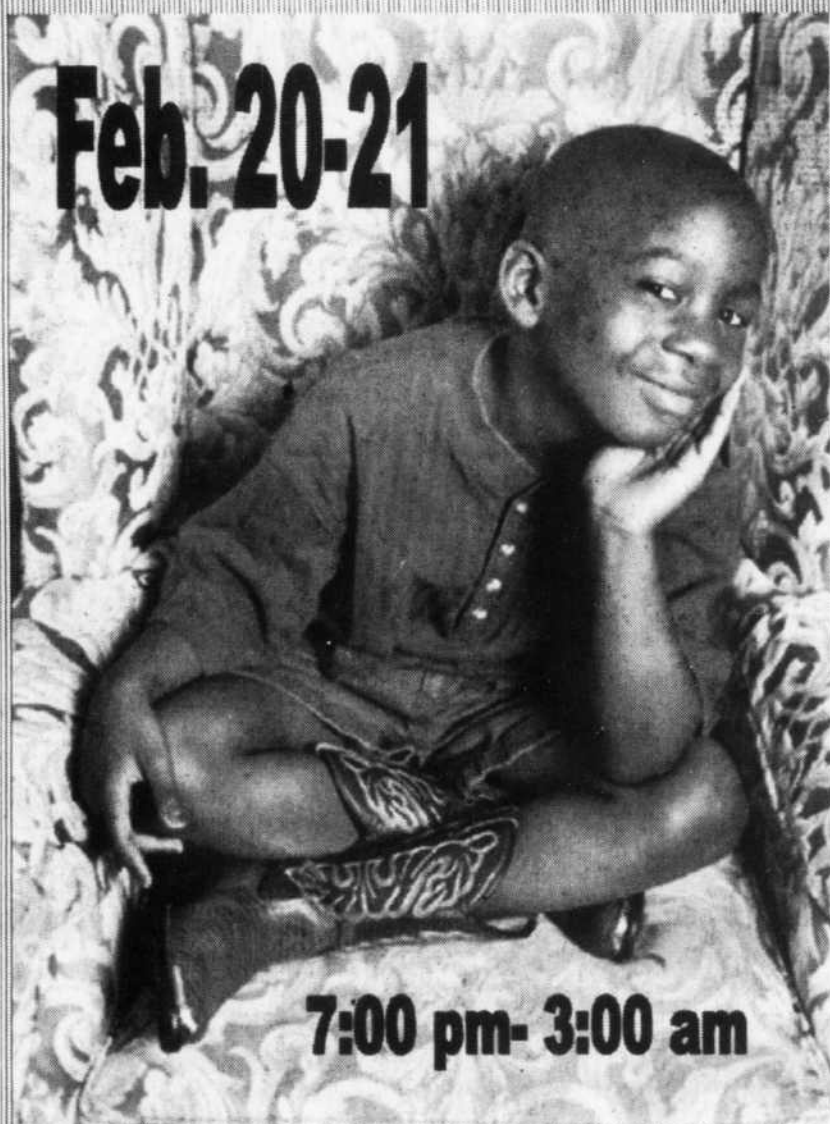
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

seeks an

Editor in Chief for the Spring 2009 semester

Candidates for the position must be currently enrolled students in good standing, have a 2.5 minimum GPA, and have two semesters of media experience.

To apply, complete a Sidelines Editor application (available in COMM 269) and attach a resume, cover letter, three letters of reference and at least three bylined clips, and deliver to:

Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8
or deliver applications to COMM 269

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3

Editor selection will be held the week of Nov. 17 and will be conducted through an interview with the University Newspaper Publications Board.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring 2009 semester:

Managing Editor
News editor
Sports editor
Features editor
Photo editor
Opinions editor

Copy editor
Assistant Editors
Staff writers
Staff photographers
Production Manager
Staff designers

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out an application. These positions are open until filled.

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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Raising the activity fee may not be ideal, but it is necessary

Lately, students have been complaining about an increase in the Student Activity fee to \$20 from \$5. The issue was first tabled by the Student Government Association senate, but did not pass.

The second time the issue was brought up, it passed with all of the members of the senate voting for an increase except one member.

The majority of students seem to have a problem with the increase because they are convinced that a great deal of the money will go to student organizations.

Yes, \$10 will go to student organizations and, quite frankly, it should. However, the money will not go mainly to Greek organizations.

Students think that just because they aren't a part of any organizations that they shouldn't have to pay the fee. But the fee goes to more than just organizations.

It is broken up among student organizations, SGA, student programming, sports clubs and supporting distinguished lecturers. By increasing the fee, all of these categories are going to benefit, and so are we as students.

If student programming is receiving more funds to work with, then we can expect better entertainment through the week and on weekends.

People always refer to MTSU as a suitcase college because the university never has anything exciting to offer.

Well, here is the chance to change that stigma. If we increase the fee, then every single student will benefit.

We of course realize that times are hard, and with the recent budget cuts, our university is trying to spend the money we do have wisely.

MTSU is the largest undergraduate college in the state of Tennessee, and yet it is the least funded. The university hasn't imposed an increase in the fee for nearly a decade, but with the financial state the economy is in and the budget cuts, an increase in this fee is not a big deal.

We could go on and on about school spirit and being true to your school. We could say something about supporting our university through these tough economic times. We could say every trite Go-Blue-Raider saying we could come up with.

But it comes down to this. Whether you're involved on campus outside of your classes or not, you have to face the fact that without student organizations, this university would be a lot less exciting. Imagine a school without football games, a student newspaper, a student government or activities.

Because class is great and all, but we want more. And if raising the fee means that our extracurricular activities can live on, then we say so be it.

Working for a unified America

We've come a long way, but there's still room for improvement



Season this dish!
Terrance Adams

What's wrong with American society? This society has never abided by the policies that this land was built on – principles that were supposed to make this a true democracy. Whether the blame is on the government, the citizens or both, the United States has never come to grips with the whole “melting pot” philosophy.

Even in the beginning, settlers began by stealing this land from Native Americans and later began assimilation instead of finding a way in which we could all coexist.

Yet, the U.S. was supposed to be the example country and the true meaning of a democracy?

Next, we went through the enslavement period of America, all the while claiming “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

As time passed we saw a schism separating the U.S. with the war that claimed the most American life in American history, fought on American soil – the Civil War. What if the Confederates won? Where would we be today? The fact is that there should have never been slavery or assimilation – at least not in America, the land of the free.

Later on down the American history road, the Chinese Exclusion Act dangled freedom in the faces of people who were in search of a better life. Freedom is not to be tossed around like a toy; it is something that should always

be available for all people.

In the early 1900s there was a severe rise of the Ku Klux Klan – people who went around employing scare tactics and killing innocent people because they felt as though these people were not true Americans. And with “The Birth of a Nation” as a best-seller, obviously the rest of the country felt the same way.

After all of this, we came to the 60s, a very emotional time. A time that finally gave a voice to blacks and women, in addition to other groups of Americans.

A large problem in our society is that we polarize ourselves. It seems as if every person who is not Eurocentric is considered to be an African-American, Asian-

American, Indian-American, just to name a few, even though they were born on American soil.

If America could become a true melting pot with the perfect sizzle, we could begin to form a true democracy – and work together to aid the distressed people

only some Americans are categorized as a specific genre of American, while others get to wear the title of a pure American. The U.S. was built from many different races, religions and beliefs; therefore, everyone should be considered a different genre of American.

We cannot continue to look down on one another because of the small differences that surround

us; rather, we must become a more unified people of America, and began to live and create the philosophy of a hot and ready-to-serve American melting pot.

Terrance Adams is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at LeTron08@gmail.com.

“Freedom is not to be tossed around like a toy; it is something that should always be available for all people.”

Election day is November 4. Go vote. Make sure your voice is heard.

LETTERS

Word up!

I am writing in response to the feature article on the artistic organization of “Word Up!” (Oct. 27).

While I have deep respect for Dean Andrews, I also have a large appetite for truth. I am not sure if it was a miscommunication between Andrews and *Sidelines* or if Andrews straightforwardly told *Sidelines* that he founded the Open Mic Nights at the Grind – either way it should be noted that this isn't the truth.

Open Mic Night at the Grind happens every Monday night at nine(ish) and is a wonderful place for anyone who does anything at all that requires an audience. In other words, the performances are not restricted merely to poetry and music. It's a big barrel of fun – and I encourage everyone to come join in. Hope to see you all there!

-Meghan Harrell, sophomore

Taxes affect all of us

I would like to remind everyone in this election that ALL taxation is a form of “spreading the wealth.”

If you don't want to benefit from the military, the school

system, public roads, etc. then stop paying taxes. And if you are basing your presidential selection on tax policies, do a little more research. Please stay realistic.

With the national debt increasing at the rate it is (funding the troops, bailing out corporate America, Social Security and Medicaid dwindling, etc), it will be impossible for either candidate to lower taxes.

So, the argument is not who is going to cut taxes the most, rather, who is going to keep tax increases to a minimum. Again, stay realistic.

Tax increases are not going to affect the well-being of wealthy Americans, because these citizens are not struggling to keep food on their tables or trying to keep the heat on in their homes.

Keeping money in the pockets of the working class allows this group to afford the bare essentials.

The bare essentials (house payments, food, gas, healthcare) go straight back into the economy, which is something that we ALL benefit from. This is a class that lives on a slim margin, not on Welfare, as some believe. That's a topic I might cover at a later date though.

So who is going to benefit our society in the greatest capacity? Who is going to keep the most money in your

pockets?

It's time for politicians, policies, those with power and those in power to be more socially responsible. Greed and corruption is understandably rampant among the elite, and what they fail to see is that the American system of “spreading the wealth,” (taxes) is responsible in one way or another for their current economic status. And though we cannot hold them accountable for being socially responsible in their actions and/or inactions, we can hold them socially accountable with a moderate tax increase.

We all have the ability to give a little more (some more than others), and without paying it forward to the teachers, cops, military and sanitation workers that generated our success, then we are not acting socially responsible.

-M. Tyler Willman, Senior

Lower ticket prices are unsafe

I was very disappointed in the decision by MTSU police to lower the price on campus speeding tickets (Oct 27).

According to Chief Buddy Peaster, this is going to keep people driving at a lower

speed. Why would it? In fact, would that not produce the opposite result?

These traffic offenders are now equipped with the knowledge that not only are speeding tickets inexpensive, but they may also get off the hook with a verbal warning.

They won't experience the hassle of court dates or consequences for their negligent behavior. Not to mention that they are now aware that they are allowed to travel 11 miles over the speed limit until they are ticketed. Are you serious? Eleven miles?

I also feel that you have a moral obligation. You are like those Internet sites that teach how to make a homemade bomb. Imagine if even half of the motorists on campus traveled 26 MPH.

In the future, you might want to be a bit more selective with regard to which information you reveal to potential law-breakers.

-Ali Davis, student

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Mass Comm 269

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

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 the individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

HOW WILL YOU VOTE FOR
THE ACTIVITY FEE INCREASE?

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FEATURES



WILL YOU GO TO THE
NEXT HOME FOOT-
BALL GAME?

BASED ON VOTES FROM
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Inking

TO BATTLE BREAST CANCER



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Pete (above), graphic designer for Legacy Ink, makes MTSU Breast Cancer Awareness shirts for local merchants to sell. The shirts are also available to buy through the campus bookstore.

Design contest benefits Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By LAURA RAINES
Staff Writer

For Megan Devens and Christina Klins, seeing their T-shirt designs being used is not the only reward for participating in and winning the Breast Cancer Awareness Design Contest.

They both say they realize that they took part in something much bigger — fighting for a cure for breast cancer.

This hits home in the fashion merchandising program at MTSU, since a former professor died of breast cancer three years ago.

Both girls have received so much recognition in the fashion department and across campus, says Teresa Robinson, professor of fashion design at MTSU. “This is a wonderful start to their careers.”

Harriet Estes, a much loved colleague and friend of Robinson's, lost her battle with the deadly disease when she passed away in 2005.

Since her death, MTSU has created the Harriet Estes Memorial Scholarship in her memory, which grants \$1000 to \$1500 to a textiles, merchandising and design student with a 2.5 GPA and financial needs.

Robinson says that those wishing to apply for the Harriet Estes Memorial Scholarship should fill out an application located in the Ellington Human Sci-

T-shirt design contest benefiting the Harriet Estes Scholarship, the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The contest was held in participation with Breast Cancer Awareness month in October.

“When I heard what Dr. Robinson and the other faculty and students are doing at MTSU in fashion

professionals in the industry, chose the winning designs. Then, Cheairs printed the shirts, which are now for sale at Legacy Ink Screen Printing, Anastasia's Attic, Leslie's Shoppe, Penny's Closet, Blue Raider Bookstore and Phillips Bookstore on campus.

“This contest was not only a great teaching experience, but also a wonderful opportunity to motivate students to get involved,” Robinson says. “I know that this program would have made Harriet proud.”

Students who wish to make further contributions can contact Cheairs at his office at 615-216-8001 or simply buy a shirt.

Although Breast Cancer Awareness Month is almost over, breast cancer is still invading bodies, breaking many hearts and changing lives. MTSU textile merchandising and design is encouraging other students to get involved in hopes that a cure may someday be found.

“This design contest was not only a great experience but also a wonderful opportunity to motivate students to get involved.”

TERESA ROBINSON
FASHION DESIGN PROFESSOR

ences building across the street from the Murphy Center.

To continue creating awareness and honor Estes' memory, her fellow colleagues, former students and graduate Troy Cheairs, owner of Legacy Ink, held a

merchandising, it made me proud to be a graduate of that department,” Cheairs says. “I am honored to continue to participate with and give back to such a great program.”

A panel of blind reviewers, including faculty and

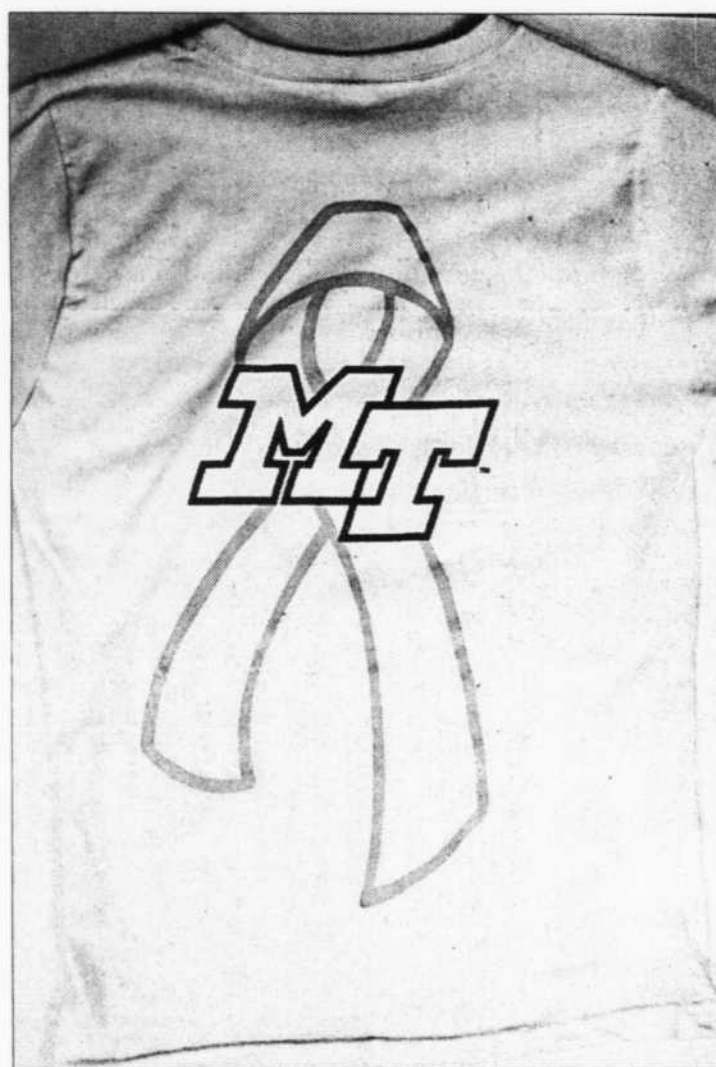


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

The above logo was the winning design for a T-shirt contest benefiting the Harriet Estes Scholarship, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Boroughs blast lasting impression on 'Boro



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

(From left to right) Jason Huber, Will Cameron, Steven Dahl, Kevin Conner and Matt Jeffrey perform at Club 527 on Friday.

BAND OF THE WEEK

By LAURA RAINES
Staff Writer

Instrument after instrument is loaded onto the stage of Club 527 on Friday night. The crowd grows thick and loud as tape is stretched across wires on the floor to hold them in place.

Laughter floats to the bar and out the door as more people rush in to grab a table. Microphones are assembled, guitars are tuned, percussion is tested and keyboards are pounded as the Boroughs get a feel for the stage.

After grabbing a quick bite of pizza, they take the stage and are ready to perform. The guys stand together and look out at the

crowd, knowing what they are about to share with the audience.

From the first strains of folk rock to the last chords, The Boroughs give a performance that attendees will not soon forget. After a thoroughly pleasing set, the boys climb down and head outside to chat with fans and plan the after party — their reward for a job well done.

With the band together just under a year, it is new on Murfreesboro music scene. The guy's first show, here at Club 527, stirred some interest with locals



Photo by Lisa O'Leary, staff photographer
After almost a year of playing together on stages big and small, The Boroughs have started to define themselves as a band.

BOROUGHS FROM PAGE 5

who were hearing them for the first time.

Super Bowl Sunday was our first show, and it was a learning experience for us all," says Jason Huber, lead vocals and guitarist. "It was great, even though it was a rough night for us—because that was the night that we all knew we were in this for the long run."

Chairman Steven Dahl says he felt the same way after that night.

"For us it was never, 'Let's give up,'" Dahl says. "It has always been, 'How can we do better next time?'"

After almost a year of playing together on stages big and small, it is safe to say that The Boroughs have improved.

As for the name, the band says it is about much more than being from and meeting in Murfreesboro. The five guys are a family of musicians who come together

like the four corners of New York, Dahl says.

"The original meaning of the word borough is a society of self-governing people who are independent and strive to do crazy, good things," Huber says. "The name is pretty representative of us since we are from different houses, but we come together as one to play music."

The music that originates from The Boroughs is emotionally driven, the band says. For all but one member, training happened garage-band style. Will Cameron, trombonist and back-up vocalist, is one of Blackman High Schools finest former marching-band members. He has been playing trombone since he was a fifth grade student and has had training in concert band, jazz and classical.

Huber says Cameron, along with another musician in the band, orchestrate the music.

"Will and Kevin Conner

[The Boroughs' bassist] are the brains behind this operation when it comes to putting music together," Huber says. "When I write a song, they'll ask, 'What are you playing?' and I say, 'I have no idea.' So they make it work."

Outside the band, most members are in school and hold down jobs, but they all agree that 110 percent of their effort goes into the band. As for advice to other aspiring artists, they all agree you have to love what you are doing.

"Cameron is a photography major, Huber is recording industry and I am an education major," says Matt Jeffery, pianist and vocalist. "But ultimately, it is important to do what you love. So musically, we play whatever puts a smile on our face, and our fans love it because that feeling is contagious."

The guys also advise that there are embarrassing moments that happen on stage when least expected, and

musicians should be prepared to handle those situations.

"One time we were playing in Michigan at our first music festival, and Huber hadn't had time to eat before our early afternoon set and had maybe partied a little too much the night before," Dahl recalls.

"I knew my stomach was feeling bad, and all the sudden I was like, 'Oh no,' and ran to the back of the stage and threw up," Huber remembers. "I kept on playing through the guitar solo with puke chunks on my knees."

The members of the Boroughs seem pleased that they have completed another show and given another great musical experience to their fans. From humble beginnings at a wine party to local stages across the 'Boro, these boys are ready to take over a stage near you.

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SPORTS

Asberry named Player of the Week

By JESSICA STAUFFACHER
MT Athletic Communications

Senior Ashley Asberry has been named Sun Belt Player of the Week after leading the Blue Raiders in four matches last week as announced by the league office on Monday.

The Murfreesboro, Tenn., native ended the week with 60 kills for a .489 hitting percentage as Middle Tennessee went 3-1.

Asberry had a double-double in a 3-2 loss New Orleans on Sunday with 14 kills and 12 block assists. She also had 33 blocks on the week as she averaged 1.94 blocks per set.

To begin the week, she had 16 kills for a .310 hitting percentage against Western Kentucky. Asberry also had a double-double in that match with 10 block assists in addition to two solo blocks.

Against the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns, Asberry was just one kill shy of her career high with 19 as she posted a hitting percentage of .500. Asberry scored 79.5 points for the Blue Raiders in its four matches during the week and had 10 more kills than the next highest hitter on the team.

This is the fourth weekly honor by a MT player as junior libero Ashley Waugh has been named Defensive Player of the Week twice and sophomore outside hitter Izabela Kozon received Player of the



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Senior Ashley Asberry recorded 60 kills and a .489 hitting percentage last week.

Week a few weeks ago.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Friday, Oct. 31 when it travels to Troy,

Ala., to play Troy at 7 p.m.

The Trojans have compiled a 13-14 overall record with a 4-8 SBC record. Meanwhile,

MT has put together 19 wins compared to four losses, while putting together a 9-2 conference record.

Murphy Center a great place for basketball



Outside the Pocket
Chris Martin

With no football game this weekend, fans of MT athletics will have a chance to witness the beginning of what could be two very thrilling seasons for Blue Raider athletics.

The football team is putting the finishing touches on what appears to be a rebuilding year. Basketball, on the other hand, looks poised to bring some glory to MT in both the women's and men's divisions.

On Saturday, The MT men's basketball team will play its first exhibition game against Cumberland University from nearby Lebanon, Tenn. The Blue Raiders were selected by the coaches of the Sun Belt Conference as the preseason favorites to win the conference with junior forward Desmond Yates as the Preseason Player of the Year.

Then on Monday, the Lady Raiders will play their first exhibition against Kentucky Wesleyan. Like the men's team, the women are expected to be the class of the Sun Belt.

This game should provide two interesting showcases. First, it will show how this team performs without last season's superstar, Amber Holt. Second, fans will get an opportunity to see how good the much-hyped Alysha Clark actually is. Clark was pretty much all-everything at Belmont, and people have been eager to see how the twice-named Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year performs.

It is often the case that many people wait until the conclusion of the football season before paying college basketball any attention. However, those who choose to do this run the risk of missing some great matchups in Murfreesboro.

On Friday, Nov. 21, the men's team will play host to Tennessee, a team that will likely start the season with a top-10 ranking. Less than two weeks later, on Dec. 2, Houston, who compiled a 24-10 record last season, will visit the Murphy Center.

There are also two important games on the men's docket that will take place in nearby Nashville. After squaring off against the Vols, MT will make its way to Vanderbilt on Nov. 24, and on Dec. 17, the Blue Raiders will once again visit Music City to battle with the Belmont Bruins, who nearly upset Duke in the first round of the NCAA tournament last season.

The Lady Raiders will host a team from the SEC, PAC-10 and Big East. On Nov. 28, Dec. 4 and Dec. 14 MT will play Arizona, Louisville and Alabama, respectively. That means those who follow the Lady Raiders will have an opportunity to potentially see MT add three big wins to its résumé.

As tempting as it is to devote all one's attention to football during the fall and winter, MT basketball fans will miss out on some top-flight basketball if they take that stance this season, and in a season where both squads could be dancing in March, it would be shame for the fans to watch their teams reach their destinations without experiencing any of the journey.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu.

Five golfers among top 25 at Sam Hall Intercollegiate

By TONY STINNETT
MT Athletic Communications

Players on the Middle Tennessee men's golf team saved their best for last - at least regarding the fall portion of the 2008-09 season.

The Blue Raiders shot 2-over 286 in the final round of The Sam Hall Intercollegiate Tuesday, and although the quality finish was not enough to overtake New Orleans for the tournament title, it was sufficient to produce their best showing in four fall events with a second-place showing. MT fell four shots shy in its pursuit of New Orleans in a competitive final round battle.

"It was nice to be back in the last group and to feel that pressure down the stretch," MT Head Coach Whit Turnbow said. "The guys put themselves in the position to win the golf tournament. We made a couple mistakes down the stretch that cost us but it was a good showing all around. You have to give New Orleans credit because they did everything they had to do. They forced us to have to shoot under par on a course where no team shot under par in any round in order to beat them. We almost got it done but not quite."

The strong push and steady three-round performance was keyed by consistent scoring throughout a talented lineup that clicked with its most stability this fall. Sophomore Jason Millard led five Blue Raiders in the top 25 with a 3-over 216 to tie for third overall. Chas Narramore tied for seventh at 5-over 218, Craig Smith and Brad Simons tied for 13th at 8-over 221 and Rick Cochran tied for 22nd with a 223.

"That's the kind of play we are going to have to have top to bottom in our lineup," Turnbow said. "If we are going to be competitive we have to have all five of our players in the lineup playing well at the same time. They all played solid this week and it is reflected with a high finish."

Millard turned in the highest Blue Raider finish by firing a 2-under 69 in the final round to close with a 3-over 216. He tied for third to turn in his second top 5 finish in four fall tournaments. Millard's third-round 69 could have been even better if not for his only mistake on the final hole. The sophomore was at 4-under for the round after playing his first eight holes on the back at 3-under but a double on 18 proved

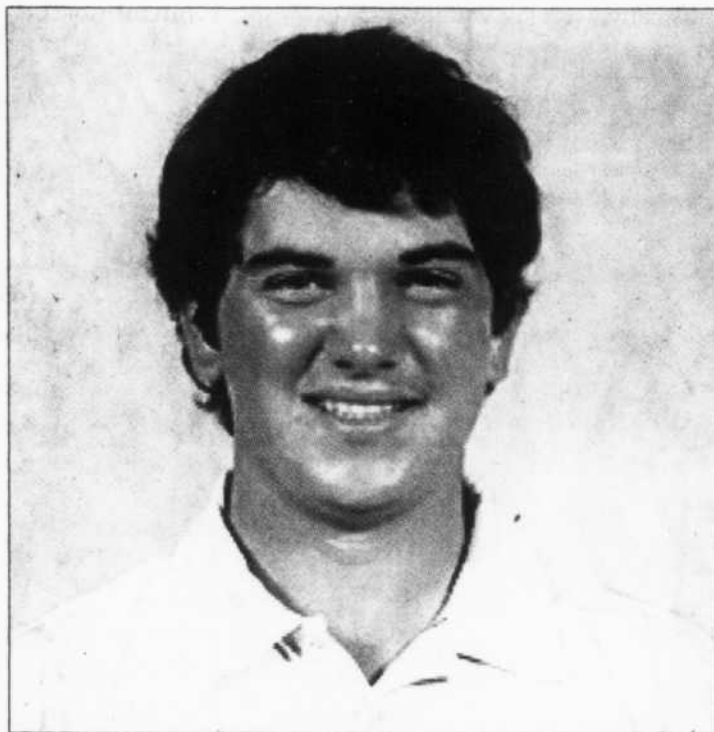


Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications
Sophomore Jason Millard led MT to a second-place finish.

costly. It still couldn't overshadow another strong all-around showing by the freshman All-American.

Smith capped his return to the links this fall after a season-ending back injury last spring with a fine effort that resulted in a tie for 13th. He was 1-under 70 in the final round and 8-over 221 for the tournament.

Narramore also bounced back with a solid showing. He tied for seventh for his 15th career top 10 finish. Narramore salvaged a

respectable final round by playing the final six holes at 2-under after three straight bogeys to open the back.

Freshman Brad Simons also completed the first half of his freshman season in notable fashion. Simons tied for 13th at 8-over 221 for the tournament. Simons earned a spot in the lineup for three of the four fall tournaments. Cochran also had a sound fall that included two top 10 finishes. He was among the top 25 finishers at each of the four fall tournaments.

Draddy Trophy honors stars in classroom and on gridiron

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dumb jocks? Not in this crowd.

The finalists for the Draddy Trophy, the so-called academic Heisman, were announced Wednesday. These 15 student-athletes blow away the negative stereotype that often gets pinned to college football players. They excel both at being students and athletes.

Star quarterbacks Chase

Daniel from Missouri and Graham Harrell from Texas Tech are the most notable finalists selected by the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame. Among the others are Ohio State receiver Brian Robiskie, Illinois offensive tackle Ryan McDonald and Georgia Tech defensive tackle Darryl Richard.

"So often, all the negative stuff commands the headlines," NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell said Wednesday in a telephone interview,

"but there are a lot of great kids doing great things."

"When you read what these kids are doing you say, 'Man, I didn't do anything when I was in college.'"

Take Richard, for example, who didn't have time Wednesday to do a phone interview with The Associated Press because after classes and practice he was scheduled to preside over a town hall meeting with athletic director Dan Radakovich

and other university leaders. Richard, who majors in management and has a 3.5 grade-point average, is the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board.

The 290-pounder also is a team captain and three-year starter with 9½ career sacks.

"You've got to be a real player (to be a Draddy candidate)," Hatchell said. "You can't just be a backup with a great grade-point average."

DRADDY, PAGE 8

Vanden Bosch healing up after ending streak

After 54 consecutive starts, injured groin sidelines Titans' defensive end

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch never stops whether he's sprinting by himself after practice or in a game sacking quarterbacks and knocking balls loose. Sitting out a Monday night game? One of the toughest decisions he's ever made. "I knew going in if I didn't feel 100 percent or real close, that I wasn't going to go. And I wasn't as close as I thought I would be," Vanden Bosch said Wednesday.

Vanden Bosch snapped a streak of 54 consecutive starts since signing with Tennessee before the 2005 season when deactivated for the 31-21 win over the Colts on Monday night. It didn't help that his replacement, Dave Ball, was knocked out of the game on the opening kickoff return with a concussion.

The eight-year veteran and two-time Pro Bowler has 12 tackles and three sacks with 28 quarterback pressures this season. He also has forced three

fumbles and recovered one.

But he hurt a groin muscle on Oct. 5 in a win at Baltimore, an injury he rested through the bye with, and tried to play at Kansas City on Oct. 19. He lasted a series before staying on the sideline.

On Monday night, he went on the field, loosened up and tested himself.

"I could do some things. I couldn't accelerate coming off of blocks, and I couldn't run to the ball. And so it took away a lot of in my opinion effectiveness and what I contribute to this defense. Again, I had 100 percent confidence in the guys behind me they could get the job done," Vanden Bosch said.

On Wednesday, Vanden Bosch took part in a shortened practice designed to ease the Titans (7-0) back onto the field in a short week. He followed up by running 100-yard sprints, and he is expecting to be able to play Sunday against Green Bay (4-3).

"It felt good. I mean I'm

TITANS, PAGE 8

Draddy

FROM PAGE 7

The Draddy Trophy is named after Vincent dePaul Draddy, who played football for Manhattan College in the 1920s, was chairman of the board for the NFF for 19 years and brought Izod and Lacoste shirts to the United States. The trophy was first awarded in 1990, months after its namesake died.

Past winners include Peyton Manning and Chad Pennington.

This year's finalists were chosen from 164 semifinalists. To qualify, a player must be a senior or graduate student, have a GPA of at least 3.2, be a starter and demonstrate leadership

qualities.

Players from all levels of college football are eligible.

The other finalists are: Harvard cornerback Andrew Berry; South Dakota State quarterback Ryan Berry; Carnegie Mellon tackle Brian Freeman; Yale cornerback Casey Gerald; Louisiana Tech linebacker Quin Harris; Colorado State linebacker Jeff Horinek; St. Cloud State defensive end Ryan Kees; California center Alex Mack; Mount Union quarterback Greg Micheli; and Utah kicker Louis Sakoda.

The winner will be announced Dec. 9 at the NFF awards banquet in New York. All the finalists receive an \$18,000 scholarship toward postgraduate

studies. The winner's scholarship will be increased to \$25,000.

For some of the finalists, that scholarship money might be put aside for

“ You never know what can happen with football, but if you get your degree you always have that to fall back on.”

BRIAN ROBISKIE
OHIO STATE RECEIVER

while.

Robiskie, the son of former professional running back and longtime coach Terry Robiskie, is projected to be an NFL draft pick.

But having grown up in an NFL family, Brian Ro-

biskie knows planning on a long career in football is no way to ensure a secure future.

“You never know what can happen with football,

but if you get your degree you always have that to fall back on,” said Robiskie, a marketing major with a 3.54 GPA in Ohio State's business school. “Seeing first hand how the business of the NFL is, it was

always something I thought about.”

Robiskie credits his parents, especially his mother, with teaching him the importance of education. Mom's rule in the Robiskie home was bad grades equals no football. That was enough to make sure Brian stayed straight.

“I was always too scared that she would end up sitting me,” said Robiskie, who has 30 catches and five touchdowns this season for No. 13 Ohio State.

McDonald, a four-year starter for the Illini, also credited his parents with stressing academics. He said a plane trip he made as a youngster sparked a fascination with flying that led him to studying aerospace

engineering. He's already a semester into his postgraduate work.

McDonald said the toughest part about handling a challenging major while playing football is finding time to squeeze it all in. He has one class that requires 10-15 hours of homework per week.

“The hardest thing has been finding enough sleep,” he said. “At midterms, (my teammates and coaches) say my eyes glaze over and I have a deer-in-the-head-lights look.”

With a 3.8 GPA, and on pace to break the school record for career starts, McDonald and the rest of the Draddy Trophy finalists prove that the term student-athlete isn't an oxymoron.

Titans

FROM PAGE 7

glad the game isn't today. I'm glad I've still got some time. I feel like by the end of the week, this should all be behind me, and it shouldn't be an issue the rest of the sea-

son,” Vanden Bosch said.

Coach Jeff Fisher was a bit more cautious.

“Hoping that we can work him through practice. It ... very well could be a game-time decision,” Fisher said.

The Titans could use Vanden Bosch against the Packers to help chase Aaron Rodgers. The

quarterback has 12 touchdowns with only four interceptions this season, and Greg Jennings is averaging 18.5 yards per catch. Rodgers had only compliments for the Titans defense in a conference call with Tennessee reporters Wednesday.

“I'd take their front four against any in the game.

Those guys are playing at a very high level, even without Vanden Bosch. But with him, they're an incredibly talented defense,” Rodgers said.

The Titans rank eighth in the NFL with 18 sacks, while Rodgers has been sacked 13 times.

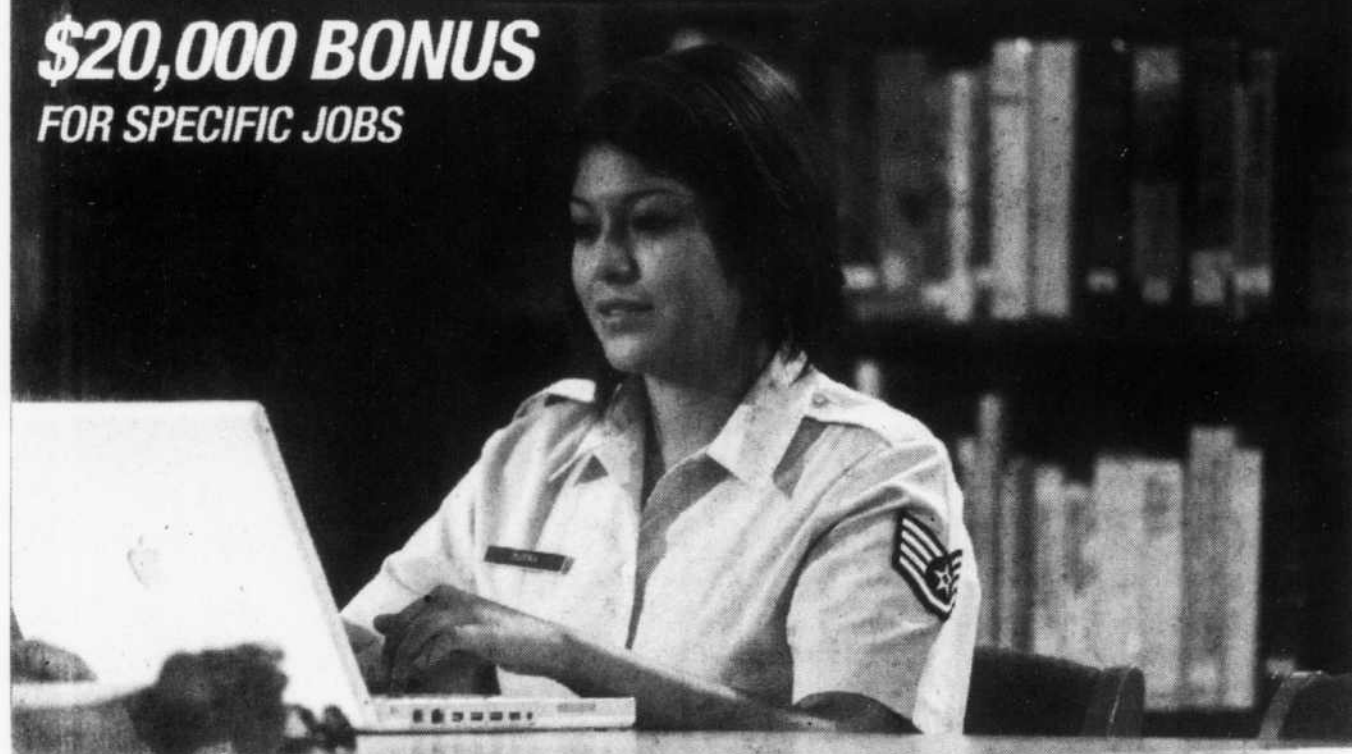
“We feel like we've got a chance every week regard-

less of the quarterback, who it is or what he's going to do,” Vanden Bosch said. “We know in order to win this game, with their receivers they're a home-run threat on every play, so we have to get to Rodgers. And we have to get him on the ground.”

Notes: Vince Young and

defensive end William Hayes missed practice Wednesday. Fisher said both felt ill and were sent home. ... Ball and running back Quinton Gantner, who suffered a concussion on kickoff coverage, did not practice. Cornerback and kick returner Chris Carr (back) also did not practice.

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