

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2002

40 61

Sunny



Movie
review
mania
In flash*, inside



Miguez, Mascaro
gets honors at
Sun Belt
Awards Banquet
In Sports, 6



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
Do you support the implementation
of a state lottery?

An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 42

Mirror of Truth tour rolls in with awareness



Voices in the Wilderness member Mike Miles travels in a bus to educate about Iraq.

By Amanda Maynard
News Editor

In search of weapons of mass destruction, two buses rolled onto the MTSU campus yesterday as part of the Mirror of Truth tour.

A project organized by anti-war group Voices in the Wilderness, members stood outside the Keathley University Center and the James Union Building to promote awareness of the lethal effects of U.S.-led economic sanction on Iraq.

According to the 2001 United Nations Children's Fund report, one in every three Iraqi children suffer from chronic malnutrition and prior to the Gulf War. A major concern for Iraqi pediatricians was child obesity.

"Once you've seen this kind of stuff, it gets inside of you because these are the children that Madeline Albright described as being worth the price," said Mike Miles, Voices member from Wisconsin.

Founded by three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly, Voices has taken nearly 50 delegates to Iraq in violation of federal law and U.S. sanctions.

Through the Mirror of Truth tour, members are trying to bring attention to the stockpiles of weapons located in the United States. In Tennessee, the organization focused on the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Component Plant in Oak Ridge.

As an international campaign, members bring much-needed medical aid, food and

other necessities when journeying to Iraq as part of a delegation.

By delivering these supplies, members risk up to 12 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines. Upon returning to the United States, members try to educate people in their neighborhoods, the U.S. Congress and the media about the effects of the sanctions.

"What our intention is to do in those delegations is to violate the sanctions, to come back and create a crisis of conscience," Miles said. "When you come back, you kind of enlarge the story that you have to tell because you're facing severe penalties."

Stationed outside the JUB,

See Mirror, 2

Senator plans to move quickly to introduce lottery bill

By Bobby Ross Jr.
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — It took state Sen. Steve Cohen 18 years to get a state lottery referendum passed.

Now that voters have overwhelmingly approved the removal of the state constitutional ban on a lottery, Cohen says he'll waste no time in getting the games going.

"I've got the skeleton of a lottery bill which will be introduced Wednesday," Cohen said, who has pushed for a lottery since 1984.

Cohen's lottery proposal won support from 58 percent of the nearly 1.6 million Tennesseans who voted on the referendum, despite a heavy push by religious opponents. The vote tally was 893,646 in favor to 658,543 against, with all precincts reporting.

A simple majority didn't ensure passage of the lottery amendment. It needed to exceed a majority of the total number of votes cast in the governor's race. It did, as "yes" votes ran nearly 60,000 ahead of the number required.

Passage of the referendum didn't actually create a lottery. Rather, the removal of the constitutional ban cleared the way for lawmakers to develop a lottery patterned after those in Georgia, Kentucky and Virginia.

The lottery amendment specified that money raised would fund college scholarships first, then preschool programs and school construction. Supporters estimate a lottery would gross \$900 million a year, leaving about \$300 million for education.

The referendum also gives lawmakers power, with a two-thirds vote of both houses, to authorize charity fund-raisers such as duck races, casino nights and raffles.

In light of voters' support for a lottery, Cohen said he doesn't expect much of a fight in the legislature.

"I think the mandate from the people will allow senators and representatives to vote for it that otherwise might not have done it," he said.

Cohen said a legislative committee would be established to study successful lotteries in other states and "flesh out" the lottery bill.

He said the committee would work with Democratic Gov.-elect Phil Bredesen and education leaders such as University of Tennessee President John Shumaker, Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Rich Rhoda and retired Tennessee Tech University President Angelo Volpe. Volpe served on the pro-lottery Tennessee Student Scholarship Lottery Coalition.

One potential subject of debate could be the type of scholarship program enacted.

Cohen touts the Georgia HOPE scholarship program, which awards free tuition to in-state students who finish high school with "B" or better averages.

But others, including Bredesen, have cited a need for a more needs-based approach — or at least a combination of academic and financial assistance scholarships.

Bredesen also has voiced an interest in using lottery proceeds to help improve K-12 computer technology.

The Rev. James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which opposed the lottery based on moral, policy and economic arguments, said the state's 3,000 Southern Baptist churches would stay involved on the issue.

However, Porch said he didn't know what role Baptists would play as lawmakers develop a lottery.

"There's a tremendous amount of confusion about where it goes from this point," Porch said.

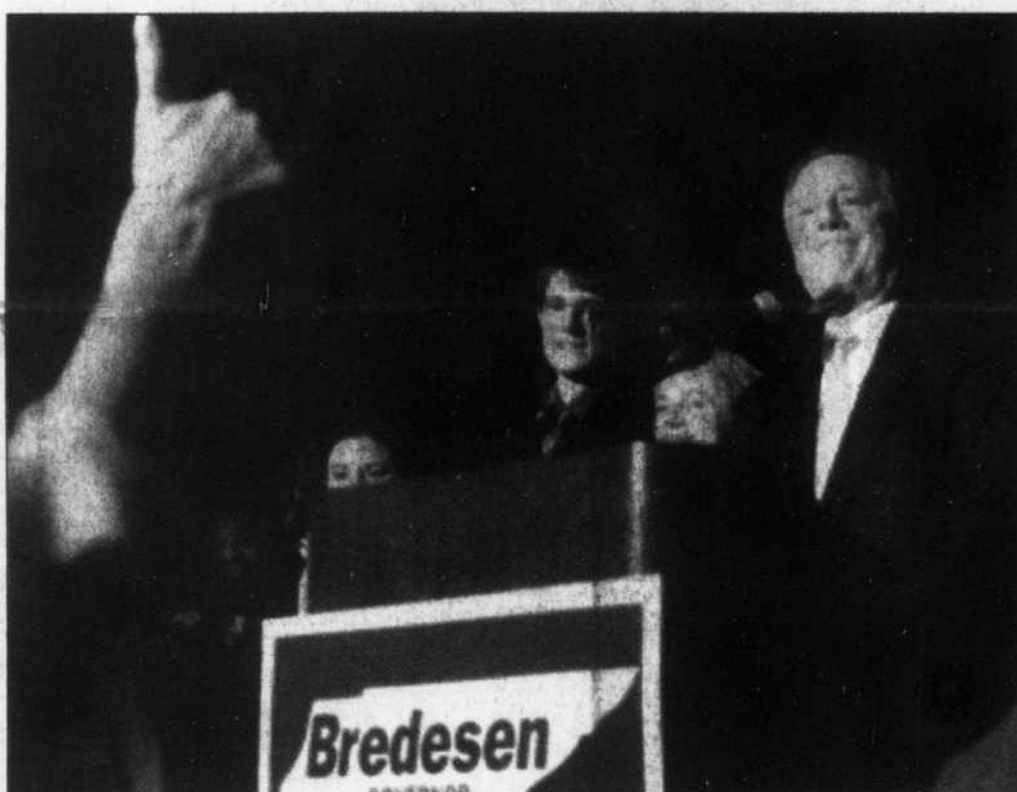
Michael Gilstrap, campaign director for the anti-lottery Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance, said the alliance's role ended with Tuesday's election.

"Ultimately, it was the will of the voters that they want a lottery," Gilstrap said.

Cohen said a Tennessee lottery could be in place by the end of next year. It could cost about \$5 million to start, but he said that money would be returned quickly — with interest — once the first tickets are sold.

Jimmy and Renee McCullough, who voted Tuesday at Liberty Elementary School in Franklin, said they'd welcome the chance to play the lottery — at home. ♦

Campus reacts to election results



Governor-elect Phil Bredesen celebrates his victory late Tuesday night in the gubernatorial election at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Nashville.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Senior Staff Photographer



Republican candidate Van Hilleary concedes the election to Democrat Phil Bredesen Tuesday night at the Embassy Suites in Cool Springs, Tenn.

Photo by Chris Nichols | Staff Photographer

Bredesen,
Gordon,
Alexander
all winners

By Patrick Chinnery
Assistant News Editor

Many students across campus welcomed Tuesday's election results, celebrating gubernatorial and lottery initiative victories.

Democratic candidate Phil Bredesen overcame an initial deficit to defeat Republican candidate Van Hilleary and a slew of others in the gubernatorial campaign. The amendment to the Tennessee constitution that would allow a state-run lottery passed by a wide margin.

"I think with Bredesen with governor and the lottery in place, education will definitely benefit," said Bryan Nale, a senior public relations major.

Other students expressed feelings of relief that the gubernatorial election turned out the way it did, but also voiced concerns that Tennessee government in general would not be able to manage the lottery funds effectively.

"I think the lottery will prove to be an overall good thing, if we can actually appropriate the funds to the right places, and send it to something that is going to help everyone, like public education," said Chris Harris, a junior

See Election, 2

New server aids teachers in School of Journalism

By David Sterle
Contributor

A new server, the J-drive, will be accessible for faculty and students in the School of Journalism to help with classroom instructions at the beginning of the spring semester.

The J-drive will resemble the S-drive in the College of Business, which has been in use for more than four years. The J-drive will enable teachers who use Microsoft Power Point to create notes and place them on the J-drive.

The J-drive will then be accessible to students through the Internet. This will allow students to print the class notes using their own computers, maybe even well in advance of the class.

"This is a great way for students to prepare for class early," said Clay Gooch, a student and lab director for the journalism department. "This way the student can have the notes in advance, and they are able to make side notes."

In case of a power outage, the server for the computer will

have a redundant power supply. This will allow the J-drive to stay up and running for 45 minutes to an hour during the outage.

"This is a great advantage to have," Gooch said, "so that information on the J-drive will not be lost in the case of a bad storm and power is lost at MTSU."

Ray Wong, a graphics instructor whose job it is to oversee Gooch, recommended the project and the appropriation of the money needed to fund the program.

The J-drive will cost \$4,000 to get started, and will be completely funded by Technology Access Fees.

The money will go for a new server and a new monitor to support the server.

Gooch, who has worked as lab director since September 2001, will set up the system. It will take him most of the remaining fall semester to get the J-drive up and running.

"This is something that I am very excited about," Gooch said. "It will help both faculty and students." ♦

Election: Rutherford County incumbents win out

Continued from I

history major. "Hopefully, Bredezen will use the lottery, put some resources into it, and convince good teachers to not move to Georgia and stay here." The lottery amendment, as it passed on the ballot, allows the state legislature to authorize a lottery for the sole purpose of funding education initiatives within Tennessee. A scholarship fund for college-bound high school seniors is expected to be the first program funded if a lottery is created.

A second proposed amendment to the constitution received a majority vote, but did not obtain the required number of votes to be enacted. The maximum fines measure would have allowed the legislature to prescribe fines greater than \$50 for violations of city ordinances.

U.S. Representative Bart

Gordon, D-Tenn., cruised to victory in his bid to retain his sixth district seat.

MTSU and the state's 48th house district will be represented by Democrat John Hood for the fourth consecutive term. Hood defeated Chris Grant, a Republican advertising consultant, by almost one-third of the vote.

Republican Donna Rowland will continue to represent the state's 34th district, and Kent Coleman, a Democrat, bested Carroll Useton, a Republican, for control of the open 49th district seat.

In its U.S. Senate race, Tennessee went along with the national trend, electing Republican Lamar Alexander, a former Tennessee governor and U.S. Secretary of Education, to replace retiring Sen. Fred Thompson.

"I'm glad that [Alexander] got elected," said Bryan Nale, a

senior public relations major.

"I think he's got a good head on his shoulders and knows how to get things accomplished,"

The Alexander campaign featured several stops in Tennessee by several big-name Republicans, including President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Those three also campaigned in many other states up to Election Day. Consequently, for the first time ever, a Republican president gained seats in both houses during midterm elections.

The new dominance of the federal government pleased some students.

"The Republican house, senate and presidency will probably never happen again in our lifetime, so we should revel in it," said Thomas McCormick, a junior political science major. ♦



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Senior Staff Photographer
Amber Brown of Bellshire Elementary School and Jimanda McBride of Ross Elementary School celebrate Phil Bredezen's lead over Van Hilleary Tuesday night.

Tennesseans may lose coverage

By Tom Sharp
 Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — More than 77,000 TennCare enrollees face losing their health coverage in November because they missed the deadline for confirming they are still eligible.

TennCare overseer John Tighe said Thursday he was not surprised more than a third of those sent reverification notices in July — 77,323 enrollees out of a group of about 222,000 — did not respond by the deadline on Tuesday.

"Remember they still have appeal rights," Tighe said.

Those who didn't respond will begin getting termination notices in the mail next week. They have 10 days to appeal, but only over their reasons for missing the reverification deadline. Being otherwise eligible won't be enough to regain TennCare coverage.

"People have to respond to this process," Tighe said. "There is some personal responsibility here."

He noted special allowances are being made for enrollees diagnosed as severely and persistently mentally ill, giving them a year to appeal. They make up fewer than 7,000 of the non-respondents.

Advocates for TennCare

enrollees insist some people who meet all the eligibility requirements will lose their health care coverage simply because they could not negotiate the reverification process set up by TennCare. Advocates contend the state offices have been so swamped with work that even enrollees who made sincere efforts to get through have been unsuccessful.

"There are people here who do not need to be terminated," said Tony Garr of the Tennessee Health Care Campaign. "Despite what John says a lot of eligible people are going to be disenrolled."

TennCare is the state's expanded Medicaid program for the poor, disabled and otherwise uninsured. It was changed considerably July 1 after the state signed a new agreement with the federal government, which pays two-thirds of the cost. One requirement was reverifying eligibility annually.

When reverification began, about 850,000 of the 1.4 million enrollees were Medicaid eligible. Officials estimate that number will increase to about 1 million.

The rest — about 35 percent of them children — don't qualify for Medicaid but lack private insurance because of cost,

access or a medical condition that makes them uninsurable. The reverification will determine if they are eligible for a new a scaled-down benefits package.

The state sent out the first batch of reverification notices, 222,000, in early July. Tighe said the bureau received responses from 144,575 people. Of those responses more than half (73,656) have not yet been processed.

Of the roughly 71,000 applications processed so far, Tighe said, about 19,000 people (27 percent) were found to be Medicaid eligible; 45,000 (64 percent) were approved for TennCare Standard; and 6,500 (9 percent) were denied coverage.

There are two more large batches of reverification notices outstanding. The second batch went to 177,000 TennCare enrollees; the third to 165,000.

If the same percentage of enrollees is eliminated from the program in those two batches as apparently will be in the first group, more than 200,000 people would come off the TennCare rolls by the first of next year.

Tighe predicted TennCare's overall enrollment of 1.4 million won't drop by that much because the recession is making

more eligible for Medicaid.

TennCare's budget this year is based on 159,000 people being cut from the rolls.

"I think we'll be in the 160,000 to 200,000 range," Tighe said. "It looks like the numbers of people and costs are pretty close to what we projected."

The reverification notices and interviews are being handled by Department of Human Services offices across the state. To handle the increased workload DHS has added workers, telephone lines and satellite offices, and stayed open for extended hours and on weekends.

Still, many enrollees have complained they could not get through to schedule an interview.

U.S. Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis said his office got so many calls that on Wednesday he wrote to President Bush and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urging an emergency appropriation of \$35 million to prevent people from being taken off of TennCare. There was no immediate response.

State Rep. Kathryn Bowers last week requested an extension of the deadline but was denied. ♦

Horse celebration suspected of wrongful judging practices

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Nashville attorney has been hired to investigate accusations of judging irregularities at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville.

The distinctive high-stepping gait of walking horses draws about 250,000 people each year to the celebration's championship show held the week leading up to Labor Day weekend. The annual champion receives \$15,000 and a potential windfall in stud fees. The event brings millions of dollars to Middle Tennessee.

The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration's board of directors hired attorney Tracy Shaw, of the Howell & Fisher law firm, to investigate after the accusations surfaced last week. Details of the "somewhat disconcerting" allegations — or their source — have not been released.

"A lawyer has been hired and the allegations are being checked into, and we're not at liberty to say anything else until the investigation is completed," said Barbara Turner, public relations director for the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. "We just started the ball rolling, and we're going to see what

happens."

The FBI and the Bedford County District Attorney's office also have been alerted, said board chairman Virgil Johnson. Bedford County District Attorney Mike McCown said he plans to meet with the entire board and could not discuss the allegations until those talks take place.

The accusations come just a few months after a federal judge ruled the government did not violate the law by ceding too much authority to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry by allowing it to regulate itself against abuses. The American Horse Protection Association argued it was the government's sole responsibility to punish abusers.

A judge bribery scandal in the late 1990s also created public image problems for the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. A trainer and a judge were fined and suspended by the National Horse Show Commission, which oversees judging and inspections for part of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

Shelbyville is located about 50 miles south of Nashville. ♦

Mirror: International campaign to stop sanctions

Continued from I

members displayed pictures of the children affected by the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Pictures ranged from corpses of children under the age of five to children suffering from terminal diseases caused by radiation.

Vietnam veteran Bill Hill drives one of the buses across the eastern part of the United States, making stops at college campuses.

"People in the U.S. are not aware of the atrocities happening to children in Iraq," Hill said.

Miles and Hill also distributed information on how to

promote awareness within communities.

They suggest developing a regular practice of reflecting and/or praying and fasting for Iraq. They also suggest writing letters to congressional representatives, organizing a weekly vigil in a public space, attend public speeches and organize a blood drive.

Middle Tennessee Solidarity, a socialist, feminist and anti-racist organization, sponsored the tour stop.

For more information on Voices in the Wilderness, contact their headquarters by phone at (773) 784-8065 or visit www.nonviolence.org/vitw. ♦



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WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Patrick Chinnery - Assistant News Editor



Post office: no rate hikes for at least four years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pen pals, rejoice! Postal rates are likely to remain the same for another four years, thanks to money freed up from a retirement fund that the Postal Service had been overpaying.

Rates for postage last went up in June, and postal officials said they didn't expect another increase until 2004.

But they stretched their estimate Tuesday after announcing details from a new financial review.

That inspection revealed the Postal Service had been paying too much into the Civil Service Retirement System fund, which provides benefits for employees who joined the service by 1987. Postal workers who joined after that year were enrolled in another retirement system.

The review examined retirement payments since 1971 and determined that the post office is close to having paid off what it owes the fund for current and future retirees. The analysis revealed that the Postal Service's liability to the retirement account is about \$5 billion, rather than the \$32 billion it believed it owed.

US says some countries may have hidden smallpox

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration expressed concern Tuesday that several countries may retain the smallpox virus in violation of international rules.

The comment by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher followed the disclosure by a U.S. official that Iraq, North Korea, Russia and France probably possess hidden supplies of the deadly virus.

Al-Qaida is also believed to have sought samples of smallpox for weaponization, but U.S. officials don't believe the terror network is capable of mounting an attack with smallpox.

Evidence recovered in Afghanistan pointed to Osama bin Laden's interest in the disease, the U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the administration does not think it likely that al-Qaida has smallpox reserves. The administration is uncertain about Iraq, he said.

Calm returns to Caracas after riots — for now

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's government weighed a petition Tuesday for a nonbinding referendum on Hugo Chavez's presidency as opponents charged he had lost control of his government after a day of street riots.

"Is there a government in Venezuela? ... Who has the authority in Venezuela?" opposition lawmaker Gerardo Blyde asked during a congressional debate on Monday's violence.

At least 17 people were wounded by rubber bullets and more than 60 others hurt by rocks or felled by tear gas in the clashes between Chavez's supporters and police and National

Guard troops in downtown Caracas.

The violence began after hundreds of Chavez's supporters tried to block opposition marchers from delivering more than two million signatures to the National Election Council demanding the referendum.

Election officials began verifying the signatures Tuesday — aware that any decision could spark more violence.

Petitioners want a vote by Dec. 4, but officials said it would take a month to verify the signatures and weeks more to organize a vote.

Israel calls elections amid Mideast turmoil

JERUSALEM (AP) — A reluctant Ariel Sharon on Tuesday called early elections for Jan. 28 after the breakup of his fractious coalition, sending Israel into a tempestuous campaign that threatens further instability in the Mideast at a time of a possible confrontation with Iraq.

The surprise move also brought Sharon's archrival for Likud Party leadership, Benjamin Netanyahu, back into government as temporary foreign minister.

Netanyahu, who calls for the expulsion of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said he will challenge Sharon for the party leadership in a primary to be held within weeks.

The winner of that struggle will face the Labor Party leader in the general election. One of the issues on the table then will be how to approach the Palestinians, whether to emphasize negotiation or war and whether to expel Arafat.

Justices struggle over three-strikes law

WASHINGTON (AP) — A conflicted Supreme Court debated Tuesday whether it's unconstitutional for states to lock up shoplifters, burglars or other petty criminals for life in the name of public safety.

Justices are considering striking down California's three-strikes-you're-out law, the toughest in the nation. Their ruling, expected next year, could curb states' efforts to give long sentences to revolving-door criminals or signal that other states can strengthen their laws.

During Tuesday's oral arguments, some justices seemed reluctant to interfere with state punishments, despite concerns about long sentences given in minor crimes.

The California law, which requires a sentence of 25 years to life for any felony conviction if the defendant has previously been convicted of two serious or violent felonies, put a man who shoplifted children's video-cassettes in prison until 2046 and gave another man a life sentence for taking three golf clubs.

SEC expands civil charges against WorldCom

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government on Tuesday expanded its civil fraud charges against WorldCom and the

company raised its estimate of inflated earnings to more than \$9 billion in one of the most stunning accounting scandals of the year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced that it had broadened the scope of its civil fraud charges, originally filed against the telecom company in June, to include an additional charge and to allege that WorldCom misled investors starting at least as early as 1999 through the first quarter of this year.

Actress Winona Ryder guilty in shoplifting case

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Actress Winona Ryder was convicted Wednesday of stealing \$5,500 worth of high-fashion merchandise from Saks Fifth Avenue last year, but a prosecutor said she would not seek to put the actress behind bars.

The jury found the star of *Girl, Interrupted* guilty of felony grand theft and vandalism but cleared her of burglary.

The jury reached the verdict after 5 1/2 hours of deliberations over two days. The one count on which she was acquitted required a specific intent to go into the store to steal.

The two-time Oscar nominee, who marked her 31st birthday in the defendant's chair, was arrested Dec. 12 as she left the Beverly Hills store, her arms filled with packages.

Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 6. Although she faces up to three years in prison, Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle said outside court that she would seek a sentence of probation, community service and restitution to the store.

U.S. kills senior al-Qaida operative in Yemen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening up a visible new front in the war on terror, U.S. forces launched a pinpoint missile strike in Yemen, killing a top al-Qaida operative in his car, a U.S. official said.

The strike, believed to have been conducted by a CIA aircraft, killed Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. counterterrorism officials say al-Harethi was al-Qaida's chief operative in Yemen and a suspect in the October 2000 bombing of the destroyer USS Cole.

Al-Harethi's car was struck by a Hellfire air-to-ground missile.

The CIA launches Hellfires from pilotless Predator aircraft. Five other people, believed low-level al-Qaida operatives, also were killed.

The attack occurred in the northern province of Marib, about 100 miles east of Yemen's capital San'a, where al-Qaida is considered active.

Former CIA, FBI chief ponders leaving board

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former FBI and CIA chief William Webster, whose appointment as the head of a

new accounting oversight board has ignited sharp debate, is considering whether to step down amid the controversy, according to published reports Tuesday.

He told *The New York Times* and *USA Today* he will step aside if he decides he can't be effective heading the new board, which plans to meet for the first time Nov. 13.

"I'm not the only one that can do this job," Webster told the *Times*. "If I conclude my ability to serve impedes on the ability of the board to function, I will step aside."

"I'm watching very carefully to see if all this activity is impeding my ability to act effectively," he told *USA Today*. "When I reach a conclusion as to whether that effectiveness would be impaired, I'll act."

In a related development, BDO Seidman — the accounting firm fired by Webster when he was as head of the audit committee of the U.S. Technologies board of directors — filed a fed-

eral lawsuit claiming Webster had made "false and misleading statements" last week about how much he knew about the company's financial problems.

Webster has denied the accusation.

U.S. Technologies, the company central to the controversy over Webster's selection to the new accounting board, reinvented itself in 2000 when it bought an Internet "incubator" and recruited Webster and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell as directors.

Now the company is considered insolvent and faces fraud accusations. Harvey Pitt, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is in trouble with the White House and is facing investigations into whether he concealed from his fellow commissioners information about Webster's watchdog role at U.S. Technologies before they named him to head the new board.

French train fire kills 12, including 5 Americans

NANCY, France (AP) — A fire on an overnight train in eastern France filled a sleeping car with deadly smoke Wednesday, killing 12 people — including five Americans from the same family — and driving panicked passengers to smash windows and jump to safety.

The train, like others in Europe, had no smoke detectors even though cigarette smoking is allowed in designated cars.

Wednesday's blaze, which also injured nine people, was initially blamed on an electrical short-circuit.

But the French rail authority SNCF said that was premature and the cause was under investigation.

Among the dead were five Americans, three German men, a Russian man and woman, a Hungarian man and a Greek woman. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, November 7, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Grading system should be consistent

Student Government Association voting wrapped up last night and, though results weren't available by press time, the plus/minus question was by far the most pressing issue on the ballot.

Well, it was the only one – but pressing nonetheless.

The outcome of the voting will determine the next step in this saga of deciding whether you'll have to settle for a plain old B or a more fancy B+.

Regardless of what the voters decide, one thing is increasingly clear: the only true fair way to implement any grading system on an interdisciplinary college campus is if it's consistent across the board and throughout all programs.

If the university decides to keep the plus/minus system, but to let some programs opt out because they differ ideologically with it, it still sets up an unfair system in which one student's grades in one program aren't comparable with another student's grades in another program.

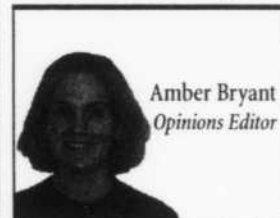
Though grade point average isn't quite as big a deal in college as it was in high school, it is still a number significant enough to record. Scholarships and program admittance hinge on GPA – not to mention one's resume appeal.

Even a seemingly minute difference between grades, such as a few points that might equal a plus or a minus, can knock someone's marks up or down and alter a GPA, which is based on quality points. One person's grades wouldn't necessarily equal the GPA of another person with identical grades if one is in a program that utilizes plus/minus and one is not.

If students voted to keep the plus/minus system around, it would be wise for the administration to implement it across the board, and require that all professors use it.

If students voted to oust the system, the issue should be dead until there is a student uprising to resurrect it. ♦

From the Opinions Editor Madonna has right to criticize gross behavior



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

Just when you thought they might be through with her, the hypocrisy police are calling Madonna out again.

The pointy-breasted one is upset over *Good Morning America's* July footage of a controversial mother breast-feeding her 8-year-old son.

He's eight years old, in case you missed it the first time, like my editor and I did.

The mother, Lynn Stuckey, is under investigation by Illinois child-welfare authorities for possible child mistreatment. State officials report that the boy has been taunted since the tape was aired.

The *New York Daily News* reported that Madonna expressed her concern for the child to disk jockey Rick Dees, stating, "The world is collapsing. Why is there a tape of it? It's terrible. That child will never recover."

However, prior to quoting her, the paper refers to Madonna as "the performer who has tirelessly courted controversy with her sex-and-violence-laced videos," obvi-

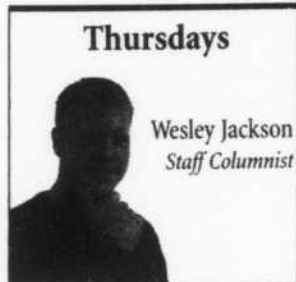
ously to point an accusing finger at a supposed discrepancy. I assure you, one doesn't exist.

Just because a female entertainer built a reputation with openly sexual lyrics and performances doesn't mean she isn't in a position to voice an opinion about an exploitative television scene. She's an oft-commended mother of two and somewhat respected public figure. Just because she rolled around on the ground in a garter belt 10 years ago doesn't make her unworthy of vocalizing care for the well-being of a now-famous child.

The media are often guilty of calling out so-called hypocrisies in celebrity actions, especially in Madonna and women like her. Who said being sexual makes you the pinnacle of immorality and therefore unable to shudder at a disturbing display of incest? If I weren't the quick-witted, critical scholar I am, reading such a news story might lead me to believe that if I openly like sex, my right to judge rapists is automatically revoked. Fortunately, mama didn't raise no fool.

Let Madonna say what she wants. She must have learned a thing or two about good taste along the way. ♦

Nevada right to defend family



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

The people of Nevada voted Tuesday on an amendment to their state constitution: a referendum statement that recognizes only heterosexual marriages as legitimate and, therefore, bans legal gay unions.

Due to the paper's printing schedule, this column was written before the votes were cast. I don't know what was decided, but I know that Nevada polls showed strong majority support for the referendum.

Go Nevada. Thanks for defending the family.

But what is "the family?" Opponents to the referendum claim that gay unions are as family friendly as heterosexual couples.

Right. We can all imagine little Timmy coming

home from school and introducing his friends to his parents. "Hey guys, I'd like you to meet my Dad and my other Dad, who's sort of my Mom, too. But not really."

Timmy's friends look confused, and understandably so.

Legal gay marriages do not make families any more than a horror movie makes a romance film.

Imagine if I went in to my local video store to pick up *Message in a Bottle* or some version of *Romeo and Juliet*. What if, instead of being directed to the romance category, the girl behind the counter directs me to the horror section?

"You don't understand," I might say. "I'm looking for a romantic movie."

"Well, some people think horror has its romantic elements," she could respond.

"But I don't want a horror movie," I would explain.

"Oh, you're just being intolerant and narrow-minded. We here at this video store recognize the value of tolerance and

open mindedness. We appreciate the creative confusion of mixing up our categories," she retorts.

At this rate, I may walk out the store renting *The Exorcist* fully convinced that I got a top romance flick.

But we all know that would be stupid. Horror and romance films are made to be different.

In the same way, gay marriages don't condone families. Gay unions may be the basis for a lot of things: a club, a political organization or a religious group, but not a family. The phrase "gay family" is a contradiction in terms.

The legalization of homosexual unions actually starts to destroy the very definition of a family, i.e. those relationships founded on the lifelong commitment of one man to one woman. It confuses the "video categories" of life.

But what about tolerance? Aren't we supposed to be tolerant of other people's sexual preferences? Sure. In fact, why don't we just let anything go as far

as marriage definitions?

If Timmy can have two dads or two moms, why not include other sexual preferences into the mix? What if Timmy had a Dad whose sexual partner was a horse?

"That's ridiculous," you might say. "A horse is a horse, not a sexual partner." Of course. Unless of course that horse were the famous Mr. Ed (never know what people will say to justify their sexual orientation).

Seriously, being the terribly tolerant people we are, what would logically stop anyone from marrying a horse if such was their preference?

The point is, if we strip away the traditional, even basic biological definitions of sex and marriage, then anything goes. A heterosexual union becomes just as good as any other sexual lifestyle.

Marriage to a horse or a minor (or what about multiple minors?), or someone of the same gender all becomes equally valid and equally valueless. It's all equally valid and

valueless because there's no standard, nothing to compare things to.

But I think there is a standard, and so do a lot of people in Nevada.

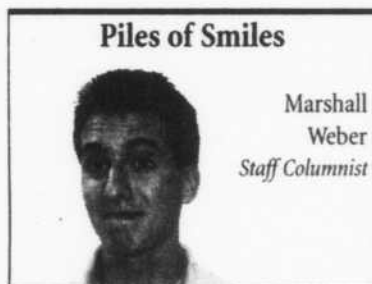
For the past several years, Nevada has seen heterosexual marriages as sacred and better than other sexual lifestyles. The union between a man and a woman has been more than "just another option" on the fast-food menu of sexual preferences. Heterosexual marriages are natural and have the weight of reason, health and history to back up their success.

The family based on a heterosexual union is worth fighting for. Many citizens of Nevada thought so and were willing to start a referendum for their constitution.

I applaud such an effort. Thanks, Nevada citizens, for supporting true families. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a sophomore English major and can be reached via e-mail at ViolentWisdom@aol.com.

Carnage just in time for holidays



Piles of Smiles

Marshall Weber
Staff Columnist

It's Sept. 13, and Scott Ritter, a former marine, United Nations weapons inspector and harsh critic of the United States' policies on Iraq is squaring off in a CNN studio with Paula Zahn.

Zahn is quoting a report from the International Institute for Strategic Study (IISS), a report which she calls "the most independent voice all (sic) of this debate."

According to the report, she states, "Iraq has biological and chemical weapons and the missiles to deliver them."

"No, the report does not say that," Ritter replies.

"The report..."

"That's exactly what the report says," Zahn interjects.

"Absolutely not. Read it. The report says Iraq could have biological weapons, could have chemical weapons, could have ballistic missiles..." etc., etc.

The IISS report Zahn is misquoting for the American people currently happens to be circulating in the Bush Administration and is used as a primary justification for a war with Iraq.

Some may argue that an indictment levied for the purpose of fueling a war against a sovereign nation should not be so heavily laden with the word "could," but it's the best thing Washington's war hawks have at their disposal.

Five days earlier at Camp David, Bush quoted a 1998 report from the International Atomic Energy Agency as saying that Iraq was "six months away from developing a weapon."

The IAEA did, in fact, release a 1998 report concerning Iraq's weapons program.

It reads as follows:

"Based on all credible information to date, the IAEA has found

no indication of Iraq having achieved its program goal of producing nuclear weapons or of Iraq having retained a physical capability for the production of weapon-usable nuclear material or having clandestinely obtained such material."

How Bush was able to derive "six months away from developing a weapon" from the IAEA's report, the world may never know.

What we do know is that seven continuous years of United Nations inspection activity rendered Iraq 90 percent to 95 percent disarmed.

Any progress they've made since UN inspections ended in 1998 is purely speculative.

What's more, Secretary of State Colin Powell claims that the United States has the intelligence to prove that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction – but "it is not for us to prove they have it; it is for them to prove they don't have it."

So now we have one report with no facts, another that says Iraq's weapons program isn't worth powder and shot and Colin Powell claiming that we could conclusively prove Iraq has nuclear and/or biological capabilities – but we're going to spare ourselves the trouble and launch a war irregardless.

Not just any war, but a war that destroys the political dynamic which has governed the world since the chartering of the United Nations, which demands peaceful resolution of problems between nations.

So, if you want to see imperialism in action, just turn on the news sometime in mid-December when our air campaign should begin.

Hopefully, the carnage that fills our screens will help take our minds off the United States' rapidly deteriorating economy, and we can all have a Merry Christmas. ♦

Marshall Weber is a freshman journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at mweber02@hotmail.com.

Exercise your rights



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

Tennesseans gathered in elementary and secondary school lobbies and gyms Tuesday to give democracy a little exercise. Their names were checked. Cards were signed. The curtains parted to reveal lighted, plastic surfaces with names and questions of policy.

Fingers glided along the smooth surfaces toward choices of Democrat or Republican or Independent.

Tuesday marked another November election day.

Did you vote?

If you didn't, you should have – you've joined others in becoming a silent statistic.

The traditional college student falls into the age grouping of 18 to 24, but only 12 percent of individuals within this age category voted in the 1998 midterm election. Experts estimate that the percentage wouldn't differ greatly this time around.

Why are so few students within this age group voting?

Many students aren't registered to vote, which is ridiculous.

Election commissions and other groups do a great deal of activism on college campuses to encourage students to register. It's a simple, quick process. Unless you lack citizenship or endure some other preventative barrier, there's no excuse for not being a registered voter.

Another common reason for lack of voting from students is that younger generations show an extreme disillusionment with government. They are often apathetic and don't see

any relevant reason to vote. This, too, is flawed reasoning. By voting, you exercise democracy, as well as your ability to support candidates that represent issues that matter to you. The government won't change if voters don't take active roles and demonstrate what issues matter.

Another common reason for not voting is the idea that one vote doesn't matter. Perhaps it wouldn't tip the scale, but when thousands of potential voters subscribe to this idea and stay home versus heading out to the polls, a large percentage of the population isn't represented.

It's highly crucial that our peers become more politically active. People within the 18 to 24 age group are tomorrow's economy, society and political determiners.

By voting now, we are forging the political landscape of tomorrow.

Decisions made by today's governmental entities will affect America many years into the future.

Do you support reproductive rights? If so, you should vote and do your part to keep supporters of these rights in office. Do you support the Homeland Security plan? If so, you should fight to establish a Republican-controlled Congress.

Do you find it difficult to identify fully with the platforms of the two dominant parties? You should vote to establish a third party that represents your views more fully.

There are numerous reasons to exercise your right to express your political sentiments. So, if you didn't vote this year, take the steps to do so in the future and take hold of your right to decide. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

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Letters Policy

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.

Letters to the Editor

Policy addition step forward

To the Editor:

As an openly gay alumnus of MTSU and the student who spearheaded a wide coalition of students, faculty and staff seeking to enhance the campus nondiscrimination policy seven years ago, I want to commend the leadership MTSU has exhibited recently by sending a clear message that it won't tolerate discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In 1995, the Faculty Senate, University Rules Committee, several departments, student organizations and even the Tennessee Board of Regents urged the adoption of this policy. It was rejected by then President James Walker despite the world of support by students and faculty, who long stood up for principles of equality. Those efforts did, however, move the state to support the measure and for changes to occur at other state campuses.

Upon my graduation in 1997, I didn't attend my own graduation ceremonies out of a deep sense of disappointment in the university for not standing with these basic principles and with hundreds of the best universities in the country. Throughout the effort, I'd experienced death threats and campus protests and, at the same time, overwhelming campus and state support. Some of that support even came from Christian student organizations who understood the policy does not promote a lifestyle or sexuality anymore than protection of discrimination based on religion promotes the worship of other gods. Nondiscrimination policies profess a value for dignity and respect.

My experience in attempting to change the campus policy, however, taught me many valuable things that later allowed me to work with national civil rights organizations and then later with social policy forums within the Clinton Administration.

At the time, I lobbied both the campus and state for change, I knew the day for change had to come. Upon President James Walker's rejection, I pledged when the university would stand for better principles to begin organizing lesbian, gay and bisexual alumni who had been withholding contributions to the Alumni Association. I hope what we are now able to contribute and accomplish for the MTSU community as a whole will foster greater understanding that lgbt students, faculty and staff seek equal opportunity without fear of prejudice or discrimination and play a vital role in communities that place a high value on that respect for all peoples.

Christian Grantham

'Sideways' not worthy of October

To the Editor:

I was looking forward to the Halloween issue, but when I saw it, I was thoroughly disappointed.

I think that *Sideways* should be reserved for April Fool's Day only. Last year, that issue caught many people off guard as I'm sure it will next April Fool's Day, but Halloween isn't even related to April Fool's Day. So why pull the April Fool's Day joke in October?

Please reserve *Sideways* for April Fool's Day only.

Ryan Blazer
recording industry

Publication reeks of leftist spin

To the Editor:

The only thing I found more hilarious than the Halloween issue of *Sideways*, is a recent letter to the editor accusing *Sidelines* of being too much like the *Wall Street Journal* ("Publication should be balanced," Oct. 29).

How Schneider could read a paper that reeks of anti-Christian, anti-Bush and anti-American sentiment and ask "do any of your columnists represent the leftist point of view?" is beyond me. *Sidelines* has more spin than a campus Laundromat (most of it liberal spin). I highly suggest everyone on *Sidelines'* staff pick up a copy of Bill O'Reilly's *The No-Spin Zone* and get a feel for what real journalism looks like.

As for Schneider, he is hopelessly lost way out in left field. I suggest he subscribe to the local socialist party newsletter and stop complaining.

Aaron Perry
Freshman, political science major

Alternatives to killing tons of trees

To the Editor:

Ever wonder where all that paper in the library and computer labs comes from? It comes from trees. That's right, good old American logging industry at it's finest. Right? Sure trees are logged from forests - national forests, often times endangered forests, that is.

MTSU's Chapter of Students for Environmental Action has some ideas on alternative resources to make paper. They've got a few statistics for us: 95 percent of our forests have been taken out by the logging companies, legally. How? They get the right to cut down trees on national property from the government. This costs taxpayers on average \$700 million per year. So what do we do to eliminate this cost and problem? There are three main solutions: first, hemp it up in the farmland (OK, so the number's only 1 percent of our farmland devoted to hemp growing that would satisfy the needs of our paper industry, but it's fun to say "hemp it up").

That one's out the window thanks to the United States government's ban on it, but don't you think it's better that we don't sit around and smoke up all our printer paper?

Second, we could recycle everything we've already got. That sounds fine and dandy, but apparently MTSU doesn't think so. Our copying and office supply paper isn't recycled. That's OK, we only use 450,000 tons a year. The last alternative to logged paper we could use is kenaf paper. What's kenaf? I have no idea. Actually, it's a plant in the okra/cotton family, I think. SEA tells me that it's much cleaner and cheaper to make, since there's no pests to kill in it; it's almost white already, so bleaching isn't necessary and it uses 25 percent less energy to make than wood paper.

An acre field of kenaf will yield about four more tons of paper fiber than the pine normally used. But wait, there's more. The USDA spent forty years of research on the subject and found that kenaf is the best paper source available. So why aren't we using it, MTSU? SEA would love to hear your input, as long as you print it on recycled paper.

Jonathon Arnold

Non-discrimination way to go

To the Editor:

I write to commend MTSU on finally taking such an important step to recognize and protect its gay, lesbian and bisexual students, faculty and staff by adopting an inclusive non-discrimination policy.

I'm an openly gay alumnus of MTSU, and I spent much of my time there attempting to have such a policy adopted. In fact, I was published a few times in the *Sidelines* during that time, writing about the need for the policy to be adopted.

I'm now finishing my last year of law school in Los Angeles, where I have continued to fight for the rights of all individuals, including gays and lesbians. I'd always hoped that perhaps one day I could return to MTSU as a member of the faculty, but the lack of protection concerned me.

I'm happy to see that my alma mater welcomes me back, just as I am.

James Gilliam
Class of 2000, sociology

Coach Mac valuable campus asset

To the Editor:

In my four years at MTSU, I've seen the vast majority of the games that Andy McCollum has coached. As a former *Sidelines* sports editor, I sat through numerous press conferences. I've come to one major conclusion. Like the blossoming academic programs here at MTSU, Andy McCollum is an asset to this university that we can't let get away. Although this season has been a bust, due to injury and coaching changes, McCollum has proven himself a winner on and off the field. He's a great recruiter. He's persuaded players who would have never thought about MTSU to play here. They aren't here for MTSU. They're here because of Andy McCollum.

Andy McCollum has done what very few people have done. He's won at a place that people thought would never amount to anything on the highest level of college football. Now, Coach McCollum has been mentioned for the Baylor head coaching job. I hope he doesn't leave, for the sake of MTSU. This university is budding and growing in many ways, one of which is on the football field. To lose a coach like Andy McCollum will take MTSU back to square one in the I-A football scheme. There is one thing that we as students can all do to insure that he stays, and it's not pay him more. We can all pay nothing to go to the games. He wants a full house. That's it, and it's not too much to ask. Sure, we nearly packed it against SEMO, and the team laid an egg. True fans don't tuck tail and run. We stick by them through the tough times and hurt with the team. It makes victory that much sweeter.

Anyway, we cannot afford to lose Andy McCollum. If you want what's best for this university, support our team. If you don't want to support MTSU, go where you will support your school.

We don't need you here.

Michael Edwards
Mass Communications

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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, November 7, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Miguez, Mascaro get honors at Sun Belt Awards Banquet

By Angelica Journagin
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee's Christina Mascaro and Laura Miguez were honored at the Sun Belt Conference's Third Annual Women's Soccer Awards Banquet in Mobile, Ala., Monday.

Mascaro, a junior transfer from North Alabama, was named the Newcomer of the Year. Coming with head coach Aston Rhoden from Alabama, Mascaro proved beneficial to the Blue Raiders this year, getting one goal and five assists. The five assists tied her with Danielle LaDuke to lead the team.

Miguez, the sophomore from Dallas, Texas, leads the Blue Raiders in scoring with nine goals. All nine goals came in the last 10 games.

"Both players deserved their honor and it is very special for them and for our program," Rhoden said. "Laura and Christina have both worked very hard all season."

The big winner of the night was

the University of Denver, with nine conference awards. Seniors Katie Antongiovanni, Erica Izard, Angie Portincaso and Kristin Warren and juniors Jamie Norwood and Mychael Movius were named to the first-team all-SBC.

Senior Kerri Weaver and junior Jenni Harris received second-team all-SBC. Head coach Jeff Hooker was named the SBC Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. He led the Pioneers to the best record in school history (14-1-2) and a top 20 ranking in all four of the national college soccer polls.

Antongiovanni was named first-team all-SBC for the second year, leading the Pioneers in scoring with 11 goals. Izard allowed only two goals as keeper in eight conference games.

The University of Louisiana-Lafayette's junior defender Sara Vienberg was named to the first-team, while her teammate, freshman Stacy Smith, was on the second.

"I am very happy for Sara and Stacy and pleased that they were recognized for their hard work and efforts," said head coach Dave Poggi. "They are well deserving of their awards and this shows the respect our program has earned from the coaches in our league."

Vienberg led ULL in assists this season with eight.

"Sara has been the glue that held together such a young team and is the main reason we finished fourth in the conference," Poggi said.

Smith was also a big help for the team, scoring 10 goals, the highest in the programs history in a single season. She is ranked fourth in the SBC in scoring and goals-per-game and only one of two freshmen voted to the all-SBC team.

"As well as finding scoring chances for herself, Stacy consistently created opportunities for her teammates through her vision and great technical abilities," Poggi said. Marsha Stewart, from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, was named the SBC freshman of the year, while sophomore defender Elena Esquibel was named to the second-team.

"Marsha had a great year," UALR head coach Greg Hess said. "She averaged nearly eight saves a game. She gave us opportunities in almost every game to win. Unfortunately, we didn't score enough goals to win all those games, but Marsha made some outstanding saves for us this year."

Finishing up the awards were the University of North Texas' Marilyn Marin with the SBC Player of the Year. The Dallas native leads the SBC in points (67) and goals (26) and is fourth in the nation in assists with 15. In her third year making all-SBC, she was picked unanimously by the coaches.

Also making the list from UNT was midfielder Melinda Pina. Senior midfielder Nicola Bell from Florida International University rounded out the SBC first-team list. ♦

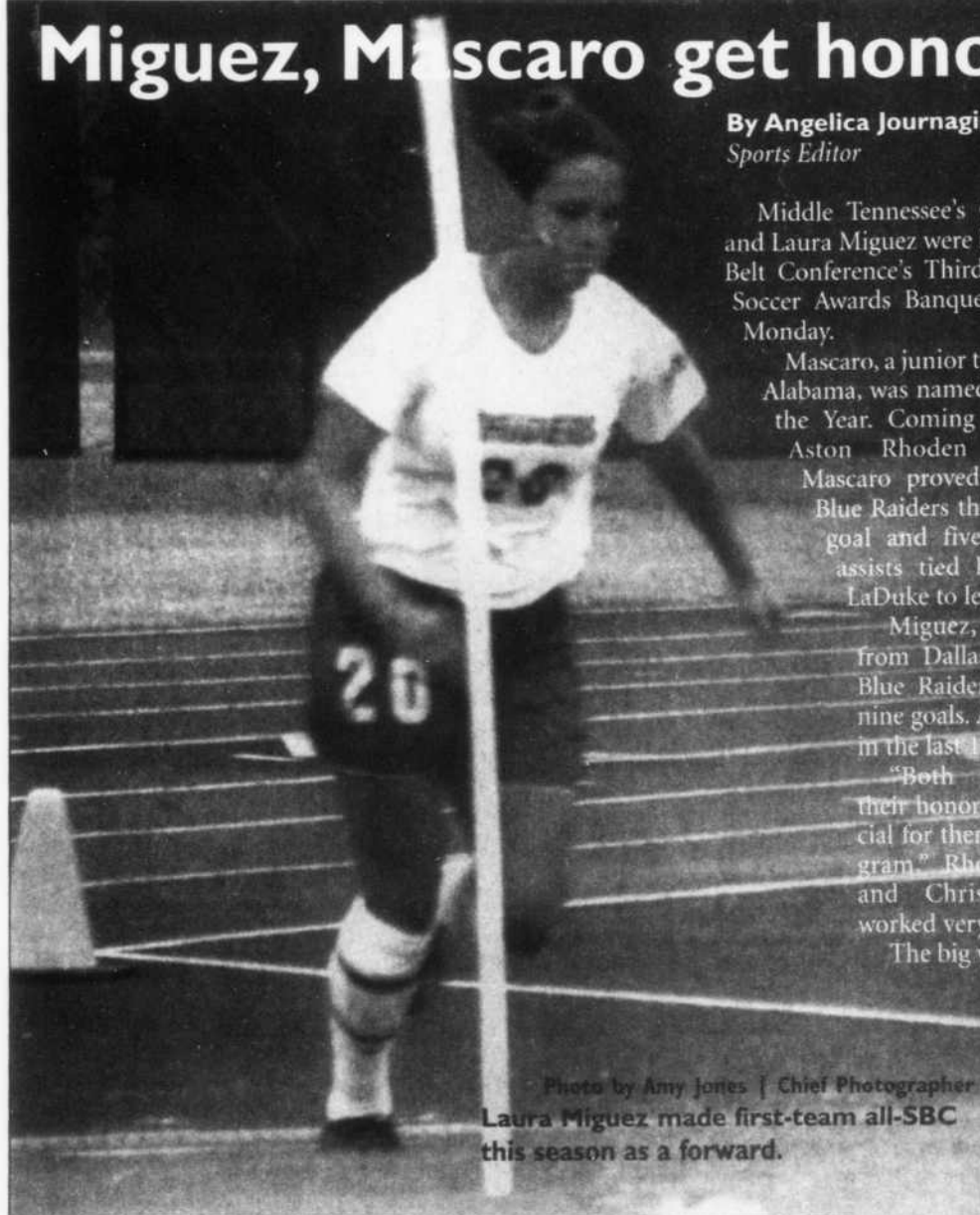


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Laura Miguez made first-team all-SBC this season as a forward.

"I'm not discouraged, but I'm a little disappointed with our lack of discipline in defending."

—Kermit Davis
MT basketball head coach

Global sports takes down men's basketball team

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

The Kermit Davis era at Middle Tennessee got off to an inauspicious start Tuesday night as the Blue Raiders fell at the Murphy Center 80-73 to Global Sports in an exhibition game.

After holding a 35-34 halftime lead, MT and Global Sports traded leads in the second half before MT was outscored 7-0 in the final two minutes, 23 seconds of the game.

Global Sports, a team of former college all-stars from schools such as Cincinnati and Mississippi, was led by Damon Flint and Terrell Taylor with 20 points each.

For the Blue Raiders, William Pippen finished as the leading scorer and rebounder with 20 points and eight boards.

"I'm not discouraged, but I'm a little disappointed with our lack of discipline in defending," Davis said after the game. "We put them at the line 42 times and had no physical presence inside from our posts or our wing players."

Global Sports made a living at the free throw line, converting 33 of 42 attempts while the Blue Raiders made only 8 of 18 for a paltry 44.4 percent.

"It's very disappointing," said junior Tommy Gunn, who finished with 16 points and six rebounds. "I was zero for two tonight and I felt I should have made those free throws, but we'll have to just get in there and work harder at them and concentrate more at the line."

Global Sports was able to take the Blue Raiders out of much of what they wanted to do inside. The trio of Bryant Mitchell, Napoleon Rhodes and Demario Watson combined for just nine points and two rebounds, though Steven Jackson was a factor inside with five rebounds. Rhodes, who has been hobbled in the off season, showed flashes of things to come but was limited by drawing three personal fouls in his first minute of playing time.

While having trouble producing in the low post, the Blue Raiders scored 33 of 73 points from outside the three-point arc. Four players chipped in at least two three-pointers, led by Tommy Gunn's four and John Humphrey's three. Derek Glasper and William Pippen also had two apiece.

"We were just undisciplined in our defending tonight," Davis said. "We'd get around the goal and then just carelessly foul. We have to get to where we have a toughness in our team, and we can guard."

The Blue Raiders conclude their exhibition season next Thursday at the Murphy Center against VASDA. Tip off is at 7 p.m. ♦

Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

No. 32 Tommy Gunn, left, tries to avoid the Global Sports players. John Humphrey, behind, goes up for a field goal.



Give coach Andy Mac a reason to stay at MT

Sports commentary

Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Well, it's already November. Whodathunkit? The Blue Raiders are limping down the backstretch of the season with a 2-7 mark, but luckily have a week off to heal up.

In a season that's seen a red-shirt freshman in Murfreesboro get called for holding in Birmingham, a coach's wife pick a fight with me and my best friend and two quarter-backs go down in three days so a tailback can fill in, nothing would surprise me this season. That's why I'm writing this column.

To Boots Donnelly, President Sidney McPhee and whatever boosters who can help: Do not let this school lose its coach.

With the firing of Kevin Steele this past week at Baylor, the search for a replacement has begun and Andy Mac is on the short list.

— Duh, where's Baylor?

I'm sure most of you are asking. Baylor is in Waco, Texas. That's right, THAT Waco.

— What in the world would Coach Andy McCollum want to do in Waco?

Well, McCollum came to Middle Tennessee from Baylor where he served as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach before coming to MT.

— Why would Baylor want him? The team is 2-7 this year.

Let's face it. This year's team is an anomaly (that means fluke). MT is now a major player on the state-recruiting scene and continues to own Georgia. They are getting top-notch athletes into the program. Translation: McCollum is one of the top recruiters in the country. This year was a combination of tough scheduling and bad luck. Sometimes the breaks just don't go your way.

— What can we do? If he wants to leave, he'll leave.

Probably true, but let's try showing up. Coach Mac is one of the best, young coaches in the country. For MT to lose him to Baylor, of all places, would set the football program back 10 years. Who could Boots get in here with decent credentials if the last coach left for Baylor?

See McCollum, 7

Men's golf team finishes in eighth spot at fall closer

By David Knies
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's golf team had its best showing of the year this week in the Fall Beach Classic in Gulf Shores, Ala.

The team finished eighth overall, shooting a combined 866 over the three-day event. The three-day total was 13 strokes higher than any tournament score the Raiders have had this fall, and their best showing since the team shot an 865 in the fall of 2001 at the Chattanooga Intercollegiate.

The Blue Raiders were led by senior Patrick Williams, who

"We played our best ... but it was just not enough."

—Johnny Moore
MT head golf coach

finished tied for third overall in the tournament. Williams was in second place going into the final round on Tuesday, after scoring below 70 the first two days for the first time in his career. Williams came out and shot a 73 on Tuesday, which gave him a career best 209 for the entire tournament.

Coach Johnny Moore seemed to be pleased with Williams' play.

"I thought Patrick did a great job of managing the course and hitting shots when he had to," Moore said. "He was not having a great fall, but hopefully this tournament will turn things around and he can carry that momentum into the spring."

After two rounds, the Blue Raiders found themselves in fourth place, shooting rounds of 285-282. The 566 total put the team only eight strokes back going into the last day behind co-leaders Kentucky and Jacksonville State. However, a sub-par score of 299 on the last

day was not near enough to keep MT atop the leader board.

Charlie Gibson finished with a round of 215, putting him in 19th place for the tournament. Blake Bivens and Taylor Bowers were next for the team, shooting a 220 and 228, respectively. Josh Nelms rounded out the scoring for the Raiders finishing with a 231 for the tournament.

The Kentucky Wildcats went on to win the Fall Beach Classic with a three-day total of 845. Jacksonville finished two strokes back and finished second, while Southeastern Louisiana shot an 848 to put the team in third.

Even though the team shot

an overall worst round of 299 in the final round, Moore was still pleased with the effort his entire team had for the Fall Beach Classic.

"We had a great tournament," Moore said. "We played our best of all fall season, but it was just not enough. There were some great teams down here and all of them played extremely well."

The Fall Beach Classic was the last tournament of the fall for the men's golf team.

The team will have the rest of the semester off and will resume play for the spring season in February. ♦

Sports Briefs

Compiled by Angelica Journagin
Sports Editor

Sports writer gets award

NEW YORK (AP) — Randy Johnson won his record-tying fourth straight National League Cy Young Award, a unanimous pick over Arizona teammate Curt Schilling.

Johnson, who will earn an additional \$4 million because of the award, received all 32 first-place votes and 160 points from a panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. It was his fifth Cy Young Award, one short of Roger Clemens' record.

Dineen retires from NHL

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Blue Jackets forward Kevin Dineen retired less than a month into his 19th NHL season.

The 39-year-old forward, who played for five teams, is one of eight players with 300 goals and 2,000 penalty minutes. He will work in the Blue Jackets' front office.

Dineen played for Hartford, Philadelphia, Carolina, Ottawa and Columbus, with 355 goals,

405 assists and 2,229 penalty minutes in 1,188 games.

Ripken rejects VP position

BALTIMORE (AP) — Cal Ripken Jr. is too busy to take on a front-office job with his former team, the Baltimore Orioles.

Ripken withdrew his name from the list of candidates to become the Orioles' vice president of baseball operations — a title that is tantamount to general manager.

Canseco twins plead guilty

MIAMI (AP) — Jose Canseco and his twin brother pleaded guilty to charges they beat up two men in a nightclub fight a year ago, agreeing to 18 months' probation, 200 hours of community service and anger management classes.

Olympic chief elected Gov.

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Winter Olympics chief Mitt Romney became governor in

Massachusetts, defeating Democrat Shannon O'Brien, Pro Football Hall of Famer Steve Largent was beaten in the Oklahoma governor's race, edged in an extremely tight vote by an opponent who was practically a political unknown six months ago.

Great miler Jim Ryun, R-Kan., easily won re-election against Democrat Dan Lykins, former Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, R-Neb., won another term, getting more than 90 percent of the vote without even campaigning on TV or radio. and Republican Rick Renzi, a former football player at Northern Arizona, was leading his race for a seat in Arizona.

McKinney goes under knife

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas Cowboys offensive lineman Jeremy McKinney has undergone a heart procedure to correct a narrowing of an artery. McKinney, 26, played Sunday in Detroit, but felt shortness of breath after flying home.

Claxton down with injury

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio Spurs guard Speedy Claxton is expected to miss eight to 12 weeks with a dislocated right shoulder. A surgery date hasn't been set.

Duke junior gets a honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Her team is No. 1, and so is Alana Beard. The Duke junior was the only player on all 44 ballots for The Associated Press preseason All-America team in women's basketball.

In addition to the 5-foot-11 Beard, the national media panel selected Vanderbilt's Chantelle Anderson (42 votes), Connecticut's Diana Taurasi (41), Mississippi State's LaToya Thomas (35), and Stanford's Nicole Powell (24).

Freshman player dies in Ky.

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP) — A female freshman soccer player at Bowling Green died at the hospital after col-

lapsing five minutes into a game.

Leslie Dawley was away from the action when she fell during a Mid-American Conference tournament game against Buffalo. Trainers rushed on the field and tried to revive the 18-year-old player.

Ireland soccer coach quits

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Mick McCarthy resigned after 6 1/2 years as coach of Ireland's national soccer team, unable to escape the fallout from his feud with former captain Roy Keane.

Davis charged with battery

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin football player Anthony Davis, treated over the weekend for a stab wound allegedly inflicted by his girlfriend, was charged with a misdemeanor count of battery.

Police alleged that Davis, the Big Ten Freshman of the Year last season, punched his girlfriend in the face in an argument at his apartment early

Sunday before he was stabbed in the leg.

PGA, LPGA shoot it out

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) — PGA players John Daly, Rich Beem and Jim Furyk shot a combined 5-under-par to win the Wendy's Three-Tour Challenge over players from the LPGA and Senior PGA.

Panova defeats Kirilenko

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP) — Top-seeded Tatiana Panova beat Maria Kirilenko 6-1, 6-0 to advance to the Volvo Women's Open second round. Panova, ranked No. 24, needed less than an hour to beat the 15-year-old Kirilenko, the U.S. Open junior champion.

Biathlon champ fails test

BERLIN (AP) — Former world biathlon champion Vadim Sashurin of Belarus has been banned for 15 months by the International Biathlon Union for failing a drug test. ♦

Lady Raiders to face Arkansas-Little Rock

Staff Reports

The Lady Raider volleyball team will get in touch with its Southern side this week-end as they travel to Arkansas to face Arkansas Little Rock tomorrow.

Last Saturday, the Lady Raiders played their last home game of the season against Florida International with a score of 3-1. MT didn't play well in game one, playing the Panthers to a 17-30 loss. But in games two, three and four, the Lady Raiders dominated over the Panthers to win out the match.

MT had some impressive hitting percentages for the match. Game two's hitting percentage, .464, was the highest for the match. MT's average hitting percentage for the match of .248 outshone Florida International's hitting percentage of .181.

Sophomore KeKe Deckard picked up her 17th double-double of the season. Deckard also earned herself nine kills and 11 digs during the match. Junior Karisse Baker dished out three service aces during the match.

The game marked the last time the seniors on the team would play in Alumni Memorial Gym. Senior Kelly Quinn went out in style with 30 assists in the game.

UALR is returning home from a 3-0 loss against the University of Denver.

Trojan player Ivana Vracar posted the only double-double for the match with 11 kills and 11 digs. Larisa Durmesivic, also a Trojan player, pulled out 12 missiles and eight digs for the match.

The game Saturday marks the final stretch of the season for the Lady Raiders. The team only has to face Western Kentucky and Louisiana-Lafayette before heading down to Miami for the Sun Belt Conference finals.

The volleyball match between UALR and MT will be Nov. 8 in Jonesboro, Ark. The match starts at 7 p.m. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

A Lady Raider goes high in the air to block a ball as her team looks on.

McCollum: Give MT head coach light at end of tunnel

Continued from 6

Andy Mac has said for the four years he's been here that he dreams of coming out of that tunnel and seeing a stadium full of blue. Let's try it out. Let's give

him a packed Floyd Stadium next Saturday and for the three remaining home games and see what happens.

Hopefully it won't be a going-away present. ♦



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offer. Contact Allison Johnson at 874-8232 or email AScranton@comcast.net

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Part-time nanny in evenings in exchange for room & board. Extra income possible. Must be responsible, flexible, and able to handle 4 small children. If interested, call Dori for more info at 481-0871. Work for yourself for the rest of your life! This is a wonderful opportunity you should NOT miss. Ask me how! excelyourmind@yahoo.com SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GUEST RANCH. Mms. of NC - Need wranglers, kitchen staff, counselors. www.clearcreekranch.com 1-800-651-4510.

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145 Garage Sales

Alpha Kappa Psi will be holding a garage sale on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Take Tennessee to Southeast Blvd. and make right, 1st driveway on right. For more info, call Jessica at 896-3773.

150 Apt. for rent

Looking 4 someone 2 take over lease on a 3/bedroom, 3/bath @ Sterling University. Garages. Rent is \$420 a month, includes all utilities and the apartment is fully furnished and has a washer and dryer. You would share the apartment w/my two current roommates. Call Tanesha at 615-907-0092 or 901-413-0845 or email tlm3b@mtsu.edu. Luxurious large bedroom, fully furnished, all utilities paid, walk to campus, \$50 off 1st month's rent for fast move in. \$295/month. Call Jared at 540-849-0192.

CONDO FOR LEASE! 2 Rooms available \$275 each per room @University Commons including water, cable and electric. Call Angela @491-1094 or 370-3913. Need a place to live in the spring? I have a brand new 3 br/2 ba house for rent. This would be great for three friends who want to live together. \$285 per month/per person (855 total) Appliances included. Call Neil at 482-1941.

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Nov. 15. \$200 per month plus 1/3 utilities. \$100 deposit. 895-9062. Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-216-2879. Room for rent. Female needed. One bedroom in 3 bedroom house. All appliances included. Close to campus. \$285 + 1/3 utilities. Available now! Call 494-3877. Spacious room with private bath, laundry and kitchen privileges. Grad student preferred. \$350. 867-6994. Room for rent, women only. 2 1/2 blocks from MTSU, furnished room. Includes everything. Washer and Dryer, Towels, Linens, all you need is your clothes, toiletries and food. \$350 a month, no deposit, no lease, month to month. Call Glenna 896-0123. 432 S. Tennessee Blvd. 2 female roommates wanted to share new 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 5 minutes from MTSU. Fully furnished. \$325 per person. Call 494-0077 ask for Amber. 4 BR / 2 BA (male). \$370 a month all utilities.

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Tired of Campus Life? One bedroom includes everything. Phone, cable, furniture, very nice place. Please call 308-9700. Avail. ASAP. Sublease before Dec. 6 and I'll give you \$100.00. Room for rent. Female needed. One bedroom in 3 bedroom house. All appliances included. Close to campus. \$285 + 1/3 utilities. Available now! Call 494-3877. Spacious room with private bath, laundry and kitchen privileges. Grad student preferred. \$350. 867-6994. Room for rent, women only. 2 1/2 blocks from MTSU, furnished room. Includes everything. Washer and Dryer, Towels, Linens, all you need is your clothes, toiletries and food. \$350 a month, no deposit, no lease, month to month. Call Glenna 896-0123. 432 S. Tennessee Blvd. 2 female roommates wanted to share new 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 5 minutes from MTSU. Fully furnished. \$325 per person. Call 494-0077 ask for Amber. 4 BR / 2 BA (male). \$370 a month all utilities.

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McCollum thought on Baylor short list

By Angelica Jourgin
Sports Editor

The recent firing of Baylor football head coach Kevin Steele has potentially opened up new opportunities for Middle Tennessee.

Sports analysts in the Waco/Dallas, Texas, area have said they believe Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum will be put on the list of potential prospects for the soon to be opened position.

McCollum interviewed for the position in 1998, but was offered the top position at MT before the Baylor position was filled. McCollum was the assistant coach at Baylor from 1993-98 before coming to MT.

"The only thing that I am talking about is Middle Tennessee and our kids here," McCollum told the *Daily News Journal*. "The only thing that I am interested in is getting our players healthy during this open week and trying to put together a strong finish."

With a 9-33 record in his fifth year at Baylor, Steele's dismissal was not the surprising part of the equation – the middle-season timing was. Going into surgery Monday, Baylor Athletics Director Tom Stanton made the announcement Sunday before being hospitalized on Monday. Stanton and Steele both said he will continue his duties as head coach.

"It is great regret that I announce this move," Stanton said.

"Kevin's efforts have made significant improvements in many areas of our football program. There are few people with the character, integrity and faith that Kevin has. However, the need for on-the-field success is always a focal point in the athletic arena."

Despite Stanton stating neither coaches nor players would make statements concerning the firing, the players and Steele have been vocal about their displeasure. At the weekly press conference, both made statements about the poor timing of the dismissal.

"I feel that what happened was classless," defensive end Aaron Lard said. "You're dealing with a man and his family. What they did was totally wrong."

Steele agreed to coach the rest of the season, which includes Saturday's game against No. 4 Texas and No. 1 Oklahoma the next.

"We didn't need another dis-

traction," receiver Reggie Newhouse said. "I just believe that there are certain ways you do things, and I don't believe the way it happened was the right way. Me, personally, I'm going to turn the anger that I have into something positive and play hard."

"I think they gave up too soon on him," quarterback Aaron Karas said. "They don't know what was going on in the inside. When I got here as a freshman, I didn't know how close we were to really being a Division I program."

The complaints came from previous statements by the athletics director and high-ranking university officials that they would not review whether Steele would be staying until the end of the season.

After the opening season loss of 70-22 against the University of California, Stanton said that there would be no discussion with Steele about his future until after the season. Two weeks later, Baylor president Robert B. Sloan Jr. and board of regents chair Drayton McLane issued a joint statement that said Baylor would maintain its "long standing" practice of not reviewing head coaches until the end of the season.

"The firing of it, and then being asked to coach the final three games, was kind of contradictory to me," Steele told the *Dallas Morning News*.

He then went on to say that the players were the sole reason he was staying on as coach for the remainder of the season.

"I was very disappointed in the demands and the allotted time frame, and what was thought and what happened were two different things," Steele said. "We had a situation where we had to turn a program from pretty much the depths, and three-and-a-half years is a tough time frame to do that in."

In the two years before Steele took over, Baylor was 2-9 for each season.

"I am disappointed that we were not able to meet the demands placed upon the Baylor football program in the time allowed," Steele said. "I'm proud of the staff's and team members' effort, attitude and work ethic."

Further search for a new coach will be put on hold until Stanton is released from the hospital. He is currently being hospitalized for an atrial flutter and is expected to be released by the end of the week. The replacement for Steele will be the third head coach since Stanton arrived at Baylor in 1996. Baylor is a private institution and does not make public contracts with their employees.

The Blue Raiders (2-7) have three more home games before the end of the season ♦



McCollum

2002 Sun Belt Conference Overview



Louisiana-Monroe

H.J. Adams returned a first-quarter punt 17 yards, the longest by the Indians this season. ULM failed to score on its opening offensive possession for the second consecutive game. Prior to these two games, the Indians had scored on their first possession in four consecutive games.

Dwayne Donald, a junior, saw the first action of his ULM career at defensive end. He had played tight end throughout last season and up to this point this season. He came into Saturday's game with two career receptions. ULM trailed 7-0 after the first quarter, even though the team has seven first-quarter first downs to only one by the Mean Green.

The Indians ran 26 plays from scrimmage in the first quarter to seven for North Texas. Tight end Ben Wright came into the game with four receptions for the season. He caught two passes in the first half. ULM trailed 14-2 at halftime, failing to score a touchdown in the first half for the first time since the Tulane game four games ago. The two first-half points are the Indians' fewest since being shutout by

Kansas State in the second game of the season. Travin Moore came up with his first career interception for the Indians in the third quarter. The pass was deflected by strong safety Damien Richard on a blitz.

ULM wide receiver Mack Vincent finished the night with four receptions for 44 yards. The four catches give him 120 for his career, moving him past Tag Rome for fifth on the Indians' all-time list. He now has 58 catches on the season, the 10th-highest single-season total in Indians' history. His 953 receiving yards this season are the sixth-most ever. Vincent's four catches tie a season-low. He also had four at Ole Miss in the season opener. Quarterback Steven Jyles did not throw an interception, running his string of attempts without a pick to 112.

Arkansas State
Danny Smith and Antonio Warren became the first ASU tandem to rush for 100 yards in the same game since

2002 Sun Belt Conference football standings

Standings as of Nov. 6

	W-L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp	Streak
New Mexico State	6-3	.667	235	227	W5
North Texas	4-5	.444	147	126	W3
Arkansas State	5-6	.455	211	319	W1
Idaho	2-7	.222	225	345	L1
Middle Tennessee	2-7	.222	188	246	L2
UL Lafayette	2-7	.222	163	284	W1
UL Monroe	2-7	.222	160	345	L1

bowl-eligible are bolded

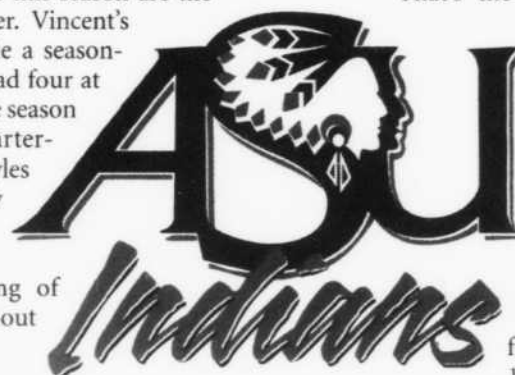
Lamont Zachery and Jonathan Adams in 1999 (vs. Nevada). The Indians scored 21 points in the first quarter of the Southern Utah game. ASU's 362-yards rushing are the most since re-joining I-A in 1992.

Defensive tackle Corey Williams missed his first start in 27 consecutive games, but is expected to play against Louisiana-Lafayette. Quarterback Elliot Jacobs has moved into eighth on ASU's single-season passing charts. Currently, Jacobs has 1,475 yards passing on the season, needing 87 yards to move into seventh (Roy Johnson, 1,561) and 94 yards to move into sixth (Cleo Lemon, 1,569).

Head coach Steve Roberts has coached the Indians to five victories in his first season as head coach at ASU.

That's the most wins by a first-year head coach for the Tribe since Gene Harlow went 6-3 in 1955. ASU's 471 yards of total offense the day marks the most since the final game of the 1999 season, when ASU's offense rang up 572 yards on Nevada.

The 319 points allowed by ASU through 11 games marks the fewest allowed in a season since 1995. ♦



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is accepting applications for 2003-04 Midlander editor. Interested applicants must be available for employment during the Spring, Summer and Fall 2003 semesters.

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