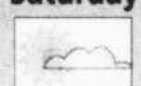



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# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

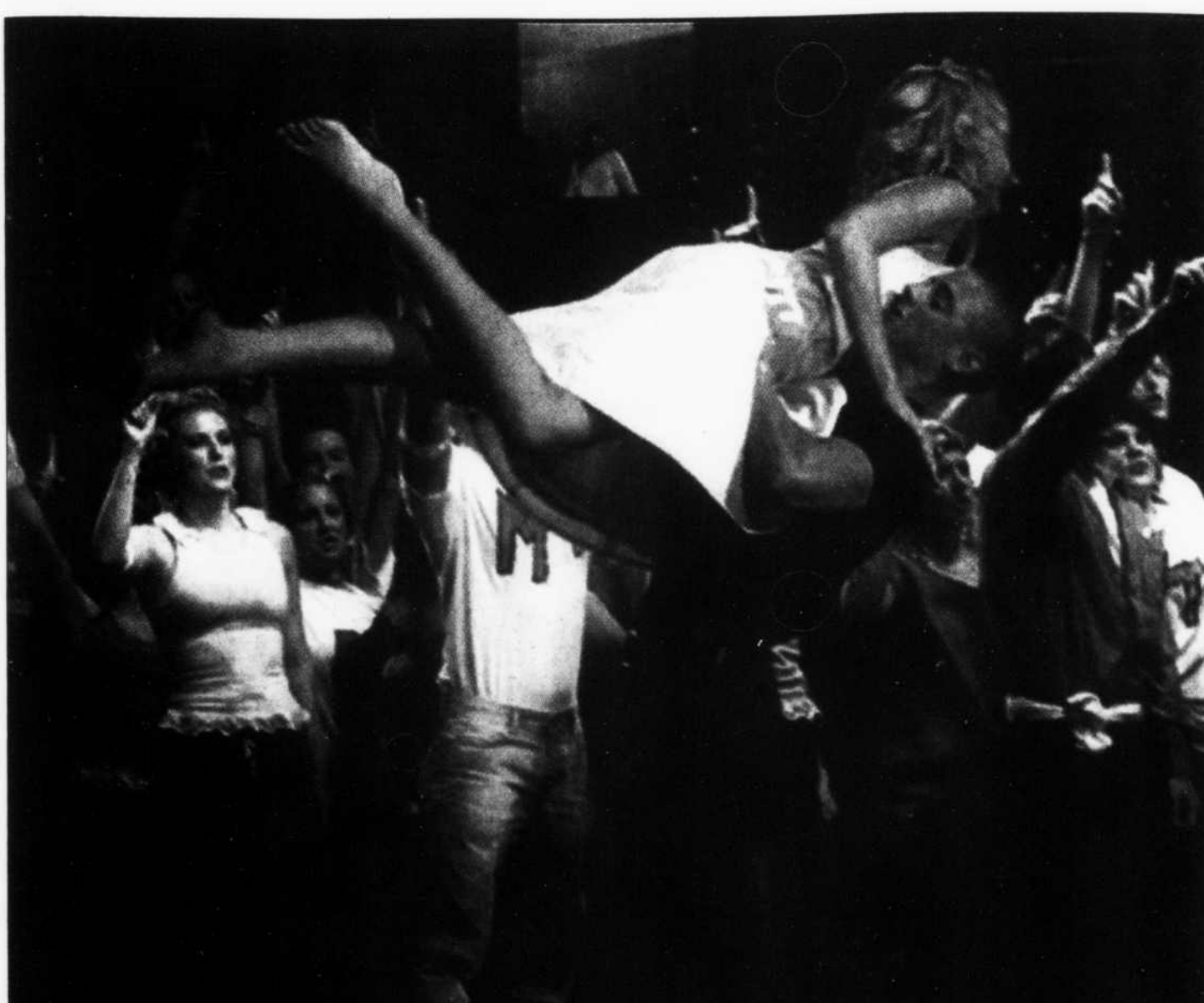
# SIDELINES

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Thursday Nov. 2, 2006

Editorially independent



Members of the winning team perform a dance number at Fight Song last Saturday night in the Phurphy Center. The annual event kicked off Homecoming, which continues through Saturday with MTSU's football game against Florida Atlantic in Floyd Stadium.

Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

## Homecoming Lightning strikes the decade

By Christin Pepple

Staff Writer

For the past week, MTSU has experienced the myriad of Homecoming events, all leading up to Homecoming day this Saturday.

"More work has been put into revitalizing the older traditions of Homecoming this year than I have ever seen in my years here," said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life. "Each new director or coordinator tries to tweak the events to fit their own personality, and this year, especially, it has been the best."

"The theme for Homecoming this year is 'Lightning Strikes the Decade.' The theme has appeared in several of the events during Homecoming Week and details the evolution of MTSU since the beginning of the University. In total, Homecoming has cost MTSU \$23,000.

"The people involved with Homecoming have worked especially

hard with trying to involve more students that are not involved in a Greek organization," Fitch said. "We want everyone — Greeks, students, alumni and faculty — to all become involved in Homecoming because it is such an important thing."

Overall student participation is a major concern for Homecoming, said Jackie Victory, Homecoming director and director of Student Organizations and Community Service.

"I want to stress that anyone can be a part of Homecoming," Victory said. "You don't have to be Greek. You don't have to be involved in any organization of any kind. You don't have to have any particular interest in Homecoming in general; just come out and have some fun."

"The 2006 Homecoming has been spread out over several events in the past few weeks and has been worked on since May," Victory said.

Organizers and participants in Homecoming festivities are more concerned with the outcome of school spir-

it rather than the outcome of the events themselves, Victory said.

Although Homecoming involves many events, several are competitions that an individual or group can win. When an individual or group wins, they are awarded "spirit points," which are accumulated over the week.

The organization or individual with the most "spirit points" will receive a trophy. The winner of the trophy will be announced at the Chili Cook-Off and the Homecoming Game.

Other events planned during Homecoming also serve as fundraisers for organizations.

Wednesday night, the Dance of the Decade theme was thrown to help raise money and supplies for Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit organization to help build and repair homes for people that cannot afford it.

"Homecoming this year has been more successful than last year's and we hope for it to keep growing as far as school spirit and involvement goes," Victory said.

## Dow Jones effects local gas prices

By Michael Paris

Contributing Writer

Though the Dow Jones Industrial Average made the landmark move past 12,000 points two weeks ago, MTSU students may not think this affects their daily lives. But with elections nearing and gas prices falling, Bill Ford, economics and finance professor, said it is all connected as an indicator of the economy.

Nation-wide, gas prices fell 13.5 percent in September, marking the biggest drop in a single month since last November. Gas prices hit a record high in August and have now dropped by more than 80 cents in some places.

In Murfreesboro, prices have fallen as low as \$1.99 a gallon, much to the relief of students.

"[The drop in prices] depends on how free we are to explore for new sources of oil and gas, which is geo-politically controlled by politicians and environmentalists," said Ford, who also holds the Weatherford Chair of Finance.

He also said gas prices depends on keeping world trade open and peace in the world, particularly the Middle East where most of the world's oil is produced.

"It's also up to individuals to use energy more sensibly," he added.

The number "12,000" is significant in that it represents the status of the overall market economy.

Dow Jones is an average of all stock prices as represented by the prices of 30 publicly owned corporations in the United States. As the price of stock for each company rises, so does the Dow Jones average.

While it took the Dow Jones a little over seven years to go from 11,000 to 12,000 points, it only took 24 trading days in the spring of 1999 for the average to jump from 10,000 to 11,000. The market over the past seven years has been greatly affected by the dot-com bust, recession and the after effects of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"After the year 2000, we had a huge run up in stocks. We then had a short sharp recession when 9/11 occurred," Ford said. "The stock market became highly

inflated for a number of years."

Understanding the Dow Jones could be important to a student if they plan on investing, especially now that it has risen.

"Hopefully, if you're a student if you start putting money in the stock market now at 12,000, by the time you reach retirement age, the price of stocks will have more than doubled," Ford said.

But Ford said one should not be too optimistic when it comes to gas prices as a marker for the economy and the rise in the Dow Jones.

With the elections coming up so soon, the Republican Party hopes the fact that gas prices are declining, whether temporarily or as a sign of things to come, will make voters optimistic when they go to the polls.

On the other hand, the Democratic Party contends that the recent drop in gas prices still does not make up for the fact that middle-class wages have not been recovering as well. They also feel that the rise in unemployment amongst minorities should be a cause for concern.

Most feel that these two contrasting views are reflections of the parties. The republicans hope to keep control of the legislature while democrats want to take that control away.

"One main difference between the republicans and democrats is the republicans want to emphasize finding more energy, and the democrats want to talk about using less," Ford said.

Other markers of the economy include rising Social Security benefits and the cost of food.

The government stated last month that the 49 million recipients of Social Security will receive a 3.3 percent increase in benefits starting in January of 2007 to match the current cost-of-living. Food prices have also gone up 0.4 percent this past September along with vegetable prices jumping 6.6 percent.

"When prices of anything go up by .4 [percent] in one month ... that's 4.8 percent [a year]," Ford said. "That's a lot of inflation."

Portions of this story were contributed by the Associated Press.

## New recruiters focus on relationships with schools

### MT puts emphasis on quality over quantity when it comes to student recruitment

By Mandie Rowden

Contributing Writer

MTSU has decided to change their method for student recruitment compared to their approach used in the past in an attempt to establish relations with perspective students.

"We've got three full-time staff members whose main function is to go out to the high schools, build relationships with the counselors and take care of the students," said Tracy Prater, associate director for admissions.

Alumni Travis Tipton, Matt Hannah and Steven Mizell will travel across Tennessee and attend college fairs to meet potential students in person and represent the face of a growing university.

"We've always been recruiting through the admissions office, so in that sense it's an old process, but we're going about it a new way," said Tracy Prater.

Though MTSU is just short of the 23,000 mark for student enrollment, the main goal of the



Travis Tipton (right) talks with high school students at Cumberland University during a college fair. Tipton was just one of three recent alumni hired by MTSU to increase enrollment.

admissions office is to recruit students with high achievements and not just aim for an enrollment benchmark.

"Students are going to come to MTSU, but we have to figure out what they are going to come for," Prater said. "We don't want to lose a student

even though we're growing."

In order to better complete this process, the face of MTSU has to be represented to prospective students in a tangible form. Online admissions forms and mailers will not have the same impact as one-on-one interaction with alumni.

Tipton, Hannah and Mizell will answer questions and concerns of parents and students and try to give a positive perception of MTSU in their respective, assigned region of East, Middle and West Tennessee.

"[It's] an image of a lot of different the suits at a university that is affordable, yet not the suitcase college mentality that has been associated with it in the past," said Hannah, who graduated from MTSU in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science. "We're the largest undergraduate school in the state and we act like it."

The recruiters said that while they have had little difficulty on the road, they also have developed some interesting stories from the experience. Overall they believe the trips to be rewarding and successful.

"An average day consists of attending a college fair with other schools or visiting a school and talking to students," Hannah said.

Though the progress of this new endeavor may not be seen until coming semesters, the recruiters are confident that the relationships being built around the state are strong and promising. MTSU has high hopes for the future and the student body is the main focus.

"We feel like we can be the premier university in the state," said Prater.

Even though the recruiters are being seen in multiple schools throughout the state, they each realize that the ultimate recruiting team for MTSU is the student body. Proud students that feel successful in their education and enjoy the college experience MTSU provides are the greatest assets to the admissions office.



## CRIME BRIEFS

**Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 9:00 a.m.**

Womack Lane

Leaving Scene of Accident

Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

**Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 10:52 a.m.**

Peck Hall

Theft over \$500

Complainant reported that a lap top computer had been stolen from the History department.

**Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 1:14 p.m.**

Keathley University Center

Vandalism under \$500

Complainant reported that some of the park benches had been painted hot pink.

**Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 8:41 p.m.**

Nicks Hall

Theft over \$500

Victim reported that her bicycle had been stolen from the area of Nicks Hall.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25 – 3:17 p.m.**

Scarlett Commons Club House

Attempted Burglary

Police received a report of vandalism of a vending machine.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25 – 3:57 p.m.**

Theft over \$500

Sims Hall

Police received a report of a stolen bicycle.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25 – 4:05 p.m.**

Clement Hall

Possession of Drug/Drug Paraphernalia

Edward Osborne, 46, of Shelbyville, Tenn. was arrested for felony possession of hash with intent to distribute and criminal trespassing. Jared Williams, 19, of Oak Ridge, Tenn. was arrested for simple possession of hash and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25 – 4:19 p.m.**

Business Aerospace Building

Theft Under \$500

Subject reported that her purse has been either lost or stolen.

**Thursday, Oct. 26 – 8:07 a.m.**

Maintenance Compound Parking

Simple Assault

Simple assault occurred inside break room of maintenance compound.

**Thursday, Oct. 26 – 5:31 p.m.**

Corlew Hall

Theft Over \$500

Individual had reported that several items stolen from dorm room.

**Friday, Oct. 27 – 12:44 p.m.**

Jim Cummings Hall

Theft under \$500

Victim reported cell phone stolen from dorm room.

**Saturday, Oct. 28 – 12:11 a.m.**

Unknown

Simple Possession of Marijuana

Officers discovered individuals with a very small amount of marijuana sitting in vehicle. All individuals were cited to dean for disciplinary action.

**Saturday, Oct. 28 – 10:48 a.m.**

Blue Raider Drive

Simple Possession of Marijuana

Eric Knight, 19, of Clarksville, Tenn. was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana and violation of the financial responsibility law.

**Saturday, Oct. 28 – 6:21 p.m.**

Cummings Hall

Theft over \$500

Victim reported that her laptop computer had been taken from her dorm room.

**Sunday, Oct. 29 – 3:51 p.m.**

Corlew Hall

Burglary

Victim reported that wallet and cell phone was taken from dorm room.

**Sunday, Oct. 29 – 4:58 p.m.**

Scarlett Commons

Theft of Vehicle

Victim reported that his automobile had been stolen.

**Sunday, Oct. 29 – 6:29 p.m.**

Gore Hall

Simple Assault

Victim reported that her ex-boyfriend had stolen cell phone.

**Monday, Oct. 30 – 1:48 a.m.**

Sims Hall

Theft Over \$500

Victim reported that X-Box 360 had been stolen from dorm room.

**Monday, Oct. 30 – 7:30 a.m.**

James E. Walker Library

Leaving Scene of Accident

Complainant reported that he had witnesses a hit and run accident in parking lot.

**Monday, Oct. 30 – 8:10 a.m.**

Corlew Hall

Burglary

Victim reported that laptop computer had been stolen from dorm room.

**Monday, Oct. 30 – 9:49 a.m.**

Learning Resources Center

Theft Under \$500

Complainant reported that a headset to a phone was missing from Learning Resource Center.

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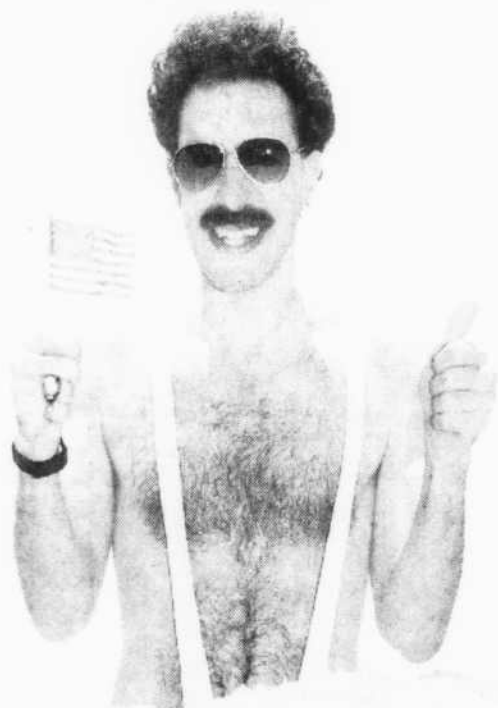
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**BORAT**

CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FROM MAKE BELIEF GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

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PRODUCED BY SACHA BARON COHEN JAY ROACH CHARACTER CREATED BY SACHA BARON COHEN BASED ON A STORY BY SACHA BARON COHEN & PETER BAYNHAM & ANTHONY HINES & TODD PHILLIPS  
SCREENPLAY BY SACHA BARON COHEN & ANTHONY HINES & PETER BAYNHAM & DAN MALZER DIRECTED BY LARRY CHARLES

R

NOVEMBER 3  
ONLY IN THEATRES



# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board Campus should be alcohol-free to benefit vehicles, student body

Many students think that because alcohol is only allowed on campus during football games that the school should change from a dry to a wet campus. This is simply a bad idea.

The reason to keep MTSU an alcohol-free campus is obvious for anyone who has drank in a bar or has visited the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. For a few students, it may be entertaining for their classmates to smell like beer and make ridiculous statements (not that some don't already do that). But really, its effect will ultimately influence the quality of education that this institution is trying to improve.

By keeping alcohol off campus, MTSU will maintain its educational edge against UT by providing a sober learning environment for the student body.

This is not to say that we at Sidelines are teetotalers. We enjoy kicking back with a funnel of beer or a barrel of whiskey (preferably Maker's Mark) as much as the next person. However, we do it off campus. Besides, why drink on campus when we already have nice establishments such as Campus Pub, Gentlemen Jim's or even Mark and Pat's Handlebar, where one can rub elbows with weekend bikers?

Another thought to keep in mind is the underage students who live on campus. If MTSU were become a wet campus, then underage drinking arrests would increase almost overnight.

There is also the issue of transportation. With parking as bad as it is and the almost daily fender benders, do we really want to add alcohol to the equation?

But more than anything, the best reason to keep alcohol off campus is the money. Tuition would have to be increased to pay for the property damage, resources for MTSU police officers and maybe even awareness and rehabilitation programs for students who develop, or are already suffering from alcoholism.

## Eating trans fat like eating out of trash

Last semester, I sat through the most dreadful class of my life. No disrespect to those who are fascinated by nature and the scientific method, but science is something I would rather live without.

I know it sounds ironic because science is simply evaluating the world around me and, according to Scientology, that's the reason for my existence, but sorry, Mr. Cruise, the subject bores me.

I am not going to say that I left the class the same as I entered. There, I actually learned something that is very valuable to my life: reading labels. Who knew reading the backs of cereal boxes would be so fun?

Although half of the preservatives they put in foods today cannot be pronounced, trans fat is very easy to comprehend. The message I get from it is eat it and you will die. Sure, that sounds extreme, but whether you eat it or not, you will die – that's just life.

This brings me to the debate going on in our country's "Big Apple." According to David B. Caruso of the Associated Press, New York City is considering banning trans fat.

I know that eating unhealthy foods can harm your body, but if we are given the choice of whether or not to drink alcohol or smoke cancer sticks, we should have the right to eat our trans fat.

Yet there is something very disturbing about the claims that city officials are making. According to the Food and Drug Administration, trans fat is so unhealthy that it belongs in the same category as food spoiled by rodent droppings.

Wow. According to these claims, fast food restaurants are the equivalent of eating straight out of a mildewed trashcan.

Who would have ever thought that a Big Mac and a rodent-infested peace of bread could be comparable? That is very scary.

According to the Associated Press, trans fat was invented in the early 1900s. It is a partially hydrogenated oil that was initially believed to be a healthy substitute for natural fats like butter or lard.

This shows that producing things in a lab is not always beneficial. This butter or lard substi-



tute is raising cholesterol and causing heart disease. These conditions are treatable, but like most things that Americans do, they are also highly preventable.

However, the big question is, are we ready to give up those juicy hamburgers and crisp french-fries? If legislation passes to ban trans fat, that does not mean that we can no longer eat those things – they just may not taste as good.

If you live with the mentality that "we all got to go some way," this may not disturb you; but for those of us who care about our health, it may be time for a lifestyle change.

According to Caruso of the Associated Press, the fast-food chain Wendy's has already changed to zero trans fat oil and McDonalds announced in 2003 that it "intended" to do so, but has yet to follow through.

There are several sides to the debate, but this country is a democracy.

If we want to eat rodent droppings, let us. If we want to die of lung cancer, let us. If we want liver disease, let us.

We will fight for our rights in this country and no one should interfere, until, of course, it hits close to home.

I would be lying if I said I did not eat fast food. Heck, I probably keep them in business, but this possible ban on trans fat really has me thinking I might be better off eating out the sewer than "thinking outside the bun."

Obesity is one of the nation's killers that should be addressed. We will search night and day for arm robbers, serial killers and rapists, when one of the biggest killers of all is what we ate for lunch. It is all something to think about. I mean, honestly, would you eat out of a trash can?

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at srm3i@mtsu.edu



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

## Have restraint in consumption

On the eve of any election, customary journalistic practice is to beat the political horse until it is long past dead. I'm going to take a different approach. Instead of focusing on elected officials, I will focus on the electorate; the John and Suzie Q. Public's who put our politicians in or out of office.

Why, you ask? It's quite simple. Our representatives tend to be more "representative" of our overall voting intelligence, rather than our collective conscience or values. Low involvement begets low-quality politicians.

Not surprisingly, the "worst Congress ever" as dubbed by Time magazine has brought us an unprecedented level of scandal, waste and overall mediocrity, and it's our fault.

I would like our citizens to use the strongest force at their disposal to beat government into submission. The force I refer to isn't the vote, or the second amendment or even Chuck Norris. Citizens, use the free market to bend the will to your will.

To steal shamelessly from Gandhi, "be the change you want to see." Before you blame the world's problems on your elected officials, be sure your own position is correct. That way, it's hard for politicians to pass the buck, if everyone else is pulling his or her weight.

For example, it's common knowledge from the left to the right that the United States' Dionysian appetite for foreign oil is what kills our soldiers, breeds terrorists and dangerously bonds our economy, for better or for worse, to the will of an über-rich oil cartel.

The irony of this situation is that many of those who are affected by this are the ones



Tenacious E

Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

buying gas-guzzling vehicles, contributing to the problem. Even worse, these Joe Citizens are actually shouldering the brunt of the burden both at the pump, and after the fact.

Fluctuating fuel costs put huge dents in drivers' wallets when prices go up even a small amount. Another, more frightening effect of this can be observed when prices go up more than a few cents at a time for extended periods. Over time, high prices can drive up interest rates, making it even harder for the aforementioned Joe Citizens to finance new homes, or college loans. Who's eating that loss? The lower and middle classes are. Students, you are.

You don't have to be a rich lobbyist to effect change. You can stick it to The Man – Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and rich oilmen – by simply altering your purchasing choices.

If we collectively buy less gas and demand drops, supply will increase, which lowers prices. This is the mighty dollar in action.

Other gripe du jours are the high energy costs for heating and electricity. The same thing applies. Use less, and supply will be up. Any free-marketer will tell you. Prices are high

because of supply and demand.

I don't mean to turn off your heat in the winter, but at least turn it down. Don't use lights in empty rooms, and keep the Clark Griswold-esque Christmas displays to a bare minimum. In this way, we can save ourselves and our environment.

Essentially, I'm calling for restraint. In an election season, it's easy to just blame our politicians for all of the world's ills, but we carry a significant burden ourselves. My dad's favorite saying is "You can't legislate intelligence," and anyone who's ever been out in public can attest to that.

This term, try to expand your awareness to encompass more than just your immediate world. Certainly, this is easier said than done. When it's a stretch just to make ends meet, it's hard to think about nefarious oil cartels and fat-cat energy companies, but you need to. They're thinking about you, and your money.

Vote your conscience, and hold your elected officials accountable, but first hold yourself accountable. Before you complain about foreign oil's stranglehold on our economy, check that your gas bill is high, but your housemates are lounging around in shorts and flip-flops, you know who's to blame.

You have more power than you're led to think. Just look in your wallet.

Together, we can stick it to The Man.

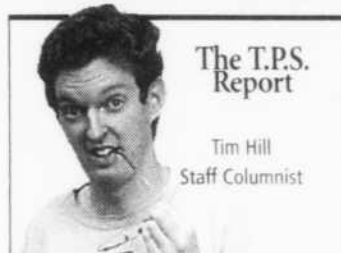
Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

## Election choices, consequences

My friend Matt could have won an award for political spin a few months ago. He observed that because President George W. Bush was re-elected with 51 percent of the vote, then a current approval rating in the 40s wasn't technically much of a slide. If only the conservative voting base could see it that way.

For a long time, I was relatively confident that the Republican Party was definitely going to lose seats in the upcoming midterm elections. I still believe they deserve to lose control, but the conservative inside of me doesn't want them to. The party has done major damage to itself, and this congressional month-long recess for damage control may not be enough time to overturn an entire session of neglect.

Constitutionally, the control of Congress is at stake every two years. For 40 of those years, however, Democrats took their chairmanships for granted. On Tuesday, people will go to the polls. Conservatives may stay home until the last hour of voting, so that CNN can run polls with misleading urban data midday. Democrats will round up the homeless with Christ-like love, compassion and free cigarettes.



The T.P.S. Report

Tim Hill  
Staff Columnist

Independent voters will do what they always do in the south, which is call home to see how mom is voting, and then follow suit.

The morning after the election, Democratic lawyers will probably file their briefs to throw out military absentee ballots, as the GOP scrambles to put together a legal team.

I am a huge dork, which in turn makes me a fan of debate replays on C-SPAN. While watching those, I've regained confidence in Rick Santorum's abilities to win a third term for the US Senate in Pennsylvania. Much like Missouri Senator Jim Talent, Santorum's debate performance was professional, yet aggressive. You almost have to be if you're running against liberal political opportunists in these particular campaigns.

I believe that Tuesday's election will be a lopsided victory for the Republicans. If they keep control of the House and Senate, then

perhaps they will lose some critical governor's mansions and state legislatures.

In Texas, I am praying that Kinky Friedman will succeed Gov. Rick Perry. The guy makes a lot of sense and has run ads, even though they are on his Web site. If Friedman becomes governor, it will make up for the Democrats' failure to capture Congress for the simple fact that when people look at where Bush came from – Texas – they will see a perceived idiot sitting in Austin for the next four years. Texas will lose its credibility, but never its dignity.

The Washington Post ran an article – not an op-ed piece – that claimed Senators Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Harry Reid, D-Nev., were not very different. Either of those men would likely become the next majority leader in that body.

The article said Reid was known for "deal-making" in order to get legislation passed and claim victories for his party. McConnell, the paper claimed, was the same way. In fact, Reid has followed Tom Daschle's obstructionist lead, and McConnell lead the court fight to overturn campaign finance reform. My original thought that the lesser of two evils

this Tuesday is a write-in vote for Elvis Presley seems to be right on. My dad spent a few years of his childhood in Australia. That country fines registered voters who don't vote. A relative of my dad's used to vote on election day by writing a message on the ballot.

"I believe I have not been given a viable democratic choice this election," was his printed protest to the registrar of voters each election. Here in the United States, we don't fine voters. Instead, we reimburse hurricane evacuees for the essentials, such as sex-change operations, "emergency" Hawaiian hotel stays and divorce court fees. On Tuesday, there is an election that will determine control of Congress for the next two years. If Republicans surprise each other and keep control of both houses, then liberals still win.

They will win because the media will switch overnight into 2008 presidential campaign mode, and they will be Sen. Hillary Clinton's spawns that are sent out to educate the masses about what we all want in a leader.

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major and can be reached best at governorhill@gmail.com.

Give them something for the ballot box,

Give us something for the letters box.

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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.

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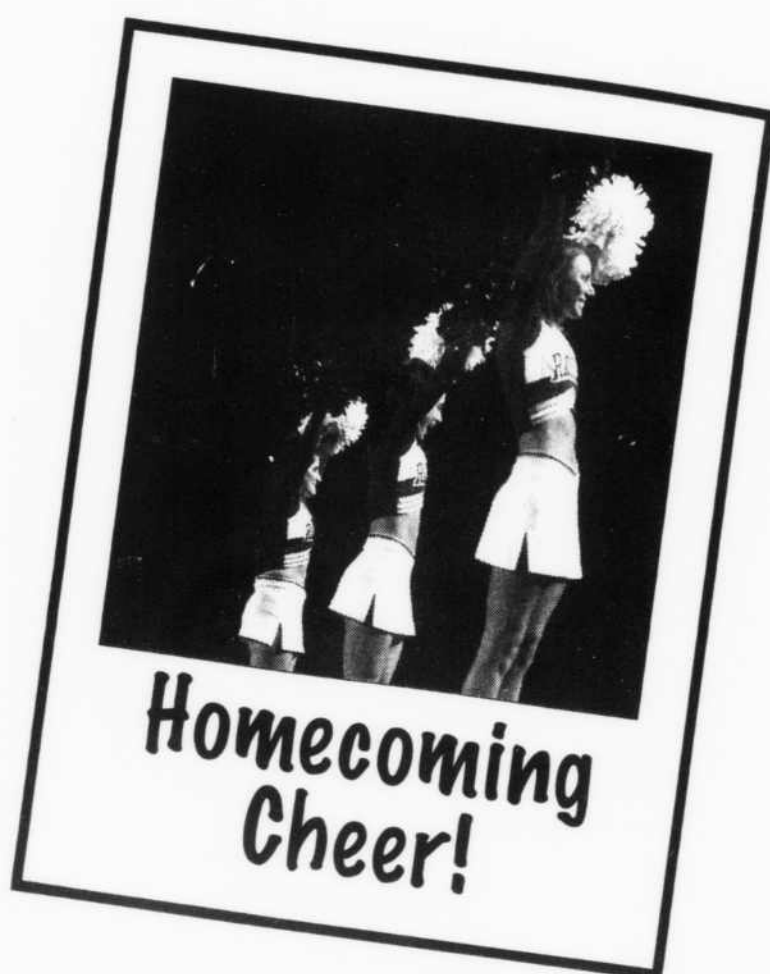
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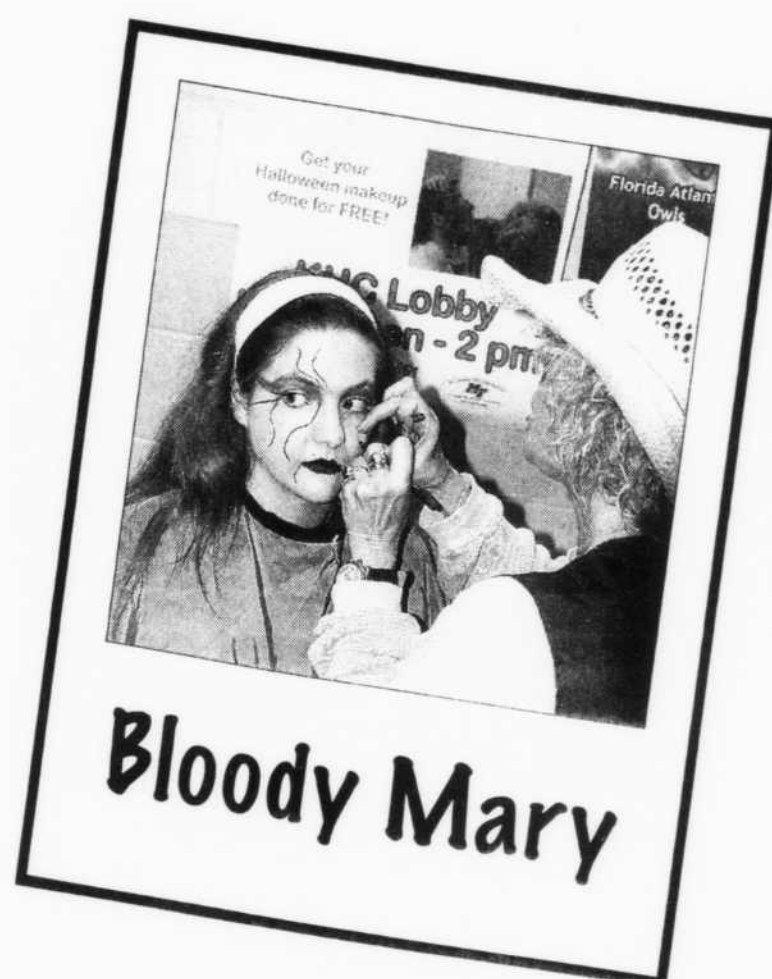
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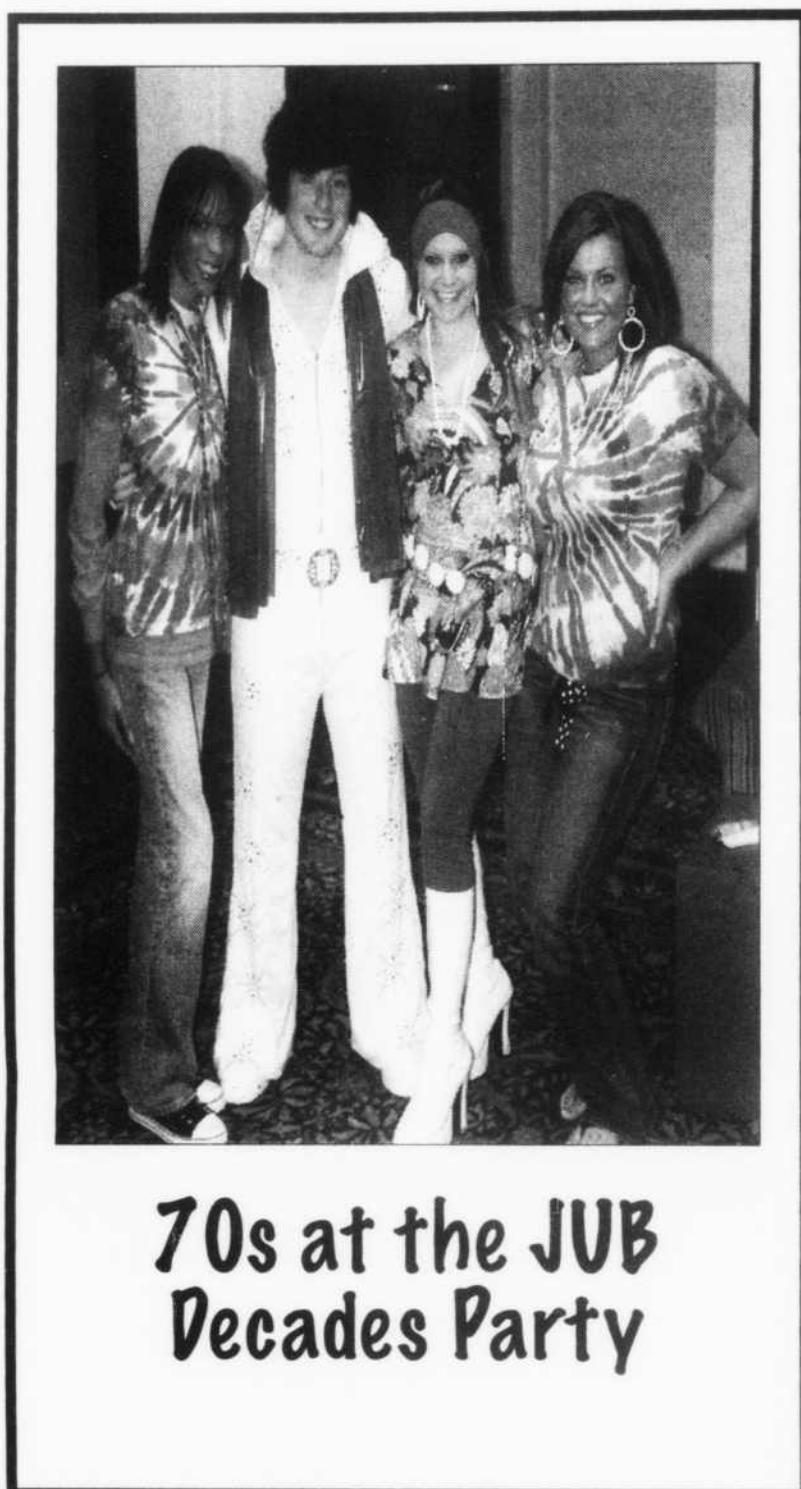
# Lightning Strikes the Decades



Homecoming Cheer!



Bloody Mary



70s at the JUB Decades Party

## Events planned for game day

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

One of the most important days during Homecoming week is Saturday, which features the parade, the game and tailgating.

The day's festivities begin and end with tailgating, an event where Raider fans can mingle before kick-off.

"The Dry Campus Policy is in effect at all times, but as long as someone is not drawing attention to themselves, they will likely be left to their own devices," said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of student life.

Tailgating is tradition and will begin Friday at midnight.

The Homecoming Day Parade this year includes more than 50 participants. It will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. The parade will start at the corner of East Main Street and Maney Street and proceed up Middle Tennessee Boulevard, concluding at Greenland Drive.

"In my four years of being involved in putting on MTSU's Homecoming, I have never been so excited about the parade," said Christy Stonecipher, the 2006 Homecoming

parade director. "It has doubled in size from last year and the diversity of the participants thrills me. We have everything from floats to motorcycles, the National Guard and several businesses. There are 36 MTSU organizations, as well."

According to Stonecipher, TV crews will be present to cover the parade and an emcee will announce the entries as they go by on Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Students, alumni, members of the community and the university are all encouraged to stay after the parade is finished to take part in the Raider Walk.

The kick-off for the Homecoming game against Florida Atlantic from Boca Raton, Fla. is at 2:30 p.m.

Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned during half time. Members of the Band of Blue Alumni Club will be performing with the current Band of Blue.

"Last year, we had about 80 former members come out and play with the Band of Blue at the Homecoming Game, and we are hopeful that this year will turn out more like 150 members," said Gene Fitch, director of the

### Homecoming Court

#### Men

Jose Becton  
Andrew Cox  
Aaron Gaston  
Kell Harvey  
Chassen Haynes

#### Women

Mary Avent  
Chelsea Deberry  
Liz Estes  
Meagan Flippin  
Laurie Lynn

## NPHC performs annual step show

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

The National Pan-Hellenic Council will host its annual Step Show for Homecoming week Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

"The participants are NPHC fraternities and sororities that combine step, dance and cultural elements that typically have a theme," said Gentry McCreary, coordinator of Greek Life.

This year's show includes seven groups comprising of:

- Exquisite Eta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
- Devastating Divas of Delta Sigma Theta
- Marvelous Mu Theta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta and the Sigma Gamma Rho's
- Khaotic Kappa Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Kaptivating Men of Kappa Alpha Psi
- Infamous Iota Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.

The event is hosted by 101.1 The Beat's AG acting as emcee. The radio station also will have a live feed right

before the stepping begins.

In addition to the student steppers, the step show also features two groups in exhibition: The Riverdale Half-Timers and the Nashville High Steppers.

"Last year we had 5,000 people in attendance and we are hoping to surpass that number this year," said Marissa Miller, the coordinator of the step show. "I am very excited about being the step show chair, and I know the committee and I are very eager for the community to see what we have been up to."

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are only available through the MT Ticket office at Gate 1-A of Floyd Stadium. The general admission seating is \$15.

"NPHC Organizations have put in a lot of hard work to deliver a breathtaking show," Miller said.

"Because of their dedication to the purpose and practices, MTSU's NPHC always has a step show that is unlike anyone else's. The step show not only showcases talent but also, it brings all the NPHC organizations together to celebrate their history and the history of stepping."

All photos on page by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer



Go Lightning Go!



# Campus dives into Homecoming week with events galore

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

Campus has spent the last week preparing for Saturday's Homecoming by hosting a variety of events starting last Friday and lasting until this Saturday.

**Coming up:**

The Student Government Association is sponsoring a conventional horseshoe tournament for two-man teams Thursday at 5 p.m.

"There will be five groups participating at once, pitching horseshoes, which ties into the Lightning, our school mascot," said Jackie Victory, director of Student Organizations and Community Service.

No entry fee is required and any student who would like to participate is still free to sign up in the Student Government Association office in the Keathley University Center, Room 208. Members of the winning team will each receive an iPod Nano.

The Dirty Laundry Tour, which is a nationally operated program, is bringing their philanthropy to MTSU campus Thursday.

"They collect denim that they recycle to use in wall insulation for people in Louisiana who are rebuilding homes," said Greg Feiling, a coordinator for Student Unions and Programming.

The Chili Cook-Off, a tradition that has been reincarnated this year to really set the tone for the Homecoming festivities, begins at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Anyone can attend and any organization, community member, business, alumni, individual or student organization can submit a recipe to be judged in the competition.

There is a \$3 charge to taste the chili from the various entries.

"We have lots of people interested from alumni, to students, to business," Victory said, "It's just another fun way to draw people's attention to Homecoming."

Twenty booths will be set up, and not just students and organizations on campus have entered: Restaurants like Chop House also have entries.

Along with chili, there will be music and another chance to score spirit points.

**What you missed:**

MTSU Idol, a competition coordinated by Student Programming and held Oct. 27, has been running strong for three years now at MTSU. The singing competition was in the KUC Theater and was won by Melody Kitchen.

"The response to it has been great," Feiling said. "Since any student can enter, we have had lots of great singers over the past couple of years."

The contestants were picked out of open auditions. Twelve were selected and six after that were eliminated. In the finals, Kitchen took first place.

"We plan to do this every year that we can," Feiling said. "Next year's date may be different, but expect to see MTSU Idol again in the fall of 2007."

Starting Monday, MTSU sponsored

"Swap Day," which is an opportunity for any student with a shirt with a different University's logo on it to go to the Student Life office in the KUC and trade that shirt for one with an MTSU Homecoming logo on it.

"The purpose of this is to eliminate the appearance of other universities on this campus and to promote school spirit," Victory said.

The Student Government Association sponsored swap Day and T-shirts could also be traded in the SGA office as well. The T-shirts that were exchanged for MTSU shirts will be donated to the Goodwill, the Salvation Army and the Christian Thrift Store.

The Trick-or-Treat Fest was held Monday for two hours in Walnut Grove. The event was sponsored by the community as an outlet for children within Murfreesboro to come and trick-or-treat safely.

Various groups, both student organizations and others set up booths that had a variety of activities for children. Different religious organizations, freshman seminar organizations and a few Greek communities set up booths in order to give back to the community, Victory said.

More than 200 families and children showed up to the event, which is significantly larger than the first year it was created in 2004.

In addition to several student organizations that were encouraged to paint Homecoming inspired banners to post them outside of the stadium, SGA sponsored an activity designed to post MTSU blue all over Murfreesboro.

"The purpose of Paint the Town Blue is to raise awareness by decorating the town and showing them how important MTSU is in this city," Victory said.

Any student could participate and a sign-up sheet was available in the SGA office.

Student Organizations brought in a makeup artist, Bobbie Weiner, who has done makeup in several blockbuster films. Weiner, also known as Bloody Mary, was available in the KUC to do free face painting on Halloween.

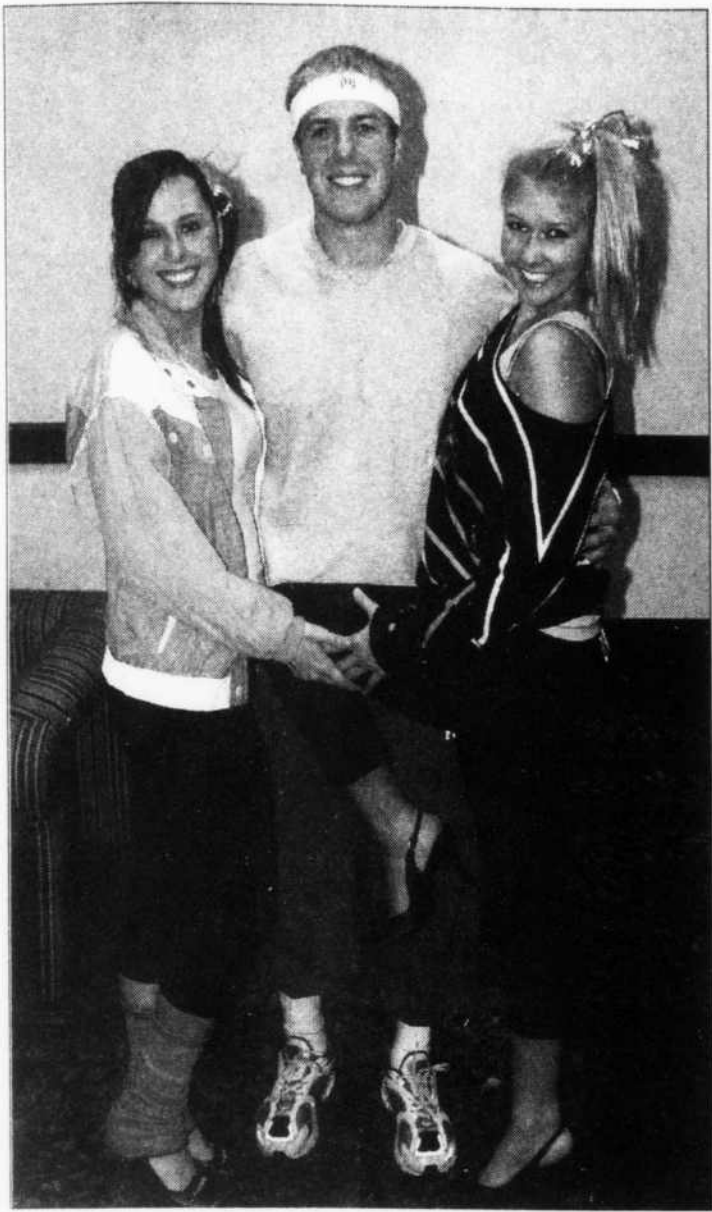
The Theme Party, held Wednesday, was available for anyone to attend in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The theme of the party, in accordance to Homecoming, was "Lighting Strikes the Decade."

Students were encouraged to dress in any costume that deals with a certain decade. A competition was held for best costume and the winner could earn spirit points in this event as well.

The entrance fee to the Decade Dance Party was any small hardware item that could be given to "Habitat For Humanity" the sponsored philanthropy of Homecoming this year.

"A small box of nails, paintbrushes, things like that is all that it takes to get in and everyone should come out," Victory said.

In addition to costume competitions, the famous Wooten Brothers featuring Rock Williams provided live entertainment.



80s at the JUB  
Decades Party

## Campus embarks on Homecoming

Thursday, Nov. 2

Horseshoe Competition  
Dirty Laundry Tour

Friday, Nov. 3

Pep Rally, Student Vote  
Chili Cook-Off - 4:30pm  
NPHC Step Show - 7:00pm

Saturday, Nov. 4

Parade - 10:00am  
Tailgate  
Raider Walk - 12:15pm  
Football Game - 2:30pm



Students air their Dirty Laundry!

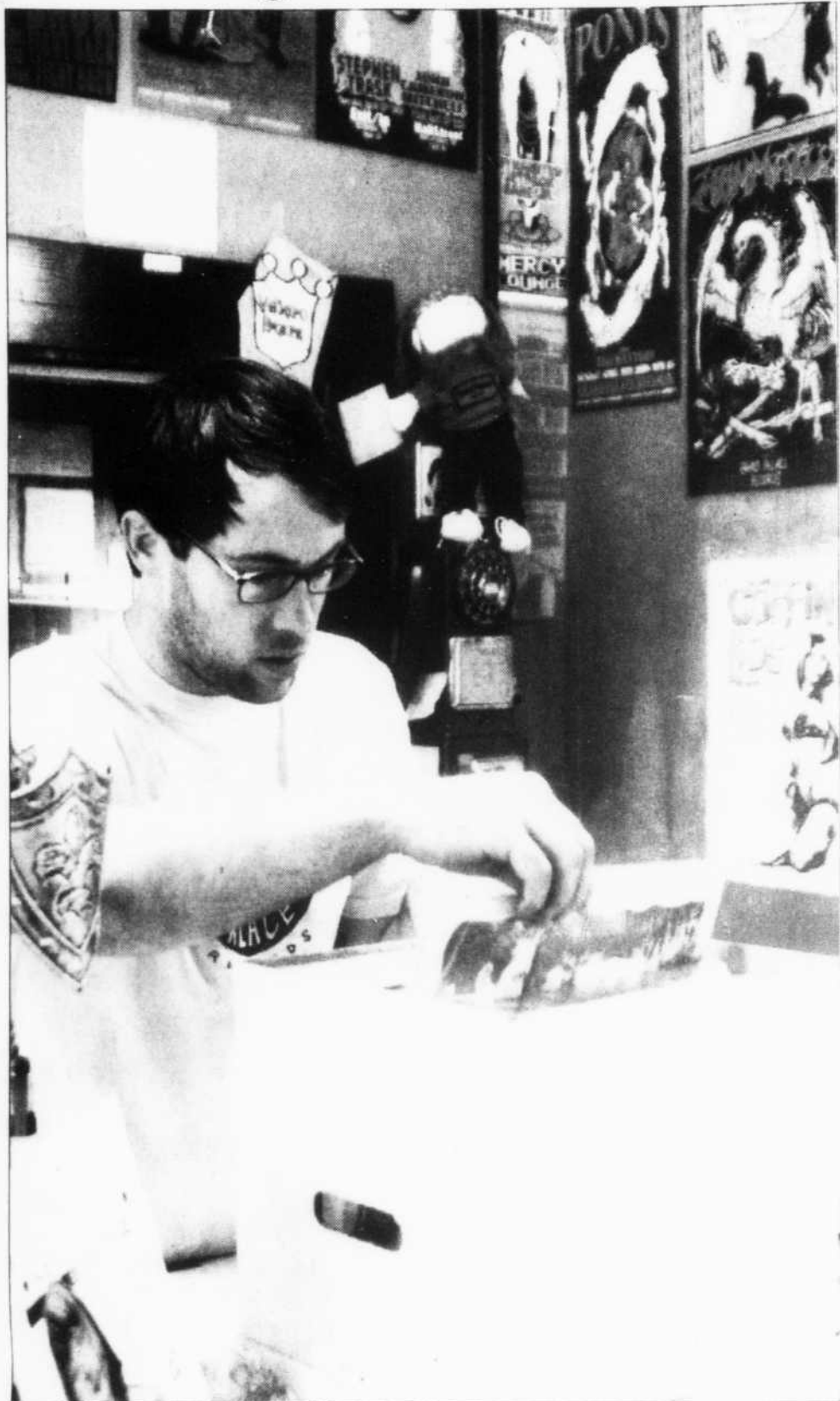
Homecoming  
2006



# FEATURES

Thursday: Technology

## Vinyl makes a comeback



Grand Palace employee Timmy Weaver digs through some records at his local store. Vinyl records have become a hit with college students as well as teenagers, quite possibly just because they are different and therefore cool.

**By Stacy Carr**  
*Staff Writer*

It's that time of day again. Time to kick off your shoes, grab a snack and lay out all your books to study. Just to help you stay awake, you decide to play some tunes. Off you go to your record player to put on your favorite album.

For some of you, this is becoming more and more ordinary. For some of you, you feel as though you warped back into time.

If you are one of the out-of-touch people that feels as though you have been thrown back about 50 years, don't worry. I'm here to catch you up.

Vinyl is back. Well, it actually never went away, according to Alex Norfleet, the co-partner of Grand Palace Records on the Murfreesboro square.

"I don't think it ever went away but I think it is coming back for college-age people," Norfleet says. "We focus on vinyl. We set out from the get go to sell records... [but] we want to make everyone happy and not everyone has a record player, so we do sell CDs."

Recording industry professor Paul Fischer has also noticed the younger set going for the old discs. At his booth at a flea market, Fischer was surprised by one customer's goal.

She was buying for her son who was 13, and he and all his friends have bought record players and they are starting to buy vinyl," he says.

I was interested to hear that this was becoming popular among younger people. I figured there must be a reason for this.

Is it the sound?

"It sounds different than CDs or MP3s," Fischer says. "A word that is used a lot is it sounds warmer. I think the quality of it speaks for itself. Once you've heard it, you hear the difference between the analog and digital format. It sounds more human in some ways."

"A lot of people listen to music without realizing all the sonic things going on with CDs or MP3s," Norfleet says. "A lot of times when they hear a turntable they think it sounds so much different. There is definitely a better sound."

Sean Maloney, also known as "The Man about Town" and an associate at Grand Palace, agrees.

"It is gonna sound smoother... more full body," he says.

Up the street at Cat's Music, manager Mallory Hagy seems to echo the prevailing sentiment.

"It has a pure kind of sound," she says. "Vinyl is more for hanging out at home; it makes you feel more in touch with the past."

I'm sure sound plays a big part, but there has to be something more connecting young people with vinyl today. When prompted, Fischer reveals an intimate look into a man and his vinyl.

"For guys, there is a physical thing about sticking that needle in the groove," he says. "For many of the guys at the shows, they ain't the most social and probably don't have much of a love life. The passion that they put into record collecting is a displacement of that type of energy."

But could vinyl's newfound popularity just be attributed to a desire for a change of pace? Hagy seems to think so.

"A lot of guys are tired of what is being played on the radio and they are getting into the underground stuff," she says.

"There are whole genres that have not been issued on CD and they will never be digitized," Norfleet adds. "The only way to get a hold of that music is by vinyl."

For those of you thinking that these people are sitting

around listening to old Beatles albums, you may be right, but a lot of current artists are releasing their albums on vinyl shortly after releasing the CD (see box). For example, at Cat's Music I saw records from Beyonce, Justin Timberlake, Juvenile, Sublime, Beck, Pink Floyd, Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys and John Coltrane.

That almost covers the most popular genres of music.

Dance or club music is also big business for vinyl. A lot of that music is only released on vinyl because it is spun by DJs in clubs. This also offers an explanation for why so much hip-hop and rap music is offered on vinyl.

But really, with the development of ultra-slim music players, is vinyl more convenient?

"I will admit that I have gotten lazy, and if I am sitting in the room with my stereo, so I am listening to music I have chosen on my computer," Fischer says. "If I am in the room with the stereo I will listen to vinyl."

Norfleet thinks durability also has a role in vinyl's comeback.

"It has a proven shelf life," he says. "You have to work a lot harder and do some crazy stuff to destroy it."

Those interested in making the switch to vinyl can go and buy a new or used record player from www.crosley.com or by visiting Audiomasters in Murfreesboro. Both will get you on the track to enjoying oldies and new music.

Visiting Grand Palace Records or Cat's Music in Murfreesboro is a great way to start your record collection, but another good way to go

### Recent New Releases on Vinyl

Janie Jones - Babyshambles

Take Me Back to Your House - Basement Jaxx

Standing in the Way of Control - The Gossip

Runaway - Jamiroquai

Nothing In My Way - Keane

New York, New York - Moby

Sex 'n' Money - Paul Oakenfold

I Write Sins Not Tragedies - Panic! At the Disco

The Decision - The Young Knives

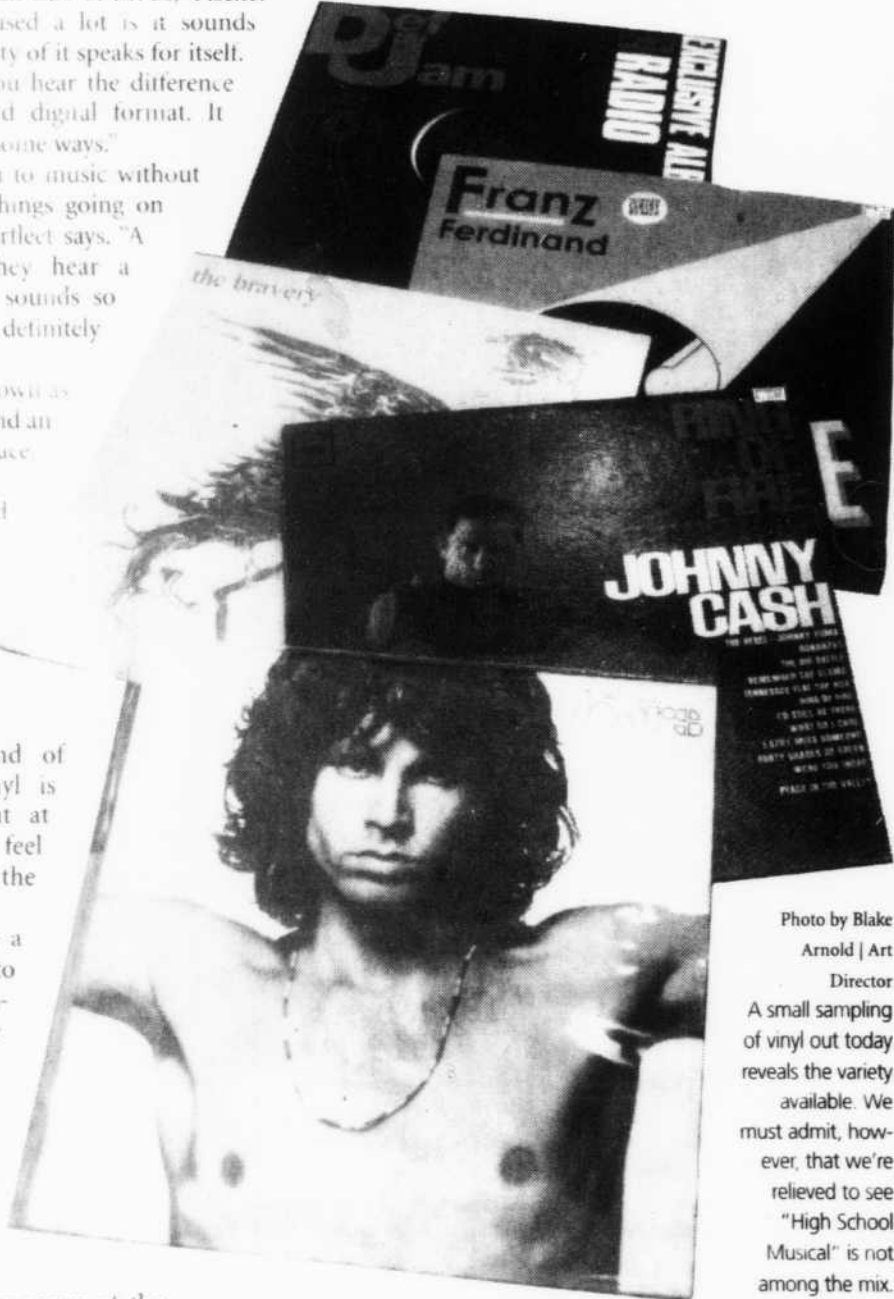
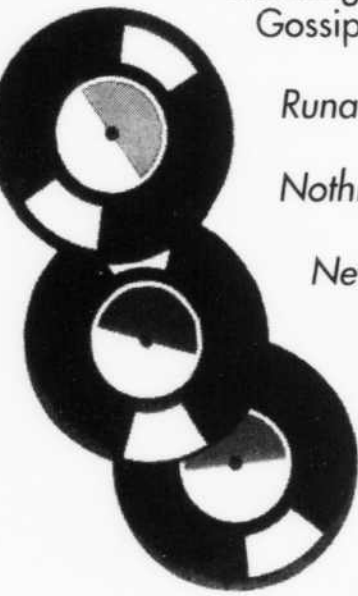


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

A small sampling of vinyl out today reveals the variety available. We must admit, however, that we're relieved to see "High School Musical" is not among the mix.

would be to visit flea markets or collectors' conventions.

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a convention at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. For more information, call (317) 882-3378.

Fischer will be there selling his records, and from what I hear around town, apparently he has a pretty good reputation.

"Paul Fischer is a great person to talk to," Norfleet says. "He knows his stuff."

If you are behind the times, fortunately for you, the times today are from way back. The information and the products are easy to find and the information is always there.

### Tech Briefs

#### Google acquires new company

NEW YORK (AP) - Google Inc., expanding its efforts at providing software that helps users create and post their own materials on the Internet, has acquired a California startup that develops online collaboration tools known as wikis.

The announcement came Tuesday through separate postings at Google's and JotSpot Inc.'s Web journals. Terms were not disclosed.

JotSpot Chief Executive Joe Kraus said JotSpot would be able to tap into the Internet search leader's large user base and robust data centers capable of handling any growth.

"Our vision has always been to take wikis out of the land of the nerds and bring it to the largest possible audience," Kraus said in an interview. "There's no larger audience that you can reach than one you can reach through Google."

Wiki tools, popularized by the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, let users create, modify and even delete information on items that others in a group have produced.

In July, JotSpot released a new version that aims to make shared pages similar to spreadsheets, photo albums and

other software people already use. In the past, Wiki tools have generally mimicked basic Web pages or word-processing documents - photographs, for instance, might appear as a list of attachments, with no thumbnails previewing the image before downloading.

Google's acquisition of JotSpot, which closed Monday, comes as the search company prepares to purchase the online video-sharing site YouTube Inc. for \$1.65 billion in stock.

Kraus said Google's acquisition of JotSpot "validates the notion that people want to do more online than just read. The Web is moving from a monologue to a dialogue."

As JotSpot makes the transition to Google's systems, new registrations have been suspended. Existing users can continue using the service, and JotSpot will stop billing for paid accounts.

#### Sony profits weaken

A global battery recall and red ink in its video-game business decimated Sony's profits in the most recent quarter, the Japanese electronics and entertainment company said last Thursday.

Sony Corp.'s group net profit for the July-September quarter fell 94 percent to 1.7 billion yen (\$14 million), from 28.5 billion yen the same period the previous year, the Tokyo-based manufacturer said.

An extra cost of 51 billion yen (\$429 million) related to a global recall of 9.6 million Sony laptop batteries was a

major factor behind the sharp drop in profit for the fiscal second quarter.

Almost every major laptop maker in the world, including Dell Inc., Apple Computer Inc. and Lenovo, has announced recalls of Sony lithium-ion batteries that could overheat and burst into flames.

The recall - which has tarnished Sony's brand image as a longtime maker of icon products such as the Walkman portable player and PlayStation video game machine - offset the lift Sony's books got from an 8 percent rise in July-September sales to 1.85 trillion yen (\$15.6 billion) from 1.7 trillion yen a year earlier.

#### Microsoft reports strong earnings

Microsoft Corp.'s fiscal first-quarter earnings rose by 11 percent, exceeding Wall Street estimates, as the company said it benefited from stronger sales of server software and some cost savings.

For the three months ended Sept. 30, Microsoft said it earned \$3.48 billion, or 35 cents per share. That compares with earnings of \$3.14 billion, or 29 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier. The year-earlier results included a one-time legal charge of 2 cents per share.

The Redmond-based company said revenue for its fiscal first quarter was \$10.81 billion, an 11 percent increase over \$9.74 billion in the same period a year earlier. Analysts polled by Thomson Financial were expecting earnings of 31 cents per share on revenue of \$10.75 billion.



# SPORTS

## Homecoming has high stakes for MT



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The Blue Raider offense gets set to break the huddle as Clint Marks calls the plays during the Louisiana-Monroe game Oct. 21 in Louisiana. Middle Tennessee beat the Warhawks 35-21 for its third straight Sun Belt Conference win.

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

With Middle Tennessee sitting pretty atop the Sun Belt Conference standings as the weeks roll by, each game that the Blue Raiders play becomes the most important of the season.

Saturday will be no exception, as MT faces a dangerous Florida Atlantic team at Floyd Stadium. The game will be a true Homecoming for the Blue Raiders, who have not played a game in Murfreesboro in 51 days.

Instead, the team has been earning respect on the road, completing the "Bayou sweep" by defeating Louisiana-Monroe two weeks ago and rolling past Louisiana-Lafayette last week in a game that was expected to be close.

The Owls pulled off the upset of the week last Saturday, shocking Arkansas State 29-0 with a stellar defensive effort. FAU currently sits well within striking distance of first place with an SBC record of 2-1.

MT has truly been clicking on all cylinders for some time now, but concerns of a letdown are still present in the minds of many fans. This is a potential trap game for the Blue Raiders, who must not get caught up in their success and the fervor of Homecoming.

Will the Blue Raider bubble burst in a big way this weekend? Or will MT clip the Owls' wings and send the crowd home happy?

### When FAU runs

The Owls' ground game is nothing to write home about. FAU's leading rusher, halfback Charles Pierre, is averaging 61 yards per game, and has only scored two touchdowns on the season.

Fullback Aaron Sanchez is averaging just over three yards per carry, and FAU frequently utilizes his no-nonsense running in short-yardage situations. Sanchez and backup halfback B.J. Manley both scored touchdowns against Arkansas State last week.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Blue Raiders have been impressive against the run, allowing only 114.3 yards per game to rank 36th nationally. Linebacker J.K. Sabb receives deserved attention for his stellar play, but teammate Justin

Rainey is a ballhawk in his own right.

MT held a dynamic Louisiana-Lafayette rushing attack to 154 yards and no scores. Don't expect the Owls to move the chains along the ground.

Advantage: MT

### When FAU passes

Sean Clayton, meet Damon Nickson. As the starting quarterback for FAU, Clayton has been interception-prone, throwing five picks in just 72 pass attempts. Backup Rusty Smith has struggled as well, tossing five INTs in just 43 attempts.

Nickson has to be licking his chops at the prospect of facing either quarterback after the events of last Saturday, when the junior recorded a team- and conference-record four interceptions and returned one for a score.

The rest of the Blue Raider secondary, though undersized, is solid. Sophomore Alex Suber, originally a tailback, was moved to the left cornerback position where he has started the last two games and performed well.

Frantz Simeon leads the Owls with 17 catches for 242 yards, but he is the only receiver of note in this run-oriented offense.

The way the MT secondary has played of late, look for Clayton to throw a costly interception or three.

Advantage: MT

### When MT runs

Thanks to the committee approach, the Blue Raiders always seem to have a fresh pair of legs lined up at tailback. Eugene Gross is the team's leading scorer and has come up big on third down throughout the season.

DeMarco McNair has rushed for 345 yards in a backup role, and MT has scored 14 rushing touchdowns this season to lead the SBC.

The FAU defense smothered Arkansas State last weekend, limiting the Indians to less than 100 total yards. Still, the Owls' defensive line has been porous, allowing 157 yards per game on the ground.

If the Blue Raiders are to maintain control of the game, this is where it will have to happen. Gross and McNair should have an opportunity to pile on the points.

Advantage: MT

### When MT passes

As the Blue Raiders received a breakout performance from Damon Nickson, an Owl defensive back had a big game in his own right. Sophomore cornerback Corey Small terrorized the ASU offense with three interceptions, one of which he ran in for a touchdown.

That performance, though not typical is not surprising of an FAU unit that ranks 38th in passing defense. Starting opposite Small will be cornerback Ricky Bethel, who has three interceptions on the season.

MT, and Clint Marks in particular, has experienced a passing renaissance of late. Previously viewed as a liability at times, Marks has turned in superb, if not flashy efforts in his last two games.

The Blue Raiders boast a stable of talented young receivers, any one of whom can step up in a given contest. Dynamic? Yes, but the receiving corps is still largely an unproven commodity.

Advantage: FAU

### Special Teams

The Owls average over 14 yards per punt return, but the rest of the special teams play leaves something to be desired. Kicker Warley Leroy has only connected on six-of-ten field goals, and punter Mike O'Neill manages just 38.2 yards per punt.

Ever since Nickson's kickoff return for a touchdown against Louisville on October 6, the return game for MT has been solid. The Blue Raiders now lead the SBC in that category.

Kicker/punter Colby Smith was reliable as always last week, completing a Blue Raider sweep of the SBC weekly awards by being named Special Teams Player of the Week.

Smith's leg has been solid under pressure, and Saturday's game could provide a lot of it.

Advantage: MT

### Coaching

It's become cliché to talk about the fine job Rick Stockstill has done in his first year at Middle Tennessee, but every week "Stock" gives people a reason to believe in his program.

The game in Lafayette was impressive for a vari-

ety of reasons. MT's game plan worked to near-perfection, forcing the Ragin' Cajuns to throw the ball and resulting in turnovers. Moreover, the Blue Raiders entered a hostile environment with a target on its back and emerged with a win, an achievement that is rapidly becoming a trademark of the team.

Still, Stockstill is still a relative neophyte to the head coaching ranks. Not so for Howard Schnellenberger. The FAU coach's dossier is impressive, having served under Bear Bryant and vaulting Louisville from obscurity to prominence.

This may not be the Owls' year just yet, but Schnellenberger knows what he's doing on the sideline.

Advantage: Even

### Intangibles

Most of the intangibles in this contest are tied to the Blue Raiders, for better or worse.

Homecoming is usually an easy win for the team celebrating, but it has been a mixed bag for MT in previous years. This year should prove to be even more interesting, as the Blue Raiders have something to play for besides the alumni.

At this point, MT is in uncharted waters as a Division I-A program. Fan apathy and underachievement seem to be things of the past.

It would be logical to give the Blue Raiders the edge here, but one wonders how they will handle the pressure of playing for a home crowd with expectations now high.

Advantage: Even

### The skinny

All the elements seem to be coming together for something memorable to happen on Saturday.

A quick poll of the campus reveals that for once, the student body is excited about Blue Raider football. The alumni finally have something to cheer about, and the players and coaches believe in themselves and what they are doing.

On paper, MT is the superior ballclub. Thanks to the running of Gross and McNair and another solid defensive effort, the game on the field will play out in similar fashion.

**The pick: Middle Tennessee 24, Florida Atlantic 10**



File Photo

Senior Kyle Young puts up a shot against Tennessee State in a 96-95 victory.

## Sun Belt men's basketball preview

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

When November rolls around, the start of basketball season is never far behind. Middle Tennessee tips off tonight against York University, while the rest of the Sun Belt steps onto the court for the first time this week as well.

Western Kentucky and South Alabama were the class of the conference last season, but how will things shake out in 2006-07?

### SBC East Division

**Western Kentucky** – There are a lot of reasons to expect the Hilltoppers to repeat as the champions of the East. Despite losing potent scorer Anthony Winchester to graduation, WKU still has a wealth of talent, beginning with preseason SBC Player of the Year Courtney Lee. Lee is an all-around talent that will be complemented by the return of guard Benson Callier, an excellent shooter, and the addition of junior college transfer Tyrone

Brazelton at point guard.

**South Alabama** – Despite finishing behind the Hilltoppers in the regular season, the Jaguars represented the Sun Belt in the NCAA Tournament after defeating WKU in the tournament final. USA will have to replace three starters from that squad, but a group of transfers should keep them competitive. Former Richmond guard Daon Merritt could be one of the conference's best, and Kenny Hooks and Ernest Little should have a successful transition from Oregon State and UAB, respectively.

**Middle Tennessee** – The Blue Raiders are arguably the most volatile team in the conference. All-SBC candidate Adam Vogelsberg and five-year senior Kyle Young provide a decent foundation, but MT's success will depend on the development of young talent, particularly the maturation of skilled center Theryn Hudson, and the emergence of sophomores Kevin Kanaskie, Nigel Johnson and Calvin O'Neil. Freshman Desmond Yates has been tabbed by head coach Kermit Davis as a

potential breakout player.

### The rest

**Troy** has a chance to be the dark horse of the conference with the addition of Richard Chaney, a transfer from Utah and an excellent three-point shooter. Cedric Jackson and Sammy Sharp form a solid duo in the front-court ... Transferring from the Atlantic Sun Conference, **Florida Atlantic** hopes to build on the successes of last season after finishing third. Three starters are gone from that team, but shooting guard DeAndre Rice and point guard Brent Crews return to form one of the SBC's better backcourts ... **Florida International** simply hopes to avoid the cellar after losing four starters from a team that finished 8-19 in the regular season. There is talent on the roster, primarily in the form of Johnen Villegas, an excellent three-point shooter who must develop into a go-to player.

See Basketball, 8



# Just for kicks

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

The name Colby Smith has been synonymous with kicking the football at Middle Tennessee for three seasons. Smith has been a constant factor performing duties as the place kicker and punter.

Among his many accolades, Smith was named to the Lou Groza semifinalist list in 2004, and this season he is among the candidates for the Ray Guy award for best punter. Needless to say, Smith is used to the pressures of being a place kicker and punter.

Smith simply says it is all part of the job.

"You get used to it," he explained. "For this year starting in December, working through fall camp. You just kind of get yourself in a rhythm. You get in good shape mentally and physically. It's just something I do."

The mental psyche of a kicker is delicate. The entire weight of the team can be placed on Smith's shoulders. The kicker can determine who wins and who loses.

Smith has been calm under pressure. His most famous game-winner came with under two minutes to go against Vanderbilt last season.

Smith's calm demeanor bodes well for him at crunch time. Smith says it's all about the mental process.

"Ultimately, it's all about getting a good routine," he said. "It does change with every kick. Some kicks are bigger than others. Some are a lot bigger than others. You think about how you are going to make it, not how bad it's going to feel if you miss it. So it's something you just get yourself into and work yourself along with it."

The team concept that head coach Rick Stockstill has preached since his arrival at MTSU has been adopted by the team. Smith especially believes in this philosophy as his desire for personal success is exceeded by his desire for his team to win. Smith says that he would trade in all of the nominations and awards for a chance to win the Sun Belt crown.

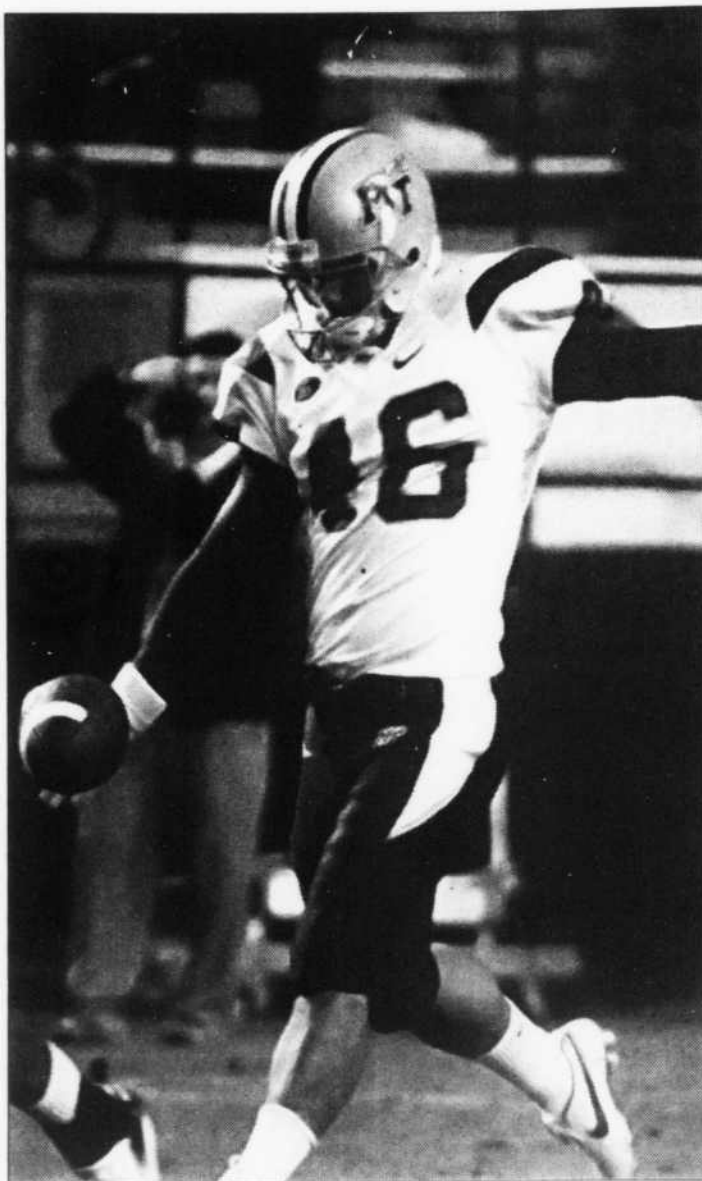


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
Senior Colby Smith is a versatile player in placekicking and punting for Blue Raiders.

"I hope I'm remembered as being a winner," Smith professed. "I'd give every award I've gotten up just to finish the conference, win the championship for MTSU, Murfreesboro, the whole community, and our families. Winning it all means more to us than any accolade."

The approach this season has been different from years past. Smith has averaged 41 yards per punt. The most amazing stat is his 15 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Smith attributes much of the success of this season's stellar special teams play to Stockstill. Smith says that his attention to detail is a big part in the team's success.

"The mental approach Coach takes is the difference," Smith explained. "He believes that no one is too good for special teams. I like that. We got starting running backs, starting defensive backs playing special teams. Someone like myself knows it's really good for him to emphasize it and show how important special teams really are. You look at how important they've been in our success."

Smith has been an important cog in Middle Tennessee's success this season. Looking ahead to the end of the season there is no doubt that at least one game or two will be decided by the leg of Colby Smith.

## Basketball: "Sun Belt Men's Preview"

Continued from 7

### SBC West Division

**Arkansas Little-Rock** – The beneficiaries of playing in the weaker division, UALR hopes to repeat last season's first-place finish. The Trojans return a monster up front in Rashad Jones-Jennings, the nation's leading returning rebounder. Lekheythan Malone and Byron Ray join Jones-Jennings up front to form a formidable trio. UALR will get a boost from the return of two guards from injuries. De'Andre Eggins and Terrance Akins will take some of the pressure to score off the forwards.

**New Orleans** – Without a doubt, the Privateers possess the best group of guards in the SBC. The UNO offense begins and ends with Bo McCalebb, who returns from a redshirt year after injuring his wrist. Before his injury McCalebb averaged nearly 23 points per game. He will be complimented by a stellar point guard in Jamie McNeilly, who averages almost six assists per game. If forward Ben Elias has recovered from an ACL injury, the Privateers should be in good shape.

**North Texas** – Three starters return to a Mean Green squad that could surprise a lot of teams in the conference, including All-SBC guard Kendrick Davis. Davis is a scorer that can also defend and pass the ball well. Keith Wooden, an Arizona State transfer, should make an immediate impact in the frontcourt. In order to be competitive, however,

UNT will need Quincy Williams and Harold Edwards to produce more in the point column.

### The rest

A turnaround could be imminent at Arkansas State following a 12-18 season last year. Isaac Wells, an all-SBC player who can score inside and outside, and Jim Jones, an excellent shooting guard, will join a trio of junior college transfers who will attempt to make an impact ... Denver will feel the effects of losing last season's Defensive Player of the Year, Yemi Nicholson. Wing DeShawn Walker will need to become a bigger scoring threat for the Pioneers ... The mighty fell hard last season when Louisiana-Lafayette, who had enjoyed four consecutive 20-win seasons, came crashing back down to earth with a 13-16 record and a first-round loss in the SBC Tournament. To make matters worse, the Ragin' Cajuns lose four starters, and point guard Maurice Barksdale is suffering from an injured hand ... As could be expected in its first season in the SBC, Louisiana-Monroe will experience plenty of growing pains after finishing eighth in the Southland Conference last year. The Warhawks do have a very good all-around player in Tony Hooper, and Darien Bynum could be poised for a breakout in the frontcourt.

Middle Tennessee opens its season against York University from Canada Nov. 2.

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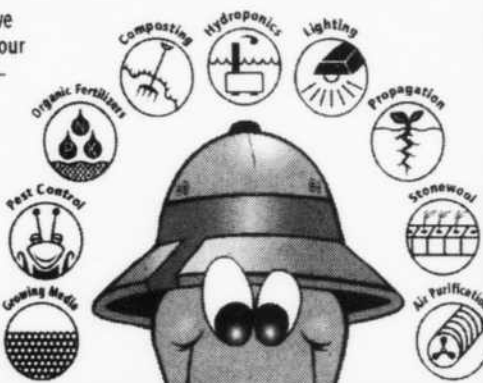
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# ASU prepares to play Auburn

By Clarence Plank  
Sports Editor



**Arkansas State (5-3) at Auburn (8-1) (CSS) 1:30 p.m.**

Arkansas State lost to FAU last week 29-0, marking the first time that ASU has been shut out by an opponent since Utah State beat the Indians 49-0 in 2003. Not only did ASU lose, but the loss also broke their five-game SBC winning streak. The Indians lost the turnover battle, giving the ball over to FAU's defense five times. ASU also fumbled the ball twice. For the record, this game marked the lowest amount of total offense in school history, with 104 total yards. The Indians' wide receiver Levi Dejohnette reached a milestone after catching four balls for 73 yards, putting him over the career 1,000-yards receiving mark. The No. 6 Auburn Tigers are 11-0 when playing against Sun Belt teams and will be playing against ASU for the first time. Auburn beat Mississippi 23-17 last week. This weekend ASU will travel down to Auburn. The Tigers have shown some signs of the team that went undefeated back in 2004. They have an offense that is clicking well with two tailbacks and an experienced quarterback in the mix. The Tiger defense has yielded the fewest points in the nation and continues to improve as the season begins to wind down. ASU will have a difficult time trying to keep themselves in the game, as the Tigers will be planning a rout.

**Louisiana-Lafayette (1-1) at Troy (2-0) (ESPN Regional) 3 p.m.**



ULL's Jerry Babb passed former Cajun Brian Mitchell on the career passing yards list with 5,471 after completing a 40-yard touchdown strike in the fourth quarter against MT. Babb is projected to finish behind former ULL quarterback and current Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme, who holds 9,216 collegiate career passing yards. Last week's loss to MT was the first time that the Cajuns lost despite scoring first. ULL currently leads the series against Troy 8-2. The Cajuns beat Troy 31-28 last year and this time around things may be tough for the Trojans since they had a hard time moving the ball last week against North Texas. Troy will be giving the Cajuns a warm welcome for their homecoming festivities this weekend as the Trojans will try to run the ball on ULL defense. ULL defense and offense both rank higher than Troy. Omar Haugabook will need to step up and lead the Trojans offense and keep the ball moving. If Troy can stop ULL in the backfield before the plays start to develop, they have a solid chance of beating ULL on its Homecoming weekend. The Trojans' win over North Texas last week that could be the push they needed. For the first time since joining the SBC three years ago, they are undefeated.

**Louisiana Tech (2-6) at North Texas (2-6) 6 p.m.**



UNT will be looking to get back on track against Louisiana Tech this weekend after losing a close game to Troy last weekend. The Mean Green have had a tough time moving the ball against the last two SBC teams they have played, but with any luck that could change against Louisiana Tech, which beat UNT last year 40-14. This year may not be any different, however, considering how much UNT has struggled on and off the field. Its coach is still recovering from a heart attack he suffered two weeks ago, and the Mean Green have been outscored 43-16 in the last two games. Louisiana Tech is coming off a 44-10 blowout at the hands of San Jose State and will be looking to make the Mean Green suffer.

Sun Belt Standings		
	W-L	All
Middle Tennessee	4-0	5-3
Troy	2-0	3-4
Arkansas State	3-1	5-3
Florida Atlantic	2-1	3-5
Louisiana-Lafayette	1-1	4-3
North Texas	1-3	2-6
Louisiana-Monroe	0-4	1-7
Florida International	0-3	0-8

## Top 10 reasons why you should attend Saturday's ball game



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

I just left the stadium ticket office and I have to say I'm officially stoked. That's right, I'm excited enough to use a word made common by Jeff Spicoli. After speaking to Director of Ticket Operations John Brooks, I am more confident in my prediction of a great Homecoming crowd. As a rule, the overwhelming majority of tickets sold are sold on gameday and to students, but the number of community advance purchases is usually a good barometer of how many non-student attendees we will have. With a stadium that holds almost 10,000 more people than MT has students, non-student and alumni attendance is important. While I can't print any exact numbers, I can say that the outlook is better than it has been in a long time. So without further ado, 10 uhh ... other reasons why you should attend Saturday's game.

ing short of incredible against conference opponents. They've only allowed 11.8 points per game, 13 of 47 third-down conversions and 10 points in the second half in the four conference wins.

### 7. Offensive Attitude

Clint Marks has been incredibly sharp in Sun Belt Games with an average passer rating of 150.5 (Peyton Manning's record-breaking season two years ago in the NFL topped out at 121.1.)

### 6. Avenging Last Year's Homecoming Loss

While MT has won 16 of its last 18 homecoming games, one of those two losses came last year. Spoiling ULL's homecoming last week was the first step. Locking up a bowl bid, winning this game and taking over the conference for good should make up for last year.

### 10. Liz Estes in a Fancy Dress

The Homecoming Queen race this year was a memorable and odd one. Liz Estes, champion of the un-championed, will be one of five homecoming queen candidates who get to ride in the parade and have no idea until halftime if she has won. The tension is quite palpable.

### 9. Damon Nickson to Announce his Kryptonian Heritage

Ok, I'm only guessing on that one. But if you come you can see what a super man he actually is. This week he was named the Walter Camp and Bronco Nagurski Defensive Player of the Week (making him the first player in MT history to win national player of the week honors). His four-interception game against ULL is tied for second best in NCAA history, and don't forget he also averaged 31.2 yards per kick return and lined up on offense. Expect him to do something amazing this weekend as well. It's actually possible he may pull the unimaginable hat trick of an INT TD, a kick return TD and an offensive TD.

### 8. MT defense Against Sun Belt Foes

The Raiders D has been noth-

### 5. Home Record

MT is 30-12 since renovating the stadium and has won 10 of their last 12. The current coaching staff is undefeated at home.

### 4. BOWL ELIGIBLE!

If MT Wins they will be bowl eligible for the first time since 2001 (when a loss to North Texas forced them out of the SBC bowl game). MT has never actually appeared in a bowl game.

### 3. Seriously?

MT is ranked ahead of two SEC football teams.

### 2. The Opponent

FAU lost their first four games this season by a score of 182-20. In predicting the ULL game's outcome, I found non-conference games to be very helpful in determining a winner. Once again, the Blue Raiders' numbers in this category look much, much better.

### 1. Meet Sportacus.

I will be spending much of the game outside of the press box and am returning to the stands for the first time since 2001. Here's a chance for my tens of fans to finally meet the man beneath the fedora.



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