

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 12

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MONDAY
Oct. 12, 2009

70°/54°

TUESDAY
Oct. 13, 2009

72°/54°

WEDNESDAY
Oct. 14, 2009

70°/58°

Restructuring meetings begin

College of Mass Communication held an open meeting to discuss the possible restructuring of the colleges, leaving faculty in need of more information

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

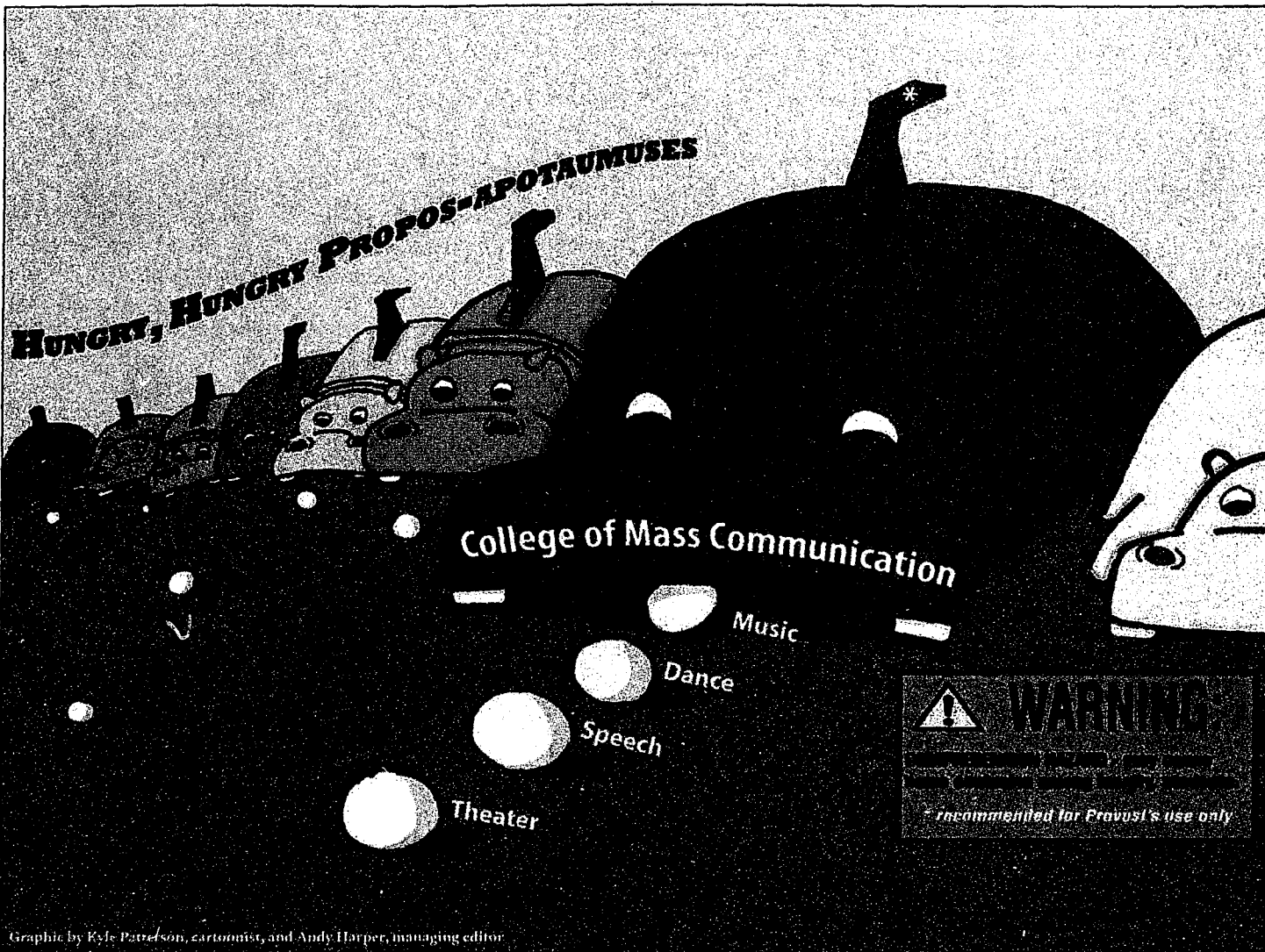
Faculty members of the College of Mass Communication became the first professors to voice concerns to their dean over the interim provost's proposed changes to the colleges.

Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication, held an open meeting Oct. 9, fielding questions from faculty and starting the process of creating a work group that will draft another proposal on how best to implement changes stated in the college restructuring plan.

Colleges have only about four weeks to produce their own draft of the proposal for their departments to Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost.

"I have seen these work groups work and I have seen the groups not work and when I've seen it work I've seen it where there were discussions about where we want to be, how we want to get there and what the best way to get there is," Moore said. "Those are the kind of discussions we will be having; digging in your heels is not going to make a difference, but instead what kind of changes can we make that will make us a stronger college."

Miller has asked each college to draw up a proposal that she can consider when drafting the final proposal, due on Dec. 1, that will then be passed to university President



Graphic by Kyle Patterson, cartoonist, and Andy Harper, managing editor

Sidney McPhee.

If McPhee approves the proposal, the College of Mass Communication will join with the School of Fine Arts; art, music, theater and dance will combine to create the College of Communication and Fine Arts by fall of 2010.

The College of Mass Communication has spent five months preparing for the fall 2010 accreditation, which gained concerns among the faculty on whether or not

this restructuring would affect reaccreditation.

"This is the worst time to be going through this change because of reaccreditation," said Chris Harris, electronic media communication professor.

Moore said that while he is not sure this restructuring will negatively impact reaccreditation, it is something that should definitely be looked into and put into the College of Mass Communication's proposal to the provost.

"The accreditation issues, I think we can address," Moore said. "It's our job to make sure that they are addressed in the proposal."

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications reaccredits programs every six years, and a site team from ACEJMC will gauge whether or not MTSU meets the requirements.

Faculty also debated the amount of time needed to

make a proposal. Harris said the faculty needs time to properly evaluate what is happening.

"If this was talked about in August, then we could have had since then to discuss this change," Harris said.

Moore said that while he and other deans met for a retreat in August, Miller drafted up her proposal based on information she gathered from them.

RESOLUTION, PAGE 3

SGA snubs out tobacco resolution

By MEGAN MCSWAIN &
ALEX MOORMAN

The Student Government Association passed a resolution on Thursday that would require it to hold town hall meetings, but extinguished another concerning the Tennessee Board of Regents' decision to ban the sale of tobacco products on campus.

Along with the tobacco ban resolution, a resolution to legislate the SGA endorsement and promotion of the June Anderson Women's Center's domestic violence prevention and awareness efforts this month also failed.

The resolution that will make annual town hall meetings mandatory for the SGA passed unanimously through the senate.

Richard Lowe, senator of the College of Mass Communication, introduced the resolution at the Sep.

24 senate meeting, but requested to table the motion to change the title of the resolution.

Lowe said that the passing of the resolution was great, but it made it even better that it passed unanimously.

"I'm very happy about the resolution passing because I think it gives students the message that their SGA supports the communication between them and the president of the university," Lowe said. "I think that is one of the most important things for a university to have."

Brandon Thomas, liberal arts senator, drafted the failed resolution, that would condemn any ban on the sale or use of tobacco products on campus, and he said the resolution was meant to position the SGA as intolerant of the current TBR ban on tobacco.

SGA, PAGE 2



Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer

The College of Education, currently housed in the LRC, has undergone construction and is now searching for a new dean.

Education starts search for new dean

By BRETT POE
Contributing Writer

MTSU's College of Education is undergoing some major changes in the coming years, according to university administrators.

Terry Whiteside, who serves as interim dean the year after Gloria Bonner left, took the position because Bonner became the assistant to the president in Community Engagement and Support.

During the interim period, President Sidney McPhee appointed a committee to find a permanent dean for the college.

The committee is composed of department of education faculty, the Tennessee Department of Education and school district personnel.

Robert Eaker, chair of the education search committee, said the change has been more complicated than previous transitions because it coincides with the reorganization of the college as a whole.

"This search has been different because there are a number of departments [in the current college] that have little or nothing to do with preparations for education," Eaker said.

Eaker said the current college includes classes not only devoted to educational development, but to developmental sciences. The reorganization, which is set to be carried out by McPhee and Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Diane Miller, will streamline the college and provide a more focused leadership.

Miller said the administration is looking to reorganize college's campus-wide in the long-term.

EDUCATION, PAGE 3



Photo by Kelsey Franklin, staff writer

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty collected dog and cat supplies to help homeless animals in Murfreesboro.

Students raise funds to stop animal abuse

By KELSEY FRANKLIN
Staff Writer

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty, an MTSU group, stepped up to help educate people on and off the MTSU campus about the overpopulation of unspayed and unneutered animals in the South.

Wednesday, the RAAC rented a van and set up a tent outside at the Keathley University Center Knoll for an all-day event called Cram the Van.

RAAC members worked with Almost Home Animal Rescue of Rutherford County, an organization that rescues large breed dogs and horses throughout Middle Tennessee, and Beesley's, a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, to collect monetary donations as well as pet supplies for homeless and foster animals.

Anna Hasenmueller, a junior early childhood education major, volunteers at Almost Home Animal Rescue and fosters animals, attended the Cram the

Van event.

"I really wanted to get involved with RAAC this year to help educate people about this ongoing problem," Hasenmueller said.

Rufus, Hasenmueller's foster dog, also spent the day at the knoll and inspired people to donate and learn more about overpopulation.

To read more, visit us online.



SGA FROM PAGE 1

The TBR passed a policy Sept. 25 that would officially ban the sale of tobacco products on its campuses – a ban that would only affect MTSU, the last TBR university still selling tobacco.

At a previous SGA meeting, President Brandon McNary said he mentioned that other schools in the TBR school system had completely outlawed tobacco, and it was a possibility the same could happen to MTSU in the future.

"I never said that was something that was under discussion," McNary said. "Some people took that as TBR's trying to ban tobacco at MTSU completely and kind of ran with that."

Thomas said the resolution was a precaution, in case the TBR decided to ban tobacco use on campus in the future. The resolution condemned the possible banning of selling tobacco on campus and said the SGA would not support any

future tobacco bans. Thomas said he felt there was a miscommunication between him and the rest of the senate.

"The issue I brought up was we need to dissociate ourselves from the actions of the TBR on that issue," Thomas said. "It didn't come out that way."

Instead, he said the senate thought he wanted the SGA to dissociate itself from the TBR as a whole, which McNary said cannot happen because MTSU is governed by the TBR.

Thomas said he had no intentions of the resolution going to TBR, but created it to show students what the SGA was doing about the ban on selling tobacco, Dwight's Mini Mart (whose revenue has been drastically affected by the ban) and the any potential ban on tobacco products.

"I think it would've made us look like the SGA's actually fighting for students," Thomas said. "It's not to say that Brandon McNary's not doing all he can, it's just nobody knows about it. He is working behind the scenes but students don't know that."

McNary said although the tobacco issue is being pushed by state legislators, it is TBR's decision. If the TBR does decide to ban tobacco use at MTSU, a likelihood McNary and Thomas said they couldn't determine, McNary said there is nothing the SGA or the MTSU administration can do.

"If [TBR] chose to do that, they absolutely could," McNary said. "TBR governs all 19 schools in the TBR system. TBR has final say over what we do."

Thomas said despite having not overriding power with any of TBR's future bans, he still believes the SGA can separate itself from TBR's actions, but he doesn't plan on reintroducing the resolution any time soon.

"I think the point's been made," Thomas said. "It's pretty much a dead issue."

"I just hope it's not one of those 'I-told-you-so' moments where somebody, like me, decides to take the initiative and it ends up happening anyway and the SGA did nothing about it."

Sigma Pi promotes alcohol awareness

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Sigma Pi fraternity hopes to draw a full house with Ace of Spades, a week of events designed to commemorate the Sam Spady Foundation and promote alcohol awareness.

This is the first year the organization is hosting a week-long event for its national philanthropy. The Sam Spady Foundation honors the memory of Samantha Spady, a 19-year-old student at Colorado State University, who died of alcohol poisoning on Sept. 5, 2004.

"What happened was a terrible tragedy," said Paul Mydra, Sigma Pi chapter director. "Because of what happened, we have adopted [the foundation] as our national philanthropy to promote alcohol awareness."

Chris Carter, a senior journalism major and philanthropy chair for Sigma Pi, said rather than trying to raise as much money as they can, the fraternity would rather put more effort in trying to make college students aware of

how deadly alcohol abuse can be.

"Last year, we got the campus police to help us set up a course where students could drive golf carts with drunk goggles to see how dangerous it is," Carter said. "This year, our events really show that you can have a great time without drinking."

Some of the events scheduled for the week include an Ace of Cakes themed competition and mocktail party, in which all sororities on campus are invited to make the best cake and nonalcoholic drink that will be judged by members of Sigma Pi.

"We are participating in all the planned events," said Claudia Whitehorn, senior recording industry major and member of Kappa Delta. "My sorority is getting very involved and we have a wonderful, huge cake design that we are going to do."

Mydra said the most important sorority competition during the week is the Sam Spady Celebration on Friday, where partici-

pating organizations will make five-minute public service announcement videos about Spady's story and alcohol awareness.

"We will screen all the videos at the house and announce the winners from all the competitions that took place during the week," Mydra said.

On Saturday, Sigma Pi will have their Altruistic Campus Experience project. All the fraternity members will clean up Walnut Grove after tailgating for the MTSU-Mississippi State game.

"It really helps out MTSU's grounds staff," Mydra said. "The A.C.E. project gives directly back to the university and we are really proud of that."

Whitehorn said Sigma Pi's week is great because it involves multiple organizations and helps bring awareness to students about alcohol-related deaths.

"I think that it's a philanthropy event that hits home for a lot of college students," Whitehorn said. "Not just the Greek community, but the whole campus as well."

GRADUATING?

~ Not Returning to MTSU?

The Housing and Residential Life

Office is currently accepting housing

CANCELLATIONS for the Spring 2010

semester from students who are

graduating from MTSU and not

taking no additional classes at

students who are not returning to

school at MTSU after the fall 2009

semester. The deadline for submitting

CANCELLATIONS is Friday, October

14th at 11:59pm. Cancellations

Requests for cancellations must be

submitted with a signed copy of

this form to the Housing and Residential

Life Office, Room 300, located at

MTSU, located near Housing Office

(615-898-5449) or e-mailed to

housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline.

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Fraternities dress in drag to raise funds

By ROZALIND RUTH
Contributing Writer

MTSU sorority members wrangled lawnmowers and dressed farm boys in drag to help raise money in memory of a former MTSU student last Thursday.

Alpha Gamma Rho hosted Hay Daze, a week of events to raise money for scholarships for freshman agricultural majors and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

Money also went to the Chase-ing Victory Fund, a charity formed by AGR to honor former student and fraternity member Chase McNelley. McNelley died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma last spring.

The fund was started by the MTSU chapter and raises money for families of cancer patients and chapters of AGR from around the country.

"It's all about raising money for Chase McNelley's scholarship and for Vanderbilt," said Kendel Kitchen, junior concrete industry management major and member of AGR.

The lawn mower relay race was on the driving course of the Tennessee Livestock Center and lasted about 30 minutes. Agriculture majors, AGR alumni and fraternity members donated the lawn mowers.

Each sorority chose a team of four members to participate in the relay. The track was in the formation of a figure eight, and each member of a team drove one lap.

The sorority Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity placed first

in the race, with Kappa Delta sorority placing second. The four relay racers of the Sigma Alpha sorority even managed to pop a few wheelies with their mower.

"We have a blast win, lose or draw," said Sarah Hoover, sophomore animal science industry major and member of Sigma Alpha.

Each sorority participating in the event was paired with a member of AGR to

The budget for the affair was small because of alumni donations, Hughes said. Donald Blankenship, an AGR alumnus from MTSU, donated the hay bales. AGR alumni donated all the lawn mowers, and the agriculture department rented out the Livestock Center to AGR for free.

"It went great," Hughes said. "No one died."

Paul Fendley, junior con-

“It went great. No one died”

ZACHARY HUGHES
JUNIOR MUSIC BUSINESS MAJOR

coach the sisters on the farm inspired activities of the week.

The race was directly followed by an all-male AGR fashion show. Sorority team members dressed their AGR coaches as women, who competed for extra points for their sorority teams.

This is the first year the lawn mower race took place as part of the Hay Daze festivities. Other activities included decorating the AGR house, a tug-of-war, a hay bale toss, a watermelon seed spitting contest and a toga party.

Zachary Hughes, junior music business major and AGR events coordinator, said that the week's events were included in the yearly budget, and the money raised will go directly to the charity.

crete industry management major and AGR president, said the event was "not [just] to come together as irresponsible college students, but for a good cause, and to show the rest of the world that we're here to do good."

Fendley said AGR hopes to collect between \$500 and \$1,000 during the week. If the goal is not attained, the money raised will go into a supply for the recipients of the Chase-ing Victory Fund.

Donations can be made to the Chase-ing Victory Fund at any time. Checks should be made out to "AGR Chase-ing Victory" and sent to ABAS box 5, or the AGR mailbox at MTSU Box 5, 1301 East Main St., Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132; or contact AGR through its Web site at frank.mtsu.edu/~agr/.

RESTRUCTURE FROM PAGE 1

Moore said what he knew about the proposal during the summer did not reflect what the current proposal is.

"I think almost any task that you do of this magnitude you want to have as much time as possible," Moore said. "But with the current budgetary constraints that we are facing and other issues have had an impact on all of the institutions and there simply

isn't the time."

Moore said the college will have to put a lot of time and effort in a relatively short amount of time and come up with a strong proposal but that the faculty, staff and students had the expertise to do it and will just have to move forward.

"We need to act as quickly as we can and come up with a good strong proposal with strong rational and good data support," Moore said.

Moore said he felt the meeting went well overall and the college was making steps towards getting their

opinions into the hands of people who will ultimately decide the direction of the restructuring.

"I think what we had is an opportunity to let different people express different opinions on the restructuring," Moore said. "I thought it was very useful to see that there are different perspectives."

Moore said now what the college will do is create a work group, look at the feed back and come up with a set of recommendations for the proposed restructuring.

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 1

"The goal is to create colleges with a greater clarity of focus," Miller said. "MTSU already has a strong education program on campus. Reorganization will continue to support that program."

Eaker said he anticipates any effects of the reorganization to be positive.

"It's a terrific move and should have been done many years ago," Eaker said.

Miller said a number of indicators prompted McPhee to challenge faculty to begin making suggestions for improvements to the colleges on campus about five years ago. McPhee was unavailable to comment on his role in the implementation of the reorganization.

Miller said the projected timeline for reorganization spans the upcoming academic year. The initial proposal is set to be presented on Dec. 1, with implementation expected in fall 2010.

This would coincide with the construction of the College of Education building, tentatively scheduled to com-

plete in fall 2011 and open for classroom use in spring 2012.

Design work for the \$30 million state-of-the-art building has been ongoing for the last four years, said Watson Harris, director of Academic Technology Planning and Projects. She said the adaptive technology available in the new building already

of their courses in the new building.

"After all of the education courses have been scheduled, the other departments will use the remaining timeslots of these classrooms," Harris said.

Interviews for the new dean of the College of Education are being held the week

“The goal is to create colleges with a greater clarity of focus.”

DIANE MILLER
INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

is being benchmarked by University of Tennessee.

Paige Sanders, a senior Interdisciplinary Studies major, said she doesn't anticipate any major changes from the reorganization, but did have concerns about the cost of the new building being reflected in students' tuition.

"I hope they are planning to offer all the education classes in the new building," Sanders said. "I think it's stupid to be building a new one if they aren't."

Harris said the two education departments have priority to schedule all

of Oct. 12. Each of the four candidates has a background in educational development, an indication of the intended change for the college, led by Whiteside.

The candidates are Lana Seivers, Dwight Watson, Linda Irwin-DeVitis and Deborah Lo. Open forums for each candidate will be held today through Thursday, Oct. 15 from 2-3 p.m. at the Faculty Senate Chambers in the James Union Building. The forums are open to College of Education students, faculty and staff.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of Nov. 9

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring 2010 semesters:

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OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

‘Boro needs to take lead in recycling

Has anyone taken a ride on the MTSU BioBus lately?

No, they haven't, because the bus sits pretty 24/7 in the livestock parking lot, where Greenland Drive traffic can see it, being environmentally friendly by not moving.

Of the many attributes a university ought to possess, a forward-looking mentality is key. Since pollution and energy independence are hot topics these days, society should naturally look to universities to help provide solutions to these problems, and to show the public at large the way forward.

MTSU and Murfreesboro can collaborate to make this happen. There is plenty of work to do.

Paper recycling is available, sometimes, some places. Every year, we see a great public art project in the library about the impact of our egregious paper waste.

Bins for aluminum cans are easy to find in most class buildings. They often end up filled with trash or plastic, because we don't have many vending machines that sell aluminum cans.

If you buy a drink from one of the new Pepsi machines, chances are, it's in plastic. What happens to plastic at MTSU? It winds up in the trash.

Purchase a bottled Starbucks mocha drink, and what do you do with the bottle? It's glass. We don't recycle glass at MTSU, but that's not entirely the school's fault.

We have a responsibility, as the incubator for our generation's intellectual development, to push for meaningful change in our community.

Recycling makes sense. It makes sense to reduce the volume of our landfills. It makes sense to reuse finite resources. It makes sense to try not to make a mess of our city. MTSU and Murfreesboro need to partner up to make this happen.

To read more, visit us online.



Nobel prize appropriate, exciting

On Friday, President Barack Obama became only the fourth president to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In his official address following the extraordinary news Obama described himself as being "surprised and deeply humbled." Considering that the president was nominated for the prize in January and now, only nine months into office, he has achieved a dream that has eluded most presidents, his speech was fitting.

Mind you, the Nobel Peace Prize is not something towards which you campaign. Obama and his administration did not spend \$60 to \$80 million in propaganda and advocacy for this award. The award was not aimed to help Obama's presidency gain clout and certainly was not pre-destined to help build a stronger presence in the argument for health-care reform. The Nobel Peace Prize is given based on action, based on positive influence and based on future potential.

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," the Nobel committee said.

While running for president, Obama captured the world with his "Yes we can" campaign slogan. Hopeful feelings have followed Obama all the way to the White House with a sense that change is in our immediate future. As unemployment and a steadily declining economy begins to level out there will be an even stronger sense of hopefulness.

Ironically, Obama received word of the award the same



Dogood's post

Brett Johnson

day he was to meet with advisors about whether or not to send more troops to war in Afghanistan. Unlike former presidents of late, Obama has continued to seek counsel and has held many advisory meetings before making a definite decision that might put thousands of lives at risk. To see someone taking the decision of war as seriously as Obama is has been refreshing.

Also, since his campaign landed him in the White House, Obama has wrestled in a struggle to dissolve nuclear arsenals around the world. While North Korea and Iran have not shown any interest in suspending their nuclear ambitions, Obama has continued a front in the Middle East of discussions of peace and the liquidation of large arms arsenals.

"His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said concerning Obama.

These values and attitudes must be shared by the majority of the world's population. During former President George W. Bush's reign,

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2009

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama has as President created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play. Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts. The vision of a world free from nuclear arms has powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations. Thanks to Obama's initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened.

Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population.

For 108 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has sought to stimulate precisely that international policy and those attitudes for which Obama is now the world's leading spokesman. The Committee endorses Obama's appeal that "Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges."

Oslo, October 9, 2009

nobelpeaceprize.org

a common interest in the people and a general concern for the world's population was thrown aside as a war that has spent, and is still spending seemingly endless billions of dollars began in the Middle East. Now, a different approach is being taken. This approach seems, at least for now, to be concerned with voices around the world, voices that are impacted by this war much more than ours.

Consider the presidents who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize before Obama: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Jimmy Carter. All three played key roles in the fight for peace.

Roosevelt and Wilson helped to negotiate nations through times of war and uncertainty, and Carter continued his campaign for peace after he left office to earn a post-presidency Nobel Prize.

Now, Obama is nose to nose with expensive and controversial wars. The president accepted the award as fuel to help in the struggle for Arab-Israeli peace, the dissolving of nuclear arms and the discontinuing of nuclear investments, and as inspiration to help an ailing economy and a domestic political system, which has lately been more of a detriment than a boon.

No matter where you stand politically —Republican or

Democrat—Obama's receiving the Nobel Peace Prize is good news for all. Our domestic political system has been so split and so self-destructive that it seemed things would inevitably get darker.

This award is not just for Obama; it is for all of us. Nine months into his campaign, after America witnessed years of warmongering and personal agenda seeking, Obama and the Nobel Peace Prize Committee have given us all something about which to rejoice.

Brett Johnson is a sophomore English major and can be reached at baj3d@mtsu.edu

ALRIGHT, BROTHERS. LET'S HEAR THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

WE'RE BROKE.

OH... OKAY... SOCIAL CHAIRMAN?

SUBSEQUENTLY, OUR WINE & CHEESE MIXER IS NOW A BOXED WINE & CHEESE WHIZ PARTY.

SECRETARY?

ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOW PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING ALCOHOL AND/OR ANY FORM OF AEROSOL CAN...

"Blundergrads"

blundergrads.blogspot.com

Phil Flickinger

Use fall break to give back to community

Fall may be depressing for some with its cold weather, mid-terms and layers of clothing, but it also brings a much-needed break.

Friday marks the beginning of fall break for our university. Having no exciting plans for my own four days of freedom, I spoke to numerous friends and classmates about what they had in mind for the break.

Half of them replied that they were broke and heading home. Relaxation, television watching and moping around the house were all events scheduled for their time.

The other half claimed they had spent weeks planning and saving for an elaborate vacation to the beach, mountains or big cities.

I was jealous when I heard



Guest column

Rebecca McGrath

this because I expected these students to have exciting and unique adventures in their futures. When asked what they were going to do there, a smile spread across all of their faces as the word "party" was spoken.

These responses got me thinking. Do we as college students not have anything better to do than drink,

party and be lazy on our fall break?

All too often I hear the excuse that someone does not have the time to volunteer, be creative or get involved. However, when two days of pure free time are handed over to us like candy, what do we do with it?

We are supposed to be the future leaders, thinkers, and entrepreneurs of America. It is infuriating to think of all the precious time some are spending on trivial things like drinks and bad kung-fu movies. There has to be something productive and enjoyable that we can get involved in that does not cost a fortune.

So what are the options? I did a little research and discovered that there are several exciting and cheap options

for fall break activities.

To begin with, our very own campus recreational center is offering two fall break trips for students.

The first is a hiking excursion at the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. The student cost is only \$70. This would be a great chance to get out into nature and stretch those legs.

The second trip offered is an exciting outdoor adventure in Cherokee National Forest. Rafting, climbing, kayaking and horseback riding are only a few of the options offered during this event. The cost is \$90 for students.

However, these two events have limited amount of space. If you cannot take part in them, nothing is stopping you from creating an outdoor

adventure for yourself. Gather some friends and camping equipment and head out to a state park. Tennessee boasts over 50 state parks and even more camping sites located all over the state, most of which do not cost a penny to visit.

Are you not an outdoorsy person? There are plenty of other exciting things you could do, like plan a road trip. Memphis, Atlanta, St. Louis and Cincinnati are all only a day's drive away. They all have first-rate museums, art galleries and historic monuments that are both fun and educational. If you are with a group, make a scavenger hunt out of your trip. Challenge each other to be the first to find historical places, restaurants and other interesting new things

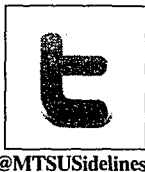
in the city.

Don't forget that communities need our help as well. Volunteering at a local community center, YMCA or Boys and Girls club would be a great investment of your time. Help out with Habitat for Humanity or another service organization.

Dedicating your time to a worthwhile group will not only be beneficial to others, but also make you feel fantastic about yourself.

You have these two days off. You might as well make them count. Get off the couch, put down the Cheetos and beer, and get out there. What are you waiting for?

Rebecca McGrath is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at rkm2z@mtsu.edu



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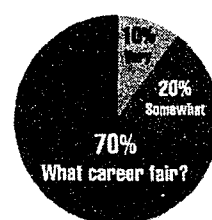
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What's the big deal about a Peace Prize? - by Jessica Harris in Opinions

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FEATURES



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Students find adventure, education in Africa

The continent with the fewest study abroad students offers tons of good opportunities

By SARAH CONATSER
Contributing Writer

American students often have misconceptions at the thought of studying abroad in Africa.

Though going to any foreign country for a prolonged period of time warrants a little anxiety, Africa is no worse than traveling to other foreign exchange destinations.

There are horror stories about African war and crime, but most of that occurs in places a student wouldn't travel.

Places with high crime and war such as Sudan, Congo, Chad, Somalia and Zimbabwe should stay off of your to-do list. There are many gorgeous places in Africa that people should experience that are away from crime-ridden areas.

In reality, only around 1 percent of American students study abroad in college, and that number actually shows an increase over the past decade.

An even smaller percentage seeks Africa as their study destination. A big part of the reason so few students study abroad is the cost. That, too, can be a misconception.

The percentage of students who actually want to study abroad is closer to 50 percent. If this number is so high, then why do only 1 percent actually go? The reason is most simply stated by money. Most students that change their mind on studying abroad do so because of the cost.

Students who get discouraged by the cost and immediately give up on international studies typically haven't done enough research.

Students who really look into studying abroad will find that it is not much more expensive than their average tuition. There are also countless grants and scholarship programs that will help support them on



Photo courtesy of Annie Hirst

While abroad in Africa, MTSU student Annie Hirst taught Maasai children in Losho, Kenya as part of the Maasai American Organization. Hirst's said her positive experience in Africa has led her to want return.

their journey.

Students can travel to Africa through MTSU for around \$5,500 and attain school credit.

When looking at that number, take into account that the average student pays \$3,096 for one semester at MTSU.

Students can pay just a little more than their current tuition and get to study in and experience another country. Students are too easily discouraged when it comes to financial limitations. There are so many great things to learn and experience in Africa.

Take it from Ugandan exchange student Zamzam Sangau who has been studying at MTSU on a track scholarship for the past four years.

Sangau left her family to come study here, but she said she misses home very much and can't wait to get back.

"There are lots of misconceptions about Africa," Sangau says.

Sangau said that a lot of people think of negative things when it comes to Africa, but in Uganda she doesn't see any more crime than around here. It's also much more beautiful.

"If you go to Africa, you must see the Nile River," Sangau says. "It's beautiful."

Sangau recommends that travelers take necessary precautions against malaria, which typically includes vaccinations, as well as a prescription drug.

Annie Hirst, a senior mass communication major, recently spent some

time in Kenya. Hirst didn't go for school credit, she went to teach to young children with the Maasai American Organization.

After spending three weeks there with the Maasai tribe, Hirst said that she definitely wants to go back.

She spent a lot of time with young children and experienced what it was like to have a language barrier.

Hirst said at the beginning of her trip the people were slow to warm up, but after a while they were inviting her into their homes, which is a very big deal.

"I made up a game called 'follow' that I played with them, to help them learn some English," she says. In this game she modeled the word she wanted them to learn and said it aloud.

MT Abroad Facts: AFRICA

- ▼ Only 1 percent of United States college students study abroad yearly.
- ▼ MT Abroad currently offers study abroad programs to countries such as Ghana and South Africa, but other countries can be arranged as well.
- ▼ In 2008, only 4 percent of students who studied abroad studied in Africa, according to Open Doors.
- ▼ South Africa is the most common African country for study abroad, followed by Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Morocco, Senegal, Uganda, Botswana, and Namibia, according to Open Doors.
- ▼ According to the US State Department, the quickest growing continents for study abroad are Africa and Asia whose programs grew 20 percent last year.
- ▼ Africa, the second largest continent in the world, is a very diverse continent from its geography, climate, cultures, traditions, religions, art, economics, and sociopolitical structures.
- ▼ Nigeria is the African country with the most students studying abroad in the United States, though Nigeria only makes up 1 percent of the foreign students studying in the United State. The second most African students come from Kenya, according to Open Doors.
- ▼ For the 2006-2007 year, only 3,513 students from Tennessee studied abroad, meaning only 1.45 percent of American students studying abroad come from Tennessee.
- ▼ The two most popular study abroad majors are Social Sciences and Business and Management.

Hirst's time in Africa was very inexpensive. She only paid \$100 a week for food, transportation and everything else.

The truth is, Africa is an excellent place to experience, and there's no better time than when you are in college.

It is also not as expensive as students may think.

Studying abroad, whether it is in Africa or another country, is an experience that students should have. It is a great way to see other cultures and become more well-rounded.

Tokens not novelty, save students money

By BRITTANY KLATT
Staff Writer

In a time when people can get live TV from anywhere in the world sent straight to their phone, the idea of clipping coupons must seem archaic.

It is something that only grandparents and eccentric reality TV characters are seen doing. Not to mention it can be a time-consuming process.

Clipping coupons requires finding a copy of the Sunday newspaper, digging out a pair of scissors and cutting the coupon out of the booklet.

Not to mention the fact that to get coupons for specific stores, actually visiting the store is a requirement. Who has time for all that?

Apparently not college students. Very few students clip coupons, and even fewer do it on a regular basis.

"I do when I see them," said Sean Guthrie, a junior aerospace major. "It lets me buy a little bit more with the little paycheck that I get."

One of the main complaints expressed was at how easy it is to lose coupons. Those who clip coupons regularly have to own a coupon book in order to keep their clippings organized. The book has to be taken every time they visit the store, and if they forget it, well, there goes their savings for that trip.

For those short trips for a specific item, many times it is easier to pull the coupon out of the book and throw it in a pocket or bag.

But of course, everyone knows that

items have a habit of disappearing in bags until they are no longer needed.

If only there was a way to turn those pesky scraps of paper into a digital form that can be carried on a device that almost everyone owns.

Collegetokens.com has done just that. Through its Web site, students get coupons from their favorite establishments sent directly to their phone. Coupons are available from various restaurants and stores, and the deals vary from discounts on items to buy-one-get-one-free sales.

For more information,
visit the Web site
collegetokens.com

Retrieving the coupons is a quick and painless process; it takes about five minutes and there is no risk of paper cuts.

The first step is to access the Web site and select a state and city. The Web site offers coupons from 26 cities in over 15 states, so those who are leaving Murfreesboro for fall break might want to look for deals to save some money.

After selecting the city, visitors will be taken to a page that lists all of the coupons available in that specific city. The coupons range from free drinks at Bar-B-Cutie to discounts

on apparel at Blue Raider Bookstore.

However, like their printed counterparts, these coupons have expiration dates. So those who want to save money better keep checking to see what new deals appear.

Within each posting there are links to a map and the company's Web site, so viewers who are unsure of the business can check it out themselves.

Once visitors have chosen their coupon, they'll need to return to the top of the page and type in their phone number with the area code.

Finally, all they have to do is click "Send Coupon by Text," and within seconds they will receive a text message containing their coupon. The best part of this process is there are no little shreds of paper to clean up once all the coupons have been cut out.

Using the coupons is just as easy as getting them. When purchasing the specified item, customers only need to present the text message to the cashier to get their discount.

They offer the same savings of a paper coupon without the hassle of digging through one's pockets searching for a tiny piece of paper.

Although the Web site is not well-known, some students believe that it is a good idea.

One aspect of the idea that is popular is the inability to lose the coupons.



Next Big Nashville brings out best in local music

Several venues across Nashville showcase amazing performances, musical moments last week

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Next Big Nashville wrapped up during the wee hours of Sunday morning after four nights of showcases, awards and parties rocked downtown.

With conferences by day and shows by night, the event, which lasted from Oct. 7-11, was more or less a nonstop throwdown. Orchestrated for the fourth year by co-founders Ethan Opelt and Jason Moon Wilkins, the festival sets the bar high and raises it higher each year.

In 2008, more than 15,000 people attended Next Big Nashville, and this year Nashville's most renowned venues, which are legends in and of themselves, were again teeming with area artists, people within the music industry and those in support of what Music City has to offer outside of country.

"Watching the community come together for the good of music is inspiring," says Meredith Kotas, publicity handler for Next Big Nashville.

In terms of non-country music, Nashville has a lot to show for itself, and Next Big Nashville is dedicated to spotlighting the growing foundation of alternatives to country in the music scene.

The indie and alternate forms of rock scenes are expanding, and in the past four days, venues like Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Exit/In, 12th and Porter and Mercy Lounge have been filled with support. With multiple lineups of bands performing simultaneously around the city, showgoers had to pick and choose which sets to attend.

Next Big Nashville is like an urban Bonnaroo, except with a profound sense of community. Most artists onstage repeat-



Photo by Jessica Cavendar, contributing photographer

Allison Krauss (left) and Jeremy Lister (right) perform during Lister's set after Krauss made a surprise appearance and joined Lister on stage.

edly praised other musicians partaking in the festival, and expressed deep gratitude to be a part of it.

American Songwriter was among the many sponsors backing Next Big Nashville.

"Together we can strengthen the Next Big Nashville brand by adding exciting new sponsors," says Mindy Grimes, music and national advertising and events director at American Songwriter.

"Personally, I love the festival and the idea of featuring superb local and national talent throughout Next Big Nashville," Grimes says. "Nashville,

Murfreesboro and the surrounding areas have incredible indie rock, Americana and other genre bands, and it is fantastic to be able to spotlight them with a comprehensive festival and conference at some of Nashville's coolest venues."

Though the venue owners, A & R representatives, publicists and music journalists who determine the lineup typically accept only area musicians, Memphis-based band Lucero and Los Angeles's Nico Vega were among the headliners.

"This year, there were higher profile artists, and it's great, because some of them played pre-

vious NBNs as 'unknowns,'" Kotas says. "It's a great testament to this city, the loyalty of its fans and the festival itself."

"The whole premise of NBN is to support all the great music that's made here in Music City, especially the budding artists."

Among the musicians graduating from the fine print to featured musicians was Heypenny, which performed a midnight Mercy Lounge set on closing night of the festival.

The band blew away other artists through pure showmanship, extending their songs and performing Beyonce's "Single Ladies," but ending quietly.

"We decided to try something quiet and soft for a sweet ending instead of a rock-your-skull ending," Heypenny bassist DJ Murphy says.

The set was closed with acoustics and a string section as strands of white Christmas lights were stretched through the crowd, different from the standard rambunctious blow-out for which Heypenny usually opts.

Next Big Nashville was packed with surprises; during singer/songwriter Jeremy Lister's set, Alison Krauss joined him onstage, an impromptu performance that

was the first time the two had played live together.

"It was quite spur of the moment," Lister says.

Apart from approximately 200 bands performing, conferences were held during the days of the festival were open to individuals with VIP passes.

The Nashville Music Awards was held Oct. 7 at the Cannery Ballroom, at which Taylor Swift took home three awards, and Jack White received one for top instrumentalist.

Robert K. Oermann's "How Nashville Became Music City" featured a historical account from the author and journalist about how Nashville earned its musical reputation.

"What's Next for Nashville?" involved representatives from the Nashville Music Business Council – which includes Next Big Nashville co-founder and president Jason Moon Wilkins, Jack White and Emmylou Harris – discussing the future of the Nashville music scene.

Other conferences offered constructive information from and about artist managers, booking agents, indie labels and copyright law.

There was minimal filler music in Next Big Nashville 2009, and more consistent good sound, from the satirical hip-hop of Lord T and Eloise, the grungy-bar blues of Black Diamond Heavies or the fiery, blatant rock of Modoc. If the variety did not impress festival-goers, the tightness or enthusiasm of musicianship of 200 musicians who really wanted to be there was bound to.



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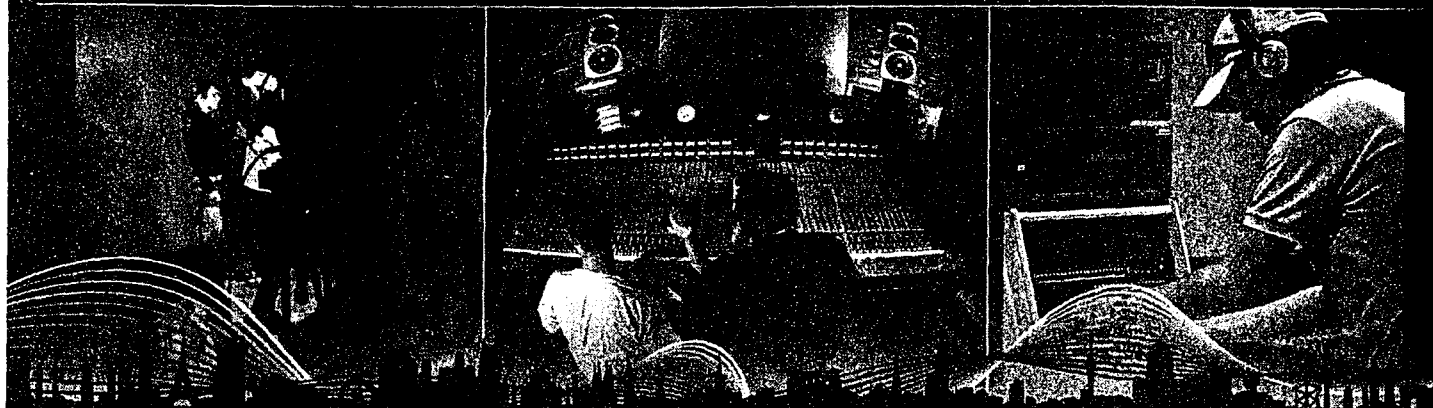
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TOKENS FROM PAGE 5

"I think it would be more helpful," said Tradarius Phillips, sophomore computer information technology major. "I wouldn't have to look around for booklets."

Another student liked the fact that she would not have to hunt down the coupons.

"Normally I would only see the coupons if I went there," said Lesley Rawiszer, freshman chemistry major. "I wouldn't have to go searching for coupons."

The Web site does not have coupons for products that can be found at any store like milk and cereal, but everyone knows that college students will choose to go out to eat rather than cook any day. But for those who cannot afford to go out on a regular basis, there are other ways they can save money.

"Basically I just don't go

out," said Guthrie. "But price check a lot of things to make sure you are in your budget."

Some other tips are to buy off-brand products, check ads for special deals, use the price-match guarantee at Wal-Mart, and always shop with a list so that the number of spontaneous purchases decreases. Clipping out the coupons that come in the Sunday newspaper is also helpful. It may seem old-school, but it saves a lot of money.

Also, for those who have a campus meal plan, use it.

"Take advantage of what you have here," suggest Rawiszer. "You can find some good deals here."

Most food venues on campus do have combos that are more cost-efficient than ordering random items. Signs advertising these deals can be found at the entrance of the KUC Grill, entrance of the Cybercafe, and sometimes at the registers themselves.

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SPORTS

Last-minute save spikes MT win

Excellent offense drives team to fifth set win over Red Wolves

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The dedicated Blue Raider nation came out in bulk to support the MT volleyball team in a close 3-2 win over Arkansas State at the Alumni Memorial Gym on Friday night.

This tight victory comes on the heels of MT's hard 3-1 loss at FIU last Sunday.

Senior Ashley Mead surpassed the 1,000 kill mark against the Red Wolves. Senior Ashley Waugh, who came into the game just shy of 1,000 kills, helped the cause by garnering 19 kills on the night, coming into the match just eight kills shy. Mead tallied 13 kills on the night.

"We played a very good match," head coach Matt Peck said. "We had very few unforced errors and served aggressively."

The close match started out badly for the Blue Raiders, who lost the first set 23-25. The Red Wolves came out of the locker room ready to play, and freshman Brittany Hoag led the charge, chronicling 15 kills, enough to lead the Red Wolves. MT Junior Izabela Kozon made a passing error, costing the Blue Raiders a serve and passing the first set.

The Blue Raiders rebounded in the second set by consistently keeping a two- or three-point barrier between the two teams. ASU attempted to tie on a few occasions, but MT always pulled the score back to its favor. A kill by

junior outside hitter Alyssa Wistrick gave MT the 25-23 win for the set.

At the end of two sets, MT had accumulated 32 kills with a .240 hitting percentage. The Red Wolves tallied a .192 attack percentage with 27 kills.

In the fourth set, ASU jumped out to an early 6-1 lead, but MT would rally to take the set 25-15.

MT began to compose itself for the fifth set to pull out the win. Down by two and out of timeouts, a kill by sophomore Stacy Oladinni shot the lead to 14-11.

ASU attempted to battle back, as sophomore Charlyn Uर्सell and freshman Taylor Couglin both came up to the net for kills, but a Red Wolves attack error put the set away at 15-13 for the Blue Raider win.

As a team, the Blue Raiders tallied 66 kills with a .210 hitting percentage. ASU hit only .153 in the match, posting 51 kills.

MT had a defensive stand-out in senior Janay Yancey, who posted six block assists and one solo block to add to the team's 15 total. Mead assisted the blocking team, adding five assists and one solo of her own.

The Blue Raider volleyball team also had a match on Sunday, against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Log on to www.mtsusidelines.com for complete updates.

To read more, visit us online.

online
www.mtsusidelines.com

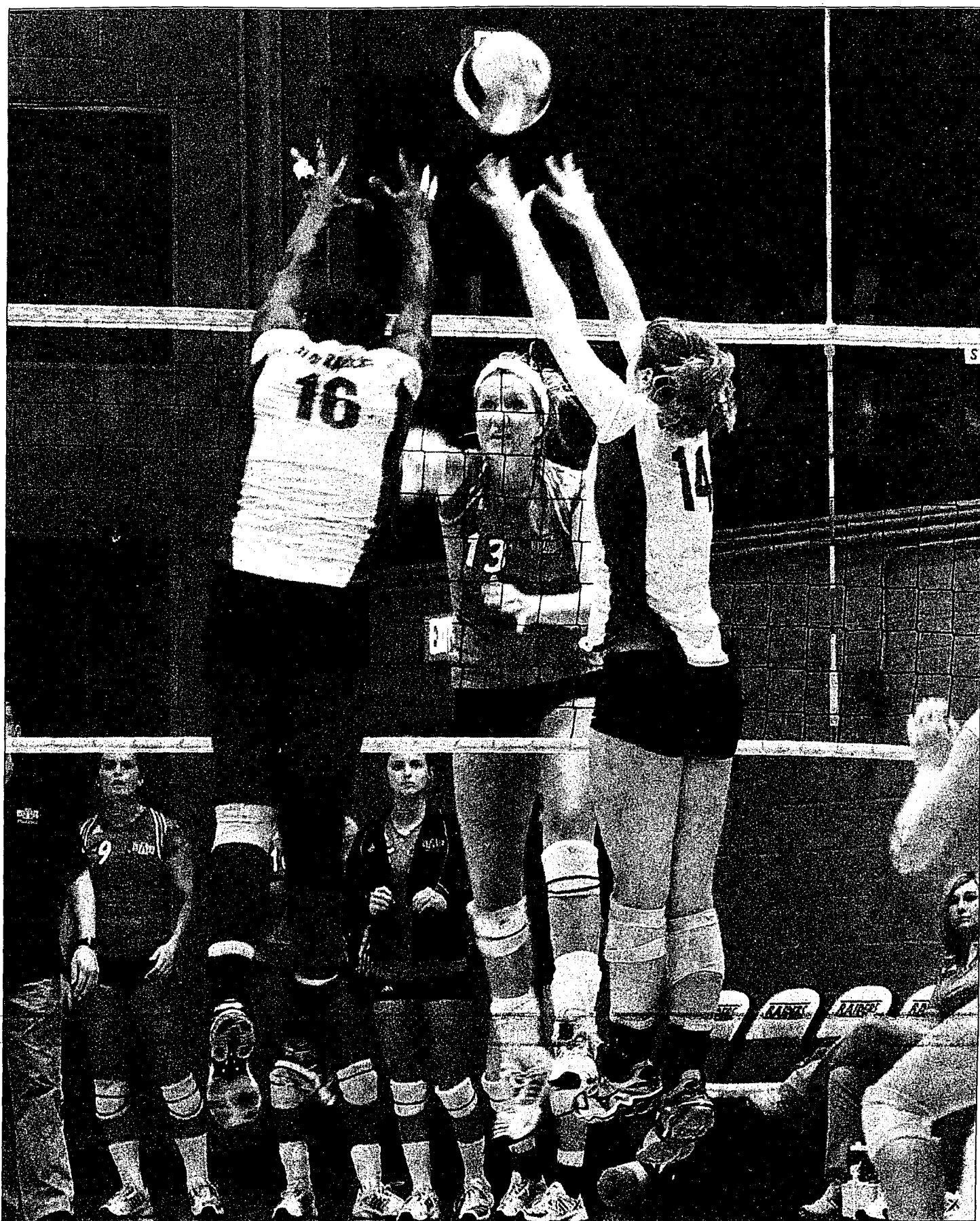


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Seniors Leslie Clark and Janay Yancey aim to block the spike from an Arkansas State player. The Blue Raiders won 3-2 in its Friday match.



Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications

John Peers sets up to return a serve. Peers performed well in the ITA All-American main draw tournament but fell over the weekend.

Peers falls in ITA tourney

STAFF REPORT

John Peers' residency at the ITA All-American main draw came to an end in a tough three-set battle on Friday.

The junior fell to Stanford's Bradley Kihlan, who was seeded 14th in the tournament and the ITA poll.

Peers managed a good early start, but eventually lost 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"John had a great tournament," head coach David McNamara said. "He can take a lot away from this experience knowing he can play with the 'big boys.'"

Peers had consistently performed well throughout the tournament. He won the spot in the main draw after defeating Stanford's Grego-

ry Hirshman in straight sets of 6-3, 6-2.

Peers followed up with an upset win over Chase Buchanan of Ohio State 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Buchanan was the No. 1 ranked junior in the country last season and competed as an amateur in the main draw of the U.S. Open.

Peers also teamed up with Victor Melo for doubles play. The pair, ranked No. 22 in the ITA poll, fell 8-6 to Arkansas' Dmitry Lebedev and Chris Nott, No. 43, in the opening round of main draw doubles.

After having next week off, Peers will rejoin the rest of the Blue Raider squad for competition at the Regional Indoors Qualifying in Bloomington, Ind., on Oct. 22-26.

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders scored two goals in nine minutes to pull away from Arkansas State University to a 3-1 final Friday, winning an important Sun Belt Conference matchup and reaching the double-digit win mark.

The record marks the sixth time in eight seasons under head coach Aston Rhoden, and the ninth in the history of the program, that the Blue Raiders have achieved double-digit wins.

"Arkansas State is certainly a good team," Rhoden said. "I was really proud of how our team responded after their goal. We did not lose our composure and kept doing what we believe in to give us two goals. It also created several opportunities for us. We will take the win at home against a team that was at the top of our league."

MT (10-2-1, 4-1 Sun Belt) had three different players contribute goals in the winning effort, the most important coming off the head of senior Jen Threlkeld, who notched the game winner at 70:08. Freshman Paige Goeglein assisted Threlkeld on the play, sending a high cross from the right into the penalty box where Threlkeld was waiting to head it past Wolves goalie Susan Brown.



Jen Threlkeld
courtesy of MT Athletics

Junior Vanessa Mueggler would seal the win close to nine minutes later when she received a pass from sophomore Louisa Moscoso and fired past Brown from the left flank, earning her sixth goal of the season.

"To have the number of people score goals for us this season is a very good thing," senior Threlkeld said. "To be so dynamic up top, along with a solid defense, we are very confident right now."

Junior Fran Howells notched the other goal for the Blue Raiders, when at 29:18 she knocked in a loose ball following a corner kick by freshman Allison Stallard.

The lone goal for the Wolves came at 64:12 when Miranda Wiley took a long-range shot from just a few yards shy of midfield that soared over the head of MT keeper Rebecca Cushing, but under the crossbar.

Cushing finished the game with seven saves, while Threlkeld led the



Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Junior midfielder Vanessa Mueggler steals the ball away from an Arkansas State defender. Mueggler aided MT in the 3-1 victory Friday.

team in shots with five. The Blue Raiders led to team shot totals 20-10.

MT warmed up before the game in pink t-shirts to promote breast cancer research, with The Center for Breast Health at Middle Tennessee Medical Center sponsoring

the event.

The next action for the Blue Raiders will be Sunday when the team hosts the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The team will warm up in pink again and fans can purchase similar shirts to support their cause.

Hayes inducted into Hall of Fame

Nationally recognized coach returns to alma mater for recognition

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

MT head track and field coach Dean Hayes will travel back to his alma mater to be inducted into his sixth hall of fame at Lake Forest College and the Lake Forest College Athletic Hall of Fame.

"It always is nice to have something from your alma mater," Hayes said. "This one has special significance to me because it belongs to my mother and father."

Hayes graduated from the suburban Chicago school in 1959, and was a member of the track team for four years.

He competed in the mile at the NCAA Mideast Regional his senior year and placed in the 880-yard run at the College Conference of Illinois Championship meet during his junior year.

Hayes has helped to turn his two best events into two of the most successful programs at MT since coming to the school in 1965.

When Hayes came to MT, he sparked a new era of track and field.

He focused on recruiting for the jumps and relays, and worked to secure excellent athletes for every competition.

Hayes is credited with creating one of the first integrated track teams in the south and being one of the first to recruit international athletes.

Hayes has directed the Blue Raiders' track and field program to 29 Ohio

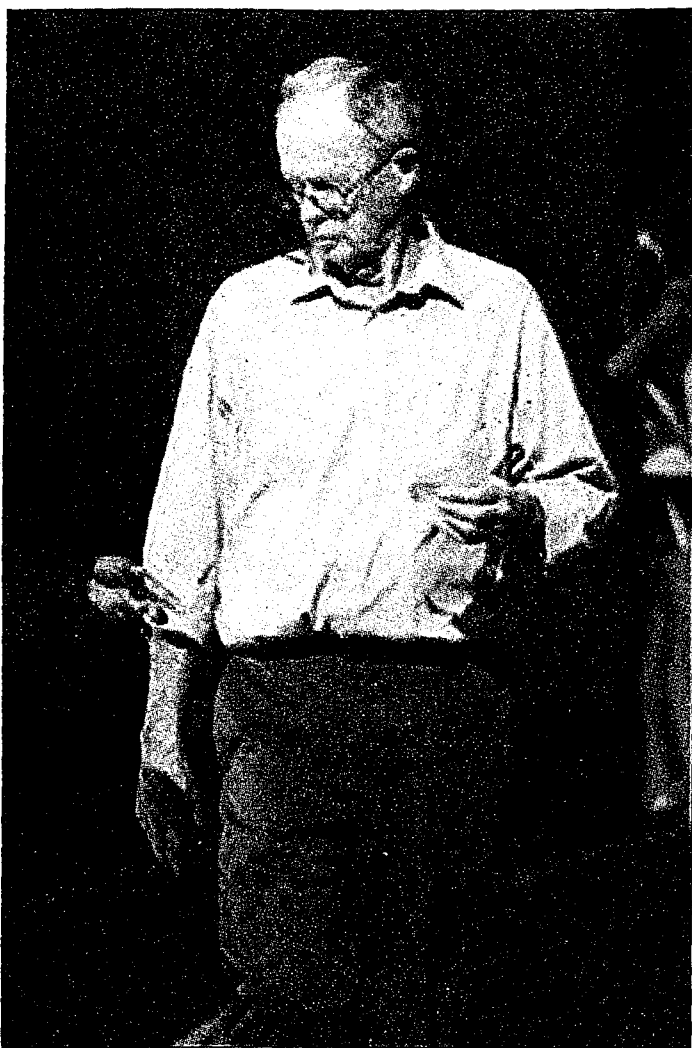


Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications
Dean Hayes, head coach of Middle Tennessee track and field, is being inducted into his sixth hall of fame this Saturday at 10 a.m.

"It always is nice to have something from your alma mater. This one has special significance to me because it belongs to my mother and my father."

DEAN HAYES
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE TRACK

Valley Conference titles, 15 Sun Belt Conference Championships and 18 NCAA Top-25 finishes.

Hayes has been award-

ed Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year 12 times, in addition to his 15 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year

awards, including 10 in a row from 1977-86.

Hayes was also named the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year in 1981, and was selected as the NCAA District Coach of the Year for outdoor competition in 1977 and again in 1981.

Out of 45 of the athletes that Hayes has coached, 87 have earned All-American honors, four have become national champions, and several have gone on to compete in the Olympic Games, World University Games, and Pan-American Games.

Other Halls of Fame that have inducted Hayes include the Blue Raider Hall of Fame in 1982, the Illinois Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, the Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame in 2005, and the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2008.

The university itself has recently recognized the coach by renaming the track and soccer complex in his name this past May.

The MT track and field team can now be seen at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

Hayes will be inducted on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Mohr Student Center on the Lake Forest campus and will be recognized at halftime of the homecoming football game with his fellow inductees later that afternoon.

Increased support for volleyball team



The 5th Down

Chris Welch

I guess, when you go to a school that's not the state's main feeding school, your school spirit starts to die. That's understandable. I knew that by coming to MTSU I was going to have to forego wearing my bright orange everyday and narrow it down to specific Saturdays. I have since come to terms with that.

But wearing blue? That was something I got excited about. It was a new college, new town, a new way to branch out. The school spirit for a new school was ready, and I was ready to give it.

But I never thought the best outlet for my school spirit would be volleyball.

Last year, my first volleyball experience was...okay. It wasn't anything special. The game went well; when we won, all 80 people in the audience cheered and Applebee's was flooded with the after-match crowd. But other than that, nothing too huge or out of the ordinary happened.

However, when I went to the most recent volleyball game, an Oct. 9 battle against Arkansas State, I was overwhelmed. There was a pep band, a Greek organization, a small outlet of the "Rowdy

Raiders" and an impressive amount of students, faculty and parents.

I didn't fully realize the ferocity of it until an Arkansas State player stepped back to serve-right in front of the band. Some may consider it poor sportsmanship, and others may say it's ingenious distraction technique, but the tuba section yelled at the girl in an attempt to either distract her from her serve or make her wet her pants.

I don't mean that they laughed and heckled. They yelled, quite loudly, right into her ear. As a result, she flubbed the serve and the Blue Raiders got the serve back.

The Kappa Sigma fraternity came to support the team, and their heckling gave the band a run for their money. The guys led the cheers, sang the Fight Song and were in part responsible the general mood of the game.

There were MT t-shirts being thrown around like it was Mardi Gras. Little girls in MT cheerleader costumes ran around and cheered alongside the actual cheer squad. The famous MTSU dancing man showed his face for a while and traipsed around the Alumni Memorial Gym like it was 1974 again.

My point to all this is that the volleyball team won. They may have very well won without the fan support, but I'm sure it didn't hurt.

The fans of the volleyball team surely helped the team along, and will hopefully continue to do so throughout the remainder of the season. Now, let's see if we can get the dance team at the tennis matches...

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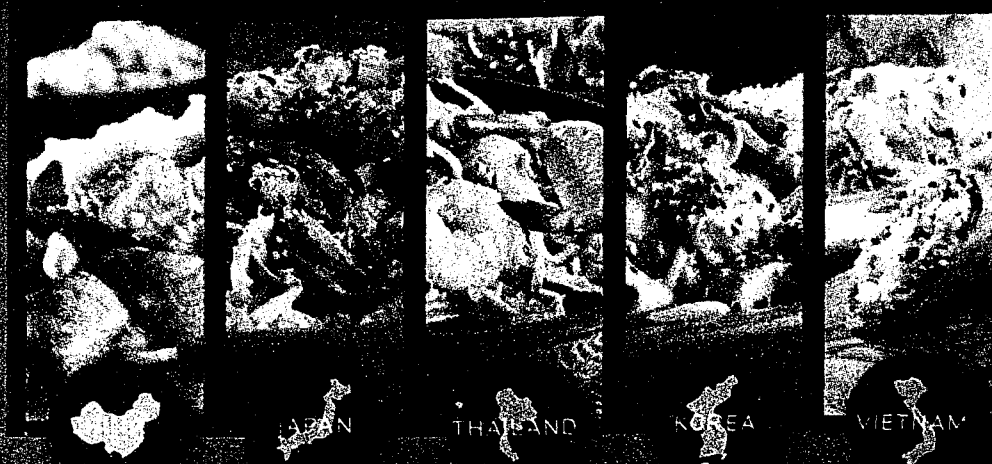
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