

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Monday, Nov. 19, 2007

Student receives threat; campus steps up security

Staff Report

The Federal Bureau of Investigation informed MTSU officials of a potential death threat that has been made against a student living in Monohan Hall.

University officials have taken immediate actions to protect the student and to maintain safety on campus.

"We take this situation very seriously and will utilize all our resources to maintain order and safety on this campus," said President Sidney A. McPhee.

The student, whose identity is being withheld pending further investigation, has been relocated to an off-campus site, the residence hall has been provided with additional security and controlled access, and officials are meeting with dorm residents and student supervisory personnel to apprise them of the situation.

While this threat was made against one specific student, MTSU police are asking that all campus residents remain vigilant and report any unusual or suspicious behavior by calling 898-2424.

As more information becomes available, coverage of this will be extended. ♦

Veterans' home license suspended

By Brittany Carruthers

Contributing Writer

According to the Tennessee state Web site, the veterans' home in Murfreesboro has suspended the admissions of residents because of violations in the facility.

"What has happened is that the facility has experienced a review for several deficiencies," said Department of Health spokeswoman Andrea Turner.

This order to a suspension remains effective until conditions are improved.

Health and safety are cited as the causes of the suspension for the home.

"There is a postponement of admissions due to complaints about the condition of the Tennessee Veterans' Home in Murfreesboro," Turner said.

The nursing home will be able to go before the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities or an administrative judge to defend the conditions.

"Suspension of admissions is still in place," Turner said, "but [Gov.] Bredesen instructed the facility to suspend these admissions based on the Department of Health's inspection." "We have been monitoring the facilities and keeping track of things insuring the welfare of the patients," Turner said.

The facility has developed a plan of correction to address the complaints for the sake of the nursing home's well-being and its patients.

The admissions were approved by the Center of Medicare Services but the CMS has called for no termination of certification as of Nov. 15.

"[CMS has] not indicated any federal funds going towards the condition of the facility, but the Tennessee Department of Health has done a follow-up and incessant jeopardy has been abated," Turner said.

The investigation from the surveyors found the protection of the veterans in jeopardy, performance improvement, and nursing services have slacked. ♦

Dike for duck hunt

Associated Press

State wildlife officials and Tennessee environmental regulators are squaring off again over the construction of a dike in West Tennessee that is intended to improve duck hunting.

The state Department of Environment and Conservation has ordered the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to remove the concrete dike and other structures on a stream near the Black Swamp in Obion County.

After The Tennessee newspaper began asking questions about it, the environmental regulators concluded in a Nov. 9 letter that the levee required permits under the state's clean water laws.

The dike aims to turn the 845-acre Black Swamp into a pond during the winter months to attract ducks and

improve hunting. The levee was built by TWRA over the past several weeks and has cost about \$100,000.

The swamp near Kenton, about 90 miles northeast of Memphis, is spruce fed and forested with cypress and tupelo trees. Conservationists are concerned damming up the swamp will harm the trees.

Ron Fox, TWRA assistant director, disagrees.

"Our foresters don't feel like there's any concern for the timber resources in the swamp," he said.

"We've done everything we could - we have baseline information to see if it could harm them. Why is putting water in a swamp detrimental?"

TWRA was given 30 days from the date of the TDEC letter to present a plan to remove the dike and fill material. ♦

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about highway safety during the Thanksgiving holiday?



Hartle

"People get so crazy and lose sight of safety when they are in a hurry to get where they are going."

-Jesse Hartle, junior agriculture education major



Boyce

"They [highways] are always so congested and it takes four hours to get back home to Memphis."

-Kelsey Boyce, freshmen biology major



Davenport

"The day before Thanksgiving is the most dangerous time. The safest time is at noon on Thanksgiving because people are stuffing their faces."

-Jessica Davenport, freshmen theatre major



Burgess

"There's always a lot of construction being done and it's really dangerous."

-Woody Burgess, sophomore public relations major

Highest Thanksgiving deaths

♦ In 1966, 34 people were killed in Tennessee traffic crashes during the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday period, yielding a fatality rate of one death per 3.0 hours.

Information gathered by Tiffany Gibson

Tennessee takes back its highways

Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee team up to reduce highway fatalities; campaign to place troopers on I-40 from coast to coast

By Tiffany Gibson

Staff Writer

During the Thanksgiving holiday week of Nov. 19 through Nov. 25, the police departments of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi will join forces in an attempt to reduce traffic fatalities by enforcing the Take Back Our Highways Program.

Col. J. Christopher Murphy, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety, initially created the Take Back Our Highways program as a way of reducing traffic fatalities. After witnessing the dramatic decline of death rates in the state, Tennessee and Mississippi decided to partner with Alabama as well as with many local agencies to improve highway safety during the Thanksgiving holiday of 2007.

"More travelers on the road equal more crashes," said David S. Richards, Alabama State Trooper. "Thanksgiving sees the most travelers, so it just stands to rea-

son. What we must do in law enforcement is be extra attentive to the increased number of problem drivers that mix in with the overwhelming majority of safe drivers."

Richards also said that the state of Alabama has seen fewer deaths in 2007 because of Take Back Our Highways and programs associated with it.

Due to the 2006 results of drunk driving fatalities, officers will be cracking down on driving under the influence of any substance by issuing roadblocks and sobriety checkpoints. Both of these tactics will be used to decrease the 20 percent alcohol-related crashes in 2006.

"Law enforcement officers in all three states will target primary driving behaviors that contribute to death and serious injury crashes," said Laura McPherson,

Public Affairs/PIO of the State of Tennessee Department of Safety. "These driving behaviors include speeding, DUI, driver inattention, following too closely and failure to yield."

Over the years,



Photo illustration by Matthew Adair | Production Manager
Photo courtesy of Morguefile.com

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"In his own words;" Beatty's blogs

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Ron Paul; unusual unfavorable

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Volleyball wins SBC Tournament Title

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LOCAL FORECAST

Monday



HI: 69°
LO: 49°

Tuesday



HI: 75°
LO: 54°

Wednesday



HI: 69°
LO: 54°

Thursday



HI: 59°
LO: 38°

Vol. 83 No. 22 - www.mtsusidelines.com

MT's endowment growth aids campus in endeavors

News Release

Submitted by Tom Tozer

The MTSU endowment ranks right up there with the endowment at Harvard University. Well, in one aspect anyway — overall performance. While Harvard's endowment is in the billions (\$34.9 billion) and MTSU's is in the millions (\$34.9 million), both funds enjoyed a similar proportional increase during the past fiscal year.

MTSU's jump from \$29.8 million to its current figure is the result of a lot of hard work, smart asset management, and, as Joe Bales, vice president of development and university relations confirms, signifies that the MTSU Foundation is in excellent shape.

"The Foundation really has had remarkable growth over the last two years," Bales noted. "For 2005-2006, we had asset value appreciation of more than 13 percent. Add to that the gifts we received that year, and the total growth of our endowment put us in the top 25 percent of colleges and universities in the nation."

Bales added that this accomplishment occurred during a period when there was a significant decrease nationwide in the percentage of alumni who contributed to their alma mater, especially among public universities.

"We went the other way," Bales said. "We've had a slow but steady increase. Even though we leveled off some last year, over the past few years we have seen an increase in alumni participation and an increase in total donors. I believe that's a sign that people are confident in what's going on at this university — and it's worth a personal investment."

While MTSU alumni giving is up, Bales also attributes the foundation's impressive report card to knowledgeable people who serve on the board.

"The foundation board and its finance committee, as well as the professional fund manager whom we utilize, all work together well and try to maximize what this endowment can bring to this university," he explained. "The other factor is that a couple of years ago the board changed strategically the way it managed the endowment. They looked at ways to stabilize the way we provided funds to the academic units and to balance the

need for pay-out with the need to grow the endowment."

More than a \$1 million a year is now pumped into academic units in earnings from the endowment, which appear in the form of scholarships, faculty awards and student-support programs. Bales says the way MTSU manages its endowment and directs its fund-raising programs mirrors the practices of the best colleges and universities in the nation.

"To cultivate more donors, we have placed development officers in all of the colleges in order to create a better link between our alumni and friends and their particular areas of interest," Bales said. "When people donate, they can see exactly how that money will be used—they can see the results and understand the impact."

For years, the understanding was that a public university received most of its support from the state, some support from tuition, and morsels from contracts from grants. That reality has changed over the last 30 years, Bales noted, with decreasing state support, higher tuition and a slight increase in contracts and grants.

"The fourth pillar that has really had to come into play is private philanthropy," he said. "A lot of people don't view the public university as a philanthropy. We've had to inform and educate our alumni on why we need to ask for money and how their giving can significantly impact an area that is important to them. If someone calls and says he or she would like to give to the university, my first question is, 'What are you interested in? When people can see their money doing something that is important to them, they feel better about it.'"

Bales emphasizes that gifts both large and small fuel the vitality of private support.

"While we welcome and certainly appreciate large gifts, we know that small gifts can meld together and accomplish just as much as a major gift," he said. "We have a member of our staff who utilizes students to call annual donors because we want those donors to have personal contact from the university. We want people to understand that their dollars make a difference. If we can make people feel proud of their gift, then we have done our job." ♦

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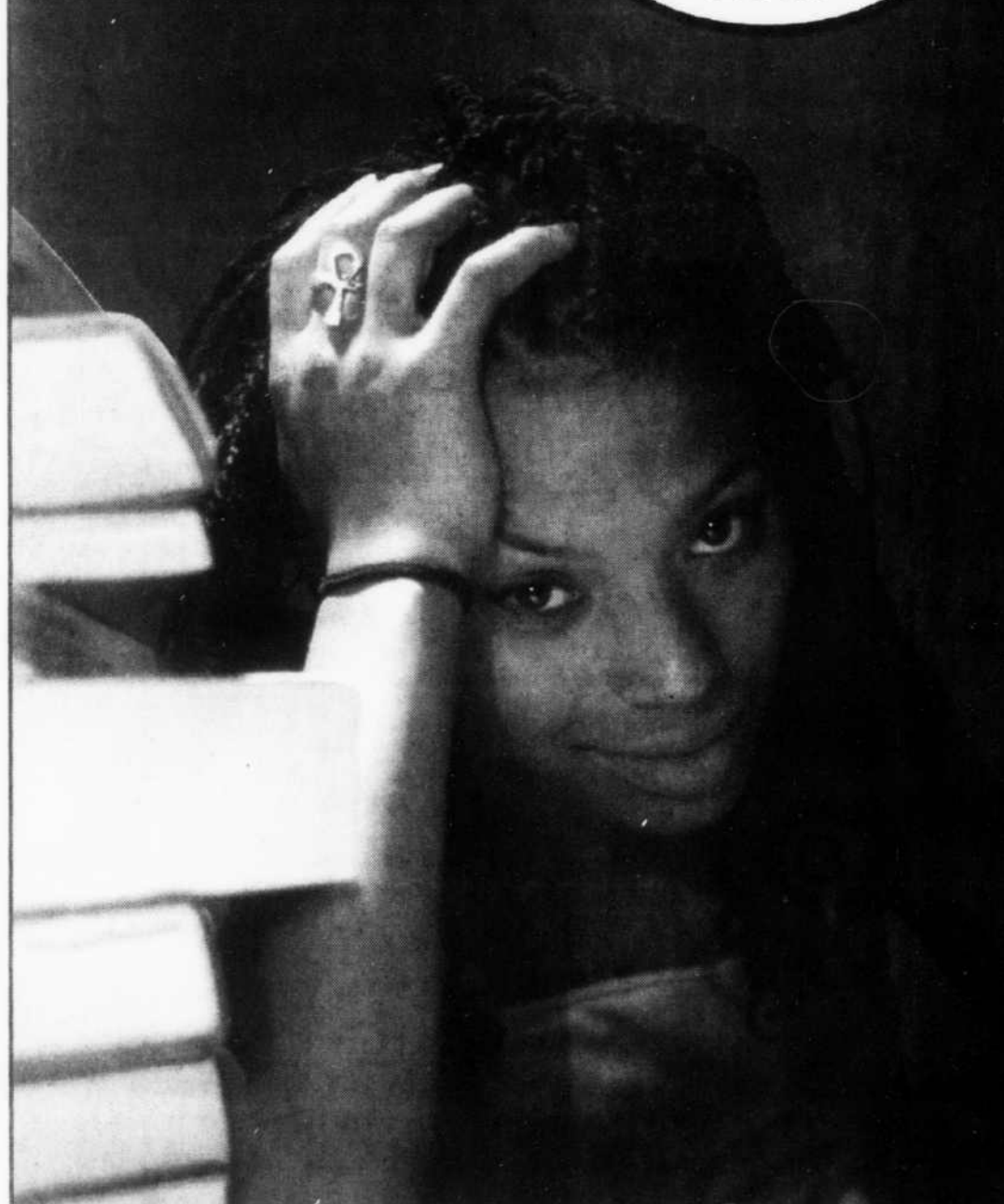
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Forty to bring classical choreography to campus

Press Release

Contributed by Lisa Rollins

MTSU Dance Theatre's 40-member cast will bring new life to the stage through innovative and classical choreography in its Fall Dance Concert, which will be presented at 7:30 p.m. daily Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Tucker Theatre.

Each year, MTSU brings a number of guest artists who present a variety of dance styles, and this year's concert will feature "Crossing Ground" choreographed by Michelle Ikle, a specialist in jazz who works with Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and the Travis D. Gatling-choreographed "Freedom Riders," which is a celebration of individuals who had the courage to take stand about racial issues in the '60s. Additionally, the concert will deliver a contemporary ballet using classical jazz music choreographed by Thomas Shoemaker.

"MTSU's guest artists match those of larger universities or more established programs," remarked Kim Nofsinger, director of dance for MTSU. "Exposure to the artists provides students with a variety of insights and experiences within dance."

Nofsinger said the fall dance event demonstrates the growth and development of the dance program and its ability to celebrate traditional dance forms and integrate contemporary ones.

"For example," he explained, "Snowball's Chance" is a lighthearted romp poking fun at formalism and contemporary proms, while "Holding Patterns" is an intense dance using seven bodies exploring intimacy in times of crisis."

The upcoming concert also will feature student-created works, including "Pink Elephant," a number choreographed by MTSU senior Kaleena DeVar, whose selection will again be presented at the American College Dance Festival in Florida this spring.

"Range and quality of performance and choreography has also heightened and clearly demonstrates mastery for both advanced and novice students," Nofsinger said, regarding the accomplishments of the program's students.

Tickets for the Fall Dance Concert may be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance. Ticket prices range from \$5 to \$10. MTSU students will be admitted free with a valid university ID.

For more information, please call (615) 494-8810 or visit the department's Web site at mtsu.edu/~theatre. ♦

Court declares telecommuters are eligible for worker's compensation

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Telecommuters or employees who work at home are entitled to worker's compensation benefits if they are injured while working, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled.

The decision issued on Friday was the first time the high court applied the same compensation laws to employees who don't work in a traditional office or factory.

However, the court ruled that the Nashville

woman who brought the case was not due compensation because the injuries she suffered were not work-related.

Some believe the ruling could result in more claims by people who work at home.

"With more and more people telecommuting, I think the numbers are bound to go up," said Terry Hill, executive director of the Tennessee Self-Insurers Association.

But the attorney for the woman in the case said her situation was unique and he doesn't expect a flood of claims. ♦

Tornado damage not enough for federal aid in Tennessee

Associated Press

KIMBALL, Tenn. — A small southeastern Tennessee town suffered millions in damages after a tornado touched down this week, but the county will not be eligible for federal disaster aid, officials said.

"We knew immediately it would fall short — it wasn't even close," Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman Jeremy Heidt said of the \$2.5 million damage estimate.

But Heidt expects that 90 percent of the damages during the F2 tornado on Wednesday night

will be insured.

The storms damaged 42 buildings and caused minor injuries to at least nine people, including three children, in the Marion County community of Kimball, about 25 miles west of Chattanooga.

Steve Lamb, the county's Emergency Management Agency director, said he wasn't surprised but he expected everyone who had losses to be able to recover.

"But we are a tight-knit community and a tight-knit county," Lamb said. "I'm confident everyone will see some kind of assistance to get their lives restored." ♦

Thanksgiving: "Take back highways"

Continued from 1

traffic fatality rates have increased due to careless and incoherent drivers. In fact, the lowest death rate recorded took place in 1983 when seven people were killed over the Thanksgiving holiday period.

Both Richards and McPherson believe that the Take Back Our Highways Program is an effective program that will reduce the number of deaths seen in previous years, and could become a regular occurrence for holidays and various other times.

This year Tennessee police agencies will try to set a

new low record by participating in the nationwide Operation Care Campaign. The OCC is an organized campaign that will post Troopers every 10 miles along Interstate 40 from the east coast to the west coast. The campaign will begin at 3 p.m. on Nov. 21 and will continue until 1 a.m. on Nov. 22.

"More officers on the roadways means more visibility. It encourages drivers to slow down and obey driving laws, which in turn make our highways safer for everyone," McPherson said. ♦

Highlights from: Nov. 8, 2007

Murfreesboro City Council

◆ The City Council unanimously passed the first of three readings Nov. 8 of a resolution authorizing a loan of up to \$10 million to Murfreesboro's Electric system. The measure would provide money for new substations and other infrastructure, with funds coming from the Tennessee Municipal League. Such a deal would essentially cut out the middle-man, according to Ron Washington, a council member since 1998. "You've got a lot more control of the money" this way, he said.

◆ The Council also passed unanimously the first reading of an ordinance its agenda described as "dealing with the notice and sale of unclaimed, abandoned and confiscated personal property." Washington said the city simply does not have enough room to store such items, a problem the measure is intended to alleviate. Such a measure would have little impact on campus. "The city has very little jurisdiction over MTSU," Washington said.

◆ Washington expects both measures to pass, but with two readings to go before they could take effect he noted "the public can always bring up something."

Information compiled by Daniel Potter

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES
seeks an
Editor in Chief
for the Spring semester

Candidates must be currently enrolled students in good standing.

To apply, complete a Sidelines staff application (available in COMM 269) and attach a resume, cover letter and the names and contact information of three references, and deliver to:

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

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

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

- News editor
- Sports editor
- Features editor
- Exposure editor
- Photo editor
- Opinions editor
- Copy editor
- Staff writers
- Staff photographers
- Design editor
- Staff designers

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

Campus Briefs

Campus Recreation

Campus Rec. will host a 3-on-3 intramural basketball competition starting Nov. 26. Deadline for entries is Nov. 20; fee is \$10.

A skip trip will visit Lake Tahoe, NV, from Dec. 16 to 21. Those interested may travel with the group or meet there. Cost including airfare is \$825 for students, \$850 for staff, \$875 for guests. Cost without transportation is \$440 for students, \$465 for staff and \$490 for guests. This cost includes transfers, four-day lift passes, and a five-night condo stay.

A scuba trip will visit Roatan, Honduras from Jan. 5 to 12. Cost for students is \$1,675 and includes five days of diving, meals, resort accommodations, transportation and equipment. Students will need passports and scuba certification card. Those interested may sign up with a \$300 deposit.

For more information about Campus Recreation activities visit mtsu.edu/~camprec or call 898-2104.

Alternative Spring Break

The Office of Leadership and Service is accepting applications for the 2008 Alternative Spring Break, in which MTSU students travel outside Murfreesboro over spring break to perform volunteer work.

Past trips have included Washington D.C., the Florida Everglades, and the Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina relief. The 2008 location is TBA. Participation is free excluding some meals.

Applications are available in KUC 326-S or online at www.mtsu.edu/~camporgs and are due by 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 21; interviews will ensue the following week.

Contact the Office of Leadership and Service at (615) 898-5812 for questions.

Acoustic Afternoons

MTSU Concerts Committee presents

"Acoustic Afternoons," every Wednesday at noon in the KUC Grill. Admission is free. Performers should register in KUC 308.

Recycle Rutherford

Recycle Rutherford will host County Ernest Mayor Burgess for an open discussion at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26, in the Commission Chambers on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse.

The public may ask questions about recycling, solid waste issues, and long-term county plans for such topics.

Recitals

MTSU's School of Music will host several free events throughout the week in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

At 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 19, there will be a performance by the Stones River Chamber Players, a faculty chamber ensemble.

At 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 20, there will be a performance by MTSU Guitar ensembles.

At 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26, Silviu O. Ciulei will perform his senior guitar recital.

Matt Jordan's senior percussion recital will follow at 8 p.m.

The Middle Tennessee Choral Society and MTSU Concert Chorale will perform Handel's "Messiah" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3. Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for children 12 and under. Admission is free for students.

For more information, visit mtsu.edu/~music or e-mail Tim Musselman at tmusselm@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-2493.

Your events could be here:

Send information about upcoming events for the campus and community news calendar to slcopy@mtsu.edu.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Sidelines wishes to invite all journalism students who are required to publish an article for class, to attend our weekly staff meeting on Monday to speak to one of our editors.

Failure to do so will result in you failing your class, which we will take no responsibility for.

Thank you for your time, and attention.

Seriously, you should have done this sooner, folks.

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Wanted in your area; Cheerleading, Baton Twirling, Dance, and Tumbling Teachers. Must have own transportation and be good with kids. Please call (615) 896-4683 or (615) 347-3595.

FOR RENT

5BR/2BA house, \$270/student x 5 (or \$315/student x 4) + utilities; security deposit: \$375/student, new carpets, washer & dryer, no

pets. Call 400-9967.
TOWNHOUSE, 2BR, 1.5 bath, fireplace, central heat and air, washer and dryer connections, near MTSU \$550 per month, \$550 deposit. Immediate occupancy. Call Bob @ (615) 566-5100.

Campus Crossing South apartment available Dec. 16. \$366/month: half off first, 6 month lease available. Handicap accessible. Washer/dryer, water, & electric inc. Call

Heather, (615) 849-1196.

FOR LEASE

Seeking a male to sub-lease Campus Crossing South Apartment. \$400 a month: includes utilities, own bedroom and bathroom. Call (423) 505-4377.

Female needed to take over lease at Woods at Greenland. First month's rent will be \$235 inc. utilities and \$410 every fol-

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NEED SUBLEASER! Woods at Greenland newly furnished three bedroom apartment. \$410/month including utilities, cable, internet, washer and dryer. Contact Sadie at (615) 424-6912 or SJC3G@mtsu.edu.

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4849 www.studenttravel.com
\$40 LASH for your opinion and 1-1/2 hr of your time. If you are a full-time student at MTSU and you would like to attend a focus group on Monday evening, November 26th in the Student Union, call (615) 898-2803.

SERVICES POLICIES

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect

advertisement of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm. Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Tips for a safe, happy and interesting break

It is the opinion of the Editorial Board that everyone should have a fairly decent Thanksgiving this year – especially the people on the Editorial Board.

In all seriousness, we sat for hours trying to think up a list of safe and interesting things that can be done on Thanksgiving (that is, if by “hours,” most people mean 25 minutes of cracking jokes about the fake tree in the Mass Comm building and how amazing or lame our individual hats are).

We compiled this list of tips and suggestions for a safe and fun Thanksgiving holiday:

•Try not to set your giant chef's hat on fire when you re-discover frying turkeys on a dare by your drunken friends. Third degree burns are not okay.

•Debate with your family whether or not the wild turkey or the Wild Turkey is what's making you fall asleep.

•Speaking of that, why not drink your relatives under the table, take pictures of them and make a Web site.

•If relegated to the kids' table (or your grandmother's basement) make a game with your cousins to see who can say the loudest, raunchiest cuss without getting in trouble.

•Insist on watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, thus sparing everyone from at least a morning's worth of football games.

•While entertaining the idea of picking up the nearest carving knife and burying it in the chest of your “I'm the best thing to happen to this family” cousin, just consider that if you do, he or she will spend the next five minutes bragging about how awesome of a death he's having.

Keep all this in mind during the holiday break. That is, assuming you see this before you head away from campus to “visit your grandmother in another state.” (Yeah, we know. Your professors know. Everyone knows.)

Happy Thanksgiving.

You can't judge a book by its cover

There's an old adage that says you can't judge a book by its cover. That's wrong. From the cover of the book, we can see its title, author, and subject. We can see in what language it is written, the publisher, age and any sort of feedback on the cover. We can even read a brief synopsis of the book. We can learn “volumes about volumes” both on the shelf and off, based solely on outward appearance.

So, why then does this tired cliché still remain in use? Is it because we have deemed it appropriate to apply to people? That's just stupid. We can learn a lot about someone using the deductive powers of inference on one's appearance.

It's a well known fact that everyone does this.

For example, the other day I was walking to the gym to go swimming when I passed a blind woman who asked me for help. I could tell she was blind for several reasons. One, she was holding a cane typical of blind people. Two, she never looked at me when she spoke. And three, she told me she was blind. Now, using my powers of intuition and common sense, I came logically concluded that she was blind. She wanted to know where the Keathley University Center was, so I gladly took her there to meet her husband, who was also blind. I figured this out all by myself, using the powers of outward appearance.

Suppose we see a black male in his early 40s. Just by looking at him, we can tell that he is black, a male, and in his early 40s. We can tell the socioeconomic factors that influence him based off of what he wears. If he were wearing a beekeeper's outfit, we might assume that he is a beekeeper – or that it is



Halloween. If he is wearing a business suit with a fancy tie and shiny dress shoes, we might infer that he is someone important. By his musculature, we can tell if he has never worked out in his life, or that he could easily rip us in half. If he walks with his head down, he might be nervous.

There are millions of signals that people are exposed to every day that they simply miss because they are taken for granted. If you walk around wearing a “Legend of Zelda” T-shirt, people will naturally assume that you are a fan of “The Legend of Zelda.” If not, then why would you wear the shirt in the first place?

Even though this will likely be taken out of context, my point is not to encourage people to make snap judgments. On the contrary, my goal is to make the reader analyze the person whom they are judging. One would be a fool to think they know someone just by looking at them. One would also be a fool to ignore the clues available. Their character may betray such evidence. There's quite a bit that we don't know about people; even the people that we think we know better than ourselves.

So can one really judge a book by its cover alone? No. Of course not. But the cover is where all judgments start.

Justin Stokes is a sophomore EMC-P major and can be reached at jds6h@mtsu.edu.

Thanksgiving Haiku:

I heart turkey
With mashed 'taters and gravy
Tasty pumpkin pie

One night Mr. Man found himself in a bar, sharing a drink with Frank Zappa and Joey Ramone...



“And Friends”

THE QUESTION

Am I dead?



frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Is there a difference?



Frank Hasenmueller

Ron Paul unusual, unfavorable

The 2008 presidential field is rife with unconventional candidates, but one of the strangest has to be Dr. Ron Paul, the Texas representative running on a platform of limiting government, as well as his unique status as a Republican contender who voted against the war in Iraq.

One of the most difficult things to understand about Paul though is his rabid base of supporters, many of whom may vote for the first time next November, and are well represented here on campus. It raises the question of whether they truly understand what the man advocates, or have simply fallen prey to his shrewd marketing of choice issues.

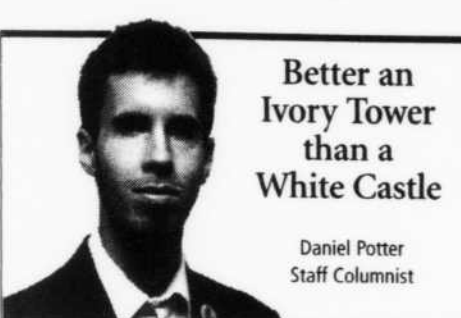
Granted, Paul has some respectable credentials. He was a flight surgeon for the Air Force in the 1960s, though he never served in Vietnam, a conflict he now considers “totally unnecessary” and “illegal,” the New York Times reports.

Speaking of totally unnecessary and illegal, there's the invasion of Iraq and the Patriot Act. Paul voted against both. Democrats must be envious – Hillary Clinton likely wishes she could boast the same.

Paul's site also brags, “In 1976, he was one of only four Republican congressmen to endorse Ronald Reagan for president.” Forward thinking, wasn't he, to recognize Reagan's potential so far ahead of his peers? Well, not so much; in 1976, the Republicans already had an incumbent in the White House – Gerald Ford.

Of course, in 1976 many of Paul's present-day supporters were just twinkles in their parents' eyes, so they can hardly be expected to know such details. In fact, certain key facets of Paul's campaign appear lost on his supporters among the MySpace generation, but we'll get to the economy in a second.

On the subject of MySpace, Paul's online presence is impressive. For instance, although Paul's percentage of supporters in Gallup polls is only roughly one-tenth that of Clinton's, he claims more than half her number of friends



Better an Ivory Tower than a White Castle

Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

on MySpace.

There's even a profile listing bands that think he's rad, complete with links to over a dozen musicians that have written songs explicitly stating so.

Incidentally, one such artist is called Necrophile – support for the second amendment appears crucial to much of the hard music demographic, who undoubtedly also appreciate his undeniably refreshing disdain for the War on Drugs.

While it's usually futile to dictate what is or is not rock 'n' roll, an attempt follows: being anti-choice is not rock 'n' roll, and therefore neither is Ron Paul. Done.

Having covered Paul's stances on these various social issues – which give both liberals and conservatives something to like – let us focus now on the heart of the matter.

Paul's ostensibly noble goal is eradicating government as we know it, but not at all in an awesome “Fight Club” or “V for Vendetta” sense, as many of his supporters apparently believe.

Dr. Paul crows mightily about limiting government, particularly where it interferes with the free market; it sounds bold and democratic, but its subtext is ominous.

Paul would dismantle all manner of government agencies – virtually everything but the justice and defense departments. Yes, that means public education and even Medicaid would be eliminated.

In Paul's vision, private industries would spring up to replace such essential services, somehow improving their quality despite existing to profit rather than simply serve. See also: Halliburton.

Worse still, Paul would eliminate all government regulation over such businesses. In other words, the dictates of market selection would supplant those of democratic election.

A brief history refresher: The United States used to be full of unsafe, miserable jobs that barely paid people enough to survive. Workers united to demand better treatment, but were brutalized by their rich employers for decades before the government stepped in to regulate wages and working conditions.

More recently, corporations realized they could increase their profits by outsourcing jobs overseas, to countries without laws requiring businesses to treat workers there decently. Among other things, this resulted in the loss of many good American jobs.

Point being, if by removing such federal regulation – which many people fought and died for – Paul were to succeed in returning those jobs to America, with them would come the deplorable working conditions of an Asian export-processing zone, or a Charles Dickens novel.

It might increase openings for those looking to work as riot police, but I digress.

The end result would not resolve the problems that plague our governmental agencies. It would merely capitalize on them, a boon to private industry and the wealthy, at tremendous expense to workers and the middle class.

Somehow, I doubt the rich getting richer is what most supporters have in mind when they praise Revolutionary Ron and his hope – actually, hype – for America.

Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at dgp2h@mtsu.edu.

Orwell in the U.S. government

“Slavery is freedom. Ignorance is strength. War is peace.”

Anyone can easily determine that these contradictory statements are absurd and not worthy of consideration. I trust that a few readers recognize these phrases as propaganda from the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's famous novel, “1984,” about a fictional dystopia supposedly based on what was then the Soviet Union.

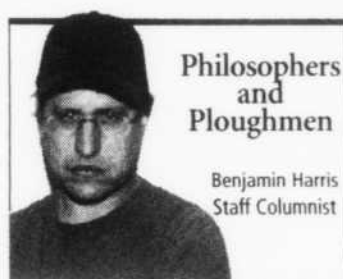
Boy, the people in that book must have been really dumb to believe that nonsense, right?

Now, roll this around in your brain:

“I just want you to know that, when we talk about war, we're really talking about peace.”

Is this another excerpt from Orwell's book? No, it's a quotation from President George W. Bush given in a speech to The Department of Housing and Urban Development on June 18, 2002.

Eight months later, he ordered the American invasion of Iraq in defiance of the United Nations. However, he claimed that he was acting on behalf of the United Nations by enforcing resolutions with which Iraq was noncompliant. Essentially, Mr. Bush was asking people to believe that truth is false, and apparently many did.



Philosophers and Ploughmen

Benjamin Harris
Staff Columnist

As of this writing there have been 3860 American military deaths, and 28451 wounded in Iraq since March 20, 2003. Over 75,000 Iraqi's have been killed in the chaos unleashed by the invasion. Then there is the refugee crisis which is another humanitarian disaster. Also, the war cost is approaching 500 billion dollars. That is 500 billion dollars we don't have, not incidentally. The “war on terror” is bankrupting our nation, like the way the Soviet Union was helped to ruin in Afghanistan. All this was sacrificed to oust one dictator?

According to Orwell, “Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.”

Consider the phrases “collateral damage” and “shock and awe” as examples.

After Sept. 11, Iran condemned the attack. The mullahs stopped leading the “death to

America” chants in their mosques. Iran helped us in Afghanistan, and offered a written peace agreement. To thank them, Mr. Bush addressed the American people in political jargon condemning Iran as part of an “axis of evil.”

Mahmood Ahmidenajad was basically a colorful, useful idiot to the Iranian leaders prior to Mr. Bush's making it his mission in life to outrage and scare the pants off of everybody in the Middle East. It was only after Mr. Bush thanked Iran by awarding them a spot in the “axis of evil” that it turned to the hardliner that promised to protect them from “The Great Satan.” Now we are told that war with Iran may be necessary.

Another quotation from Mr. Bush, “Freedom is on the march.” What does that mean exactly? Analogous to the previous quote it might mean “slavery is on the march.”

Take Pakistan, for example. Here we have another ally of the United States asserting a military dictatorship. Do we need to invade Pakistan as well to back up the assertion that “freedom is on the march?”

Another illusion is that we are “spreading democracy.” Orwell states that,

“The words democracy ...

freedom ... have each of them several different meanings which cannot be reconciled with one another. In the case of a word like democracy, not only is there no agreed definition, but the attempt to make one is resisted from all sides. It is almost universally felt that when we call a country democratic we are praising it: consequently the defenders of every kind of regime claim that it is a democracy, and fear that they might have to stop using that word if it were tied down to any one meaning. Words of this kind are often used in a consciously dishonest way.”

The truth is we are talking about nothing other than more political jargon intended to sell the American people on the war agenda and authoritarian measures like the PATRIOT act and domestic surveillance.

In order to reclaim our liberty we are going to have to prove that we value our language more than we do football, iPods, shopping and video games. Otherwise, welcome to Oceania. Big Brother is watching you.

Benjamin Harris is a senior guitar performance major and can be reached at bmh2q@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES
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Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: (615) 904-8357
Advertising: (615) 898-2533
Fax: (615) 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

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FEATURES

The life of Jeremy Beatty

Student's personal blog gives insight into the unexpected death in Cummings Hall

Compiled by Andy Harper
Managing Editor

Facebook, Friday, Nov. 9: Jeremy Beatty is actually feeling pretty good today.

Monday, Nov. 12, 2 a.m.: The Stoop Goblins gather outside of Cummings Hall. It's cold, and despite the inclement weather, pajama bottoms, t-shirts and light jackets are all they need.

The Goblins, a group of Cummings freshmen who banded together as friends, watched hours before as one of their own was taken away by paramedics. Jeremy, who joined their ranks in September, passed away earlier that evening.

"I got a call from my friend telling me there was an ambulance downstairs, and she thought it was for our friend Jeremy," says Chris Barrett, freshman recording industry major. "I ran to the stairs, grabbed the railing and flew down. I couldn't have jumped down the stairs any faster."

Chris says they saw Jeremy being rolled out on a stretcher with a sheet over his head. They all just dropped; their knees didn't exist anymore.

Jeremy wrote regularly about his own life. The following are excerpts taken from his MySpace blog, which recount his experiences over the past year.

Monday, May 21: "Time for an update on me." Current Mood: Calm.

"So a lot of stuff has been on my mind lately with all the stuff that's been going on around me with leaving ITT [Technical Institute], transferring to MTSU, financial problems, trying to get financial aid for MTSU, working two jobs, trying to make time for myself. Sometimes it just seems like too much. But I've endured much, much worse situations as some of you know, so I'll make it through this tough period."

"But it would be nice to have a special someone (that special girl) to have with me when I go out and do these things. I wait and wait and wait to meet her, as everyone tells me that if you wait, she will come along eventually, LOL. I think I've waited long enough, I think it's even starting to bring me out of my shell a bit as I've actually been going up to the girls on my own (GASP). I'm actually starting to get over my bashfulness. And that's a good thing. I'll need to get over it once I start at MTSU."

Wednesday, June 13: "Today is my birthday (year in review)." Current Mood: Content.

"So today is my birthday. I'm 28. I swear, after 21 it's just getting older to me, and closer to Social Security."

"So let's see what's happened in the past year, what happened during year 27 of my life. Well, I spent most of it studying at ITT Tech. But I've also exited out of the overpriced school. And on the bright side, I'll be starting at a real university this fall. I also got my license back and a car, so that's good. Got myself a decent job, pretty boring, but pays well for a boring job. Stayed single through the whole year, again, LOL."

"With starting at MTSU this fall, I'm really looking forward to the next year of my life. Things are really looking up. Just remember, someday, I'm going to be the best damn WWE [World Wrestling Entertainment] commentator anyone has EVER, EVER seen."

Tuesday, June 19: "So I went and saw a psychic yesterday..." Current Mood: Curious.

"Ok, so I went to a psychic yesterday, and don't ask me why, 'cause I'm still not sure myself. Maybe I was looking for some guidance about the direction of my life. But I do have a better sense of calmness with myself since I went to go see her and I can't explain it. She was being quite specific, and the scary part is how accurate she was about a lot of stuff."

"She told me that I was diagnosed with a medical condition five years ago. HOW COULD SHE HAVE KNOWN THAT! That's exactly how long it's been since I was diagnosed with diabetes. But on a good note, she said that I had a long life ahead of me."

"She said that, separately, the blue [card] means royalty, which means I will become one of the best whatever I do in the future. She said the horse represented the way I am going to gain the success, by going in charging at full speed. She said the money represented that I will be financially secure in the future, not necessarily rich, but secure. The only thing she could tell me about the writing utensils, was that either somebody will write stuff about me, or they play a major part in my future."

Thursday, July 12: "For those certain individuals that think I'm a sell out." Current Mood: Determined.

"For those of you that remember my old profile, I went into great detail about the night that changed my life forever, the night I had my accident due to a DUI."

"You see, back in the day, I was raised in East Nashville, which isn't exactly your best part of town. But my parents were pretty well off for that area of town. We were just below the poverty line, not broke, just didn't have much money. Yet my parents supported me and my sister with all of their financial ability. They brought us up with respect for others, manners and, most of all, Christianity."

[Jeremy ran away when he was 15 years old. After staying homeless for a week, he decided to go to a local shelter. Upon entering the shelter, Jeremy was diagnosed as being manic-depressive with suicidal tendencies. He was admitted to Vanderbilt Psychiatric and stayed for three months.]

"I spent Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years in a freaking psych ward for runaways. The reason I was in there so long was because they were trying to get me to say all this stuff which just wasn't true; I wasn't a manic depressive at all, but I didn't find out until almost 10 years later why."

[After his release, Jeremy returned home and began "hanging around the wrong crowd."]

"I was smoking weed, doing X, drinking all the time, skipping school, and disrespecting everyone. I was going to one of the worst high schools in Nashville as far as safety goes (and now that I think about it, the education wasn't that good either.)"

[Jeremy writes about continuing his downward spiral of partying and substance abuse. Then, on New Year's weekend in 2001, Jeremy left the club Denim and Diamonds in the Madison area.]

"I was drinking shot after shot, beer after beer, smoking bowl after bowl of weed, then going back in and drinking some more. I was plastered, blitzed, stoned and feeling good as I have ever felt, or at least I thought. I had been dancing

on the dance floor, hanging out with my friends, then I moved on to playing pool at the billiards tables. And that was the last thing I remember. I had blacked out, the next thing I knew I woke up in the hospital at Vanderbilt. I knew what had happened when I woke up but I didn't know to what extent because I couldn't remember a damn thing about the night before."

[When Jeremy woke up in the hospital, he asked the attending nurse if he had hit anybody. She said he hadn't.]

"I noticed that I could barely move, so I looked to see what I can, my shoulder had been bandaged up all the way down to the elbow. I noticed dried up blood oozing from the edges of the bandage. I looked underneath my hospital gown and noticed that I was all shades of brown, yellow, red and blue from all the bruises I had received. I asked the nurse for a mirror, she hesitated because she said I wouldn't like what I see. When she finally brought the mirror to me, I honestly didn't recognize who I was looking at."

[Jeremy's freshly bleached hair was stained with blood after being ejected through the back windshield. The wound required 12 staples. The hospital stitched together his left earlobe, bottom lip and above his left eye.]

"The doctor said that when the paramedics and cops found me I was laying on the side of Briley Parkway barely able to speak and nearly unconscious. The doctor thinks that if I had not been wearing a leather jacket, I wouldn't have survived the impact onto the concrete."

"I flat-lined twice, once in the ambulance, and once in the hospital. Angels must have been watching over me, because to this day I still believe I should of died that night, but God has a higher purpose for me, which I am still searching for that answer."

[After the accident, Jeremy lived at a mission in downtown Nashville for a few months. With no money and no job, Jeremy was confused and lacked a direction for his life. He began working for a magazine company, traveling to various cities. He hated it.]

"And when I decided that I was done with that they left me high and dry in Kansas City with no money and no way to get home. But, luckily, my family pulled through and was able to get me a bus ticket home. I had thought that that was the lowest point of my life, and decided that I would straighten up and better my life."

"After that, it was a long, hard road back. For a while I continued on the drugs and alcohol, I spent some time in jail for the DUI, was arrested twice after for violating my probation, and continued to work dead end restaurant jobs. It took my five years to get my license back, not because of the law (I could of gotten it back two years after), but because I was too scared to get behind the wheel. It took a real long time to get motivation to better my life."

"This August, I will be entering MTSU as a freshman and pursuing a degree in Electronic Media Journalism."

Wednesday, Aug. 8: "Time for an update (bored at work, LOL)." Current Mood: Content.



Photo from Jeremy Beatty's Facebook profile

"Well, on the social side. Still not going out that much with people. If I ever go anywhere, it's always by myself as usual, but I don't mind. I get to do what I want with no complaints, lol."

"But as far as other things, they are going great. My diabetes is more under control than it has ever been. And I'm actually starting to gain weight like I've been wanting to for a long while."

Thursday, Aug. 16: "A New Era In My Life Is About To Begin, and some thanks are in order." Current Mood: Thankful.

"So I decided to pursue one of my all time dreams, broadcasting. What better way to put a smile on the most people's faces than being in front of a camera for all to see. Forget Howard Stern or Rush Limbaugh, Jerry Springer or Maury Povich, their shows are all about politics, raunchiness and self-driven agendas. Their shows are made to draw attention to the media, to pull off publicity stunts or to stake their own claim on politics. My show will be a show for the people, with the people in mind. It will be all about taking people away from their real life for a little while and put their mind at ease so they can live for another day. The only agenda I have, is to brighten the future days of the future public once I graduate."

Wednesday, Aug. 29: "I can't figure it out." Current Mood: Aggravated.

"What is wrong with me? I've never felt like such an outcast in my life, nor have I ever felt more alone. I don't ever remember feeling this miserable in any period of life, not even when I had my DUI. I guess I'm just not that kind of guy that people want to get to know."

"Here I am trying to improve my life, but it's only making me miserable. I hate feeling alone, I just hate it. Why can't I be a guy t h a t

girls are interested in? Why do I always have to be 'that nice guy'? I'm actually starting to get sick and tired of always being nice to everybody, and starting to feel like I should just close myself off from the outside world since they apparently are shutting me out."

Friday, Sept. 14: "Well, I guess I finally adjusted to college life." Current Mood: None.

"I did go through a period where I was quite lonely, but I've met a pretty good group of friends. We are pretty much a fixture in front of the dorm hall, if someone doesn't see us out there it looks out of the ordinary, LOL. I'm kinda the one who stands out amongst the group, though. They were pretty much the first group to accept me as part of the "crew," they even nick-named me Bullfrog after the song 'Jeremiah was a Bullfrog.'"

Wednesday, Oct. 10: "Time for an update." Current Mood: Calm.

"All in all, I guess I'm enjoying the college experience. And for the folks that haven't heard yet, my second semester will be spent in a totally different state. While you folks are freezing your asses off in January and February, I'll be living it up under the sun in Orlando, Fla. I'm accepting an internship at Disney for the second half of my freshman year. I'm gonna be working at the themepark while taking classes at the themepark as well. I will be living in some real nice apartments that are fully furnished by Disney, all the way down to the plates and silverware. And I'll also get the chance to work with ESPN since they are owned by Disney and sportscasting is one of the things I was considering doing when I graduate."

"Well, I've already went WAY too long with this update, so I'm gonna stop right here and maybe do a part two some other time like when I get home on Friday, unless I decide to leave earlier and come home after class on Thursday night. So until I see y'all... Peace Out, BullFrog."

What friends are saying about Beatty's death:

"You were not supposed to die. You were one of the strongest people I know and you lived through so much. It's hard to believe you met a situation you couldn't overcome."

"Jeremy, though you thought that you never made an impact on people, you sure have made a huge one on me and others. You were a true friend and you will be sorely missed but never forgotten."

"You, sir, were one of the most respectable, honest and trustworthy people I have ever met. Your life will always be remembered by the Stoop Goblins, and we will never forget. That's a promise. We love you man."

"I only just got to meet you. I didn't know you very well, but I can tell from your friends how great you were and that you will be missed. Thank you for making me feel welcome. I've never met a nicer group of people."

"Your honesty, caring nature, spirit and even the goofiness only you could pull off are just some of the things that made you great. I can't believe you're gone, and I wish we had gotten to hang out more. I will pray everyday for your family. I pray God will comfort them. You were truly one of a kind, bro. You have overcome so much in your life and you had such a bright future. I guess God needed you in Heaven more than he needed you on Earth. Rest in peace, Jeremy."

"Jeremy, I'll miss you so much. You were such a great person—respectable, funny. You will be missed."

SPORTS

Middle Tennessee 3, Western Kentucky 0 Sun Belt Conference Volleyball Championships



Middle Tennessee's volleyball team, coached by Matt Peck, poses for a picture with their newly won Sun Belt Conference tournament trophy. This is the second year in a row that Middle Tennessee has won the tournament. With the win, the team gained an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, which begins Nov. 29. Tournament brackets will be announced on Sunday Nov. 25, at 7:00 p.m. on ESPN2. The team will host the University of Alabama-Birmingham on Friday Nov. 23 at the Alumni Memorial Gym.

MT Volleyball wins Sun Belt title

Blue Raiders defeat Hilltoppers for second time this season to clinch automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament

By Clarence Plank

Staff Writer

The successful season of Middle Tennessee's volleyball team continued Saturday evening as they swept the Lady Hilltoppers 3-0 in the final round of the Sun Belt Conference Championships in Denver, Colo. Middle Tennessee (32-2) defeated Arkansas State and Florida International in the tournament before beating the Lady Hilltoppers to gain their second conference tournament title and another trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Ashley Adams and Ashley Mead both finished the game with 16 kills, respectively. Adams had 10 digs and four block assists, while Mead had six digs and three block assists.

Game one saw the Blue Raiders and Western Kentucky playing with the same intensity that they are both known for. Both teams tied the score 23 times before MT started to battle back. Down by one point 32-31, The Raiders rallied to score three straight points to take the first game 34-32.

Western Kentucky took a two-point lead in the second game 15-14. The Blue Raiders managed to score four points, but the WKU lead was 22-18. After a timeout by the Blue Raiders, MT allowed another point to the Lady Hilltoppers.

MT started to chip away at the score, tying the game at 26-26 on an attacking error by Western Kentucky.

Quanshell Scott got a service ace and Ashley Asberry gained a kill to help MT take a 2-0 lead into the break.

Game three saw both teams trade scores again, but this time the Blue Raiders took the lead and never looked back. An attack error

by Western Kentucky sealed the win for the Blue Raiders, who then rushed the court to celebrate their second Sun Belt Championship.

"It was a great match, Western Kentucky played us great the first two games," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "I think in game three we relaxed a little bit, which I think we needed to do. We played pretty much an error-free match today and yesterday and I think that is what won us the match."

Asberry, Scott and Izabela Kozon each had six kills in the game. Asberry had nine block assists, while Scott was standing strong for three block assists. Kozon rounded out the bunch with two block assists of her own. Leslie Clark tallied 40 assists, seven digs, three block assists and three kills.

"Obviously, Ashley Adams, Ashley Mead, Quan, Ashley Asberry and Izabela Kozon all contributed to this outstanding effort," Peck said. "I am just so proud of this team. A very young team out there, three sophomores and a freshman outside and I am just very proud of our girls."

MT ended Western Kentucky's season with 53 kills, while hitting .354 in the series.

Adams earned the Most Outstanding Player in the Tournament. Clark and Scott were named to the All-Tournament team.

The NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball brackets will be announced on Sunday Nov. 25, at 7:00 p.m. on ESPN2.

MT will be back in action on Friday, Nov. 23 at the Alumni Memorial Gym to take on the University of Alabama-Birmingham at 7 p.m.

Admission to all home volleyball matches is free. A live broadcast of the match will be available on GoBlueRaiders.com. ♦



All-Conference Volleyball First Team:

Ashley Adams (Middle Tennessee, Jr., OPP/S)

Ashley Asberry (Middle Tennessee, Jr., MB)

Leslie Clark (Middle Tennessee, So., S)

Kim Muller (Denver, Sr., MB)

Yarimar Rosa (Florida International, So., OH)

Olga Vergun (Florida International, So., OH)

Megan Argabright (Western Kentucky, Jr., MH)

Julia Noe (Western Kentucky, Jr., S)

Player of the Year:

Ashley Adams (Middle Tennessee, Jr., OPP/S)

Coach of the Year:

Matt Peck, Middle Tennessee

MT vs. Troy: The tale of two teams

Injuries, near upsets define Stockstill's second season

By Brian Estes

Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders football season has been highlighted by the emerging young players at key positions, but near upsets, close losses and injuries also played key roles in the story of the season. A close loss to Louisiana Lafayette all but ended MT's bowl hopes, but it is possible for the Blue Raiders to continue playing after the regular season finale next Tuesday at Troy.

MT would become bowl eligible and finish 5-2 in conference play with a win against Troy. From there, Florida International would have to break a 21-game losing streak by beating Florida Atlantic, who is one spot ahead of the third-place Blue Raiders. Florida Atlantic would then have to beat Troy the following week, thereby handing Troy its second loss and MT, Troy and Florida Atlantic would share the Sun Belt Conference Title. That scenario would put Troy's overall record at 7-5, likely making the Trojans a more attractive bowl pick than MT and FAU, who would both finish 6-6.

MT has experienced some near upsets and close losses. When MT pressured then No. 8 Louisville by scoring five touchdowns in the first half on a Thursday night ESPN broadcast, much attention ensued. Fans booed Louisville players as they made their way into the locker room at halftime. The Cardinal defense held firm in the second half as Louisville held on 58-42, but MT's offensive output became a rallying point for players, coaches and fans.

Four weeks later, the Blue Raider nation was in a

stir as the highly touted Virginia Cavaliers traveled to Murfreesboro, marking the first time a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference visited Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium. A holding penalty on fourth down gave Virginia a new set of downs late in the first half and allowed the Cavaliers to tie the game after MT had gone ahead.

The Blue Raiders had a lead with a minute to play and looked poised to win in dramatic fashion, but the Virginia offense woke up on its final drive to score a game-winning field goal with eight seconds to play.

The Blue Raiders also fell to rival Western Kentucky in a back and forth game in which MT kicker Matt King missed a potential game tying field goal as time expired.

In the 2007 season, a select group of players rose to prominence. True freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher became a household name with a breakout season after filling in for starter Joe Craddock, who was injured Sept. 15 at LSU. Dasher began to turn heads with his frantic downfield scrambles against Western Kentucky, then bolstered his reputation by throwing for 240 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for two more in a 47-6 win over Florida International the next week.

Dasher isn't the only player having a breakout season. Freshman cornerback Jeremy Kellem broke

See MT Season Recap, 7

Momentum from last season's successes carry Troy

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

Big wins, powered by the Sun Belt's top offense and defense, have led the University of Troy Trojans to an undefeated Sun Belt Conference record.

In the Trojans' (7-3, 5-0 SBC) seven wins, they have outscored their opponents by an average of

19.9 points. On Sept. 14, Troy pulled off the biggest upset for a SBC team this season. Troy beat up on Big 12 opponent Oklahoma State 41-23 on Sep. 14 in a game that saw the Trojans rack up five turnovers against the Cowboys' vaunted offense. That victory was the start of a six-game winning streak that ended when Troy fell to No. 10 Georgia 44-34 on Nov. 3, 2007.

Currently, the Trojans are riding a seven-game in-conference winning streak that dates back to Nov. 25, 2006, a victory over Middle Tennessee dubbed the "Miracle in Murfreesboro."

Troy has been gotten the job done on both sides of the ball this season. It has both the SBC's top scoring offense and scoring defense. On offense, the Trojans are led by senior quarterback Omar Haugabook. Haugabook is in the top ten in the SBC in both passing yards and rushing yards per game, and his 299.7 total yards per game puts him in first place in the conference in that category.

Joining Haugabook in the backfield is senior

running back Kenny Cattouse, who is fifth in the SBC in rushing yards per game with 73.8. Cattouse is also second on the team in receptions with 33. In fact, the Trojans run a very diverse passing game. Thirteen Trojans have caught a touchdown pass this season.

On defense, Troy features senior cornerback Elbert Mack. Mack is tied for the league lead in interceptions with seven and is in first place in the SBC in passes defended with 13.

In the other corner spot is Leodis McKelvin. While McKelvin does not have as many interceptions as Mack, he is fourth in the conference in passes defended with 10 to go along with two interceptions.

One big problem for Troy this season has been turnovers. The Trojans have thrown 14 interceptions to go along with 12 lost fumbles. For the season, they are +2 in turnover margin. Haugabook has contributed his fair share of the turnovers. Although he has completed 15 passes for touchdowns, he also thrown all 14 of Troy's interceptions.

Troy is in the driver's seat for the remainder of its SBC schedule. Its undefeated record is easily tops in the conference and the Trojans are guaranteed at least a share of the conference title as long they win one of their two remaining games.

Troy will look to extend its conference winning streak on Nov. 20 when it plays the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (5-6, 4-3 SBC).

On Dec. 1, Troy will be hosting the Florida Atlantic Owls, a game that will feature the only two teams to be in first place in the Sun Belt Conference this season. ♦



'First Shot' brings a rough start

Men's basketball team starts season at 1-2 in First Shot Exempt Tournament; Calvin O'Neil out for the year



Photo by Tac Richardson | Staff Photographer
Junior Calvin O'Neil was injured in the first game of the season against San Jose State. He averaged a team-best 12.3 points in the three SBC Tournament games.

By Dwayne Douglas

Staff Writer

While hosting its first basketball tournament during the regular season, MT learned that the team would need some immediate changes.

Coach Kermit Davis watched his team play three games in which he had to ask himself if he had spent enough time in practice on defense.

The Blue Raiders opened the season against San Jose State in a game that had fans sitting on the edges of their seats for the final two minutes. MT fell behind early in the game, but was no longer playing catch-up at the end.

During the game, there were several times when it looked as if the Blue Raiders were going to take the lead. However, the team couldn't make enough defensive stops. They managed to tie the game late in the second half, but the poor defensive play allowed San Jose to take the lead again. "We just couldn't get stops," said Davis.

MT finally took the lead when Nigel Johnson hit a big three pointer with 24 seconds left in the game. The Blue Raiders' poor defense then continued as they gave up an easy game-winning basket with five seconds to go in the game.

Several players left the defensive part of their game at home, but Davis was really disap-

pointed in the lack of defense by guard Kevin Kanaskie. "I'm Kevin's biggest fan, but we couldn't find anyone he could guard," said Davis. The coach summed up the loss by saying that it was fitting that they back cut him [Kanaskie] for the score at the end.

Starting 0-1 was not the biggest loss for the Blue Raiders on opening night. Unfortunately, the team lost starting guard Calvin O'Neil to a season ending injury. Davis says the injury is an ACL tear. "He couldn't put weight on it and he is one of the toughest guys I've ever coached," said Davis.

Losing O'Neil will surely hurt as guard Demetrius Green credits O'Neil as being one of the best players on the team. The coach also had some strong words for the way O'Neil plays the game. "You can't replace Calvin's intangibles," said Davis.

As the First Shot Tournament continued for two more days, the Blue Raiders found a couple of players wanting to contribute more after the loss of O'Neil. Green played well as he was inserted into the starting line-up. Josh Sain received limited minutes, freshman John Sain also played well as he came off the bench for two games and sparked the offense.

Sain said his role on the team is to play defense, but he played more like an offensive player. He acknowledges that many freshmen may not get in the game and just shooting immediately, but said he was just

feeling comfortable.

He may now be rewarded for adding to the Blue Raiders offense. "I want to play him a lot. His attitude is good. I can see his minutes increasing a lot over the next few weeks," said Davis.

MT has some offensive answers to help its 1-2 team, but improving the defense is something the coaching staff will continue to work on. Davis said his players would receive one day off before returning to work hard on defense.

The team allowed San Jose State to shoot sixty-two percent. Appalachian State shot an incredible sixty-eight percent against the Blue Raiders. No team has shot a better percentage in the Murphy Center. MT's best defensive night came when they beat Lipscomb after allowing the team to shoot only thirty-five percent. However, the low percentage for Lipscomb was actually on improvement to what the team shot against Appalachian State the previous night.

Davis is aware that his team can't turn it around completely before playing the University of Tennessee, but any improvement will be a step in the right direction.

Their game against the Volunteers will be Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. from Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville. It will be televised live on Fox Sports South and can be heard on 1450 AM and 106.7 FM. ♦

MT Season Recap

Continued from 6

in early with a blocked punt against Florida Atlantic in the season opener. He is second on the team with three interceptions and has 24 tackles and two forced fumbles.

"I think he's got a beautiful future ahead of him," Coach Rick Stockstill said. "He's had a big impact on our defense and special teams. As a true freshman, he got here three weeks before the start of the season and then turns around and plays against Louisville on national television."

DeMarco McNair has helped carry the rushing load this year. He is second on the team with 462 yards and nine touchdowns. Senior Taron Henry led the receiving corps with 418 yards on 29 catches and five touchdowns.

But injuries have also taken their toll. In all, 25 Blue Raiders have missed playing time because of injury. Notably, Craddock missed four games, and Dasher has been out for two. Stockstill said tailback Phillip Tanner likely won't play against Troy, and said Kellem has a "broken or chipped bone" that may require a cast after the season.

"I think the big thing with the injuries is it's forced us to play some young guys before they were ready to play," Stockstill said. "It's affected out depth at certain positions, especially with the big guys that we lost. That forced us to move some outside guys to the inside, and now you take away from the depth." ♦

Michigan coach Carr to step down

By Larry Lage

AP Sports Writer

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr will retire Monday after 13 seasons, ending an era marked by highs of winning a national championship and five Big Ten titles and lows of losing to Ohio State and Appalachian State.

Carr told The Associated Press of his decision Sunday by phone, saying he wouldn't comment further until a Monday morning news conference at the school.

The 62-year-old coach informed his players and staff of his retirement Sunday during a team meeting at Schembechler Hall.

"It's a hard thing to deal with," safety Jamar Adams said. "We're like a family, and when the head of your family is leaving, it's hard."

The news comes a day after Michigan lost to Ohio State for the fourth straight year, ending a trying season for Carr and the Wolverines that started with an embarrassing loss to second-tier Appalachian State.

It was a move many expected last winter when he altered his contract, paving the way for this to be his last season on the sideline, and later made sure the school gave all of his assistants unprecedented, two-year deals.

Carr is 121-40 with a .752 winning percentage, ranking him seventh among active coaches just behind Florida State's Bobby Bowden and ahead of South Carolina's Steve Spurrier before he retired.

But in a what-have-you-done-lately environment, Carr will be remembered by some for the way his team closed seasons toward

the end of his career and how it opened 2007.

The four consecutive losses to Ohio State, matched Michigan's longest losing streak in the storied series, and Carr became the first coach in school history to lose six times in seven years in the rivalry.

The Jim Tressel-led Buckeyes beat the Wolverines 14-3, Saturday, dropping Carr to 6-7 overall in the matchup that matters most.

"Lloyd Carr is one of the true gentlemen of college football," Tressel said Sunday. "His legacy is extraordinary and his leadership in the coaching profession is greatly appreciated. He made a difference in collegiate athletics."

Carr led the Wolverines to the 1997 national championship and five Big Ten titles. He won .779 percent of his conference games, trailing the success rate of just two coaches that were in the Big Ten for at least a decade: Michigan's Bo Schembechler and Fielding Yost. Against top-10 teams, Carr was 17-9.

Michigan has lost its last four bowl games, including three Rose Bowls, the longest post-season skid since Schembechler dropped seven straight in the 1970s.

The Wolverines were ranked No. 5 before this season started with voters who thought returning stars on offense would make up for inexperienced players on defense and special teams.

Then, they began the season by losing to Appalachian State, becoming the first ranked team to lose to a team from the Football Championship Subdivision, formerly Division I-AA. That led to an unprecedented

fall out of the poll.

Michigan followed up that embarrassment by losing to Oregon 39-7 at home, its worst loss since 1968.

The Wolverines did rally, however, with eight straight wins and had a chance to win the Big Ten title outright and earn a spot in the Rose Bowl in the regular-season finale against Ohio State. With the loss to the Buckeyes, Michigan is likely to end up in the Outback Bowl or the Alamo Bowl.

Carr's career was a lot like the 2007 season: Relatively rough at the start; great in the middle; lackluster toward the end.

The longtime assistant was elevated to interim coach on May 16, 1995, after Gary Moeller resigned following a drunken confrontation with police. Michigan dropped the interim tag toward the end of his first season.

The Wolverines lost four games in each of Carr's first two seasons, then went 12-0 and won the national championship a decade ago accomplishing a feat the late Schembechler didn't.

Michigan won Big Ten titles in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2004 under Carr.

Candidates for the position might include LSU head coach Les Miles, Carolina Panthers assistant Mike Trgovac, who played for the Wolverines and joined their coaching staff in 1984 as a graduate assistant; Kirk Ferentz of Iowa, where University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman was before coming to Ann Arbor; and NFL head coaches Bobby Petrino in Atlanta and Tampa Bay's Jon Gruden. ♦

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MT looks to finish season at .500

Palladium trophy on the line on national broadcast

By Chris Martin
Staff Writer

With a shot at the Sun Belt title likely out of reach, Middle Tennessee will look to climb back to .500 when it travels to Troy, Ala. on Tuesday to take on the Troy Trojans.

MT (5-6, 4-2 Sun Belt) lost at home to Louisiana-Lafayette 34-24 on Nov. 10. The loss sealed the fate for the Blue Raiders as they are unlikely to receive a bowl bid after the Ragin' Cajuns snapped their four-game winning streak.

"We are disappointed that we lost the UL-Lafayette game," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "We just ran out of gas in the second half. I think the injuries and so forth just caught up to us."

While the Blue Raiders are not completely out of the Sun Belt Conference title picture, it would take a highly improbable turn of events for MT to land in the New Orleans Bowl, which is the only bowl that guarantees a spot for a Sun Belt Conference team.

"We have a ton to play for at Troy," Stockstill said. "At this point, there is still hope that we can be in the mix to share the championship. When we play the game we will know if that's the case because some things have to happen. Is it a long shot? Yeah, probably, but there is still hope."

In order to grab a share of the conference championship, MT would have to beat Troy (7-3, 5-0 SBC). Troy would then have to lose to Florida Atlantic. Also, FAU would have to lose on the road against Florida International, a team that is on a 21-game losing streak with its last win coming on Dec. 5, 2005.

The Trojans have destroyed SBC competition this season. In its five conference wins, Troy has managed to defeat its opponents by an average of 23.4 points.

"Troy is very good, obviously," Stockstill said. "They have one of the better offenses and defenses in the conference. Defensively, their team speed is very noticeable. Their back seven will be the best we have faced all year within this conference."

Troy features the SBC's top offense and scoring defense. The Trojans' offense features senior quarterback and reigning SBC player of the year Omar Haugabook. Haugabook leads the SBC in total offensive yards per game with 299.7.

"He gets rid of the ball and that's the big thing," Stockstill said. He's a strong young man. He's big and physical back there. If you can get to him you have to get him to the ground."

Haugabook should prepare to see some pressure on Tuesday as he is going against the top sack defense in the conference. MT has tackled the quarterback in the backfield an SBC leading 25 times.

One question MT faces this week will be who is going to start at quarterback. Against ULL, redshirt junior Joe Craddock began the game but was pulled due to poor play. However, his replacement, freshman Dwight Dasher, is still recovering from a knee injury he sustained on Nov. 3 against Louisiana-Monroe.

The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and will be aired on ESPN2. ♦

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