

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 36

## INSIDE

### Finding their own way



Three MTSU graduates find their place within the job market rat race.

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## COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Greek Row to Blue Raider Drive will be closed this week for final surface paving.

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements.

With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students.

You will not be able to access the campus via Womack Lane.

For more information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~parking](http://www.mtsu.edu/~parking)

## Student assaulted over parking

By BYRON WILKES  
Community News Editor

Campus Police arrested an MTSU student at 10:14 a.m. Wednesday following a confrontation over a parking spot with another student that led to a bloody assault involving a bladed instrument.

The incident took place after two MTSU students tried to pull into the same parking place in the Bell Street parking lot.

"Both individuals were in the lot waiting on a space when both of them tried to pull into the same spot," said Chief of Police Buddy Peaster. "At some point, both individuals got out of their vehicles and approached each other, though it is uncertain whether this happened immediately after they got out of their cars or a few minutes after."

One of the drivers, Starlett Custer, then allegedly assailed the other driver by pulling a sharp instrument out of her purse and repeatedly cutting her.

"There was blood all over. Blood on her hair, blood on the car, blood on the pavement," said parking authority employee Howard Rhodes, who was working in the parking lot when the assault happened. "It was ugly. It seemed like [Custer] came at her 20 times."

MTSU police arrived after a 911 call was sent to the Murfreesboro Police Department, and the department notified campus authorities. Along with the MTSU police and MPD, EMS and the Murfreesboro Fire Department were

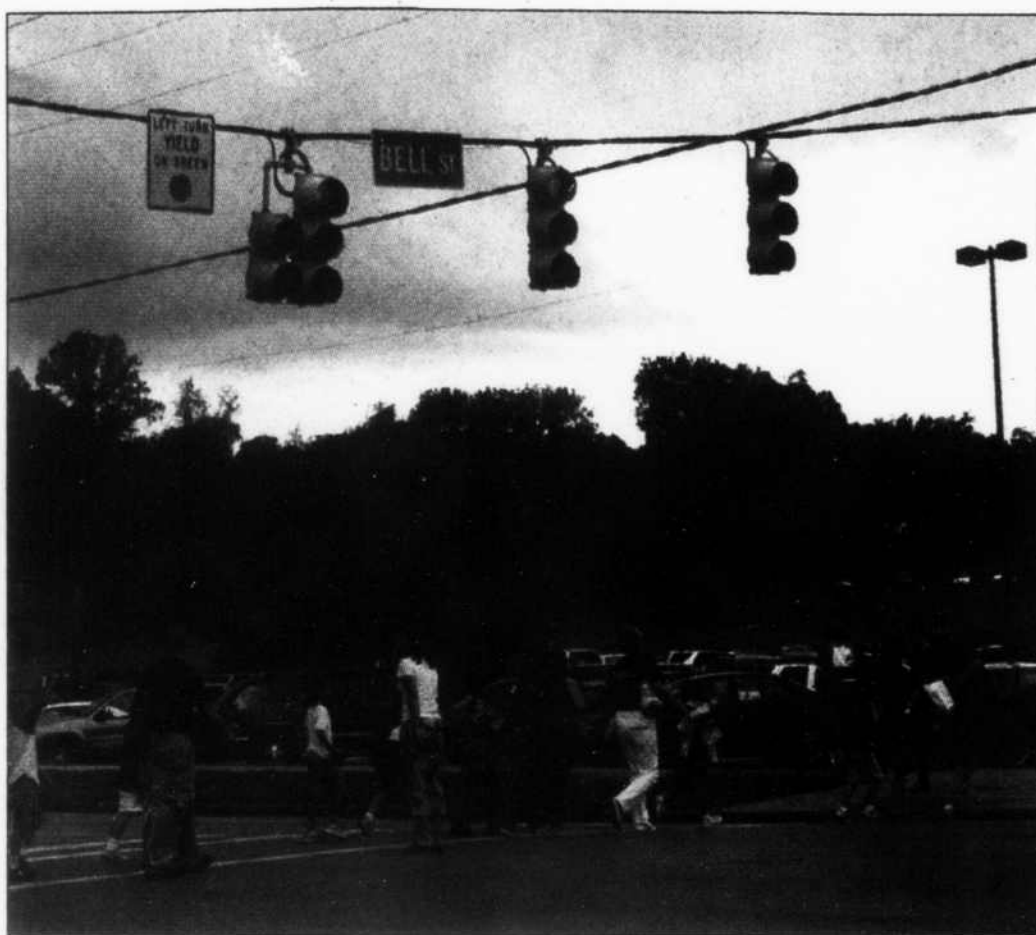


Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor  
Students walk across the street to Bell Street parking lot.

also sent to the scene of the crime.

The 17-year-old victim, whose name is being withheld, was taken by ambulance to Middle Tennessee Medical Center for treatment.

**"There was blood all over her hair, the car, and the pavement."**

HOWARD RHODES  
Parking authority employee

ment of her lacerations. She was then transferred to Vanderbilt Medical Center a few hours later for specialized attention. According to police, the victim was cut on her face, left shoulder, fingers and hands, though it is possible she may have sus-

tained further injuries.

"The wounds that the victim received are consistent with defensive wounds," said Peaster. "There was some difficulty getting the ambulance to the scene of

eligible for bail as of last night.

"It was a very unfortunate incident," said MTSU President Sidney McPhee. "I hope that this will teach students to make better decisions when it comes to the parking situation. [MTSU] has more than enough parking, and students need to learn to plan ahead and come to campus earlier so that they can make it to class on time. We are very sorry for what happened to this young girl, and we hope that she will get well and make a quick recovery."

Custer is being charged with one count of aggra-

ASSAULT, PAGE 2

## Football game closes various parking lots

Administration advises students to walk to classes and stadium to reduce traffic around south side of campus

By TIFFANY GIBSON  
Campus News Editor

Several parking lots will be closed throughout the day Thursday in preparation for the first home football game against Troy.

The Kirksey Old Main parking lot will be closed at 2 p.m. for reserved parking, the Reserved Officers' Training Corps lot behind Jones Hall will be closed at 1:30 p.m. and will be reserved only for faculty, and the Greenland Drive lot will be blocked off all day.

In addition to these lot closings, both ends of Faulkinberry Drive will close at 4:30 p.m. and exiting will only be permitted through Blue Raider Drive.

The Nursing Building curve lots will also close at 2 p.m. and will be strictly reserved for media parking only.

These lot closing have added to a long list of parking changes since the semester began.

"I think parking is horrible," said Danielle Cole, senior recreation and leisure services major. "They should have waited until later in the day to close all of



Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor  
Cars yield at the newly built roundabout near the Rec Center.

the lots."

Students in search of parking are encouraged to park in the Woodfin and Maintenance lot and the Tennessee Livestock Center.

Parking will be controlled in the Woodfin and Maintenance lots at 2 p.m., and only passes, credentials and a current parking pass will be accepted. For students and visitors that don't have passes or permits, a \$5 cover charge can be paid for parking.

The administration has

advised students to leave their cars parked and walk to the stadium or class in an attempt to keep the campus less crowded when fans arrive at 5 p.m. for the 6:30 p.m. game.

"We try to encourage students to walk to the game because traffic after the game is terribly congested," said Nancy Weatherly, parking services manager. "Campus Police officers will be directing traffic off campus as best they can because anything to decrease the traffic

on campus, especially during a game, is encouraged."

According to Weatherly, all handicap parking will be enforced, and no one will be turned away from parking in an appropriate space.

"There is always plenty of parking on campus, just not convenient parking," Weatherly said. "The Rutherford Boulevard lot across from Greek Row has 1,000 spaces and there is a bus service."

"The key to the congestion on campus is for students and employees to park in the perimeter lots and ride the bus instead of sitting in traffic, looking for a parking space that may or may not become available."

As for future plans of a visitor parking lot, Weatherly said that not enough events are held during the day, so the expense is "unnecessary and pointless."

"There are no [available] parking spaces," said Jeremiah McCrary, sophomore recording industry major. "I don't think [closing off parking lots] will affect our education."

## Flight school raises fee prices

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Assistant News Editor

It's been nearly a decade since the last fee increase, but this fall, the aerospace department will raise prices to help battle rising fuel and new equipment costs.

"We realize that any increase of any type, be it flight training, textbooks or parking passes, is an increased hardship on students, but, unfortunately, it is something that we have to deal with," said Paul Mosey, chief aerospace instructor at MTSU.

Mosey said that over the years the flight school has strived to keep the costs as affordable as possible to students, but a problem develops when universities have increased costs of operations and the equipment.

"We needed to adjust prices to get back on track and get operating costs under control," Mosey said.

There are a couple of reasons for the increase in fees, but the main reason is because of fuel costs, Mosey said.

"In January of 2004, MTSU was paying \$1.99 per gallon, which prompted a modest price increase for aircraft rental, but in May 2008, fuel costs went to \$5.20 per gallon," Mosey said.

Mosey said that with a \$2 per gallon increase, 10 gallons per hour usage per engine and 12,000 average flight hours per year, it is easy to see not only the increased losses in the future based upon those numbers, but the losses incurred over the past two years when there was no increase.

"All airlines are having to add fees and increase prices because of high fuel costs, so I think it is something MTSU needed to do," said Laura Alonso, sophomore aerospace major. "The money for it has to come from someone."

"I think that the price increases were necessary due to the rising fuel prices and the cost of the equipment," said Michael Moore, sophomore aerospace major. "The school can't be expected to just absorb the extra cost of fuel. If that were the case, then it probably wouldn't be able to provide the same level of service it has in the past."

"It's difficult to have to increase prices, but as the times change, we had to face the reality of the situation," said Wayne Dornan, chairman of the aerospace department.

Mosey said that they consider their flight school to be a premier program offering the best collegiate flight training available in the country.

"I think that the changes will end up helping aerospace students get a better education," Moore said. "Nobody likes to have to pay more money than they already are, but I hope that the extra costs will be worth it."

In order to continue the

FEEs, PAGE 4



**ASSAULT  
FROM PAGE 1**

vated assault, which is a Class A felony and has a sentence length of anywhere from 15 to 60 years.

Authorities are still looking for anyone who might have witnessed or heard the assault in order to form a more complete picture of what ac-

tually transpired Wednesday morning.

Anyone with information pertaining to the assault should notify Campus Police at 615-898-2424.

MPD also appeared at the scene of the crime in response to the 911 call.

"We are extremely thankful to the Murfreesboro Police Department for its

assistance not only in this situation but in day-to-day situations, as well," Peaster said. "It is important, not only for the staff, faculty and students of MTSU to be able to do our jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible, but also for the community. We urge anyone with knowledge about this incident to contact us as soon as possible."

Want to cover campus events?  
Explore the community?  
Come write for *Sidelines*  
Mass Comm 269

**CRIME BRIEFS**

August 20, 2008 at 9:12 a.m.

**Burglary**  
Tom Jackson Building  
Subject called and said that someone was trying to break into her room. They busted the dead bolt.

August 21, 2008 at 1:22 p.m.

**Theft**  
Keathley University Center  
Subject came to the station to file a report in reference to her cell phone being stolen.

August 21, 2008 at 3:56 p.m.

**Theft**  
Todd  
Faculty member called saying that someone had stolen items from the faculty lounge.

August 21, 2008 at 4:44 p.m.

**Theft**  
Monohan Hall  
Subject said that his bike had been stolen the night before.

August 22, 2008 at 2:06 a.m.

**Public Intoxication**  
Duds and Suds  
Michael Sharpton, Daniel Nichols and Aphtan Denton were all issued with citations for public intoxication and Michael Sharpton was issued a DUI.

August 22, 2008 at 5:58 a.m.

**Forgery**  
McFarland Health Services  
Dr. Womack advised that she wrote a student a prescription for a non-narcotic prescription, and when the student went to have the prescription filled, the student had hand written a prescription for Lora-tab.

August 23, 2008 at 1:56 a.m.

**Underage Drinking**  
Alumni Drive  
Michael Caroli and Christopher Brickhouse were picked up for Underage Consumption.

August 23, 2008 at 6:09 p.m.

**Assistance**  
Alumni Memorial Gym  
Subject needed assistance removing key from exterior door.

August 24, 2008 at 1: 20 a.m.

**Public Intoxication**  
MTSU Boulevard  
Adam Burton was cited for public intoxication.

August 25, 2008 at 7:35 a.m.

**Traffic**  
Michael Barker was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license and registration violation.

August 25, 2008 at 10: 42 a.m.

**Assault**  
Blue Raider Drive  
Candace Winters was arrested for aggravated assault.

August 26, 2008 at 10:52 a.m.

**Vandalism**  
Recreation Center Parking  
Subject called and said that someone has wiped bud on his vehicle and wrote, "Park Correctly Dumbass" in the mud. No visible damage at this time.

August 26, 2008 at 2:36 p.m.

**Assistance**  
Ezell Hall Lot  
Parking services requested an officer to help them deal with a subject who was irate about a parking ticket.

August 26, 2008 at 3:52 p.m.

**Traffic**  
Greenland Drive, Lot B  
Subject reported that his vehicle was hit while he was in class.

August 26, 2008 at 6:51 p.m.

**Theft**  
Gore Hall  
Officer flagged down because of a theft in Gore Hall.

August 27, 2008 at 1:12 a.m.

**DUI**  
Mass Communications Lot  
Charles Springer was charged with DUI, driving without a license, failure to obey a traffic control device, criminal trespass, registration violation and failure to show proof of insurance.

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# American Red Cross stays open for Labor Day

By FAITH FRANKLIN  
Assistant News Editor

The American Red Cross will stay open during the upcoming holiday, as the need for blood donations continues throughout the year.

This Labor Day, the Murfreesboro Donor Center will be receiving donations from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

"We are open on most holidays. Blood is needed 365 days a year, 24 hours a day," said Joette Philips, American Red Cross communications coordinator for the Tennessee Valley Region.

"It's a good idea for the Red Cross to be open on Labor Day," said Hayley Gholston, junior pre-nursing major. "A person can take a vacation from their job, not their health; hospitals are still open and people are still sick and in need of blood."

"It is important for the students and citizens of Rutherford County to donate," Philips said, "because there is a constant need for blood. Every two seconds, someone needs blood in America."

Each blood donation has a shelf life of 42 days, "which means that it constantly needs to be replenished," Philips said. "Usually it does not stay on the shelf that long."

The Red Cross supplies 59 hospitals in the TVR with blood everyday.

Keeping a constant blood supply requires that donors make donations a part of their routine. If a one-time donor increases his or her donation two or three times a year, it makes a big differ-

ence.

"Each donation has the potential to save up to three lives," Philips said.

Students, faculty and staff that will miss the Labor Day drive will have two opportunities to donate on campus this September.

The MTSU Association of Secretarial/Clerical Employees will sponsor a blood drive on Sept. 9, and the School of Nursing will sponsor one on Sept. 15.

Both drives will be held in the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.; donors will have the opportunity to win \$25 gas cards at each drive.

This upcoming blood drive is one of the biannual drives that the ASCE sponsors as a community service project.

"It's right here, it is simple to do and it gives students and faculty an opportunity to save a life," said Annette Merriman, coordinator for the ASCE.

To donate blood the Red Cross requires a person to be at least 17 years of age, with a minimum weight of 110 pounds.

A Tennessee law that became effective July 1 allows 16-year-olds to donate blood with written parental consent.

"We recommend that you be in good general health and feeling well the day you come into donate," Phillips said.

For more information the American Red Cross can be contacted by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visiting [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org).



Photo By Alex Moorman, Assistant News Editor  
From left to right, Charlie Gregory, Sidney McPhee, Sondra Wilson and Gene Fitch cut the ribbon for the new Recreation Center.

# Newly opened Recreation Center hosts ribbon cutting ceremony

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Assistant News Editor

The Health, Wellness Recreation Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday to introduce students to the new renovations and updated equipment that was finished this summer.

Although the rain threatened the celebration, the event continued with speakers such as president Sidney McPhee, Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, and Sandra Wilson, junior basic and applied sciences major and Student Government Association president.

People Get and S.O.S were two of the local groups playing live as students and visitors enjoyed refreshments.

Inflatables were set up while demonstrations were

given throughout the building to show students, faculty and members of the recreation center around the new additions.

As the university expands you have to expand facilities," said Katy Rayburn, Graduate student and campus recreation employee.

The facility is now open for members with a new weight room that is twice the size with plenty of new equipment to fill it.

"The expansion is really good for people who use the recreation center because it's going to create enough space for everyone to comfortably work out," Rayburn said.

"It's a good improvement, and it will bring more students to the recreation center," said Caitlin Queen, freshman biology major. "The

services just make it more convenient."

"Our student body has grown so much in the last couple of years," said Chris Wood, program assistant for intermural sports at the recreation center. "The facility we had just wasn't big enough and having the Wellness Center in with us will also be very beneficial to students because it's in a more essential area."

"My favorites are the new cardio room and the aerobic classes that they got to add," said Chelsea Odil, sophomore nursing major. "It's a lot of fun and I can already tell that there are more people showing up."

The Recreation Center has a new cardio room with new equipment and a second aerobic/sport clubroom that will help add to fitness classes.

Along with all of those changes the facility has also added a family changing room and a new improved Outdoor Equipment Rental area.

"The renovations give the Recreation Center and the Wellness Center a chance to collaborate and produce programs that can really focus on the Wellness of students," said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

"Now that the construction is over, I think that we are really going to see a difference," Fitch said. "People just don't like all of the dust and the inconvenience of construction."

"MTSU is building for the future, and this is just our first step towards that future."

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# Comedy Central Comedian performs at Murphy Center

By ANDREW M'NAMARA  
Contributing Writer

Comedy Central comedian, Mike Birbiglia, entertained over 2,000 students during his performance in the Murphy Center as part of this year's Week of Welcome.

The show was sponsored by the Student Programming and Events office and free to students and community members.

Before the show began, the pep band, dance team and cheerleading squad held a pep rally in an attempt to get students excited about the upcoming sports seasons.

During Birbiglia's performance, he told stories of awkward situations he has gotten himself into throughout his career.

David Walker, senior recording industry and Spanish education major, said Birbiglia's personal approach and ability to relate to the crowd set him apart from any other comedian.

"It doesn't look like he is trying too hard, and he just acts like a real guy," Walker said.

He was one of the youngest comics ever on the David Letterman show and a regular on Comedy Central presents.

Despite Birbiglia's success,

he has never shied away from college campus tours where he honed his niche as the guy next store comedian.

"The thing that's fun about college is that people have seen me on Comedy Central, and a lot of people who watch are high school and college students, and they know some of the jokes and some of the stuff," Birbiglia said. "It's like we are on the same page."

While Birbiglia's act contained staples of his routine such as the "Cracker, Please" skit and the "Adventures of Sleepy Carl and Wiffle Ball Tony," he debuted material from his upcoming tour, "Sleeping While Standing."

Birbiglia explained the concept of his new tour through adventures he had while sleep-walking during intense dreams, which once caused him to jump out the window of a La Quinta Inn in Walla Walla, Washington.

Mike Ignomirello, sophomore electronic mass communication major, said that the sleep-walking story and the remedy for the condition was the funniest part of the show.

"He was hilarious," Ignomirello said. "I've heard him before on CDs and stuff but live, by far, was the best."

Birbiglia's next perfor-



Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor

Mike Birbiglia previews material for his upcoming tour.

mance will take place at Zanies' Comedy Club in Nashville on Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m., with an admission of \$18.

## One-In-Teen provides answers and haven to sexual minorities

By COURTNEY WATSON  
Contributing Writer

One-In-Teen Youth Services, a non-profit organization in Nashville, is seeking to expand its membership in order to assist sexual minority youth by creating support and leadership opportunities.

Founded in 1989, One-In-Teen serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth from ages 14 to 22 in middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky.

"The attendance at a typical meeting is between eight to 14 people," said James Vincent-Huff, a board member of One-In-Teen.

Anyone can attend One-In-Teen meetings, held every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 617 Hart Lane, as long as they meet the age requirement. It is also recommended that they be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning or intersexed.

"The most rewarding part of One-In-Teen for me is be-

ing able to reach out to the younger generation so that they know that they have a place they can go and be themselves with no worry of judgment," Vincent-Huff said.

"The way people can help out the organization is to volunteer their time, volunteer as a sponsor or donate money," Vincent-Huff said.

One-In-Teen also holds fundraisers such as yard sales and car washes and corresponds with sponsors in order to generate funding for its

meetings and social events.

The group's Web site, one-in-teen.org, provides information for interested persons on upcoming events and information on attending the meetings.

"I'd like One-In-Teen to grow as an organization and to hopefully get more people to attend and to be involved," Vincent-Huff said.

One-In-Teen hopes to grow in membership and sponsorship in order to keep providing a safe haven for sexual minority youth.

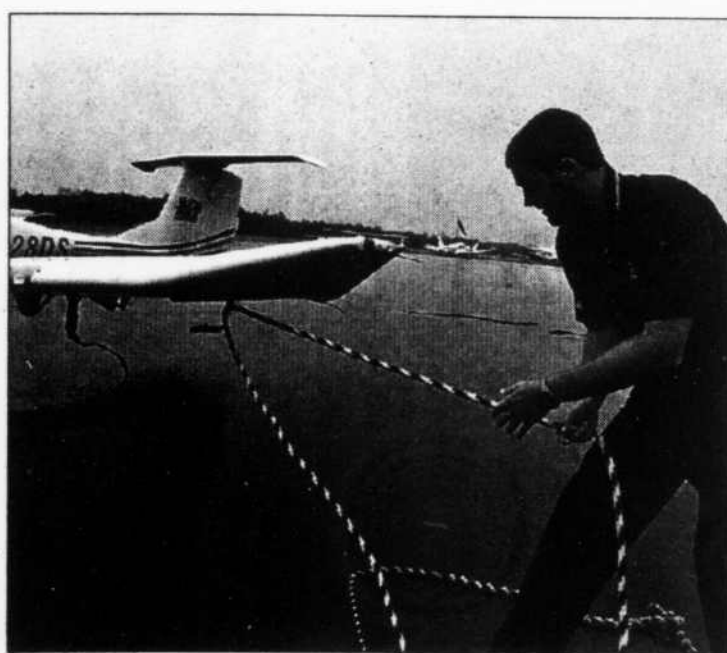


Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor

Will Thomas ties down one of the Diamond DA40 new models.

### FEES FROM PAGE 1

In order to continue the tradition, Mosey said they would need to provide excellent training to their students in order to prepare them properly for a career in sophisticated aircraft.

"We need to keep up with the latest, most advanced, state-of-the-art equipment ourselves," Mosey said.

Some of the new equipment the department recently purchased were eight new Diamond DA40 glass cockpit aircraft.

"They are considered the most advanced, single engine training aircraft available anywhere," Dornan said.

"I think that it is important to be able to train on and learn with up to date equip-

ment," Moore said. "Aviation is very technology oriented and things are constantly being updated."

To figure out appropriate amounts to charge students and compare quality of equipment, Mosey said MTSU studied various schools across the country that had similar sized aerospace programs.

"We were also well below the Tennessee Board of Regents approved amounts that we could have been charging," Mosey said.

"Flight time isn't cheap and with all the advances being made in technology, newer and more updated equipment is needed to better prepare students for when they graduate and get jobs," Alonso said.

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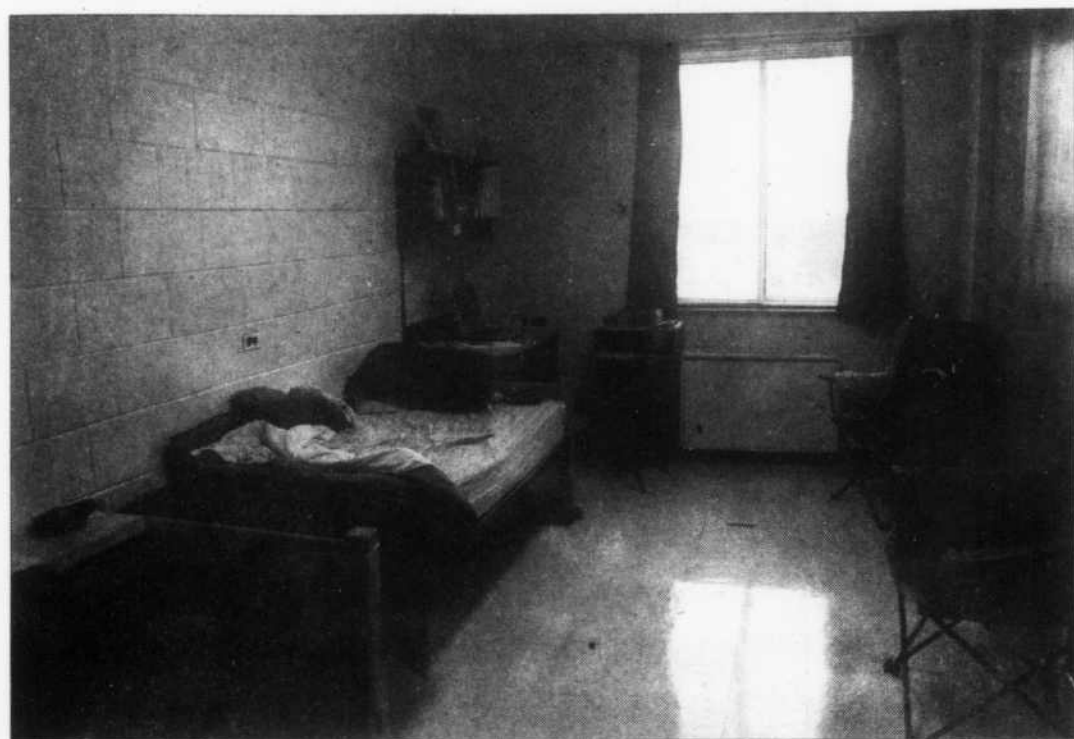
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# DECORATING ON A BUDGET

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Photos By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor  
(Above) Dorm rooms like Corlew resident Ryan Hulsey's can be decorated for very cheap.  
(Right) Corlew residents Stephanie Keys and Megan Devens fixed up their room at an affordable price.

By MADI FLOURNOY  
Contributing Writer

It's the beginning of a new school year, and that means MTSU students are moving into new dorms, apartments, condos, houses or, heaven forbid, cardboard boxes.

As you all know, being in college does not come cheap, so students are sometimes forced into decorating and furnishing these newfound homes on a tight budget.

Fortunately, there are some local businesses that accommodate a nearly-empty wallet.

A few of these places, such as Goodwill, TJ Maxx, Marshalls and The Salvation Army, have an assortment of items that won't burn a hole in the 'ole wallet, but can still liven up an empty space that you can be proud to call home.

Jack Durio, a senior nursing major, moved into his first house this year.

"I shopped at thrift stores, Goodwill and The Salvation Army especially for furniture," Durio says.

But wait, what about Wal-Mart, Jack?

"Their stuff just breaks," Durio says.

Furniture is great, but what really adds flavor to a living space are the little things.

Hit up your local Dollar General for these small items. The store has a variety of kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, picture frames and small, decorative items that, though small, add great emphasis.

If you can't afford anything big or small, fear not.

Just remember, someone else's trash is another man's treasure.

Durio lives by this saying, and found his new couches on the side of the road.

"If there is no water damage, then my buddies and I just take

it," Durio says.

Once you have all the portable items in place, then it's time to worry about color.

Joann's and Hobby Lobby are two stores that have affordable paint with a huge range of colors but also offer the most simplistic ones that meet students' preferences like Tori Cramer.

Cramer, a sophomore, decorated her bedroom with only two colors, black and white. She also used vintage posters and a \$20 comforter from Target.

"They had a great selection," Cramer says. "I always look in the clearance and sale isles."

Scott Adams, sophomore music business major, is spending his second year at college in a dorm. His room, also known as the "comfort dungeon," gives Adams a nice place to relax outside of class.

"Target keeps me happy," Adams says. "But even the cheap

things add up."

And because of this, Adams and his roommate decided to do something that wouldn't total much at all. The two decorated their dorm room with music posters from floor to ceiling for a price we can all agree with – free.

Every time the roommates attend a concert, they politely take down one of the many paper flyers or posters that are in abundance once the show is over.

"Free is for me," Adams says.

Though concerts and thievery may not be for everyone, the example Adams and his roommate set is one to follow when working on a tight budget. You don't have to fork out the big bucks to have a flavorful room.

Durio knows all about following Adam's example.

"The other day there was a pile of perfectly clean mattresses leaning against a dumpster ready to be thrown away," Durio explains. "So

I took 11 of them to lean against the walls of my music room so that they absorb the sound."

But if picking up objects on the side of the road is too scary, try the stores previously suggested.

There are three Goodwill stores in Murfreesboro, one on Memorial Boulevard, one on Old Fort Parkway and the other on Shelbyville Highway. TJ Maxx is located on Old Fort Maxx. Marshalls is on Thompson Lane.

The Salvation Army has two locations, one on West Main Street and one on Mercury Boulevard. Target is located on Old Fort Parkway.

And then there's always Wal-Mart. I'm sure you already know where that is.

So remember, you don't have to empty your funds on a room, house or cardboard box. There are plenty of ways to save money and keep your room from looking like a department store layout.



Photo Courtesy Legacy Ink

These T-shirts are just a few examples of the work the men of Legacy Ink carry out.

## MTSU grads make inking a legacy

By LAURA RAINES  
Contributing Writer

As the masses at MTSU approach December's graduation, many are worried about the job availability in our unstable economy. Graduates will attempt to enter the job force, and without their parents' credit cards, the prospect of the real world is scary.

Fortunately, though, as proven by three MTSU graduates, needing someone else to hire you is not necessary for a job.

Those former students, Troy Cheairs, Pete Patel and Semaj Thomas, decided to create a business of their own.

That business, Legacy Ink, is a screen-printing company

born in the minds of the three as undergraduate students living in Monohan Hall in early 2000. They came to college from different areas and backgrounds, but found each other through the love of fashion.

"We all met in our first fashion class," says Cheairs, who has been screen-printing since 2001.

Cheairs started out in the recording industry, but had changed to fashion merchandising by the end of his sophomore year.

"[Fashion merchandising] has always been something in the back of my head that I wanted to do, but I guess it just came out when I got to

LEGACY, PAGE 6



## LEGACY FROM PAGE 5

the point of really figuring out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Cheairs says.

Each of the guys brings a different aspect to the table with their majors and experience. Patel, a business administration major, remembers his favorite class, business policy.

"It was one of the classes that I enjoyed taking," Patel says. "The professor made you think a lot and there is no right or wrong it was just think and write it down. There are not a lot of business classes like that."

Cheairs still keeps in touch with his mentor, Professor Teresa Robinson.

"She's a wealth of knowledge," Cheairs says. "Plus you can tell she cares more about what a student is trying to do more than just, 'here's a test, take a test, keep carrying on.' Personally, I love her. She's cool."

They began humbly in a small Nashville basement. Since then, Legacy Ink has come a long way. The team's current project is a clothing line called Lovers and Fighters, a line they began to develop as undergrads. The clothes are available at the Legacy Ink's main location on Church Street and at Hang Time on Clifton Avenue in Nashville.

"We took a big step of faith coming here, and we still are because being young and being without financial backings, everything is done on a shoestring budget," Cheairs says.

But with all business comes conflict. When asked how they handled spouts, Cheairs cites loyalty, trust and respect.

"No matter what we've done outside of this, I feel like we'll still be friends. Personality-wise, we just click," Cheairs explains.

Patel says it's a group effort.

"Everybody gets to say their piece and you just have to prove your point," he says.

The alumni are looking for their piece back to the university community that has given them so much. They are always looking for graphic artists and multimedia artists.

"Another thing we want to do is work with bands," Cheairs says.

Legacy Ink searches for people, like themselves, who want to produce individual style. The storefront is filled with its own shirt designs and campaign shirts for the upcoming presidential election. In a few months, however, things will be very different.

"What we are trying to do is create a lot more [shirts] and basically black out the windows and create a retail shop in here," Patel says. "There's nothing like that around here where the shirts are printed downstairs and for sale upstairs."

Rapid Release is another idea formed by Legacy Ink. Certain shirts will be printed in small amounts, and after about a month, will be discontinued. New designs will come out right after the previous ones.

Also in the works is a new line of MTSU shirts.

"Sooner or later, we will try to get MTSU's license," Patel says. "All the stuff available at the bookstores is nice, but it could be better."

They envision moving away from strictly game day apparel to a more comfortable and trendy look like Affliction that will become a common sight on campus.

"That is a gap that needs to be filled," Cheairs says.

The Legacy Ink story is one of determination and dream realization. Today the three business partners are thriving at their Church Street location.



Photo Courtesy Legacy Ink

Models Ricardo and Dedria sport shirts from Legacy Ink's clothing line, Lovers and Fighters, in a photo shoot.



"Just doing this is a means of getting our ideas out 100 percent on our own," Cheairs

says. "We came into this wanting to start a clothing line, which we have done, but

we want to do many more things other than that."

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# OPINIONS

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### Fighting over parking is immature, reflects poorly on our campus

After the unfortunate incident on campus today, it is easy to assume that this was an isolated case of road rage, perhaps brought on by stress or due to the increasingly-frustrating parking situation on campus.

Campus parking has become such a cliché scapegoat that we might as well just devote a weekly column to it. While there truly are situations in which people legitimately have a right to complain about parking, such as professors' spaces being taken up by green-permit cars, most of our parking complaints are good ole' fashioned whining.

First of all, let's start off with the obvious. Someone was stabbed today. Over a parking spot. A PARKING SPOT! Are you serious? Really? Has it come to this? Are we really to the point where entitlement overtakes all semblance of common sense, causing people to pull weapons on each other so that they can get to Peck Hall on time?

Even more, it has been reported that the ambulance(s) couldn't even get into the Bell Street lot, blocked by illegally parked cars driven by (we're assuming) frenzied students. Cars allegedly had to be towed so that a student—who had just been stabbed—could be helped.

So let's get the story straight. An argument over an alleged parking dispute led to a stabbing. The ambulance, blocked by illegal student parking, couldn't help the victim. It has, it seems, come to this.

While we certainly hope that today's assault was an isolated, fluke attack, we really need to address the real problem here – laziness. There is plenty of parking on campus. Anyone who states otherwise should really amend his or

her argument to say "there is not enough 20-feet-away-from-the-building-my-class-is-in parking." There is a huge difference.

Yes, it sucks to rush to class when you overslept and have 10 minutes to make it from the Rutherford lot to the KOM, but you are more likely to get there on time if you just suck it up and park in the outer lots, rather than clogging up the inner arteries of campus with last-minute traffic angrily trying to find that "close" space.

Buses are still an issue. It is incredibly annoying when you do get to school early and wait at a bus stop, sometimes for 20 or 30 minutes, with nary a bus in sight. This needs to change, and will change, again if people stop driving through the middle of class during busy times of the day.

If we all walked from the outside lots in, we would probably be a more mellow bunch of students. We would also be healthier. We wouldn't fight over parking spaces. And we certainly wouldn't have to endure any tickets or stab wounds.

So which comes first—the chicken or the egg? Students parking in outer lots, hoping for the buses to gain some semblance of accountability, or the buses improving their reputation and students, then, learning to depend on them?

The point is this—no matter how long the bus may take to come, or how infuriating waiting on them may be, there is always a way to get to class. Walk. Run. Skip. Just wake up earlier and get to campus with time to spare.

Just don't resort to weaponry to solve your problems.

## Officer's safety speech borders on harassment

Personal networking sites like Facebook and MySpace can be dangerous, especially for minors.

This isn't a revolutionary concept – harassment, stalking, cyber bullying. Anyone who uses these sites is well aware of the consequences of irresponsible cyber surfing.

The ones in the worst positions are the underage users. Personally, anyone under the age of 16 who wants to operate on these sites should do so under the strict supervision of an adult.

With supervision of an adult, maybe incidents like Megan Meier – the 13-year-old who hanged herself after St. Louis native Lori Drew and her daughter ruthlessly harassed Meier, allegedly resulting in her suicide – wouldn't happen.

Despite the fact that Drew has not been found guilty of the charges brought against her, she is undoubtedly guilty in the public eye and has been sentenced to live out the remainder of her wretched existence as a social pariah.

So to battle injustices like the one suffered by the Meier family, it makes perfect sense to target minors for social site security training. Across the country – both physically and digitally – seminars, speeches and lectures are being held about how to have fun on the Internet and maintain a strong level of safety.

These informational courses are absolutely necessary, but being called a "slut" in front of your entire high school seems a little extreme – too bad for about six or seven students at Windsor High School in Windsor, Colo.

During a student body lecture about Web security



Yeah, Whatever  
Andy Harper

and safety, John F. Gay III, a Wyoming police officer, displayed students' MySpace pages, photos and comments, causing one student to leave the seminar crying.

"He told the entire student body that he had shared her info with a sexual predator in prison," said Ty Nordic, whose daughter Shaylah Nordic's MySpace page was put on display," reported Fort Collins Coloradoan.

"Shaylah Nordic said Gay told the student body that the predator said he would masterbate to her picture and then 'tear her apart.'"

Leaving a room in tears seems pretty justified for Shaylah. Imagine the scenario for a moment.

As if it isn't mortifying enough to know that some sexual deviant now has your image ingrained into his brain to use as he chooses, obtaining that knowledge in front of your entire school instead via a private conversation multiplies the humiliation a hundred fold.

And to top the entire situation off, Gay proceeded to show the Windsor High body Shaylah's cell phone number. According to Shaylah, she has been receiving text messages from people she doesn't even know.

Officer Gay should immediately be removed from teaching seminars in safety and forced to attend semi-

nars in sensitivity.

Another student, April Riggs, told the Coloradoan that her page was also displayed and mocked by Gay. Apparently, the officer pointed out pictures of April and her "best friend" locking arms and claimed that they were "touching."

Ofcourse they were touching. They had their arms around each other, they're friends, and one friend with their arm around another friend is on the low end of the spectrum of scandalous social networking site photos.

The direct bastardization of a high school friendship into a lesbian love affair isn't educational – it's harassment.

Rick Porter, principal of the school, said he was disappointed with how Gay presented the material – despite being previously informed that Officer Insensitive would use Windsor students' profiles as a part of the presentation.

"I am apologizing to everyone who was embarrassed and humiliated," Porter said. "But I do not apologize for the message of Internet safety. It's a very good message."

In the meantime, Shaylah and April will have to survive the rest of their high school careers. It may not seem like such a major deal to their teachers, administrators or Officer Gay, but as one student told the Coloradoan, "It's ruining their high school years. That's not something that people will just forget about."

Hopefully a noose isn't looking too appealing to any of the Windsor students.

Andy Harper is a journalism major and can be reached at [sah3u@mtsu.edu](mailto:sah3u@mtsu.edu).

## FACES IN THE CROWD

### What do you think about the new roundabout?



Neff

"So far it seems like people are going too fast. I'm afraid of it...[and] am going to ride my bike to campus."

Kate Neff, senior • electronic media



Strader

"It needs better signs. A lady came around the wrong way and almost hit me."

Lisa Strader, freshman chemistry



Paul

"I think it should be called the 'circle of death' and not the 'roundabout.'"

Lisa Paul, senior education

## COMICS

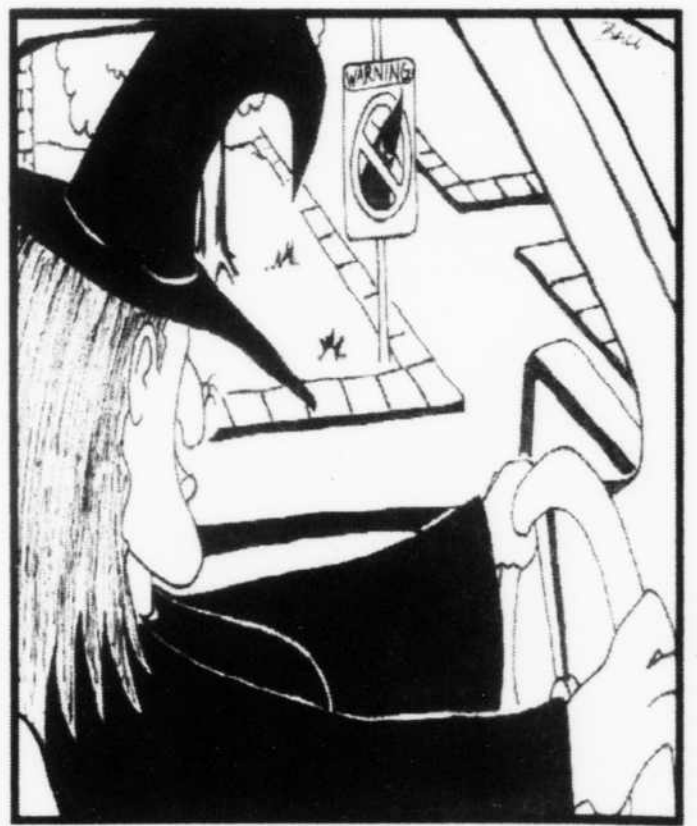


"And Friends" frankhasenmueller@gmail.com Frank Hasenmueller



"Last Ditch Effort" lde-online.com John Kroes

### The finer things...



Morganna was having a hard time finding a new house due to all the neighborhood witch programs

TheFinerThingsComics@yahoo.com Jeremy Ball

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# SPORTS

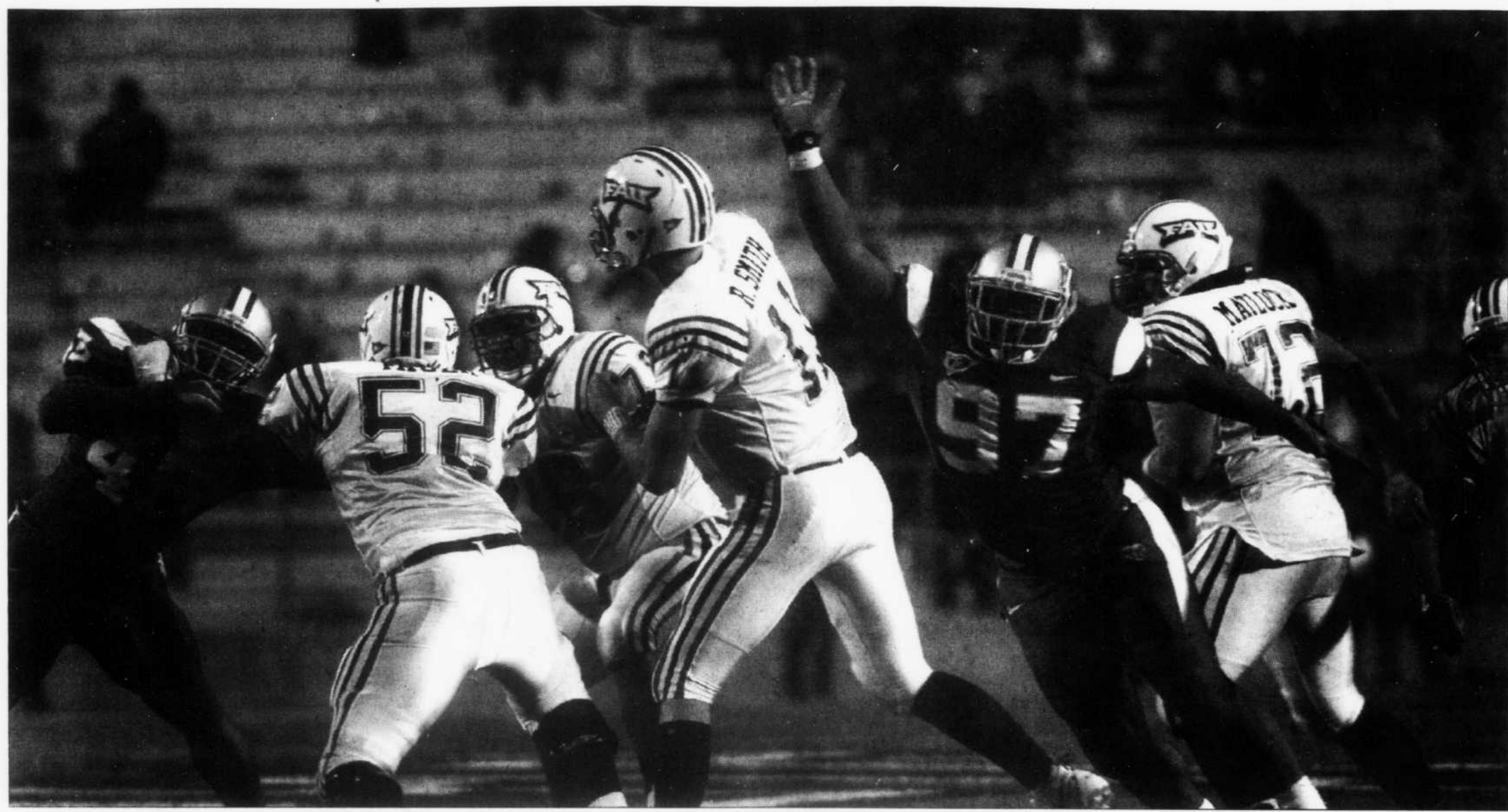


Photo Courtesy of MT Athletic Communications

Senior defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins (97), who has started a team-high 25 consecutive games, will lead the Blue Raiders against SBC-rival Troy. Last season Troy gained 551 total yards against MT.

## MT opens season with Battle for the Palladium

### Blue Raiders looks for first victory of '08 and to avenge last season's 45-7 loss against Trojans

By CHRIS MARTIN  
Sports Editor

After months of conjecturing, debating and anticipation, Blue Raider football will kick off the 2008 football season today against Sun Belt Conference rival Troy.

Middle Tennessee head coach Rick Stockstill, who is working with a team that will return less than half its starters from a year ago, said he's looking forward to the home opener against the Trojans.

"We are excited about this season," Stockstill said. "I'm very pleased with our team and the way we have practiced, especially the last four or five days. Our sense of ur-

gency and practice tempo has really picked up."

The last time the Blue Raiders met the Trojans, Troy handily defeated MT 45-7 on its home turf in MT's last game of the season.

"I hate how that game ended last year against Troy, so I'm very excited about this opportunity," MT senior defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins said.

The Trojans will look very different from the team that destroyed the Blue Raiders a year ago. Gone from last year's squad is 2007 SBC Offensive Player of the Year quarterback Omar Haugabook, as well as six other players who

made either the All-SBC first or second team.

"We have a lot of production to replace on both sides of the ball," Troy head coach Larry Blakeney said. "We also have a new quarterback, so we will have to see how we play."

Taking Haugabook's place will be sophomore Jamie Hampton. Hampton has thrown only 11 passes in his short collegiate career. However, MT players are not quick to dismiss Troy based on its quarterback's lack of experience.

"I don't know anything about [Hampton], and it really doesn't matter," Jenkins

said. "They are going to come out and do what they do. If you are not ready for this game, you are not in the right business because this sets the tone for the whole season."

In the first quarter, Blue Raider fans will finally find out who will be MT's starting quarterback. Last season, senior Joe Craddock and sophomore Dwight Dasher both started six games and have been battling all summer for the No. 1 spot. Stockstill has said that he doesn't intend to name a starter before the game.

Regardless of who is named the starter, the team appears ready to get behind either

quarterback.

"We have two great quarterbacks, and whoever the coaches believe gives us the best chance to win is fine with the team," senior receiver Patrick Honeycutt said. "We are fortunate to have two very good ones."

The game between Troy and MT, known as the Battle for the Palladium, will determine who gets to take home the Palladium Trophy. MT leads the series 11-4, but the Trojans have taken the trophy home each of the past two seasons.

"The Palladium Trophy sits in my office all year long," Blakeney said. "It never leaves

my office when we are in possession of it. It means a lot to our program and our players, and we do not want to give it up."

The Blue Raiders are anxious to return the trophy to Murfreesboro for the first time since 2005, when MT beat the Trojans 17-7 in Troy.

"[Former MT defensive tackle] Jeff Littlejohn informed me of the tradition when I first got here, but our rivalry with Troy goes beyond that," Jenkins said. "It's a passionate rivalry, and I'm looking forward to playing them."

The game is scheduled to begin 6:30 p.m.

## Are you going to the game?

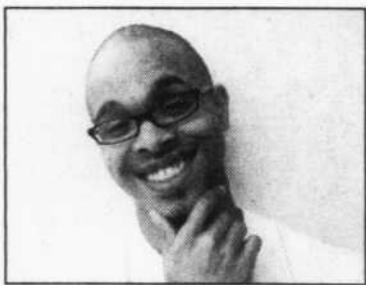
Game day at Middle Tennessee has always been a special time. It brings about anxiety that only a blindside tackle on an opposing team's quarterback can cure.

That's right, football season has returned to Murfreesboro. Surprisingly, it is here in a big way. Maybe the new crop of freshmen have already bought into being "All In," or maybe the returning students are finally showing their allegiances towards the Blue Raiders.

Either way, the hype surrounding tonight's game is something only true fans can bring. Athletic Marketing can only do so much when it comes to bringing people to games. Sometimes, it just takes the average MT student to look across the room at somebody they don't know and simply ask, "Are you going to the game?"

In years past, the question would be met with a few giggles or a complete blow off, but lately the answer to that question couldn't be printed in this newspaper because it is usually a curse word followed by the word "yes."

The excitement is pure and genuine towards our football team, even though there are still skeptics walking around our campus. The occasional Southeastern Conference school hat and T-shirt are still seen on this campus, along with the sporadic sounds of



**The Lowdown**  
Richard Lowe

students verbally claiming their ties to the Volunteers, Commodores or Crimson Tide.

I do have to say the funniest encounter I had this week involved me wearing a throwback MT football uniform and walking into the KUC Grill. There, I saw several football players minding their business, eating breakfast and making conversation. I also saw a guy decked out in his finest UT apparel looking at me like I was an alien. Since he continued to stare, I decided to introduce myself and ask him if he would be in attendance this Thursday. He replied saying that he heard our football team "sucked." Instead of getting upset and going on the defensive, I simply stated, "why don't you see for yourself?" After explaining to him he can get into the game for free, he said he would give it a shot.

That conversation is probably the best example to explain the mentality of our

department. As a university that is fairly young as far as playing on the top level of college football, the Football Bowl Subdivision, the only thing our teams want you to do is give them a shot.

For too long, I have heard people criticize MT athletics as teams that suck. Since MT joined the Sun Belt Conference in 2000, it has won conference titles in football, women's basketball, volleyball, track and field (indoor and outdoor), baseball, men's tennis and soccer while winning a national championship in men's doubles tennis (Marco Born and Andreas Siljeström). For new fans of MT, the history is rich, but it is fairly short, as well.

The proof is there that the Blue Raiders can be and have been successful, but if a team wins and no one is around to see it, how can anyone enjoy it?

Think of it like dating. Big-time programs want you to marry them the moment you see them, no questions asked. MT is just asking for you to give them a chance and let it grow from there. That's my kind of girl ... I mean, university.

To be clear, it's not a crime to be a fan of another school while attending MT. The problem occurs when you talk negatively about the uni-

GAME, PAGE 9

## Predictions for the second-half of MT's football season

Last week, *Sidelines* previewed the first half of the upcoming football season.

By CHRIS MARTIN  
Sports Editor

### Oct. 11 at Florida International Golden Panthers

FIU finally got over the hump with a 38-19 victory over North Texas in its last game of the 2007 campaign, after obtaining its first victory in almost two years. Before beating the Mean Green at home on Dec. 1, 2007, the Golden Panthers had gone nearly two years and 23 contests since defeating MT in Miami on Dec. 5, 2005.

FIU still has a long way to go before it can be competitive at the highest level of college football. It should be improved this season, however, especially on offense, where the Golden Panthers return nine starters. Even though this game will be played in Miami, the result shouldn't be too much different from last year's meeting between MT and FIU, when the Blue Raiders did all their scoring in the first half yet still won 47-6.

MT 45-14

### Oct. 18 at Louisville Cardinals

The last meeting between the Blue Raiders and the Cardinals produced an exciting 58-42 affair that saw MT behind by only three points at the half. Of course, MT was unable to keep up with the

incredible Cardinals' offense in the second half.

The Cardinals will be without quarterback Brian Brohm for the first time in four years. However, his replacement, Hunter Cantwell, figures to be one of the better quarterbacks in the NCAA in 2008. Cantwell will be working with a different cast than Brohm did a year ago as wide receivers Harry Douglas and Mario Urrutia as well as tight end Gary Barnridge won't suit up for Louisville this season.

For the second straight year, Dwight Dasher and Joe Craddock should move the Blue Raider offense through Louisville's notoriously porous defense with relative ease, but the Cardinals' offense will prove to be too much with the thunder and lightning duo of Brock Bolen (238 lbs.) and Bilal Powell (7.8 yards per carry last season) and Cantwell's excellent arm.

If this game were in Murfreesboro, MT might pull off the upset, but unfortunately for the Blue Raiders they will be playing in the unfriendly confines of Papa John's Stadium.

Louisville 42-28

### Oct. 25 at Mississippi State Bulldogs

If there is one game that

has upset written all over it, it's the MT-MSU matchup.

MSU will be in the thick of its SEC schedule and will be coming off a road trip to Knoxville the previous week. The Bulldogs would be wise to not overlook MT who, if it can at least give Louisville a scare the previous week, will be looking to put together a run at the end of the season to stay competitive in the SBC-championship race.

MSU gathered eight victories in 2007, but four of those wins came against the likes of Ole Miss (3-9 in 2007), Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) competitor Gardner-Webb (5-6), Tulane (4-8) and UAB (2-10). The Bulldogs also return only 10 starters, five on each side of the ball, and they gave up more than 2,000 yards rushing last season.

MSU's passing game probably won't be very prolific in 2008, either. MSU's starting quarterback, sophomore Wesley Carroll, only completed 52.5 percent of his passes and threw seven interceptions against nine touchdowns.

Further improving the Blue Raiders' chances is the fact that the Bulldogs return only one starter on the offensive line with three sophomores

PREVIEW, PAGE 10



## Preview

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projected to start there this year. Dasher, Tanner and Desmond Gee should run all over MSU while Jenkins, Chris McCoy and Wes Hocker apply constant pressure to Carroll.

MT 24-21

#### Nov. 8 vs. Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks

The last time these two met, both teams left their defenses on the bus.

MT snatched the 43-40 victory after Bradley Robinson returned a kickoff 89 yards with 45 seconds left in the game in a contest that saw both offenses combine for more than 1,100 total yards. The Warhawks will be looking to avenge that loss by defeating the Blue Raiders in Floyd Stadium.

ULM, along with ASU, is one of the up-and-coming teams in the SBC. The Warhawks return 14 starters (six on offense and eight on defense) and they finished the 2007 season strong.

After dropping its first four games, ULM finished the season on a 6-2 run, including wins at Alabama and at FAU, to finish at 6-6.

One big difference between this year and last is that the Warhawks will be without star running back Calvin Dawson, who was a senior last season. Dawson is the third-leading career rusher in the SBC with 3,378 yards.

In 2007, Dawson gained 247

combined rushing and receiving yards against the Blue Raider defense, but he wasn't the only player who gave MT a difficult time. Senior quarterback Kinsmon Lancaster completed 24 of 38 passes for 264 yards to go along with his 138 rushing yards. It should be interesting to see how well the offense runs against the Blue Raiders considering that, outside of senior tackle Larry Shappley, ULM doesn't have an offensive lineman with starting experience. MT can win this one, but ULM is a dangerous opponent.

MT 35-28

#### Nov. 15 at Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

The Blue Raiders are still trying to erase the memory of last year's loss against the Hilltoppers. MT fans are hoping freshman kicker Alan Gendreau can prevent any more games from being decided on missed field goals.

Last year, MT was the lone Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent that fell to WKU.

The Hilltoppers will rely heavily on their rushing game to beat the Blue Raiders. In last year's contest, WKU's two-headed quarterback attack of senior David Wolke and sophomore K.J. Black only threw a combined 15 passes compared to their 19 combined rushing attempts. The Hilltoppers were able to stifle the Blue Raider defense with their numerous quarterback keepers and run-heavy attack, but they won't be able to

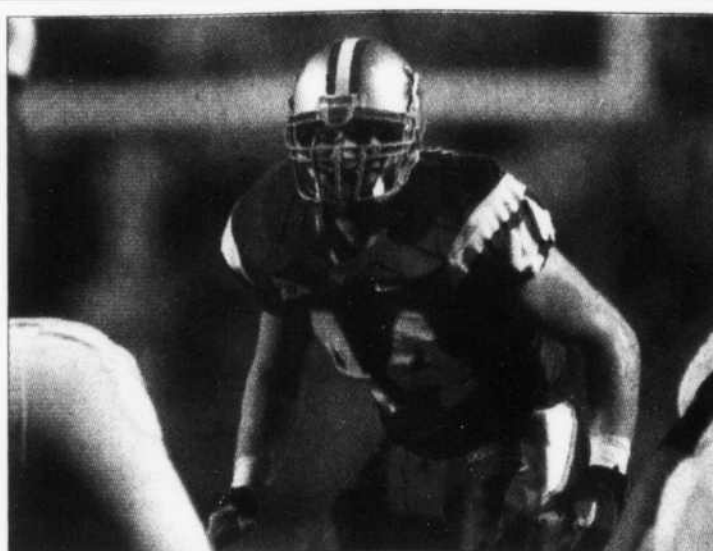


Photo Courtesy of MT Athletic Communications  
Junior linebacker Danny Carmichael returns to anchor MT's line-backing corps in 2008. He collected 55 tackles in 2007.

beat MT for a second straight year for three reasons: this time Dasher won't be making his first collegiate start against WKU, the Hilltoppers are replacing four of their top six tacklers from a year ago, including leading-tackler Andre Lewis and starting linebacker Dusty Bear, and, this time, MT will be prepared for Black and Wolke.

MT 35-14

#### Nov. 22 vs. North Texas Mean Green

UNT is trying to rediscover its identity under second-year coach Todd Dodge.

Last season, Dodge implemented his spread offense on a squad that has traditionally been a run-first team. Former running backs Patrick Cobbs and Jamario Thomas had carried the ball for the Mean Green from 2001-2007 en route to becoming the first and second-leading rushers

in SBC history, respectively.

UNT has some weapons on offense, such as senior receiver Casey Fitzgerald, who caught 111 balls for 1,322 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2007 to lead the SBC in all three categories. The problem with UNT is that for every touchdown it scores, it gives up two. Last season, the Mean Green scored an average 24.8 points a game while surrendering 45.1.

There's a lot of hype surrounding Dodge's son, freshman quarterback Riley, but unfortunately he doesn't play defense. Todd Dodge has done a nice job recruiting, signing eight three-star players according to rivals.com, but a nice group of freshmen won't give the Blue Raiders any trouble. In two years, UNT might contend for an SBC championship, but not until Dodge gets the players he needs on the team.

This game should be a high-scoring affair, but MT's defense should hold the Mean Green offense in check, while the Blue Raider offense amasses some gaudy numbers.

MT 48-31

#### Dec. 3 at Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns

A year ago, ULL dashed MT's hopes for a chance to play in the New Orleans Bowl when it defeated the Blue Raiders 34-24 at Floyd Stadium in the next-to-last game of the season.

Quarterback Michael Desormeaux demolished the MT defense on his way to racking up 175 rushing yards and 152 passing yards. In fact, the Ragin' Cajuns ran all over the MT defense, averaging 6.5 yards a carry.

ULL doesn't pass the ball much, but since Desormeaux isn't a great passer (55 percent completion rating, 10 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in 2007) and the running game is such a weapon, it doesn't need to rely on the pass. ULL had two 1,000+ yard rushers in Desormeaux (1,141 yards) and All-SBC first team selection Tyrell Fenroy (1,021). The Ragin' Cajuns were so successful on the ground they averaged 5.6 yards a carry as a team.

The problem is, ULL's defense was as bad as its offense was good this past season.

The Ragin' Cajuns gave up an average 446.7 offensive yards an outing this past year, but the defense played

well against the Blue Raiders, only allowing 256 total yards while preventing MT from scoring in the fourth quarter after ULL was down 24-21 at the end of the third frame.

The key for the Blue Raiders in this game is to establish the run. ULL is very small on the defensive front and if the offensive line can push around ULL's small linemen, MT should be able to score at will. However, if last year's game is any indication, the Blue Raiders are going to have some problems with the Ragin' Cajuns dynamic rushing attack.

ULL 35-28

Projected record: 7-5 (4-3 SBC)

MT is a very young team that is lacking depth in many areas, and those types of teams are difficult to judge.

Whether or not the Blue Raiders will have success this season hinges on a number of factors, but most importantly whether or not they can recover from losing some of the school's all-time greatest players on defense (Walden, Jones and Robinson), if they can find some depth on both the offensive line and in the receiving corps, and if they can get some early contributions out of this year's recruiting class.

If MT responds positively to those three points, it could very well contend for the SBC championship, but if it can't find the depth it needs, the Blue Raiders could finish in the bottom half of the conference standings.

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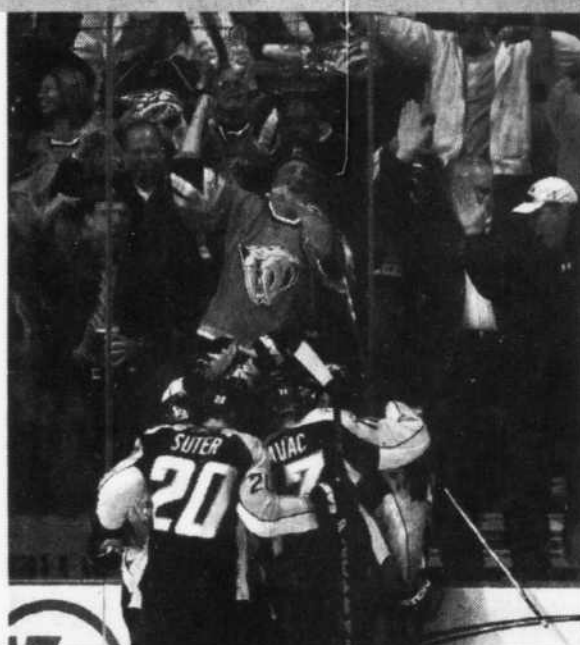
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## Game

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versity that is providing your education and will hand you a degree when you have completed your classes.

A friend of mine once said: "If you don't like MT, then

leave. You chose MT. MT didn't choose you." You probably shouldn't be attending a school you don't like, but my assumption is that if you are here, you want to make it the best experience possible. Your first real chance to do that is tonight. So the only question

now is, "Are you going to the game?"

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# Kicking game, defense looks to improve for '08

By CASEY BOWMAN  
Assistant Sports Editor

Floyd Stadium's 75th season is set to begin Thursday night as the MT Blue Raider football team opens the 2008 season against the Troy Trojans in the annual Battle for the Palladium.

MT will be bringing some new faces to the field. A lot of unanswered questions loom about the Blue Raiders on offense and defense. Here's a bit of what you can expect to see.

**On Special Teams**

With a decent kicking game, last year might have been the second straight year that the Blue Raiders went to a bowl game. But, that wasn't meant to be. Inconsistencies in the field goal department were MT's Achilles heel. This year, however, it seems there is reason to breathe now dur-

ing PAT's and Field Goal attempts, as freshman Alan Gendreau showed a steady leg during the offseason, and has the ability to split the up-rights from 50 yards without a problem.

Punter David Defatta will be focusing solely on that aspect of the kicking game this season, which should help him improve upon his performances last year, where he was impressive. Defatta led the Sun Belt Conference last year with 20 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard-line and carried a solid overall average of 40.9 yards per punt.

Returning kicks could be interesting this year as well with the always dangerous duo of Desmond Gee and Phillip Tanner handling the duties. Both possess the speed and field awareness to make things interesting this year. If Troy is not careful,

one of these guys will be taking it to the house. Wide Receiver Patrick Honeycutt will be handling punt returns to open the season. Honeycutt is great at staying shifty in coverage lanes and could be a legitimate threat.

**On Offense**

MT has yet to even name a starting quarterback for their matchup with Troy, not that it matters as both Joe Craddock and Dwight Dasher are more than capable of handling their own in the pocket.

The Blue Raiders' big concerns are with the offensive line. Sophomore sensation Mark Fisher is out until at least the midway point of the season with a torn labrum. Redshirt freshman Jake Padrick was on tap to start at center this year after an impressive fall camp, but has been declared out for the

season with a knee injury. MT will bring a young and certainly unproven one into its matchup with Troy, and if MT is going to have any success against the Trojans, then these players will have to step it up.

For the first time in a long time, however, the Blue Raiders seem to have a decent looking lineup at the wide receiver position. Honeycutt will lead a group of talented weapons who just might surprise some folks this year. Freshman Sancho McDona-

ld was switched from quarterback to wide receiver in the summer and has shown flashes of greatness in practice with his athleticism. Freshman Malcolm Beyah is another name to keep on the radar, along with Michael Cannon, Eldred King and Chris McClover, who should all see some significant play-

ing time this season.

Gee, who has been a great slot receiver and playmaker for MT since his arrival in 2006, has been given the starting job at running back, but don't be surprised to see him incorporated back into the passing game if needed. If that happens, then Phillip Tanner is waiting in the wings to carry the rock. When healthy, Tanner has been a very productive player – just ask Louisville.

**On Defense**

The Blue Raider defense is poised to be one of the better units in the Sun Belt. With a lot of returning players with experience in Defensive Coordinator Manny Diaz's system, look to see some strong performances by this group.

The defensive line will be anchored by Trevor Jenkins, who is literally the heart and

soul of the lineup. Look for defensive end Wes Hofacker to make a splash this season, as well. On paper, the depth of the d-line is in much better shape than last season.

The one question mark for this defense is in the line-backing corps. Linebackers Danny Carmichael, Andrew Harrington and Ivon Hickman were all on the field last year, but at times were inconsistent in tackling. If this unit has improved, then the defense will not have many weaknesses at all.

Arguably the best unit for this team will be the secondary. Cornerbacks Alex Suber, Rod Isaac, Ted Riley and Marcus Udell could be labeled as the best squad in the conference. The safety position is also in good hands with Jeremy Kellem and Anthony Glover teaming up to shut down offenses.



## 2008-2009 MEN'S BASKETBALL

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NOV 6 NORTH ALABAMA

NOV 14 TREVECCA

NOV 16 HOUSTON BAPTIST

NOV 21 TENNESSEE

NOV 24 @ VANDERBILT

DEC 2 HOUSTON

DEC 7 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (EDWARDSVILLE)

DEC 11 TROY

DEC 15 TENNESSEE-MARTIN

DEC 17 @ BELMONT

DEC 20 UC IRVINE @ SPRINGFIELD, MO.

DEC 21 NORFOLK STATE SPRINGFIELD, MO.

DEC 22 @ MISSOURI STATE

DEC 31 @ NORTH TEXAS

JAN 3 @ SOUTH ALABAMA

JAN 8 FLORIDA ATLANTIC

JAN 10 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

JAN 15 @ WESTERN KENTUCKY

JAN 17 @ UALR

JAN 22 ARKANSAS STATE

JAN 24 @ NEW ORLEANS

JAN 29 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

JAN 31 LOUISIANA-MONROE

FEB 5 @ DENVER

FEB 7 @ HOUSTON BAPTIST

FEB 12 @ TROY

FEB 14 NORTH TEXAS

FEB 19 SOUTH ALABAMA

FEB 21 @ FLORIDA ATLANTIC

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