

Students to take vote on fee

Increased fee to fund student union will be on fall ballot

By Wesley Murchison
Campus Administration News Editor

When students cast their votes for Student Government officers and Homecoming royalty this fall, they'll also have the chance to throw in their two cents for a new student center – literally.

The Student Government Association voted unanimously Thursday to bring before the student body a referendum to increase student fees in order to fund a new student center.

The Keathley University Center, MTSU's only student union, was built in 1960 "to accommodate an enrollment of 5,000-6,000 students," according to the SGA's resolution. The KUC has become an inadequate facility to handle the now 23,000-student body and growing, though, the resolution continued.

The proposed student fee increase would pay

off a loan taken out by MTSU to start building the student center in late 2007 or early 2008, said Gene Fitch, vice president for Student Affairs.

The resolution calls for the construction of the center to be funded by a combination of donations, a student fee increase and "revenue gained from food [and] retail services" that will be part of the new center.

The university must fund the building independently because the state of Tennessee does not provide funding for non-academic buildings.

The center would be built in the empty field between Corlew Hall and the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building. A committee comprising SGA members and administration representatives will be created to determine what will be included in the center.

Spencer Wood, senator for the College of Mass Communication, wrote the resolution and took questions from other senators, with Gene Fitch

providing administrative representation and logistical information about the project.

One issue raised at the meeting about the fee would be its potential amount per student.

In the current stage of planning, the fee has been set at a range between \$75 and \$125.

The fee is capped at \$125, though, and will not exceed that amount. This is to insure that "this project doesn't go crazy on the students and not spend too much money," Wood said in answer to a question posed by a fellow senator.

Wood continued to explain that there are three factors that influenced the size of the fee, which are: "What we put into the student center, how long it is going to take and also the head count [of students]."

Fitch weighed in and explained the reason for the range and the cap, which was decided on because the cost of the project is unknown. He said initially, when administrators first talked to

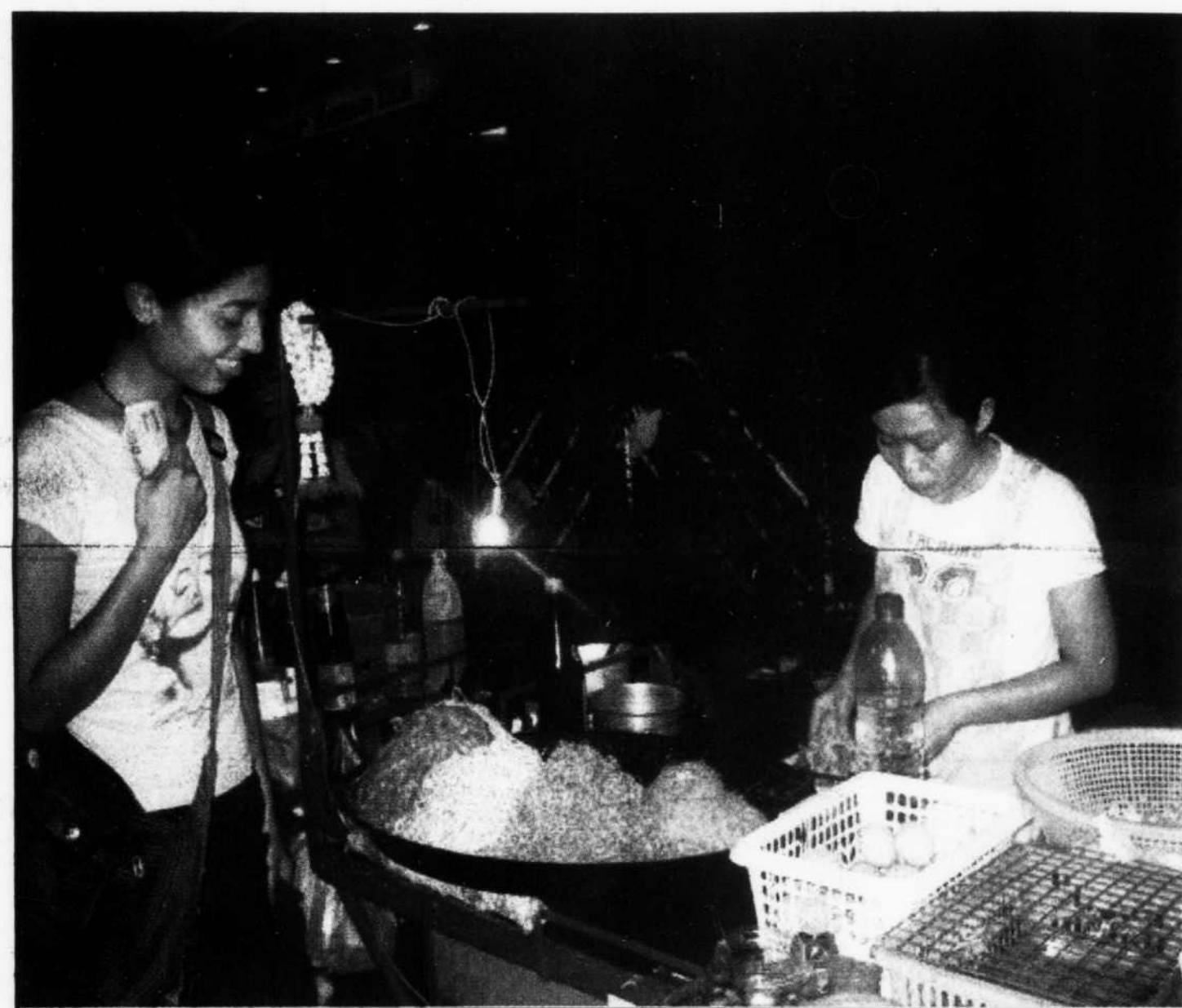
SGA about the fee increase, there wasn't an exact figure. Setting the range for the fee, with a certain level of constraint, allows flexibility and will prevent cost from spiraling out of control.

"So the safest way, the most informed decision, I think, the students can [make] would be to say, 'This is what the cap will be,' and if it's going over \$125 we will come back to you again and see if you still support it," Fitch said.

There is a limited "window" for the fee increase, Wood said. If the referendum passes, there will be a five-month process to get the fee approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and if the fee is too small or students vote down the referendum, it will take another year before TBR rules on the increase.

Two of the largest concerns raised by SGA

See Referendum, 2



MTSU student Kori Diamond (left) buys pad thai from a street vendor in Bangkok, Thailand. Diamond witnessed the Thai coup d'etat first-hand while participating in an exchange program at Thammasat University.

Exchange students experience Thai coup

By Dana Owens
Community News Editor

Amidst the bloodless revolution that occurred in Thailand early last week, two MTSU students witnessed the coup d'etat from exchanged perspectives.

Thai exchange student Nisane Chaiprakobiwiriyia read about the revolution from her dorm room in Corlew Hall while Kori Diamond, a junior from MTSU, experienced the coup first-hand in Bangkok.

"No one seems nervous, and people go about daily life as usual," Diamond stated in an e-mail Saturday. "There are soldiers placed in what may seem like random positions around the city but are probably not. People give them flowers and bring them gifts and drinks to show some kind of support."

Diamond said her parents were more nervous about the revolution than she or anyone else in Thailand. According to Chaiprakobiwiriyia, this is not unexpected.

There have been 17 coups in Thailand throughout the twentieth century, so the military takeover last Tuesday was not so alarming, said Chaiprakobiwiriyia, adding that she was too young during the last coup in 1992 to remember what happened.

"It's a coup d'etat, but it's not violent. I think Thai people are happy with this,"

Chaiprakobiwiriyia said. "Most Thai people [didn't] like the government because of the corruption and everything."

Thailand's military overthrew popularly-elected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra amid mounting criticism that he had undermined democracy.

Thaksin, a telecommunications tycoon turned politician, had won three general elections since coming to power in 2001 and garnered great support among the rural poor for his populist policies.

In the process, he alienated the urban middle class, intellectuals and pro-democracy activists. They began mass street demonstrations late last year, charging Thaksin with abuse of power, corruption and emasculation of the country's democratic institutions, including what was once one of Asia's freest presses.

"What I find most interesting is how much [the bloodless revolution] reflects Thai culture. Any guide book will tell you first-off how non-confrontational Thai culture is," said Diamond, an anthropology major currently studying Thai culture. "And I find it interesting that they wait until the guy is out of the country to take over."

Striking when Thaksin was in New York at the U.N. General Assembly, army commander Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratkalin sent tanks and troops to guard major intersections and surround government buildings in the night-time



MTSU student Kori Diamond (second from the right) poses with friends at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. Diamond witnessed the Thai coup d'etat first-hand while participating in an exchange program.

streets of Bangkok. The military raided Thaksin's offices, seized control of television stations and declared a provisional authority loyal to the king.

"People were so relaxed about all of it," Diamond said. "When I imagine a coup, I think of the violent past happenings of South America and Africa, never what I have been experiencing here."

Diamond said she found out

about the coup just after seeing a movie with a friend. She then went home to watch Thai television broadcasts explaining what had happened.

"I began receiving odd text messages telling me that a coup d'etat/revolution had occurred and that I shouldn't leave my apartment," she said. "All the

See Thai, 2

Samsel takes helm as new Judicial Coordinator

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

Amanda Samsel, who has been recently hired as the new coordinator of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, believes it is more important for students learn from their transgressions than the sentence they receive.

"I want people to learn from their mistakes, not just be punished," Samsel said.

Samsel believes her position is more than just distributing punishment.

"It's more of a positive than negative thing that we do," Samsel continued. "I'm excited to try and break out and reach the campus. Usually my position has just been defined as 'the mean person.'"

The Coordinator of Judicial Affairs is a position under Student Life that deals with violations and educational sanctioning.

"We seek to promote student learning, growth, and development by increasing awareness of the university's expectations of behavior. [Also, by] holding students accountable for violations of these expectations, and developing educational sanctions designed to help students learn from their mistakes," according to the Judicial Affairs Web site.

The position's function is to hear the cases of students who have been charged by MTSU or local law enforcement for various acts that range from plagiarism to public intoxication and to determine their punishment.

"To put it in layman's terms, basically my job is, when students get in trouble on campus whether it is alcohol misdemeanors to drug use to parking violations, I head the committee that determines the severity of the consequences," Samsel said.

Samsel's approach to the position is one grounded in fairness, but with an eye toward being firm. She keeps a balanced mindset when it comes to doling out punishment.



Samsel

When asked about the severity of her own code of ethics and how she will apply them to students she expressed a firm, yet understanding position.

"I think punishment really depends on understanding of the rules. When you are a freshman, obviously we will [be more understanding]," Samsel said. "But when it concerns an upper-classman, you know what is expected of you and what the policies around here are."

Laura Sosh-Lightsy, the Assistant Dean for Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, went through a laborious interviewing process. Samsel was picked from 116 applicants for the position.

"We narrowed it down to 12 for phone interviews, then down to 5," Lightsy said.

Lightsy choose Samsel based on her connection with students and an ability to communicate with them on an equal level.

"She has a sincere desire to help students. That's important and it is also the number one characteristic I was looking for in applicants," Lightsy said. "There were two things that stood out about Amanda. She had a lot of enthusiasm about the position and using it as a platform to help students as much as possible."

On a personal note, Samsel is excited about her upcoming position for many reasons.

"I've always been interested in this branch. I love the legal side of things. Also this position is great because I can still work with students while incorporating the judicial aspect of it."

Lightsy supports Samsel's attempts to bring more to the position than what others have never done before.

"She has lots of creative ideas such as using sanctions to promote better student life. She is very fresh out of grad school, but she is current on development theory and higher education which is important in this position," Lightsy said.

"I hope that this proves to be an excellent entry-level position where she has the ability to grow and develop as a professional. I will lean on her heavily because of her connection with the students."

Samsel will officially take office Oct. 2.

Thai: MT students affected

Continued from 1

phone lines were down, so everyone was texting like crazy." Chaiprakobiwiriyi first read about the revolution when she checked her e-mail after one of her political science classes last Wednesday. She talked to her parents shortly thereafter to discover that they were doing well.

Chaiprakobiwiriyi said, though her friends knew of the coup from the Internet, many Web sites were shut down.

As an junior international relations major, Chaiprakobiwiriyi has a special interest in what is happening in her home country and has been checking the Internet frequently for the latest news.

"At first I was very excited," she said, adding that her friends in Thailand are also excited about the situation, though her parents remain hesitant.

Thammasat University in Bangkok, where Diamond is studying and Chaiprakobiwiriyi calls home, is a nerve-center for political activity in Thailand.

Chaiprakobiwiriyi said, though the students at her university were politically active and wanted to see a change, they were not able to express themselves under Thaksin's rule. Despite this, her political science professors would frequently discuss problems in the government.

"[Thammasat] University has an organization who disagrees with the Prime Minister but also disagrees with having a coup to change things," Diamond said.

Protests against the government had been taking place for the past year at Thammasat, which is known for its political science and law programs, Chaiprakobiwiriyi said.

Though protests are currently taking place in Bangkok, now in opposition of the military rule, any assembly of more than five people is punishable by six months in prison. Still, there has been no violence or arrests.

Sondhi, who is acting as prime minister until a new, interim

leader is chosen, said a constitution will be drafted which will hold future leaders more accountable. New elections are slated to take place by Oct. 2007.

Since she will be studying at MTSU until spring, Chaiprakobiwiriyi may miss the first elections of the new government. She said while she is disappointed to miss out on what could be the most important elections in Thailand, she does not expect a full democracy right away.

Despite this, Chaiprakobiwiriyi said she is not too eager to return home.

"I'm having fun here," she said of MTSU.

As for Diamond, she is hoping to extend her stay in Thailand from one semester to a full year.

"Thailand is a completely different world, one of those incredible places that you just have to experience to understand," Diamond said. "I love my school and have formed an amazing community with the other international students here, as well as many Thai people."

Chaiprakobiwiriyi is studying at MTSU for two semesters, this being her first. This is also her first visit to the United States.

When she graduates in 2008, Chaiprakobiwiriyi said she hopes to work with an embassy. She said one of her inspirations is the U.S. Ambassador for Thailand, Ralph Boyce.

Diamond, who also graduates in 2008, said she hopes to return to Southeast Asia to teach English and volunteer.

Though the girls are both participating in an exchange program from each others' universities, they do not know one another.

"This particular experience in Thailand has been nothing but perfect," Diamond said. "Though I have felt various emotions along the way, being in Southeast Asia for two months has taught me more about life than anything else in the world."

Portions of this article were contributed by the Associated Press.

Lecture addresses disaster coverage

Mass Comm dean to continue honors series

By Jonathan Wiley

Contributing Writer

The freedom and responsibility of news media and coverage on natural disasters is the discussion for Monday's Honors lecture series installment.

The lecture, given by Anantha Babbili, dean of the College of Mass Communication, is entitled "News Media and Natural Disasters: Freedom and Responsibility" and will give a view on natural disasters from a journalistic perspective.

"When I was asked to participate in the lecture series, my intent was to bring to the honors students an interdisciplinary approach to natural disaster, and how journalism in its representations of the disasters could help or hinder the understanding of the phenomenon," Babbili said.

The theme for the overall lecture series is "natural disasters" and will include professors from the psychology, English and geosciences departments.

"Last year there were major disasters everywhere," Babbili said. "I think the Honors Lecture Series Committee thought that this is a topic that has to be addressed from different disciplines."

Although the lecture itself covers the news and disasters, the sub topics to the lecture are freedom and responsibility, Babbili said.

"I am going to take two case studies: Katrina and the Tsunami," Babbili said. "I'm going to approach it from a journalistic perspective, then look at the professional aspect of event coverage from two dimensions—freedom and responsibility."

The lecture will comment on the news media reactions to the events and how it shapes the opinions of those who see the coverage.

"We did some things that were silly with Katrina coverage," Babbili said. "[such as] the grandstanding of CNN and Fox, as if they were the heroes. The real heroes were the moms trying to hold on to four kids and deciding who she has to let go."

The point is that journalists only deliver the message and should not be viewed as participants, Babbili said.

"Journalism is the only profession I know



Babbili

Honors Lecture Series Fall 2006

September

25: New Media and Natural Disasters: Freedom and Responsibility
Anantha Babbili - Dean of the College of Mass Communications

October

2: Natural Disasters: A Public Health Perspective
Cheryl Ellis - HPERs

9: Immediate and Delayed Psychological Responses to Natural Disasters
Gloria Hamilton - Psychology Department

23: How Do We Decide Who is to "Blame" for Tragedies and Disasters?
Harold D. Whiteside - Psychology Department

30: Catastrophes and Calamities ARE Ancient History: Cultural Changes, Collapse, and Transformation in the Face of Natural Disasters
Kevin Smith - Sociology and Anthropology

that has the innate ability to learn from its mistakes," Babbili said. "In the next event, a lot of us don't do the same things. There is an idiom that says 'doctors bury their mistakes, lawyers send theirs to jail, journalists put theirs on the front page for the whole world to see.'"

According to Babbili's biography on the Mass Communication Web site, in addition to his role as dean, Babbili was a journalist in India and still occasionally writes columns concerning international affairs, media ethics and foreign policies.

"Although I may critique Journalism from an educator's perspective, I was also a journalist, and I know the implications," Babbili said. "We need to weigh the consequences of coverage on public opinion, but we also have to remember it is the role of the news media which brought a tremendous out-pouring of philanthropy. There is a power to evoke emotion in a good way."

Babbili's lecture will be Monday at 3 p.m. and will be in room 106 of the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building.

What's Up on Campus?

Monday 9/25

Honors Lecture Series - 3:00 p.m. @ HONR 106
NAACP - 5:45 p.m. @ CKNB 121
National Songwriters Association - 6:00 p.m. @ COMM 104
Raiders for Rationalism - 6:00 p.m. @ BAS S309
Tang Soo Do - 7:00 p.m. @ REC

Tuesday 9/26

Aquatics Club - 6:15 a.m. @ REC
Women for Women - 6:00 p.m. @ JUB 204
Reformed University Fellowship - 7:00 p.m. @ COMM 101
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship - 7:30 p.m. @ BAS S113
Cornerstone - 8:00 p.m. @ BAS S128

Wednesday 9/27

Audio Engineering Society - 4:00 p.m. @ COMM 191
Pre-Scripts - 5:00 p.m. @ DSB 106
Amnesty - 6:00 p.m. @ BAS S338
Racquetball Travel Club - 6:00 p.m. @ REC
Anime Club - 6:00 p.m. @ BAS S316

Thursday 9/28

Linguistics Club - 6:00 p.m. @ PH 220
Ad Club - 6:00 p.m. @ COMM 104
Tang Soo Do - 7:00 p.m. @ REC
Campus Crusade for Christ - 8:00 p.m. @ LRC 221
Martial Arts Club - 8:30 p.m. @ REC
Free Legal Clinic - (by appointment) @ JUB 206

Friday 9/29

GMKC Obedience Show - 8:00 a.m. @ TLC Complex
WHOA Walking Horse International - 7:00 p.m. @ TMC Complex

Saturday 9/30

Bands of America Regional Championship - 7:30 a.m. @ Floyd Stadium
GMKC Obedience Show - 8:00 a.m. @ TLC Complex
WHOA Walking Horse International - 7:00 p.m. @ TMC Complex

Referendum: Students to vote

Continued from 1

senators were how long students would be paying the increased fee and the percentage of voters in ratio to the student body.

Aaron Counts, senator At-Large, asked for an amendment to the resolution calling for a suspension to the fee if the ground is not broken by the scheduled time. MTSU has already committed "several million dollars worth of planning and design expenses" to the project, Fitch said.

Count compared his concern to the athletic fee that was enacted to pay for the recreation center, which he said is still being paid while the expansion for the project has been delayed because bidding for the project came back over priced.

Fitch said that the recreation center has undergone two expansions, and that MTSU students should see ground broken for the new Health Service Center by mid-January 2007.

Count also requested for an expiration date for the fee, which Fitch said would be indefinite.

"It is not a fee that is just going to go away," Fitch said. "There will always be upkeep costs associated with maintaining that building. You've been paying an athletic fee from the time you've walked on campus, if you realize it or not, and we may pay off the bond issue of the Rec Center in 30 years. But there is still going to continue to be cost issues associated with upkeep."

"There is going to continue to be new students coming through

with new needs and new desires that will require us to continue to expand those facilities. The reality is once a fee is passed the fee is always going to be there," Fitch said.

Brandon McNary, senator for Basic and Applied Sciences, cautioned against a minority vote when he compared the Students for Environmental Action's campaign to raise student fees an additional \$8 for the Clean Energy Act. That election only saw a voter turn out of 16.5 percent, or 3,800 votes, compared with a total population of just below 23,000.

"Thirty-eight hundred is a lot of people, but when you've got 23,000 you're letting a small percentage decide for a whole," McNary said.

In response, Ben Hall, SGA election commissioner, pointed out that MTSU is an "uninvolved" campus, and that it is hoped that when the new computer system is implemented, voting will be more convenient, and more students will vote.

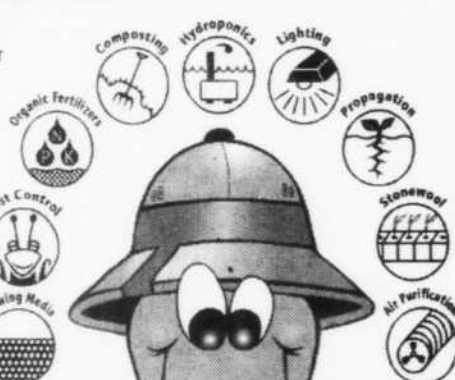
Fitch said that statistically, 3,800 is a good return for a population of 23,000, and he said he felt comfortable presenting such a percentage as reflective of the student body.

"I'm concerned that there is a bigger issue that there is that much apathy on campus," Fitch said. "I wouldn't personally be concerned with going to TBR and saying 3,800, 4,000 students vote on this and this is representative of our campus."

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October 20-22

Local sorority gives back to community

By Andy Harper

Campus Life News

In celebration of National Women's Friendship Day, Kappa Delta sorority is raising teddy bears and toiletries for a local Rutherford County shelter.

"The holiday was founded by Kappa Delta in 1999," said Grace Schettler, vice president of public relations and senior, public relations major. "It still is a new holiday and we are trying to get it better known."

To honor the holiday that occurs the third Sunday in September, Kappa Delta helped raise items like toothbrushes, toothpaste and medium sized teddy bears for the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center in Rutherford County.

"We found out about the center because one of our members knew the assistant director and knew they needed items," Schettler said.

Although the holiday was Sept. 17, the sorority is continuing the item drive until Oct. 10.

"We are really happy because typically, proceeds from our philanthropies go outside of Murfreesboro," said Leslie Merritt, president and senior political science major. "This allowed us to do something really good for the community."

The sorority worked with Justine Biola,

program director for the RRAPC.

"It was made clear what a dedicated and good-hearted group of women make up the Kappa Delta group," wrote Biola in a letter to the sorority.

According to the letter, the RRAPC provides services like a 24 hour crisis line, hospital accompaniment and counseling. The center also visits local middle and high schools with programs that teach students about avoiding dangerous situations and what to do if one is sexually assaulted.

"Instead of just celebrating the holiday, we decided to do something active for a cause," Merritt said. "We wanted to do something positive for women in need."

The sorority typically celebrated the holiday with a gathering of sisters, friends and mothers. The ladies would also host a guest speaker to talk about various women's issues, Merritt said.

"We done the tea for four years, but this year we wanted to use more of our efforts to do something active," Merritt said.

Kappa Delta will also be partnering with Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and the Pan Hellenic Council in October for the "Stand Up, Stand Out Program."

"Stand Up, Stand Out is a workshop program where PHC women will be able to choose different courses covering things like peer pressure, eating disorders and rape prevention," Merritt said. "It is a



Photo Credit: Grace Schettler

Kappa Delta sisters pose with teddies and toiletries to be donated to local rape recovery shelter. From left to right: Molly Brake, Grace Schettler, Brittany Wix, Katye Hendricks, Leslie Merritt, Christina Sedrick

workshop that is empowering to women."

In addition to National Women's Friendship Day, Kappa Delta has four

other philanthropies including Girl Scouts of USA, Prevent Child Abuse America, Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia and Orthopedic

Research Awards.

"Kappa Delta is a national force for good," Merritt said. "We are dedicated to serving those in need."

Year 5767 begins for Jewish people

By Timothy Bleasdale

U-Wire

STORRS, Conn. - Friday is the first day of the year 5767, according to the Jewish calendar, that is, sunset Friday night is the beginning of a ten-day period known as "Yamim Noraim" or High Holidays, that begins with Rosh Hashanah and concludes with Yom Kippur.

In Hebrew, Rosh Hashanah literally means "head of the year" or "first of the year." Although the holiday is commonly known as the "Jewish New Year," it bears little resemblance to the rowdy festivities that take place on the Gregorian (secular) New Year. For Jews, this day is one of the holiest of the year and is traditionally seen as the birthday of human beings, or Adam and Eve. Similarly to the Gregorian New Year, Rosh

Hashanah is a time to reflect on one's most important actions in the passing year and to make plans for the coming year.

"Rosh Hashanah is a time to be with family and friends, and to let people know how much they mean to you," said Edy Fink, assistant director of Hillel at UConn. Rosh Hashanah is a celebration of the birth of humanity, as well as a time to celebrate how much one has in common with those around them and how meaningful one's life is.

The ten days stretching from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are known as "The Days of Awe," or the "Ten Days of Repentance." According to Jewish tradition, God opens a ledger on Rosh Hashanah listing everyone's acts from the previous year. On Yom Kippur that ledger is closed and one's fate is sealed. However, during the Ten Days of Repentance, as the name implies, a person may reflect and repent on their actions in the previous year.

"This time [the ten days] represents the possibility of change and the opportunity to repent of your sins in the last year," Fink said. "It provides the chance to alter God's decree."

The theme, reflected in the common greeting of the High Holidays, is "Shanah Tovah." The phrase is a shortening of "L'shanah tovah tikatev v'tai-hatem," the meaning of which is, "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." Shanah Tovah is roughly equivalent to wishing someone a happy new year.

During the High Holidays sweet foods are common.

"We like to say have a sweet new year," explains Fink. The dietary traditions of the holidays reflect this in such traditional Days of Awe fare as apples dipped in honey, round challah with raisins dipped in honey and honey cakes. On the final day of the High Holidays, Yom Kippur, a 25-hour

fast is observed.

On Yom Kippur, God closes his ledger and one's fate is sealed.

"It is a time for repentance, prayer and charity," Fink said. She said the holiday is about people, emphasizing an opportunity to reflect on one's relationships with others and perhaps mend a broken friendship and take the chance to meet new people.

In the spirit of community and the celebration of the commonalities of humanity, Hillel at UConn is offering special High Holiday services, some of which are followed by meals.

"Some students will be going home to visit with family and go to synagogue," Fink said. "Here at Hillel we think of the students as family. Many students will stay on campus to attend our services."

One student that will be taking advantage of the High Holiday offerings of Hillel is Charlie Hershgold, a 3rd-semester pre-pharmacy major.

"I'm staying on campus and reading torah at services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur," Hershgold said.

Others students like 1st-semester psychology major Nicole Shlomo will be traveling home for Rosh Hashanah.

"I'm going home to be with my family and go to our synagogue," Shlomo said.

The essence of the High Holidays is perhaps best captured in the sound of the shofar, a musical instrument made from a ram's horn.

"The shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah," Fink said. "It makes a sound like a trumpet and it's a sound you wait to hear all year. It's a sound that says 'wake up everyone who's sleeping, remember who created you, and try to do worthwhile things.'"

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emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the

deadline. For additional information

contact Housing and Residential Life,

615-898-2971.

Pizza drivers form first fast food union

By Melissa Nelson

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) - Domino's Pizza delivery driver Jim Pohle could have quit when he saw a competitor offering an extra 25 cents an hour in wages and his bosses wouldn't match it. But he decided instead to stand up and form the nation's only pizza drivers union to successfully organize workers.

Now he represents 11 drivers as president of the American Union of Pizza Delivery Drivers Inc. at the franchise where he has worked off and on for more than a dozen years. Experts say he has created a model for fast food workers wanting to organize in other locations.

"When they declared us tipped employees and refused to pay us the Florida minimum wage of \$6.40, I was kind of angry. I came home that night and I told my buddy, I said 'we are forming a union,'" he said.

Pohle said his friend, a fellow ex-Marine, "thought I was venting steam." But the 37-year-old, who delivers pizzas because he likes to sleep late, smoke on the job and listen to the radio, got on the Internet and found St. Louis labor attorney Mark Potashnick.

Potashnick worked on failed organizing efforts by pizza workers in Ohio, Michigan and St. Louis, including those of The Association of Pizza Delivery Drivers. He coached Pohle on submitting a petition to the

National Labor Relations Board, which recognized the union this summer.

Rodney Johnson, a regional director for the board, said the case appears to be the first of its kind. He has a petition pending from Pensacola-area pizza makers wanting to join Pohle's union.

Tim McIntyre, a spokesman for Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Domino's Pizza Inc., said that while the Pensacola franchise was independently owned and operated, the company was disappointed by the union vote.

"We do not believe it is necessary in our industry, and are surprised that the individual employees in that store voted to turn over their ability to represent themselves to their supervisor to someone else," he said in a statement.

Pohle's union and the franchise owner haven't agreed on wages and working conditions, he said. Apart from wages, many pizza delivery drivers nationally have discussed forming unions because they are often the victims of robbers.

In the meantime, the franchise owners have raised the pay of some drivers at their six nonunion stores, Pohle said.

Attorney Keith Pyburn, who is representing the franchise owner, said the formation of Pohle's union did not surprise his clients.

"Their company is complying with its legal obligation to bargain with the union and that process is ongoing," said Pyburn, who

would not discuss employee pay.

The union could open doors for other fast food workers, said Kate Bronfenbrenner, director of labor education research at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

She pointed to recent organizing efforts by Starbucks employees in New York and Chicago. The Industrial Workers of the World has members at seven Starbucks Corp. stores.

Food service workers are different from the government, auto, steel and blue-collar workers that represented the bedrock of union membership in decades past but whose union numbers are dwindling, she said. "Employers can fight very hard" with food workers because they are easily replaceable, she said.

But Mark Damron, spokesman for Industrial Workers of the World, said that is changing because older workers are taking service industry jobs that were traditionally held by younger workers.

"As these people move into those jobs, they have higher expectations. You are going to see more agitation and expectations among middle-aged men who have been downsized and are now working as baristas or short-order cooks," he said.

Associated Press writer David Fischer in Miami contributed to this report.

Contraceptive patch may be unsafe

By Liz Boyd

U-Wire

LUBBOCK, Texas - The Ortho-Evra contraceptive patch may be an unsafe alternative to birth control pills, according to the United States Food and Drug Administration's Web site.

Labeling for the patch was updated in November 2005 and is seen in bold on the packaging for the product, according to the FDA's Web site.

The patch exposes women to 60 percent more estrogen than typical birth control pills containing 35 micrograms of estrogen, according to Ortho-Evra's Web site.

Lonnie Donalds, pharmacist for CVS in Lubbock, Texas, said he hasn't seen a decrease in Ortho-

Evra use since the labeling update.

"I work in pharmacies across Lubbock," Donalds said. "The use of the patch has remained stable."

According to the FDA's Web site, estrogen, which is present in all birth control pills and the patch, is linked to blood clots in the legs and lungs.

The presence of estrogen is also linked to other clotting problems such as strokes and heart attacks.

Donalds said women who use the patch are not verbally told about the change.

"Each consumer is given a patient information sheet," Donalds said. "They are expected to read this because it has all of the valuable information and risk factors they need to know about."

Donalds said he sees the patch distributed, but birth control pills

are more widely used.

"The No. 1 form of contraceptive that I see is the pill," Donalds said. "But there are women who use the patch."

Smoking increases the chance for blood clots, stroke and heart attack while on any form of hormonal birth control, including the patch and the pill, Donalds said.

"Smoking does increase your chances beyond the initial risk," Donalds said. "The best thing is to not smoke and see your doctor regularly if you are on birth control pills or the patch."

Dr. Kelly Bennett, medical director for Texas Tech Student Health Services, said some women have risk factors they are screened for before taking hormonal contraceptives.

"Before we even prescribe the

pill or patch, we screen our patients to make sure they will not have increased risk of stroke, clotting or heart attack," she said.

If a patient has a risk factor, they will not be put on a hormonal contraceptive.

These risks include high blood pressure, a family history of blood clots, migraines involving vision impairments such as auras and depression, Bennett said.

Pregnancy actually increases your chance of clotting more than birth control, Bennett said, so those preventing unwanted pregnancy with the use of hormonal contraceptives are being smart.

Those on the pill have a one in 50,000 chance of having clotting complications, compared to one in 25,000 for those on the patch, but women who are pregnant

have a one in 10,000 chance, Bennett said.

"Yes, the patch increases your chance of clotting, but if you are sexually active and using hormonal contraceptives to prevent a pregnancy, then you are better off," she said.

According to Ortho-Evra's Web site, most side effects of the patch happen infrequently.

The hormones from the patch applied to the skin enter the bloodstream differently causing 60 percent more exposure to estrogen, according to the Web site.

According to a study conducted by the Journal of the American Medical Association, using oral contraceptives led to 4.1 strokes per 100,000 women.

According to Ortho-Evra's Web

site, most side effects of the patch are not serious.

However, more than 17 women using the Ortho-Evra patch have died of blood clots since the patch was approved in 2001, according to the FDA's Web site.

Donalds said all women should carefully read the packaging and information sheets that come with their method of birth control.

"If you're not sure about something, read the packaging and talk to your doctor," he said.

According to the FDA's Web site, not smoking and leading a heart-healthy life can decrease the chance of blood-clot-related problems, but the best thing to do is talk to a doctor about your current method of birth control or carefully decide which method is best.

Social networks change face of communication

By Amber Saunders

U-Wire

AMES, Iowa - A woman sits in the back row in a lecture hall, her iPod playing her favorite album, her laptop balanced on top of the tiny desk. Between typing portions of the notes displayed on the screen, she text-messages her boyfriend, checks her e-mail and writes on her roommate's Facebook wall.

People are relying more and more on technology to connect themselves to the world, but at the same time they are becoming less likely to take the time to talk to each other face-to-face, said Michael Bugeja, director of the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication and author of "Interpersonal Divide: The Search for Community in a Technological Age."

"We have decided that when we're in our cars that that's routine and we should use our cell phones, and we've decided that when there is this lull we can get on Facebook or listen to our iPods," he said. "And the fact of the matter is that life requires our attention."

College students constantly being "wired" -- connected to various forms of technology -- has an effect in their behavior, said Barbara Mack, attorney and ISU associate professor of journalism and communication.

"They have an impatience that I think is reflected in their behavior in that [if] they can't have a cell phone answered or an e-mail answered immediately, it makes them frantic," Mack said.

People who are constantly wired are often unaware of the intrusion technology makes in their lives, Bugeja said.

A "core human need"

Online social networks such as Facebook are a large part of the shift to communication via technology. Facebook was launched out of a college dorm room in February 2004 and quickly grew to 1 million members. Since then, it has evolved from a simple interface with networks for 10 colleges into the seventh-most trafficked Web site in the United States and

allows users to join high school and college networks, as well as business networks. Facebook officials said they plan to add regional networks at some point in the near future.

Instead of just using the site to get in touch with friends or find a time to get together, as the site was originally designed for, Facebook has grown into a place for users to meet new people, express their political beliefs and even blog.

The rapid increase in page hits to the site and the change in how people utilize Facebook has been cause for some con-

cern.

"Now instead of being about meeting people in interpersonal space, which is what Facebook originally tried to do -- tried to be a catalyst for -- now you're talking about what you're doing on Facebook instead of what you're doing on a residential campus," Bugeja said.

"What it's really done is, instead of initiating interpersonal contact, it's complicating interpersonal contact."

Facebook officials, however, said one of the site's goals is to help users learn more about their friends.

"Facebook is a really good tool for understanding what's going on with your friends and the people around you. Everyone needs to know what's going on around them," said Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg in an online press conference. "It's a pretty core human need, and Facebook helps out with that."

Fulfilling that need is the reason for the expansion of the site, Zuckerberg said.

"One important thing to keep in mind is that needing to understand what's going on around you isn't a college-specific thing," he said. "That's why we have a lot of high school students and alumni on the site, and why we're continually expanding."

However, users need to find a "healthy

balance" between communicating via Facebook and face-to-face communication, said Marty Martinez, staff psychologist for Student Counseling Services.

Virtual friendship

The shift to online communication has caused some to base their identities in a virtual world.

"It is as if their virtual friends are far more important than the human beings they see every day," Mack said.

The way friendship is defined is changing because of online social networks -- users often define their Facebook "friends" as anyone from a casual acquaintance or classmate to someone they spend a significant amount of time with.

"To be a friend in college is a significant investment of time and energy and concern. It's an effort of the conscious, and it takes dedication and time. It takes listening skills, great interpersonal skills; it takes the ability to plan outings to do things together to coordinate that effort. You can't coordinate that effort with 500 friends," Bugeja said.

The redefinition of friendship -- along with users trying to keep in touch with their Facebook friends -- can actually keep people from developing true, significant relationships with others, Bugeja said.

"Those relationships often end up in

marriage, often end up in partnerships -- business partnerships, romantic partnerships -- or lifelong friendships," he said.

The push to become friends with so many people has some criticizing that Facebook is becoming more like MySpace, the most popular Web site in the United States.

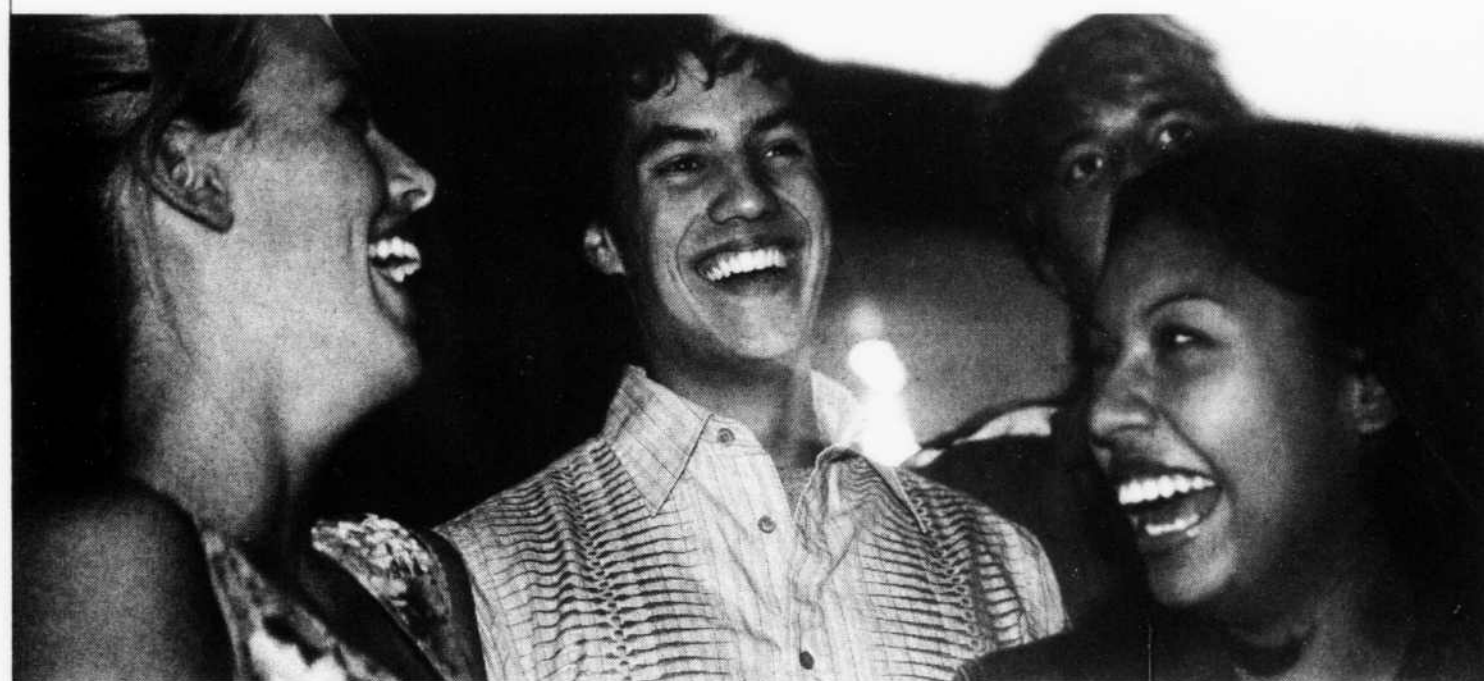
Facebook co-founder and spokesperson Chris Hughes disagreed, saying Facebook's emphasis is to be a "social utility" for existing social networks.

An addictive fad

Any technology has the potential for addiction -- including Facebook, Martinez said.

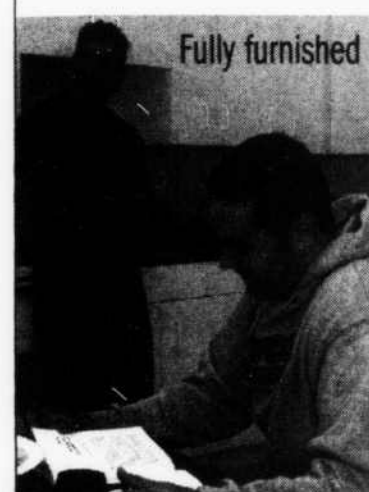
"Students should see the Facebook as one piece of the pie. It's a neat way to interact with people ... but [users should tell themselves] instead of just Facebooking people, I'll go interact with them," he said.

If a users notice they are spending too much time on Facebook, setting a limit on how much time to spend on the site can be helpful. If sticking to the limit becomes difficult, users should acknowledge their weakness and find an objective person to talk to about their addiction, such as a friend or family member, Martinez said. If that doesn't help, Martinez suggested talking to a hall director or a counselor.

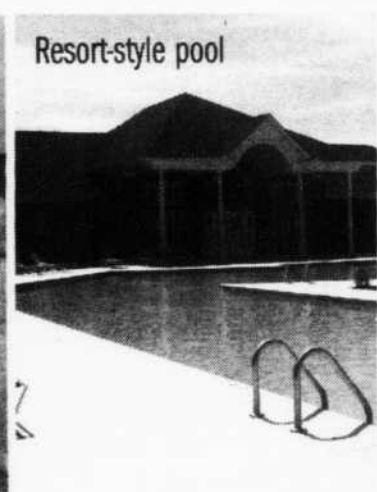


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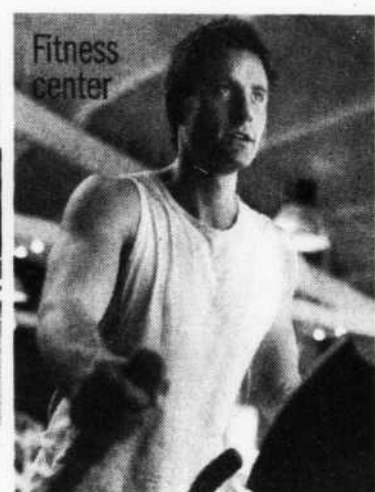
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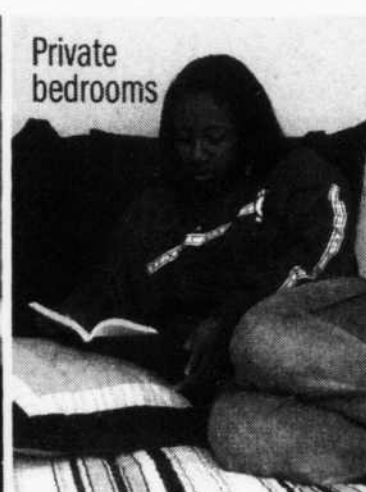
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OPINIONS

From the Editor

The last week has seen a heated exchange between members of the *Sidelines* staff and the Greek community over the words written by staffer Matt Hurtt in his column, "Greeks must recreate honorable foundation," Sept. 18. Greek students on campus feel as though they have been personally attacked, treated with a special harshness because of their social affiliation, and Mr. Hurtt feels that he was not given the opportunity to properly express himself.

In an effort to calm the tension, I would like to set forth a few important clarifications.

First, the charge by Mr. Hurtt against *Sidelines* is that he attempted to print an explanation and correction of his column, after he discovered inaccuracies laced through his piece, but that his editors would not allow him to do so.

It is the policy of *Sidelines* to correct any misinformation we print that comes to our attention. The reasons Mr. Hurtt was not given this opportunity are two-fold.

First, Mr. Hurtt attempted to address his missteps through a letter to the editor, which is an inappropriate way for a staff member to correct a mistake. His request to print a letter was accordingly denied, hence his charge that *Sidelines* did not give him leave to correct himself.

Mr. Hurtt was given the opportunity in an email to express himself through his next column. He did not respond to this offer, and ultimately chose to express himself inappropriately through multiple public forums, instead.

Second, as Mr. Hurtt sent his clarification in the form of a letter to the editor, my assumption was that he was not trying to correct factual errors, but trying to back-track from his harsh statements. This turned out not to be the case, but operating under that assumption, I took the stance that he had dug his grave by expressing his somewhat unpopular opinion, and in that grave he must lie. Had I realized he was actually speaking to factual error, I would have simply run a correction box.

That being said, I did not read his letter. I took a report from Mr. Hurtt's direct supervisor, and did not investigate myself. This was inappropriate, especially for a journalist, and I offer mea culpa.

The most important issue at stake, though, is that the true facts are set forth. Mr. Hurtt failed to tell the full story on two fronts in his column, and it is these situations that he sought to clarify in his letter to the editor. First, Mr. Hurtt made the charge that the Greek Life employees fraternized with students, he was correct, but misleading. The truth is, the former director of Greek Life was caught in compromising behaviors with students involving alcohol, but this is not remotely true of the current administration.

The second misleading statement was that the Kappa Sigma fraternity was ousted from campus after an alcohol violation. The facts are, the fraternity was involved in a string of violations not limited to alcohol, and they were suspended by the university, not kicked off, before their national organization pulled their charter.

Ultimately, regardless of mistakes by any *Sidelines* staff members, I accept responsibility. The job of the editor is to be the gatekeeper for the newspaper, and I let words through the gate that should have been checked. Again, I apologize.

Through this letter, I hope that I have been able to both explain why Mr. Hurtt's clarification was not printed, and to set forth the true facts about the assertions in his column.

Please direct further correspondence about this matter to me, and not to Mr. Hurtt.

Michaela Jackson, *Sidelines* Editor
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Letter to the Editor

Greek Life makes students into leaders

To the Editor:

I do not think that you have a clear understanding of what it means to be Greek at MTSU. You are on the outside looking in, and your perception is based on rare, negative notoriety.

I am a proud member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. I am the vice-president, which is directly responsible for recruiting new members. Pi Kappa Phi has allowed me to mature into a responsible adult. I would not be a leader on this campus had it not been for Greek Life. I have been a Raider Rep, former Inter Fraternity Council Judicial Board Vice-President and am currently the mascot – Lightning – for MTSU.

I can not change what other fraternities do; however I can stand with them when one of my fellow brothers and sisters is down. I feel that Matt Hurtt's opinion column, "Greeks Must Recreate Honorable Foundation," [Sept. 18] is enormously inaccurate. Beta Theta Pi is a great fraternity on this campus. The media has taken an individual, isolated event and spun it out of control, which is irresponsible.

The event in question could have happened anywhere, and unfortunately it happened in a fraternity house between two brothers. Yes, some fraternities nationwide have acted poorly; however, the days of "Animal House" no longer exist. Our insurance companies would never allow that.

What Hurtt neglects to mention is that the Greeks at MTSU are the most responsible student group on campus. We attend all the sporting events, hold numerous Student Government Association positions, are student ambassadors, are Raider Rep tour guides, work in all fascists at this university, are cheerleaders and yes, some of us work at *Sidelines*. I take personal offense to Hurtt's opinion because it is near-sighted, irresponsible and wrong.

Leigh Harlem
Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

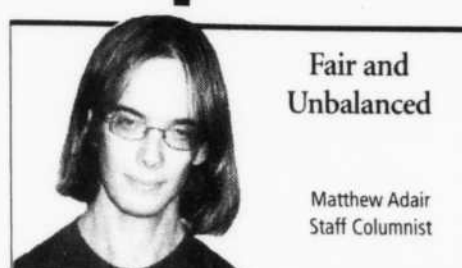
Liberal values positive, patriotic

I admit, I'm jealous of conservative media power. I admire the audacity of their continuing, successful transformation of a word deeply ingrained into the spirit of this country into something dirty and distasteful.

I am, of course, talking about the destruction of the word 'liberal.' It's said like you've just put something bitter into your mouth and want to spit every trace of it out. Every campaign season, Republicans roll out the wagon and tell us just how liberal, and thus 'bad,' the opposing candidate is. Take Bob Corker's – or, rather, the independent group that is not Bob Corker's – current ad campaign against Democratic rival Harold Ford, Jr. A radio ad paints Ford as being as liberal as liberal can be, being close buddies with such figureheads as Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and Ted Kennedy – northern senators who don't care a wink about the average American citizen. Remember, liberals are out-of-touch with reality.

We've certainly been given an ugly reputation. We're seen as clueless, stuffed-shirt wimps who couldn't find a good time if it hit us in the face. We either flip-flop back and forth on the issues, or we're crazed, far-left lunatics on a mission to bring about a communist revolution. We cater to narrow, select special-interest groups whose goals serve only a handful of other, equally crazy people. Liberals are depressing doomsayers whose only goal in life is to make Americans feel ashamed of themselves and their country. Liberals hate America. Remember that – that's very important.

The right has invested much into convincing you that liberals are a level of evil parallel to terrorists, tyrant dictators and jar lids you just



Fair and
Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

can't get open. Conservatives not only have control of the White House, the majority in Congress and a narrow ideological advantage on the Supreme Court, they also pack one of the loudest media voices in the nation. Two major news outlets – Fox and MSNBC – lean in their direction, as well as numerous magazines, newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal* and an enormous number of radio show hosts who apparently take glee in shouting down any opinion but their own.

Remember, though, that the liberals control the media. We control everything you see, read and hear. The right are the underdogs, leading the rebellion against the elitists and hippies trying to take the country down.

That's a good story and a very empowering one for conservative leaders. However, the rest of us need a better story. Let me tell you one.

Liberals aren't stuffed-shirt losers, aren't wimps and actually do care about things that affect America. Former president Bill Clinton has spent his years out of office heading the Clinton Global Initiative, a round-table of sorts where influential business leaders can share money and ideas for fixing big problems – things like a cleaner environment, energy independence and defusing ethnic and reli-

gious conflicts. In other words, creating a safer, cleaner, healthier world. I think most Americans would like that.

Kerry, when he's not sharing a beer bong with partying college students, calls on people to apply their religious faith for ending poverty and reducing the number of abortions while leaving women free to choose what is best. Sen. Clinton, in between defending President George W. Bush against cinematic depictions of his assassination and the country against the ranting of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has been working alongside her husband in building his \$7.3 billion organization. Even Sen. Kennedy, whom few are fond of, has been pushing legislation to raise the minimum wage. I think most of us would like to drink to that.

Ending poverty and building prosperity matters. Creating sustainable natural resources that will support us for years to come matters. Building a nation and a world that is safe for us and for future generations matters. All of these things are liberal in the truest sense of the word. They are all part of the greater goal of making us more free.

Let's take the word back. Let's make it clear we're tired of being scared and alone. Let's bring the story of change for the better to everyone, and show our fellow Americans that the right's story is the pessimistic one. We're proud enough to love this country. Shouldn't we be proud enough to make it a better one?

Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Muslim extremists must be stopped

"Show me just what [the Muslim prophet] Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached." Byzantine Emperor Manuel II uttered those words to a Persian scholar near the end of the 14th century.

Pope Benedict XVI also spoke these words at a recent lecture entitled "Faith, Reason and the University." Benedict immediately followed up by explaining that not following reason directly contradicts God's nature.

The backlash was almost immediate. In true fanatic-Muslim style, young Muslim men began burning effigies of the Pope, destroying property and even set ablaze two churches. A nun and her bodyguard were also brutally murdered in Somalia by a Muslim extremist. The Muslim community demands an apology



Hurtt Pride

Matt Hurtt
Staff Columnist

from the Pope. For what – quoting a conversation that took place over 600 years ago between two individuals?

The Pope did apologize for the response from the Muslim community.

How long can we allow this kind of behavior to continue? The destruction brought on by Muslim extremists following the Pope's statement was childish and infantile. Have we forgotten the outrage that erupted after a Danish political cartoon depicted the prophet Mohammed with a bomb on his head?

Should we ask for an apology from those Islamic extremists?

It seems interesting to me that this "religion of peace," as it is so touted, resorts to violence whenever someone speaks out against it. The Catholic Church does not order holy war every time someone speaks out against the Holy See. Buddhists and Hindus do not bomb religious buildings or behead enemies when something is said about their religion. Jews do not cry foul over Islamic anti-Semitism.

Certainly there are devout Muslims who follow the teachings of Mohammed without burning effigies of various Western figures or blowing up religious sites – they should demand that their religion be given back to those who seek not to "spread by the sword." Perhaps they fear retribution from those mullahs who control various elements of the Islamic faith.

If groups of Muslims fear they will be put to death if they speak

out against Islamic terrorism, then a strong argument can be made against Islam being a religion of peace.

The attitude of complacency must change if we are to ever achieve a sense of world peace. The goal of extremist Islam is to destroy Western civilization, plain and simple.

World-wide terrorism against America over the past thirty years has evolved into an almost exclusively Islamic endeavor.

From the American hostage crisis of 1979 in Iran to the attacks on Sept. 11th, 2001, Muslim extremists have been waging a cultural and religious war against America, and if serious steps are not taken to curb this threat, then soon we could all be praying toward Mecca five times a day.

Matt Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

"Girls Gone Wild" oppresses, demeans

For years, Joe Francis has built an empire on exploiting drunken girls. For years, my nighttime TV watching has been disrupted by infomercials boasting "the sexiest college coeds doing things you never could have dreamed." For years, Francis has weaseled his way out of countless lawsuits just like he's weaseled countless girls out of their bikinis.

Finally, the "Girls Gone Wild" empire has begun to crack under the pressure.

This month, Francis pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of minors and will be forced to pay \$2.1 million in fines. Given that the franchise extends far into the multi-millions, it is not a devastating loss. However, it's a start.

It's easy to blame men, or in this case, Francis. However, there are two essential factors in achieving gender equality – men must relinquish some of their power, and women must jump at the chance to claim it. How can we jump if we're too busy lifting up our shirts?

Some feminists have long regarded porn as a middle-finger to oppression. Women are, after all, in control of their bodies; we can be anything we want, from president to housewife to porn star extraordinaire. Yet, men are still the ones making the money.

Landing a supporting role in "Girls Gone Wild" guarantees that men all over America will be drooling over you. Night after night, you will pervade many men's dirtiest thoughts, but once the initial thrill is over, you just look kind of stupid.

Somehow, I don't think this is what Gloria



Kvetch A
Break

Sarah Lavery
Staff Columnist

Steinem and Susan B. Anthony had in mind when they pioneered various women's movements. Sexual expression, however liberating, does nothing but further women's oppression if it is solely for male profit. Sure, the barely-legal girls may get their freeze-frame as celebrity, but what then? Put it on your resume? Make mom and dad proud of your independence? Score some D-list movie roles?

Francis reduces women to sex objects, rewards them with t-shirts to remember their wild and crazy nights and sends them on their way. He winds up with fists of cash.

Boys – 1. Girls – 0.

Why are we doing this to ourselves? My guess is that most girls bare it all for Francis in hopes of fame. Maybe they're hoping for another chapter in their crazy times-of-their-youth memoir. Who knows?

Recent legal battles excluded, "Girls Gone Wild" has triumphed over years' worth of lawsuits. Every time a humiliated girl cries out that she was too drunk for consent, that she was unaware of the mass distribution or that the cameras were explained to be for a private

video, "Girls Gone Wild" prevails with a signed and dated consent form. Aside from a few slaps on the wrist, each scandal only adds to its infamy and sales.

"Sex sells everything. It drives every buying decision," Francis told an *Los Angeles Times* reporter, "I hate to get too deep and philosophical here, but only guys with the greatest sexual appetites are the ones who are the most driven and most successful."

Clearly, sex equals power. That is, of course, unless you're a woman; to the "Girls Gone Wild" team, your sex equals a big payday.

Strangely, I don't hate Joe Francis. If anything, I admire his vindictive entrepreneurship. He simply saw an opportunity and turned his wet dream into a massive franchise. What would happen, though, if at their next sponsored event, girls kept their shirts down? What if they demanded a paycheck for their integral role in the business?

It would certainly be a more devastating effect than a measly \$2.1 million.

Whether you value self-exploitation as empowering or repressing, the fact remains that Francis will go down in history for his controversial, mega-grossing franchise while his entourage of drunken, college girls will be forgotten with the flick of a remote.

Sounds real empowering to me.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at sc12s@mtsu.edu.

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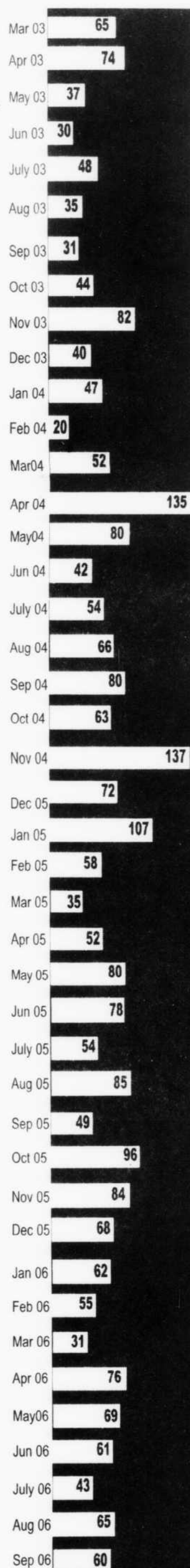
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FEATURES

U.S. Military Deaths in Iraq

From March 19, 2003, the day the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began, until Sept. 24, 2006, 2,702 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq. In comparison, 2,973 people died in the 9/11 attacks on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. A look at the death tolls (Note: Numbers vary slightly among sources; Sept. 06 data includes 15 deaths pending confirmation from U.S. Department of Defense):



Graphic by Nicole Lytle

Source: <http://icasualties.org>

"He wasn't trying to be anyone's hero ... He just wanted to be himself."

— Cherish Piche, wife of fallen soldier Capt. Pierre Piche



Photo provided by Cherish Piche

Pierre and Cherish Piche pose during "Take Your Wife to Work Day" for Pierre's unit in the 101st Airborne. Pierre was killed in Iraq in 2003.

Remembering Pierre

Nearly three years after husband's death, war widow marches on

By Stacy Carr

Contributing Writer

While stationed in Iraq, Capt. Pierre Piche stood in a portable toilet and called his wife, Cherish. Upon getting her voicemail, he began to sing Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You." After being caught by a fellow soldier who questioned just what in the world his companion was doing, he replied simply, "I am singing to my wife on the toilet!"

Moments like those defined Capt. Piche, an MTSU alumnus who was killed on Nov. 15, 2003, when his Black Hawk helicopter collided with another over Mosul, Iraq. Seventeen soldiers were killed, all from the 101st Airborne in Fort Campbell, Ky. Nearly three years later, his memory stands to be preserved in the MTSU Veterans Memorial, which is currently in its planning stages.

For the woman he left behind, however, Pierre's memory will forever be more than a name on a wall.

"He could run for miles and miles and miles with 200 pounds on his back," Cherish said. "He

was also an expert marksman, so very few people knew how romantic he really was."

Beneath the military tough-guy exterior was the romantic who left his wife notes and sang to her, albeit just slightly off-key. An animal lover, Pierre once picked up a dead cat in the middle of the road and gave it a proper burial. Even in Iraq, he found a dog and kept it for two weeks before finding an Iraqi family to adopt it.

For Pierre and Cherish, love was as natural as singing in the shower—or the port-a-john.

Love began when Pierre and Cherish met at the NASCAR Café (now a vacant building) in downtown Nashville. Cherish began a conversation about NASCAR in hopes of having something in common with the man who caught her attention. After talking for a while, they went on an unofficial first dinner date followed with a walk on the riverfront.

"I just knew that we had a connection and that we were going to be together for a long time," she said.

After joining the army as an enlisted soldier, Pierre decided

that he wanted to become an officer, which required him to get a college education. He applied for ROTC scholarships and was accepted to almost every college to which he applied.

After visiting MTSU, though, the decision was clear.

"Pierre loved MTSU," Cherish said. "He was so happy there and so dedicated."

Pierre studied political science and history and graduated with a 4.0 GPA in 2000.

Pierre's plan was to be in the army for life, Cherish said, but after Sept. 11, 2001, "he was gone a lot more real and not so hypothetical." Pierre decided before he left for Iraq that he would leave the armed services after his duty was complete in May 2004.

"The plan was that we were going to move to Florida," Cherish said. "He was going to be a history teacher and I was going to pursue school administration."

The plan, however, was cut short. On a Rest and Relaxation trip outside Mosul, Pierre's helicopter crashed with another that was responding to a drive-by shooting at a bank. At the time, it was the deadliest single incident in the war in Iraq.

Pierre was 29 years old.

At Pierre's memorial, a friend told Cherish that he wanted her to have a goal and something to focus on. After explaining that she wanted to be in school administration he told her, "I am going to point you in the right direction; I want you to get it on your own."

Cherish decided to apply for an assistant principal position in the Metro Nashville Public School system. She has been the assistant principal at Donelson Middle School for three years now.

Having secured the job she always wanted, Cherish began to check off the boxes that she and Pierre had planned to check together. She bought a house. Pierre had a love for Ford

Mustangs, so Cherish went out and bought one of the new-model Mustangs. She continues to volunteer at animal shelters, something she and Pierre both loved to do.

"It is all stuff that we had planned to do together, but I am doing it without him now," Cherish said.

Cherish is also taking any opportunity she can to share her story—and Pierre's story.

"Some people that have lost loved ones in Iraq, they don't want to do stories, but I have always been the kind of person that if someone calls me up and wants to hear about him or do a story about him, I always do it," she said. "I feel like that is the only way people are ever going to really know the faces behind the numbers."

These days Cherish finds herself bothered by the fact that the media rarely mentions the people who lose their lives. That, in turn, has resulted in a collective forgetfulness of the soldiers who are still fighting, she said.

"At first people would receive help from charities after their spouse[s] died, but now that is fading away and not happening so much," she said.

For her part, Cherish is actively supporting efforts to remember the fallen. She served as the honorary starter in the MTSU Veterans Memorial 5K Sept. 17, which helped raise money for the aforementioned campus memorial. Pierre's name will be listed on a memorial wall with the names of MTSU students and alumni who were killed in action.

As a man who didn't seek the spotlight, Pierre will now be remembered for generations to come.

"He wasn't trying to be anyone's hero, he never tried to draw attention to himself or bragged about anything that he had accomplished," Cherish said. "He just wanted to be himself."

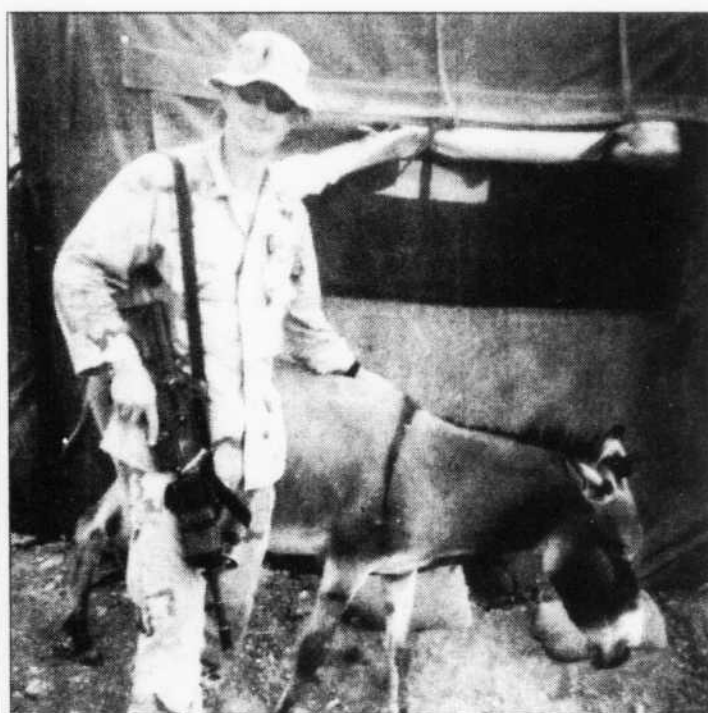


Photo provided by Cherish Piche

MTSU alumnus Capt. Pierre Piche poses with one of the many donkeys in Iraq.

Memorial plans moving ahead

By Stacy Carr

Contributing Writer

History will be preserved at MTSU with a memorial to honor fallen heroes that have attended or taught at the university.

"The idea is for a living memorial not just a memorial that will take up space on campus," said history professor Derek Frisby, a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee. "We came up with an amphitheater concept that can be used as a space for students to reflect on the service of veterans, and hopefully be inspired by what I termed the 'Blue Raider spirit of service,' which is the foundation of this institutions mission."

The plans in place are for an amphitheater that can serve as place for students to hang out and for professors to have classes outdoors. Plans also call for a memorial wall that will include the names of MTSU veter-

ans killed in action.

"We are actually moving from the idea phase of the memorial to actually getting one built," said Frisby, who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. "We are close."

The committee has raised more than \$13,000 dollars for the memorial, which will likely cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Political science professor Andrei Korobkov started research for the memorial after one of his students, 1st Lt. Ken Ballard, was killed in Iraq. He and fellow professor Robb McDaniel then began formulating plans to honor MTSU students and alumni who have been killed in service.

"We have a step-by-step approach, so we're not expecting to have to do the whole thing at once," McDaniel said at the Sept. 17 MTSU Veterans Memorial 5K Race, which raised \$3,500 toward the memorial fund. "We've done it in a piecemeal fashion ...

that way, when we get funding we can move ahead with the phases of the project."

The next phase of the fundraising process will begin at the annual Salute to Veterans celebration during the Nov. 25 football game v. Troy University. The memorial committee has plans to begin a memorial brick campaign, in which anyone interested can purchase a personalized brick honoring a veteran. Frisby added that the committee will also unveil the memorial design.

"This is a testament to the service part of the university's mission," Frisby said. "There is not a greater example in the state for service than MTSU—we give so much back to the community."

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the memorial fund can contact Frisby at dfrisby@mtsu.edu or by calling 898-8856.

Features editor Colby Sledge contributed to this story.

Notable fallen MTSU veterans

In addition to Capt. Pierre Piche, 58 other MTSU students and alumni have been killed in action in conflicts ranging from World War I to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among the fallen soldiers whose names will be listed on the memorial wall as part of the MTSU Veterans Memorial (listed in alphabetical order):

1st Lt. Kenneth M. Ballard: killed in an accidental weapons discharge outside Najaf, Iraq, on May 30, 2004. Ballard and Piche are thought to be two of three soldiers with MTSU ties killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The third soldier's name was unavailable at press time.

Robert R. Boyd: died from shrapnel to chest near Swan Loc, Hoa Nghia Province, South Vietnam on May 17, 1967. Boyd, who was the only soldier killed when his group was left out in the open for fifteen minutes, had earlier received the Bronze Star for Valor for directing fire while exposed to hostile fire for five hours.

William Burkett, Jr.: killed in action near Brest, France on Aug. 28, 1944. Burkett, also known as "Little Willie" on the football field, was shot as he led his troops through a hedgerow.

Gerald W. Davidson: died in a helicopter crash in South Vietnam on June 29, 1964. Davidson was piloting a "smoke ship"—a helicopter designed to produce a smoke screen over a landing zone—when hostile fire hit the aircraft, killing all four crew members in the crash.

Joe R. Fulghum: died in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam on Feb. 2, 1967. Fulghum had been performing a rescue and recovery mission when his helicopter was hit and crashed. Fulghum had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying five times near heavy fighting to save more than 37 wounded American soldiers.

William J. McCrory: died from a shell fragment in Iwo Jima in February 1945. McCrory, who played on the baseball and football teams and also participated in choir and drama, was returning from fortifying the right flank of his company when he was hit by the shell fragment.

William J. McConnell: died of pneumonia while serving with the Red Cross in Germany during World War I. McConnell was the author of the original MTSU alma mater.

William D. Neely, III: died while training new pilots in Libya during May 1943. Neely, whose plane was nicknamed "Lightning," was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Robert J. Sarvis: died as member of Royal Canadian Air Force in German attack on July 25, 1944. Sarvis ordered his crew to bail out and remained in his B-25 as it crashed into the English Channel.

Allan J. Sewart: killed during a bombing raid on Nov. 18, 1942. As MTSU's most decorated fallen veteran, Sewart received the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and two Purple Hearts. The Smyrna Air Base was named to honor him in 1950.

Roger E. Smith: killed by enemy fire on July 21, 1944 while coming to the rescue of a wounded rifleman. Smith, a former student body president, took time to write to Sidelines to provide first-hand accounts of the war to classmates back in Murfreesboro.

Source: www.mtsu.edu/~veterans/Roll_of_Honor.html

SPORTS

Middle sweeps doubleheader

Thursday, September 21

Game 1

MT 7

Belmont 0

Game 2

MT 8

Belmont 0

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee softball team won the first games of the fall season against Belmont at Blue Raider Field Thursday 7-0, 8-0.

The two wins were sweet revenge for the Blue Raiders, who lost 2-1 to Belmont last season. Both teams played five innings with free substitutions, and everyone who was on the roster was eligible to hit. Freshmen lefty pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt started the first game. This was her first start as

a Blue Raider and she allowed only one hit, struck out two and walked one for her first win and first shutout of the season.

Sophomore Martha Davis got the game started with a one out single and senior Shelby Stiner hit a two-run homer. After two outs, Melissa Weiland had a two-out single and Muriel Ledbetter followed with a walk. Then a single by Whitney Darlington loaded the bases for Katie Mielke, who walked in the third run.

MT scored four more runs in the fourth inning. Corrie Abel singled and Weiland homered in the fourth. Newcomer Ashley Cline and sophomore Sam Floyd added to the final score with two back-to-back RBIs to go up 7-0.

The Blue Raiders went up 2-0 early in Game 2. Abel had a single to bring in Stiner, and after a single by Weiland, Abel and Weiland stole bases together, allowing Abel to score. Cline walked to begin the second inning and moved to second after a groundout by Mielke. Cline stole third and

scored on a Belmont error.

Kristine Reed and Caitlin McLure walked to start the third and a groundout by Davis moved them to second and third. Stiner scored Reed on a RBI single and later Stiner stole second. Abel grounded out to second to score McLure. Stiner finally crossed the plate on a double by Weiland.

Cline and Floyd later scored in the fourth. In the second game Stiner went 2-for-2 with two runs scored. She also had one stolen base and one RBI.

Ashley Cline finished with two RBIs and two hits, while Shelby Stiner had three RBIs and three hits. Stiner hit a home run as well. Melissa Weiland had four hits, three RBIs and also hit a home run. As a team MT had a batting average of .436, while Belmont only hit for a .094 in both games. Samantha Floyd pitched five shutout innings and struck out three. Floyd only allowed two hits during the game.

MT will next play Friday at Blue Raider Field against Motlow State at 5 p.m.

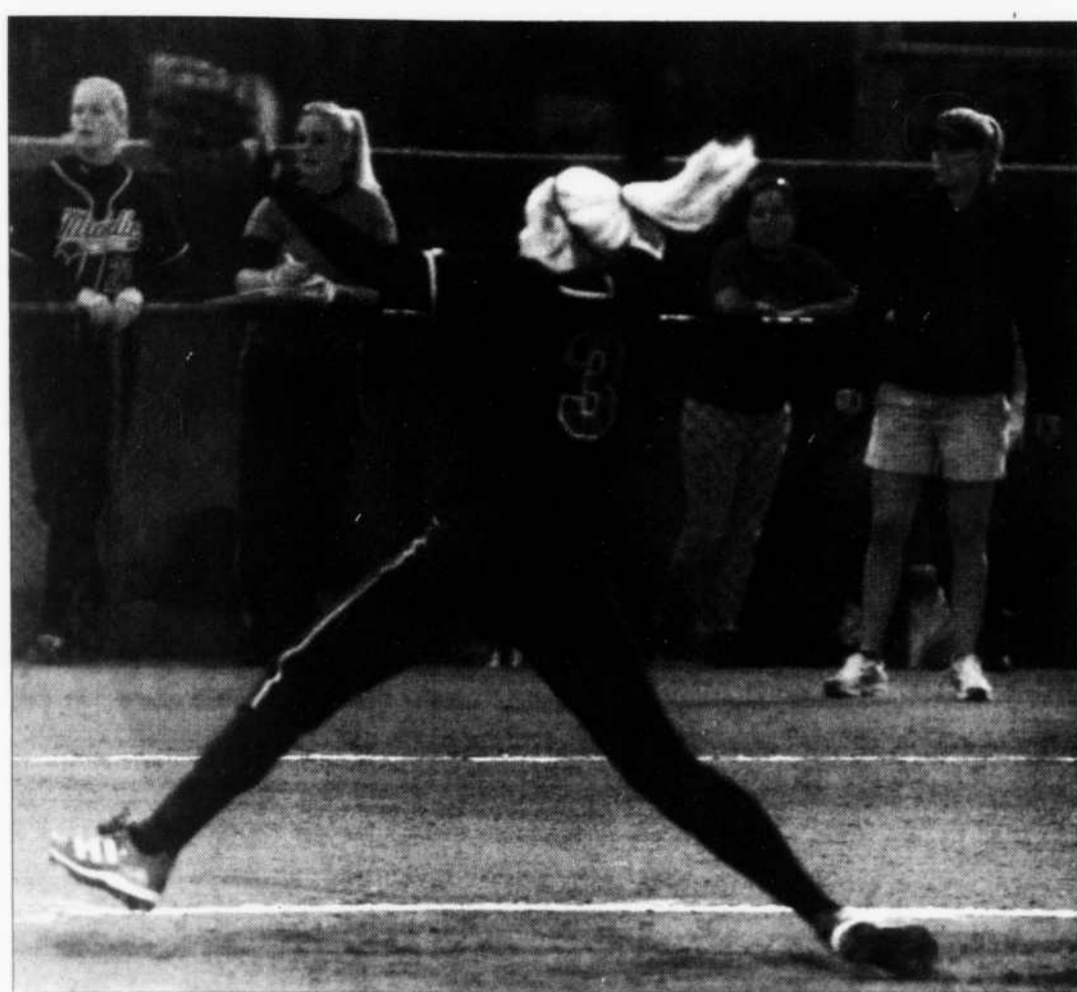


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
No. 3 sophomore Samantha Floyd won the second game against Belmont 8-0 and tossed a shut out allowing only two hits. She also struck out three batters.

What a difference a week makes



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

After the 44-0 blowout of Tennessee Tech, Middle Tennessee's 59-0 loss to Oklahoma resulted in a jaw-dropping 103-point difference between the two games. Well, let's just go ahead and get it over with. I know you're all waiting to hear it.

I was wrong.

I could say that I was saved by a technicality, but I'm not taking the easy way out. Last week I kept saying IF the Blue Raiders could just hold on to the ball and show a little offense, MT could keep the Oklahoma game close. In retrospect, that's like saying if we could just find a way to make Murphy Stadium fly, it would revolutionize the travel industry. We started the game by handing them 24 points in 15 minutes. After an advantage like that, anyone could have embarrassed us.

I was wrong to place my trust in an offense that hadn't earned any. I was also wrong when I assumed that quarterback would be our weakest position. We had ball control issues from every spot except wide receiver, but they barely saw the ball. And I was wrong to say that Paul Thompson wouldn't be able to put up big numbers. Thompson was 13-of-18 for 257 yards and three touchdowns? In case you're more of a chess fan, those are huge numbers against this Blue Raider defense.

Okay, now that I've swallowed enough of my pride, it's time to say something else. I was still right about two things. First, MT did stop Peterson. He had 60 less yards against MT than he has averaged against much bigger programs. MT stopped him for a loss on six different occasions. He played well, but he did not run all over the Blue Raider defense.

Secondly, MT didn't cave in the second half.

Let me give you a scenario: A decent team plays a team from another level of talent, depth and size. They play okay in the first half, because they have heart, but in the second they fall apart. They've been overwhelmed. They are tired, beat up and have no fresh players to plug into their many holes. The close game becomes a blowout. Reference Tennessee Tech for a recent example.

I heard person after person say MT would fall apart in the second half. It's what they have always done, but I say they're moving past that problem. I can't explain away that first half. No one can. After five turnovers and a punt return for a touchdown would have ended in a

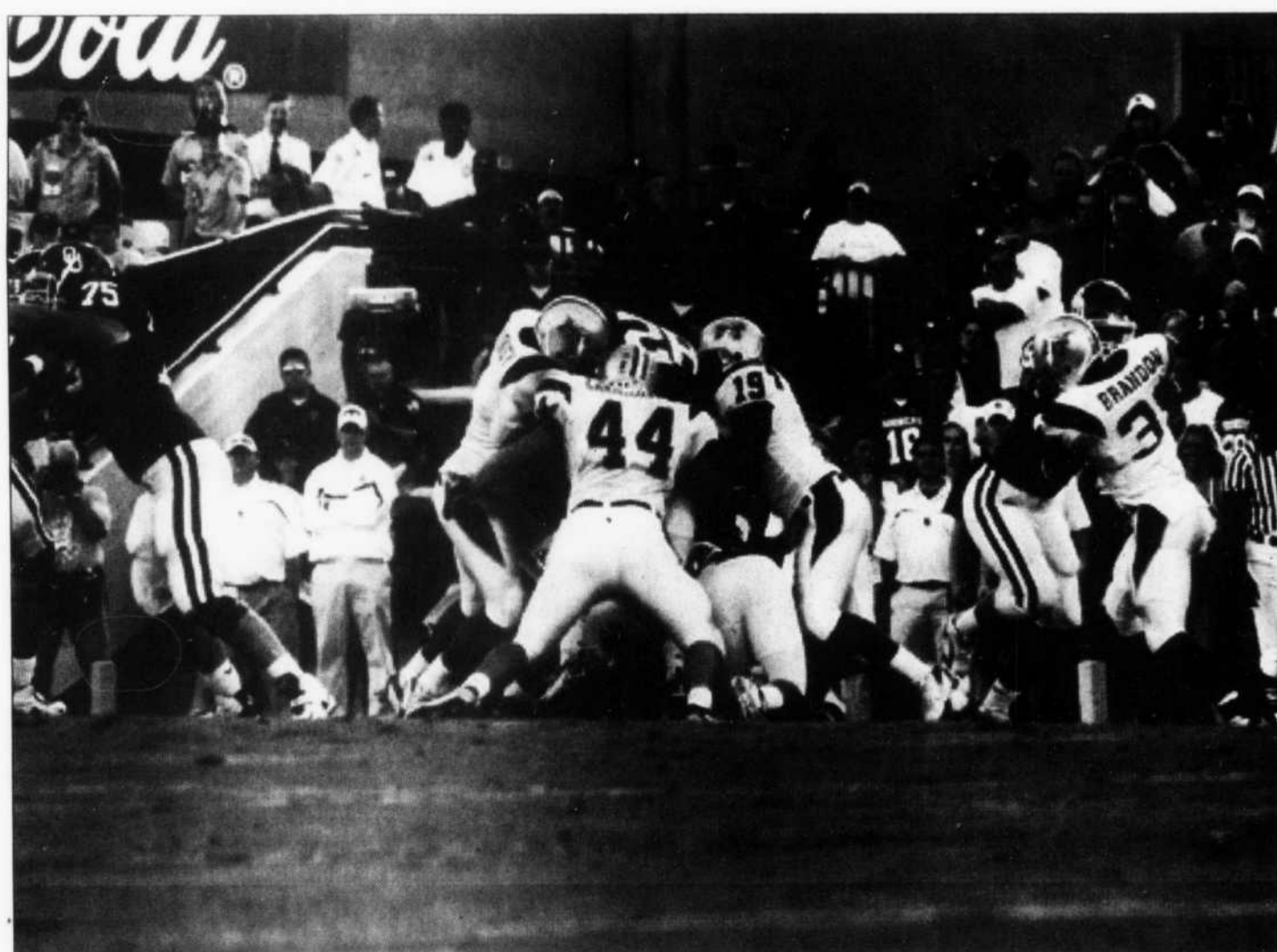


Photo Courtesy of MT Media Relation
Middle Tennessee junior defensive end (19) Tavares Jones and (44) Freshmen Linebacker Danny Carmichael help the defense stop No. 28 running back Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma.

loss for anyone of Oklahoma's 59 points, 36 points came from those six plays. After a 45-point half, MT's defense came out and played so well that Bob Stoops had to put his starters back in. The Sooners, who scored 24 points in the first quarter alone, only put 14 more on the board in the final thirty minutes of play.

And that second-half performance by MT's defense has been the statistical version of a security blanket for me. Whenever I feel scared or lost, I cling to that performance. When a team allows 36 points from mistakes, they get blown out. It has happened to every team in the coun-

try at one point or another. Some days you just don't stand a chance. All the same I would rather be an MT fan this week than a TTU fan from last week.

Yes, MT lost by more. Yes, they were still outplayed. But to me, competing like MT did in the second half is much harder than playing well early. Coaching can solve that problem. MT may only be one or two recruiting classes away from competing with anyone. TTU, on the other hand, is closer to winning the Little League World Series than they are landing a big bowl game.

MT wins back-to-back SBC matches



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
MT sophomore Ashley Asberry goes up to hit the ball during the Troy game. Asberry had nine kills in the game.

By Rickey Brooksher

Contributing Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team (11-4) won both Friday and Saturday games against Sun Belt Conference opponents.

Friday they swept South Alabama 30-21, 30-28, 30-28 at the Alumni Memorial Gym. Saturday night they had a great comeback against a good Troy team. Both teams seemed to be equally matched, and it usually came down to whoever got the ball to bounce their way. MT took the first game 30-25 and appeared to have control but Troy came back to win the next game, 19-30.

The important third game would go to Troy, 30-24. Troy gained the match lead and all the momentum going into the fourth match. MT answered, beating Troy 30-20, forcing a final Game 5, which MT won 15-10.

The Blue Raiders are 2-0 in Game 5 matches.

Sophomore Ashley Adams had a great match, scoring 18 kills, which was the match high, and six defensive digs. Adams also had a .406 attack percentage. Senior Jessica Robinson also had a good game with 12 kills and seven defensive blocks. Sophomore Ashley Asberry scored nine kills and nine defensive blocks for the match. Junior Quanshell Scott had 10 kills in the match.

In Friday's game against South Alabama MT took Game 1 easily, but they had trouble with Games 2 and 3. MT had to come back from behind in each of those games. They got out with the match win and opened Sun Belt play with 1-0.

A kill by junior Victoria Monasterolo began a comeback by MT in Game 2. The Blue Raiders tied the game at 27 after being behind. Another kill by Adams and an error by South Alabama gave MT the lead. South Alabama gave MT the game after an

attack error.

Later in Game 3 South Alabama was ahead by three (28-25) when MT started to rally. Monasterolo started the rally with another kill, and senior Jessica Robinson had four straight kills to help with MT's rally.

Monasterolo went on to have a double, double with 11 defensive digs. Adams had 11 kills. MT finished with a attack percentage of .265 and 50 kills and six service errors. Freshmen Leslie Clark finished with 35 assists and junior Alicia Lemau'u had 14 digs.

The Blue Raiders' victory against Troy extended the winning streak to five matches and made them 2-0 in the Sub Belt Conference.

Saturday's victory was also a big win for head coach Matt Peck, who is now at 599 wins for his career. Peck hopes to get his 600th victory against Denver next Friday. That game launches a four-match road trip for the Blue Raiders.

Disastrous week for Sun Belt



By Russell LUNA
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt Conference suffered another embarrassing week at the hands of several BCS powers. The only win came from Louisiana-Lafayette, who beat I-AA North Carolina A&T. There were several beat downs including a 59-0 bombing of Oklahoma over Middle Tennessee. Troy got trampled 56-0 as the Cornhuskers canned the Trojans. Florida International was on the brink of an upset at Maryland, but couldn't muster a second half touchdown. The good news for the Sun Belt is that most teams will begin conference play next week.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T (0-3) at LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE 48 (1-2)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: Sat. Sept. 30th vs. Eastern Michigan

WHAT HAPPENED: The Ragin' Cajuns were looking to get back to their winning ways and did so Saturday night. ULL jumped out to a 34 nothing

lead at halftime including capitalizing on a blocked punt in the first quarter. The Ragin' Cajuns rushed 46 times for 330 yards. Tyrell Fenroy led ULL with 104 yards rushing. Quarterback

Jerry Babb had an off night as he completed five passes for 78 yards. ULL held the Aggies to a total of 191 yards. The Cajuns will look to get their second win next week as they play Eastern Michigan in Lafayette next week.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "We were kind of stuck in a rut those first two weeks. Tonight we had some good ball movement and we got into a rhythm offensively, especially running the ball." Ragin' Cajun running back Jerry Babb

NORTH TEXAS 13 (1-3), AKRON 33 (2-2)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: Sat. Sept. 30th vs. Middle Tennessee

WHAT HAPPENED: The North Texas three turnovers were costly, but the Mean Green's current defense is still missing in action. Akron



jumped out early with a 21 yard touchdown by Andre Walker. The Zips could then add another three consecutive touchdowns before allowing a North Texas touchdown in the second quarter. The Mean Green's quarterback Woody Wilson got back on track throwing 15 passes for 173 yards, but Wilson also threw two interceptions. The running attack was stuffed as Jamario Cobbs was held to negative four yards rushing. Johnny Quinn led the Mean Green with 54 yards. UNT will open up Sun Belt play against Middle Tennessee next week. If the Mean Green wants to win, they

will need to utilize the passing attack and keep the MT defense on the field.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "Their defense shut our offense down, their special teams were great, their offense did what they wanted too, and they shut us down. Their team was very focused, very intense and they were executing extremely well and we were not. Their head coach did a much better job than ours did and that was me." – North Texas Head Coach Darrell Dickey

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL 10 (0-4), MARYLAND 14 (3-1)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: Sat. Sept. 30th vs. Arkansas State

WHAT HAPPENED: The Golden Panthers were still looking for their first win of the season to Maryland this weekend. The Panthers

played tough against the Terrapins who came off a 45-24 beat down from West Virginia. The Terrapins' Sam Hollenback threw two touchdowns in the first half that would be the only scores of the game. FIU quarterback Josh Padrick threw an 89-yard touchdown pass to Samuel Smith that would tie the game at 7-7. The Panthers would kick a field goal in the fourth quarter, but couldn't muster any points despite not gaining Maryland in total yardage 310-271. A'Mod Ned led the Panthers with 89 yards rushing. The Golden Panthers will seek their first win of the season against SBC foe Arkansas State



next week. If FIU can play as solid as they did Saturday, they might be able to pull the upset over the Indians.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "We had a pretty good practice, but obviously it wasn't good enough. We have to work harder in practice, and learn how to execute down the stretch. We're getting better. Our whole team is young, so we have no choice but to get better." – FIU Running back A'Mod Ned

FLORIDA ATLANTIC 6 (0-4), SOUTH CAROLINA 45 (3-1)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: Sat. Sept. 30th at Louisiana-Monroe

WHAT HAPPENED: Florida Atlantic came into Columbia, South Carolina looking for a possible upset after USC struggled with I-AA



Wofford last week. Little did the Owls realize that they are still a I-AA team playing in a lower echelon I-A conference. The Gamecocks proved that theory on Saturday, when Simeon Rice scored a school record five touchdown receptions in USC's 45-6 slashing. Rice finished the night with nine receptions for 165 yards. Offensively, FAU was shut down as the Owls could only muster 220 in total yards. Quarterback Sean Clayton rushed five times for 70 yards, while throwing five completions for 66 yards. South Carolina packed in a season high 480 yards offensively. The Owls will have an easier opponent next week as they start conference

play by taking on the Warhawks.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "They made us look like we were not in the same competition level, and that's not unusual because we're not. After these four games it's pretty obvious that we're not ready to play this type of competition." – FAU Head Coach Howard Schnellenberger

TROY 0 (1-3), No. 23 NEBRASKA 56 (3-1)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: SAT. Sept. 30th at Alabama-Birmingham

WHAT HAPPENED: Nebraska came into Saturday's game looking for revenge after falling to the #3 U S C Trojans 28-10. Troy came into



game looking to see if they could rebound after playing two tough games against Florida State and Georgia Tech. Unfortunately for Troy, Nebraska is too much for the Trojans to handle. The Cornhuskers manhandled the Trojans defense by stockpiling a total of 601 yards. Omer Haugabook threw 12 completions for 95 yards, but couldn't muster any points. The Trojans will look to improve on offense after only gaining 159 total yards. The Trojans will have a tough task playing a good UAB team next week.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "Best football team we've faced in a long time. Great coaching on their side of the field. Their players were prepared and ready and big and fast. I don't know what they call that offense, if it's

west coast or east coast or south coast or whatever, but it was very well-designed and it gave us more than we can handle." – Troy Head Coach Larry Blakeney

ARKANSAS STATE 9 (1-2), SMU 55 (2-2)

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT: Sat. Sept. 30th at Florida International

WHAT HAPPENED: The loss by the Indians of Arkansas State



might have been the most disappointing loss of the weekend in the Sun Belt Conference. ASU committed four turnovers that were very costly. The Mustangs, who suffered a 24-6 loss to North Texas two weeks ago, were looking to revive themselves and they did by gaining a total of 457 yards. ASU's Corey Leonard threw six completions for 110 yards while running back Reggie Arnold ran the ball for 88 yards. The Indians will need to play much better if they expect to win against a hungry FIU team next week.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "I think everyone communicated well. I think it all came down to just going out there and doing it. You could have the best game plan in the world, but if you're not going to go out there and execute it, then it is pretty much pointless. Our offense came out and did some pretty good things early ... we could just never put it all together." -- Arkansas State quarterback Corey Leonard

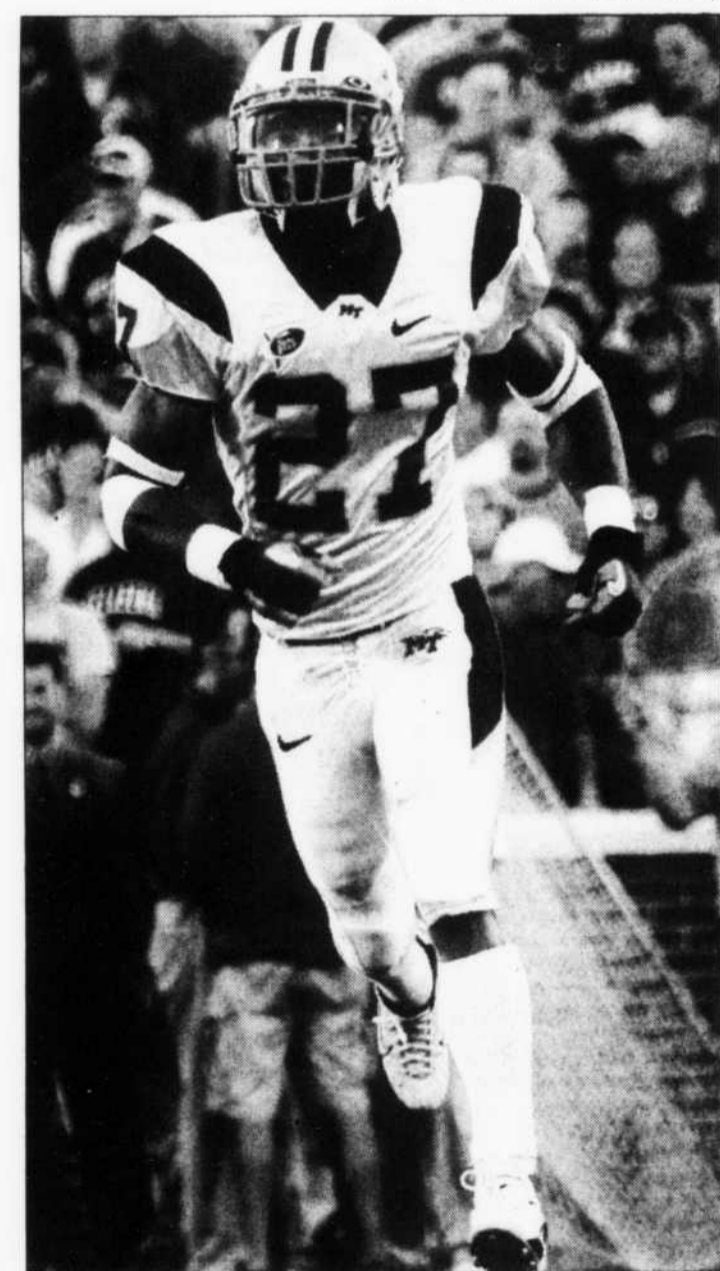


Photo Courtesy of MT Media Relations

Senior cornerback Reggie Doucet running onto the field during the Oklahoma Sooners' 59-0 rout of Middle Tennessee Saturday.

MT falls to OU in shut out Defense unable to stop Peterson

Saturday, September 21
**Oklahoma 59
MT 0**

Next Game at North Texas,
September 30

By Rickey Brooksher
Contributing Writer

Middle Tennessee (2-2) was easily defeated by Oklahoma (3-1) 59-0 Saturday night.

The perennial powerhouse held MT to just 95 yards of total offense the entire game. While MT had plenty of problems trying to stop Heisman hopeful Adrian Peterson and starting quarterback Paul Thompson, the Blue Raiders defense was able to hold the Sooners to a field goal on their first offensive drive. That would be the only highlight of the game for the MT defense.

A fumble by MT's offense led to an 18-

yard touchdown pass for OU, and from there Oklahoma never slowed down, scoring 45 points before the first half ended.

Three of those first half touchdowns were from Peterson, who spent the first half running all over the MT defense. Another touchdown was scored by the defense via an interception by Zach Latimer, who returned it 22 yards for the score.

In the second half, Oklahoma continued to play like an AP Top-25 team. They took the first drive all the way to the end zone and made the score 52-0. With the game in hand, the Sooners played the rest of the game conservatively. MT's offense still struggled for the rest of the game. OU went on to score one more touchdown on a punt return in the fourth.

The Blue Raider offense couldn't drive the ball down field all night. MT only had seven first downs while allowing 21 first downs to Oklahoma. Clint Marks and Joe Craddock combined for just six completions on 20 attempts.

Turnovers also haunted MT throughout the game, as the Blue Raiders finished with five turnovers during the game.

DeMarco McNair was a bright spot on a dark night for the blue Raiders offense; he had 37 yards on just nine carries giving him a 4.1 average yards per carry. J.K. Sabb on

defense tried his best to stop the talented Oklahoma team. Sabb accounted for eight tackles, three of them for a loss.

Dana Stewart also had a solid performance on defense with five total tackles, two tackles for a loss, a forced fumble, and a fumble recovery.

Adrian Peterson had a great performance with 128 yards rushing with three touchdowns, while Thompson had 257 passing yards and three touchdowns, both a career high.

Oklahoma finished with 462 total yards of offense.

The defeat was the worst that MT has suffered since joining Division I-A seven years ago, and the first time the Blue Raiders had been shut out since 2000. Not many positive things can come out of a huge blowout like this. MT was just at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Oklahoma was just coming off a controversial defeat in Oregon last weekend. Obviously the Sooners took out their anger on MT and will have to reemerge from this dismal game and find the team that routed Tennessee Tech last week. The Blue Raiders dropped to 2-2 on the season with the loss.

MT stays on the road next weekend with their second Sun Belt Conference game of the season against North Texas.

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

FOR RENT

3BD/2BA House. 1/4 mile from campus and across from Greek Row. CHA, hardwood floors, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove/furnished. Utility room with W/D hook-ups, deck, large yard. NO pets. Avail. June 1. \$375.00 deposit, \$800.00 per month. 615-895-0075 or 615-347-1676.

Continued from last column

Rooms for rent. In a Christian house with two females, prefer two females of like faith 450.00 a month due 1st of month. water electric and cable included. 615-895-2657 or 615-556-5809

FOR LEASE

SUBLEASER

HELP WANTED

Continued from last column

Now Hiring
New Taco Bell near campus. Flexible schedules. \$6.25 hr. Fun, quick paced environment. Apply @2955 S. Rutherford Blvd. M-F 8-5

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Continued from last column

\$5,842 FREE cash grants. Never repay! FREE grant money for school, housing, business, real estate. For listings 1-800-509-6956 extension 900

Babysitter Needed so Mom and Dad can have a night out! Must LOVE children and have own transportation. References REQUIRED. 893-6994 OR 427-8618

Continued from last column

Students needed for part-time position. Generating leads for salesmen in hail damaged areas. \$8/hr + commission. \$1 raise after 30 days. send resume to rws2@yahoo.com or call Ron @ 615-691-1819

GENERAL ROOMMATES

Continued from last column

FOR SALE

Air hockey table, 7 ft \$150 pucks and paddles incl. Sleeper sofa \$300, full size sofa \$100, area rug blue \$40, full size mattress set \$75 (615) 785-0665

TRAVEL

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POLICIES
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