

MONDAY
AUGUST 26, 2002

62 84

Partly Cloudy



The coach with the most

In Sports Wrap, inside



Student media make students the stars

In Interests, 5



This week's poll question at www.mtsusidelines.com
Do you think MT will defeat the University of Alabama this weekend?

An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 13

Students uprooted until renovations completed

Rutledge Hall temporarily providing rooms

By Chris Jones
Staff writer

Coming to school wasn't easy for freshman Chris Williams of Louisville, Ky., but after packing his belongings and traveling more than 200 miles, he was told the one thing that he didn't want to hear – he'll have to move again.

"This ain't working," said Williams, who was told by his resident assistant to not even unpack his belongings.

Williams is currently living

in Rutledge Hall along with 69 other men until the renovation in Monohan, which is a part of Monohan Complex – composed of Reynolds and Schardt halls – is complete.

"They told us, 'You can unpack your stuff if you want to, but you're going to have to move in a couple of weeks,'" Williams said.

When students will be able to move is still up in the air.

"It depends on when contractors finish the work," said Sarah Sudak, director of Housing since June.

On Aug. 22, Housing and Residential Life held a meeting in the Keathley University Center to inform residents of the renovation status. Sudak

also sent out letters for those who couldn't attend.

Because Monohan continues to have plumbing, telecommunication, custodial and electrical issues, the move date is uncertain, according to a letter sent to residents last week by Housing.

"We're hoping in the next two weeks," Sudak said.

"Housing and Residential Life discovered towards the end of the summer that Monohan wouldn't be ready for the residents," she said.

A joint decision by the university to use Rutledge Hall for temporary housing was made a few days before the actual move-in date of Aug. 16.

"Those involved in the deci-

sion included the office of the president, vice president and associate, Tennessee Board of Regions liaison and housing," Sudak said.

Housing and Residential Life later sent letters to inform the residents that there wasn't a guarantee that Monohan would be open when they arrived. Also, phone calls were made on Aug. 14 and 15 to personally inform the residents. But everyone wasn't reached in the effort, Sudak said.

"I didn't receive anything," Williams said.

When Williams arrived and couldn't check into Monohan, a custodial worker suggested that

See Rutledge, 2

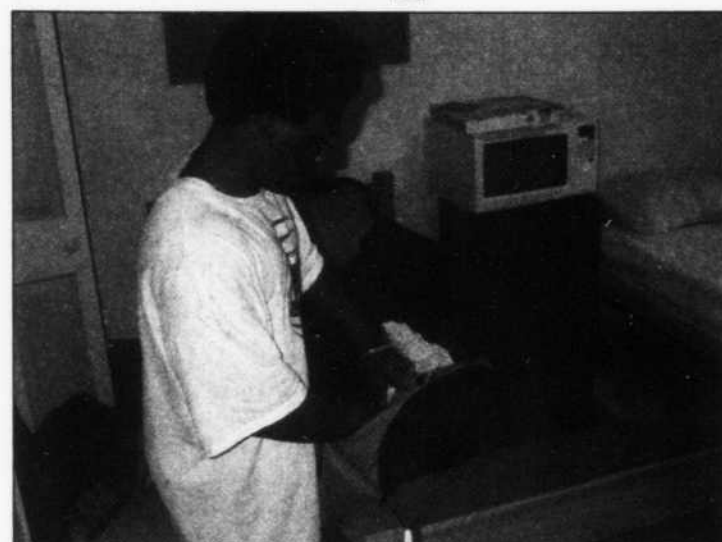


Photo by Chris Jones | Staff Photographer

Freshman Chris Williams moved into Rutledge Hall after being informed that he could not move in to Monohan Hall as originally told by Housing and Residential Life.

Professor debates compatibility of U.S. Constitution, Qu'ran

By John Stout
Staff Writer

Can the U.S. Constitution and the Qu'ran of Islam coexist?

A panel including MTSU political science Chair John Vile tried to answer that question at a public forum in Nashville Saturday. They found common ground, but differences of opinion, too.

Vanderbilt law professor Thomas McCoy moderated the event. Noting there are only about 6 million Muslims in the United States today, he questioned whether Muslims could live comfortably in this country under the Constitution. He also wondered if they were under religious pressure in a predominantly Christian nation.

"American society is strong enough to tolerate religious differences," said Vile, a constitutional scholar, after admitting to a certain amount of ignorance concerning Islam.

"It would be unconstitutional to try to force people to be Christians," Vile said. He recalled what happened to Japanese-Americans during World War II and how people with certain ethnic backgrounds were deported then – small parts of U.S. history the nation is still trying to live down.

"There are so many differences in the Christian faith itself," Vile said, "that it shouldn't be that much of a difference when other religions come into play." His own Christian faith was strong enough, he said, to survive anything that might interfere with it.

The panel, sponsored by the Nashville chapter of Citizens United for the Separation of Religion and Government and held at a Nashville church, included members of the local

Muslim community, too, although the audience of more than a hundred people was mostly non-Muslim.

Iman Yusuf Abdullah of the Masjid Al-Islam Mosque in Nashville agreed that the Constitution and the Qu'ran are compatible. Abdullah felt that Islam is a blessing to America and should be a leader of the world.

Naciri said in his opening statement that the Qu'ran is 11 centuries older than the Constitution. He believes they share ideas. The Qu'ran calls for partisan government, he said, where people are consulted and the majority rule. The Quran assigns sovereignty to God, where the Constitution assigns sovereignty to the people.

M. Nour Naciri, a business executive with a Ph.D. in economics who is also a scholar of Islam, said Muslim Americans are pleased with protections and rights afforded by the Constitution. Many, he added, are upset with some Islamic leaders about not pushing for coexistence between the two cultures.

Not everyone on the panel agreed.

Douglas Layton, who has been a missionary in Muslim countries for 15 years and has been studying the Qu'ran for 30 years, said the Islamic faith is confused about issues such as religious freedom and women's rights.

Information available on Islam is so conflicting, Layton said, that he suggests not listening to it.

He recalled that toward the end of his life, the prophet Muhammad was going to war with anyone to the north, south, east or west. It wasn't until more

See Constitution, 2

Fairs offer students options for free time



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Student Alicia Haynes (left) signs up for MTSU Student Programming, which organizes student events.



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Tuesday and Thursday's fairs drew crowds of people interested in joining campus student groups.

Extracurricular choices open to all collegiates

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

MTSU's Volunteer and Student Organization fairs enticed students last week on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

The Volunteer Fair was held Tuesday and featured local businesses in the community looking for volunteers.

The Student Organization Fair was held Thursday and featured student organiza-

tions on campus.

"Both fairs were initiated by the campus to help get students more involved," said Ashley Neill, director of Student Organizations at MTSU.

The Volunteer Fair hosted more than 15 local businesses and the Student Organization fair featured more than 25 active organizations.

The Volunteer Fair included organizations such as

See Student, 2

Bellamy burns up MTSU in Saturday night performance at Murphy Center



Photos by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Bill Bellamy, actor and former host of MTV Jams, churns out jokes during his performance at Murphy Center Saturday night – the big event of MTSU's Week of Welcome 2002.

French students arrive, continue studies at MTSU

University well-suited to diverse interests

By Michael Haynes
Staff Writer

Recently, seven French students, two graduate and five undergraduate, arrived at MTSU to study for the academic year.

Six are studying as part of an exchange program, and one is independently pursuing a master's degree.

Of the seven, three female and four male, one comes from Caen, one comes from

Besançon, three come from Cherbourg and two come from St. Lô.

According to Rosemary Kew in the department of Foreign Languages, MTSU has a reciprocal agreement with the University of Caen, the satellite campuses at Cherbourg and St. Lô, and the University of Besançon.

Each year five students from the Institut Universitaire de Technologie of Caen/Cherbourg/St. Lô study at MTSU and take classes in various academic disciplines. For the past two years at least one graduate student from Besançon has studied at MTSU.

This year is no exception. The five students from

Cherbourg are Jérôme Laubion, Caroline Biron, Erwan Le Belléguy, Thibaut Ducy and Pierrick Lecacheur. All of them cite that improving their English is their primary reason for coming to the United States.

Jérôme Laubion, 25, is from St. Lô. He has been studying International business in France. He is also interested in imports and exports as well as logistics. This is his second trip to the United States, after having spent some time in Maine. His interest in logistics has already served him well, as he drove a van from Houston to Murfreesboro after arriving from France.

Caroline Biron, 22, is also from St. Lô. She is studying

international business. She speaks three languages already, including English, Spanish and some Finnish.

Erwan Le Belléguy, 23, has already graduated with an engineering degree. He is from the IUT in Cherbourg and decided to take some classes in industrial safety and pollution control. He commented that his curriculum in France didn't include these courses but that he would like to gain some experience in these areas. He hopes his course work at MTSU will provide a "different point of view" as it relates to engineering.

Thibaut Ducy, 24, has also received his degree in engineering from France. Like Erwan,

he's taking courses related to industrial safety and pollution control. During his time in the United States, he hopes to travel, experience the culture and visit manufacturing facilities to learn more about their operations.

Pierrick Lecacheur, 21, is studying electronics and computer science. Already a graduate, he is taking coursework that will broaden his knowledge. He hopes to travel in North America.

Tanya Fatima, from Besançon, and Rachel Courty, from Caen, are both graduate teaching assistants in the department of foreign languages. Tanya is an exchange student from Besançon. She

teaches one class of beginning French, and one conversation class. This year she must prepare a thesis in order to have her degree conferred in France.

Rachel Courty is independently pursuing a master of arts in teaching. She has already earned two degrees from France in Irish literature, and teaching French to non-native speakers. Furthermore, she teaches one section of beginning French that she hopes "will give her experience in the classroom."

According to Kew, the reciprocal agreements are available for MTSU students.

For more information, please contact Kew at 898-2981 or visit www.englishfirst.org. ♦

Student: Volunteer groups offer diverse opportunities

Continued from 1

Habitat for Humanity, Special Kids Inc., domestic violence program and the Discovery Center at Murfree Springs.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry. Their objective is to provide affordable housing to families in the Rutherford County community.

There is criteria that must be met to qualify for Habitat for Humanity and volunteers have a part in that. Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers for eight different committees: fund-raising, public relations, family selection, family nurture, site selection, construction, volunteer coordinating and church relations.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that operates entirely through volunteers.

Special Kids Inc. is also a non-profit organization. They are a Christian center providing day nursing, rehabilitation and social services for children with special needs.

The children at Special Kids have medical obstacles which prevent them from attending regular day care.

Special Kids is looking for volunteers to assist in administrative duties such as filing, faxing, sorting records or answering phones.

They also need volunteers to entertain the children, help with reading, feeding and playing.

"We're looking for students that show interest and will be a committed volunteer," said Elizabeth Smith of Special Kids.

The Domestic Violence Program is a non-profit organization, which is partially funded by the state of Tennessee. They are also a participating United Way Agency.

The Domestic Violence Program pushes for goals of "to prevent ... to reduce ... to educate ... to insist ... to involve."

The program deals with dating abuse, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. They are looking for volunteers in all

areas from counseling to administrative.

The Discovery Center at Murfree Springs is the former Child Discovery House.

"We're brand new. We opened Aug. 3 and we're open Monday through Saturday from 10 to 5. Right now we're just trying to let everyone know about us," said volunteer coordinator Sandy Christenson.

The Discovery Center is a hands-on museum and environmental center. They offer programs and exhibits for children to come and learn with.

Volunteers for the Discovery Center would learn how to create and restore exhibit items, present educational programs and gain knowledge in areas of science, art and culture.

The Discovery Center offers programs such as Tennessee Live, Newton's Loft, Creation Station and Window to the World.

Each exhibit is a hands-on way of learning about the environment and the world.

The Student Organization fair housed more than 25 campus organizations.

"The student organizations that are active on campus come out for this fair," Neill said. "They provide information on their organization, what they're all about and how to join."

The fair featured such groups as fraternities, sororities and religious organizations, National Association of Black Journalists, environmental organizations, Circle K and the Mock Trial team as well as many others.

The fair's purpose was to inform students on active student organizations on campus. MTSU has more than 200 student organizations, but not all of those are active.

Each organization has the option to set up a table to give out information on their organization, answer questions, explain their mission and look for interested students.

For any information about any student organization, contact Neill at 904-8418.



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Freshman Linzi Croi (standing) learns about MTSU's Student Programming organization from current organization member Courtney Huckabay (sitting).

For more information on Habitat for Humanity, call 890-5877.

For more information on Special Kids, call Smith at 890-1003.

For more information on volunteering, for the Domestic Violence Program, contact Ruth Howard at 400-0485.

Any questions about the Discovery Center or about volunteering can be directed to Sandy Christenson at 890-2300.

Rutledge: Movers offered

Continued from 1

he go to Rutledge to find out what was going on, he said.

"I thought that maybe I had to just sign in at Rutledge," Williams said. "But I found out that I actually had to move in Rutledge."

After the renovations are done, there will be approximately 34 rooms available in Monohan for the residents, according to Housing and Residential Life. Rutledge accommodates two people to a room. However, some residents will have two other roommates once they move in Monohan.

For the residents, Housing and Residential Life will provide

compensation by helping them move, Sudak said.

"We're going to have moving assistants to help the resident move," Sudak said. "It will be manpower and transportation, so that the parents won't have to come back to move the students."

Once Rutledge is empty, Housing will no longer have control of the building. Academic Affairs will have power over the building and is planning to turn the facility into academic offices in the years to come, said Watson Hannah of Academic Affairs. ♦

Part two of this story will run Wednesday.

Constitution: Hotly debated

Continued from 1

than a thousand years after Muhammad died that Muslim forces, now controlled by the Ottoman Empire, were finally expelled from Europe.

Now a Christian author and lecturer, Layton received an ovation from the crowd when he said, "I do not want to see Islam as the predominant government in the United States. It would make me very nervous."

Historian and civil rights activist William French said that although the Qu'ran speaks of having a democracy and freedom of mind, the facts don't comply.

He noted that that only four Nobel Prize winners have been

Muslims, while Scotland alone has produced 32 and more than a hundred winners have been Jewish. The United Nations, he said, has reported that Muslim economic output minus oil is only about 20 percent of the economy of Japan.

He suggested that the Qu'ran is good in theory, but he couldn't find any practical application of what it claims to do.

Vijay Kumar, a local spokesman for Citizens United for the Separation of Religion and Government, said that sponsoring such discussion is a priority for his organization to promote religious tolerance.

The weekend panel was held in part to commemorate the events of Sept. 11. ♦

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New dean of Mass Communication aims high

By Amanda Maynard
News Editor

The College of Mass Communication's new dean, Anantha Babbili, aims to bring a global distinction to the college.

Babbili was born and raised in India where he earned his bachelor's of science in journalism and biology by the age of 20. Growing up the son of an Episcopal bishop in a country with Hinduism as its dominant religion, Babbili was immersed in diversity from an early age and said he hopes to carry that knowledge over to MTSU's College of Mass Comm.

"India gave me the tolerance [to accept] diversity as a lifestyle," Babbili said. "I don't look at cultural, racial, religious, linguistic diversity as something we should attempt to integrate. I think it is an inherent part of my personality and my thinking."

After graduating from college in India, Babbili began working in advertising, then became a copy editor and eventually a managing editor at an English language daily newspaper in India.

Babbili began his career in the United States by applying for master's degree programs. With help from his aunt, he was able to apply for his masters at the University of Oklahoma. After receiving his master's degree in journalism he went on to get his doctorate degree at the University of Iowa.

Instead of returning to editing in India, Babbili decided to try his hand at teaching and became a professor at Texas Christian University.

"I literally fell in love with teaching and stayed there 21 years," Babbili said.

While at TCU Babbili pioneered several programs including a degree in international communication and a study-abroad program. He also helped make a second language a requirement for journalism majors.

As a teacher, Babbili continued to write for local newspapers on issues facing the United States in foreign policy or international affairs. While teaching and writing, he was recognized

as one of the best professors in the state of Texas in 1997.

"That is great recognition for a humble immigrant who comes to this country and finds his niche," Babbili said.

The opportunity came to interview for the deanship of MTSU's College of Mass Comm early this year. Babbili was impressed with the college itself and accepted the position.

The deciding factor for Babbili was the "solid respect and reputation that the college has around the country, and it's also one of the largest programs in the country," he said.

Babbili's goal for the program is to raise it to another level of national and international prominence. Babbili noted that the college already has all the foundations needed to bring it to international status, like excellent faculty and top-of-the-line resources.

He hopes to build a partnership outside the university and continue building on those partnerships.

"We have it, so we have to go out into the world and blow our own trumpet," Babbili said. "We need to attract the world to our campus and we need to go to the world."

Babbili also plans on returning to teaching once he is established in administration. He hopes to teach at least one course in journalism in the upcoming semesters. He also plans to increase his interaction with students within the college, which is increasing in size each year.

Babbili suggested ways in which to look at the enrollment hike and how to adjust to the influx of freshmen.

"We need to be prepared. This seems to be a trend nationally," Babbili said. "We should be looking at this as an opportunity, not as a threat, to quality of education. We should look at this as an opportunity to improve the quality of our education." ♦



Babbili

Pipe dreams



Photo by Kristin Hooper | Photo Editor

Mike McNutt, a sophomore from Huntsville, Ala., practices his bagpipes in the field between Peck Hall and Cope Administration Building yesterday. The Scottish traditional instruments are typically only seen on campus during the annual Highland Games festival, held on the intramural fields every September.



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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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"Food for the Soul" worship and bible study.
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Student-led worship with different speakers each week.

* NOONDAY

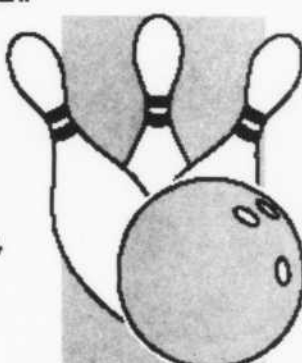
Wednesdays at 12:20 p.m.

Enjoy good food and conversation at our lunch every Wednesday. The first time you come, you eat FREE, after that it's only \$3.00 all-you-can-eat with the money going to our BCM Student Missions Fund.

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Something different each week:
game nights,
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speakers,
bonfires, etc.



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* Welcome Party

Monday, August 19, 7:00 p.m.
At Baptist Student Center

* Free Food Road Trip #1

Monday, August 26, Leave BCM at 5:45 p.m.

A four course meal with each course at a different church. Plenty of free food, door prizes and new friends!

* Free Food Road Trip #2

Thursday, August 29, Leave BCM at 5:45 p.m.

Do it again at 4 different churches!



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From the Editorial Board

Morbidly oversized classes burdensome

Ed Kimbrell, co-founder of the College of Mass Communication and notorious hater of ringing cell phones, late students and other distractions, has a lot more of his annoyances to look forward to.

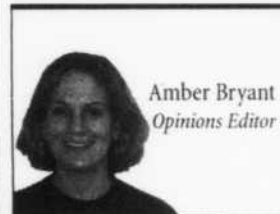
One of Understanding Mass Media classes, a requirement for all Mass Communication majors, has earned the distinction of being the largest class in MTSU history, with a final enrollment of more than 400 students. While Kimbrell's delivery style and habit of mixing multimedia, such as videos with lecture, lends itself well to a large class, one can't help but wonder how having such a class affects the learning environment. One-on-one time with the instructor would be logistically very difficult, and students who fall behind in the course may very likely be left there. With the difficulty of Kimbrell's tests, this could very easily come up as an issue.

It's not just in your head: The pressed flesh in the Learning Resources Center, where the class is taught, mirrors the crowds that have once more rendered the Knoll impossible, made the food lines longer and, yes, taken up all the decent parking. With the university's resources already stretched taut, the already overburdened university staff is being asked to do even more with static resources.

Much ink has been used in this space to decry the university's seemingly open-door policy, and while the role of a state university is different from that of a Harvard, Princeton or even a Vanderbilt, sometimes a voice that carries some weight must scream out that enough is enough. Moving up the deadlines for enrollment was an impressive first step, but more needs to be done. With the resources MTSU has, it seems that the current students would be better served by allowing professors to have more individual interaction with their students, rather than sit in a lecture hall with 400 peers hoping to get a word in. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Tiger Woods doesn't need 'touchable' hair



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

Last month, the Ladies Professional Golf Association tutored approximately 60 of its members on improving their physical appearance to draw more spectators to their sport.

According to CNN columnist Chris Isidore, "The full day of instruction included help from fashion designer [sic] hair-stylist John Barrett, and makeup artist Trish McEvoy, who helped give the athlete [sic] tips such as how to make their hair appear more 'touchable'."

Thankfully, this ploy is only one-fifth of a five part marketing strategy designed to attract a larger audience. I hope the other four parts utilize less degrading tactics.

Some might see using sex appeal to sell sports as the female gender

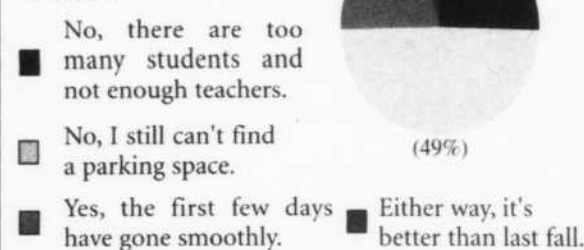
thumbing her collective nose at men. In reality, it's just another illusion of advancement.

These schemes don't give women sanction over men; it bypasses athletic talent and places us on the bench as eye-candy for antiquated behemoths. Too often women rely on classic T and A to get anywhere in male-dominated fields, i.e. everywhere but the kitchen. At the same time, we've made little progress convincing the male gender, as well as ourselves, that we have as much sexual freedom as they do.

Female athletes shouldn't need to be beautiful to gain the respect male athletes receive. By defying natural physical ability barriers, women have already done more than most men, barring those with disabilities. When women rely on empty, superficial means to match the homage men are paid, they waste their most valuable characteristics and sell all of us short. ♦

Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "Do you think the university is prepared for the fall semester?"



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Do you think MT will defeat the University of Alabama this weekend?"

August perfect for caroling practice

The Deeper Puddle



Sarah Cozort
Staff Columnist

Yes, Christmas is technically four months away, but with decorations and advertising ploys arriving earlier every year I felt this would be the perfect time for a Christmas season prep.

After reading this column you'll have four months to mull over these festive, yet gravely important, words of warning.

They're important because they are meant to protect still more innocent people from falling into the pits of Christmas time depression.

Christmas caroling is a "tradition" we're all aware of, but hardly ever witness or take part in – hence the absence of warbling carolers on my lawn every holiday season.

In fact, I recently realized a caroler has never sung in my yard at any point in my entire life.

At this point you may be thinking I'm some kind of caroling spokeswoman, campaigning on behalf of a neurotic fantasy to turn every Tom, Dick and

Gladys into chipper seasonal singers.

Let me assure you: I am. However, I understand the dangers and hardships of committing oneself to such a goofy yet sacred holiday tradition.

Caroling is rather like trick-or-treating.

The only differences are that in caroling you must sing enthusiastically, you usually get no candy and you are no longer 12 years old.

If you decide to undertake a caroling position, you are a full-fledged adult likely making yourself look like an idiot for the enjoyment of others. What's more commendable than that?

In an ideal world (and in parts of my astounding brain) caroling seems like a great idea.

Now, get ready for me to seem like I'm contradicting myself: In the real world caroling is, sadly, hardly ever a good idea.

In our day and age, it's probably physically dangerous to sing on strange people's property, especially since the modern American citizen has been conditioned to be suspicious of strange people in snow suits singing robustly, yet often off-key, on their lawn.

It's also cold around

Christmas, therefore the temperature is usually far from ideal for the vocal cords.

Lastly, and most importantly because Christmas caroling is really all about serving others and rejoicing in that warm fuzzy feeling so many of us get around large, budget-breaking, corporate holidays, it's important that we understand how big of a commitment caroling really is.

I would love to see singing, preferably not intoxicated, people on my lawn during the holiday season.

In fact, if I had ever known the pleasure of carolers at Christmas, I would probably be feeling a grave emptiness right now.

I'm not saying we should all be carolers, but I'm also not saying we should throw away the tradition entirely.

What I am saying is this: caroling is a serious personal choice, not to be taken lightly.

After careful deliberation, I have taken it upon myself to create the unofficial international rules of caroling, in case you are in the process of making this serious personal choice, to be or not to be a caroler, yourself.

So without further ado,

Alternative solutions for parking

I'm Just a Girl



Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

I love to drive.

There are times when I'll just get in my car, crank up the CD player, roll down the windows and drive aimlessly until I end up somewhere.

I like to refer to this as "good driving."

Not all driving is so enjoyable. For instance, I recently found myself in need of some items best attained at my home away from school, Wal-Mart Supercenter.

This scenario presents itself often, so I methodically took Mannix (my car) for a drive down Old Fort Parkway. After purchasing my items, I proceeded to return to campus.

I arrived to find there were no available parking spaces in any of the many lots remotely close to my dorm.

I found myself having to drive though parking lots so crowded all the illegal parking spaces were taken for roughly 10 minutes – 10 minutes of aimless parking lot driving.

I wasted much more gas than a college student should be expected to afford.

This is what I like to call "bad driving."

Luckily, someone eventually had to leave, and I became my alter-ego, the Parking Lot Bitch, as I pulled into the last available space while others watched and continued their vulture-like circles through the lots.

In order not to sound misleading, I must clarify "available space."

An available space is not the gap between two cars that is half a parking space wide because some genius with a "Brn2Drv" license plate does not understand the concept of keeping it between the lines. Obviously this person was not "Brn2Prk."

(By the way, if someone actually has that license plate, I was merely making a witticism – and a bad one at that. My profound apologies) Anyway, back to the line thing. This is not a difficult concept to grasp.

Remember when you first learned to color in kindergarten, and they just told you to stay in the lines? It wasn't hard then, and Cinderella's lips are much smaller than a parking space.

I understand it would

be unfair for me to rant about this problem without proposing a solution, and, though I would normally do it anyway, I have actually devised a brilliant plan: me.

Put me in charge of parking for one week, and I would patch things up. I wouldn't give out those yellow envelopes. My way is more effective: grease-paint.

If I see an improperly parked car, it's getting a nice windshield message like, "Your car should be impounded," or, "For Sale. \$5. Keys in Ignition. Leave Money on the Ground."

I could solve the multiple space problem as well. These cars would be reported stolen. Let the police sort it out. "I'm sorry, officer, but I just keep losing my car. You know how it is with all this parking mayhem."

That's right – after my short-lived reign of terror, no one would dare disrupt my parking.

Then again, I suppose those are the very reasons why I am not in charge of parking. I guess that's why I have this job. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

Is there something in the way she moves?
Let us know at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

here they are:

First, if you start singing carols on a lawn, you are obligated to come back every year until the person who owns the lawn dies, unless the person specifically directs you to a different lawn far, far away from them.

Second, proper caroling equipment is a must.

Earmuffs are great for protecting your ears from the cold, but be aware that if you are wearing earmuffs you may find yourself off pitch, and musically out of sync from the rest of your caroling party.

Translation: earmuffs could mean a caroling disaster.

Thirdly, for the novice caroler, practice is key.

If you decide to become a caroler, practice now.

Four months of practice before your caroling debut is not ideal, but it is probably enough time to eliminate some of those new caroler jitters.

I suggest you start your caroling practice regimen on your own lawn, in warm weather, of course, pretending you're on someone else's lawn in cold weather.

These kinds of imaginative exercises are a lot of fun and great for getting you acclimated to singing.

They also build the improvisational skills a superior caroler needs when they find themselves on an angry, shotgun-packing, atheist's lawn or are attacked by a rabid dog. After four months of at-home practice, you are likely to encounter some of these hazards of caroling.

You're more likely to know how to deal if you encounter them on the home front first, before you make your way out into the dog-eat-dog real world of caroling.

Those "gravely important words of warning" I spoke of earlier – if you carol somewhere for a year or two, and then one year you just don't show up, the probability is that nobody will pick up where you left off.

Thus, you will become the cause of yet another void in the life of an innocent person, another prickly thorn in the side of holiday depression.

So think before you carol, and if you can make a commitment to a certain day, a certain time of year and a certain house, then I say bring on the Christmas cheer. ♦

Sarah Cozort is a sophomore theater major and can be reached via e-mail at s_lucycozort@yahoo.com.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.

If they staffed their soccer team like they staff their prison system, those wily Brazilians wouldn't have even made it to the tournament.

You see, while on a routine inspection of the Taubate Provisional Detention Center, a judge discovered a scarecrow standing guard in one of the prison's four watch towers.

When asked about the situation, police spokesperson Colonel Elizeu Leite made the brilliant observation, "Policing is sufficient to neutralize any escape attempt."

Well, unless Brazilian inmates are dumber than their idiotic captors, we don't believe that the policing is sufficient.

If we were in prison (a prison that has already had five people escape so far this year, by the way) and we found out about a guard that took the order "Get stuffed" literally, we're going to take our chances and make a break for it.

If the regular prison guards are lazy, we're sure it'd fit right in, slouching on its chair like it does.

But that wouldn't work for more than a couple of days before someone would have to turn him over or make him stand to take a pee or something. The pathetic thing was that this scarecrow was on duty for several days, according to the Associated Press.



Photo courtesy of Reuters

Take a look at that picture.

Would that fool you? It might be a little hard to tell in a black and white photo, but that face is made of glowing white cloth with permanent maker features. Unless Casper has reported in for the job, that face isn't near believable.

By all accounts, the Brazilian prison system is in constant fear of being overthrown by riots.

Violent melees where dozens die and guards are taken hostage (events that are far worse than a Rolling Stones concert at Altamont) plague the system.

Many people cite the overcrowded cells and poor guard pay for those actions.

However, and call us crazy if you must, I think hay-filled guards might have something to do with the lax enforcement of rules. Perhaps those in charge of this hair-brained scheme were emulating their literary equivalent, found in the *Wizard of Oz*.

That straw-filled hero was filled of good intentions, but he did lack a brain. ♦

SIDELINES

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

Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor/Copy Editor
News Design/Production Manager
Opinions and Online Editor/Design
Features Editor
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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of Sidelines or MTSU.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

*denotes member of editorial board

INTERESTS

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, August 26, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

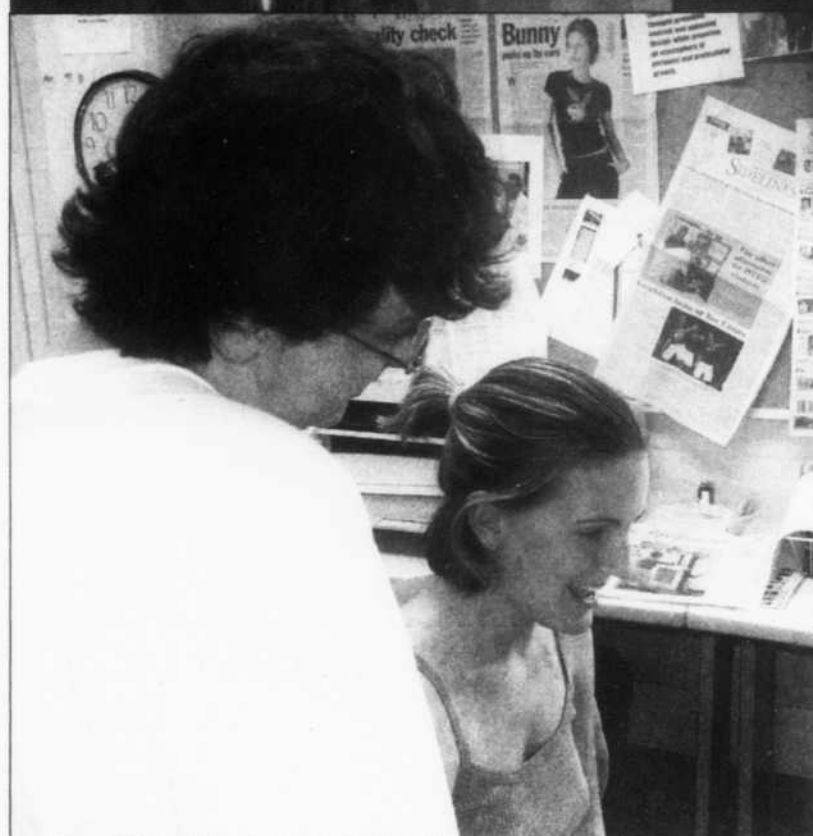


Photo by Kevin Jones
Staff Photographer

(Above) Channel 10 strives to offer a real-world television production experience for students.

File photo

(Right) WMTS 88.3, MTSU's student-run radio, allows students to produce and run their own radio shows.



Photo by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Sidelines Managing Editor Jason Cox and Opinions Editor Amber Bryant discuss the staff editorial during production.

Writing skills honed, used at 'Sidelines'

By Stephanie Hughes
Staff Writer

When Lindsey Turner prepares for another day at the office, it's a wonder she doesn't turn around and walk the other way.

At any given time, Turner, editor in chief of *Sidelines*, has a ton of responsibilities screaming her name. However, it seems everyone who works for *Sidelines* does, too. They have a purpose in mind while they are slaving away at the office – to put out a “consistent information source that provides accurate, balanced and thorough coverage of the extended MTSU community through thought-provoking content and appealing design, while promoting an atmosphere of personal and professional growth,” according to their mission statement.

Sidelines was started shortly after the university was founded in 1912. For almost 90 years, MTSU's publication has been trying to voice students' opinions, inform people of news and events and address student issues.

Sidelines has a dual mission, Turner said. On top of teaching their staff what a hectic day in a journalist's life can be like, they also have another goal in mind.

Sidelines' mission for fall 2002, which is posted on the walls in the office as a reminder, is what the staff tries to do each day. Editors and writers put in many hours every week to produce a paper for students and faculty to read and, hopefully, enjoy.

The paper isn't printed by itself; there are people doing that behind the scenes. At any given time, section editors are busy editing stories, assigning photos, coaching writers, answering readers' questions, fact checking or tending to any of the other responsibilities awaiting them.

A typical production night is not a scene out of a peaceful movie; it is, in every sense, chaotic. At the beginning of a production night, all of the stories that will go in the next edi-

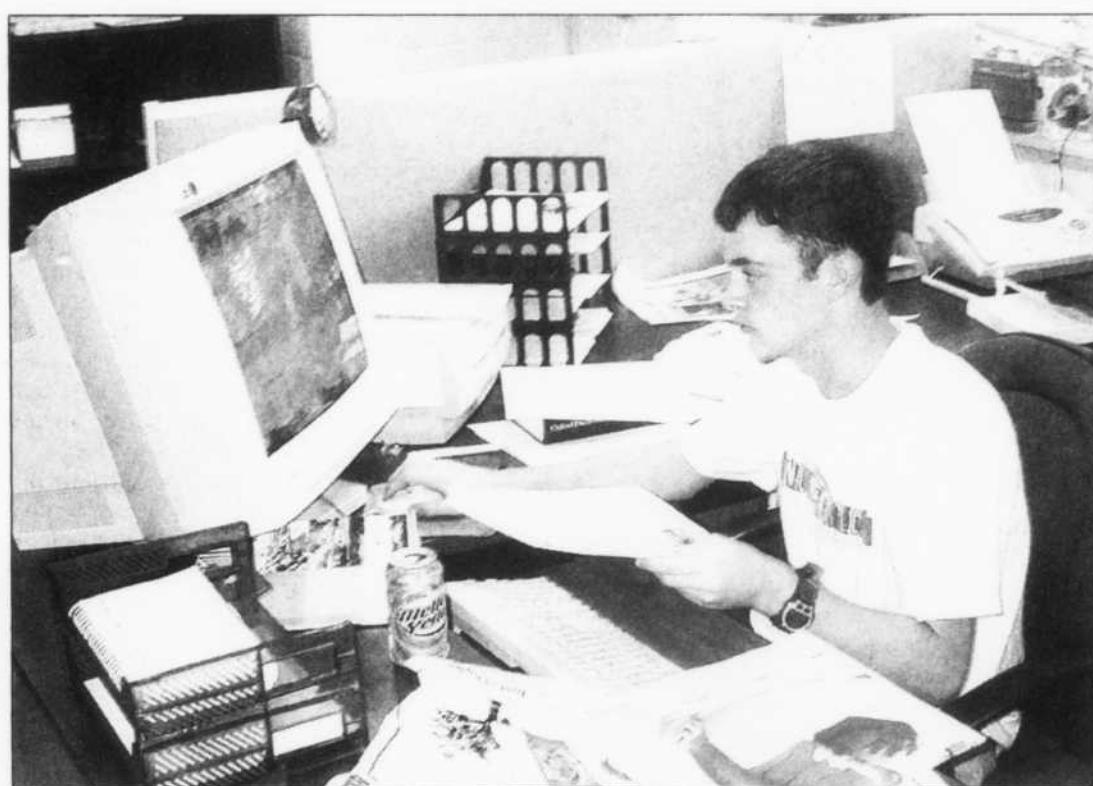


Photo by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Assistant Sports Editor and Sports Designer Brandon Morrison lays out the sports section's weekly tabloid, *Sports Wrap*, during production yesterday.

tion of the paper are ready to be sent to the copy editors to look over. The photo editor makes sure she has the photos for the stories scanned and ready to go. The designers lay out each section's stories and photos. Then, the managing editor proofreads and edits every page.

Finally, everything is given to the editor to proofread and edit, and then sent to the *Murfreesboro Daily News Journal* to print.

“It's a real, simulated newsroom,” Turner said.

However, the *Sidelines* staff makes sure they have a little fun while they are striving to reach deadlines. After all, all work and no play never benefits anyone.

The staff takes time to enjoy group activities; they go out to eat together and throw parties. They also hang out together in the office, which gives them plenty of time to become good friends.

“The office is like one big family,” said Patrick Chinnery, assistant news editor and copy editor. “Like any family, we have our squabbles, but at the end of

the day, everyone inevitably leaves with a smile on their face.”

In addition to all the fun, students who wish to work for *Sidelines* will gain invaluable experience in their area of interest.

“We hire student writers, photographers, ad representatives, designers and illustrators,” Turner said.

Sidelines is able to provide a unique section for every writer – students can write for the features, news, sports, opinions and Flash* sections.

Flash* is a tabloid insert in the Thursday paper and has information on club listings, CD and movie reviews and other entertainment-related stories. Flash* gives students a chance to think about their weekend plans and get their minds off studying.

“In the future, we hope to make it more like an entertainment magazine,” said Leslie Carol Boehms, Flash* editor.

For those whose expertise is not writing, there are spaces available for photographers,

illustrators, designers and ad representatives.

Sidelines pays students according to their position and the number of stories they write or photos they take. Advertising representatives are paid a salary plus commission. Staff members must meet a story or photo quota and keep at least three office hours each week. In addition, staffers must attend a weekly staff meeting on Mondays at 5 p.m. in James Union Building, Room 310. The meetings are also open to anyone who wants to come.

It is not a requirement that students have prior journalism experience or be a Mass Communication major or minor to work for *Sidelines*. According to Turner, the only requirement is to be interested in what you are doing and be dependable.

For anyone who loves to write and earn extra cash at the same time, applications are always available in the *Sidelines* office. ♦

Student media make students the stars

Student TV starts new season on air

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

Ever had a really killer idea for a TV show?

Ever really wanted to be a newscaster or a weatherman? Get ready to realize those dreams, because Channel 10, the student-run programming service, is gearing up for its fall broadcast season and is looking for creative, responsible students to get involved.

Middle Tennessee Television has committed itself to providing a training ground for students and producing news and original programming with the student body in mind.

MTTV is “a wonderful opportunity to get involved and showcase our university to the community,” said Roger Heinrich, the MTTV's student media adviser.

Channel 10 certainly does reach the community, with a signal that extends to 45,000 homes in southern Nashville and Rutherford County.

One of the “feathers in the cap” of Channel 10, as Heinrich called it, is *Open Line with MTSU President Sidney McPhee*. Senior Neil Price moderated this program, which broadcast a three-part series last spring. Students, faculty and community members called in during the program or e-mailed a question beforehand to be answered by the president.

“Dr. McPhee doesn't back down from tough questions,” Heinrich said.

Terra Grant, the general manager at Channel 10, said a potential plan for this year is to utilize other professors, not just McPhee, on *Open Line*.

“In doing so, we hope to provide a broader wealth of knowledge about the college,” Grant said. She said she has high standards for MTTV this year.

“We've got to show the student body, the faculty and the community that we're producing programming the university can be proud of,” she said.

In April, most of Channel 10's student-produced programming was suspended from broadcast due to “unacceptable” programming content and chronic technical problems with audio and video. Only the regular news programs and *Open Line* were permitted to air. To correct the problems, MTTV producers and managers developed a policy and procedure manual to set guidelines for all shows. The new manual outlines the acceptable policy for emergency situations, zero tolerance of sexual harassment, drugs and alcohol, and content standards including sexual themes and obscenity.

Grant calls herself “a liaison” between Channel 10 and the administration.

“We're trying to build up that relationship, so faculty can say to their students, ‘Channel 10 is getting their heads on straight,’” she said.

Any student who is interested or has an idea for a show can attend the general interest meeting Sept. 12 in the Learning Resources Center, studio B, time to be announced.

In order to have their own show, students are required to submit a pilot episode, which is then presented to the directors and managers for approval. If approved, the student producers go through technical training and critiquing to tighten up the show's focus and make it ready for broadcast.

See Broadcast, 6

WMTS radio sound as ever

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Maybe R.E.M. said it best. "Radio Free Europe" flooded the airwaves in the early '80s, starting a move back toward the independent radio stations. While it might have taken a few years to get to Murfreesboro, MTSU had its own version of "Radio Free," with students at the helm.

According to the station's Web site, WMTS employs those students feeling unheard by sister station WMOT.

WMTS began in March 1992 on the MTSU Housing Channel, from 8 p.m. to midnight. In the fall of that same year, the signal moved to MTSU Channel 8 on the local cable system.

While being broadcast only over television and working on getting Federal Communications Commission approval for an FM license and construction permit, WMTS was known as WNAR, which stood for "We Need A Radio."

The station finally began broadcasting over FM in the summer of 1995, with help from WMOT in the form of tower space and a radio transmitter. In the fall, WNAR was changed to WMTS when then station 810 WMTS (now WAPB) in Murfreesboro allowed WNAR to use their call letters because they felt they fit MTSU's station better than it fit theirs.

Normal operation began in August with a 200-watt signal.

The first year was in mono due to



Senior Theron Morrison, a graphic design major, spins his show, *Flight 420*, each Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.

the scarcity of money for equipment. WMTS upgraded to stereo over the Christmas 1996 break, which increased the potential signal coverage and the ability to better compete with the sound of other stations in the area.

They also then went into 24-hour operation with a mix of automation and live personalities. In the future, audio will be available over the Internet at wmtsradio.com.

Programming includes music, news

and public affairs. James Palmer, station manager, calls WMTS one of the most technologically advanced stations in the Nashville area.

If they had permission to broadcast with a stronger signal, they would like-

ly be considered as a viable competitor to many of these same stations, with their sound and variety of shows. Shows include a top 20 request show, a rock show, blues, country and more.

The morning show is currently having an ongoing contest lasting through the semester, which is somewhat of a cross between *Road Rules* and *Fear Factor*, with a single-round elimination premise.

The winning team receives eight concert tickets to big-name events such as the Rolling Stones concert in November.

Because WMTS employs students, many of the on-air personalities are constantly changing.

"We're hoping to bring WMTS to a new level, maybe even a new generation this year," Palmer said.

The station, Palmer said, is now under completely new management, with the final founding member leaving last year.

WMTS will be sponsoring several benefits in the coming months to help raise money for the station. The first event is taking place Sept. 13 at Faces Lounge, beginning at 11 p.m. Bands playing include Neuvox, Medicine Man and Friction.

For more information on this and other WMTS events, contact James Palmer or Program Director Lance McDonald at 898-2636.

If you would like to have your own show, or become involved with WMTS, you can e-mail McDonald at wmtsprogram@hotmail.com. ♦

Broadcast: Student television comes back from problems with new schedule, leadership

Continued from 5

"We're pretty open to all ideas for shows," Grant said. "Channel 10 is just a great opportunity, and not just for electronic media majors." Grant said a good idea for students from other majors would be to develop ideas for shows that illustrate their respective colleges, such as a music show from a recording industry major.

"Students can get involved in many facets, from behind the camera to in front to just writing newscasts," Heinrich said.

For students interested in on-air talent positions, MTTV

will be holding news anchor auditions Sept. 16-18.

"One thing we never find is management majors, and yet we have multiple manager positions," said Business Manager Virginia Dumolin. "Even if you're just in the business department, this is a great place to learn. In the last two years, I've learned more about running a television studio at Channel 10 than any of my classes," she said. "By the end of the first semester of my freshman year, I had learned how to run every piece of equipment in the television studio."

Although many students do not take advantage of this

opportunity, the experience and knowledge gained from working at Channel 10 can help after graduation and in the workplace.

"We've had Channel 10 talent go on to work for Fox and ESPN," Dumolin said. "Two of our students now own a professional production company."

Overall, the student and faculty involved with MTTV are hoping to correct and improve on any problems from previous years. Ultimately, that's what makes it important to students because it's a learning experience.

"Things are really looking up for Channel 10," Grant said. ♦

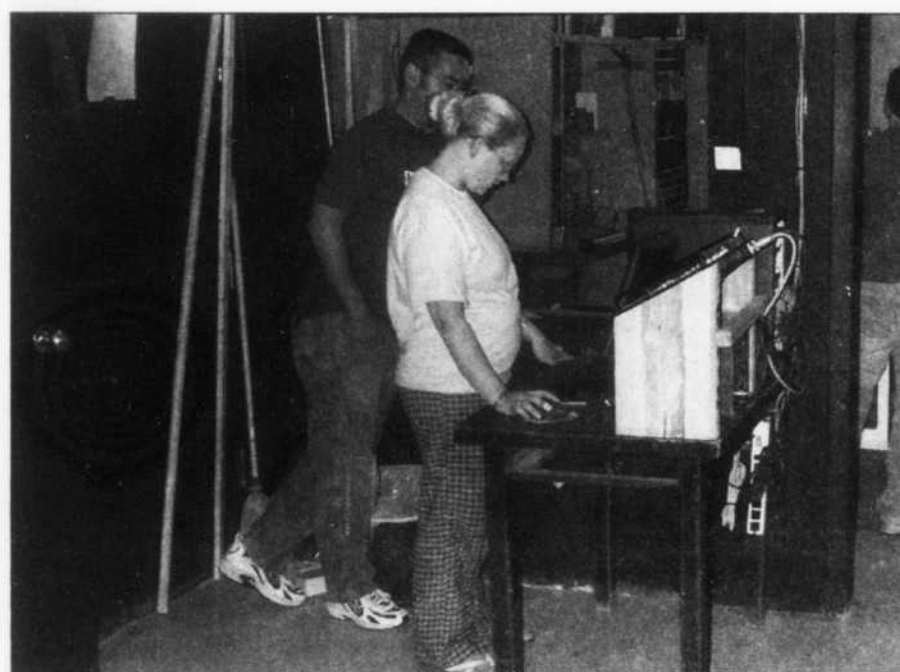


Photo by Kevin Jones
Staff Photographer

Virginia Dumolin, MTTV's business manager, front, said that, by the end of her freshman year, she'd learned how to use each piece of equipment in the studio.

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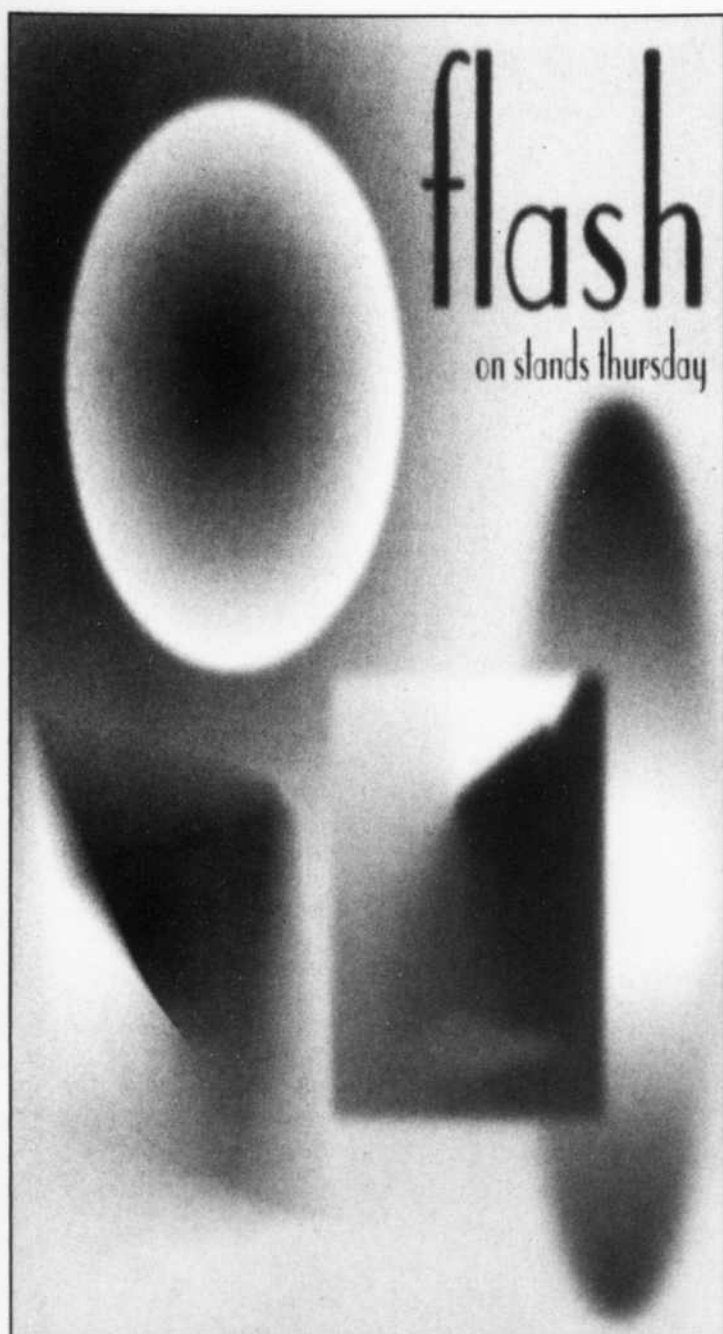
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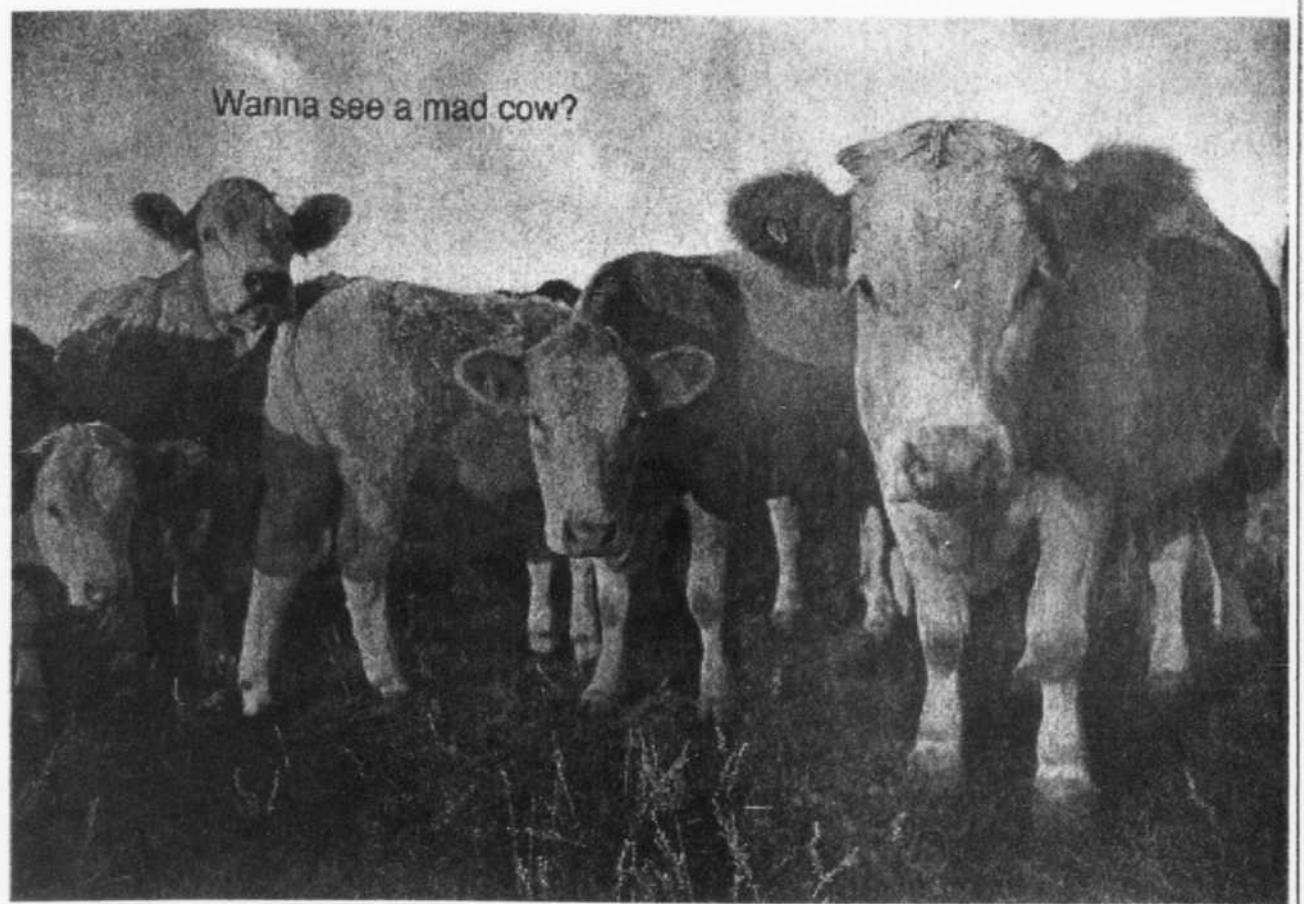
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— on page 4

Golf team prepares for future tournaments

By Chris Jones
Staff Writer

It's almost tee time and Middle Tennessee women's golf team is ready to take on its second season on the green, said head coach Rachael Moore.

After the first practice of the season, Moore said this should be a good year.

"Wednesday's practice was good because the girls just played the course," said Moore, who came to MT in December of 2001 after the team's first season. "All of the girls have come off a really good summer."

The team is gearing up for their first tournament Sept. 6-8 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"This is a big tournament for us to see how we will stand up against other teams," Moore said. "This is the biggest U.S. tournament. No other tournament will have as many teams."

The Baytree Classic, hosted by the College of Charleston, has 36 teams competing, Moore said.

"Most tournaments only have 15 to 20 teams competing," Moore said.

Only five MT golfers will be able to attend the tournament.

As of last week the players had begun four days of qualification trials. Those who have the best averages at the end will travel to

Myrtle Beach.

So far, the top scorers have been sophomore Tamara Munsch of Hay, Kan., who shot 74; sophomore Kristin Lynch of Tullahoma, Tenn., who shot 77 and senior Kandace Burnett of Monahans, Texas, who shot 79.

"It will be nice to get the first tournament under our belt so that we can build up some confidence for the next," Moore said.

This year's team has eight players on the roster. Munsch, Lynch, Burnett, senior Nicole Biles of League City, Texas, sophomore Amanda Harter of Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., sophomore Becky Newell of Louisville, Ky., sophomore Kemmerlee Pennington of Crossville, Tenn., and freshman Grace Holmes of Lexington, Tenn.

"For the first year, the team did very well," said Johnny Moore, assistant athletic director and MT's men's golf coach.

J. Moore had a big hand in bringing a women's golf team to the university in 2001.

"It was just natural to have a girls team," J. Moore said. "I think they are going to do considerably well this year, but it's still a growing program."

R. Moore, hired after former head coach Kim St. John resigned, is a native of Murfreesboro. She began golfing at an early age and competed in other sports like bas-

ketball, but when it came time for serious competition, R. Moore chose the green.

Attending Riverdale High School, she was only one of three girls on the team at the time.

"I tried, but I really couldn't get other girls to play," R. Moore said.

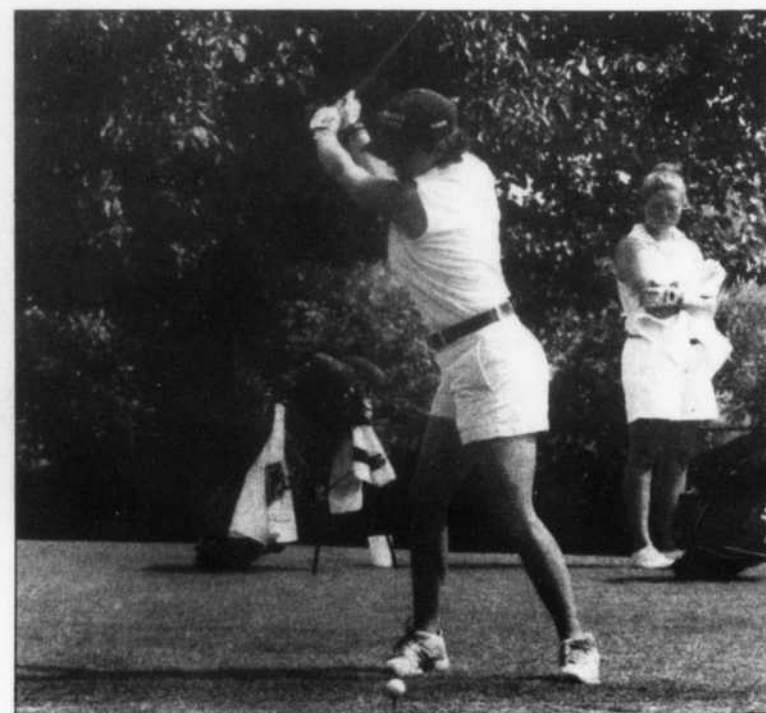
She single-handedly won the high school state golf competition in 1994.

From there she went on to play golf for the University of Alabama from 1995-1999. During her collegiate years, the Crimson Tide's women's golf team was consistently ranked in the top 25 nationally and went to the NCAA regionals twice. The highlight of Moore's collegiate career was during her junior year in 1998 when she placed No. 7 in the Southeastern Conference.

After college, Moore worked as a trainer at numerous golf clubs in the state before returning to Murfreesboro to take the MT head coach position. Now she is intensively training the team and working towards the goals that she has set forth.

"I want a team victory this year," Moore said. "That would really be great."

After the first tournament in Myrtle Beach, the golf team will travel to Memphis, Tenn., to play in the Memphis Intercollegiate Sept. 16-17. ♦



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Tamara Munsch (top right) takes a swing down the fairway. Grace Holmes (right) drives through another hole. Kimberly Perington (above) watches as her ball flies across the fairway.

Women's tennis team has hard schedule ahead

International stars lead Blue Raider tennis

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Writer

Followers of the Lady Raider tennis team may have noticed a distinct lack in tennis players from inside the borders of the United States.

Stacey Varnell and Emily Vest are the only players on this season's women's tennis team who have lived in the United States most of their lives.

"At the level that we want to play at, it's hard to recruit players from just inside the states," Holden said. "especially when you are competing with teams like UT."

He then went on to claim later in the interview that they didn't really have any more players as U.S. citizens than the next team.

"Most years there are typically only 100 or so American kids who really have what it takes to really compete at the level that we want to be at," Holden said. "We are [ranked] 62 out of 300 schools."

Most interestingly, the United States appears to be the only country in the world that has a strong tennis program at the college level.

"In the international countries, players get paid for winning tournaments, but here they just get to play and they get to go to school, so they get the best of both worlds," Holden said.

Of the players on MT's tennis team, two are from Germany – Jennifer Klaschka and Manon Kruse; one is from Austria – Verena Preiss; one is from Australia – Laura McNamara; and one is from South Africa – Carien Venter. ♦

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Writer

Coming off a his first season as the MT's head women's tennis coach, 2-2 in the Sun Belt Conference and 13-10 overall, Randy Holden hopes to improve this season despite playing four teams ranked in the top 25.



Holden

MT was the third highest ranked team of the SBC in national polls at the end of the 2001-2002 campaign, according to CollegeTennis Online. The University of South Alabama was ranked first by the poll at 26, Florida International University was second at 38 and MT came in next at 63.

Holden said he feels the reason they were successful despite barely finishing above .500 is because they had three starting players out last year due to injury.

"Sometimes in order to determine success you can't just look at wins," Holden said. "While I do

expect them to give their best effort, I don't expect them to dive for every ball either."

Holden, then went on to explain that during the season he makes the team go through "periodization training," where instead of running 25 laps, the coach does specific exercises to get ready for each match.

However, despite the tough schedule, the Lady Raiders have some arsenal that they will be able to throw at their opponents.

Most notable would be Manon Kruse, who finished the season 30-8 her sophomore year. Kruse was ranked No. 43 at the end of last season for her singles play and No. 19 in doubles with her partner senior Stacey Varnell.

The highest ranked player on MT's team claims the only other team in the country that recruited her was University of Iowa.

"When Iowa first contacted me, they just sent me a letter, and then I didn't hear from them again," Kruse said. "Then the next year I got the exact same letter, but the Middle Tennessee coaching staff called me and showed some interest in me."

"This gives me more pressure and motivation; in order to get these kind of reviews I have to be doing something right. At the same time it gives me more self confidence."

Of Kruse's 30 wins last year, one included a win over No. 17 ranked Sara Riske of Vanderbilt.

Another late addition to this year's team was Laura McNamara, who transferred from Oklahoma Christian University but is originally from Melbourne, Australia, where in 1999 she participated in the Junior Australian Open.

McNamara will be coming in as a junior. OCU was ranked as one of the top five schools in the National Athletic Interscholastic Association.

McNamara claims that her reason for transferring to MT was because she liked the tennis program here better and also has family ties here. Her brother David McNamara played on the men's tennis team from 1995-1998.

"I guess this year I add experience to our team since I am coming in as a junior, but the team's

See Tennis, 6

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Coach brings different style, culture to team

By Kasimu L. Harris
Staff Writer

Transition is nothing new to Aston Rhoden, the new head coach of the Blue Raider soccer team.

Desiring a better education, in 1984, Rhoden departed the familiar surroundings of his homeland of Kingston, Jamaica, and accepted a soccer scholarship at the University of Alabama.

Rhoden recalled the perceptions of his Jamaican Youth National team, Real Mona FC, who thought Alabama was an underdeveloped state that lacked modern amenities, such as indoor restrooms.

In addition to the limited beaches, other culture shocks Rhoden had to adjust to were the completely different rules of soccer as well as its lack of popularity among people in Alabama.

Despite his initial uncertainties, Rhoden became the University's outstanding Student-athlete for the 1985-1986 season and received his bachelor's degrees in computer science and mathematics in 1989. Following his graduation in 1989, Rhoden worked in corporate America and started a youth soccer club, serving as the coaching director. There he discovered that he loved coaching more than system analysis or being a software engineer.

In 1996 Rhoden decided to pursue his love for coaching, and was hired as head coach of the female club team at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Ala. Rhoden built the program from the ground up, and in 1997 they began varsity play as a Division II team in the Gulf South Conference.

Despite limited funding at UNA, he still amassed an impressive record of 39 wins, including a couple of 11-win seasons. Also at UNA, his team advanced to the GSA tournament two times. The conference was very competitive, typically with two or three teams ranked nationally in the top 15 among Division II teams.

Rhoden attributes the success of his teams to "recruiting, coaching and trying to get kids

to have a sense of pride, and trying to make them smarter than the next team."

Although UNA was a small school with an enrollment of 5,800 students, Rhoden recruited Division I caliber players, and didn't mind competing against larger schools in recruiting them. He realized that some of the best players wanted to play immediately, while others enjoyed the smaller setting that UNA offered.

On Feb. 5 2002, Rhoden was named head coach of the Blue Raider soccer team, the third coach in the program's history. Rhoden replaced Scott Ginn, who resigned in December 2001.

After spending several years as UNA's first and only coach, Rhoden takes over the helm of an already established program. He recognized that there are advantages and disadvantages in both.

"Building a program from scratch, you know one of two things," Rhoden said. "You now that whatever happens that's good, well it's because of you. And the same thing [for] whatever happens bad, [it] is also because of you."

Rhoden said he believes that, with the very first class of a new program you have the opportunity to truly instill what you want, and hope that future classes will follow. Also, the advantages of coming into an existing program are the players are already experienced.

"The disadvantage is that now you have to somehow speed up that transition between what they did before, and what you want them to do now," Rhoden said.

The transition is much more different for players, coaches and everyone involved until everyone gets back on the same page, Rhoden stated.

Regardless of the program's size, "If you came in, and your style or your philosophy is different from what they're used to then there is going to be a transitional period," Rhoden said.

Rhoden's preferred style of play is attacking, and he wants his team to do it. He attributes his attacking mentality to his

playing the forward position.

"I would rather win a game 6-5 than 1-0," Rhoden said. "That's just how I am. I like to see goals scored."

"A part of scoring goals is making sure that you always have most of the balls. It increases your chance of scoring. And so by virtue of that, our style of play is going to be possession-oriented. So we are going to try to keep the ball for as much as of the game as we can, hoping that we will be able to make solid enough decision that will get us into scoring positions."

As for when the Blue Raiders don't have the ball, "We [are] going to try as much, and as hard as we can to get it back as quickly as we can, because we [need] to keep it for most of the game," he said.

That is the way the Blue Raiders will play this season, Rhoden said, and he hopes that eventually his players will believe that this is the only way to play. If this is imprinted in them, the team will be off and running, he added.

Aside from Rhoden and his family making the transition from North Alabama to Middle Tennessee, three of his players have followed his lead to move to MT: Christina Mascaro, a junior midfielder/forward from Osteen, Fla., Ashley Elliott, a sophomore midfielder/defender from Henagar, Ala., and Melissa Funke, a junior midfielder/defender from Huntsville, Ala. All three ladies will be on the roster this season.

Rhoden said he thinks the transfers will help the entire team in several ways. First, they are all younger players, with two or three years of eligibility remaining. Second, they are players that have played in his system. This will help convince the players on the field as well as off the field, to buy into his system. Third, they are accomplished players in their own right. Finally they have the work ethic and the ability that it takes to succeed at the Division I level.

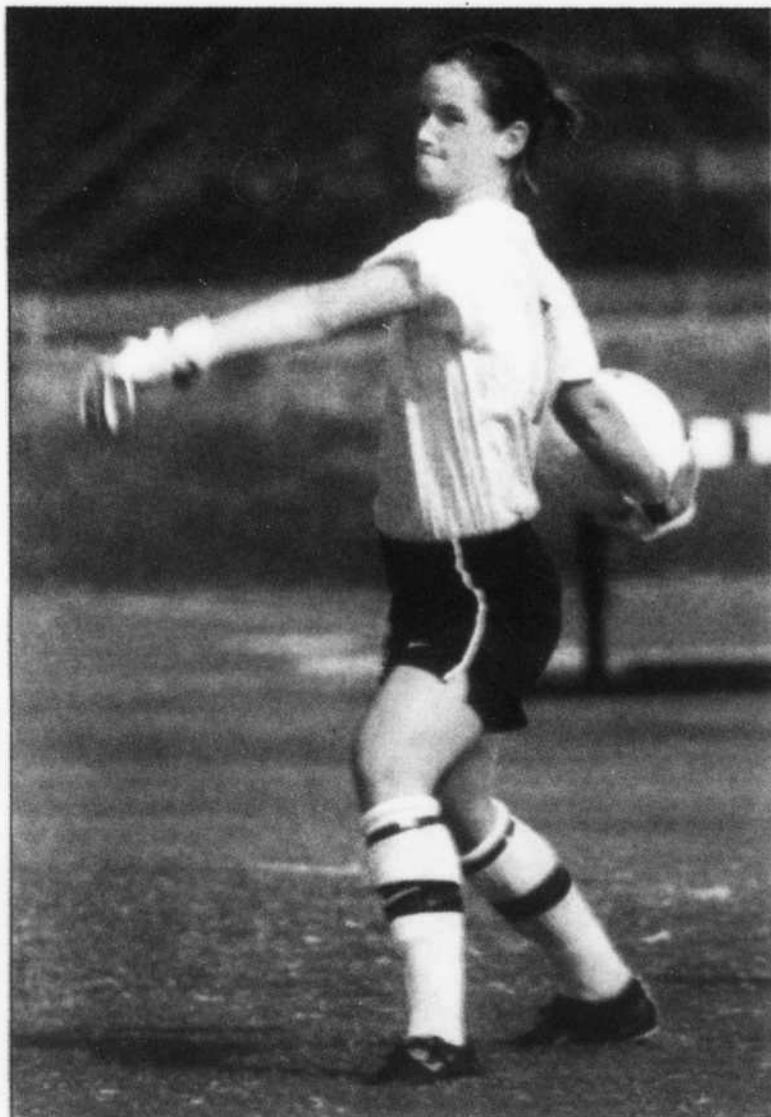
All three players were recruited by Division I schools,

See Rhoden, 6



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Aston Rhoden participates in soccer practice with the Blue Raider soccer team. The Jamaican native is a recent addition to MT.



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Emily Shrum (left) throws the ball out to her teammates at practice. Shrum has been the starting goalkeeper for the Blue Raider soccer team for the past year. Sophomores Britney Camden and Laura Miguez (above) are Shrum's teammates she hopes will help the team.

Shrum continues with family tradition as keeper

By Kasimu L. Harris
Staff Writer

Those who know the starting goalie for the Blue Raider soccer team might be inclined to think that she is following in her older brother's footsteps. Introduced to the game of soccer at the age of five by her older brother, Shrum has loved the game since then.

Her older brother was a goalkeeper. Shrum is a goalkeeper.

In college her brother majored in accounting. Now Shrum's major is accounting.

"I don't know if I'm just trying to follow in his footsteps or what not," Shrum admitted. "I like it, I think they have very good professors here, and obviously it is growing tremendously."

Regardless of her influences, Shrum has come into her own on the field.

The youngest of three children

and the only girl, her parents Danny and Rebecca Shrum are heavy supporters of her endeavors. In fact she cannot recall them ever missing a game in her career.

At nearby Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, Tenn., she was a four-year letter winner in soccer and earned All-District and All-County honors three consecutive years. During her senior year she raised the bar and was named All-District Tournament, plus All-Midstate.

Shrum is equally as talented in the classroom. She is a former member of the Beta Club and graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class.

Although her father attended Middle Tennessee, initially she didn't want to consider MT because it is so close. After her visit, however, she changed her mind.

"I just felt at home, and I felt that this is where I should be,"

Shrum said. "It is kind of ironic that I ended up here, when in the beginning I didn't want to be this close to home. But it's really worked out."

Her successful ways have continued into college. As a freshman she saw time in six contests. Shrum was also named to the Sun Belt Commissioner's Honor Roll her freshman year.

In 2001 Shrum was nothing less than a sophomore sensation, starting in every contest. She amassed a 1.43 goals-against-average, which is the lowest GAA in school history. She assisted the team in allowing 28 goals during the season, second lowest in school history. In only her fifth collegiate start against Murray State University, she did not allow a point, making that her first collegiate shutout, and the first of the 2.5 shutouts she posted during the season.

Those feats helped the team tie

the school record again with a 10 win season, and she was named to the Sun Belt Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Shrum still isn't satisfied. "I hope to even improve on that this season," she said.

"I think this year we're even going to be much better," Shrum said. "I think we're going to be [together] even more as a team, playing for each other, not just for yourself. And a lot of communication, and you know just sorting out problems, and things [that] goes into it, to make us better than we were last year."

The soccer coach recently had a coaching change with the arrival of Aston Rhoden from the University of North Alabama.

"It was different," Shrum said. "Of course every coach is going to have a different coaching style. I think he's going to do really well."

Shrum is really looking forward

to the season, thinks that Rhoden knows the game and will be a coach that brings them together as a team.

"It hasn't been too hard of a transition," Shrum said. "I think we've all settled into it pretty well. Our preseason was much harder this year, and of course I guess we had our complaints then about him, but as does every player. The first two days are what got us. After that it kind of eased up a little and we have been going strong all this week, but it will pay off. It is for the best. It didn't kill us or anything, it made us better."

In addition to good coaching, which has helped to improve her game, prior to each match she prepares herself mentally.

"I'm usually pretty quiet before games, just to concentrate, and focus on certain saves that I might

See Soccer, 6

Soccer: Shrum uses what little extra time she has to be active student at university

Continued from 5

focus on certain saves that I might make or you know certain players on a team that maybe might be a threat," Shrum said.

Off of the field, Shrum also enjoys the other aspects of the university as well. Socially she has found some good friends on the team who all try to partake of university functions, although their

time is limited during the season.

Shrum and her teammates try to attend as many varsity sporting events as they can, and she also parties during the off-season. However, even though soccer play-

ers are known for their crafty footwork, don't expect to see her dancing.

"I don't dance," Shrum said laughing. "I am not coordinated like that."

After her playing days are done, she intends to attend graduate school and focus in on a career in accounting. Until then she hopes to continue to excel at MT in the Blue Raider soccer program. ♦

Tennis: Varnell, Preiss two top players on MT's tennis squad

Continued from 3

original goal is too make the NCAA tournament," McNamara said. "However, it would also be nice if I made the tournament myself as well."

Another key to this year's team will be Varnell. Varnell went 28-10 last year, although she only went 7-5 in the fall. Varnell was one of two players last season to make the

SBC All-Conference team with doubles partner Kruse.

Another key for the Lady Raiders this year will sophomore Verena Priess, who is also from Australia, and is ranked in the top 100 in the world in ground strokes, and is also a catalyst at winning the first serve.

The Lady Raiders' first home match is Oct. 11-13 when they host the MT Fall Classic. ♦

Rhoden: Marley, jerked chicken part of culture

Continued from 4

but at that time they were players that preferred to play at small school to be assured playing time.

"While that assurance is not here, what they are assured of, is that they still continue to get the coaching that they like, that they will continue to play the way that they have now learned how to play and hopefully if they continue to work hard enough they can be significant contributors to the team,"

Rhoden said. "That's why they're here."

Perhaps the transfer players will also help Rhoden implement his love for Jamaica's rich cultures into the character of the team, such as Bob Marley's symbolic music or Jamaica's famous jerked chicken.

Although the team has not responded favorably to reggae music, nor have they tasted jerked chicken, Rhoden is reasonably sure that in some way Bob Marley's music will soon be in the mix.

"There is no way they can go thru the season and not have a little bit of jerked chicken or hear some Bob Marley," Rhoden said, laughing.

The Blue Raiders play their first game this Friday against Southwest Missouri State University at Springfield, Mo., before traveling Sunday to Charleston, Ill., to take on Eastern Illinois University. Their first home game isn't until Sept. 6 versus the University of Southern Mississippi. ♦

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Cross-country rebuilds teams

By Kentral Moore
Staff Writer

After finishing fifth in the Sun Belt Conference, the Middle Tennessee cross-country team is hesitant about the upcoming season.

The Blue Raiders had their best individual finish of the season during the SBC championships when now junior Geoffrey Lagat came in with a winning time of 24 minutes 14.23 seconds.

Last spring Lagat suffered a stress fracture last year causing him to be unable to defend his title in the 5,000-meters and 10,000-meters during the spring season. Over the summer Lagat was in a cast for around six weeks because of the fracture.

"Lagat is really our No. 1. It is just a question of how soon he can come back and really be ready," said head cross-country coach Dean Hayes. "Hopefully he will be ready by the end of the year."

Lagat also had big finishes in the Belmont Invitational coming in first and came in second at the Western Kentucky University Old Timers and the Austin Peay

Invitational.

The second best runner on the Blue Raider team this season is senior Levi Sybert, who had his best finish last fall with a time of 28:07.25 at the Austin Peay Invitational to come in fourth. Last spring Sybert placed second in the steeplechase at the SBC championship with his time of 9:25.86.

"Levi is a hard worker," Hayes said. "He is very competitive and very solid for us."

Third on the roster is junior Anthony McGary, whose top finish last season was also at the Austin Peay Invitational with a time of 28:47.58 to come in at No. 13. In the SBC championship in the spring, McGary was right behind Sybert to take third place with his time of 9:29.97.

Steve Safstrom ran as a freshman last year and is expected to compete again this year as a sophomore. His best performance of the year was at the Austin Peay Invitational what he had a time of 28:58.49 for his No. 16 finish. During the indoor track season Safstrom was doing very well according to Hayes, but like Lagat, he suffered a stress fracture and

wasn't able to compete in the outdoor season.

"Steve improved tremendously during the year from what his high school performances were," Hayes said.

Another steeplechase runner competing in cross-country this year is senior Josh Carroll, who placed sixth in the steeplechase during the SBC championships.

New to compete this year is Edwin Koech, who was injured last year and was unable to compete.

"Edwin does have some talent and he really has good potential so hopefully he will do a good job for us," Hayes said. "Hopefully with him we will be solid, and we will have the five solid runners we need to finish fairly high in the Sun Belt."

Two other players returning from last year are Carlos Gonzalez, who had a top finish of 36 at the Belmont Invitational, and Sean Rabe, who had a high finish of 47 at the WKU event.

In the SBC, Hayes expects to face stiff challenge from the University of Arkansas who is

See Cross, 8

7 Day Sportscast

Tuesday, Aug. 27

Martial Arts Club – Starting tomorrow the MT martial arts club will hold its club meetings every Tuesday and Thursday night from 8:30-10:30 p.m. in the aerobics room located on the second floor of the Recreation Center. This is their eighth semester with MT as an official sport club and they have a lot planned for the coming semester. The club has more than ten different styles of training with them including: boxing, grappling, kickboxing, karate, Tae Kwon Do and Kung Fu. The Martial Arts Club welcomes beginners. To learn more visit them at their Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~mtsumac or e-mail them at mtsumac@mtsu.edu.

Roller Hockey Club Team – The MT roller hockey club team will have conditioning and run through game drills on Tuesdays and Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center.

Rugby Club Team – MT's men's rugby team invites any individuals interested in checking out this fast-growing phenomenon to show

See Sportscast, 8

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New tricks, winners highlights this year's X-Games

By David Hunter
Staff Reporter

There were new gold medal winners and old pros showing that they still had what it takes this past week in Philadelphia, Pa., at the 2002 X-Games.

In Moto-X this was the year of the backflip and Mike Metzger used it to win two gold medals.

In the freestyle contest, three-time defending champion Travis Pastrana was injured in a contest a couple of weeks ago and was not able to compete in Philadelphia. That opened the door for Metzger, who had never won a medal before this year. In the finals Metzger hit the Double Fritz for the first time ever in a contest.

"I feel awesome about it," Metzger said, "I've been thinking about it since yesterday's practice and I wanted to pull (the Double Fritz) for the crowd at practice, but I saved it for the competition." Metzger said to Espneventmedia.com.

The run gave him a score of 98.00 to win the contest with Kenny Bartram taking home the silver and Drake McElroy getting the bronze medal.

In the big air event, Metzger nailed a no handle backflip to win another gold medal with a score of 95.00. However, the big story was the comeback of Carey Hart, who was making his first appearance in an event since last year's X-Games. Last year Hart tried a backflip, but he came off his bike in mid air. The drop from 35 feet in the air left Hart severely hurt. This year he finally hit one to win the silver medal.

"I'm glad I did the backflip," said Hart to Espneventmedia.com. "I got this monkey off my back, but I think I'm done with backflips."

In the step up event, Tommy Clowers cleared 34 feet for his third consecutive gold medal in the event. He had to use his second and final attempt to advance over the bar to earn first place.

"This course was difficult

because you go from a dead stop to full throttle in 30 feet," Clowers said to Espneventmedia.com. "I thought I did break my record today because this course was harder than the one I set the record on at X-Games VI in San Francisco two years ago."

The silver went to Metzger and Deegan brought home his second bronze by finishing third in the contest. Both went over the bar at 33 feet, but Metzger used fewer attempts than Deegan.

With his two gold medals and a silver medal, Metzger was named best overall X-Games athlete and won a Fender guitar.

In the bicycle stunt dirt contest, Allan Cooke took his first ever gold medal by beating 2000 champ Ryan Nyquist with a score 90.47 to 89.53. Nyquist missed on a 720 during his last attempt to leave him with the silver.

"It wasn't easy by any means," Cooke said to Espneventmedia.com. "It's the first time I've ever beaten Ryan for the gold. I can't



Photo provided

The X-Games televised coverage ended this past Friday.

believe it. It's amazing."

However, with an assist from Cooke later, Nyquist brought home his first ever bike stunt park gold medal.

For complete listings of all the winners in the 2002 X-Games check out www.espneventmedia.com or www.expn.com. ♦

Cross Country: Team recruits fresh runners

Continued from 7

University of Arkansas, which is returning everyone this year, including senior Brent Corbitt from Coquitlam, British Columbia, who redshirted last year. Corbitt was UALR's top finisher in the 2000 cross-country season.

The next biggest competition Hayes thinks is favored to take second is WKU if they manage to get everyone back uninjured to compete in the upcoming races. The University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the University of North Texas and MT are all equally skilled according to Hayes.

For the Lady Raiders it will be

tough going as they came in last place in the 2001 season for the SBC.

"We don't have any distance runners and it cost us," Hayes said.

New to the roster this year is Trisha Devalcourt, who has run 5:07 in the mile and 11:32 in the two mile.

"Devalcourt should help us a lot," Hayes said. "We are trying to build up our distance running program a little bit so she is a very welcome addition. It also opens up a new set of events that we can score in track."

Other runners include Chelsy Taylor, who competed in cross-country at Middle Tennessee Christian School in Murfreesboro.

Laura Smith is another new member who has no experience running track or cross-country but wanted to participate on the Lady Raider team.

"We are glad to have her," Hayes said. "We will work with her, develop her and hopefully, by the end of the year, she can help us some. Kerry Barrow, Rosemary Okafor, Kishara George and Jerkita Smith will be competing in cross-country despite having more experience running quarter-mile events in track."

The first meet for the cross-country team is the Austin Peay Invitational Sept. 6 in Nashville, Tenn. ♦

7 Day Sportscast

Continued from 7

up at the recreation center field tomorrow night at 6:30.

Thursday, Aug. 29

Baseball Club – The MT baseball club is having its first meeting for the fall 2002 season. The club team has just made a big step, joining the National Club Baseball Association for the spring 2003 season. MT students and faculty of all baseball backgrounds are invited to join the team and participate in games, travel and excitement. They meet Thursday at in the Recreation Center lobby at 6 p.m. For more information call the recreation center 898-2104.

Friday, Aug. 30

Soccer – The Blue Raiders are traveling to Springfield, Mo., to take on Southwest Missouri State University in their season opener. The match is the first game for the women's soccer team under new head coach Aston Rhoden.

Volleyball – The Lady Raiders' volleyball team is hosting the Lady Raider Tournament in the Murphy Center at 1 p.m. The MT team plays against Western Carolina University Friday and Purdue University at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Saturday, Aug. 31

The Blue Raider football team takes on nationally ranked Southeastern Conference team the University of Alabama at 11:30 a.m. in Alabama. Those wanting to travel on the bus with other MT fans can call Jerry Baker at 352-0719. ♦

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