



Thundershowers

Front porch values return

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Soccer team vies for first NCAA bid

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Some voters were turned away from the polls yesterday at Reeves Rogers Elementary School.

Students, citizens face problems

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

Students who improperly filled out their voter registration forms had trouble voting yesterday.

Daniel Scobey, a recent MTSU graduate, voted at Reeves Rogers Elementary School in 2000, but this year his name wasn't on the list.

"I've been here two hours, and my boss

is getting pissed off," he said.

Behind him a line of people waited to speak to election officials about why they weren't allowed to vote at this precinct. Many of the people in line were first-time voters or young adults.

"People are showing up who are not registered," said Billy Pearson, an election official at Reeves Rogers.

One problem, Pearson said, is that students or new voters registered too late to

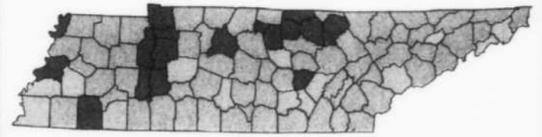
be able to vote in this election. Voters must be registered 30 days before Election Day in order to vote.

"There are problems like these all over the county," Pearson said.

Elayne Cowan, another election official at Reeves Rogers, said that these problems are normal but extremely aggravating for citizens.

See Problems, 2

Presidential Election Results in Tennessee



Bush was projected the winner of Tennessee, as expected prior to election day. The call was made shortly after the polls closed last evening.

Bush, Tracy win in state

By Nick Fowler, Juanita Thoun and Matt Anderson
Staff Writers

Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, defeated incumbent Larry Trail, D-Murfreesboro, in a hotly contested battle for the 16th district State Senate seat.

Kent Coleman, D-Murfreesboro, defeated Oscar Gardner, R-Murfreesboro, for the 49th district State House seat.

Incumbent Bart Gordon D-Murfreesboro handily defeated Nicholas Demas, R-Cookeville, to keep his position in the U.S. Congress, which he has held for 20 years.

President George W. Bush won the popular vote in Tennessee. National results were too close to call at press time.

Tracy gave his victory speech at Bluesboro in downtown Murfreesboro, where the Rutherford County Republicans waited for election returns.

"That just goes to show you negative ads don't work," he said. "We were right on the issues."

Tracy gave credit to MTSU's Raider Republicans for his victory.

"It was a team effort all the way - Raider republicans really came out for me. Our candidacy was based on the grassroots," Tracy said.

Paul Fulcher, a business administration major at MTSU and member of the Raider Republicans, was a paid volunteer for Jim Tracy.

"I'll take a lot of pride not for myself, but for the Raider Republican organization," he said. "The Raider Republicans really stepped it up."

Tracy's opponent Trail, looking tired and a bit forlorn, came to the podium at Miller Coliseum to deliver his con-

ELECTION RESULTS

State House race
George W. Bush 1,309,684
John Kerry 1,000,345

49th State House
Kent Coleman 13,565
Oscar Gardner 11,237

State Senate 16th District
Larry Trail 34,497
Jim Tracy 36,913

Congress 6th District
Bart Gordon 50,535
Nick Demas 26,398

Full presidential results were not available at press time.

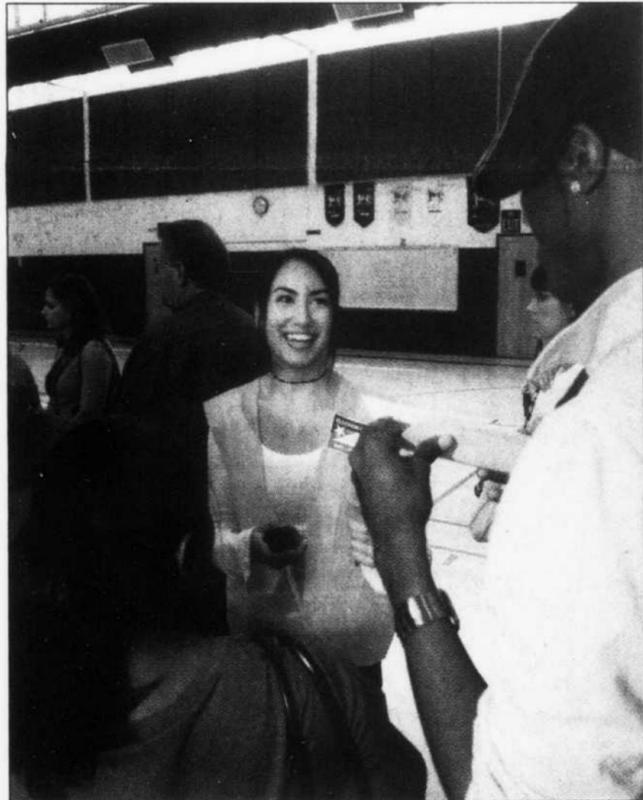


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

A record voter turnout for Rutherford County caused long lines and delays at Reeves Rogers Elementary School yesterday.

Turnout high at county polls

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Results were reported quickly from the 48 Rutherford County precincts in an election year that had a record number of early voters and long lines at many polling places, county officials said.

"We thought it was going to be a late night," election commissioner Hooper Penuel said. "But things went pretty well out there tonight."

All precinct results were posted on the election commission's Web site before 10 p.m. Penuel said a record number of voters participated in early balloting. The early-voting and absentee results were released within minutes of the polls closing.

"There were 37,000 early votes cast," Penuel said. "It's an easy number to remember."

Of the 37,000 registered voters that cast an early vote, only 35,278 voted for one of the presidential candidates. Penuel said he could not explain why so many people would vote early and not cast a ballot in the presidential race.

"We can't tell how they voted or who they voted for," Penuel said. "We just don't know that."

Penuel said that some people waited for several hours to cast their ballots all through the early voting period and on election day. He said that the county will consider options to alleviate some of

See Turnout, 3

Exit polls show Kerry as students' choice

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

College students turned out in masses to the local precincts in Rutherford County and exit polling indicated that students preferred Sen. John Kerry to President George W. Bush, although not by much.

Sidelines staffers conducted exit polling at the two closest precincts to the university located at Reeves Rogers Elementary School and Central Middle School. Overall, 257 MTSU students answered exit-polling questions.

Kerry took the lead with 146 of the student voters and Bush followed closely with

105. Independent Ralph Nader garnered only five votes and one student reported voting for Libertarian Michael Badnarik.

Overwhelmingly, students responding to the poll have indicated a feeling of obligation to vote this year, especially considering how close this election is expected to be.

Many of those who responded said that this year was their first time to vote.

Junior Kelly Wolf, 21, voted today for the first time. "I feel that since I have the privilege to vote, I should take advantage of this privilege," she said.

"I voted so my voice is

See Polling, 2

Republicans take control of state Senate

By Erica Rodefer and Jason Cox
Campus News Editor and Editor in Chief

Republicans unseated two key incumbents to take a majority of the state Senate last night for the first time since Reconstruction.

The incumbents, Larry Trail, who represents Murfreesboro as well as parts of Rutherford, Bedford and Moore counties, and Joann Graves in northeastern middle Tennessee - including parts of Sumner and Robertson counties, faced tough opposition from Shelbyville insurance agent and school board member Jim Tracy and state representative Diane Black, respectively.

Trail, an MTSU alumnus, had held the seat since 2000.

Republicans will now con-

trol the state Senate for the first time in nearly 140 years, with a 17-16 majority.

Despite losing one seat in the state House (incumbent Tommy Head lost to Curtis Johnson in the 68th District), the Democrats still control that chamber 53-46.

The question now is who will be the speaker of the senate.

Democratic state Senator and Lt. Gov. John Wilder, who won a tight re-election race of his own against political newcomer Ron Stallings, is currently the speaker. Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Haynes said there are some Republicans who have committed to re-electing Wilder, but it is likely that a Republican will challenge him.

Democratic state chair

See Republicans, 3



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Republican Jim Tracy helped tip the state Senate to Republican control in this election.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
What did you do for Halloween?

Suffragettes



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Members of Women for Women, the student feminist organization on campus, dressed as suffragettes Monday for the voters rally they sponsored on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

Polling: Many cite civic duty as reason

Continued from 1

heard and so now I get a chance to complain if I don't like what's going on," said senior Denise Hamann, 21, a first-time voter. When it comes to deciding how to vote, some of the most important issues to students are ones that are most decisive. The war in Iraq has hit home to a lot of students who have relatives and friends in the military or are worried about the possibility of a draft. Junior Nick Bustos, 24, voted for the first time yesterday and made his vote for Bush based primarily on the war. "This is a really important election," Bustos said. "I don't think we should be changing

commander-in-chief during a war." Freshman Stephanie Bengé, 20, said she disagrees with Bush's approach to the war on terrorism. "I don't like what he's doing to the environment and how Afghanistan magically turned into Iraq," Bengé said. Other decisive issues, like the minimum wage, abortion and stem cell research, helped students make their decision between the two candidates. "I like [Kerry's] stance on stem cell issue and abortion," said Brian Peck, 21. "Bush lines up with my convictions," said sophomore Chad Martin, 19. Also, some female and black

voters made it to the polls yesterday out of respect for the historic struggles that gave them the right to vote. Freshman Shannon Mitchell, 18, voted for the first time "because many people died for me to exercise this right. As a black person, I feel that it is very necessary and I want to be a part of change." In the local Tennessee Senate race between Jim Tracy and Larry Trail, 121 students who were polled voted for Trail. Eighty students voted for the winner, Tracy. Many students who were polled indicated that they did not vote for the state senate seat because they weren't familiar with the race or the candidates.

Local musicians and MTSU students Big Fella and Te Arthur were taping a documentary at the Reeves Rogers precinct yesterday and were talking to young people who were voting. "We're doing a documentary from the young broke person's point of view," Big Fella, whose real name is Will Sims Jr., said. Sims said he still hasn't made up his mind about who he is voting for, but he felt like neither candidate was addressing the concerns of young voters. "I am below the poverty line," Arthur agreed. "I made \$16,000 last year. But the candidates are mostly concerned about the middle class." ♦

State:

Continued from 1

Gardner added. Gordon, who easily won his seat in congress yet again, was also looking to the future. "I'm never going to forget who I work for," Gordon said. "We're still Tennesseans. We need to put this election behind and work together." Meanwhile, Bush took Tennessee by 14 points, delighting Republican-leaning students. "I'm such a diehard Republican that any Republican win gets me really excited," said Jennifer Wilcox, junior broadcast journalism major. "The more red states I see, the more excited I get. I don't want to count my chickens before they hatch, but it looks good so far." "I'm glad he won Tennessee. I voted for him. I just don't like Kerry. That's what it amounts to," said Sheena Puckett, senior biology major. ♦

Problems: Voters stand in long lines

Continued from 1

"A lot of people think if they register to vote they can vote anywhere," she said. "These rules aren't explained to them by the people who help them register." Justin Owen, president of MTSU Raider Republicans, said that his organization probably registered more than 100 people on campus this semester. Owen said he has heard several people complain that they weren't able to vote. "There were so many registrations turned in at one time," he said. "Probably people are registering in one location and are getting confused about where they need to go." During the Raider Republican registration drives,

Owen said they were encouraging people to early vote because early voters could vote anywhere in the county at a number of poll sites. "But people may have been confused about early voting and regular voting," Owen said. In order to check where contested voters are registered to vote, Pearson had to call the Rutherford County Election Commission office. However, due to the heavy turnout in the county, Pearson often couldn't get through the busy phone lines. There wasn't an option for Scobey but to stand in line and wait for Pearson to find out where he needed to go in order to vote. Scobey said hopefully his boss won't mind too much. ♦

Student stabs man in Corlew Hall

Staff Reports

Campus police are investigating a stabbing that allegedly occurred at a Corlew Hall dorm room Sunday at approximately 3:30 p.m. When the incident happened when a 19-year-old black male knocked on an 18-year-old black female acquaintance's dorm room door. The female opened the door, the male allegedly hit her, according to the release campus police provided News and Public Affairs. The female then stabbed the male in the leg with the steak

knife, according to the police report. "The case is still under investigation," said interim campus police chief Roy Brewer. "I cannot release any specifics of the case until the investigation is complete." The male, who resides at University Courtyard according to the police report, was taken to a local hospital for treatment. His injury required stitches. No charges have been pressed at this time, campus police officials said. The investigation should be completed by Wednesday, Brewer said. ♦

Sidelines' Campus Events calendar can help.

Clip the form below, fill it out and return it to the James Union Building, Room 310.

Campus Events

- The following guidelines apply to all:
1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
 2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
 3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
 4. Sidelines does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice _____ Date _____

Organization _____ Event _____

Date of event _____ Time _____ Location _____

Contact name _____ Phone no. _____

Notes _____

Return this form to Sidelines, MTSU Box 8, or bring to James Union Building, Room 310

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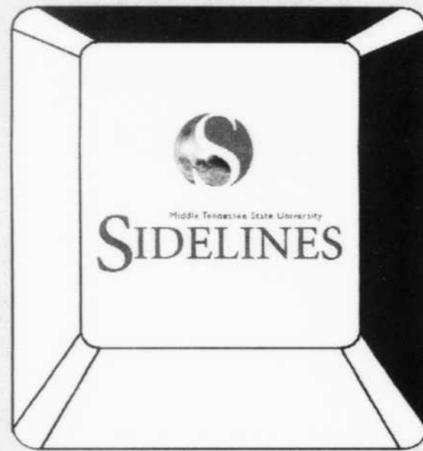
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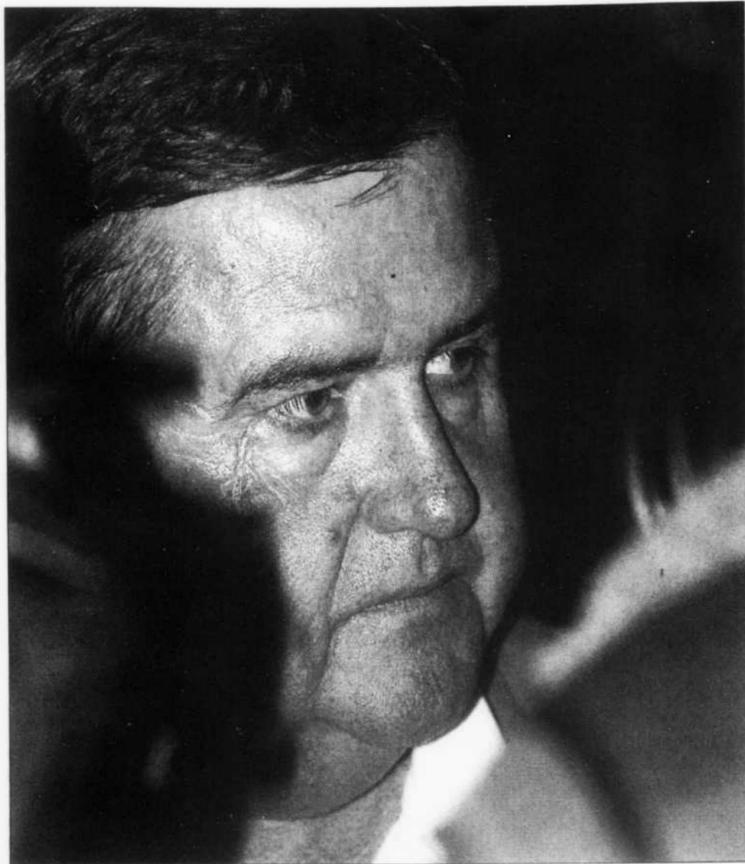


Photo by Rachelle Morvant
| Staff Photographer



Tennessee senator incumbent Larry Trail (D) talks to reporters as news of his loss of his seat Tuesday night at Miller Coliseum. Left: Leaman Flatt, Mildred Markum and Deedie Drake converse with each other at Trail's rally at Miller Coliseum Tuesday night.

Republicans: Grassroots campaign works

Continued from 1

Randy Button commended the efforts of the Republican team in Tennessee while acknowledging that the Democrats had a lot at stake in this election.

"I want to begin by thanking the Bush team in Tennessee and the Republicans. They really did a great job of putting together a credible campaign," Button said. "We had to defend 11 seats in the Senate."

"We knew that the president's numbers were 20 points plus and it was really going to be a tough year for us," he said.

On the other hand, Beth Harwell, state chair for the Republican Party in Tennessee, called last night "a fantastic victory."

"It's historical," Harwell said. "We're so proud of the voters and our candidates."

Harwell attributed the two key victories to recruiting great

candidates and establishing a grassroots campaign throughout the state.

Christy Holden, president of the College Democrats, felt dejected after hearing about Trail's loss.

"[The loss is] depressing as hell. Does that sum it up?" she said.

"He's done so much for MTSU," Holden said. "We just hate to lose him in the community because he's just done so many good things for MTSU."

Meanwhile, Raider Republican president Justin Owen was delighted to hear of Tracy's victory.

"I've been working on Tracy's campaign since the end of May," said Raider Republican President Justin Owen. "Mr. Tracy has worked extremely, extremely hard for that win and he deserves it."

Owen was at Bluesboro, where the Rutherford County

Republicans had their rally last night, when the results for the Senate seat were revealed.

"When we first found out, Mr. Tracy wasn't there," he said. "It was pretty electrifying, and well worth the hard work we put into it."

"We didn't expect it to come so early, I was kind of surprised that Trail conceded as soon as he did," Owen said. "But we did expect to win."

MTSU students were just as surprised as the rest of the state.

"I thought it was a surprise in the way the vote turned out. I was expecting it to be tight to the last minute," said Tony Ford, a senior social service major.

Both Owen and Holden were confident that their presidential candidates

"We have good feelings about Kerry," Holden said. "We think he's going to pull it off." ♦

Turnout: Locals get to polls en masse

Continued from 1

the congestion.

"Early voting does work," Penuel said. "If we can get to it, especially in Smyrna and Laverge. We will be looking at expanding in our system and the number of machines."

Bush carried the county with more than 52,000 votes. Incumbent congressman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., was re-elected with just over 50,000 votes.

The night went well for state senate challenger Jim Tracy, R-Bedford, who won Rutherford County by less than a thousand votes in his victory over incumbent Larry Trail, D-Murfreesboro.

County commissioner Mike Sparks was at the election commission to monitor results for Tracy. Sparks, who spent the day passing out palm cards for Tracy, said he was pleased with the campaign's results.

"I was pretty optimistic after early voting, but I

knew it was going to be a close race," Sparks said. "I don't want to say it on the heels of President Bush, but President Bush is pretty popular in Rutherford County and that had to help."

David Pearce, an MTSU public relations major and a representative of the Volunteers for Kerry/Edwards, was tallying results for the presidential race as the precinct votes were reported.

Pearce said he had spent the day campaigning for Kerry at Sportscom, at Barfield Elementary and at the corner of Broad and Memorial.

Even though his candidate did not win the county, Pearce said he was happy about the voter turnout.

"Even though I am a Kerry supporter, it was good to see such passion and support for both candidates," Pearce said. "Tennessee was declared for Bush for a while, but it's good to see the support Kerry received." ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ◆ SIDELINES

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

Voting in local elections key to making difference

The voting is done, the ballots have been cast, and it's all over. So now its time to start talking about next time.

Before you go throwing bricks at us, begging us to stop talking about anything election-related once and for all (or, at least, for a few more years) heed these words. The most important, most personal votes anyone can cast are those that control who gets into local offices: city officials, mayor, all the way up to members of the state legislature.

These are the people that have control over much of our everyday lives. They exercise control over the roads we drive on, the land our homes are built on, even the schools (including this university) where we get our education.

And yet, 18-24-year-olds made up only 10.88 percent of Rutherford County citizens participated in early voting. That's 4,043 people out of 37,000, a disappointing number. Furthermore in exit polling at two precincts close to MTSU, many students said that they skipped voting in the local races because they didn't know enough about the candidates or their platforms.

It would seem that the problem is a lack of available information to educate voters on local races. Anyone who has paid attention to television in the past month has been inundated with advertising trying to push voters one way or the other, but for the most part substantial information has been harder to find.

Young people must make the effort to investigate local races by reading their local newspaper to learn more about the candidates, by visiting campaign Web sites to get a better grasp on a candidate's position and — and this is the most important thing of all — to talk to the candidates themselves.

Those seeking state and municipal offices are unique in that they are accessible to the average citizen. Your phone calls, letters and e-mail mean more to them than they will to a congressional senator, representative or the president of the United States.

They will bend over backwards to earn the support of the people they represent, so we, the voters, should not be afraid to be informed enough to demand the very best.

Whether or not one person can make a difference in picking the president, you can make a difference in how your community is run. ◆

Give stem cell research room to grow new cures

It is time to learn about stem cells. One of the most controversial issues facing Americans, and even the world in general, is the idea of performing research on stem cells. It is hotly debated and discussed by many people, but sadly there are many pieces of misinformation and myths about stem cells that have infected the general population.

In the interest of truth, these myths must be dispelled so that people can have educated discussions concerning this issue instead of just blathering on in their accustomed unintelligible manner.

Embryonic stem cells have the potential to cure a myriad of diseases, ranging from cardiovascular diseases to cancers to Parkinson's disease.

While there are five different types of stem cells that are being experimented upon, the embryonic cells are the most flexible and therefore have the greatest potential to advance medical science.

The cells have this potential because they are able to form into any kind of specialized cell that can be found in the human body. By replicating the specialized cells, infected or malignant cells in a diseased individual can be replaced with healthy cells, thus curing the patient.

Because of the nature of the human immune system, it is biologically impossible to place cells that do not match the specific DNA of the implant patient without the immune system destroying said cells. In order for foreign cells to survive in a human body, a process called nuclear transfer must be performed. The transfer creates personalized stem cells derived from a blastocyst created from a cell with a nucleus that comes from the individual patient's cells.

A recent breakthrough by a team of Korean scientists showed that it was in fact possible to harvest stem cells using the nuclear transfer process. The reason that this event is so important is that it proves that it is at least possible to create cells from the genetic material of any individual that may need them.

A problem that many people have with stem cell research is the notion that scientists are killing babies to get the cells. This is simply not true.

Every human being starts life as just a single cell with his or her unique genetic sequence in the nucleus of that cell. Every single cell in a human's body contains that sequence and, if properly "reprogrammed," could be used to create a genetic clone of that person.

But stem cell researchers are not

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

attempting to clone people to harvest their cells. What they do is use the genetic information to create a blastocyst that will contain stem cells with a genetic sequence identical to that of the patient.

Blastocysts are not babies. They are not fetuses. They are cells and have not reached a significant stage of what we call human life.

There is the argument that since a blastocyst has the potential to become a fetus, scientists should not be allowed to grow them in laboratories for experimental science. While this is technically true, it is also true that each and every cell in a human, from their hair cells to their liver cells, has the same potential to become a fetus.

While this sounds utterly ridiculous, it is true because it is not the cell itself that is responsible for the human body but the string of nucleotides called DNA that is contained within the cell that is responsible for the physical body.

The bottom line is that while stem cell research is very important, the science itself is still in its infancy. It is going to take a lot of time and hard work before the big payoff. While some people are still going to have problems with the research, it is important for them to admit that the science at least has the potential to cure the above-mentioned afflictions.

Science cannot tell us what we should or should not do. We must ultimately decide that for ourselves. But science at least deserves the chance to show us whether or not it can truly benefit us. If you want to protest the study of stem cells, fine. No one is going to try and take that away from you.

But it is very important that you know about the thing that you are protesting. Otherwise you are just a joiner, a follower, a voice in a crowd that does not deserve to be heard. You must earn the right to shout about these things; otherwise you are just a hurdle in the advancement of the educated human race. ◆

Carter Fort is a junior digital animation major and can be reached at ctf2b@mtsu.edu.

'Motor voter' policy promotes voter fraud

Voter apathy in the late 1980s so distressed lawmakers that in 1993 the United States Congress passed the national Voter Registration Act, mandating that states allow voter registration to occur by mail and at motor vehicle registration locations across the country.

Bill Clinton, president at the time, hailed the act as a step forward in getting citizens to participate in the political process.

"Motor voter works at registering voters, and people who register, vote," Clinton said.

At the time, opponents argued that relaxing the requirements for voter registration would open the door for increased voter fraud. Those in favor of the law dismissed these fears, claiming computerized records would link voter registration with other records thus reducing the chance of fraud.

Since then many states have expanded opportunities for voter registration, even allowing special interest groups to collect registrations for the local election commission.

In the state of Tennessee, such forms need not be accompanied by proof of citizenship. In fact, even when registering in person at the election commission, a person need not show proof of citizenship.

Instead, they have to check a box certifying their citizenship.

When I moved to Tennessee and went to register, this leniency took me by surprise. I questioned the clerk who nonchalantly pointed to the red letters spelling out the fine for falsifying the document.

I was left to assume everyone cared about such fines and wouldn't dare lie.

With the 2000 presidential election being so close, voter apathy seems to have gone the way of poodle skirts and bell bottom trousers. No longer do voters say, "My one vote isn't going to count, I'd rather play racquet ball or watch the tube."

Instead, voters, myself included, waited in line last week for as much as three hours to get the chance to weigh in on who should represent them at the federal and state level. In fact, Rutherford County Administrator of Elections Hooper Penuel told the *Daily News Journal* that an unprecedented 30.8 percent of registered voters stood in line to cast their ballots in the weeks preceding election day. While such statistics give me warm fuzzies, I can't help but wonder how many of these folks, along with election day voters, can actually prove citizenship and how many of them are voting twice or even three times.

On Nov. 1 *The New York Times* reported an official of the Pennsylvania Republican Party sent out 130,000 letters congratulating newly registered voters. However, 10,000 were returned, indicating the people had either died or the addresses were nonexistent.

Likewise, on Sept. 30, *The Tennessean* reported the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was looking into 200 voter registrations that appeared to be filled out by the same person. Other states have had their own voter fraud headaches.

Until this current election year, the motor voter act had little effect on voter turnout. The United States Census Bureau reported in 2002 that only 55 percent of those eligible (citizens 18 years of age and older) voted in the 2000 election. Yet, according to this same report, in the years before the motor voter act went into effect, voter turnout hovered around 60 percent.

With our newfound knowledge that every vote really does count, maybe it's time our lawmakers review the motor voter act.

Maybe it's time for those who vote to need to care enough about the process to make a trip to the election commission to show some valid I.D. and register. Maybe, just maybe, voter apathy isn't so bad after all. ◆

Juanita Thouin is a senior journalism major and can be reached at jlt3e@mtsu.edu.

According to Whom?



Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist

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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.

Political landscape could face a shake-up

If this election season has taught us anything, it may be that a great deal of change may be ahead for the nation.

No, I'm not talking about policy changes or international affairs or anything of that sort.

The sort of change I'm talking about is a radical shift in the structure of our two major political parties.

The idea seems crazy, doesn't it? The Democratic and Republican parties seem as much a part of the national landscape as the bald eagle, apple pie and rock'n'roll (or was that country music?) that it would be unthinkable to imagine a different political landscape in our republic.

However, it wasn't that long ago that these same two parties were two entirely different beasts. And they certainly haven't been the only major parties our nation has ever had.

Different parties have formed with the shifting of the ideological sands in the United States, and since the sands seem to be shifting under the feet of the donkey and the elephant, perhaps a change is inevitable.

The trouble with the Democratic and Republican parties as they currently stand is that they are simply too massive. Both parties attempt to cover such a wide range of beliefs that it is inevitable that differing groups within these organizations will

Fair and Unbalanced



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

clash with one another.

Witness the debate within the Republican Party over the Federal Marriage Amendment, where religious conservatives came into conflict with social conservatives who were reluctant to alter the U.S. Constitution, or the contest over the Democratic nomination last year.

While I can hardly see a single issue like that tearing a whole party apart, it highlights the fact that both of our political parties have grown too large to function as singular, coherent entities.

So, what could happen in the near future?

The losing party of the present election would potentially face a serious case of soul searching in the hope of determining exactly "what went wrong" this year. It certainly wouldn't be an instantaneous process, but both parties would be driven to carefully examine what their core beliefs are and whether or not the groups that have slowly accumulated around each party fit completely with those beliefs.

In the *American Conservative's* endorsement of Sen. John Kerry (or, to be more accurate, their endorsement of "not President George W. Bush") they made it clear that a number of traditional, fiscal conservatives feel put-off by the religious, socially conservative wing of the Republican Party that seems to have taken a significant amount of control over the GOP's direction.

Should conflict be sparked within the party, arguments between these two major groups could split the party in half.

Fiscal conservatives could possibly split for a group like the Libertarian Party, giving the third-party group more clout than its ever had before and potentially shifting the powers in play in a future election in an entirely new direction.

And what of the Democrats? After all, it wouldn't be very fair of me to make doomsday predictions about one party and not the other, right?

The Democrats face the problem that they have no real direction. Their driving force for this past election was removing Bush from office, but outside of that it seemed as though no one could really energize the electorate with any other topic.

Who wound up winning the Democratic nomination? A man whose sole reason for being selected was his "electability," a term that

has little relevance outside of the world of pollsters. Outside of the broad dislike of the president that appealed to anyone outside of the Republican voter base, Kerry found difficulty motivating the key swing voters who weren't yet polarized towards one party or the other.

Without a strong message disconnected from feelings about the current administration and its policies, the Democratic Party is a shapeless being that seems to be only capable of moving in reaction to events around it instead of seizing the initiative for itself to set a direction they wish to lead the nation in, fearing that they could potentially be accused of being "too left-wing."

While I know it won't come in the near future, I would look forward to a split in both parties. The United States is in strong need of ideologically distinct parties, of a strong left and right wing, as well as groups that span across different segments of the political spectrum. Such diversity would breathe new life into the electoral process, life that is much needed if the greatest tradition of our republic is to continue to have any real meaning.

After all, if every vote is supposed to count, shouldn't it count for something meaningful to us? ◆

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

Front porch values return

Honors students bring old-timey closeness back to Murfreesboro by exploring heritage

By Brandi Fleck
Staff Writer

Among the many opportunities the Honors College has to offer MTSU students, "Revisiting and Re-Visioning the Hometown: An Advanced Writing Seminar" pushes students to introspectively revisit their roots and help others along the way.

Among the many service learning projects that the students are independently taking on, the Front Porch Institute promotes interpersonal communication.

"It's about getting high school students out of their houses, off their computers, and away from video games," says junior advertising major and project leader Nic Wehmeyer.

Wehmeyer has the idea that since entertainment and communication technology have infiltrated homes and schools, people have lost valuable social skills. This project is named the Front Porch Institute because back before computers were social domains, the front porch offered a place for people to sit and talk.

Basically, the Front Porch Institute promotes a pursuit of knowledge that involves interaction with professors, colleagues, friends and civic communities.

Missy Blissard, guidance counselor at Oakland High School, thinks that any program that benefits a student's transition to college is a good thing. Students need to practice the basic skills of communicating.

Blissard says that she has witnessed students trying to have a discussion in groups of three or four, and they generally interrupt and do not listen.

Oakland junior Caitlin Carroll says she needs to work on communication skills. She is a member of Alpha Delta

Kappa, a sorority for high school students, and wants to bring the skills she learned from the Front

Porch Institute back to that organization.

The other MTSU leader involved is junior psychology major Emily Carroll. Her group comprises of ADK girls from schools in Rutherford County, while Wehmeyer's group was selected by MTSU's Admissions and Guidance departments from high schools in Cannon County.

"I've noticed that the girls segregate by their schools, so even if three girls [in FPI] socialize and take it back to ADK, it can build cohesion within the organization," Emily Carroll says.

Caitlin Carroll has not yet committed to MTSU. However, because the developing Front Porch Institute has worked so closely with admissions, there is a \$100 scholarship available for each semester of the high school student's freshman year if they choose to attend MTSU.

Recruiting efforts are still in the works. Ron Kates, associate professor of English and instructor of the seminar that requires service learning projects, says it has been hard to find high school students to participate. The original goal was to tap into all surrounding counties, and to even look in metro or private schools.

The institute is based on the metaphor that the front porch is a place to become a community. This is being applied to the community of high school students that need to be aware of the different cultures, attitudes and people they will meet when coming to college for the first time to avoid culture shock.

There are six scheduled gatherings on MTSU's campus that will help students understand others, but they will also promote a self-awareness of roots and comfort within diversity. Goals of the program include breaking stereotypes and helping students see how where they come from impacts where they are going.

"I am from Memphis, so jazz and hanging out in the street is a part of me. Emily Carroll is different because she grew up in Murfreesboro. We explore how different we are just because of the environment we grew up in," Wehmeyer says.

Possible scheduled activities include a ropes course and cookout, combinations of college preparation and cultural awareness, communication-based activities that promote problem solving skills, working in teams and actively listening, a campus scavenger hunt which will allow honing of previously learned skills, discussions on how to implement learned skills in their own schools and finally, a self-reflective discussion.

Identifying student leaders and building interpersonal communication skills early is top priority because of the need to replenish the almost-lost art. ♦



Candidate choice rests on social issues for many constituents

Take The High Road

Calley Stroud
Staff Columnist



As I write this, it's Monday morning – Nov. 1, 2004 – the day before the election. Thankfully I've already voted and will be watching the outcome on television, possibly for days to come.

It was an hour and half standing in line-well spent. Deep breaths. It wasn't an easy decision this year – so many things to consider.

Will my vote really count? Will he follow through and make me glad that I voted for him? Why is it always a he?

One thing that was crystal clear to me this election year was the fact that nothing is clear-cut anymore. Won't politicians say and do whatever we want them to, just to get elected?

You're bet they will. Am I generalizing? You bet I am. Why? Because I can!

I'm a somewhat liberal-minded Bush supporter, and I'm certain I'm the liberal minority. I chose Bush again because I believe life and death are the most valid issues facing our nation right now.

Abortion ends human life – period. The baby has no voice. The father has no voice. It's her body, so she is able to destroy the life inside of her if she so chooses.

As the mom of three daughters, I cannot fathom killing life that is growing inside me. I chose pregnancy and motherhood.

On the other hand, I also understand that women choose to abort everyday. Who am I to make that choice for them? I wouldn't dare. Ending her pregnancy is something she will have to live with.

My wish is that she will educate herself before making her decision. It's her business – until she wants tax dollars to pay for it. Why should taxpayers pay? Okay, so if it's incest or rape, there's more to consider.

But, for Susie who had an oopsy – I don't think so. They were passing out condoms in the Keathley University Center just last week. Go get them so you don't have to think about what

you're not ready for.

Partial-birth abortion is murder. What are we doing? I tell you what – let's just wait until they are full-term and then kill em' – what's the difference?

Here's the thing – it comes down to the issues that we consider most pertinent to our lives.

Are you gay, or do you know someone that is? Do you think gays should be granted the same right to marriage as heterosexuals?

I think it's easy for those opposing gay unions to sit back and say nay, because chances are, they don't associate with homosexuals.

Just wait until someone you love tells you they are gay; then what? Do gays not work and pay taxes like anyone else? Why shouldn't they be given the same rights?

Americans don't realize how much we value oil and what it means to our economy and our lives. Petroleum based products, such as our cars, and anything plastic, are luxuries we're used to.

People have to ask themselves, what are we willing to give up? Can you live without your car and your sneakers? Americans use more petroleum-based products than any other country. Where would we be without it?

The war – it's horrible. We're there now. Can we just pull out and resume as we were? Not likely. Let's continue to fight and persevere to maintain a zero tolerance for terrorism.

I ache about losing our men and women at war everyday. But unfortunately we don't have a choice right now. I don't think that Osama bin Laden wants to hold hands and chant "let's give peace a chance."

My father fought in Vietnam and my brother is fighting now. Both of them serve their country proudly. I admire them and appreciate their support and passion for our country. Our troops dedicate their lives to our freedom, and I don't take my country or my freedom lightly.

So, I guess I can't really say I'm Democrat or Republican. I'm somewhere in the middle. When someone asks what political party I belong to, I usually just say I'm voting for Bush. Although I don't believe in every issue he stands for, I do trust that he has done a great job and, for the most part, best supports the interests of my family and country.

Hopefully by the time this prints, the election is complete. I can at least say that I did my part by voicing my opinion by voting and speaking out. My fellow colleagues, can you say the same? ♦

Poker prepares gamblers for Wall Street

By Daniel Osowsky
Daily Bruin

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES –

While steel nerves and a sharp intellect are character traits shared by both card sharks and stock market gurus, more often than not, it can be the playing of poker which develops the qualities necessary to begin investing.

As light-hearted gamblers learn after losing their wallets to the poker pros, only the aggressive survive. Being assertive is the first step toward a lifetime career in trading. With this in mind, students interested in the stock market can begin to learn an aggressive lifestyle at local poker games.

Whether or not you know it, when you join a poker table you're declaring this statement: I'm here to take your money. You may be sitting with lifelong friends, but when you join a game, you are telegraphing your want of their money.

For every benefit there's a cost. If you want more money, it will come at the cost of the players around the table – best

friends or strangers. The player who is willing to take even the last dollar bill out of his best friend's tuition fund is the type of gambler who is ready to learn more about trading stocks.

Conversely, what are you declaring when you buy stock? You believe the price is going up. The seller believes the price is going down. For every share you buy, assuming normal trading circumstances, another person disagrees with you.

Investing is putting your wits against everyone else's. Every share you buy is a bet against you.

Gamblers who can thrive in a friendless world are potential candidates for trading.

Even still, a profitable career in either stocks or cards needs more than a forceful character. Raw animal spirits may guide the alpha-trader, but durability is needed for the long-term profits and the short-term kills.

At the poker table, you will invariably go bust. Even Doyle Brunson, a master Texas Hold'em player, loses games.

Conservative players betting strictly with the probabilities

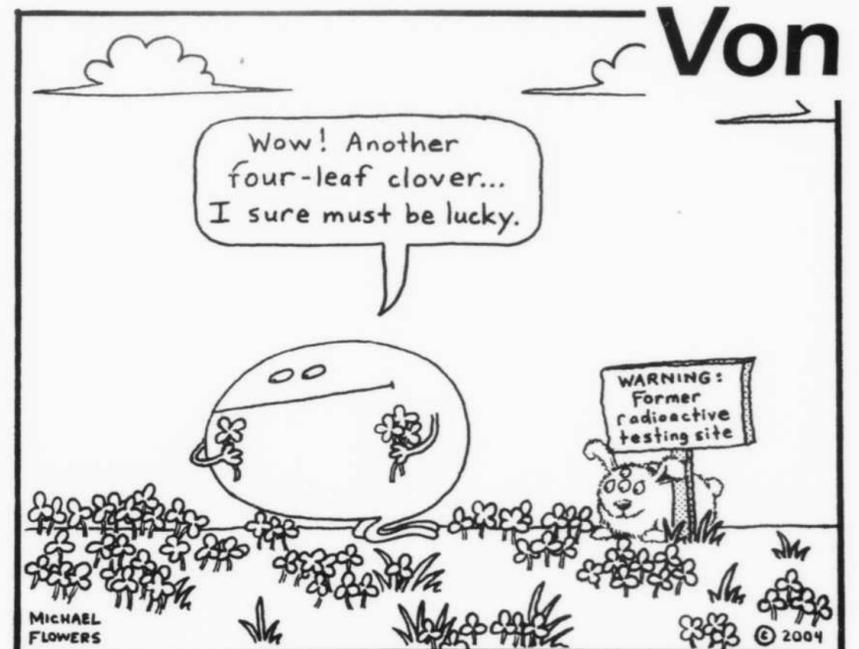
will also lose. These players will lose less than the rash gamblers, but in the end, they will also have days where they walk away empty-handed from an otherwise full table.

It is essential to recognize that probabilities hold no guarantee of future outcome. A poker player can go all-in with a full house only to lose to four of a kind.

Similarly, traders can lose billions of dollars on a once-in-one-hundred-years financial storm. The moral of the story: If you can't bounce back from a loss at the poker table, you aren't ready for the street.

The traders who still have their jobs after a significant loss learn to lick their wounds, realize what they did wrong, and double their effort back into the game.

Only the aggressive and durable poker players can make a transition to trading stock. It should be noted that the qualities of character necessary for winning hundred-dollar pots aren't enough to earn quick profits from trading. ♦





Blue Raiders surprise competition

By **Katy Hamlett**
Staff Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Middle Tennessee's cross country teams traveled to Little Rock, Ark. over the weekend to participate in the Sun Belt Conference championship meet.

In the men's race, the underdogs were the big winners. Louisiana-Lafayette, picked third, and the Blue Raiders, picked fifth, took the top two spots in the meet.

"No one expected Middle Tennessee. Everyone was looking to Western Kentucky or Arkansas State," University of New Orleans head coach Eric Tucker said. "I saw MT's pack up front and expected them to get tired quickly, but they really finished strong."

Photo by **Katy Hamlett** | Staff Photographer
MT's Derek Dell (left) and Geoffrey Magat finished fifth and fourth, respectively, in the Aeropostale Sun Belt Cross Country Championships in Little Rock, Ark., last weekend.

Even though this year marks MT's best ranking ever in the SBC tournament, missing first place by only five points created a bittersweet atmosphere after the race.

"I think it was a good season," MT's second place finisher Derek Dell explained. "Close to the end we lost a heartbreaker, but everyone ran well so no one should be ashamed of themselves."

When the team knew they'd be ranked in the top two, MT assistant coach Keith Vroman paced anxiously around the finish line waiting for the final results to be posted.

"As a team we've run really well. I can't ask for anything more than that," Vroman said. "We went from eighth last year to first or second this year, so you can't really ask for anything more than that."

The key to ULL's narrow victory was placing three runners in the top 10. ULL's first place finisher and sixth overall finisher, freshman Jacob Simmons, was 2003's 4A cross country champion in Louisiana.

"They [ULL] had a solid performance. Their guys ran well," Vroman said. "But I

wouldn't say they had anything over us. I mean, it all comes down to this one day. It takes the top five on the team to win the race and they beat us just because today they had a better pack of five than we did."

MT's top finishers were Geoffrey Magat (fourth place overall), Derek Dell (fifth place overall) and Steve Safstrom (11th place overall).

"The guy who ran a really great race was Steve Safstrom," MT head coach Dean Hayes said. "He's a walk-on and ran well his freshman year but has been hurt the past two years. But he came back this year and really ran a good race."

Western Kentucky, South Alabama and North Texas rounded out the top five in the men's race.

On the women's side, Western Kentucky dominated the entire race. WKU had four finishers in the top 10, including first-place overall winner Cara Nichols, who clocked in nearly 15 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

See **Championship, 7**

MT men's tennis team enjoys wins

By **Jill Davis**
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team participated in the University of Tennessee Fall Invitational this past weekend in Knoxville, dominating competition from around the Southeast.

The University of Virginia, UT, Vanderbilt University and University of Kentucky also participated in the tournament, but the Blue Raiders had control in all nine doubles matches and won 15 out of 21 singles matches.

MT played five singles matches against Tennessee and two versus Virginia on opening day of the tournament on Friday. They also won three doubles against Vanderbilt.

In singles play, No. 63 Andreas Siljeström defeated Tennessee's No. 99 Ockie Oosthuizen, 6-3, 0-6, 7-6 (4), while Marco Born won 7-6 (2), 6-2, over UT's Kiril Tcherveniachki.

Anant Sitaram took care of Virginia's Stephen Rozek, 6-3, 7-6 (5), and Brandon Allan won 6-4, 6-3 over Tennessee's Rawl Martin.

Kai Schledorn dropped a 1-6, 4-6 decision to Virginia's Jarrett Chirico, while Greg Pollack lost 6-7 (3), 2-6, to Tennessee's Ben Rogers and Marc Boiron dropped a 2-6, 6-7 (3), decision to UT's Johnny Thornton.

In the doubles play, the No. 19 duo of Allan and Schledorn topped Vandy's No. 27 Scott Brown and Jason Pinsky, 8-2, while Born and Siljeström won 8-5 over Andy Mack and Jordan Magarik.

Pollack and Sitaram finished off the sweep with an 8-2 victory against Evan Dufaux and Nathan Sachs.

Ben Rogers and Johnny Thornton both collected wins for UT in singles matches. Ockie Oosthuizen teamed up with fellow sophomore Rogers to come back from a 7-4 deficit to defeat Kentucky's Nate Emge and Nolan Polley 9-8 (3).

Kentucky juniors Nate Emge and Alex Hume and sophomores Matt Allinder and Jason Mallaiah each scored singles victories.

The Blue Raiders were back in action on the second day, winning five of seven singles and all three doubles matches over Vanderbilt and Kentucky, respectively.

Siljeström defeated No. 62 Matt Lockin (7-5, 6-4) while Born won a 7-6 (4), 6-2 winner over Andy Mack.

Pollack got back on the winning track with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3

See **Tennis, 7**

Soccer team vies for first NCAA bid



Photo by **Kevin Lane** | Staff Photographer

United Kingdom native Debs Brereton leads the Blue Raiders with 16 goals this season after transferring from Northeastern State.

Blue Raiders defeat Louisiana-Lafayette to clinch share of first place, top seed

By **Clarence Plank**
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee won a share of the Sun Belt Conference title today when they honored seniors in the final game of the season by defeating Louisiana-Lafayette 2-1.

The title is the first for MT in nine years as a program, and the Blue Raiders are riding the momentum of an 11-game home winning streak and an eight game overall winning streak going into the postseason.

Five Blue Raider seniors were honored today in a postgame ceremony for Debs Brereton, Ashley Elliott, Danielle LaDuke, Laura Miguez and Jennifer Northcutt.

This is the last home game of the season for the seniors. MT played against ULL (7-9-2, 3-4-1 SBC) in the last game of the regular season, which was a physical game between both teams. They were called for 27 penalties altogether, 15 of those penalties were against MT and 12 for the Ragin' Cajuns. Each team received yellow cards.

The Blue Raiders got on the board early with teamwork between Laura Miguez, who scored the game's first point, and Debs Brereton, who assisted Miguez.

"Debbie got a great shot," Miguez

MT Soccer

Blue Raiders	2
Ragin' Cajuns	1
<i>Next Game: v. No. 8 seed ASU</i>	

said. "I got a foot on it and put it in the goal."

Miguez scored her fifth goal of the season. Both players scored a goal and assisted each other during the game. Brereton scored her 16th goal with an assist by Miguez, just 14 seconds into the second half.

Brereton ended her regular season with eight assists and 16 goals, giving her 40 points and places her fifth on the career goals list.

Jenny Manis kept the opposition in check with six saves.

"Those girls have done a great job all year and continue to play better and better every game. It does help they have played together last year," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said. "Jenny Manis has been phenomenal

See **Raiders, 8**

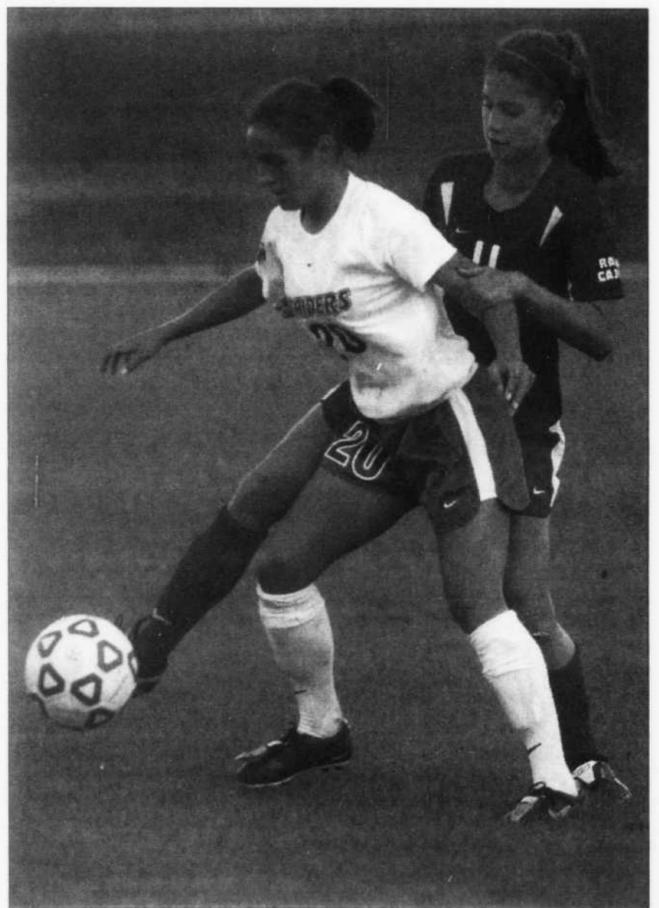


Photo by **Kevin Lane** | Staff Photographer

Senior captain **Laura Miguez** is second on the team in points.

Denver, North Texas find themselves looking up at MT in tournament bracket

By **Casey Brown**
Staff Writer

After a regular season full of high-scoring battles and new records, the Middle Tennessee soccer team emerged as Sun Belt co-champions for the first time in team history.

The Blue Raiders, however, aren't content to rest on their laurels. Why stop there?

MT will join seven other SBC rivals in Miami on Wednesday for kickoff of the conference tournament. At stake is an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The field includes defending tournament champion Denver, SBC co-champion North Texas and host Florida International. Rounding out the group is Western Kentucky, Louisiana-Lafayette, South Alabama

and Arkansas State. Arkansas-Little Rock failed to make the tournament field.

By virtue of a tiebreaker with UNT, the Blue Raiders earned the number one seed for the tournament.

As a result, MT will face off against No. 8 ASU in the first match on Wednesday at 9 a.m. The Blue Raiders defeated the Indians 9-0 during the season, but MT head coach

Aston Rhoden is making sure his squad stays focused.

"Just look at the results in this league, and you'll see that anyone can win the tournament," Rhoden said. "We're playing the No. 8 seed, Arkansas State, and they've already beaten Denver, a very strong team. We're still going to have to come out

See **Tourney, 7**

Championship: Women's team finishes eighth out of nine teams, but Hayes pleased

Continued from 6

"They [WKU] have really got a quality team," MT's first-place finisher Miranda Galloway said. Galloway finished 26th overall.

Arkansas-Little Rock was 33 points behind WKU, followed by Florida International, New Mexico State and UNT.

MT's women finished eighth out of the nine teams competing.

"We were happy for once

because we didn't get last, anyway," Hayes joked. "The women on our team are track women. But they really did run well. And this is mostly just practice for track."

Following Galloway for MT was Sarah Lunning (37th), followed by Marjorie Gombert (39th).

"Track is really our big thing anyway," Hayes said. "This [the season] will really help us because we've really done very

little in the distance races, men or women. So doing well in cross country will really help us out during track season."

The SBC meet in Little Rock concluded the 2004 cross country season for the Blue Raiders. In two weeks the top six runners on the men's team will head to Tuscaloosa, Ala. to compete individually in the regional championships. ♦

Tennis: MT ends fall season on high note

Continued from 6

victory against Ryan Preston, and Sitaram won his second straight match with a 6-3, 6-0 triumph over Jason Pinsky.

Allan won again, 6-4, 7-6 (1), over Nathan Sachs.

Vandy's Scott Brown, ranked 35th, defeated Schledorn, 1-6, 3-6, and Evan Dufaux won 3-6, 4-6, over Marc Boiron.

In the afternoon, 19th-ranked Allan and Schledorn defeated Kentucky's Nate Emge and Nolan Polley, while Born and Siljestrom won 8-5 over UK's Matt Emery and Tigran Martirosyan.

Pollack and Sitaram won 8-4 over UK's Marr Allinder and Jason Mallaiah.

Ockie Oosthuizen and Kiril Tcherveniachki both played

well against Kentucky to score UT's only two singles victories of the day.

Oosthuizen then teamed up with Rogers for another doubles win.

The UT sophomores defeated their SEC counterpart, Vanderbilt's Scott Brown and Matt Lockin, 8-4. Oosthuizen and Rogers are now 13-2 during the fall.

Kentucky senior Matt Emery rallied from a one-set deficit to defeat Tennessee's Johnny Thornton by a 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-1 count.

MT swept all three doubles matches once again on the final day and won six of seven singles matches against Kentucky to finish the fall season.

In singles play, Allan won for the third day in a row with a 6-

1, 7-6 (1) decision over Kentucky's Nolan Polley.

Sitaram won for the third straight day as well, leading Matt Emery 7-6, 2-1 before the Wildcat retired.

"I am very pleased with the way we ended the fall season and our showing against some of the SEC's best teams this weekend," Blue Raider head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations.

"We showed that we can play good, consistent tennis and look forward to the fall rankings coming out in January."

The Blue Raiders now prepare for spring dual match schedule, which kicks off Jan. 29 against Chattanooga and Belmont at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. ♦

Sun Belt Conference Soccer Championships

All games will be played at Florida International University in Miami

Wednesday 9 a.m.	No. 1 Middle Tennessee		
	No. 8 Arkansas State	Thursday 3 p.m.	
Wednesday 12 p.m.	No. 4 Florida Int'l		Saturday 12 p.m.
	No. 5 Western Ky.		
Wednesday 3 p.m.	No. 2 North Texas		
	No. 7 South Alabama	Thursday 6 p.m.	
Wednesday 6 p.m.	No. 3 Denver		
	No. 6 UL-Lafayette		

Tourney: Blue Raiders face Arkansas State

Continued from 6

and play, just like everyone else."

The Indian defense will face a strong MT offensive unit that is ranked second nationally, led by seniors Debs Brereton, Laura Miguez and Brielan LaDuke. ASU is resting its hopes on a trio of goalkeepers. Freshmen Kelly Goodman and Brielan Smiechowski and junior Alexia-cant playing time in net.

ASU will count on juniors Shawna Sparks and Stephanie Ray to bring the load offensively. The two combined for 12 goals on the season, more than half of the team's output.

Defensively for MT, a strong unit led by senior Jessica Northcutt and sophomores Katy Rayburn and Sara Wohlhueter will seek to shut the door on the Indians.

Keeper Jenny Manis has been

phenomenal in net for the Blue Raiders, with a goals-against average of 0.96.

"Last time we played them [ASU], we struggled a little bit early in the game, but we ended up winning 9-0. I hope we can prepare the same way and make sure our girls don't go into this game overconfident, thinking that we're just going to walk through it," Rhoden said.

In other tournament matchups, two perennial powerhouses will hope to avoid the upset bug. No. 2 North Texas will take on South Alabama, while three-time defending SBC tourney champ Denver will line up against Louisiana-Lafayette.

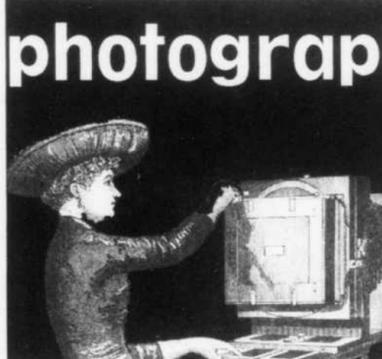
The Mean Green will rely on the talents of forward Melinda Pina and keeper Brinda Buchanan to hold off the explosive Jaguars, led by midfielders Rebecca Kahn and Heather Adamus and forward Tanya

Allegretti. In net for USA will be Amber Angermeier, one of the top keepers in the SBC.

Denver, led by 2003 Tournament Most Outstanding Player Leane Grinditch, will try to defend their crown, starting with ULL. The Ragin' Cajuns came out of the gate with a 3-0 start in conference play, but a late slump dropped the team to a seven seed.

The other match pits No. 4 Florida International against No. 5 Western Kentucky. The hosting Golden Panthers, who handed MT their only conference loss, hope to eliminate the Hilltoppers, a squad laden with 11 seniors as well as leading scorer Jenna Silverberg.

"I don't think there is a favorite," Rhoden said. "This league is so close. It's going to be an interesting tournament this year." ♦



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Female sublesser needed. University courtyard 1st floor. Fully furnished 4BD/4BA \$395/mo utilities included and internet access. 1st Month Free-Move in Now! Call Katie at 770-778-1497 or 770-459-7435.

2BD/2BA apt. @ Raiders Crossing. Lease is from Jan 1-Aug 13. Completely furnished to include full-size washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, & stove. Also included: high-speed internet, private balcony, pool & hot tub, volleyball court, BBQ grill, fitness center, tanning bed, and computer lab. All inclusive rent \$485/person pays for water, sewer, trash, pest control, internet, modern furniture, electricity, premium cable, and intrusion alarm. Awesome deal. Call 615-504-5963 or 615-542-2820.

Campus Crossings 2BD Rent \$505/mo. All girl apt. 1 Rm. vacant during spring semester. All utilities included. Call Shea at 615-218-1888. Lease until July, stating Jan. 1st!!

Female sublesser needed. 4BD/4BA University Courtyard. 3rd Floor (No Noisy people above!) Rent is \$375. All utilities included, Will give \$150 to move in and take over lease! Take over lease starting in November. Call 615-907-9655 or 423-718-5484 Carmen.

Need female roommate to sublease 4 bedroom house starting after school commences in Dec. Rent is \$240/mo including all utilities, cable and internet! Right directly across from Murphy Center. Can walk to class. Please call 516-457-0904.

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Subleasing

Sterling University Gables. Female sublesser needed for spring/summer semester. \$335/mo. Utilities included w/ internet. Awesome roommates, just moving to Fla. Lease starting in Jan. Call Maggie at 770-778-1498 cell

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Raiders: Finish season tied with UNT for first

Continued from 1

this year as a freshman goal keeper. The support and people she has had in front of her has been awesome as well."

MT Blue Raiders finish the season with a (12-4-1, 6-1-1 SBC) record and move into a tie with North Texas for the SBC title, even though MT has the tie-breaker over them.

MT will be the number one seeded team heading into the post season to play against Arkansas State this Tuesday in Miami, Fla.

MT's 12 victories this season ties a previous record set last year in 2003. They have also outscored their opponents 47-5 and are 10-3 when they score first against opponents. ♦

Stovall, Holmes lead MT to exhibition win against Lady Reddies

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

After seemingly pulling away in the second half, Middle Tennessee relied on veteran Tennessee to defeat Henderson State 72-64 in a preseason matchup that proved to be closer than expected.

Four different players scored in double figures for the Lady Raiders, who built a 23-point lead with 7:28 remaining only to allow HSU back into the game with a late 18-3 run.

With just under two minutes to play, freshman Starr Orr stemmed the tide with a clutch layup, bringing the Lady Raider lead back to 10.

On the ensuing possession, sophomore Christy Givens stole the ball and junior Tia Stovall finished the play for MT, increasing the lead to 12. Lady Reddie point guard Julie Anderson added a three-pointer at the buzzer.

Stovall finished with a team-high 20 points to go along with nine rebounds and an assist in just 24 minutes of action. The junior shot 8-for-13 from the field and 4-for-7 at the free throw line, earning her Player of the Game honors.

Still, Stovall acknowledged that the win was not an easy one.

"I think they were just really aggressive," Stovall said. "In the second half they came out and they were putting pressure on the ball. They were denying [us] in the lanes. We've just got to get

Lady Raider Basketball



Lady Raiders 72
HSU 64

Next Game: v. Georgia State Nov. 6 at 2 p.m.

used to that kind of defense."

Preseason Sun Belt Player of the Year Patrice Holmes added 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists on 6-of-10 shooting for MT. Givens contributed 13 points and five steals, while Murfreesboro native Krystle Horton supplied 11 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Two freshmen saw significant playing time. Starr Orr and Lakira Boyd scored four and six points respectively, while gaining valuable experience on the floor.

"When you have that many new players that are playing that amount of quality minutes, you are going to have some roller-coaster moments throughout the basketball game," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "There were a lot of things that I was pleased with. I am glad that we have had an opportunity to get the first-game jitters behind us."

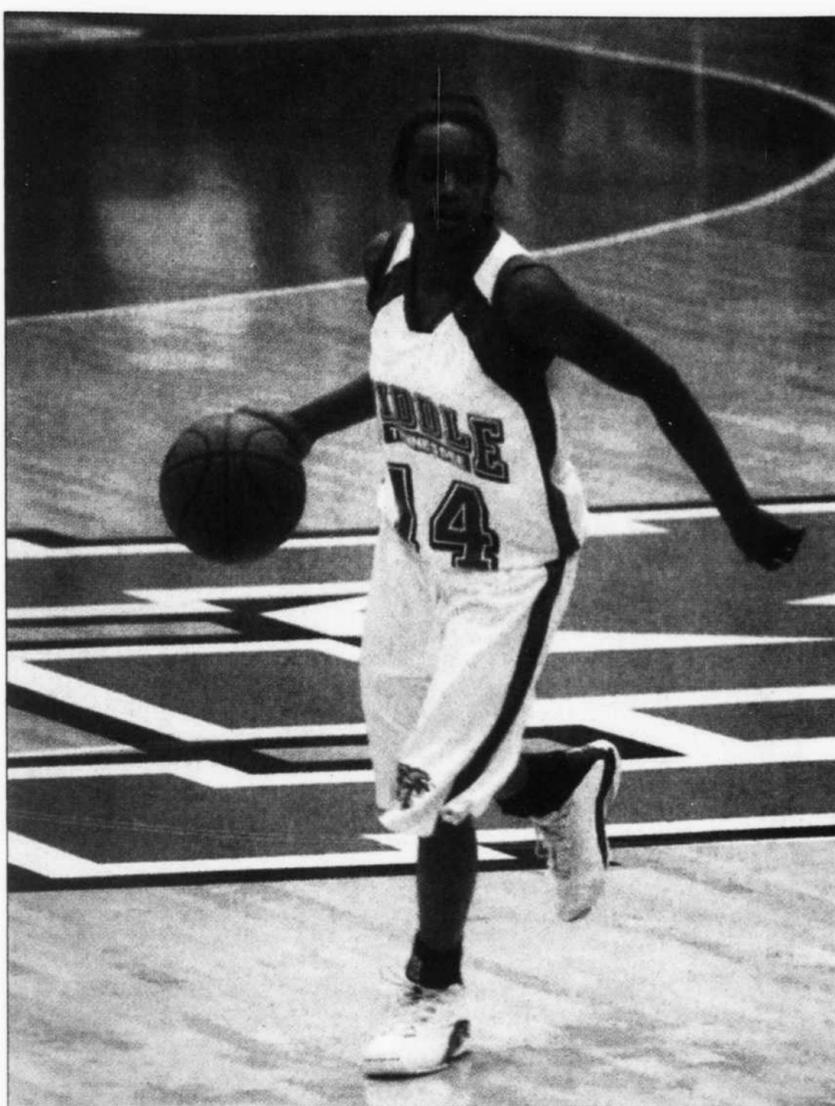


Photo by Kevin Lane | Staff Photographer

Latoya Barclay, a freshman guard from Harvest, Ala., played for 19 minutes and grabbed five rebounds in the Lady Raiders' exhibition win over Henderson State.

HSU, who advanced to the NCAA Division II Final Four last season and is ranked fourth nationally, proved to be proficient offensively.

At one point in the first half

the Reddies led 26-24.

"I thought our defensive intensity was poor as far as consistency," Smith said. "It looked very good in spurts, but I didn't think we had enough pressure

on the basketball."

The Lady Raiders will face off in another exhibition against Georgia College and State University on Saturday at 2 p.m. ♦

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McCollum praises team's maturity during weekly press conference

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The maturation process of the Blue Raiders was the main topic of Andy McCollum's press conference Monday.

The team's improved play can be credited towards the freshman players stepping up and coming into their own. A noted increase of playing time is the most important factor.

This process of gaining playing experience is what McCollum calls "freshmen catching up to the game."

He attributes the play of the freshmen to the leadership qualities of his football team.

"I have been proud of our leadership by most of our guys. We have guys that are leading by example on the field. On defense, Thomas Johnson, Jerry Vanderpool and Alvin Fite are three seniors who have played in a lot of games here. I think they have done a good job. Dennis Burke has played in a lot of games. Those guys are doing a good job by leading on and off the field," McCollum said.

On the offensive side of the ball, MT has produced nine scoring drives of over 70 yards.

McCollum says this is especially important because of the lack of experience his team has.

"Early in the year, you saw us making too many turnovers against teams on the road. That is tough to overcome. But, it is also a growing process. We have a young quarterback and young running backs," McCollum said.

Going into this weekend's

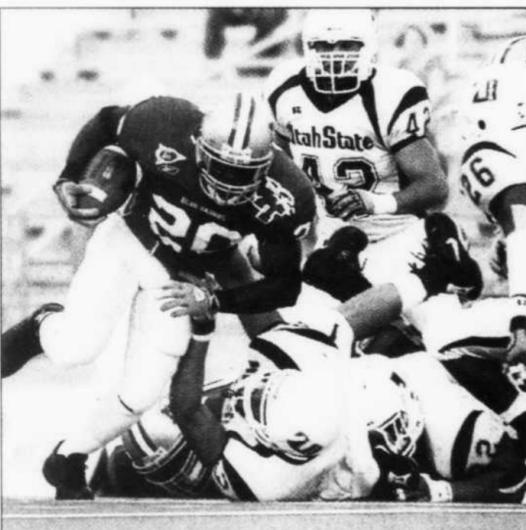


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

MT running back Eugene Gross leads the Blue Raiders in rushing with 364 yards and seven touchdowns.

game against New Mexico State, the most important key is the confidence level of the Blue Raiders. The mentality of the team has improved since getting back to an even 4-4.

However, this week's game is on the road, which could prove to be a challenge for MT. McCollum made this point clear when addressing the media.

"To be where you want to be as a team, you have to win on the road. In this conference it is tough to win on the road. It still goes back to how we play, and what we have to do is play well and error free. On the road you have to take care of the football and play well defensively. They scored 56 points last week. That's tough to do against air."

Also, at this week's press conference was quarterback Clint Marks. This game

against New Mexico state has a special significance to him because he made his first career start against the Aggies last year.

"It was my first start and I was a little nervous, but all I wanted to do was play my best. My very first play was a touchdown pass to Kerry Wright and I will never forget that moment," Marks said.

Marks concluded by saying that MT must continue to focus on one game at a time and not worry about the conference standings. This week against New Mexico will be a tough game.

"We always have some physical games against them and I am sure it will be the same on Saturday. They are a real gritty, tough football team who really plays well at home." ♦

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