

HI: 61°
LO: 44°HI: 58°
LO: 34°

SIDELINES

Candidate claims campaigning violation by opponent

By Tom Cheredar

Staff Writer

With elections less than a week away, State Representative John Hood (D-Murfreesboro) denied a claim by opponent Joe Carr that he violated campaign regulations by sending an unsolicited letter to MTSU faculty members asking for support and contributions for his campaign.

Carr forwarded his own letter to several media organizations, the university and local political party leaders explaining his dissent with Hood's letter.

"I wasn't aware of any violation to begin with," said Hood, who worked for the university for 10 years and attained two degrees.

Hood said he followed proper procedure when sending the letter through the campus postal service, which was paid for with a check for \$398.80 addressed to the MTSU business office.

"None of that was done on campus and I didn't use any university people," Hood said.

Carr said the letter broke an existing law by listing endorsements from four MTSU faculty members. The law in question states that any employee of the state is prohibited from expressing their view on politics while at work.

The law also states that it is unlawful for any public office or employee to knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, any contribution or candidate.

"Three different attorneys looked at this letter and

statutes," Carr said. "All three, on separate occasions, have said there is a violation."

According to Brook Thompson, coordinator of Tennessee Division of Elections, this article does not apply to professors since they are defined as teachers.

"I believe that MTSU and these four gentlemen are unwitting partners in [Hood's] quest to pander for votes and raise money," Carr said of the four faculty members that include Thomas Cheatham, Philip Mathis and Richard Farley, who are all friends of Hood.

Rick Insell, Lady Raiders basketball coach, signed Hood's letter but declined to comment.

"I checked carefully before putting my signature on the document," said Farley, associate professor for the

department of health and human performance. "I was confident in doing so, because I felt that in no way was I putting pressure on anyone else to vote a certain way."

Carr made an additional claim that university superiors distributed the letter to their employees, but he has no proof of this other than being notified by two concerned MTSU employees he declined to identify.

"They've asked me to hold this in confidence," Carr said of the employees whom he had previously never spoken to. "I'm going to do that until such time that they come forward themselves."

"If any letters were being 'hand delivered' to employees, then I had no knowledge of it," Hood said.

'Wait-and-see' on fee increase for union

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration Editor

The student fee increase that would pay for a new university center is currently on hold pending a decision from the Tennessee Board of Regents regarding a proposal to change tuition from a flat rate charge to a per-credit charge.

"Right now, we are in a wait-and-see mode," said Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and associate vice president of Student Affairs.

The fee increase passed with over 2,000 votes in early October during the Student Government Association election. The referendum approved proposed charging students a one-time fee not to exceed \$125 and a minimum of \$75.

Currently, the business office at MTSU is working to determine what the new fee will be if TBR implements the per-credit hour charge system, Fitch said.

As reported in *Sidelines*, the new per-credit charge system will determine the price of tuition by the individual credit – or hour – that students take per semester as opposed to the 12-hour cap that is now in place, according to Bob Adams, vice chancellor for business and finance for TBR. Adams said the new per-credit system will charge students the same amount of money if they are taking 12 hours, but will increase tuition for students taking over 12 hours or under 12 hours.

The student fee cannot move forward until TBR makes a decision on the tuition charge.

"I was in a meeting a week ago, and the way I understood it [the] per-credit, hour charge may go into effect in fall '07," Fitch said. "If I'm not mistaken, it seems [MTSU] has to have [its] fees to the [TBR] by March."

As for what the fee will be, Fitch said they do not know yet, but that his "guess" is the fee could be \$100 to \$110.

"We don't want to go to a \$125 [fee]," Fitch said. "We want to have some flexibility in there ... if we have to come back later, that gives us the opportunity to do that."

See Fees, 2



Photo by Christy Meadows | Staff Photographer / Photo Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director

As Nov. 7 elections near, campaign signs adorn Murfreesboro lawns. Middle Tennessee will prove to be a battleground for the U.S. Senate race.

Counting on the votes

By Ben Dongarra

Contributing Writer

The race for U.S. Senate between Harold Ford Jr., a U.S. Congressman from Memphis, and Bob Corker, former mayor of Chattanooga, has been hard for Tennesseans to overlook.

Promotional signs for candidates adorn yards in almost every neighborhood. Negative ads for each candidate fill the airways. But there are more important issues at hand than a change of faces, and Middle Tennessee is going to be key in these elections.

It should be noted that this Senate race is one of the most competitive in recent history, said Ken Blake, director of the MT Poll. Seventeen total senate seats will change hands after the election, but the political orientation of the senators will determine the new majority in the Senate.

As it stands now, the Republicans hold majority, but only by a slim margin. Democrats need only

take six seats to achieve majority, which would make it the first Democratic Senate since 1994, the year Republicans were able to win majority after Bill Clinton's approval rating dropped.

For this reason, Blake, who is also an associate professor of journalism, said he believes the outcome of the Senate race will be determined by party loyalty.

"Given what's perceived to be the possibility that the Republicans could lose the Senate, people are going to ask, 'What's best for my party?'" Blake said.

If this is the case, then every vote will truly count. Tennessee is split almost perfectly into three political zones, Blake said. The east is historically red

and will more than likely vote Republican, considering most of the region has not elected a Democrat since the Civil War.

The west is a Democratic stronghold in Tennessee with metropolitan areas like Memphis.

With the east and west assuming locked in traditional voting patterns, the voters of Middle Tennessee will heavily influence the fate of the 2007 Senate election, he said.

"This area is really the battleground of the state," Blake said.

It is a battle that will not be easy to win. According to Blake, recent polls show that the Nashville area is split almost identically with both candidates bringing in approximately 43 percent of the votes.

Part of the reason for the close race lies in the fact that both candidates, aside from their rivalry, actually hold similar stances on current issues.

Both promise to work for affordable healthcare, are against immigration, are anti-abortion and gay marriage, and have similar views on most of the moral issues that usually split Tennessee, he said.

According to Blake, such similar policies will make it difficult for voters to choose between the two.

"There are the issues, but if there is not a perceived distinction between the candidates, they may not be a real issue in the race," Blake said.

The issue that may prove to be the deciding factor in the election is the two nominees' campaign strategies.

Ford, the younger of the two nominees at 36, has aimed his campaign at college-aged voters with his tagline, "A new generation of leadership."

Corker, at age 54, is focusing more on the older constituents, utilizing his wife and children in political ads to show his traditional family values.

See U.S. Senate, 2

INSIDE

- Amendments explained
- Candidate listing
- Gay marriage debated

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Campus embarks on Homecoming

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

As part of the Homecoming week, MTSU hosted "Bloody Mary," also known as Bobbie Weiner, a movie makeup artist from Florida, at the Keathley University Center Tuesday.

According to her Web site, dearbloodymary.com, Weiner has worked on various movies including *Titanic* and has developed various lines of makeup products including "Bloody Mary," "Goth" and "Rebel."

Left: Weiner applies make-up to a student in the Keathley University Center Tuesday.



Wednesday, Nov. 1
Theme Party in JUB TN Room
at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2
Horseshoe Competition in
KUC Knoll at 5 p.m.
Dirty Laundry Tour

Friday, Nov. 3
Chili Cook-off in KUC Knoll
at 4:30 p.m.
Step Show in Murphy Center
at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4
Parade at 10 a.m. / Tailgating
Raider Walk at 12:15 p.m.
Kick off at 2:30 p.m.

Center promotes awareness with five-mile walk

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

The Rape Recovery and Prevention Center will host their third annual Journey of Hope five-mile run/walk on Saturday, Nov. 4.

"This is the third year we've had this race," said Melanie Alexander, race coordinator. "The race is a fundraiser for the organization."

All proceeds raised by the run are going to the RRAPC and will help fund the hospital accompaniment program, said Ruth Howard, executive director of the RRAPC.

Aside from the five-mile run and walk there will be a one-mile family fun walk also, Howard said.

"We want to raise community awareness about our organization," Howard said.

The run/walk will begin at the Alvin York Veterans Facility and the course is entirely on the Veterans Campus.

The road running technical council of the USA track and field association has certified the five-mile course, Alexander said.

"This is going to be a fairly flat and fast course," Alexander said.

The registration for the race is \$25 at the starting line. For middle and high school students on the

track or cross-country teams, registration is \$15. Howard said. Proof, such as a coach's signature, is required to show that you are on the team.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the overall male and female winners in the five-mile event Howard said. First prize is \$100, second is \$50 and third is \$25.

Medals will be awarded to first, second and third place contestants in each age category, Alexander said.

John Hood, democratic state representative, will start the event, Howard said.

After the race there will be refreshments, Alexander said.

The RRAPC, according to their Web site, is a non-profit organization that provides services such as a 24-hour crisis line, personal hospital accompaniment, support groups and self-defense classes for victims of sexual assault.

The run/walk is sponsored by a variety of business including the Daily News Journal, Middle Tennessee Medical Center and Bushido School of Karate, Howard said.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. on Nov. 4. The five-mile run/walk is estimated to start at 8 a.m. and the family fun walk will start at 8:20 a.m. Alexander said.

Fees: Union funding on hold

Continued from 1

If the new per-credit system is approved, it is possible the student fee, along with all student fees, could be charged based on a sliding scale. That is, student fees will be charged according to how many hours students are enrolled – the more the hours, the higher the fee, said Spencer Wood, SGA senator for Mass Communication and sponsor for the student fee-increase referendum.

"[Full-time students] have more of a chance or inclination to use things on campus. ... That is how the students union fee might be structured," Wood said.

Even with the pending decision, the target date to break ground on the project is still scheduled to be either late 2007 or early 2008, Fitch said.

Aside from the proposal, which is ready for submission to TBR, the planning for the project has gone through a programming phase.

"[In] the programming phase, we look at all the functions that [students] want in the building and determine what that is going to cost to put all those functions in there," Fitch said.

Included in the program phase is what will also be moved into the

Keathley University Center once a new center is constructed. The total construction is estimated at nearly \$51 million with \$4.5 million going to pay for 50 percent of the necessary renovations for the KUC.

"The idea is that as little money as possible will go back into [the KUC]," Fitch said.

"What we are trying to do is create a one-stop shopping concept so that all the functions that a student needs – housing, admission, records, scheduling, [student's] grades [and] the Bursar's Office – all of that comes into one building," Fitch said.

Many of the functions intended for the new center might end up in the KUC. Those functions to be placed in the new building for certain include Customs, Student Government Association, Student Organizations, Greek Life, Leadership Development, the bookstore, food court and adult services.

Some of the functions that might be moved to the KUC but are on a "wish list" to be included in the new center are the office of the Dean of Student Life, Cheerleading, Judicial Affairs, Student Radio, Admissions Office, Financial Aid and the Career and Employment Center.

U.S. Senate: Middle Tennessee shaping up to be a battleground

Continued from 1

In the past few weeks, the tension between the two Senate hopefuls has been heating up, Blake said. Numerous commercials have aired attacking Ford's

family history and inexperience. In response, Ford showed up unannounced at one of Corker's press conferences and challenged Corker to a debate.

It was a bold move for Ford, but people have had mixed reac-

tions about the incident which may end up hurting Ford's popularity in the long run, he said.

"That definitely shook things up," Blake said. "I'm not sure who it will benefit ultimately, but it certainly brought the election a

little bit of renewed attention."

The election date is Nov. 7, although early voting has already started. The winner of the race will serve as Senator of Tennessee officially beginning Jan. 3 of next year and serve until Jan. 3 of 2013.

You're Invited

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November 1, 2006

KUC 208

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MTSU Blue Raiders VS. USC Gamecocks

November 17-19

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

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Continued from last column

GENERAL

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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Nice 4 drawer chest, no scratches, \$30 nights/land (light wood) \$12. Daytime phone 898-2612 Night phone 895-2613

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

OPPORTUNITIES

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board Vote 'No' on amendment one for states' rights, uphold constitution

"Yes" or "No" on amendment one has been a hot-button issue for Tennessee in the 2006 elections. In most people's eyes, the issue behind the amendment to the state constitution is whether same-sex couples will be able to legally marry.

At *Sidelines*, we think it is important to vote "No" on amendment one, not necessarily because we are in support of gay marriage, but because a change in the constitution will effectively limit states' rights.

If one votes "Yes" on the amendment, this does not ensure that homosexuals in Tennessee will never again have the opportunity to marry. Rather, it simply puts in place an additional hurdle that can be repealed or trumped by federal ruling. Though civil unions are not currently recognized in the state, this amendment does not prohibit, or even make mention, of the issue.

Conversely, a no vote does not, and more than likely will not, ensure the right of marriage to gays. As it stands, marriage is not assured at all in the state constitution. It is considered to fall under common law, a view on which our entire system of democracy is based.

While it is generally accepted that marriage takes place between a man and woman, it is not specifically defined in the constitution. Voting against the amendment would maintain this belief and allow our constitution to change as our common societal beliefs evolve.

The most important issue on hand is that a no vote will mean Tennessee does not have to recognize a marriage that is considered legal in other states. This means that we who amend our constitution see our laws as more important than those of, say, Massachusetts.

While states are entitled to their own laws that best reflect their inhabitants, one singular view should not be forced upon all states.

We vote "No" because we believe states' rights are important and a morality call by the government is unconstitutional.

Letters to the Editor

Textbook authors set standards, not prices

To The Editor,

Your recent article, "Textbooks prices doubled in the last 20 years" [Oct. 30] was very informative.

As the President-Elect of the Text and Academic Authors [http://TaaOnline.net], the largest organization for textbook authors in the nation, I feel obliged to point out that textbook authors are not in total control of the end products, nor pricing.

You are correct to highlight the fact that when you purchase a textbook now the student walks out with "workbooks, study guides, CDs and passwords for...student-only Web sites." This is due to the publisher of each work fighting against the resale of books by the used bookseller.

Economics being economics, authors are contracted to produce these extra "bells and whistles" while not always being compensated for that extra work.

I am a an author of "Visual Journalism" [Allyn & Bacon] and must tell you that all of our ancillary information appear for free on our Web site – which, by the way is maintained by my co-author at no cost to the publisher – or the student.

As to the quote that textbooks are becoming "more flash than substance," I could not agree more. However, I am sure that, as always, the best textbooks are easily recognizable by superb content.

Individual professors should be able to assign the text that they want to use. Use the best, tell your publisher reps that you want substance not flash.

That is exactly what happens in our organization try to produce.

Chris Harris

Professor, Department of Electronic Media Communication

Support candidates who back local programs

To The Editor:

It is our responsibility to study the voting records of our elected officials to enable us to make an informed decision when we cast our vote on Nov. 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the facts about a bill of utmost importance to continued existence of the Rutherford County Rape Prevention Center.

On April 24, Rep. Janis Santany brought HB 3451 to the House floor. This bill prevented a law enforcement officer from requiring a victim of a sexual offense to submit to a polygraph examination as a condition for the officer to proceed with an investigation. This bill was requested by the executive director of the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to bring Tenn. into compliance with the federal Violence Against Women Act.

The bill contained no cost to the taxpayers. However, it was necessary to protect the \$2.5 million in funding for programs to combat domestic and sexual violence, including law enforcement, prosecution, domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers – without this legislation, these funds were in jeopardy.

Rep. Donna Rowland did not support this bill nor has she been responsive to requests from our staff.

It is a sad fact that domestic violence and rape prevention centers are as necessary as law enforcement in our society today. We urge the voters of the 34th District to study the issues and cast your vote for the candidate whom you feel will support Rutherford County and the programs important to protect our citizens.

Our other elected state officials have us locally.

We urge citizens of Rutherford County to vote for Mary Esther Bell, the candidate who understands and supports our local programs.

Ruth Howard

Executive Director

Rape Recovery and Prevention Center



"The Horse Trough"



David Norris

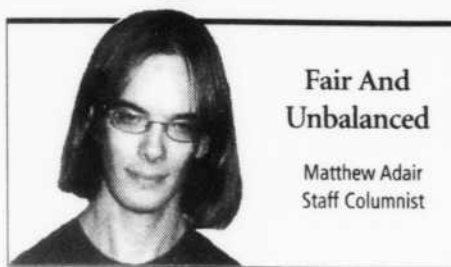
Pushing limits growing ridiculous

You've seen extreme sports, extreme pumpkin carving – actually, you might not have seen that one before – and extreme makeovers. Now, prepare for the latest extreme: Size.

Apple recently announced the release of the revised version of the iPod Shuffle, its smallest portable music player. The biggest change is that they've made it even smaller: The new Shuffle is about the size of a postage stamp. They've also attached a clip to it, so that you don't lose your \$79 toy.

This, of course, doesn't change the fact that your expensive piece of electronics could very easily fall down a drain, be crushed under foot or get eaten by your pet. I'm pretty sure this will happen to someone at some point, the benefit of which is that if you keep your schoolwork on your iPod, you can at least claim with all seriousness that the dog ate your homework.

Of course, Apple isn't the only guilty party when it comes to going to extremes. It seems that everywhere you go, everyone wants you to have either the biggest or the smallest. Go to the movies, and the concessions workers will not just ask, but insist that you take the combo, even if you really don't need a large bag of popcorn and a soda that's almost as big as your forearm. Go to Starbucks, and you not only



Fair And Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

need to order the largest, most expensive size available if you want your drink to last the morning, but you need to speak the language of yuppie in order to get it. I understand that 'Starbucks culture' is supposed to make the chain unique, but at eight in the morning, I just want a mocha without having to remember that a large is a 'venti'.

The kick to all of this is that most of us don't need these extreme sizes. My pack-of-gum sized Shuffle works perfectly for me – small enough to fit in my pocket, but large enough that if I do drop it, I'll notice it on the ground. A small or medium sized soda is just enough to quench my thirst and a medium coffee will wake me up in the morning just fine.

So, why offer these extreme sizes at all? Is it for the profit, or the geo-wiz factor of having something so out of proportion with the rest of the world?

For all the noise we've made over supersized fast food meals, we apparently don't get it that businesses give us these extreme options because we keep asking for them. I can get by with the mid-sized option in all of the situations I've described above, but sometimes I shrug and think that a little more couldn't hurt, even if it always turns out that a 'little more' is too much for me.

We have to realize that having more isn't always better, and neither is having the small-est. We love pushing things to the limit, but there comes a point when having the most isn't worth having your cup spill all over your car because it's too big to fit in your cup holder.

Instead of trying to impress ourselves and others with the most or the least, we should think more practically. We don't need an MP3 player the size of a postage stamp, nor do we need oversized tires on tiny trucks or 44 oz. drinks that get warm before you can finish them. If we choose reasonably-sized goods, someone will eventually get the message that the only thing extreme sizes do is give all of us an extreme headache.

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

Preparing a eulogy for John McCain

What's up with John McCain? The Republican senator from Arizona can't seem to make up his mind whether he's a donkey or an elephant.

Senator McCain is undoubtedly more respected among progressives than any other Republican politician. He presents himself as an independent operative who's above partisan politics and immune from such base considerations as party loyalty. He even challenged – in a manner of speaking – President George W. Bush's recent initiative to redefine interrogation procedures. His true colors, however, were exposed in a statement he made to reporters when asked how he would feel if the Democratic Party takes control of the Senate in November.

"I think I'd just commit suicide," he said in an interview, reported by Reuters on Oct. 18.

When I read his statement, my first thought was, "What a two-faced jerk." That thought was



Speaking Truth To Power

Shana Lynn Hammaker
Staff Columnist

quickly replaced, however, with another: "Fine. Let him die. That would just mean another empty seat for a Democrat to fill."

Think of it: No longer would progressives have to deal with the annoyance of keeping up with the many faces of John McCain.

For far too long we have suffered from headaches and confusion caused by admiring McCain one day for standing up to the Bush administration, only to have our hopes dashed the next when we see him on TV, stumping for the War on Terror.

All of that can be over, if we can just band together and elect enough progressive Democrats to push him over the edge.

Our time is now. It has recently been opined in *Sidelines* that if the Republican Party loses its majority in Congress in a few weeks, it will be because they lost sight of the goals espoused in the Contract on – oops, I meant "with" – America, introduced in 1994 with the Republican takeover.

The Republicans in Congress have, indeed, lost sight of the values espoused in the Contract with America – that is, if they ever actually upheld them in the first place – but I do not think that is why Americans are going to push the elephants out of Congress, and, in the process, kill John McCain.

I don't think there are very many jaded Republican voters sitting at home right now muttering angrily to themselves about the lack of welfare reform – "Damn it, what we need is more diabetic, hypertensive old folks without TennCare," – or the size of the government – "Reagan was right.

We need to abolish the Department of Education. Who needs federal standards when Turkey's the only industrialized country that allows more creationist rhetoric in schools than we do?"

Frankly, national affairs have gotten so completely out of whack under the reign of the elephants that the Republican demise was inevitable. The Republican Party is its own worst enemy – but Jack Abramoff is a close second.

On Nov. 7, the Republicans will lose Congress – and John McCain will commit suicide – because the United States is sick of Republicans. Period.

On Election Day, do your patriotic duty. Join your fellow citizens in sealing John McCain's fate. Vote Democrat.

Shana Lynn Hammaker is a mass communication graduate student and can be reached at slh3a@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

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Rutherford County Elections 2006

Students

Students voice their opinions for 'yes' or 'no' on amendment one

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

Edward Phillips, a junior history major and a member of the Raider Republicans, is strongly in favor of the amendment to the Tennessee Constitution that, if passed, would prohibit same-sex couples from being legally married.

"I voted yes on amendment one," Phillips said. "The sanctity of marriage should be protected for the pure fact that it is the institution that has been recognized by the church and state as the correct form of marriage for centuries ... it works a whole lot better with one man and woman."

Phillips said he believes if the constitution strictly defines marriage, no rights are being taken away, as people many fear.

"This amendment is not telling people what they can or can't do in their private lives, we are just trying to redefine the institution that has already been defined as one man and one woman," Phillips said. "We aren't saying that people can't be a homosexual - it's their own business. We are just trying to define our values, how we feel and what is morally right."

Phillips said allowing same-sex couples to be joined through a civil union will ultimately detract from all of the legal rights married couples have to one another and their children. Disallowing marriage between gay couples would not infringe on their medical rights or naming benefactors for

health insurance, he said.

Regarding parental rights of gay couples, Phillips said homosexual parents could not raise a child the way it needs to be raised, as opposed to heterosexual parents who can.

"I don't believe that two men or women can raise a child to grow up the way it needs to be," said Phillips. "It takes both sexes to effectively rear a child."

Phillips also said he does not support discrimination against gays in everyday life and that the amendment does not do this. "[America is] a nation of free will and the ability to choose the way you want to be, regardless of how

others feel about certain issues," Phillips said. "We are not persecuting [homosexuals] for using their freedom, but the essence of America is that we have been given the right and privileges to express our feelings within the rights of our laws. That is what this amendment is about; defining our morals the way they need to be defined."

Being a Republican has not affected how he feels about the issue, Phillips said he believes that the morality rather than the politics is the defining point in this argument.

"Marriage is a commitment, it's not just about emotions and love," Phillips said. "No one's marriage is going to go perfect, heterosexual or otherwise. But unless you have a commitment that has been ordained under God, [your] marriage is not going to last."

Allison Bergeron, a senior in Psychology with a degree in university studies, was a past president of Lamda, a campus organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. She said she is strongly apposed to any amendment of the Tennessee Constitution that will define marriage as between a man and woman only.

"The definition of marriage in this country is that two people who love each other should be allowed to get married," Bergeron said. "Just because those people aren't always a man and a woman does not mean that it isn't the same thing."

Bergeron said civil unions are not an adequate substitute for the legal act of getting married. She made the point that a child who is raised by a same-sex couple does not have the same legal rights as one from a traditional marriage.

As a lesbian, Bergeron said if she did not bear a child herself, and was not married to the woman who did, then she would not have the same legal rights to that child.

She said she worries not only about parental rights, but also rights to take care of her partner.

"What happens if my partner got into an accident and I couldn't see her in the hospital because I am not technically a part of her family? Does that mean that I don't love her as much as someone related by blood? Not one bit," she said.

The political aspect of the

debate on the new amendment to the Constitution did not worry Bergeron as much as the fact that the constitution is being questioned.

"They want to amend the Constitution of Tennessee to prohibit legal, tax-paying citizens from keeping the rights that are supposed to be so free in this country," Bergeron said. "What population are they going to try and steal rights from next?"

Marriage is a relationship between two consenting adults who love one another and are willing to make a long-term commitment, Bergeron said.

"No one has any right to tell me or anyone else that that kind of love isn't acceptable. It's just love, not politics."

Bergeron said many people have the misconceptions that all gay people support the amendment while all conservative people do not.

"[Some people think] that if gays are allowed to be married to each other, the whole world is going to fall apart," Bergeron said. "It's that fear of what people don't understand. They think that it's going to be one big 'Gay Day' every day."

Bergeron said she has hopes that no amendment banning same-sex marriage will ever be enacted.

"I want people to be able to be legally together and have the same rights as every other citizen," she said. "I hope that in the future ... everything will be able to happen legally that needs to."



Phillips



Bergeron

BALLOT SAMPLE RUTHERFORD GENERAL E November This is an illustration, not

For Tennessee Governor

Vote for not more than ONE:

Jim Bryson
REPUBLICAN

Phil Bre desen
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

For U.S. Senate

Vote for not more than ONE:

Bob Corker
REPUBLICAN

Harold Ford, Jr.
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

For U.S. House

Vote for not more than ONE:

David R. Davis
REPUBLICAN

Bart Gordon
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

Tennessee House 34th District

Vote for not more than ONE:

Donna Rowland
REPUBLICAN

Mary Esther Bell
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

Tennessee House 48th District

Vote for not more than ONE:

Joe Carr
REPUBLICAN

John Hood
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

Tennessee House 49th District

Vote for not more than ONE:

Oscar D. Gardner
REPUBLICAN

Kent Coleman
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

Tennessee House 62th District

Vote for not more than ONE:

Curt Cobb
DEMOCRATIC

WRITE-IN

Independents

Howard Switzer
FOR GOVERNOR

George Banks
FOR GOVERNOR

David Gatchell
FOR GOVERNOR

Mariviana Stout Leimoff
FOR GOVERNOR

Carl "Twofeathers" Whitaker
FOR GOVERNOR

Robert L. Garrison
FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Give a voice



REPUBLICAN

 Bryson

DEMOCRATIC

 Bredesen

Corker

Ford

Davis

Gordon

Rowland

Bell

Carr

Hood

Gardner

Coleman

Cobb

Independents

Joseph Lugo

Hatchell

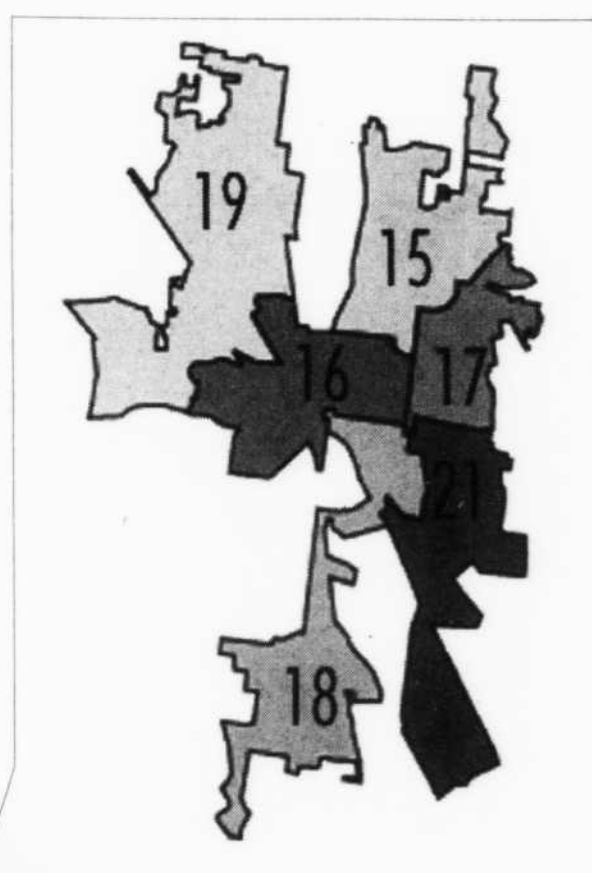
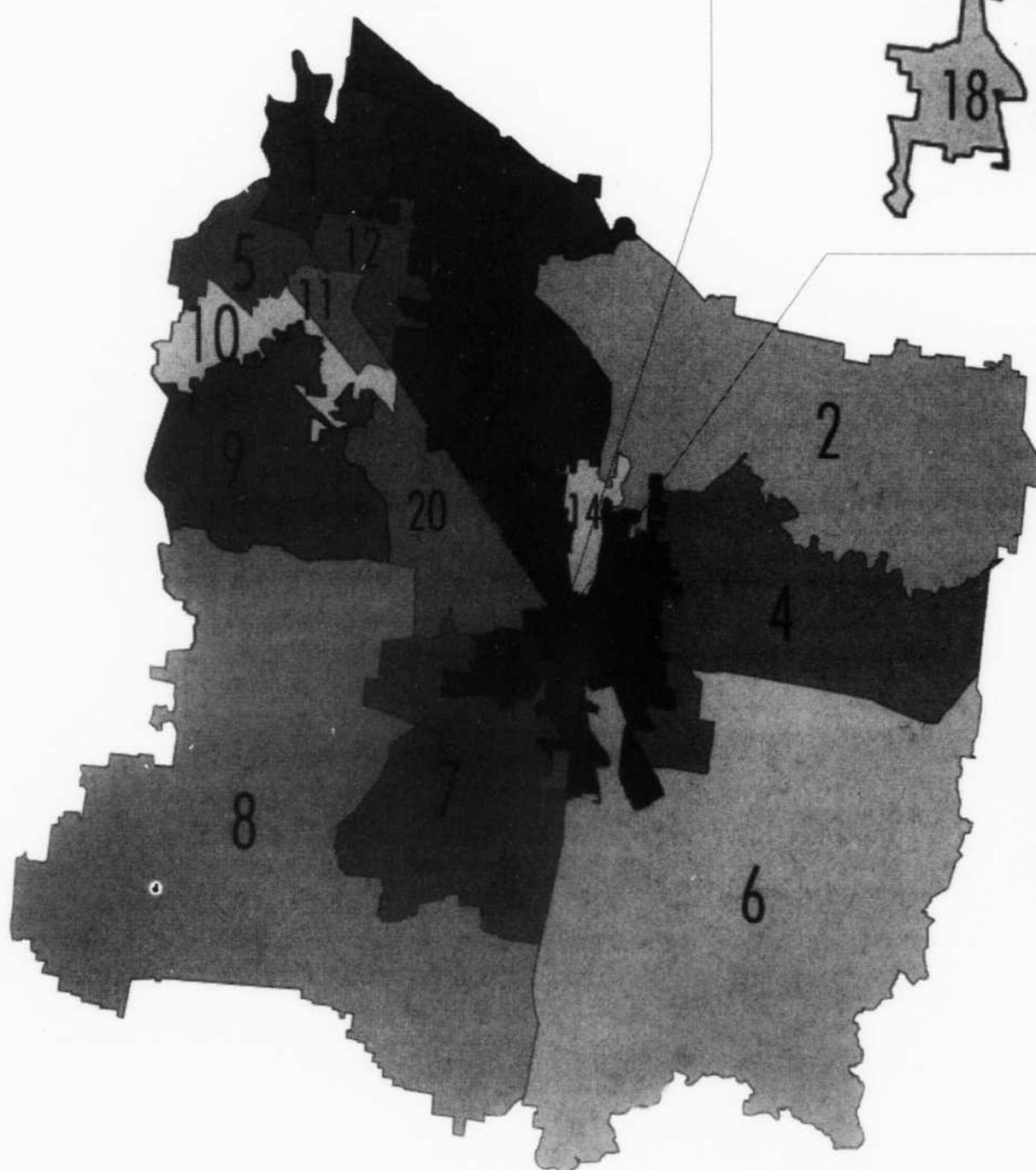
Bo Heyward

Replinger

R. Saliba

to www.mtsusidelines.com to view Ashley Powell's special report on canvassing.

County voting districts



Population by district

1	8906
2	8336
3	8301
4	8401
5	8381
6	8459
7	8642
8	8886
9	9061
10	9056
11	8774
12	9013
13	8307
14	8712
15	8444
16	8869
17	8894
18	8805
19	8276
20	8907
21	8593

Graphics by Jeremy Wyatt | Online Editor

Amendments made simple

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #1

Shall Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

SECTION. The historical institution and legal contract solemnizing the relationship of one man and one woman shall be the only legally recognized marital contract in this state. Any policy or law or judicial interpretation, purporting to define marriage as anything other than the historical institution and legal contract between one man and one woman, is contrary to the public policy of this state and shall be void and unenforceable in Tennessee. If another state or foreign jurisdiction issues a license for persons to marry and if such marriage is prohibited in this state by the provisions of this section, then the marriage shall be void and unenforceable in this state.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #2

Shall Article II, Section 28, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by inserting the following language immediately after the fourth paragraph: By general law, the legislature may authorize the following program of tax relief:

(a) The legislative body of any county or municipality may provide by resolution or ordinance that: (1) Any taxpayer who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who owns residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence shall pay taxes on such property in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax on such property imposed at the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted; (2) Any taxpayer who reaches the age of sixty-five (65) after the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted, who owns residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence, shall thereafter pay taxes on such property in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax on such property imposed in the tax year in which such taxpayer reaches age sixty-five (65); and (3) Any taxpayer who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older, who purchases residential property as the taxpayer's principal place of residence after the taxpayer's sixty-fifth birthday, shall pay taxes in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount of tax imposed on such property in the tax year in which such property is purchased. (b) Whenever the full market value of such property is increased as a result of improvements to such property after the time the ordinance or resolution is adopted, then the assessed value of such property shall be adjusted to include such increased value and the taxes shall also be increased proportionally with the value. (c) Any taxpayer or taxpayers who own residential property as their principal place of residence whose total or combined annual income or wealth exceeds an amount to be determined by the General Assembly shall not be eligible to receive the tax relief provided in subsection (a) or (b)?

Making sense of the words

John Vile, department chair of political science, imparts his interpretation of the two possible amendments to the Tennessee State Constitution:

#1 Amendment one would define marriage as taking place between one man and one woman only. It would prevent Tennessee from recognizing gay marriages that are legal in other states, though this is already the case under the Federal Marriage Act. This amendment does not deal with the issue of civil unions and whether they would be possible in the state of Tennessee. Also, while the amendment will not permanently forbid gay marriage, overturning the amendment will be considerably more difficult. A "Yes" vote will effectively add an additional obstacle to the Constitution should the state ever want to legalize gay marriage. A "No" vote will not allow gay marriage, but will continue to keep the issue of marriage out of the Constitution.

#2 Amendment two would allow a municipality – or a city or county – to limit the amount of increases in property tax rates for people over the age of 65. While the amendment would not require an area to stop increases on property tax for seniors, it allows them to do so without having to go through the state. Provision c places a cap on income and property value for eligibility to the tax relief. While a "Yes" vote does not guarantee that the municipality will follow up on the amendment, a "No" vote would not allow the municipality to stop property tax increases for seniors.

SPORTS

MT beats WKU



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Things Fall Apart

Life is hard. It is. Things go wrong, often in sequence, to such a degree that we ask ourselves, "What did I do to deserve this?"

It seems as we get older, the things that worry are more dire in nature. But as my father often said, the things that worry a 16-year-old (although of less consequence) feel just as important as the dire problems of his or her parents.

At this very moment, Sportacus is having one of those days.

When having a day like this, people love reminding the sufferer (a word I'm quite positive I just made up) that the key to overcoming his or her problems is perspective. If such bad days only occur once every three months or so (at their current rate in my life) it would be easy to say, "Look how many good days you've had out of the last 90."

But understanding a situation better, as a result of perspective, does little to alleviate the stress and often adds the burden of feeling guilty for being self-indulgent and shortsighted.

Me? I prefer distraction. Purely mindless side quests. While trying to get over the string of bad luck the day has brought my home, I planned to write out my column in my head on the walk home. But when I reached for my umbrella, it was gone. Stolen. An umbrella that large doesn't disappear. Entropy at work.

I was forced to walk home in the rain. As I passed the stadium, listening to drop after drop of water bounce off of my fedora, a thought occurred to me.

Amongst all the problems of the day and all the unknown ramifications of their existence, at least half of my mind had been on Saturday's game.

It would be easy to consider that a silly thought, but honestly, those were the best thoughts I'd had all day. I wondered about the size of the crowd. I wondered how the town would react to its team suddenly being a proven winner. And I unsuccessfully tried to think of a way to both spend time with my girlfriend and in the press box.

As meaningless as all of these

matters are, they feel important to me at the moment. The joys of my inner child are every bit as important as the woes of my inner accountant.

Suddenly, the rain had me wondering even more about the game. If it rains on Saturday, will people show up? Will this new turf behave strangely? Is it so state-of-the-art after all?

So, though I was already late in starting my column, I decided to investigate. I took a few steps. Felt good. I tried to cut from one direction to the next. Still felt normal. I watched the players practice and move around. I grabbed a ball to check its wetness and it felt normal too.

And then I broke a rule.

It felt good to me, but what do I know? I needed a second opinion. Unfortunately, reporters aren't allowed near players during practice. But I had to know. Coach Stock shot me a look and I was afraid maybe I was in the wrong place. But he just said "Hey, Jess" and walked away. I still worried he would have called me Sportacus, but that was better than being kicked out of practice.

Just a few feet away, Damon Nickson, star of the last few games, was taking a knee. I snuck over – I just had to.

I asked what he thought of the field. Apparently, Nickson likes it even better than regular grass. I don't know why that pleased me so much. I just know it did.

My brief distraction from my problems honestly made me feel better. And that's why I'm writing this lengthy PSA: We should all remember why sports are so important to us in the first place. Sometimes we just need a break from our life, and what's better when you're failing than to watch someone you believe in win?

When our team does well, we are all winners. And it's nice to be a winner, even if I only have one cigarette left and no idea where I will get another one. Thanks Damon.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major. He can be reached @myspace.com/iamSportacus



Sophomore Caitlin Reeves moves the ball through Western Kentucky defenders as she gets set to pass the ball. MT beat Western Kentucky 3-1 Oct. 27. Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee soccer team won its last game of the season to give the Blue Raider seniors a night to remember. MT defeated rival Western Kentucky 3-1 at Blue Raider Field Friday to end the regular season on a high note.

Senior forward Rebecca Rodriguez had two goals and became MT's all-time leader in points and goals scored. She recaptured the all-time goals scored from teammate Holly Grogan with 33 career goals and passed former teammate Laura Miguez-Howarth for career points with 88.

"If you are going to accomplish something like that it's always nice, but it's even more exciting since we won," Rodriguez told

MT Media Relations. "My parents (Javier and Angie) were here, as well as my two aunts and my uncle, so it was really fun to play in front of them and score some goals. This was a big win for us to continue the momentum into the tournament."

Before the game Rodriguez and defenders Katy Rayburn and Sara Wohlhueter were honored at Senior Night. Jenna Capitena was in attendance along with her former teammates. Capitena left the team before the season began after being discharged by the NCAA for medical reasons.

The four seniors together represent Ashton Rhoden's first signing class and have compiled a 54-19-6 record. They are 26-2 in games played on Blue Raider Field and are partially responsible for the team's current win-

ning streak of 21 games this season. They have achieved four straight winning seasons and helped bring the Blue Raiders their first SBC regular season championship in 2004.

"This senior class has been very special," Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "They have accomplished a great deal, but we hope their greatest achievements are yet to come. This was a night they can remember fondly. Rebecca Rodriguez will always remember this night as a senior. It's her last game at Blue Raider Field, she plays against one of our big rivals, and she comes up with two big goals to help us to a 3-1 win. It was good to see her back in the scoring charts. I hope it is a sign of things to come."

Rodriguez put MT on the board early in the eighth minute

with a rebound into the top far corner to go up 1-0. WKU came back to score its only goal of the game in the 30th minute. Both teams couldn't get anything else going on offense until MT was able to score off the foot of Rodriguez. Katie Daley's penalty kick and Rodriguez's second goal accounted for the final score.

Daley's goal on the penalty kick was her third goal of the season. Erynn Murray had six saves. Murray finished the regular season 11-2 and tied for third on the single-season wins list with Danielle Perrault. Murray was two wins shy of tying the record of wins by a keeper.

MT clinched the No. 2 seed in the SBC Championships in Lafayette, La. They play against No. 7 South Alabama in the quarterfinals today at 4 p.m.

Nickson multi-talented

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Damon Nickson is the Blue Raiders' Swiss Army Knife. Nickson has a number of roles he performs on the field. Nickson has performed well this year as a kick returner, defensive back and receiver. Nickson, along with the Blue Raider squad this season, has exceeded expectations.

Damon most recently was named the Walter Camp National Player of the Week. Nickson had a record game against Louisiana Monroe with four interceptions. Records and accolades aren't what drive Nickson, however. It's all about the team. Damon believes that the success of the team outweigh his own personal achievements.

"It's great to get all of those awards," Nickson said. "But they don't mean anything if we are not winning. Without the people around me, I wouldn't be able to do what I do."

Goals are also a big part of the picture for Nickson, as he has already set a career high for inter-

ceptions with five.

"Of course, all players set goals," he explained. "At the start of the season I said I wanted to have a winning season. Since we are almost there, it's time to set more goals and try to achieve those."

Defensively, Nickson has been the leader in the secondary for the Blue Raiders. Along with his five interceptions, Damon is second on the team in tackles with 39 and has one forced fumble. He has been part of a Blue Raider defense that has allowed less than 12 points per game in Sun Belt play.

Special teams is where most fans saw Damon make the biggest impact this season. In Damon's first game as a kick returner, on his first-ever college return, Nickson returned the kick 88 yards for a touchdown against Louisville. He ended the game with a school-record 187 yards on kick returns. That week he was named Sun Belt Conference Special Teams player of the week.

Nickson said all he needed was a chance to return, and he made

the most of it. Nickson has had some experience returning kicks in high school.

"It was just a matter of me getting my chance," he said. "The coach recognized me in practice and he stuck me back there. It just went on from there."

When returning a kick, a number of things have to happen correctly. As a returner, going through the mental process can be difficult. Nickson spoke of the process that he goes through when he is making a return.

"Well, when the ball is kicked I read my blockers," Nickson explained. "If the ball is not kicked to me, I go block. If my blockers are set up, I'm just running full speed straight ahead."

Yet Nickson's role on the team does not stop there. Damon has seen a number of snaps on offense. It will be interesting to see this season just how involved he becomes in the offense.

One thing is for sure: Nickson will be on the field more than any other Blue Raider this season. Damon Nickson is simply a playmaker and one of the leaders of the Blue Raiders.

Playoffs will not start this week, but will begin on Monday, Nov. 6th. Teams with an asterisk are already in the playoffs (Due to rainouts, all Thursday night teams will also make the playoffs).

Sunday Night Scores

CO-REC DIVISION

2 Hype 30 VS. More Than Dat 0
Team Drink 37 VS. U Lose 0

MEN'S OPEN DIVISION

HC Tigers 33 VS. Pi Kappa Phi 7
Sigma Nu 14 VS. PIKE (1) 12
Team Drink (Win) VS. BETA (Default)
C-Town Players 35 VS. Murfreesboro Wine & Spirits 19

SUNDAY NIGHT RANKINGS

CO-REC DIVISION

Team Drink 3-0
U Lose 1-1-1
2 Hype 1-1-1
More Than Dat 0-3

MEN'S OPEN DIVISION

C-Town Players 3-0
Team Drink 3-0
HC Tiger 2-1
A-Team 2-1
Sigma Nu 2-1
K A (1) 2-1
BETA 1-1
PIKE (1) 1-2
K A (2) 1-2
Dirty D 1-2
Pi Kappa Phi 0-3

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FEATURES

Wednesday: **Health & Life**

As the holidays loom, exams pile up and the semester winds to a close, some new students might be noticing they have curiously begun to gain the infamous ...

By Mary Rose Fox

Staff Writer

What causes the rapid weight gain known as the "Freshman 15," and what can students do to avoid it?

According to campus authorities, the Freshman 15 occurs because of four things – socializing, unhealthy eating, lack of exercise and stress.

"Part of what we do in college is socialize, and when we socialize, we eat and drink. We connect socializing with eating and drinking," psychology professor Dr. Kim Ujcich Ward said.

Ward said students fall into certain habits when socializing, such as meeting at restaurants and watching movies, activities that usually involve eating.

Another reason students can pack on the pounds is by having poor eating habits.

"We late-night study a lot, and when you late-night study, you're more likely to eat sugary or salty snacks," Ward said.

Dr. Rebecca Johns-Wommack, assistant professor of health, believes that weight gain is about the choices students make. "Every fast food place has healthier choices. Every cafeteria on campus has healthier choices," she said.

Not only are students eating the wrong foods, but sometimes they aren't eating enough.

"Over half my students don't eat enough, which wreaks havoc on your body," Johns-Wommack said. For class, she had her students keep food diaries for three days, and she found that some students were only eating once a day.

That causes metabolism to slow down, Johns-Wommack said, which also contributes to weight gain.

Junior history major Katie Stringer admits she rarely eats breakfast and sometimes misses other meals. "Today I had a taco – that's all I had," she said.

Lack of exercise also plays a factor in weight gain for students. Even if we're eating the same amount as we did in high school, we may not be exercising as much.

"Instead of walking to class, we ride the bus," Ward said.

"A lot of what we do is sedentary. We study, we congregate in the dorms, we go to someone's apartment and sit," Ward said. "It takes a whole lot less effort to go to the vending machine and grab a coke and chips than it does to walk over to the [Recreation] Center and walk on the treadmill for 30 minutes."

"Small changes go a long way," Johns-Wommack said, adding that students who actually walk across campus five days a week are at least getting a little bit of exercise.

Sophomore Michael McGee said that although he did gain weight his freshman year, it was due to playing baseball. Others said quite the opposite occurred.

"First semester I gained some weight, and second semester I lost

some weight," senior theater major Taylor Tutt said. He said when he came to college, he stopped working out, but to lose weight, he started working out again and was also put on medication that served as an appetite suppressant for an unrelated medical condition.

The final reason students gain weight is stress.

"We use food as a coping mechanism – we do that as a society," Ward said. "A lot of us are emotional eaters and the more stress we get, the more we turn to food to manage it."

Luckily, there are many ways to prevent and combat weight gain. "Everything in moderation is fine," Johns-Wommack said, who

added that it's okay to eat a healthy snack before going to bed, but drinking a couple of beers and eating a pizza is definitely problematic.

Johns-Wommack believes that students need to be healthy in order to ensure optimal performance, especially in school. Students need to be careful of their calories, even ones from alcohol.

"For every 3,500 calories you do not burn off, you gain one pound of fat," Johns-Wommack said. "So if you're going out and drinking margaritas every night, there are so many calories, and they're empty calories."

Well, maybe there are other foods to cut back on, right?

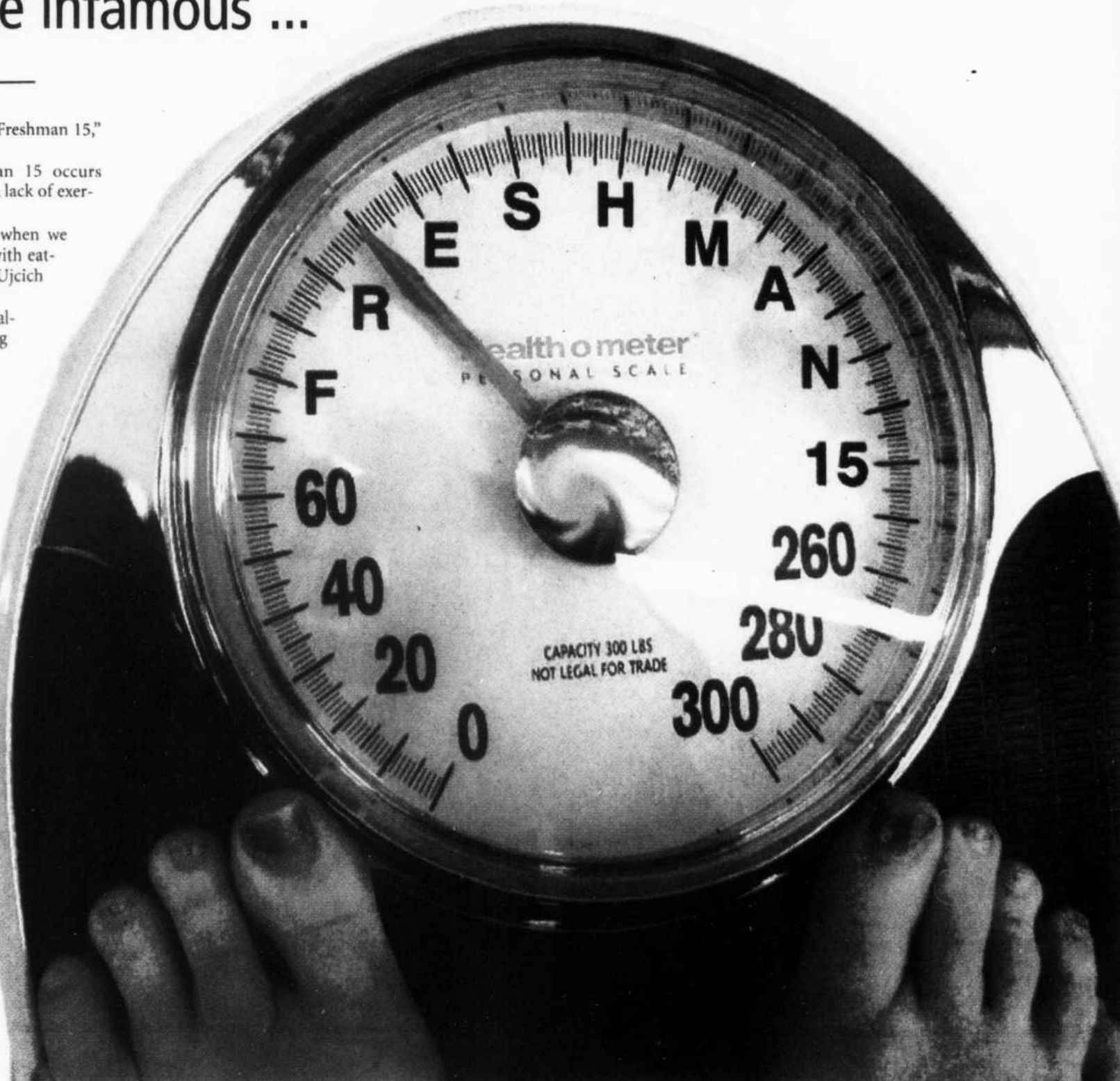


Photo illustration by Chris Carver | Staff Photographer

Students start chapter of ONE Campaign

Star-studded movement now has local voice

By Erin Yeldell

Contributing Writer

Editor's Note: The author is the vice president of the MTSU chapter of the ONE Campaign. This article was submitted as part of a class assignment.

One dollar. Four quarters. Insignificant. There's not much you can buy with \$1, and you're technically "broke" if that's all you have in your pocket.

One billion. Ten hundred million. That's how many people in our world live on less than \$1 a day.

The ONE Campaign is officially the worldwide campaign to make poverty history. It is the fight against extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Within the famous words of the Beatles' song "Come Together" is the simple idea that reaching unity requires individuals to come together as one. That's the concept on which the ONE Campaign was built. One person, one voice, one vote at a time to make our world a better, safer place.

And now, ONE is an MTSU student organization. The campaign became an MTSU organization this semester with big dreams of uniting our campus and making students aware of what's going on in their world. Seth Wood, president of the ONE Campaign at MTSU, said the campaign has "made Africa an issue."

"It has informed the people of the issues and brought attention and money to Africa," Wood said.

Wood learned of the campaign several years ago after hearing U2 lead singer and ONE Campaign advocate, Bono, speak on the global issue and his dream of eradicating poverty. Similarly, many young people are becoming aware of the campaign through television commercials starring big-time celebrities

such as George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Cameron Diaz and Tom Hanks speaking out on issues such as HIV/AIDS and the effects of extreme poverty throughout the world.

"I should do something," Wood said. He became involved with others in Murfreesboro working with the campaign. Three years later, he has helped bring ONE to campus.

"Students are young and passionate enough to make a change. Young people are the generation that will be able to make that change," Wood said.

Generally, we as students are open to thinking outside the box and thinking big. We have the conviction and realization that things are going to need to change during our generation. We may even have had a small taste of poverty ourselves. After all, we are college students!

According to www.one.org, extreme poverty is "living on less than \$1 a day, unimaginable to us as Americans. ONE in five people around the world survives on this amount, with few opportunities to earn more."

Making our government understand how important this issue is to us is a key factor. The campaign is not about raising money; it is about raising your voice to those in charge of where our money goes. ONE lobbies the U.S. government to set aside 1 percent of its budget for health, education, water and food in the world's poorest countries.

Gaining the attention of the nation's leaders, however, first involves gaining the attention of the people.

"We're building a movement," said Kimberly Smith, field coordinator for ONE. "[The crisis] feels so far away and so big, but it really comes down to taking the time to tell your family and friends."

The ONE Web site's declaration of "believing we can beat AIDS and extreme poverty, recognizing one billion people live on less than one dollar a day, and committing ourselves to make a difference" has already been signed by more than two million people. "We're aiming to get five million by 2008," Smith said.

You also may have seen the white bracelets worn by more than three million Americans. This is just a small way of showing your support for the ONE Campaign.

Knowing the facts is a huge part of getting the word out, and with facts such as 8,500 people die of AIDS every day and one billion people live on less than \$1 a day, it isn't difficult to catch the attention of those unaware of the issues.

Wood's goal is to get students involved. "Why wouldn't you want to?" he said. "If you had lived during the Holocaust, would you have done something about it?"

Wood has an encouraging point of view toward developments in Africa.

"Africa is a huge business deal," he said, referring to projects such as the Kenya Stock Exchange that has been in progress since 1954. Politically, he pushes for our nation's leaders to fight for Africa, believing that one day, "Africa's crisis will be resolved, and it is important to be a nation that was a contributor."

"The Bush administration has tripled the amount of international development assistance," Smith said. "Many lives can be saved by American leadership."

ONE is an ongoing, broad movement that involves people from all walks of life. With students and business owners, punk rockers and football fans, ministers and politicians, ONE is everyone raising their voices as one against extreme poverty and AIDS.

"[ONE has] shown me that you can change the world in the comfort of your own home," Wood said. "Spiritually, I think it's brought me closer to God."

At MTSU, the campaign says it will strive for all student organizations, Greek, Republican, Democrat and every other, to come together as a campus of ONE.

For more information, visit www.one.org.

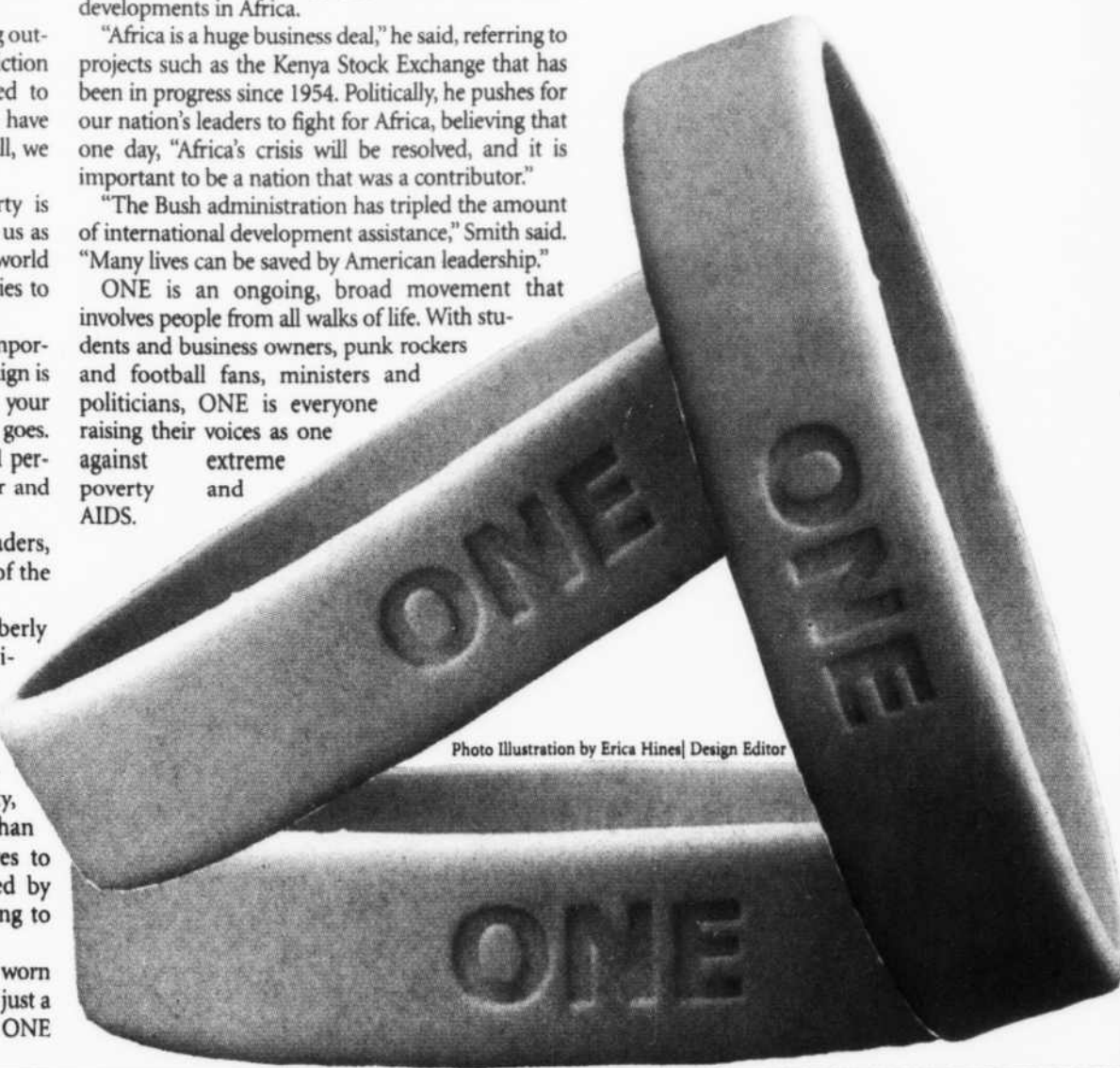


Photo illustration by Erica Hines | Design Editor