



Cross country begins season Friday

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Aaliyah leaves strong legacy behind

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How do you think MTSU should handle the parking situation?

INSIDE: Parking problems need attention from administration

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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Campus Briefs

Library receives gift

The Blue Raider Athletic Association and Lightning's Locker Room have teamed with Phillips Bookstore to give a \$7,500 gift to the University Library.

Library Dean Don Craig was very appreciative and said the gift would be used to fund a group study room on the first floor.

The remainder will be placed in an endowment account with the MTSU Foundation.

NASA calls aerospace department impressive

Sam Armstrong, the No. 2 official at NASA, called MTSU's aerospace program "impressive" after visiting MTSU July 13.

Armstrong said that MTSU has "excellent classroom facilities" and "MTSU knows the way." He also complimented the earth science and biology programs. July's visit the latest in a series of efforts to establish partnerships between MTSU and NASA.

Cummings Scholarship established

MTSU's Martin Chair of Insurance is establishing the Cummings Excellence In Insurance Scholarship.

The scholarship will be named in honor of Clark's businessman David Cummings, executive vice president of Mann, Smith and Cummings Insurance Agency.

Cummings said he hopes more students are drawn to MTSU's insurance program in order for a new generation to choose insurance as a career.

New military science chair selected

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Todd Overby has signed on as chair of the military science department and ROTC program.

Overby hopes to continue the success of his predecessor, Lt. Col. Mark Ferrell, who left the department in June.

Last December, MTSU's Army ROTC was ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Raider Rally held today in KUC Courtyard

The season's first Raider Rally will be held in the Kately University Center Courtyard today at 5 p.m.

Attendees can get in the spirit for the MTSU vs. Vanderbilt football game and see the Grammy Award-winning Baha Men.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Development at 898-2454.

Stones River presents battlefield bike tour

Stones River National Battlefield will present "A Ride Through History," a guided tour of the battlefield Saturday.

Participants will meet with their bikes at 4:45 p.m. The ride will last approximately two hours. For more information and reservations, call 893-9501.

MTSU faces parking woes

By Lindsey Turner and Patrick Chinnery
News Editor and Opinions Editor

Despite a barrage of complaints about parking, the Student Government Association insists this year's parking situation is no worse than in years past.

According to Jamie Burns, SGA vice president, her office has received an unusual amount of complaints about parking.

"We've received numerous complaints," Burns said.

Christie Bishop, the SGA attorney general, feels that students may be exaggerating parking problems.

"[Parking] is not worse," she said. "I think people were using the few closed lots as an excuse."

Bishop said students should come to campus earlier to search for a space and look in more than one lot.

A lot of people, Bishop said,

simply search in one lot for a space, without considering searching in other lots.

"Once people start getting accustomed to where they will park, I have a feeling a lot of it will clear up," Bishop said.

Many students disagree. Brandon McGowan, a junior, says he believes parking is worse this year than it was last year.

"It wasn't a good idea to close down two parking areas the first day of school," McGowan said. He believes a parking garage would help alleviate parking problems.

Some students say other ways the university could improve the situation include encouraging carpooling, limiting freshmen parking and allowing drivers to park in the grass.

Some students feel the most stressful part of the parking process is not having to walk long distances to and from their

cars, but actually trying to find a spot open anywhere.

"I would be more than willing to park far away," said Caroline Deslauriers, a junior in the College of Education.

"Today I started off as far as I could possibly be from campus to try to find a spot and had to come inside campus and make my way outside again, and finally I just parked off campus," she said.

Connie Hagberg, director of Parking Services, said she has not received any more complaints this year than in previous years.

While parking is always congested in inner-campus areas, Hagberg said, spaces are usually available in the outskirts of the campus — specifically the Tennessee Livestock Center lot and in the new gravel lot adjacent to Greek Row.

"We don't offer convenient parking, but we do have ample parking," Hagberg said.



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Students wait in line to get their day of classes. Parking Services on the first day of classes.

Since Lot 49 on Champion Way (formerly C Street) opened Monday, there is only one lot completely closed for construction on campus. The white-permit lot, near the Midgett Business Building and Voorhees Industrial Studies Complex, is

being paved and will be completed by the end of this week.

Sometime in September, the lot will be closed again for more work.

"The concrete industry man-

See Parking, 2

On a different note...



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Jeremy Graham belts a few notes on his tenor saxophone at band practice Aug. 20.

The Band of Blue, directed by Associate Director of Bands Terry Jolley, has more than 350 members this year. This makes this year's band the largest in school history, the largest college marching band in the state and fifth largest in the country.

The band's first major performance will be at the football game Thursday against

Vanderbilt, where they will perform *Boogie Nights*, *Lady Marmalade*, *Hey Mickey* and *We're Not Gonna Take It*.

Over the course of the football season, the band will perform several shows, including a patriotic veterans' salute and a show entirely written and directed by MTSU music education majors. ♦

Former MTSU cop pleads guilty, will get five years

By Jason Cox
Assistant News Editor

A former MTSU police officer pleaded guilty to four sex offenses in Rutherford Circuit Court on Monday.

Michael Young, who worked as a school resource officer at Barfield Elementary School at the time of the alleged offenses, faced 39 charges. They ranged from purchasing alcohol for minors to aggravated sexual

exploitation of a minor.

A plea bargain avoided a trial in the two-year-old case. He could face five years in jail.

According to *The Daily News Journal*, the plea bargain included sentences of five years in jail on the counts of sexual battery by an authority figure and two years for the counts of statutory rape. The sentences will be served concurrently.

Since it's Young's first felony conviction, he is eligible for

release after serving 30 percent of the five-year sentence. He must register as a sex offender, undergo treatment and be on community supervision for life.

The convictions were based on allegations that Young — then an employee of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office — had lured two girls, one 13 and one 14, to his Murfreesboro apartment where he offered them

See Police, 2

Cheerleaders go, fight, win contest

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

The MTSU cheerleading squad traveled to East Tennessee State University Aug. 2-4 to compete in the 2001 Universal Cheerleading Association College Spirit Camp.

The varsity squad went up against 15 other universities from across the country and came home with four trophies. The team — consisting of six men and six women — placed first in the Sideline category, which tests the squad's ability to maximize crowd involvement.

They placed second in both the Fight Song and Cheer competitions. In the Fight Song category, the squad had to add their own flair to assigned songs. In the Cheer category, performing stunts played an important role in winning an award.

The goal for each division was to include basic skills into a unique routine to be evaluated by a panel of 10 judges, all members of the UCA staff.

The college mascots held their own competition, in which MTSU won the award for Most Improved.

The squad prepared for the camp with all-day practice sessions, held more frequently as camp drew closer. These were in addition to the regular weight training schedule to which the squad adheres.

But the work didn't end there. The camp schedule called for days beginning at 6:45 a.m. with practice and instructional classes until 10 p.m., with few breaks in between.

"Most people don't realize how much work is put into these competitions," said Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life.

The squad's next goal is the UCA National Cheerleading Competition held in January.

The training schedule begins in September, and will continue until the event takes place, even over Christmas break.

Fitch has confidence that the team will be successful.

"You won't find a bunch that's more motivated," he said. ♦

Rape information line available on campus

By Allison Gilliam
Staff Writer

One call is all it takes for someone who has been sexually assaulted to get help, thanks to the MTSU automated Rape Information Line created by the June Anderson Women's Center.

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the hotline consists of a menu of recorded information available to sexual assault victims or those who may call on a victim's behalf. By dialing 898-JAWC (5292), callers can access names and numbers of related campus and community services and what to expect from each of these contacts, as well as the option to be directly transferred to

Campus Police, Health Services, the JAWC or others. Phone numbers for campus religious organizations and off-campus services such as the Rutherford County Crisis Team also are provided.

Over 80 percent of campus rapes go unreported, according to the Department of Justice.

Candace Rosovsky, director of the JAWC, cites several reasons for this problem.

"Many victims fear they won't be believed, or that others will judge them," she said, adding that rape victims also may be afraid of going through medical examinations or the humiliation of having to describe the attack to authori-

See Hotline, 2

Funeral-related videos not morbid topic to professor

By Laura Bello
The Vista (U. Central Oklahoma)

(U-WIRE) EDMOND, Okla. - One professor at the University of Central Oklahoma has reason to pay special attention when the credits roll at the end of some cable shows. He's not looking for a producer's names, but for his own.

Dr. Gary Sokoll, professor of funeral services has produced videos for eight years to use in his classes. The video footage contains embalming demonstrations, restoration techniques, and cosmetic application. Sokoll has produced approximately 35 videos.

Sokoll received his degree in Funeral Services from UCO in 1980 and has taught here for 16 years.

In the past few years he has been approached by companies in the United States and Japan that have requested use of his footage.

"I produce, shoot, edit and create the graphics and animations," Sokoll said. The television special "Buried Alive: Secrets Below" aired on the Discovery Channel January 1999. The piece investigated if people were buried alive and Sokoll's embalming demonstration lasted 15-20 seconds.

His work also crossed the seas to Japan. Idea Network, a Japanese production company requested video pre-

sentations on embalming that aired on Japanese television in 1999. Sokoll embalming is gaining popularity over cremation in Japan.

Two works are in progress. The History Channel will present "The Mummy Road Show," which will compare mummification with current methods in America. It will air this fall or early next spring.

The History Channel recently requested footage on embalming for a show it is doing concerning the embalming of Vladimir Lenin, former Soviet prime minister.

Sokoll began producing videos in 1993. Originally he intended to make videos to be used at schools and for

mortuary service instruction. Many of his videos are used at UCO.

He had four embalming videos available when the Dodge Company, the largest supplier in the world of embalming chemicals, cosmetics and instruments suggested that they make the videos available for educational purposes, Sokoll said.

"They found out about my embalming videos and recruited me to produce videos on embalming, restoration techniques and cosmetic application," Sokoll said. His videos have been distributed to Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and schools in the United States. His footage is popular because not many

people produce these types of videos.

"I think they caught me because not much footage exists.

There is not a large need for video, but with the information age we live in, video is a great format to show embalming for educational purposes," Sokoll said.

He worked alongside fellow UCO graduate Kevin Davis, now director of the funeral services department at St. Petersburg Junior College in Florida, producing many of the instructional videos.

Besides producing the videos, Sokoll also published a book, "The Art of Facial Reconstruction," used at UCO and other schools. ♦

Parking: Students say lengthy search for spot causes stress

Continued from 1

agement is donating some labor and concrete, and they're going to concrete some of that lot," Hagberg said.

There are, however, between 20 and 30 spaces unavailable in the paved lot across from the gravel lot near the Recreation Center.

Those spaces will be unavailable until construction in that area is complete.

MTSU is no longer leasing the Middle Tennessee Baptist Church lot. Reportedly, the university offered much less money to lease the Baptist Church lot than in previous years, and an agreement was not met.

To compensate for the approximately 200 lost spaces, the university purchased the former Woodfin Funeral Home lot and will convert it into a student parking lot.

This year, Parking Services issued red permits to residents of Scarlett Commons apartments, purple permits to residents of Womack Lane apartments and Gold permits to residents of Greek Row.

Out of 10,204 MTSU parking spaces, there are 7,291 green spaces; 957 red, gold and purple spaces; 1,543 white spaces; 218 handicapped spaces; 55 motorcycle spaces; 60 reserved spaces for MTSU vehicles; and 80 metered spaces.

There have been 17,060 permits issued so far in the semester - 2,350 white, 255 handicapped, 13,772 green, 226 purple, 303 red and 154 gold. ♦

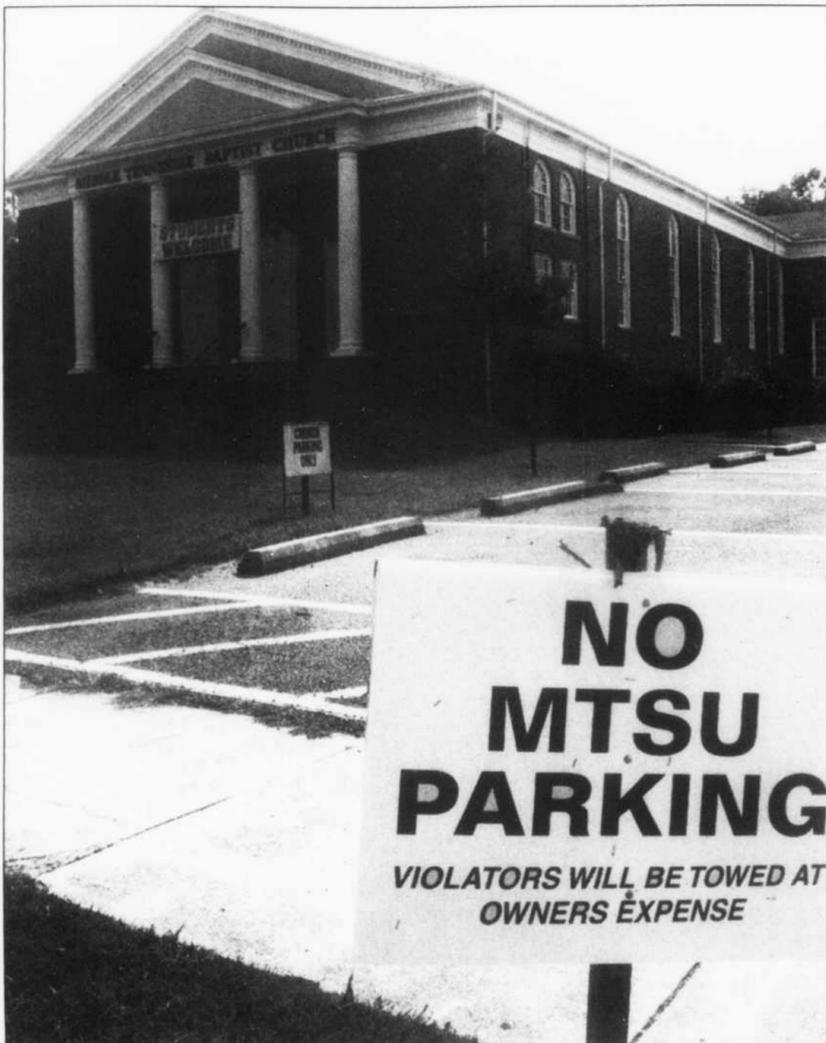


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

MTSU will not lease the Middle Tennessee Baptist Church lot this semester.

Hotline: Line helps victims

Continued from 1

ties. Younger victims may be afraid of their parents finding out. A victim may even be reluctant to report the rape because he or she doesn't want the attacker to get into trouble.

"When you add in the use of date-rape drugs, the victim's fear is even higher," Rosovsky said, explaining that a victim could wake after having been drugged and have the sense that she was raped, but not vividly recall the attack.

"Date-rape drugs," such as Rohypnol and GHB, are rising in usage across the country, from dance clubs to fraternity parties. The drugs move quickly

through the body, making screenings difficult, according to an article in the Aug. 14 edition of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

"We hope that this line will help to open the lines of communication and build up trust in the institutional resources and support available," Rosovsky said.

She stresses the need for both women and men to be supportive and caring to friends who have been sexually assaulted.

The JAWC is located in the James Union Building, Room 206 and has brochures and books available to check out on the subject of violence against women. ♦

Numbers to know for safety on campus

- JAWC Rape Information Line:
898-JAWC (5292)
- Campus Police: 898-2424
- Murfreesboro City Police: 893-1311
- Campus Health Services: 898-2988
- Crisis Intervention Center: 244-7444
- Rape and Sexual Assault Center (Nashville):
256-8526
- Campus Guidance Services: 898-2670

Police: Former cop will serve five years for sexual assault

Continued from 1

alcohol and marijuana, promising to show them pornographic films. Young still faces charges relating to a third victim.

Young, who graduated from MTSU in 1994 with degrees in political science and psychology, was employed by the university as a police officer for four

years. He received many positive evaluations, was active in various charity events and was named the 1996 MTSU Officer of the Year.

Young resigned from the MTSU police department in 1998 in the aftermath of an accident in his private vehicle in late 1997. He was subsequently charged with driving under the

influence and reckless driving, and was convicted of the second charge. He resigned shortly thereafter, citing that he felt his reputation had been "irreparably damaged" by the accident and the resulting conviction.

Young was terminated by the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office in August 2000 for "violations of department policy and conduct unbecoming to an officer," according to Captain Bill Kennedy of the RCSO. Kennedy added that Young's termination was not necessarily related to the charges.

He was subsequently hired by Tennessee State University's police department.

TSU Police Chief Art Lawson said that no charges had been filed against Young at the time that he had been hired and that "he came to us with a clean record."

Young worked as a TSU patrol officer until he was arrested in October. At that time, Lawson said, "when he [was] arrested ... he sent us a letter of resignation."

Clayton will formally sentence Young at a hearing Nov. 21. ♦



File Photo

Michael Young's Officer of the Year plaque is displayed in the Public Safety office.

GV

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Photos by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

(Above) Associate Director of Bands Terry Jolley looks on as his band rehearses.
(Right) A saxophone player stands on the sidelines as practice winds down.

MTSU Band of Blue

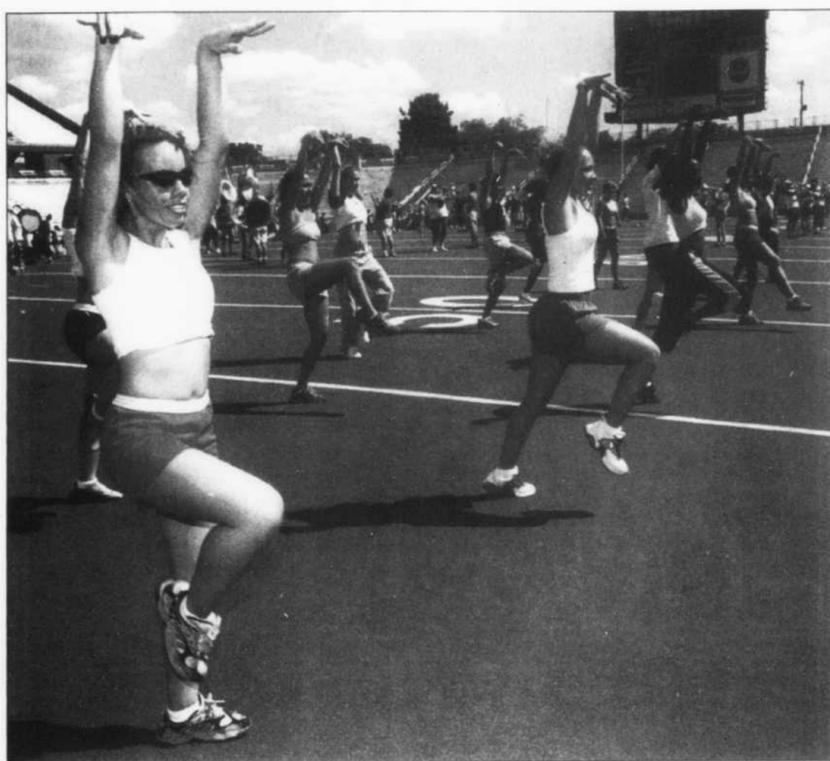


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

As the Band of Blue takes a break in the background, the MTSU Dance Team goes through their moves.



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Drum major Randy Powers conducts the band during rehearsal Aug. 20.

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SIGNATURE _____

FLASH

Wednesday, August 29, 2001

sidelines

Aaliyah leaves strong legacy behind after plane crash

By Matt Dentler
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - This review of her new self-titled album was originally printed in The Daily Texan on July 19, 2001.

Timing has been very good to Aaliyah. When her debut was released in 1994, she was 15. And luckily for her, three years ahead of the teen pop boom. So rather than judge her by age, the public took her seriously and nurtured a growing artist.

The years have meant several hit singles, including two of the most popular soundtrack cuts (*Are You That Somebody?* from *Dr. Doolittle* and *Try Again* from her own film, *Romeo Must Die*) in the last few years. A little older and a lot wiser, this Detroit-based artist has matured a thousand steps forward with her new, self-titled release.

Aaliyah opens with the first single, *We Need A Resolution*. In first-single fashion, the song is a bold statement for what the rest of the record holds. Featuring a hypnotic synth string loop over various effects, the song is a dark and simple plea for sense in a senseless relationship.

The quality of the song's writing and production (courtesy of her main collaborator, Timbaland) is almost too good. This can't be the same Aaliyah who sang bubble gum R&B songs with R. Kelly. But after listening to more and more of the record, you realize she's somehow come a long way in a short time.

Loose Rap is a sweetly tart pop song that rides its way into your ear via an amazingly infectious riff. It's a pleasant combination of European pop mixed with the rough edges of soul. *I Care 4 U* ventures further into the soul inspiration, with a sound that seems lifted straight from the catalog of Isaac Hayes or Curtis Mayfield. With pounding drums and Curtis Mayfield meeting together under her whisper-soft vocals, it's more organic than the music we associate with this pop/R&B singer.

In fact, Aaliyah places its diva under similar categorization with the likes of roots-soul performers Macy Gray and Lauryn Hill. No more Toni Braxton or Mariah Carey comparisons for Aaliyah.

The album does falter when she tries to please old fans with sexy, groovy and corny

cuts such as *Rock The Boat*, which goes as far as to chant soporific lines like "Stroke it, switch positions," etc.

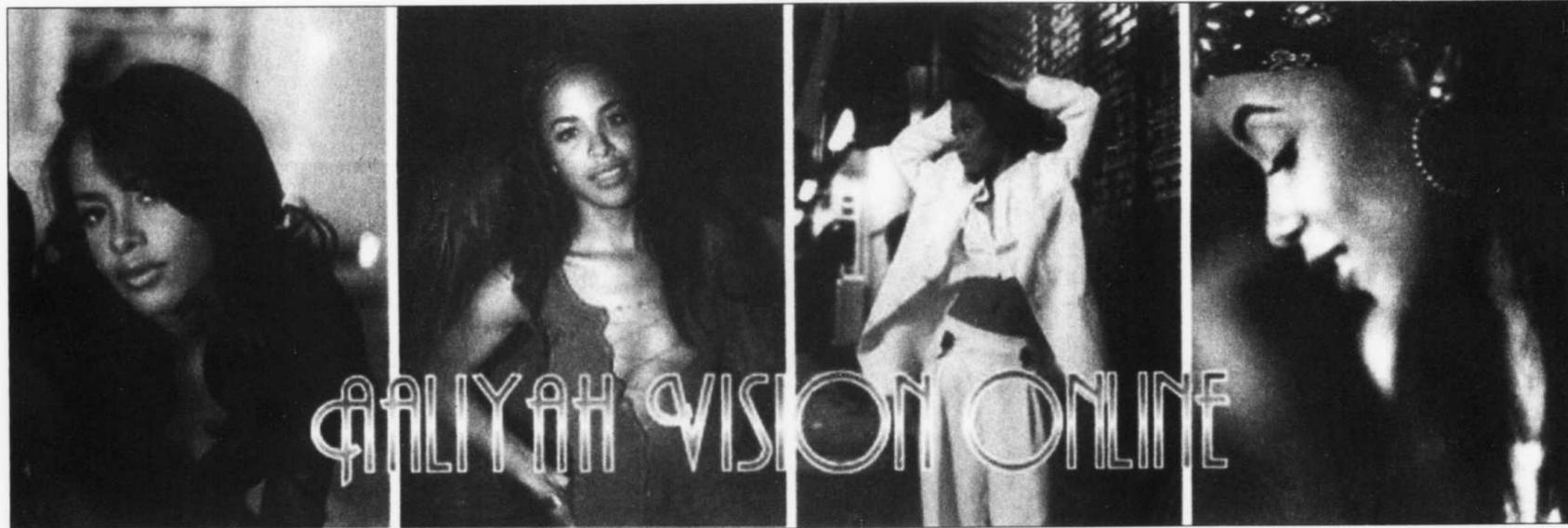
There's true emotion in most of the album's songs, added with grit and pain. Even the Latin-tinged layered vocals of *Read Between The Lines* are on top of the game with precise production skills. *U Got Nerve* and *I Refuse* melt together smart lyrics with some very smart composition. This is true especially for the latter, which almost seamlessly blends live piano with digital, scattered beats and a thunderous string arrangement for the grand finale.

If Aaliyah continues on the path she's started with this record, her next album will surely be priceless. Aaliyah, though, is not the classic pop/soul/R&B record some of its songs hint at. Some of the songs rely on standard formulas and pale when compared to their fellow, more dynamic tracks.

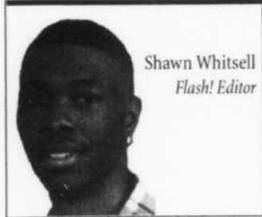
It's a bummer when you have songs that recall the sounds of Stevie Wonder next to songs that recall the sounds of En Vogue. As Aaliyah stands, she's grown quite a bit over the years and has carefully secured herself as one to watch with anticipation. ♦



Photo Provided



Aaliyah will be missed



Shawn Whitsell
Flash! Editor

Her name is Swahili for "highest most exalted one" and though I didn't know her personally, I strongly believed that Aaliyah Dana Haughton lived in the spirit of her name.

On Saturday night I had gone to the movies with a few friends to see *The Others*. When I got in, I was so exhausted that I immediately got in the bed. As I was drifting off, my phone rang. I was so tired that I decided to let it ring.

My machine picked up and the message went something like this, "Shawn, this is Ernest. Call me when you get in. Aaliyah died in a plane crash."

My heart stopped. I jumped out of the bed and I called Ernest back.

He told me the details and though I knew he wasn't lying, I still couldn't bring myself to

believe his words.

After Ernest and I got off the phone, I scanned every channel looking for coverage of her death. I ended up seeing it for myself. I just had to fall asleep with the remote in my hand.

The next morning I woke up, hoping that it had all been a mistake. So, I turned on MTV, and there it was. It was true.

I never knew how the death of someone I didn't even know could affect me so much. I couldn't believe it and even now if I sit and think about it, I still find it hard to accept.

It's amazing how we sometimes fail to realize just how influential a person is until they're gone.

My disbelief had nothing to do with her celebrity status but it had everything to do with the fact that she was a beautiful, intelligent, talented, young woman who seemed to be on the brink of something even bigger than she had already accomplished, yet her life was tragically taken.

Though she had accomplished a lot in her short life, it almost seemed as if she was just getting started. It was just there was so much ahead for her. And for me, the weirdest

part was the fact that I had just seen her on BET's *106 and Park* two days before she died.

This just reaffirms what I said in my column on Monday.



Photo Provided

Aaliyah's radiant glow touched the lives of millions.

You never know when or how you'll go. In life, death is the

only thing that's guaranteed. So, we must live life to the fullest, and though Aaliyah only spent 22 years on this earth, something tells me that she lived out

all of those 22 years. All of her friends describe

her as being extremely humble and down to earth and I truly believe that because that's the way she always came across. My mother had the opportunity to meet her a few years back at The Derby in Kentucky and she commented on how cool and down to earth the girl was.

It's very sad that she died at such a young age, especially so tragically. But let's remember that we're all put on this earth for a reason.

We all serve a purpose. Aaliyah was sent here to serve a purpose and she did. She used the things that she loved to touch the lives of people from all walks of life.

I am a big fan of hers, not her #1 fan, but definitely a fan, and what I admired most about her went beyond her music. I'm not just saying this because she has passed. I specifically remember a conversation my friend Joey and I had about her, while we were watching her *Are You That Somebody* video back in 1998.

We talked about how she didn't seem like the average celebrity. She came across like a girl everybody knew from around the way. To me she was that fine girl, who could wear and belly shirt and skimp

shorts or rock baggy jeans and timbs. She was that chick who could go out on the town with the girls or kick it on the corner with the fellas. She was that girl who was the essence of hip hop but still knew all the words to every No Doubt song. She was that female who was a cheerleader but still had a helluva jumper. She was the kind of woman who could take you to an opera but still tell you how many points Iverson scored that night. She was that dime piece that all the guys tried to holla at, at least once, who could talk slang but interpret Shakespeare with ease. She was the one who made all A's but was still cool enough to skip school every once in a while.

Aaliyah was definitely a ray of light. She was an angel. Though many of us are mourning for her. Let's not mourn forever.

Once we finish crying, let's wipe our tears away, put in that new self-titled CD and jam with her. Let's celebrate the life she lived and all the many wonderful things she gave to the world. She was truly "one in a million." Rest in peace Baby Girl.

Don't forget to pray for the families of all the victims. ♦

'Race' in the opposite direction

By Brittain Phillips & Amanda Daeger
The DePauw (DePauw U.)

(U-WIRE) GREENCASTLE, Ind. - Remember *Superfriends*? Come on, sure you do. It's that cartoon from the late '70s that tried — and failed pitifully — to showcase more than a dozen famous cartoon superheroes in the same show. Name a stand-out cartoon do-gooder, and I'll bet you 10 Yankee dollars they were on *Superfriends*. Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Green Lantern — all the greats participated.

Such combinations of talent aren't uncommon. And other gaudy conglomerates, like *The Three Tenors*, the 1997 Florida Marlins and USA for Africa ("We Are The World, We Are The Children"), have enjoyed much success. Unfortunately, throwing together lots of good things doesn't ensure a winning result. *Superfriends* is a good example. Long Island Iced Tea is another.

Jerry Zucker, the director of the new Paramount Pictures flick *Rat Race*, must have never seen *Superfriends* or suckled at the avenging teat of a Long Island Iced Tea. Otherwise, he would have been a little more hesitant when he chose to employ more than 10 big-name stars in the cast.

Instead, he threw caution to the wind and coerced Cuba Gooding, Jr., Rowan Atkinson, Jon Lovitz, Whoopi Goldberg, Seth Green, John Cleese, Breckin Meyer and several other heavy hitters to join forces in *Rat Race*. The result is a movie more annoying than anything. Ever.

The plot is promising: A rich Las Vegas casino owner, played by Cleese, chooses a small group of people at random to make a mad dash for big cash-



\$2 million is stashed 1,000 miles away, and the first one to the finish line walks away wealthy.

Sound exciting? I thought so too, but one thing stands in the way of this film's success — nauseating stupidity.

No more than 10 minutes after the racers begin their quest, two of them are dangling from an airport radar tower, one is in a helicopter crash, another is roaming the desert with nothing on but boxer shorts and one is in a van with Newman from *Seinfeld*.

The ridiculous twists and corny situations don't stop there. Pretty soon I just wanted to know who got the money so I could dump my popcorn on the floor and get out of the theater before my brain soiled itself and melted from the inside out.

Want to know who gets the money? I'll tell you. Smash Mouth. Don't believe me?

Somehow, all of the contestants end up at a benefit concert for starving children, and the lead singer of Smash Mouth convinces them to donate all of the money to charity. Then they sing *All Star*.

I started punching myself in the kidneys, and the movie ended.

Usually, when a movie really sucks, I try at the end to list one of its redeeming qualities. Alas, *Rat Race* has none to list. It's just another victim of the *Superfriends* theory and an embarrassment to us all.

— BP

Do you ever have moments when you look at something and think, "I can't believe that someone actually came up with this crap?"

Take, for instance, bumper stickers. There are thousands of kooky catchphrases for every occasion that calls for the per-

fect kooky catchphrase. Liberal kooky catchphrases. Conservative or religious kooky catchphrases. Or for the real bumper sticker connoisseur, maybe just plain old asinine kooky catchphrases.

What's worse than the stickers themselves is that somewhere in Hong Kong or on some island off the coast of Madagascar, someone's job is to make these stickers they can't even read.

I guess the phrase, "How's my driving? Dial 1-800-EAT ME," loses something in the translation. At any rate, whilst watching the movie, *Rat Race*, I had one of those moments. Right now you might be thinking, "Great cast of actors. Good director. Seemingly good reviews. What's the problem?"

All we have left is the writing. And I think that was the only problem. The fool credited is a chap by the name of Andy Breckman. You might recognize him from other classics like *Hot to Trot*, which starred a horse and *Arthur 2: On the Rocks*, which starred Dudley Moore.

I'd bet money that this Beckman guy is a huge bumper sticker man. Are we surprised that *Rat Race* wasn't good?

For years, the worst movie permanently deposited in my bad-movie memory bank has been *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension*. *Earth Girls Are Easy* and *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* follow it closely in a tie for second worst.

I was in first grade when I first saw *Buckaroo*, and I remember thinking, "My God, this is horrible. Why is my mom punishing us? What did we do to deserve this?"

Last night, as we watched *Rat Race*, for the first time since *Buckaroo Banzai*, I felt as though I was being punished.

— AD ♦

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The call from the pressbox



Colleen Cox Sports Editor

Coach McCullom appears on TV

WSMV Channel 4 and WKRN Channel 2 interviewed head football coach Andy McCullom live from Floyd Stadium Sunday night.

The interview comes with all the hype for the Vandy football game Thursday.

Cox, Carter shine in inter-squad scrimmage

The Middle Tennessee soccer team held an intrasquad scrimmage Saturday at the Lady Raider Soccer Field.

The White squad defeated the Blue team 4-2.

Sophomore Jenny Cox scored twice and Emily Carter added two goals and an assist.

The White squad jumped out to a 1-0 advantage at half-time after Cox scored late in the opening half on an assist from Lindsey Bopp. Carter scored on an unassisted goal two minutes into the second half to give the White squad a 2-0 lead.

Freshman Laura Miguez scored on an assist from Megan McGregor to put the Blue team on the board six minutes into the second half and cut the White squad's advantage to 2-1.

Cox scored her second goal of the day with an assist from Carter to put the White squad up 3-1. Sarah Schulz cut the lead to 3-2 with an unassisted goal for the Blue team 10 minutes into the second half. Carter knocked in the final goal near the end of the second half on an assist from Sheri Robbins to give the White squad a 4-2 victory.

The Lady Raiders open the season in the Southern Miss Tournament in Hattiesburg, Miss., against the homestanding Golden Eagles at 5 p.m. on Friday. MT will also take on Nicholls State at 1 p.m. Sunday in the tourney.

McClellan and Morstad Play in Canada Games

Two Lady Raider volleyball players participated in the Canada Games recently. Dara McClellan represented the Manitoba indoor volleyball team, and Caia Morstad represented the Saskatchewan indoor volleyball team.

Manitoba finished fourth in the games. Saskatchewan placed sixth in the competition.

McClellan finished the game with five kills, one dig and one block in the bronze medal game. Morstad contributed 12 kills and one ace in her team's final game. She also had 13 kills in a playoff game for Saskatchewan. Both players have rejoined the Middle Tennessee volleyball team.

Reid takes home two Bronze Medals in Canada Games

Senior track and field star Stephany Reid won two Bronze medals in the Canada Games.

Her medals were in the triple jump and the long jump.

Reid participated in the games for her second time this year. She also competed in 1997.

Reid will compete for Middle Tennessee in the competitive Sun Belt Conference. ♦

Student athletes get involved

By J.P. Plant
Senior Sports Editor

Sometimes necessity turns into pride. This is the case with the Student Athletic Advisory Council.

The organization is made up of athletes who represent their respective sports to voice opinions and suggestions to better the conditions and opportunities for student athletes. Representation is based

on the number of athletes each sport has. Football, with a comparatively high volume of athletes requires seven representatives, while women's tennis only requires one.

The SAAC began ten years ago simply to fulfill an NCAA requirement. But in the past four years under the guidance of Assistant Athletic Advisement Coordinator Wynnifred Counts and other administrators, the organiza-

tion has become an outlet for student athletes to get involved in things outside their respective sports.

"Student involvement," Counts said is the biggest change she has seen since she became a counselor four years ago.

Counts attributes the increase in participation to the NCAA Leadership Conference held every year in Orlando, Fla. Each university will send one

representative to the conference to bring back ideas on increasing student athlete involvement.

"They've come back (from the conference in Orlando) and wanted to be active," Counts said.

Other initiatives Counts hopes to focus on for the future are "hitting them (student athletes) as freshmen and continuing with them through their senior year...we (SAAC coun-

selors) want to teach them how to speak in public how to network."

Currently, members are voted on by the outgoing team representative or by the team itself.

After appointed, it is the student athletes' place to present concerns and suggestions to the bimonthly meeting.

Since its inception, the

See SAAC, 8

Lagat ready to defend his title as cross country starts this week



Lagat looks to defend his Sun Belt Conference championship from last year with a strong fall season.

MT Media Relations

For the first time in school history, the Middle Tennessee men's cross country team boasts a defending conference champion.

Geoffrey Lagat, the sophomore from Kapsabet, Kenya, took home the Sun Belt Conference gold last season and he says he is looking forward to defending his championship this fall.

"I really want to defend the title. I had a few problems with my knees during the outdoor season, so I am making a little bit of a comeback this fall."

Lagat balanced working a summer job with his training over the summer and feels that he is ready to go when cross country takes off on the opening gun on Aug. 31 at the Belmont Invitational in Nashville.

"I've been running five to eight miles every day to keep in shape. We should begin training as a team during the first week of school. No one expected much out of us last year, and we finished fourth in the conference. I feel like we have a chance to improve again."

Lagat's journey to Middle Tennessee turned out to be an interesting one.

"My coach in Kenya used to coach at Mt. St. Mary's in

"No one expected much out of us last year, and we finished fourth in the conference. I feel like we have a chance to improve again."

-Geoffrey Lagat, cross country

Maryland, so he was familiar with schools in the United States. He helped me find a place to run. I wanted to find a school that would give me a scholarship so my parents wouldn't have to pay for my college.

"I just started running and training a few years ago. I realized not too long into it that I could do something for myself and it just pushed me even harder."

Lagat has not only done something for himself, but has made a dramatic impact on the track program. During his first semester, Spring 2000, he turned in an epic performance in the OVC Indoor Championship that propelled the Blue Raiders to the title.

He continued to run well in the outdoor season that year, but he really blossomed during his first cross country season. He captured two individual championships

including the SBC title. He continued to run well in the indoor season and turned up huge again during the outdoor meet by winning the 5,000 and 10,000 meters, helping the Blue Raiders take the outdoor crown and sealing the Vic Bubas Cup for Middle Tennessee.

However, Lagat doesn't necessarily know what his life's road holds in store for him quite yet.

He is majoring in computer information systems and hasn't decided if he will return to Kenya upon graduation or if he will pursue a life in the United States.

One thing he is sure of is that he would like to continue to run after his collegiate career ends.

"I would love to run professionally. The Olympics are also a goal, too. I just hope that I can get a chance to keep running because I love it." ♦

2001 Middle Tennessee Cross Country Schedule

Date	Meet	Location	Time
Aug. 31	Belmont University	Nashville, Tenn.	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Western Kentucky Invitational	Bowling Green, Ky.	10 a.m.
Sept. 22	Vanderbilt Invitational	Nashville, Tenn.	9:15 a.m.
Oct. 6	UAB Invitational	Birmingham, Ala.	10 a.m.
Oct. 13	Austin Peay Invitational	Clarksville, Tenn.	10 a.m.
Oct. 27	Sun Belt Championships	Bowling Green, Ky.	10 a.m.



7 Day SportsCast

THURSDAY

Football

Blue Raiders at Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn., 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Volleyball

UNC Charlotte Tournament
Charlotte, N.C., all day

Soccer

Southern Mississippi Tournament
Hattiesburg, MS, 5 p.m.

Cross-Country

Belmont Invitational
Nashville, TN, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Volleyball

UNC Charlotte Tournament
Charlotte, N.C., all day

SUNDAY

Soccer

Southern Mississippi Tournament
Hattiesburg, Miss., 1 p.m.

TUESDAY

Volleyball

Lady Raiders at UAB
Birmingham, Ala., 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Soccer

Lady Raiders at UT Martin
Martin, Tenn., 4 p.m.



Andy McCollum

MT upset could shake up Vandy's world

Notebook from the sidelines

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Reporter

Vanderbilt is accustomed to taking a beating in the South Easter Conference, but they could really feel the sting if smacked by the predicted bullies of the Sun Belt Conference.

MTSU has the muscle to administer the beating with All-American candidates Dwone Hicks and Kendall Newson, the question is, will there be heavy lightning strikes in Dudley Field Thursday night? If so, MTSU can give a little payback to the mighty SEC, and knock some dust off what could be a great rivalry.

Big D:

No, Vanderbilt's offense will never be mistaken for the Gators or the Bulldogs, but these SEC teams went for 530 and 457 offensive yards against the Raiders, piling up a total of 116 points. Can the defensive line, anchored by Tanaka Scott, contain the Commodores for an MTSU

offense that was ranked 16th nationally last season? The move to a 4-3 defensive package should help keep the Commodore attack from seeing daylight.

The Blue Collar Workers:

An inexperienced offensive line will have to handle a revered Vanderbilt defense if MTSU is to unleash their offensive arsenal. The Raiders are brimming with talented running backs, but Brandon Westbrook, a freshman All-American last season, is one of the few linemen to have serious time in the trenches for them. Junior college acquisitions should provide experience.

All-American Watch:

When Dwone Hicks receives 20 opportunities to carry the ball the Raiders are 4-0. All-American candidate Kendall Newson and Tyrone Calico should offer a potent 'pick your poison' duo at wide receiver to help keep the Commodore defense busy. ♦

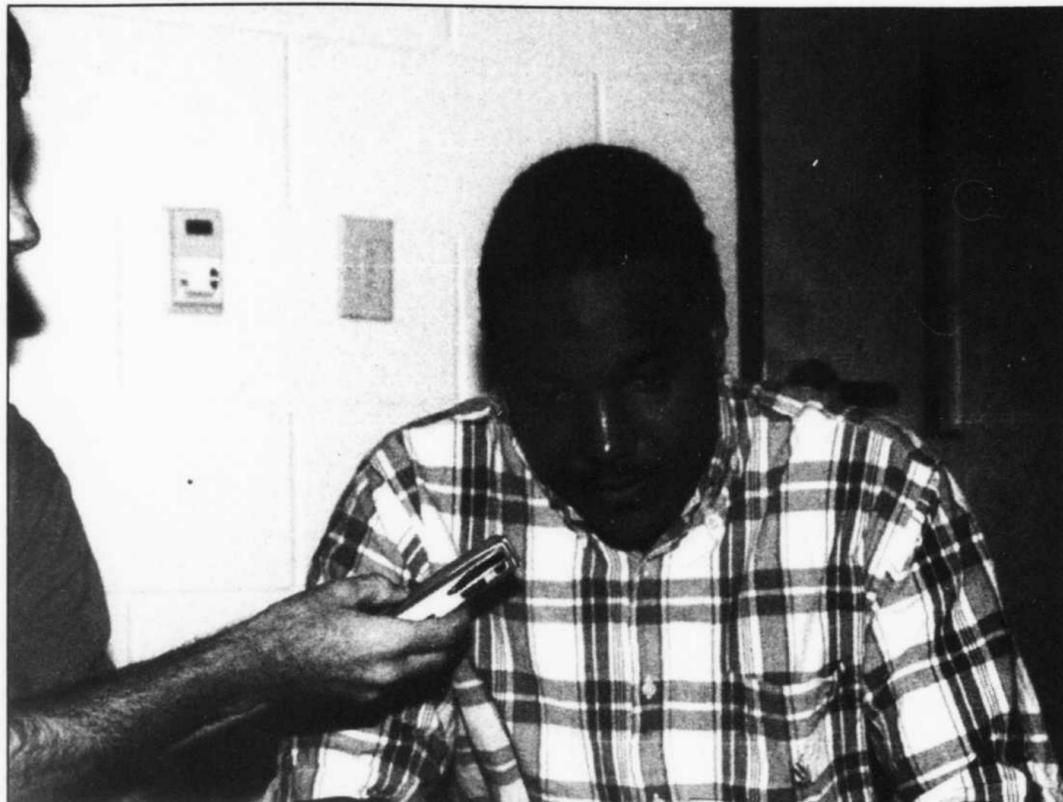


Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Senior defensive back Jykine Bradley answers questions at the first press conference of the 2001 season Monday. Bradley looks to anchor a much improved defense that will face a pass-happy offense in Vandy Thursday night.

SAAC: Athletes involved

Continued from 7

SAAC has brought back letter jackets for student athletes, and for the past two years, the athletic department has

sponsored a semi-formal for the athletes. The council also picks out events and activities for student athletes to become involved in through the Life Skills program.

"It's very difficult (for student athletes) to get involved," Counts said. "We have kids that want to, but due to practice or work out schedules, sometimes it isn't possible."

"Sometimes they're (student athletes) at a disadvantage," Counts said, "but they love what they do. And the

ones that don't," she added, "get out."

Counts feels sympathy for student athletes. "I think it's hard," she said regarding the task of student athletes balancing academics and sports. And that is where the SAAC and caring administrators like Wynnifred Counts come in.

"For the past three years, the big push by the SAAC has been to promote unity in the Middle Tennessee athletic community and encourage athletes to come to games and support other athletes," Counts said. "We don't want this council to be something just on paper." ♦

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Blue Raider fans are doing their part

More than 8,000
tickets sold



Photo provided
Blue Raider fans wait in line for Vandy -- Middle Tennessee tickets the first day they went on sale.

Middle buying their share of tickets

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider football team is finally receiving some support.

Vanderbilt-MTSU has fans and ready for kickoff.

According to Mark Owens, MTSU media relations director, 7,000 tickets had been sold as of Monday. Group ticket sales have gone through Vanderbilt's ticket office and Middle has sold 500 tickets through them. Owens says counting those tickets along with the complimentary ones, gives the Blue Raiders 8,000 fans at the game.

"According to our ticket office, it's the most we've ever done for a road game," Owens told the *Daily News Journal*.

Head coach Andy McCollum is advising fans to come early to the season opening game in Nashville. McCollum says he would like the fans to be in the stands wearing royal blue at 6 p.m. when warm-ups begin.

Even with the impressive Blue Raider ticket sales, officials at Vanderbilt say they are hoping for 30,000 people in a 41,600 seat-stadium. Marty McGinty, ticket manager at Vanderbilt expects a crowd of 31,000 or so. A large majority of that 31,000 will be a walk-up

crowd.

Vanderbilt coach Woody Widenhofer said in a Monday press conference that he expects 40,000 fans for the game.

The problem in ticket sales lies with Vanderbilt according to David Climer, sports columnist for *The Tennessean*.

"Vanderbilt people have dwindled to about 20,000 hardcore fans who attend games, and that includes students," McGinty said in Climer's column. "That number has stayed fairly constant for the last four years or so."

The Commodores are giving up one in four seats to the Blue Raiders. Still McGinty says Blue

Raider fans can get more tickets.

"The idea is to sell as many tickets as possible," he said in Climer's column. "If they call and request more tickets, we'll accommodate them."

The turnout for the game could affect whether or not the two teams will play again next season.

"If the crowd is disappointing we will be less inclined to play them again," Vanderbilt Athletic Director Todd Turner said in a *The Tennessean* article.

Thursday's game will kickoff at 7 p.m. MTSU is scheduled to play Vandy again Oct. 12, 2002. ♦

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