

**LOCAL FORECAST**

**Friday**  
  
 HI: 63°  
 LO: 46°

**Saturday**  
  
 HI: 59°  
 LO: 39°



**MT, ULL set for showdown**

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**Four nights of fright**



see Exposure

inside

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

Vol. 82 No. 23

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Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006

Editorially independent

## Green aims for governor

### Green Party candidate wants across-the-board health care

By Geoff Brashear  
 Staff Writer

The Green Party candidate for governor spoke to students Wednesday, campaigning for the Green Party and its ideology, especially universal health care.

As a self-admitted unorthodox candidate for governor, Howard Switzer said he is barefoot on the campaign trail, in reference to his budget compared to the mainstream democratic and republican candidates.

"My number one plank is health care and health care for everyone," Switzer said.

He emphasized this point by singing to the audience as they entered the room.

"Throw the bankers out and give health care for free," he sung.

During the "Reagan Revolution," Former President Ronald Reagan's policies helped the top 1 percent and did nothing for those at the bottom end, Switzer said.

"The single-payer system is the fix," he said.

In reference to the use of pesticides and other chemicals in crops, Switzer said, "There is a market that is making people sick and the health care industry benefits from it."

On the environment, Switzer

said he would like to see wind-mills built instead of coal power plants because they employ more people.

"We have a lot to do, [and] if we had a sustainable economy, we'd have a lot of jobs," Switzer said.

Switzer said he got into politics when he was asked to run as the Green Party candidate by TennCare activists who were not pleased with the administration or its current direction.

"I was asked to run because they wanted to have someone in office that they could depend on," Switzer said.

"I wasn't really ready, but I've always made a study of politics for 20 years through reading and writing," Switzer said, "I suppose that I had a little bit of name recognition from my arti-

cles in the Tennessean."

As far as education is concerned, Switzer said he favors turning schools into learning communities. This would mean breaking the classes into one-room schoolhouses where all grades are in one classroom.

Switzer said he would like to get rid of the segregation of ages between grades and economic separation of students in schools.

The older students would teacher the younger students and eventually the younger ones would challenge the older students as they learn more, Switzer said.

"There are more administrators than teachers and we

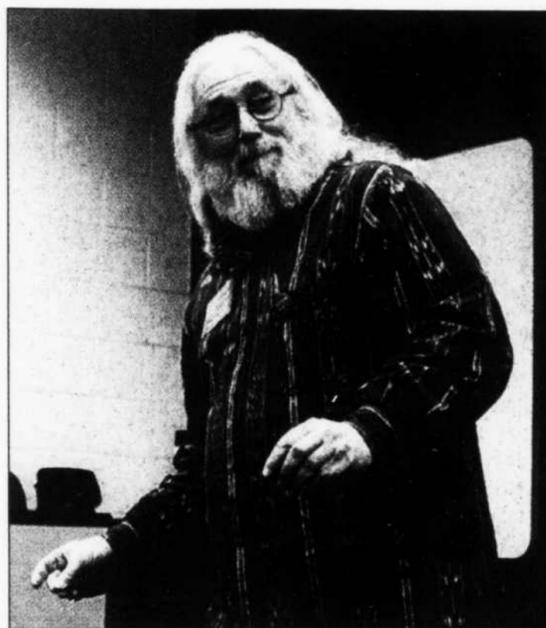


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
 Howard Switzer, the Green Party Candidate for governor, speaks to students Wednesday night. The main issue in Switzer's platform is universal health care.

See Green Party, 2

## Are your textbooks safe from thieves?

### Textbook Brokers caught book their with surveillance and police assistance

By Noel Rodriguez-Pak and Wesley Murchison  
 Staff Writer and Campus Admin.

Four cases of textbook theft at the James E. Walker Library have occurred this semester, with two of the incidents being attributed to suspect William C. Lewis of Murfreesboro.

Lewis was identified through surveillance and records when he attempted to sell a book to Textbook Brokers. His name and picture was then forwarded to the Walker Library.

Lewis was identified on the Walker Library premises Oct. 6, and he was approached, confronted and asked to make a statement at the MTSU Police department. He made a statement indicating his involvement in both thefts. His bond has been set at \$4,000 and has a pending court date set for Nov. 13.

According to Lt. Jim Fanguy of the MTSU Police Department, these types of theft, like the ones committed in the library, typically occur at the beginning of the semester and the end.

Whenever an arrest is made like the one involving Lewis, somebody else takes his or her place, Fanguy said. Usually, these robberies happen because of simple neglect of personal items and can be avoided.

The total cost of textbooks reported stolen at the library this semester is approximately \$439, with \$209 of that from the books connected with Lewis.

Of course this raised the concern of stolen text-

books being sold back to bookstores.

MTSU Phillips Bookstore, the only officially sanctioned textbook provider for the university, keeps a list of stolen books to watch out for when buying back books from students.

"Books are flagged when we get notification from the Campus Police or Judicial Affairs," said Jeff Whitwell, textbook manager for Phillips Bookstore. "On average we catch three to four people trying to sell back stolen books, but they are typically towards the end of the semester."

Phillips bookstore has in place several procedures and policies to make sure that the books they purchase back from students are not stolen in case the book has not been registered with police.

"We do our best to prevent this by requiring students to show their identification cards and write their name on the inside cover of the book when they are trying to sell it back to us," Whitwell said. "The problem is that there is only a two to three minute time lapse between the time of the theft and the time it takes for a student to sell the book to us."

Whitwell said what makes it difficult is it is hard to prove a textbook is stolen property "unless there are distinguishing marks."

Other than Phillips Bookstore, there are only two other stores in town that purchased used textbooks back from students. Blue Raider Bookstore and Textbook Brokers also cross-reference the books they purchase back from students with a list from the MTSU Police Department.

According to Manager Robert Batcheller of Textbook Brokers, surveillance cameras and collaboration with police has resulted in the arrest of three individuals for textbook theft.

Lewis was also given a trespassing citation and is not permitted on campus.



Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director  
 Freshman Jonathan Joy pushes around a wheelchair in an attempt to raise money for PUSH America, a philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi which gives aid to people with disabilities.

## Fraternity raises disability awareness with wheel chair

By Christin People  
 Staff Writer

Pi Kappa Phi, a social fraternity, spent Wednesday raising money for its philanthropy, PUSH America, by selling hot dogs on the Keathley University Center knoll and pushing around a wheelchair for 24 hours straight.

"So many people in the United States have a disability," said Michael Binkley, senior graphic design major and member of the fraternity. "Not every one of them is visible either, so it's on a larger scale than people realize. It's really a large percentage of the population. So people need to realize that donating any money at all will help."

PUSH is an organization founded by the national branch of the fraternity and is used to aid and raise money for the severely disabled.

"Since we own it within our fraternity, we give all of the money to the organization," Brandon Pernell said. "We are doing this to raise awareness among the students here, and it gets us out there to learn about it ourselves."

The members of the fraternity pushed wheelchairs around campus for 24 hours, starting at midnight Wednesday with donation buckets. They also have an annual hot dog sale Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Every member participates and each does so many hours," Pernell said. "Also, people not involved in the fraternity and disabled students often times come out and help too."

According to Pernell, the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity chapter at MTSU has raised around \$500 per semester since their founding three years ago.

"I am proud to be doing my part for disabled people around the country," said Erik Green, a junior recording industry major.

Money raised for PUSH will fund various projects organized by the fraternity to aid people in the local community with disabilities.

"The organization builds things like ramps for handicapped people who can't afford it," said Zackary Styke, junior and a member of Pi Kappa Phi. "It makes me feel good to participate."

The Pi Kappa Phi members will be on the Knoll selling hot dogs and beverages for donations on Thursday.

"If you see us out there, just stop by. I know a lot of college students don't have the money to donate all the time, but even just stopping by helps. We don't just raise the money, we raise the awareness," Pernell said.

## "It's Love, Isn't it?"

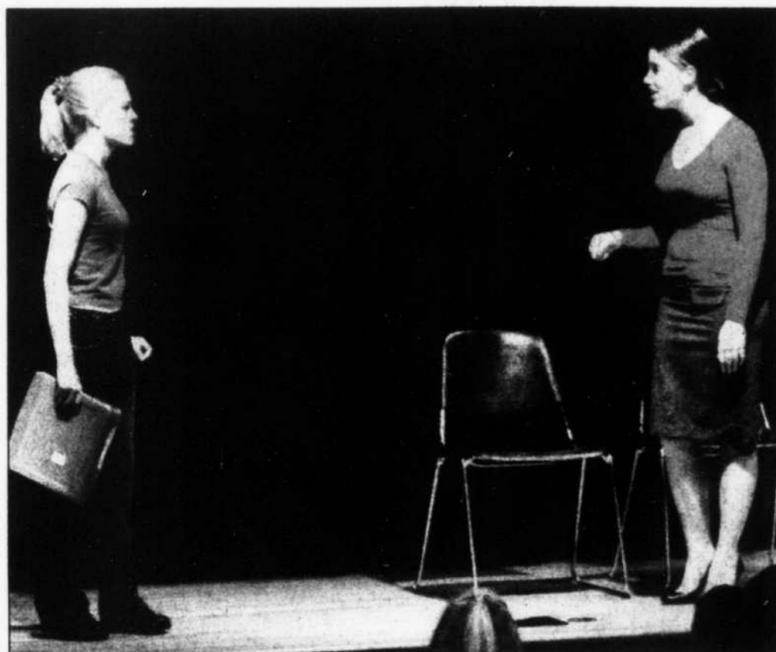


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director  
 Amanda Shelby, left, and Jana Robinson, right, starred in "It's Love, Isn't it?" Wednesday afternoon in the KUC Theater. The play is about a girl who gets into an abusive relationship, and the presentation was followed by a question and answer session about abuse prevention and awareness.

# Local bands sing against drug use

By Josh Hudson  
Staff Writer

MTSU and local high school students will bring awareness to substance abuse in November.

We hope to promote young musicians around Murfreesboro while helping raise drug awareness in the area," Katelin Leedham, an organizer for the event, said.

The concert is being sponsored by the Recreation and Leisure Studies program, which is now accepting entries for the "Reck Out 2006 Battle of the Bands." Deadline to register for the event is Friday, Oct. 27.

The theme of the battle is "Rock Don't Roll" and it is being held in association with the department of Recording Industry and the Community Anti-Drug Commission of Murfreesboro, a local organization dedicated to reducing substance abuse, violence and crime in the Murfreesboro area.

Kris Delene, program coordinator for CADCOM, said, "We are strengthening collaboration among communities, private non-profit agencies and federal, state and local governments to support the efforts of the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of Murfreesboro in order to develop a comprehensive, multi-sector, research-driven plan for preventing and reducing drug abuse among youth."

The concert will feature local college and high school talent from many genres, competing for the grand prize of eight hours recording time and four hours mixing time in the recording industry studio on MTSU.

Bands will be judged by Nathan Adam, RIM associate chair, and Bill Crabtree, assistant professor. Judging will be based on nine sets of criteria, including performance quality, style, originality, professionalism, commercial potential, appearance, instrumentation, vocal ability and overall entertainment value.

CADCOM works to eliminate

drugs in public housing areas, as well as interacting with youth to prevent substance abuse, Delene said.

Formed in 1990 as the Drug Elimination Task Force in association with the Murfreesboro Police Department, the organization adopted their current name in April 2002 when they aligned themselves with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America and formalized their committee.

Since its formation, CADCOM has successfully eliminated drug abuse in two federal public-housing areas and has received many awards and grants from national organizations such as the International City Management Association, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Interagency Council and the National Association of Town Watch, Delene said.

Recent statistics show that the younger a child is exposed to drugs or alcohol, even a small sip from a beer or drag off a cigarette, the more likely they are to abuse substances in the future," Delene said. "Right now, the average age is 13 for abuse to begin."

CADCOM is currently involved in other programs such as Second Step, a program that teaches empathy and anger management to preschool through sixth graders, and Reconnecting Youth, a program designed for high school students who are faced with legal troubles.

"Right now, the likeliest time for kids to get in trouble is between 3 and 6 p.m., between school and dinner time," Delene said. "We would like to get kids in after school programs to avoid that problem."

One of those programs is a hip hop dance class for students of elementary through high school levels. According to Delene, CADCOM hopes the students will make their debut at this year's Battle of the Bands.

The concert will be 6 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Patterson Park Community Theater and is free to the public.

# Faces in the Crowd



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

Liz Demetrious, senior nursing major, was relaxing in the Cyber Café Wednesday night with friends in between scheduled meetings.

1. What is your favorite food at Cyber?

It would definitely be Subway because it offers healthy choices.

2. Do you think there aren't enough healthy choices offered on campus?

I think there are enough healthy choices; they are just not as easily accessible. For example, I was talking to some freshmen in McCallie and they said they would like to get healthier food, but there is always a line for it, so it's just easier to grab some pizza.

3. Do you think anyone actually uses the computers in Cyber?

I've never used them, but I'm sure they have saved someone a lot of trouble at one time or another. But really, I don't think they are necessary.

4. Is Cyber a good place to come "after hours," after places like McCallie and the KUC close?

Absolutely. I've sure been very thankful that it's been open this late. It is really convenient, although I don't always frequent it.

5. So what are you doing here tonight?

I'm hanging out here because we just got done with our Phi Sigma Pi honors fraternity meeting early and we are waiting to start working on a fundraiser later tonight.

Compiled by: Andy Harper, Campus Life Editor

## Green Party: Gubernatorial candidate pushes universal health care

Continued from 1

should have more administrators be teachers because students and teachers can administrate themselves," Switzer said.

Critical of textbooks versus regularly published books, Switzer said, "Textbooks are designed to spin what's in books."

Switzer spoke to students about the history of education and what it means to students today, citing legislation in 1915 that required mandatory education of children.

The legislation came from big industrialists, who stood to benefit from children being educated to their standards of being obedient consumers and soldiers to serve the industrial machine, Switzer said.

Regarding the origins of the economy, Switzer said private banks received the power to control the monetary process entirely in 1913, and this became the Federal Reserve System. He said this then created a big disconnect between the monetary policy and the government.

The Green Party's lack of success as a political party is attributed to conditioning for republican or democratic parties who have wealth and power and majority hold over most Americans, Switzer said.

"I'm part of the Green Party because the Green Party needs to be built. There are two dysfunctional parties, we need a third party to intervene," Switzer said. "We need to organize politically, we need a multi-party democracy, we need system party equality."

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# Women's math scores affected by stereotype, study finds

By Dana Owens  
Community News Editor

Women can no longer use the excuse of a genetic inability to perform well in math when they do poorly on an exam. A study from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, found that women are adversely affected by the stereotype that men are naturally better at mathematics than women.

"I think women who [believe the stereotype] feel they can't live up to expectations," said Jennifer Patterson, a sophomore of interior design. "They accept that men are going to be better."

Patterson, who does well in her math courses, said she thinks women are affected by stereotypes everyday, and not just in math. Therefore, she said it is not fair to use the claim as an excuse for not trying to do well.

"Women need to realize it's just a rumor ... and pay more attention to do a better job in their studies," she said.

Terrance Quinn, the department chair of mathematics at MTSU, said he believes stereotypes have a damaging affect on anyone. He said any time a child is told they cannot do something, they often will not. Though he said nowadays, people tend to follow their

interests more than social norms.

"Stereotype is one instance of what's called in the culture, of the ethos," Quinn said, adding that a woman's desire, or lack thereof, to go into a math field may be based upon what she is encouraged to do by her community.

Quinn cited instances in which promising female students have left their studies to start a family.

"Some of the most brilliant mathematicians I have known have been women," Quinn said.

Jessica Hall, a senior in interdisciplinary studies, said she also feels the stereotype is unfounded.

"I don't think it has anything to do with gender," she said. "I've always been really good at math."

The 100 women who participated in the study first read essays that either argued women are genetically handicapped when compared to men in mathematics or that there is no math-related gender difference. The women were then given a "Graduate Record Exam-like" test (similar to a Major Field Test) and scored.

The tests showed that women who had been exposed to the essays that claimed the genetic difference was merely a stereotype significantly out-

performed those who had read essays claiming otherwise.

In the research published Oct. 20 in Science, researchers Ilan Dar-Nimrod and Steven J. Heine said that a woman's math performance can be hampered when women are presented with the evidence proving the stereotype.

"These findings raise discomfiting questions regarding the effects that scientific theories can have on those who learn about them and the obligation that scientists have to be mindful of how their work is interpreted," the researchers said in the article.

# Texas A&M develops homeland security degree

By Stuart Womack  
U-Wire

Modern technology and an ideology that opposes the United States make investment in a homeland security degree plan a relevant and timely effort, said Dave McIntyre, director of Texas A&M's Integrative Center for Homeland Security.

McIntyre is part of the Faculty Interest Group for Homeland Security, which planned Monday for developing a Master's Degree program in homeland security at A&M.

"We have entered an era where our primary challenge in homeland security is the advancement of technology that has allowed terrorists to possess big weapons and the ability to make a big impact," said McIntyre, director of the homeland security program at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

McIntyre said A&M has a number of courses relevant to homeland security and some areas offer certificates related to such a program, but none of these divisions offer a degree plan at this point.

A&M has the resources and the opportunity to offer a much broader and more complete program than we currently make available," he said. "What I see is an undefined subject matter that has the ability to prosper under student interest, faculty participation and financial support."

McIntyre said interested students would suggest a degree plan requiring 30 to 36 hours, with a core curriculum consisting of three to four courses and possibly a thesis.

The degree plan is wide open for electives as long as they are academically rigorous, applicable to the program and attractive to students," he said.

McIntyre said the University

must first establish interdisciplinary faculty, followed by the establishment of a Master's-of-Science-level program and curriculum before the plan can be submitted to the State Coordinating Board for approval.

At this point in the planning process, we (the University) must proceed with maximum possible openness to opinion, discussion and ideas from faculty and students," he said.

McIntyre said the key to developing the program would be to establish a faculty charter to define the composition of the interdisciplinary faculty, as well as a steering committee that will help draft initiatives that will go to the faculty for review.

Funding and resources for establishing the program could be a critical issue," McIntyre said. "I'm interested in seeing what kind of enthusiasm the University can draw from the students before settling on a tar-

geted timeline for establishing this program."

He said the discipline of homeland security is not formed as a viable field of study at any university in the country.

There are about 130 universities in the United States that offer some sort of degree or certificate in homeland security, and over 100 schools additionally have announced some intent to offer the same," McIntyre said. "These degrees typically only address one aspect of a much broader issue."

Bill Hitchcock, a distance-learning professor of critical infrastructure protection at Bush School, said universities within jointly to establish the degree program.

It is important for our university (University of Alabama-Birmingham) to work closely with A&M," Hitchcock said. "In this kind of interdisciplinary degree it is beneficial for students and professors around the country to interact with each other to find solutions and build a body of knowledge to develop this increasingly important educational opportunity."

# Investigation found sex offenders on MySpace

By Eric Florip  
U-Wire

That new random friend you met on MySpace might not be who he or she says it is.

A investigation has found that registered sexual predators are visibly present on the popular social networking Web site.

Wired News entered the names of almost 400,000 registered sex offenders into a code search of MySpace.com's more than 120 million profiles, and found that more than 700 of them are also registered users of the social networking site.

The investigation, which searched for the names of sex offenders in 46 states, confirmed this month that at least 744 currently have MySpace profiles after analyzing only a third of its data. And many of those, the report also states, are still actively pursuing victims.

Many students are aware of the presence of online predators on MySpace, and say they are usually careful to watch what they put on their profiles and who they interact with on the Web site.

University of Oregon junior Aubrey Cambra said she gets about one to two friend requests or messages every day from random people she doesn't know.

"I've found some really sexual ones," Cambra said, adding that she also gets messages from strangers asking for her name, e-mail address or phone number.

When users first register for a MySpace account, the information posted in their profiles is visible to any of the 120 million-plus current users on the Web site. This summer, however, MySpace gave users the option of changing the settings so that their profiles are only visible to their friends on the network.

There are also inherent limitations on young people's profiles. Anyone under the age of 14 must have a limited profile that only friends can view.

Cambra said some of her college friends that use MySpace have registered themselves as young teens in the past to prevent strangers from being able

to look at their profiles before the recent privacy changes took effect.

University junior Sara Parker said she has been careful with friend requests since she began using the Web site as a freshman.

"I don't accept people I don't know for my own safety," she said.

The Eugene, Ore., Police Department has used MySpace as a resource for tracking down sexual predators, Sgt. Kathy Flynn said.

Though Flynn said EPD can't use online conversations with potential victims as direct evidence toward a conviction, it can use the interactions as a "tool" for gathering information about a suspect.

"If there's an indication that there's something out there, then certainly we're going to look at that as part of the investigation," Flynn said.

Flynn said each case is dealt with differently, and much more than contact made on the social networking is needed to prosecute through the District Attorney's office.

"Conversion on MySpace isn't going to be enough to establish that there was a crime," she said.

Flynn said EPD only began using MySpace as a tool for investigation within the last year.

"I think it's one of those cases where technology is ahead of the law," she said. "We're just starting to see it used and being useful."

Cambra and Parker both said they feel safer using Facebook, which has less than a tenth of the users MySpace does and is still mostly made up of college and high school students on separate networks.

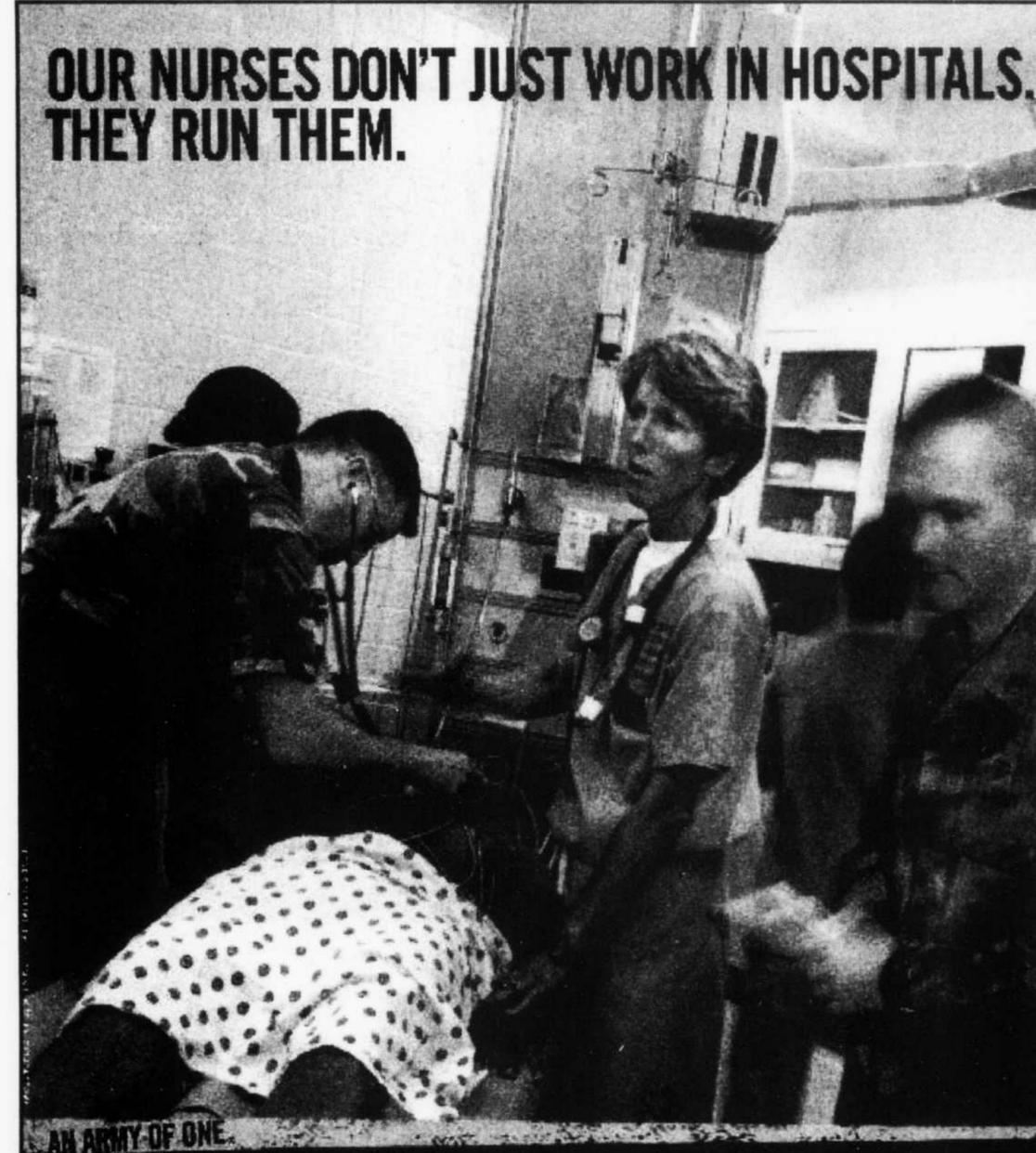
Anyone can register for MySpace, so long as they have an e-mail address.

"It's getting so big now," Cambra said. "Now you can get so much closer into someone's life than you ever could."

And though many of her male friends also get friend requests from people they don't know, she said, she still feels more at risk to online predators.

"It's more likely it will happen to a girl," Cambra said.

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# Scale-watching may help fitness, according to study

By Michelle Gilbert  
U-Wire

A recent study printed in Scientific American suggested the idea of stepping on the scale daily as a good strategy to maintain lost weight.

Participants consisted of 314 successful dieters placed into a control group and two other intervention groups. The study results found that women in the intervention groups who stepped on the scale every day were 82 percent less likely to regain lost weight.

Beverly Henry, assistant professor of nutrition, dietetics and hospitality administration at Northern Illinois University, said stepping on a scale every day may or may not help someone lose weight.

"Some people use it as a motivator," she said.

If someone does not see the results they want and they've been eating right and exercising, it can turn into a discourager, she said.

"You don't want people to worry about the number on the scale more than they worry about themselves," she said.

Individuals do not directly control their own weight, Henry said.

"We control if we eat a whole sandwich or a half sandwich, but you have to feel good about the choices you're making," she said.

There are other options and ways to help someone lose or maintain weight than stepping on a scale every day.

Ray Binkowski, from the fitness Web site fitworkz.com, does not recommend a daily weigh-in.

"It makes you fixated on the scale," Binkowski said. "The scale can fluctuate two to six pounds a week, and that can be for any number of reasons — dehydration [or] a large meal."

Different things can affect weight. People can gain weight that's fat or muscle, and they can also lose weight that's fat or muscle, Henry said.

"What works for everyone is gaining muscle," Binkowski said.

Metabolism doesn't slow down because of age. Binkowski said that when a person's metabolism slows down and they've lost muscle, it's because they haven't given their body a reason to keep it.

"People haven't kept doing the things they used to do to keep that muscle," he said.

# Discovered bacteria hint to origins of life

By Nathan Edgerton  
U-Wire

Two miles beneath Johannesburg, South Africa, rock temperature hovers around 150 degrees. At this depth — about 47 times the height of Fine Tower — humidity nears 100 percent. And in fracture zones — channels in the rock filled with water and methane gas — a team led by Princeton University geosciences professor T.C. Onstott has discovered a community of unique bacteria that thrives independently of the sun's energy.

After 10 years of research, the team published their findings in the Oct. 20 issue of the journal Science, in a paper titled "Long-Term Sustainability of a High-Energy, Low-Diversity Crustal Biome."

The discovery of bacteria that survive without sunlight raises questions about the origins of life on earth.

"There is a possibility that these bacteria came before oxygen-dependent life forms, but that hasn't been proven yet," Onstott said.

Scientists have long known about microbial communities that survive without direct

input from the sun, such as those found near deep-sea volcanic vents. These communities depend at least in part on nutrients that can be traced back to photosynthetic plants or bacteria, however.

The community that Onstott has been studying is the first found to be exclusively dependent on geologically produced sulfur and hydrogen.

Due to unexpectedly high levels of nutrient concentration, the subterranean environment could "support microbial life in isolation from earth's surface for millions of years," geosciences department chair Bess Ward said in an e-mail.

Onstott and his fellow researchers each took three- to four-week shifts exploring the South African underworld. While on site, Onstott said, they rose early in the morning and then descended two miles in metal cages along with 40 other workers.

Once at the bottom, they hiked for at least another hour through a vast network of tunnels before reaching a fracture zone. After the scientists had extracted samples and returned to the surface, site workers would blast further to extend the tunnel so the

researchers could explore the newly excavated tunnel the next morning.

In addition to its academic appeal, the research may prove to have practical benefits.

Mining is a principal means of income for South Africa and is the source of much contamination that seeps into the ground.

"It turns out that the bacteria's enzymes give them the ability to clean up some of this toxic waste in an efficient manner," Onstott observed. "We can transfer the genes that produce the enzymes to other bacteria that can easily reproduce in the environment, then introduce them and let them clean up the waste."

The discovery further raises the possibility of life on Mars, one of Onstott's personal areas of interest.

"You've got rocks, you've got radiation, water and gas. Everything is there to sustain life," he said. "They can make everything else they need."

"This clearly has implications for other extreme environments on earth, the pace of microbial evolution and the potential for extraterrestrial environments to harbor cryptic life," Ward said.

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Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board Universal health care may well be pipe dream for Green Party candidate

Mr. Howard Switzer's visit to MTSU was a nice break from the typical bipartisan bickering that occurs during election time, especially considering that issues of a society as complex as the United States can't be solved by a dichotomous debate. But who knew that the Green Party – with its environmentally friendly policy – is really just advocating good ol' fashioned socialism?

Switzer, Green Party candidate for Tennessee governor, is selling his candidacy on the issue of health care for everyone. Now, a little health care policy history recap: Past presidents who have tried to implement universal health care and failed include Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

An article rewritten by Malcolm Gladwell in a September issue of "The New Yorker" mentions that there were six attempts in the 20th century alone to implement a universal health care system, and all of them failed. The reason is because the United States economy (capitalism) is extremely pro-business and anti-labor.

Gladwell points out that European pro-labor unions have been able to appeal to a larger audience for the benefits of health care while unions in the United States are only able to negotiate benefits for members.

So fast-track to today where labor union powers are continuing to erode as American jobs are being outsourced in the movement for a global economy. What does all this mean? Simple: For universal health care to work in the United States, the corporations that are headquartered in New York (or in Panama with a monkey answering the phone for tax purposes) would have to lie down.

As long as we maintain a neo-liberal economic model, universal health care is a pipe dream. Health care companies will lobby Congress with billions of dollars and make any such legislation disappear.

## GOP must learn to be more partisan

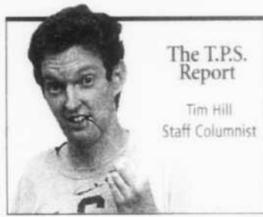
On Oct. 15, I contributed 50 dollars to the official Scooter Libby Defense Trust. I did this because I believe that it's impossible to know what the truth is when the only witnesses against Libby are Beltway journalists and lawyers. It will not take a mad rush to find people who feel differently.

Some people might wonder why I don't trust the justice system to run its course. If Libby is innocent, should I trust the courts of Washington, D.C.? The jury pools are made of up drivers, which in turn happen to be voters, who themselves went 90 percent for Al Gore and 88 percent for John Kerry. The best jury that Libby and any other conservative who goes on trial will get is a jury of 12 bitter men or women who cling to Democratic values.

This isn't to say that Republicans never commit crimes. Libby, who was Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, is not charged with outing a Central Intelligence Agency operative. According to journalist Bob Woodward – who is one of those witnesses – "All Libby did was cover up non-crimes." There's nothing wrong with revealing what a power-broker couple in Washington does for a living. Libby's indictment on five charges also pales when compared to former President Bill Clinton's National Security Agency guy Sandy Berger's original indictment on 10 charges for stuffing classified documents into his pants. However, that wasn't the first time the Clinton administration had to deal with issues involving zippers.

The investigation shows what has happened to the Republicans that have been in power for 12 years now. When one of their own gets caught doing things that ought not be done with male pages, the leadership ignores precedent. Speaker Dennis Hastert should have said, "I am not calling for Mark Foley to resign. He shouldn't have to. Former Democratic Rep. Gerry Studds didn't, and he was re-elected numerous times after having sex with a 17-year-old male page. Foley didn't even get to first base with his pages. He just wanted to be in the locker-room." Anything less would be a double standard.

We are now seeing what happens when the top dog in the U.S. House brags about reaching out to Nancy Pelosi for a solution to



The T.P.S. Report  
Tim Hill  
Staff Columnist

this Foley scandal. This is the same woman who told CBS that "making [President George W. Bush] a lame duck would be enough for me." Some conservatives would say he already is, but that misses the point.

When conservatives reach out to their enemies, Republicans throw each other off of ballots, testify against one another in front of grand juries, fire each other over minute connections to lobbyists and give the left's base an overdose of political speed. When liberals reach out to conservatives, Democrats align themselves with Bush in close elections, filibuster the Hispanic judicial nominee they promised not to and get labeled as the party's new rockstar after delivering a hypocritical convention speech.

It is not illegal to hold to conservative beliefs in government, but the Republican Party has made it seem that way. Commentators can't endorse conservative presidential education programs through a company they own, or risk going to jail. In the Libby case, chiefs of staff are not allowed to talk about people in Washington, D.C. – or to the press. On the campaign trail, Republicans can't run creative ads or else risk being distanced by the people in Washington. Senate candidates also cannot resort to name-calling, even though that is the core of politics.

If the GOP wants to win next month, they have to play the best game of catch-up they've ever tried. The mainstream media wants them out, and that's not in a Mark Foley sense of the word, either. My friend Doug said, "There should be one high standard that we hold against Democrats and Republicans alike." I see his point, but that attitude will not increase the GOP's seats in the House and Senate. It won't get us anywhere, and Congress doesn't do things or go places that are unfamiliar to them.

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major and can be reached best at [governorhill@gmail.com](mailto:governorhill@gmail.com).



"And Friends" Frank Hasenmueller

## Marriage amendment waste of time

The proposed amendment to ban gay marriage in Tennessee is a colossal waste of time, money and effort. Every time I turn on the news, I am sickened by just how much actual progress this is costing us.

Battle-weary Republicans, afraid of losing ground in the upcoming election, are forced to rally their base, by dragging out the old "wedge issues." The gay marriage referendum is nothing more than a carrot on a stick, designed to drag conservative Evangelical Christians, their largest voting block, to the polls.

I'll explain why this is such a colossal waste. Evangelicals, you're being used, plain and simple. There's nothing you hate worse than a homosexual, and the mere idea of two of them, with wedding bands, makes your blood boil. It's become apparent that Mayberry is under attack, from the "evil" gays and lesbians, and the only way you can save the world is to amend them into submission.

The truth is, your legislators, even the ones who propose these amendments, know that they're a sham. If the Republicans didn't keep their "Contract with America" in the 12 years from 1994 to 2006, what makes you think they'll start trying now? They got your votes; that's all they wanted.

Since neither the United States nor the Tennessee constitutions were designed to regulate social conditions, they contain no language regarding marriage, civil unions or other such things. If it were ever brought to a



Tenacious E  
Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

test, it is far more likely that gays and lesbians would gain the right to marry, since the Constitution's "default setting" is to not micro-manage people's lives.

On the other side of the political spectrum, liberals and civil libertarians are aware of this. However, since the opposing side is shouting, and loud, they feel they must do the same. The opponents of such a ban feel that it is illegal to regulate people's private lives in this manner, and loudly defend their argument against the pro-ban camp.

Thus, we are left with a situation akin to trench warfare in World War I. Both sides are well dug in, and ready for a long slugfest. They pummel each other with deafening rhetoric, annoying cardboard signs and old white men speaking in churches, but neither side really gains any ground.

The rest of the population is in the scary middle ground known as "no man's land".

The end result is that neither side can really win. If the ban is passed, it will certainly be challenged in court as unconstitutional. It

probably is, but we won't know until we get a chance to count the bodies on the field, and re-evaluate our collective position.

With such a no-win situation, it's easy to see why everyone's time and effort is being wasted. Our politicians, instead of crafting important legislation, or trying to control the quagmire in Iraq, are railing about gay marriage, because everyone knows there's nothing more important than that.

It's not like our schools are lagging, or our finances are dismal, our borders leaky or that a guy named Osama is on the loose, trying to get us. Oh, wait, yes it is.

Thank God that our politicians and citizens are debating the real issue – whether or not gay people can get married.

That's the most ridiculous aspect of this whole debacle. Don't we have bigger fish to fry? Regardless of your opinion on gay marriage, there's still a war, North Korea still has nukes and thousands of people are still being slaughtered in the Darfur. It's OK, though, because the good people of the United States are working overtime to make sure those pesky gays can't get married.

Get real, people. Spend your time tutoring underprivileged students, collecting food for sub-Saharan Africa or practicing the piano. Anything would be a better use of your time.

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at [ehb2d@mtsu.edu](mailto:ehb2d@mtsu.edu).

## Child molestation hidden part of culture

What an angel Charles Roberts is. In the recent Amish School shooting, he refrained from molesting his victims – his original plan – and chose to spare them with murder.

"The man that did this thing is not the Charles I was married to for nearly 10 years," his wife said in a statement in *The New York Times*. I find this hard to understand, seeing as how Roberts had a cache of weapons and supplies, a 9-millimeter semiautomatic pistol, two shotguns, a stungun, two knives, two cans of gunpowder and 600 rounds of ammunition.

She must have thought it was for his next hunting trip.

What is happening? Within the past month, three white males have made the issue of child abuse a newfound hot topic. After two school shootings targeting young girls and a few "naughty" instant messages from a congressman, the child abuse movement is affecting a significant, albeit dispiriting, heightening of my awareness.



Kvetch A Break  
Sarah Lavery  
Staff Columnist

This is not the stuff of urban legends – this is our new reality.

Roberts was a husband and seemingly devoted father attempting to relive the molestation of two relatives 20 years ago. The family's pastor confirms Mrs. Roberts's affirmation that Charles, the murderer, was not the same Charles who was a respected member of the community. "There is evil in the world, and sometimes we find ourselves embroiled in it," the pastor told CNN. He confidently added that he has already forgiven Roberts.

I'm not a member of his church, but I definitely haven't. If child molesters dress in business-suits – wives in hand and pushing strollers – can we prevent

this horror, or is it something we must simply endure?

In modern America, child abuse is both taboo and a topic often brushed over. As a balanced person who grew up without violence or sexual abuse, the question of what could make people commit such unspeakable crimes is hard to grasp.

However, the statistics argue my psyche. A study conducted by the University of South Florida reports that 52 percent of women and 66 percent of men recall sexual molestation during childhood and that female children are three times more likely to be raped than adults. While the news is only lightly seasoned with stories of ghastly child-abuse crimes, it isn't much of a shock.

It's hard to think of a solution to such a disgusting problem. Robert's wife and neighbors agree that he was a loving father and balanced human being – and when you have the world fooled, it's tricky to uncover your perver-

sions. The results of the Abel and Harlow Child Molestation Prevention Study reveal that 77 percent of the more than 4000 admitted child sexual abusers are married, 93 percent are religious, 46 percent had some college education and 79 percent are Caucasians. Just like Roberts, they are American poster-boys.

Every time I turn on the news, I feel sick. The chairman of the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children will now be tried for sexually exploiting a minor. Roberts lost her beloved, perverted husband and, within the past few weeks, six girls have been killed and one Washington page deeply disturbed for the sake of a few men's sick fantasies. And these cases are merely a glimmer of reality.

What a beautiful world.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at [sl2s@mtsu.edu](mailto:sl2s@mtsu.edu).

## Letters to the Editor

### Ads can misrepresent legislator's record

To the Editor:  
Congratulations to Matt Hurtt on an excellent column on Oct. 23. ["Negative ads mislead; make informed choices."] Incidentally, Hurtt deserves respect for entitling his column "Hurtt Pride;" it is surprising how many lack the maturity to chuckle at their own names.  
On the matter of accusing opponents of voting for or against a particular bill, there are often several bills presented on the same subject, and some versions may have an objectionable section – or amendment – that prompts a legislator to vote against an otherwise good bill, or a highly desirable provision that makes an otherwise unattractive bill worth voting for. So "She voted for (blank)" or "He voted against (blank)" may grossly misrepresent that legislator's record, when the public is not informed of the whole truth, which of course will not be included in the attack ad.

Bret Hooper  
Class of 1979, 1984 and Special Graduate Student

### On the importance of a good education

To the editor:  
I just want to respond to the comments made by history professor Louis Haas regarding grammar errors and misspellings in the student newspaper.  
I am also a history professor here at MTSU and I fownd his comments rude and un called for!  
I personally was educated at a fine univirsity in califernia in wich I wus tawt too not pay atenshun to gramer and speling but two merly share my fillings and thots.  
And luk at me!  
I caim out ok.  
Dr. Haas is jest bing won of thos ivery towerd profesers who has lost tuch with his studints!  
Shame on yew Dr. Haas!

Kenneth Yates  
Profeser, History Dept.

## Letters Policy

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# FEATURES

## Howl-O-ween

### Local magicians bring Houdini back to life

By Andrew Johnson

Staff Writer

When you think about Halloween, you conjure images of ghosts, ghouls, monsters and witches. Normally these depictions would be scary and inappropriate, but during the last night of October, they are acceptable and even encouraged.

Halloween seems like the perfect time for magic. It's a night full of thrills. On this night, many people enjoy the thrill of dressing up like something scary. It seems logical that they would also enjoy the thrill of being amazed by magic, the illusion of a miracle. It's not every day you see things disappear or people escape from impossible odds.

"You have to suspend your disbelief in order to enjoy a magic show," said Alan Fisher, president of the Middle Tennessee Magic Club, which is also known as Ring 252 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. "But as soon as you claim to be something another than an entertainer, you become a con artist."

Saturday the Middle Tennessee Magic Club will be presenting their third annual Howl-O-ween Magic Show at 7:02 p.m. in the Murfreesboro Parks and Cultural Arts Theater, which is located in the Patterson Park Community Center. The community center can be found at 521 Mercury Blvd.

"Magic is not a normal art form," Fisher said. "It's taught on a person-to-person basis. If you don't teach a new generation, it will fade out."

The shows were originally held at the Center for the Arts, located at 110 West College Street, but the theater only sat 125 people and was not big enough. The Middle Tennessee Magic Club decided to move the shows to the Murfreesboro Parks and Cultural Arts Theater, which has about 325 seats.

"A highlight of the show is sure to be when some lucky person in the audience actually wins a real cold, dead, clammy body to take home," Fisher said.

The Middle Tennessee Magic Club was formed in 1980 and is a community of magicians who attempt to foster the spirit of magic and to keep it alive in the present culture.

While the rings are referred to as magical fraternities, only some of them have initiation processes. The ring in Nashville does, while the Murfreesboro ring does not. There are



Photo provided by Alan Fisher

The Middle Tennessee Magic Club presents its third annual Howl-O-ween Magic Show Saturday; no word yet on whether Houdini will actually be there.

rings in every country in the world. Together, these comprise the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Fisher will serve as master of ceremonies for the show, which will feature eight other ring members, including Vice President Jerry Fraley Jr., Kyle Lewis (at 12 years old, the youngest member of the ring) and Lydia Hamm, a communication studies major at MTSU.

"The 80th anniversary of Harry Houdini is celebrated on this year's

Halloween," said Fraley Jr. "Houdini was famous for his art of escapism, and thus we will have different acts depicting his escapes."

But Houdini didn't always do escapes.

At first, he labeled himself the "King of Cards" and became a master of traditional card tricks. Following his famous elephant-disappearing act, he began experimenting with escape tricks. Houdini started doing acts in which he would free himself from handcuffs, chains, ropes and strait-

jackets often while hanging from a rope or suspended in water, sometimes in plain view of his audience, according to Wikipedia.com.

In 1913, he introduced perhaps his most famous act, the Chinese Water Torture Cell, in which he was suspended upside-down in a locked glass and steel cabinet full of overflowing water. He held his breath for more than three minutes.

Houdini wrote a book about how he was able to escape in many of acts. The book, "Handcuff Secrets," was

published in 1909. During many acts, he carried small lock keys in his pocket that allowed him to pick any lock. He was also able to dislocate his shoulders to wiggle free from different methods of restraint.

Fraley Jr. and Hamm will be working together on one of these escape acts, which includes a séance to Houdini, a handcuff escape, a mailbag escape and a special surprise escape.

"My experience with theater has certainly made the acts easier to perform," said Hamm, who has performed in theatre at the Center for the Arts at 110 West College Street. "I feel more comfortable on stage with magic acts."

Escapes are certainly no walk in the park. Actors put themselves at great risk when attempting these escapes, but Fraley Jr. promises that actors take the proper precautions. While Fraley Jr. builds most of the materials needed for the act, he and Hamm practice the escapes for about eight hours to get ready for the show. Each act spans about 9-12 minutes, and the show is approximately 90 minutes long.

The Murfreesboro community seems to enjoy the shows, as 98 percent of shows that Ring 252 has set up have sold out. Fraley Jr. stressed the fact that Murfreesboro is quite a magic-friendly town and the community has embraced the idea of magic.

"Our spring show is more of a razzle-dazzle show, a variety show. I did comedy and vaudeville-type acts between each magic act," Fraley said.

Ring 252 also sponsors other magic shows in town including a show called "It's Magic!" which takes place every Saturday and Sunday at Oakwood Commons Shopping Center in Hermitage, located at 4686 Lebanon Road.

The Middle Tennessee Magic Club also set up three shows on both October 7 and 8 for the Tennessee Highland Games, held on the grounds of the Tennessee Renaissance Festival.

This show will top them all. "The Howl-O-ween magic show is going to be an evening of spooktacular fun," Fisher said.

While a magician may be able to handle escaping from impossible odds, that's way too many puns for even a magician to handle.

## Pagan group invites students to ritual

By Becca Cook

Contributing Writer

This Halloween, kids of all ages will be venturing into the dark, dressed up as ghosts, vampires and a variety of other frightening beings. They will travel door-to-door greeting homeowners with excitement and a phrase almost as old as time itself.

"Trick or Treat!" the children will squeal, holding some sort of container in hopeful expectation of the latter of the two.

What kids and many adults do not know, however, is where their favorite candy holiday originated from.

Halloween is derived from the pagan holiday Samhain, pronounced "Sah-ween." The traditions, such as trick or treating, carving pumpkins and even the pranks, have evolved over the years into what they are today.

"Originally the holiday was a pagan festival to celebrate summer's end. It's the witch's new year," said Mia Drudge, the president of the MTSU Student Pagan Organization.

Originally founded in 1993, the SPO has been re-invented this year under Drudge's leadership.

"The SPO has been on and off the past 10 or so years because the members have been seniors that have graduated," Drudge said. "This is why I am starting it off again this year. I am a freshman, so I will be around to help expand."

The vice president of the SPO, Remy Thurman, has been with the organization for a few years. Thurman is passionate about the SPO and what it provides for students.

"The SPO is here on campus to provide an environment for students to share beliefs they would otherwise not be able to express," Thurman says.

The beliefs Thurman is talking about are various forms of paganism, a term used to describe earth-based religions which lay emphasis on the worship of nature, such as neo-druidism and Wicca.

Because Halloween is derived from Samhain, many people have a misconception that pagans are Satan worshippers.

"We are not Satan worshippers," Thurman said. "Satanism is a separate religion based off of Christianity, while paganism is specifically not related to Christianity, Buddhism or Judaism."

Paganism as a whole does not recognize Satan or any other all-evil supernatural entity. In fact, their prime symbol, the pentacle, is the exact opposite of the symbol used by Satanists, the pentagram. While Satanists practice doing harm, pagans do not.

"We have a law called the Wiccan Rede: 'As it harm none, do as thou wilt,'" Drudge said.

To explain what happens in their lives, pagans have a law that is much like karma.

"Pagans believe in a three-fold law. Your actions, good or bad, will return to you in a form that is triple what was sent out," Thurman said.

The beliefs of paganism are different from that of Satanism or Christianity, but Christians label pagans as Satan worshippers because they worship more than one deity. Christians believe in one God, whereas pagans believe in multiple gods and goddesses. Pagans also have different beliefs in what happens to the soul of a person when they pass on.

"The major world religions believe in the rewards of the after-life, while we believe that our rewards are in this life," Thurman said.

Regardless of their different beliefs, pagans are people who are no different from the rest of society. "We are ordinary people who happen to find

our connection to the world that is different from others," Drudge said. "I think that at the heart of it all, we believe the same as others, just in a different way."

Drudge appreciates other religions and is grieved that paganism is often blamed for evil crimes that people commit.

"The most disturbing thing I've ever heard was that some kids were playing in a cemetery, sacrificing a cat," she said. "They said that they were practicing witchcraft and said they were witches. The fact that they would harm an innocent creature upsets me."

The negative view of paganism has developed over time. Witches who were once known to be wise women are now thought of as evil women who do harm.

The SPO wants to clear up the misconceptions of paganism that currently exist. On Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 10 p.m., the group will be hosting a public Samhain ritual on the Keathley University Center Knoll. The ritual will include a ceremonial lighting of candles and a display of respect to the deities.

"We will be lighting candles in remembrance of those that have passed on into new phases of their lives," Drudge said. "In addition, we will be giving offerings to the deities."

Participants are welcome to dress up for the event. The tradition of donning a costume for Halloween goes back to the druids. They believed that the souls of the dead returned to inhabit bodies on Oct. 31. Villagers would dress up in costumes such as ghosts, witches or sorcerers to trick the ghouls into leaving.

The rituals and traditions from the past are carried on today, whether by pagans continuing the traditional celebration of Samhain or by little kids celebrating Halloween by going door-to-door with that famous phrase, "Trick or Treat!"

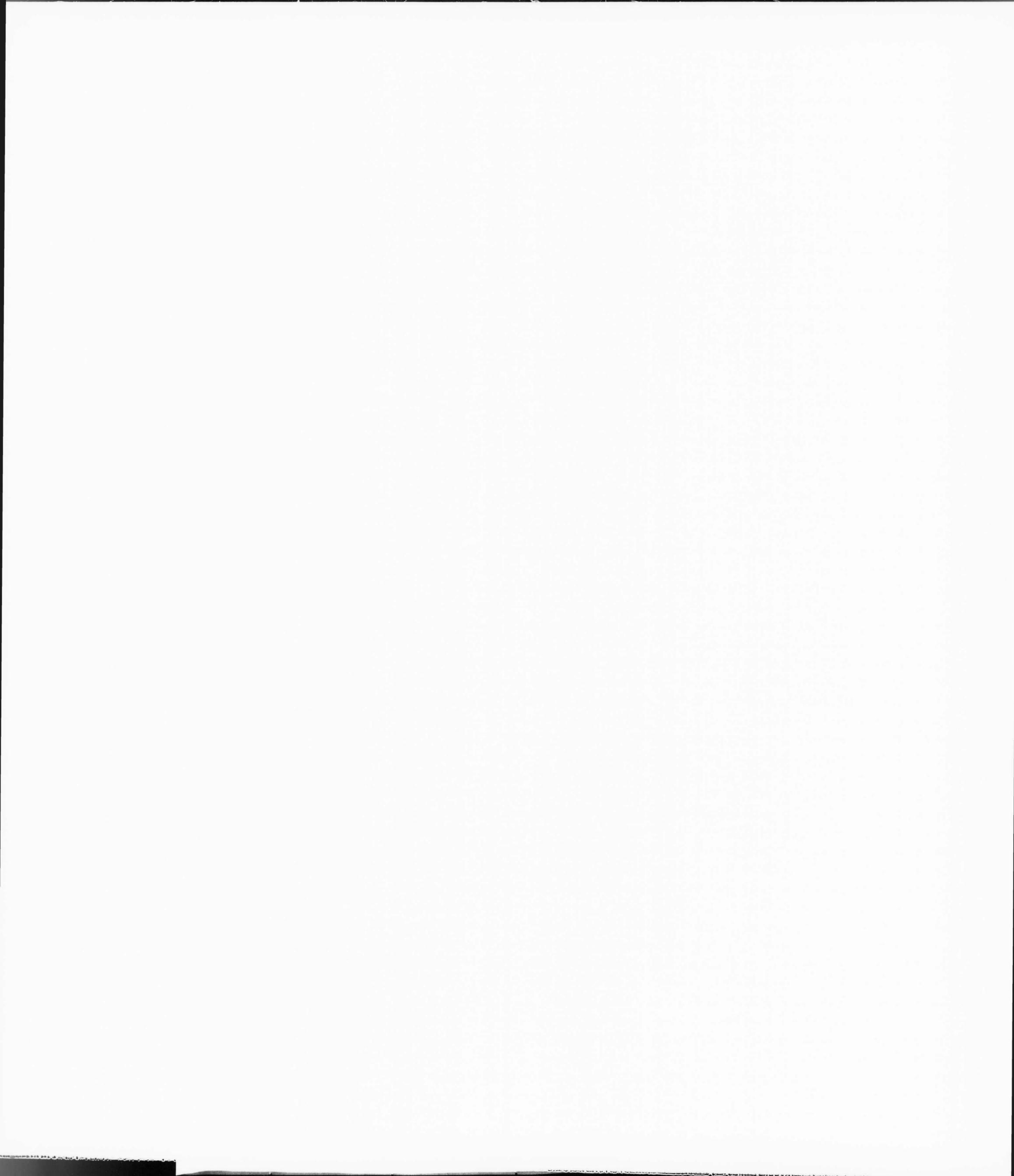


### About the Pentacle

The Neopagan pentacle features five points with the center point facing downward and a circle encompassing it. The outer points represent the four elements - earth, fire, water and wind - and the human spirit. The pentacle is usually displayed with one point up.

The circle is said to bind the elements together, protecting and reinforcing their power. Inside the circle the elements are bound in harmony, but uncertainty lies outside the circle.

Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/pentagram>, <http://www.witchvox.com>



# SPORTS

## MT, ULL set for showdown

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

It's tough to argue with the most important man in the conference.

At Sun Belt Conference Media Day Tuesday, SBC Commissioner Wright Waters touted this weekend's matchup between Middle Tennessee and Louisiana-Lafayette as "the biggest game in the history of the conference."

With both teams boasting perfect conference records and stellar performances to date, many believe that the winner will capture the Sun Belt title and punch its ticket to New Orleans.

The Ragin' Cajuns, the preseason championship pick, looked solid in early-season non-conference wins but stumbled a bit in last week's 6-0 defeat of Florida Atlantic. The Blue Raiders, meanwhile, seemingly gain more believers each week, most recently after a convincing comeback win against Louisiana-Monroe.

While Waters might have gotten a bit carried away, there's no denying that a game of this caliber rarely comes along in the Sun Belt.

Can MT continue its momentum? Or will ULL take care of business on its home field?

### When ULL runs

The Ragin' Cajuns have lived and died by the running game this season, posting a 4-0 record when outrushing opponents. Conversely, ULL is 0-2 when outrushed by the opposition. More than two-thirds of the team's touchdowns have come on the ground, and ULL's 198.2 yards per game average ranks 12th nationally.

Sophomore Tyrell Fenroy is quietly emerging as one of the best backs in the SBC. After rushing for 1,053 yards and 12 touchdowns as a true freshman last season, Fenroy has followed up his inaugural campaign by averaging 5.6 yards per carry and scoring three touchdowns.

The Blue Raider run defense is ranked 34th nationally, and linebacker J.K. Sabb is tied for

10th in tackles for loss with 10.5. MT showed rare softness against the run against ULM in the first half, but finished strong.

MT must keep a close eye on ULL quarterback Jerry Babb, who has a pair of wheels in his own right.

### Advantage: ULL

### When ULL passes

Speaking of Babb, the preseason SBC Player of the Year hasn't exactly put up mind-boggling numbers at 98.3 passing yards per game, but then again he hasn't had to.

Babb is extremely mobile, as his 175 yards and four rushing touchdowns suggest, and has a decent arm. Perhaps most importantly, the senior signal-caller is a steadying influence behind center.

The Ragin' Cajuns lack a true threat at receiver, though Derrick Smith and Jason Chery are reliable targets. Don't expect Babb to throw the ball that much, anyway.

Pass defense has been hit-or-miss for the Blue Raiders this season, but the secondary doesn't give up many big plays. On the contrary, MT has had a penchant for creating turnovers this season.

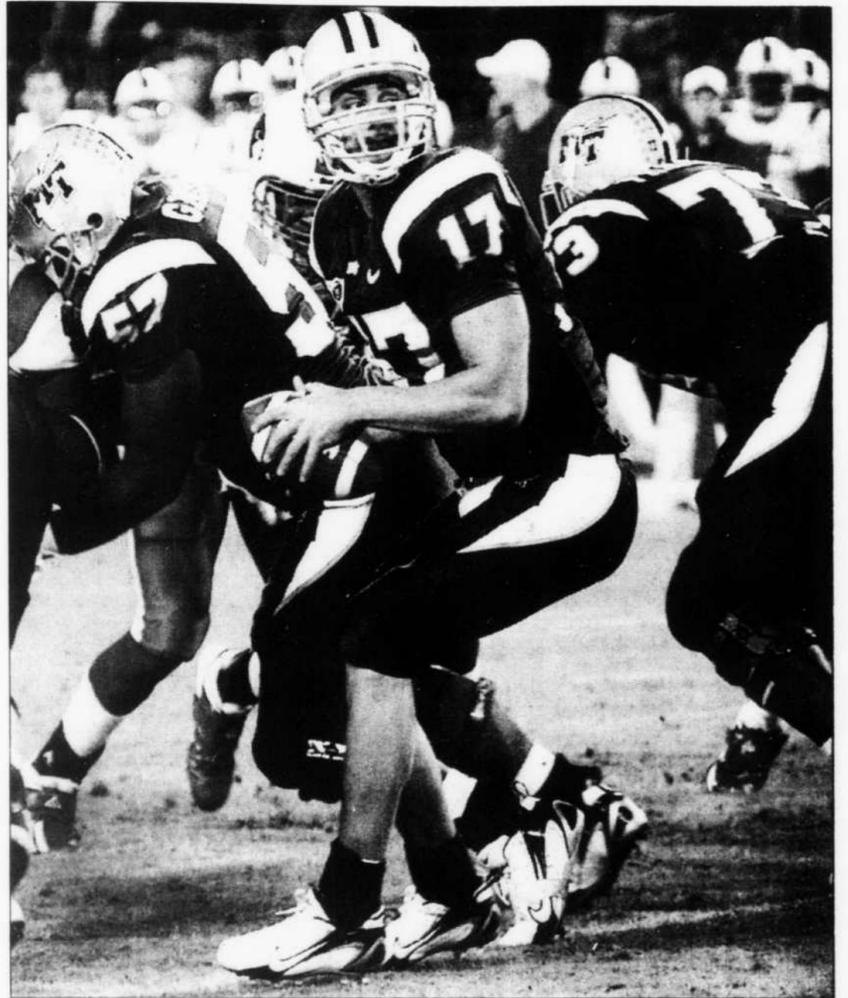
However, spectacular interceptions are unlikely in this contest, as the conservative, relatively mistake-free ULL game plan will negate any advantage the Blue Raiders might have had.

### Advantage: Even

### When MT runs

MT backfield, thy name is parity. The Blue Raiders are fortunate to have three viable options at running back, all of whom bring something unique to the table. Senior Eugene Gross has been as steady as ever, and is the closest thing to a feature back MT possesses.

See Showdown, 8



Senior quarterback Clint Marks looks for his running back in the backfield in the Louisville game. Louisville beat MT 44-17. Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

## The Cynic is dead; long live Sportacus!



### I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

Before my preview begins, I think it's only fair for me to make a statement regarding the name change. I made a promise to myself a few weeks ago that if MT won two games in a row or beat Monroe by 20 points, I would announce a new name that better reflects my writing. While I may be a cynical person, my love of sport is a hopeful one.

I know MT has yet to play Lafayette, but their 21 unanswered points to come from behind and dominate Monroe in the second half impressed me a lot more than the 27-6 game I had expected.

I also want the coaches to quit calling me "Sidelines," and it would be nothing short of amazing if at press conferences, MT head coach Rick Stockstill pointed to me and said, "Your question, Sportacus." It'll never happen, but the thought still amuses me.

And now, on to the preview!

The Ragin' Cajuns boast the nation's 12th-best rushing attack, while MT boasts the nation's 29th-best defense. One of the best ways to gauge smaller-profile schools is to compare their record against non-conference teams and ranked opponents. So far in the season, both MT and ULL have lost all games played against ranked opponents, and ULL boasts a slight advantage after its 31-28 victory against Houston.

But MT's schedule has arguably been tougher, facing three teams in the top 50 and one with serious national title hopes. Whereas ULL played a good game against Houston, they were destroyed by LSU and Texas A&M by a combined score of 96-10. ULL's strongest opponent, LSU (now ranked #14 in ESPN.com's Power Rankings), is comparable to the Louisville (#8 in the same poll) squad MT faced. The Raiders led Louisville for a good portion of the first half and were only down by 37-17 with a few minutes remaining. They scared Louisville, while Lafayette has yet to really make a dent in any of their "money game" opponents (so-called for the money paid by the bigger school to play the weaker team).

Still, Lafayette isn't a team that should be overlooked. MT may still be ranked higher than any other Sun Belt team in national rankings, but Lafayette has broken into the top 100 and is only eight spots behind the Blue Raiders. Also important to Lafayette is their chance to play a bowl game in their home state should they win the conference. They know MT is the team to beat to get to the New Orleans Bowl and that, for the second week in a row, the Raiders' chances of getting that bid comes down to a game in Louisiana.

When Stockstill was asked about whether or not MT playing two games in a row in Louisiana makes that search for the New Orleans bowl bid seem closer, he wasn't afraid to give ULL the credit they deserve.

"That is ultimately the goal, but we do not talk about that at all. The only thing we are worried about right now is Lafayette and getting better as a team," Stockstill said. "As soon as you let your minds drift off to another place you will quickly slip up ... We are not good enough to start thinking ahead because we need to play a near-perfect game just to compete with Lafayette this week."

While I do expect the Blue Raiders to leave ULL with a victory, I can't honestly predict the type of game it will be. ULL is mostly an unproven squad, having failed to even put up a fight against Texas A&M, a team on equal stature with the Maryland squad MT put a good effort against.

If the Cajuns are as good as some fear they may be, this could be a very close game, but if they are just Sun Belt pretenses, expect MT to come out of Lafayette with a big win. The Blue Raiders' offense continues to improve every week, and the defense will be hungry to avenge themselves after letting an unranked opponent score 21 points against them.

## FIU meets new non-conference foe



Senior cornerback Reggie Doucet tackles Louisville's Kolby Smith near the sidelines at LP Field. Louisville beat MT 44-17 Oct. 6. Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

### North Texas (1-2) at Troy (1-0)

After losing last week to ASU 29-10, UNT (2-5, 1-2) will be looking for payback as they take on Troy (2-4, 1-0). Troy beat UNT last year 13-10 and ended the

Mean Green's 26-game Sun Belt Conference winning streak. UNT head coach Darrell Dickey is resting after suffering a heart attack last week on October 16.

Last week Arkansas State running back Reggie Arnold ran all over UNT's defense for 121 yards and three touchdowns. Arnold became the first running back to

rush for 100 yards against UNT this season. ASU is the only team this season to compile 466 yards of total offense against UNT's defense.

UNT sophomore quarterback Daniel Meager will get the chance to start his second game of the season against SBC foe Troy. Wide receiver Johnny Quinn hurt his

ankle the week before and did not play. Quinn can be the difference maker if he's healthy for Saturday's game.

Troy has allowed its opponents' running backs to gain more than 100 yards in each of the past four weeks.

### Arkansas State (3-0) at Florida Atlantic (1-1)

ASU head coach Steve Roberts reached a milestone last weekend with his 25th victory as the head coach of ASU (5-2, 3-0 SBC). If the Indians are able to win this Saturday against FAU, Roberts will get his 75th career win as a head coach. The Indians are on their longest winning streak in the SBC with five games dating back to last season.

The Indians will face Florida Atlantic (2-5, 1-1 SBC), who lost a close game to ULL last week. ASU beat FAU 3-0 last year.

ASU's offensive line will be busy trying to keep FAU's defensive line out of the pocket, as it has sacked opponents' quarterbacks 11 times in seven games this season. ASU enters this Saturday's game with a 3-0 record in the SBC and with the season slowly dwindling, the Indians have a chance to finish 6-

See Non-Conference, 8

## Gee: Like catching lightning in a bottle

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

Desmond Gee has always been fast. In fact, dating back to his days as a young boy in Florida, Gee has always had a propensity for being elusive.

That is where his now infamous nickname — "Ping-Pong" — got its humble beginning.

"One of my mother's friends gave it to me," he said. "When she would leave, I'd be running behind the car and she would back up. I would run back into the house like I wasn't doing anything wrong. I kept running back and forth, and that's basically how I got the name."

Gee arrived at Middle Tennessee from Greenville, Fla., where he played football at Madison County High School. Early on at MT, Gee had some troubles grasping the new offense, which was the biggest adjustment for him from playing high school football.

"I wasn't familiar with the type of offense that we run," Gee explained. "I ran a 4-1 in high school. I do like the fact that people always aren't just putting guys in the box to defend the run. We got more room to run."

As college life and football reality dawned on incoming freshmen, they often soon realize that playing time is something they must cherish, and that next season will be their first year at a starting spot. Desmond, howev-

er, has seen playing time in a number of games, mostly as a reserve. In fact, Gee has seen action in five games this season. Gee has had several good games, including a 16-carry, 59-yard effort against North Texas.

Last weekend against Louisiana-Monroe, Gee had his breakout game. Gee was on the field for more snaps than ever. It surprised no one that Gee was successful, but the way Gee was utilized in the offense was unique.

Blue Raider fans saw a glimpse of Desmond's receiving ability against Louisville with two catches for 15 yards. Then, following the bye week, he exploded. Gee had six catches for over 100-yards, including a 54-yard touchdown reception.

Desmond said he was surprised at his shot to play, but definitely was ready. He found out about his new role in the offense during the bye week.

"Last week in the off week I knew I was going to get my chance," Gee said. "The coaches said, 'You are not a freshman anymore.' They told me to get ready."

The impact Gee had on Middle Tennessee's victory last week was unquestionable. His description of the longest scoring play of the season for the Blue Raiders, his 54-yard touchdown catch, is one of excitement. Gee knew he had a chance to make a big play.

"Clint (Marks) changed the play at the line," he explained. "They checked it to a fade route. I thought the defensive back was going to come up and cover me, but he backed off and I went around him. I got by him and the ball already was on me. I know I didn't want to drop it. It came on my fingertips and I pulled it in."

One aspect of Gee's immediate success that cannot be overlooked is the mentoring he received from Blue Raider running backs DeMarco McNair and Eugene Gross. The presence of running backs coach Larry Kirksey has been a calming one, as Kirksey has also served a huge role in Gee's development.

Desmond said he would not be where he is now without their help.

"Eugene and DeMarco help me out a lot," he professed. "They help me with whatever I need. They are like big brothers to me. Coach Kirksey is like the daddy."

Desmond Gee has had a solid start to the 2006 football season, but in his mind, it's far from over. Gee believes if the Blue Raiders continue to work hard and get better, they have a shot at the Sun Belt crown.

If only defenders could have such an optimistic view, because trying to tackle Desmond Gee is like trying to catch lightning in a bottle.

## Showdown: MT-ULL preview

Continued from 7

After a year out of the game, junior DeMarco McNair has played like a man on a mission, rushing for 340 yards in a back-up role. McNair had a big game against ULM, finding the end zone on two occasions.

Freshman Desmond Gee is expected to line up at receiver but is more than capable of breaking a big run as well.

ULL has only given up 106 yards only per game to date, and the Ragin' Cajuns completely shut down the FAU ground game.

If the Blue Raiders can secure an early lead, ball control will be a huge factor in determining the outcome. The talent is there on both sides of the ball, and only time will tell if MT will be able to move the chains.

**Advantage:** Even

**When MT passes**

The Blue Raiders have improved in this area every week. Senior quarterback Clint Marks has risen to the challenge presented to him by head coach Rick Stockstill and offensive coordinator G.A. Mangus, limiting his mistakes and completing high-percentage pass attempts.

A major shakeup occurred during the game with corps during the MT with ULM, and the results were a pleasant surprise. Stockstill moved cornerback Bradley Robinson and kick returner Damon Nickson to wideout positions, and found a way to get Gee the ball.

Gee answered the call by becoming the first 100-yard receiver for the Blue Raiders this season. In addition, freshman Jay Robinson garnered his first catch of his career, a seven-yard touchdown grab.

ULL's pass defense ranks a miserable 100th, and there's no reason why a confident Marks and a rejuvenated receiving corps can't put a hurt on the Ragin' Cajuns.

**Advantage:** MT

**Special Teams**

Not to take anything away

from the Ragin' Cajuns, but the special teams play of MT has been very solid. Blue Raider kicker/punter Colby Smith has been named All-Sun Belt in both kicking and punting for good reason.

Smith is averaging a mere 39.3 yards per punt and has only converted 3-of-5 field goal attempts, yet the senior has a knack for delivering a huge boot at pivotal moments in the game. The recent addition of Damon Nickson to the return game has been a boost to the Blue Raiders, who rank 19th nationally in kickoff returns.

ULL's kicking game bailed it out against FAU last weekend, as a pair of 44-yard Drew Edmiston field goals were the only scores of the game. Edmiston has been a beast all season, converting 8-of-11 attempts while making all five tries from 40-49 yards.

Still, the rest of the ULL special teams unit is nothing to write home about. The Ragin' Cajuns rank in the bottom half of Division I-A in net punting, punt returns and kick returns.

**Advantage:** MT

**Coaching**

Does anyone doubt Stockstill and his staff anymore? In what has been a recurring theme all season, the Blue Raiders showed obvious maturity ULM, outscoring the Warhawks 21-0 in the second half, something "old" MT would never do.

Stockstill seems to be very good at making adjustments, and his team trusts his decisions. The Blue Raiders are also the least penalized team in the SBC, a testament to the discipline possessed by this year's squad.

Meanwhile, head coach Ricky Bustle and his Ragin' Cajuns have performed well as expected, though last weekend's squeaker against the Owls had to raise some eyebrows among ULL faithful.

Bustle has had the talent to win the SBC in previous years, especially in 2005, but has failed to put it together (sound familiar?), stumbling to a 17-29 mark

FLAG FOOTBALL			
<b>MEN'S A LEAGUE 6 p.m.</b>			
Speed Kills 26	VS.	Alpha Omega (2)	6
Make It Rain 37	VS.	A & W Salvage Junkies	0
Fun Boyz 33	VS.	Sirs Cheef A lot	21
<b>WOMEN'S / SORORITY LEAGUE 7-8 p.m.</b>			
The Tighdents 38	VS.	Chi Omega (2)	0
Kappa Delta (2) 6	VS.	Alpha Chi Omega (2)	0
<b>SORORITY LEAGUE 8-9 p.m.</b>			
A O Pi 6	VS.	Chi Omega	0
A O Pi (A) 18	VS.	Delta Zeta	13
Kappa Delta 19	VS.	A O Pi (B)	7
Alpha Chi Omega 13	VS.	ZETA	13 TIE
<b>MEN'S B LEAGUE 10-11 p.m.</b>			
Warrior Face 12	VS.	Discombobulators	6
Soul Train 13	VS.	Out of Shape White Guys	6
Jackhammers 20	VS.	Valsalva Maneuver	17
Tha Show 19	VS.	Bang Bang	7

in his four years at ULL. The Ragin' Cajun staff has done a good job of molding a successful system around its talent, but it's difficult to vote against anyone who has done a job like Stockstill.

**Advantage:** MT

**Intangibles**

Never underestimate a home-field advantage, especially in such an evenly-matched game. Saturday is Homecoming for the Ragin' Cajuns, which can occasionally be a distraction for some schools. One would have to figure that the Blue Raiders aren't too thrilled about being pegged as a Homecoming opponent, a designation typically reserved for weaker teams.

Motivation should be at a peak for both teams with the SBC lead on the line. In terms of confidence, the Blue Raiders have felt great all week after making a statement in the comeback win against ULM. On the other sideline, one wonders what affect last week's contest will have on the Ragin' Cajuns.

**Advantage:** Even

**The skinny**

According to the most recent Sagarin ratings, long regarded as one of the most reliable barometers in college football, the Blue Raiders and the Ragin' Cajuns are within one point of each other on paper. Sagarin's system allocates three points to the team with home-field advantage, so most betting lines have ULL by about that amount.

No one in his or her right mind should be putting money down on this one, though. While the gamblers should probably sit it out, anyone who can appreciate a hard-fought gridiron battle should pay attention.

Predicting a winner of this game is about as easy as convincing your girlfriend that a new curling iron is indeed a romantic gift. Still, MT's new-look passing offense will be the difference in the game.

The pick: Middle Tennessee 20, Louisiana-Lafayette 14

## TUESDAY NIGHT'S SCORES

### SOCCER

#### MEN'S A LEAGUE PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINAL

KURDS 8	VS.	Free Agents	7
Don Thava Team 2	VS.	Latin Lovers	1
Team 1 3	VS.	Easy C	1

#### SEMI-FINAL

Top Gunz 4	VS.	Kurds	1
Team 1 2 SHOOTOUT 3-2	VS.	Don Thava Team	2

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

Team 1 2	VS.	Top Gunz	0
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#### MEN'S B LEAGUE PLAYOFFS QUARTERFINAL

Saint Mina 4	VS.	Britain	2
Better Than You 3	VS.	Alpha Omega	2

## Non-Conference: Sun Belt preview

Continued from 7

Florida International (0-7, 0-3) at Alabama (5-3)

2 or better as the season progresses and take the lead in the SBC.

Louisiana-Monroe (1-6, 0-4) at Arkansas (6-1) (ESPN)

After last week's loss to Middle Tennessee, the Warhawks will be hard-pressed to get back into the SBC chase, since they haven't won a conference game this season. ULM will be heading to Little Rock to play No. 13 Arkansas. ULM played against the Razorbacks last year and lost 44-15.

So far this season ULM has lost six straight games since beating Alcorn State in their first game of the season. Now that they play against the Razorbacks this weekend, don't look for the Warhawks to win this one. They will face an Arkansas team that hasn't lost a game since the opening game of the season. The last two non-conference teams that the Razorbacks played this season, they defeated those two teams with a combined score of 83 points.

Arkansas is coming off a rout of Southeastern Conference foe Ole Miss 38-3 last weekend. This season Arkansas has been showing a lot of improvement under head coach Houston Nutt. Nutt has coached this team back into contention for the SEC West title.

Alabama will meet FIU for the first time ever this weekend, and hopefully it won't be the last time for these two schools, considering everything that happened with Miami and FIU not too long ago. Even though FIU has lost some close games, Alabama is not going to take this team lightly. FIU comes into the game this weekend ranked 27th in total defense. The Golden Panthers lead the nation in tackles for loss and are limiting opponents to 159.29 passing yards per game.

Alabama will be eager to get an easy win from FIU considering the Tide lost a heartbreak to SEC rival Tennessee 16-13 last week. Alabama will be making every effort to keep FIU's defense off the field for as long as they can.

FIU needs to win a game this season, as they are 0-7 with only five more games to go before the end of the season. The Golden Panthers might do that sometime soon, but not here. FIU was on its bye week last week and dealing with the fallout from its brawl with Miami. Now that all of the suspensions have been handed out, there are some new faces with the chance to start this season.

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