

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007

Dasher leads Blue Raiders in upset

By Chris Martin and J. Owen Shipley

Staff Writer and Sports Editor

True freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher single-handedly changed the tone of an entire season last Saturday at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn. While the entire team has seen major improvements in the last three weeks, the change to Dasher at QB has completely changed the way opposing teams prepare for the Blue Raiders.

Dasher ran for the most yards by a quarterback in MT history as he led MT to a 21-7 victory over in-state rival Memphis.

The previous rushing record for an MT quarterback was a 172-yard performance by Marvin Collier 20 years ago. Strangely enough, Collier's record was set in the very same stadium, Memphis' Liberty Bowl.

Despite committing his first two turnovers of the season, Dasher still managed to pick up over 400 total yards.

"I thought Dwight made some careless decisions with the ball," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "He put the ball on the ground; he threw an interception as we were going in to score [but] I thought he did a great job of not losing his composure, staying in the game, not panicking."

Dasher completed eight of his first nine passes on his way to going 16 of 26 for 230 yards and one touchdown. Dasher also gained 180 yards on just 19 carries on the ground to mark his fourth consecutive game with at least 169 yards passing and 53 yards rushing. Sixty-one of those yards came on a touchdown run with 3:46 left in the fourth quarter. The run was the longest of Dasher's career and the second longest of the year by any Blue Raider.

"I feel like I do both [run and pass]," Dasher said. "Our team can't look at me [as just a passer] now."

In the third quarter, Dasher committed his first turnover of the season when Brandon Patterson picked him off in the Memphis end zone. Dasher threw the ball while hastily trying to avoid a sack. In the fourth quarter, Dasher also lost a fumble at the



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
True Freshman Dwight Dasher had another career day, setting the quarterback rushing record with 180 yards on 19 carries. He also threw for 230 yards and one touchdown.

Memphis 41 when he was tackled by Clinton McDonald, and Jake Kasser recovered the ball.

"We did some careless things with the football," Stockstill said. "The good thing is our turnovers were [in Memphis territory] where they had to go a long ways. We stopped drives, and at least it wasn't on our end of the field where they were playing with a short field."

Running back DeMarco McNair extended his scoring streak to four games when he caught a 55-yard touchdown pass from Dasher in the first quarter. McNair has three touchdown receptions on the season, all of which have gone for 55 or more yards. During his four-game scoring streak, McNair has

scored seven touchdowns. He now leads the Sun Belt in touchdowns scored with an average 7.7 points per game.

The last time the Raiders and the Tigers met was in 1954 when Memphis walked away with a 27-7 victory.

MT (2-5, 1-1 Sun Belt) and Memphis (2-4, 1-1 Conference USA), who have not played since 1954, combined for 15 first downs in the first half. However, the Blue Raiders were able to move the ball more effectively, picking up 21 first downs compared to the Tigers' 13.

See Memphis, 7

New study seeks genetic clues to homosexuality

By Lindsey Tanner

AP Medical Writer

Julio and Mauricio Cabrera are gay brothers who are convinced their sexual orientation is as deeply rooted as their Mexican ancestry.

They are among 1,000 pairs of gay brothers taking part in the largest study to date seeking genes that may influence whether people are gay. The Cabrerass hope the findings will help silence critics who say homosexuality is an immoral choice.

If fresh evidence is found suggesting genes are involved, perhaps homosexuality will be viewed as no different than other genetic traits like height and hair color, said Julio, a student at DePaul University in Chicago.

Adds his brother, "I think it would help a lot of folks understand us better."

The federally funded study, led by Chicago area researchers, will rely on blood or saliva samples to help scientists search for genetic clues to the origins of homosexuality. Parents and straight brothers also are being recruited.

While initial results aren't expected until next year – and won't provide a final answer – skeptics are already attacking the methods and disputing the presumed results.

Previous studies have shown that sexual orientation tends to cluster in families, though that doesn't prove genetics is involved. Extended families may share similar child-rearing practices, religion and other beliefs that could also influence sexual orientation.

Research involving identical twins, often used to study genetics since they share the same DNA, has had mixed results.

One widely cited study in the 1990s found that if one member of a pair of identical twins was gay, the other had a 52 percent chance of being gay. In contrast, the result for pairs of non-twin brothers, was 9 percent. A 2000 study of Australian identical twins found a much lower chance.

Dr. Alan Sanders of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Research Institute, the lead researcher of the new study, said he suspects there isn't one so-called "gay gene."

It is more likely there are several genes that interact with nongenetic factors, including psychological and social influences, to determine sexual orientation, said Sanders, a psychiatrist.

Still, he said, "If there's one gene that makes a sizable contribution, we have a pretty good chance" of finding it.

Many gays fear that if gay genes are identified, it could result in discrimination, prenatal testing and even abortions to eliminate homosexuals, said Joel Ginsberg of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

However, he added, "If we confirm that sexual orientation is an immutable characteristic, we are much more likely to get the courts to rule against discrimination."

There is less research on lesbians, Sanders said, although some studies suggest that male and female sexual orientation may have different genetic influences.

His new research is an attempt to duplicate and expand on a study published in 1993 involving 40 pairs of gay brothers. That hotly debated study, wrongly touted as locating "the gay gene," found that gay brothers shared genetic markers in a region on the X chromosome, which men inherit from their mothers.

That implies that any genes influencing sexual orientation lie somewhere in that region.

Previous attempts to duplicate those results failed. But Sanders said that with so many participants, his study has a better chance of finding the same markers and perhaps others on different chromosomes.

If these markers appear in gay brothers but not their straight brothers or parents, that would suggest a link to sexual orientation. The study is designed to find genetic markers, not to explain any genetic role in behavior.

And Sanders said even if he finds no evidence, that won't mean genetics play no role; it may simply mean that individual genes have a smaller effect.

See Study, 2

Universities reach out to Hispanics

By Andy Harper

Managing Editor

Half of Hispanic undergraduates attend only 8 percent of United States universities, according to a recent survey by Excelencia in Education.

The study, conducted by the Washington-based, Hispanic think-tank reveals that Hispanic undergraduates were concentrated in the country's universities where at least 25 percent of undergraduates are Hispanic.

None of the universities are in Tennessee. MTSU's total Hispanic population is only 2 percent of the total university population, according to 2006 statistics from Enrollment and Academic Services.

From 2004 to 2006, Hispanic population versus overall campus population has stayed at a consistent 2 percent. Hispanic freshman and transfer students make up 17 percent of the total Hispanic population.

"We have made some contacts in the local Hispanic community," said Lynn Palmer, director of admission. "We have contacted the Rutherford County School System, done outreach with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and have made headway in asking for referral information."

Palmer noted the Diverse Representation and Education Access at MTSU, or DREAM, scholarship as a major available scholarship for Hispanics or any other under-represented population on campus.

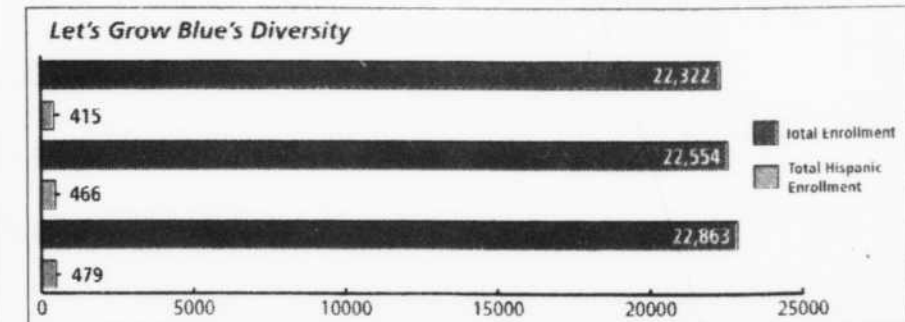
The DREAM scholarship follows Lottery criteria – 21 ACT or 3.0 grade point average, said David Hutton, director of Financial Aid. The applicant must be a United States resident or permanent resident with an income of less than \$12,000.

"The person must also be a first generation college student," Hutton said. "We look at the money the applicant gets from the Lottery scholarship, then we add on the difference for tuition and books. Last year, the scholarship paid a little over \$2,200."

Currently, the university does not have a scholarship designated solely for Hispanics, Hutton said. However, the Financial Aid Web site provides links to various organizations and foundations that cater specifically to the Hispanic population.

"We are always trying to recruit for a university that is always diverse," Palmer said. "The contacts we've made are very interested in working with us as we grow."

The university is also entering the beginning phases of posting recruitment materials in Spanish, Palmer said. ♦



Visit Haunted Murfreesboro

See Features, 5

Just say "no" to cutting student aid

See Opinions, 4

Volleyball loses first SBC match

See Sports, 6

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 85°
LO: 56°

Friday



HI: 77°
LO: 51°

Saturday



HI: 81°
LO: 52°

Sunday



HI: 82°
LO: 60°

Vol. 83 No. 13 - www.mtsusidelines.com

CRIME BRIEFS

Oct. 4, 1:21 p.m.
Theft – Under \$500
James E. Walker Library
Victim came to the station to report his iPod stolen.

Oct. 5, 1:17 a.m.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon House
Alcohol Consumption – Under 21
Kevin Edmonds

Oct. 5, 6:04 a.m.
Traffic – Reckless Driving
Middle Tennessee Blvd.
Brittany Stewart

Oct. 5, 3:16 p.m.
Theft – Under \$500
Wright Music Building
Individual called to advise that his friend's bike had been stolen.

Oct. 5, 3:20 p.m.
Fraud – Use of Credit or Debit Card
Off Campus

Oct. 5, 3:31 p.m.
Harassment
James E. Walker Library
Individual advised that her son was being stalked and harassed by his former roommate.

Oct. 5, 4:19 p.m.
Drug Abuse – Simple Possession
Sims Hall
Jordan Clayton
Oct. 6, 12:03 a.m.
Traffic – Driving on Suspended License
Parking and Transportation Lot
Qaneisha Powell

Oct. 6, 2:29 a.m.
Alcohol Consumption – Under 21
Scarlett Commons – Apt. 8
Jacob Padrick

Oct. 6, 3:01 a.m.
Drunkennes – Public Intoxication
Alcohol Consumption – Under 21
Trespass Warning
Orchard Lot
James Combs

Oct. 6, 9:00 p.m.
Traffic – Hit & Run
Bell Street Lot
Victim advised that someone hit his dark blue BMW while he was at the game.

Oct. 7, 1:48 a.m.

Theft of Motor Vehicle
Corlew Hall
Melvin L. Stevenson Jr.
Report of joyriding in a campus golf cart, subject was charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Oct. 7, 4:33 a.m.
Vandalism – Under \$500
Alpha Gamma Rho
A report of a shattered front door window was made; possible suspect vehicle is a black Pontiac Sunfire that was seen driving towards highway 96 with its tires squealing.

Oct. 8, 12:47 p.m.
Theft – Over \$500
Monahan Hall
An individual called to report stolen computers.

Oct. 8, 2:30 p.m.
Non-aggravated Assault
Fairview Building
Attempted abduction; white male, heavy set, scruffy beard, dark brown hair, possibly driving a red vehicle.

Oct. 8, 4:23 p.m.
Harassment
Corlew Hall
Individual called to advise she had received threats from another girl.

Oct. 8, 5:43 p.m.
Traffic – Hit & Run
McFarland Health Services Lot
Victim called to advise her vehicle had been hit.

Oct. 8, 6:06 p.m.
Theft – Over \$500
Sims Hall
Victim called to report his laptop stolen.

Oct. 8, 7:03 p.m.
Vagrancy – Trespass Warning
James E. Walker Library
Terry from the library called to advise that there was a male subject wearing a sombrero and a black t-shirt sitting on a bench drinking a cold 45. Subject had a female driver give him a ride off campus and he was given a trespass warning.

Oct. 8, 9:32 p.m.
Possession of a Weapon on Campus
Public Intoxication
Vagrancy – Criminal Trespass
Woodmore Cafeteria
Ryan Bell

The assistant manager at Cyber Cafe called to advise someone was sitting outside making the students feel uncomfortable. Subject was gone when the officer arrived, but the officer checked the surrounding areas and found him in the Baird Lane Lot. He was found to be the same person who was trespassed from campus earlier that same evening.

Oct. 12, 1:10 a.m.
Possession of a Weapon on Campus
Manufacture/Deliver/Sale/Possession of Marijuana
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Alcohol Consumption – Under 21
James E. Walker Library
Daniel Reedy

Oct. 12, 3:18 a.m.
Alcohol Consumption – Under 21
Scarlett Commons Lot
Brittney R. Banania

Oct. 12, 8:24 a.m.
Burglary – No Force
Keathley University Center
Victim called to request an officer in reference to some monies being missing.

Oct. 12, 2:45 p.m.
Motor Vehicle Theft
Keathley University Center
Subject called to report a missing van.

Oct. 12, 11:53 p.m.
Traffic – Reckless Driving
Champion Way
Danny Lopez

Oct. 13, 10:45 a.m.
Non-aggravated Assault
Campus School
Juvenile was assaulted by another juvenile.

Oct. 13, 2:58 p.m.
Traffic – Hit & Run
Honors College Lot
Individual requested a report in reference to a hit and run which occurred on Friday.

Oct. 14, 1:09 p.m.
Possession of a Stolen Vehicle
Greek Row
Willie Paul Windom
The MTSU van previously taken from campus was spotted on Greek Row. Subject was charged with aggravated assault, driving on a suspended license, evading by motor vehicle and possession of a stolen vehicle.

Highlights from:

Oct. 11, 2007

County Commission

◆ Blackman resident John Bailey spoke out against Bible Park. "It was reached through the state legislature and we did not want to see it rushed through and be put in our county. That is why we have been pretty persistent in opposing it," Bailey said.

◆ Resident Donald Todd spoke about an allegedly unnecessary increase of the tax burden on the citizens of Rutherford County. "Unreserved excess revenue totaling \$75.3 million have been accumulated in four major funds effective on June 30, 2005. One year later, on June 30, 2006, unreserved excess revenue totaling in almost \$83 million have been collected in these funds... the bottom line is that millions of dollars over and above what is needed for the county budget is collected from tax payers every year," said Todd.

◆ Commissioners addressed issues on fledgling neighborhoods regarding safety and project plans for development of new subdivisions. Concepts for safety included the use of sprinkler systems to reduce the risk of fire. All but one commissioner voted yes for the amendment of the safety issues discussed for the new-zoned subdivisions. The motion passed with 11 votes out of 20.

◆ Commissioner Joyce Ealy discussed the Budget Finance and Investment Committee and the expenditures in the general funds budget amendments. The commissioners called to vote on the amendments detailing the sheriff's department appropriated money for the mounted patrol and canine divisions, and to appropriate funds that will be received from the mental health court grant that had been recently passed. The motion passed by 18 votes.

Information compiled by Johnathon Schleicher

Study: "Gay brothers"

Continued from 1

Skeptics include Stanton Jones, a psychology professor and provost at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. An evangelical Christian, Jones last month announced results of a study he co-authored that says it's possible for gays to "convert" — changing their sexual orientation without harm.

Jones said his results suggest biology plays only a minor role in sexual orientation, and that researchers seeking genetic clues generally have a pro-gay agenda that will produce biased results.

Sanders disputed that criticism.

"We do not have a predetermined point we are trying to prove," he said. "We are trying to pry some of nature's secrets loose with respect to a fundamental human trait."

Jones acknowledged that he's not a neutral observer. His study involved 98 gays "seeking help" from Exodus International, a

Christian group that believes homosexuals can become straight through prayer and counseling. Exodus International funded Jones' study.

The group's president, Alan Chambers, said he is a former homosexual who went straight and believes homosexuality is morally wrong.

Even if research ultimately shows that genetics play a bigger role, it "will never be something that forces people to behave in a certain way," Chambers said. "We all have the freedom to choose."

The Cabrera brothers grew up in Mexico in a culture where "being gay was an embarrassment," especially for their father, said Mauricio, 41, a car dealership employee from Olathe, Kan.

They had cousins who were gay, but Mauricio said he still felt he had to hide his sexual orientation and he struggled with his "double life." Julio said having an older brother who was gay made it easier for him to accept his sexuality. ◆

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Violence: Awareness raised

Continued from 1

All genders are welcome as students discuss different topics, view movies or even read writings and poetry. Terry Johnson, Director of the JAWC, explained that the gender circles are always encouraging to new faces because the students are mainly the ones that create the topics and conversations.

"Gender circles allow one person to reach out and touch others by sharing information with them," Johnson said.

In light of recent events on campus, Johnson emphasizes the 2424 MTSU student patrol escort service and the Rape Aggression Defense program as excellent safety training programs.

Johnson feels strongly about empowering students to feel safe and become more educated of their surroundings.

"It's important to be aware and watch out for yourself in certain situations," said Lindsey Bodine, sophomore and undeclared major.

An FBI estimate regarding domestic violence indicated that a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. Programs like the June Anderson Women's Center and RAD help many reclaim their safety.

"The more aware and educated people are about domestic violence, the more they will try to stop the violence in communities and throughout the nation," Johnson said. ♦


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Raptors to visit MTSU

The Hendersonville Raptor Cheerleaders, an award-winning group of disabled athletes, is scheduled to appear at this Saturday's game against Arkansas State

By Tiffany Gibson
Staff Writer

The Hendersonville Raptor Cheerleaders will be visiting MTSU to help cheer on the Blue Raiders while they take on Arkansas State this Saturday.

The game will take place on Oct. 20 and will begin at 3:30 p.m. The Raptor Cheerleaders will be present as the football players run through the tunnel.

The Raptors are also expected to perform between quarters and during halftime.

The Raptor Cheerleaders are a group of individuals with special needs that travel around Tennessee and have won numerous awards such as the Letterman Jacket and having the honor to be claimed National Champions.

Coach Cindy Hamblin is proud of her team and their accomplishments as they enter into their fifth season.

"We have 16 cheerleaders on the team currently, but we originally started out with 8 and have grown ever since," said Hamblin. "We know there are so many more children and adults that could and would participate with us if they knew about us. I feel we make a good working team together and each have very different yet important roles to play with this team. The most important thing about working with my team is that they love, respect, and worship each other and the coaches no matter what. They know what we expect and step up and come through when we ask them to. They show what a "team" is truly all about."

All of the Raptor cheerleaders have decorated and designed banners and footballs to present to the 20 senior football players during their time spent on campus.

MTSU football player and senior athlete, Jonathan Grigsby also helped with decorating and organization for the Raptor Cheerleaders.

Lori Kissinger, instructor of Organizational Communications Communities Class, and several Communication students that cooperate with the Vision Strength and Artistic expression program of Tennessee invited the Raptor champions as a VSA project and to help

show some school spirit.

The VSA program of Tennessee is a program designed to engineer success to people with disabilities through the arts. The VSA offers many different fields such as art camps, literary and music competitions, performances and exhibitions with demonstrations.

Current participant, Daniel Janvrin, twenty-one years old and 2007 Young Soloist winner in the annual VSA arts Tennessee competition, has been selected to sing the National Anthem before the game.


Kissinger believes that Communication students are not faced with enough diversity and anticipates by having experience with disabilities students will strengthen their knowledge in their professions. She also encourages students to take place in projects such as the Raptor Cheerleaders.

"20 percent of any population have a disability and most disabilities are going to affect the communication process in some way. It's important that students learn how to deal with these career barriers they might face," said Kissinger, Organizational Communication instructor.

Raising money for the Raptor's visit was extremely difficult for the VSA because it is a non-profit event, but fortunately the widow of Larry Sickinger was kind enough to donate money in her husband's memory. However, funds were lacking so students within the program drew their attention to Cat's Meow located in Bell Buckle, Tennessee and the Commercial Vehicle Education of Middle Tennessee. Students conversed with these companies about the project and ultimately encouraged them to donate money.

Mallory Gambill, sophomore organizational communications major and student of ORCO, played a major role in trying to convince companies to donate money for this cause.

"I told them both about our project, the things we wanted to accomplish, the things we had already accomplished and how much it meant to the cheerleaders. After hearing about it, they were more than happy to donate the rest of the funds. Without these two businesses, we would not have been able to make this experience everything that it could have been," Gambill said. ♦



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board: Still no cure for cancer

Is there a gene that can predisposition someone to be homosexual? Chicago area researchers are trying to find the answer to a question that has plagued the psyches of curious individuals of all ages and all sexual orientations.

While the results could provide interesting insight into the development of human sexuality, the knowledge could prove to be equally disastrous. Knowledge, in and of itself, is a double-edged sword.

On one hand, determination of a "gay" gene could solidify the argument used that homosexuality is not a choice, further hacking away at the bars of discrimination. However, the gene could be viewed as a defect of sorts, much like a mutant gene. This raises the argument of what genetic structure is "normal" – heterosexual or homosexual.

While the survey is helpful in purely medical terms, socially it does nothing for the recognition of gay people as social equals to their straight counterparts. In the article, Alan Sanders, lead researcher in the study, said the purpose is to find genetic markers in determining sexuality and not role in behavior.

Since behavior is discounted and because behavior is social, the study discounts social factors as influence into sexuality. From an anthropological stand point, the variety of cultures and societies are too wide ranging to scientifically measure influence on sexuality.

As a primary example, no two family structures are exactly alike. Therefore, familial behaviors, while possibly influential in sexual orientation, do not set sexuality in stone.

A feminine male or masculine female are not necessarily gay. A homosexual is not required to retain traits traditionally identified as belonging to the opposite sex.

The theory behind the student is well intended, but it seems in science and society, we seek to find answers to perceived "problems" and differences.

The fact remains that in our beautiful culture gay people are discriminated against because of a feature they may or may not be able to control.

And despite the results of this survey, the lesson to learn is that any kind of love is good; it is hate that we need to watch out for.

It is interesting to note that, while federal funds are being used to bankroll studies focusing only on who is gay and why, there's still no cure for cancer.

"Right-to-work" is wrong for laborers

The American labor movement has been in steady decline for quite some time now. Over the past fifty years, many of the advances made by organized labor in this country have been thrown back one by one. With globalization and the ensuing mass-exodus of once lucrative, unionized manufacturing jobs from the country, millions of American workers have had to make the transition into the service sector, which generally offers less pay, fewer benefits and fewer opportunities for advancement. A substantial factor in this discrepancy is that union presence is nearly non-existent in this rapidly growing portion of the economy. A major reason for this is that twenty-two states, including Tennessee, have thrown down legal barriers to prevent their citizens from unionizing new areas of the workforce in the form of so-called "right-to-work" laws.

Right-to-work laws were a natural outgrowth of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947. This bill arguably marked the beginning of the decline of American labor. Its provisions include, among other things, the right of the President to intervene in strikes that fit the rather arbitrary definition of a "national emergency," outlawing union membership as a condition of employment, and enabling state governments to restrict union activity to an unprecedented degree. This last clause is what has led nearly half of state governments to pass draconian "right-to-work" legislation.

Given their names, these laws initially sound quite progressive. It seems to imply that individual states have taken the initiative to guarantee their citizens the right to employment. However, the clever misnomer attached to these laws could not be more misleading. While, in a sense these laws do reduce the predicating circumstances of employment, it is to the detriment of worker's interests and wholly to the advantage of employers.

As a result of these restrictions, unions can no longer freely negotiate with their employers to obtain a "union security agreement," which requires that workers benefiting from union representation must pay dues to support the union's activities. Since



Pravda

Michael Cannon
Contributing
Columnist

workers are no longer required to financially contribute for union protection, organized labor's resources are being depleted. Thus, the ability of unions to protect their members from wage and benefit cuts is quickly diminishing. The illegality of required union dues is also rendering unions less attractive for new workers and the task of organizing new businesses more difficult. Essentially, these laws are designed to financially strangle the labor movement and undermine solidarity in the workplace, rendering workers defenseless against the attacks of management.

In comparing right-to-work states to those without these statutes, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the average worker covered by these laws earns \$7,131 less than workers in states without them. Given that the laws prevent workers from pressing management for benefits, it is no surprise that the amount of people without health insurance is 15 percent higher in these states. The widest discrepancies, however, are in regard to worker's compensation benefits and workplace safety. Compensation benefits were found to be 50 percent less in right-to-work states, whereas the percentage of workplace deaths is 41 percent higher.

While these statistics reveal a surprising correlation between these laws and lower welfare for working people, it would be false to assume that the former is the sole causation of the latter. There are probably a range of other factors influencing these stark differences between the states. However, repealing right-to-work laws across the nation would serve to help reinvigorate the labor movement, raise wages, reduce the number of uninsured, and consequently begin closing a gap that is slowly dividing the nation.

Michael Cannon is a sophomore sociology major and can be reached at mrc3g@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

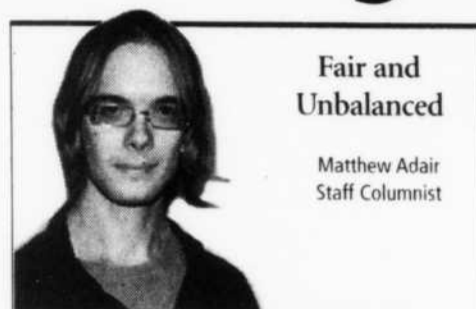
Say "no" to cutting student aid

We're told a great number of things are important as we're growing up: a good work ethic, the ability to listen and a strong sense of proper hygiene, for instance. Topping the list, though, is honesty. Without honesty, we're told, we can't have anything else. Families, businesses, even countries are unable to function if we cannot depend on knowing that we are speaking the truth to one another.

With that said, we should be appalled to know that our government is lying to us, the students of this university, as well as schools across the country. It isn't even that we are being lied to, but that, by lying to us and spreading misinformation, thousands of students are being denied access to financial aid to help pay for a college education.

The lie in question is the federal government's policy on drug possession and use, specifically the information spread by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign's public service announcements. The campaign's various television, radio, print and online ads intend to keep children and young adults away from drug abuse, but research has shown that these ads often backfire and result in mistrust towards any effort to discourage substance abuse.

Take, for instance, the Office on National Drug Control Policy's campaign against marijuana use. This particular arm is one of the most prominent parts of ONDCP's overall anti-drug campaign, and the one most of us are familiar with. In an evaluation organized by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and released in Aug. 2007, it was found that ONDCP's ads often do more harm than good, making it more likely that the viewer will try marijuana if they haven't already.



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

Similarly, research at Texas State University released in May, 2006 agrees with NIDA's findings. Comparing exposure to anti-tobacco and anti-marijuana ads among 18 and 19-year olds, it was found students watching anti-marijuana ads were less likely to believe than students watching similar anti-tobacco ads.

Everyone from independent researchers to Congress' own Government Accountability Office agrees: ONDCP's anti-drug campaigns, specifically their anti-marijuana campaign, does not deter people from using the drug, and may in fact encourage them to try the drug out of defiance.

As a result, most of the students who do light up and get caught lose their financial aid, due to a provision in the Higher Education Act, added in 1998, that strips a student of their aid upon conviction of any drug-related offense, and prevents them from ever receiving aid ever again. No financial aid often means no college, and no college in today's world relegates a person to a life in the service industry, or another dismal, low-paying job with little chance of advancement.

By cutting students off from financial aid, ONDCP is setting up a situation where it

becomes more likely that students who have at one time used drugs will develop a consistent habit of abuse later in life. Without access to higher education, which opens access to more money and thus more options for treating drug addiction, the federal government is essentially writing off the futures of thousands of young adults as a loss without thinking of what could be done to help them.

The Higher Education Act is up for reauthorization this year, and grassroots organizations such as Students for Sensible Drug Policy have managed to persuade Congress to at least consider revising the rules on financial aid. It must be our responsibility as students, and as a nation of people who believe in giving everyone the chance to make something of their lives, to remove a rule that punishes those who have already been punished for not knowing who or what to trust.

It is disgraceful that someone can murder, rape, steal or commit any combination of these, or any other offense, and still be eligible to receive government grants, loans and scholarships should you ever be released. If, however, you get caught smoking a joint once, your future is over. Our government's bad policy and bad information is perpetuating its own War on Drugs, condemning an untold number of people to a future of mediocrity when with help, those same people could have achieved great things.

If that's the truth our government wants to sell us, then it's time we just said no to the Aid Elimination Policy.

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

Letters to the Editor

Peaster jokes about MTSU safety

To the Editor:

I believe an apology is in order from MTSU Police Chief Carl Peaster for his unprofessional and less-than-serious attitude during the Campus Safety Forum, held Oct. 10 in the Keathley University Center Theater. The students in attendance were genuinely concerned with campus safety, and Chief Peaster's comical approach to safety was not amusing.

If Buddy wants to tell jokes, maybe he should resign his position at MTSU and pursue a career in stand-up at Zanies in Nashville. Something else that struck me was the statement Bob Glenn made about individual security. He asserted that our individual safety was not the responsibility of the University, and he was absolutely right. The Supreme Court decided in *DeShaney v. Winnebago*, 489 U.S. 189 (1989), that it was not the role of governmental agencies to ensure the protection of individual citizens from others. Likewise, lower courts have reached similar decisions: *Gonzales v. City of Castle Rock*, *Pinder v. Johnson*, *Warren v. District of Columbia*, *Riss v. New York*, *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Department*, et al. Looks like we're on our own, folks.

Concerned students should note that the week of Oct. 22 is "Empty Holster Protest Week." Students should wear an empty holster to protest current state laws that make it unlawful to carry a firearm on campus. Contact me if you have any questions.

Matthew Hurtt
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Outrage regarding guns at MTSU

To the Editor:

I cannot speak for the majority of my fellow students, but I was completely outraged by the thought of our Student Government entertaining the idea of allowing students to carry guns on campus. What would this resolution resolve? Nothing. The instances of violence on campus such as the student attacked in her dorm or the VA Tech massacre are tragic but rare. These instances would skyrocket with the advent of education seekers packing heat.

As I walked across the Walnut Grove on my way to Peck Hall one afternoon, I came upon a plethora of broken beer bottles on our "dry" campus. Everyone knows this campus is not dry. Maybe officially, but in a functional capacity - no way. All MTSU needs is for someone to be intoxicated, get in an altercation and pull out their pistol to "resolve" the situation. People who are drunk and/or irrationally angry won't think of the consequences at the time, but the effects would be devastating. Permit or not, some people are not fit to carry handguns, period. Students are among this group.

Opponents may argue that it is a Constitutional right to carry guns. Although I don't like the prospect of a world where everyone has a Glock on their hip, if it's in the Constitution then it is your right. However, there are also time, place, and manner

restrictions. Educational and government facilities, under both of which MTSU would fall, are among the most highly regulated under the time, place and manner standard.

I don't see how guns could possibly solve any violence problems on campus. I know this resolution is reactionary to current unfortunate acts of violence on college campuses, but in truth, what are the odds that of the 32 people killed in the Virginia Tech Massacre, any one of them would have happened to have been the one that was legally permitted to carry a handgun? Slim. Further, what are the odds that gun mishaps would occur due to anger, drunkenness, sheer accident, etc., when more students are allowed to legally carry them? Much higher.

Matthew Hurtt said in the article "SGA votes on gun resolution" [Oct. 4] that "the administration says it would drastically change the college dynamics." Of course it would! Teachers and students would be constantly intimidated. I fear more for a campus full of students packing heat than the possibility of a random attack on the scale of Virginia Tech.

I, for one, can say that the day I walk into a classroom where I see the outline of a handgun concealed beneath the clothing of the person sitting in front of me - with permission from the SGA, no less - will be the day I withdraw from this fine university and finish my education elsewhere. And I must make the assertion that I wouldn't be alone.

Rachel Sears
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

Guns on campus not the answer

To the Editor:

I am probably the biggest MTSU football fan out there! I love and support our football team and every member! I know many of the players and my boyfriend of two years starts for the Blue Raiders.

Don't get me wrong: I love [Dwight] Dasher and I think he is doing amazing things for our team right now, but I would really like you all to include some other major players on the team. There are more than two or three guys who make our team win. I feel that *Sidelines* gives recognition to the players that people know and credit with our football team's success, but why don't you think about publishing some other stats and players' names and make the whole team feel appreciated. I know there are fans out there who would appreciate that too, and maybe more people would read your articles. I know plenty of fans whose favorite players are those who aren't in the spotlight. Why don't you expand your coverage and give our team the credit they deserve. I hope this letter doesn't fall on deaf ears and I look forward to hearing back from you.

One more thing: Is anyone thinking about how to get more students out for our games? The number of students and the number of attendees at our games just don't add up.

Kaela Spees,
Junior, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Letters Policy:

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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FEATURES

Energy Fee inspires students to act

Bill keeps university environment-friendly

By Katy Coil

Staff Writer

During the fall semester 2005, students passed the Clean Energy Bill, adding \$8 to tuition in order to fund the MTSU's clean energy switch.

Many students, however, are unaware of it.

The Clean Energy Fee was passed by 89 percent of students who voted in a record-breaking turnout. The bill was proposed by the Students for Environmental Action (SEA). SEA President Reggie Miller said the bill began with a survey.

"We surveyed around 600 people all over campus," Miller says. "Every department, every age group, and compiled the amount of money people were willing to pay. We halved that to \$8, got everyone to vote for it at Homecoming and passed it with 89 percent approval."

Marnie Allen, a junior business finance major, understands why the bill was passed.

"I didn't even know about it," she says. "But I don't blame them for wanting to clean up our school. The nicer it is, the more people that want to come here."

Allen believes she makes some contributions to the environment.

"I don't litter or anything, but I don't travel in an energy safe car either," she says. "I don't go out of my way to do anything, but I don't do anything against it."

To help the environment, Allen is concerned with the issue of recycling. "We go through about eight trees per semester," she says. "We could put that into recycling, put up recycling sites on campus and make it easier for students to recycle."

Sophomore history major Joe McDaniel, wasn't aware of the bill either, but agrees that MTSU should be environmentally aware.

"It's pretty important," he said. "If the environment wasn't in good shape it would make life miserable for the rest of us."

McDaniel does his share to help the environment.

"I definitely don't litter," he says. "I do my best to recycle."

He also has an idea of how other students could help.

"Try to carpool as best they can but basically watch what they do when it comes to littering," he says. "They should probably put a fee in place for littering on campus. I'm not one of those extreme 'oh, worship Mother Earth' types, but I think we should take care of the environment so we don't get screwed."

Junior psychology and Spanish major Brian Michels describes himself as "slightly aware" of the bill.

"I'm okay with it because they're trying to make it known they're trying to help," he says.

The bill, he thinks, is an attempt from MTSU to help out.

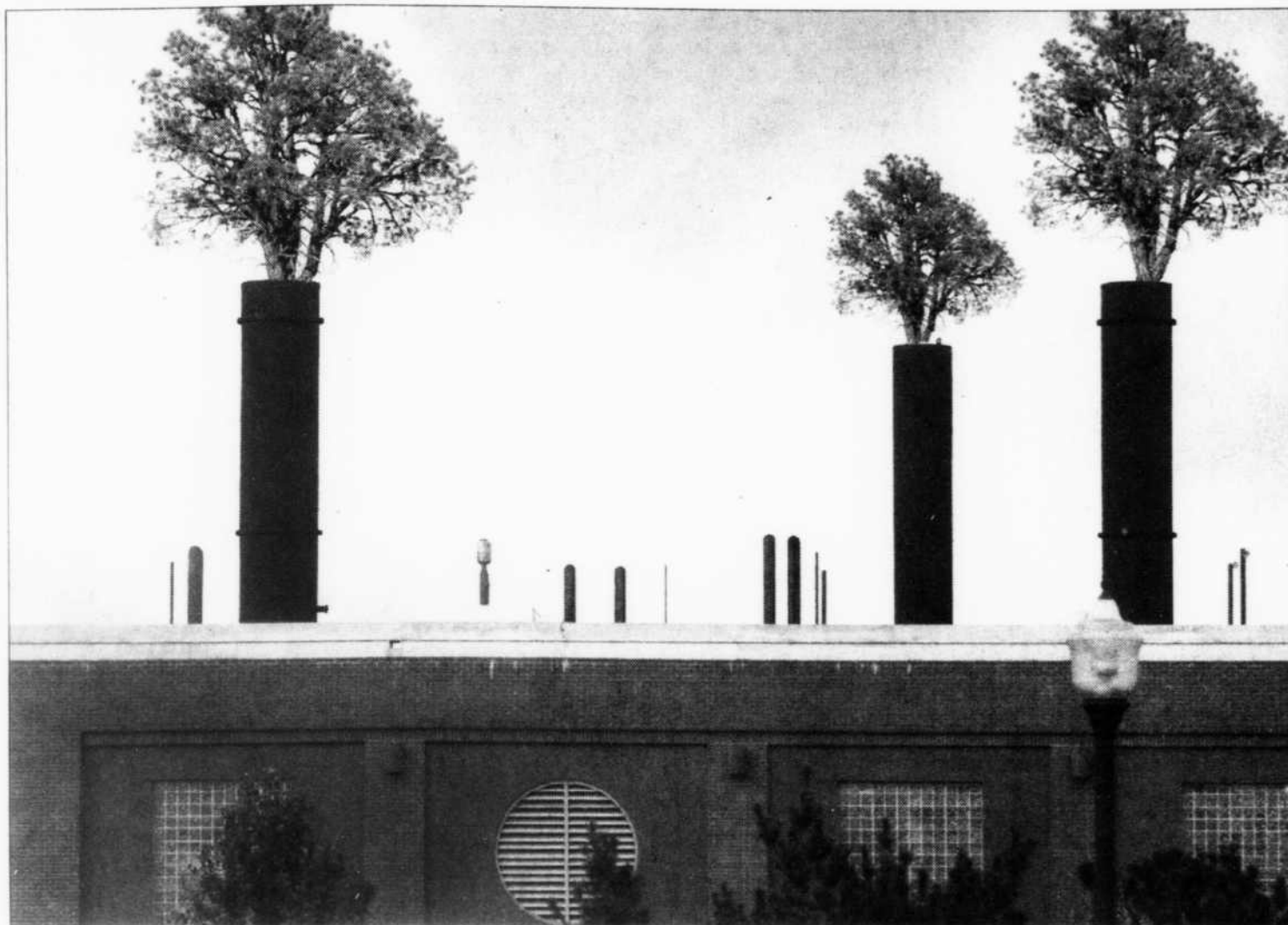
"I recycle here and again," he says. "Nothing above the medium. I definitely don't do enough but it does make me comfortable to know the university is taking steps, that they're trying."

Michels does believe, though, that the university should communicate with students about environmental concerns on campus.

"I'm not aware of any outstanding problem," he says, "but if they're aware of problems we're not, that could make us aware so we could do something about it. Action is the bottom line. Talking is good, but action gets things done."

Nicole Roehrich, a Junior Pre-Law major, is not only aware of the bill but believes she was one of the students who voted for it.

"I think it's a good idea," she says. "I'm real big on conserving the environment. I always recycle when I can and I try to carpool as much as possible, which, on campus, is a little difficult. I've lived on a farm all my life. I've always been very outdoorsy and I feel if we don't conserve our planet, we're all going to be homeless."



The Central Utility Plant may not have trees coming out of its smoke stacks, but thanks to the Clean Energy Bill, MTSU is making strides toward being environmentally-friendly. Many students, however, are completely unaware of the \$8 of their tuition that goes toward the fee.

Roehrich thinks the Raider Express is a good way for other students to conserve.

"If we'd all try to take the Raider Express, as hard as it is, and if we tried to carpool to games and things, it would help a whole lot," she says.

Miller explains that the bill works in two ways: five dollars goes to the green power switch, a TVA program that uses the premium pay on the electric bill that funds wind turbines and solar panels. Approximately 11 percent of MTSU's electricity relies on it. The \$3 portion goes toward making campus more efficient, like changing lights, getting hybrid buses on campus, and using biodiesel.

For the 2006-2007 school year, the Clean Energy Fee received \$352,000 in funding from tuition, \$220,000 of which went to the Green Power Purchase program while the rest goes to various projects on campus, as outlined by Gene Fitch, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student Life.

"We purchased a hybrid fueled vehicle for the motor pool fleet," Fitch says. "If someone had to take a trip to Nashville from the university, the would have that option. Recycling containers, lamp crushers which allows us to take fluorescent lamps, crush, and recycle them, upgrades thermostats in some of the older buildings to make them more energy efficient. It's funded a lamping project in the nursing building to make it more energy efficient, the purchase of a bus that would be converted to run off cooking oil from the kitchens. We are actually working on that right now. We have a consultant helping students to do that."

Money from the fee also goes to fund research projects on campus that deal with energy efficiency.

"A portion, up to 10 percent, of our annual allocation go to research projects," Fitch says. "Right now we have one, that was for Dr. Cliff Ricketts. He does a lot of work with hydrogen from water as a fuel. It's called the development of a flex-fueled engine to run off the sun."

As the chair of the committee that allocates the Clean Energy Fee funding, Fitch is responsible for making sure the projects funded by the fee are worthwhile to MTSU.

And, according to Fitch, the Clean Energy Fee was a success because it was a student-backed initiative.

"I think because we had a group of students who said we had a need for it and rather than sit around talking about it, they took action," he says. "I don't think campus is more aware but because we've got funding, we can take action. We don't have a lot of funding, only \$352,000, but it's a start. I don't think it's so much we're more aware, it's just that we have a revenue stream to get stuff done."

What the Clean Energy Fee accomplishes next, though, is up to the students.

"We're ready to identify those projects with the amount of money available, to build off what that group of students started, to build up campus initiatives," Fitch says. "The major piece of this, besides the project's funding, is the green power itself. It's not up to the committee to set goals for the campus, it's from the campus to say where we want to be in 'x' number of years and then set those projects to fund those goals." ♦

Haunted Murfreesboro tours scare, enthrall

By Jacob Sharbel

Contributing Writer

Many locals know the story of the Human Fly. He was a traveling performer who came to town in 1923 claiming he could scale the Murfreesboro courthouse and touch the weathervane at the very top. After only a few days, everyone had heard of the stranger's bizarre claim, and suddenly, he was a local celebrity. A great crowd of farmers and businessmen gathered around the center of town to watch as he undertook the feat. He shimmied up one of the huge pillars, made it to the roof, and began climbing the clock tower. He managed to make it to the very top, just as he had promised, and started making a spectacle of his accomplishment. According to some accounts, he did a little dance to show off his success. He even pretended to lose his footing at one point, and the crowd gasped, thinking surely he was about to fall.

But no. He, of course, had done this before in other towns. He was a professional.

Murfreesboro, though, was to be the place of his downfall.

The Human Fly cautiously climbed back down. Unfortunately, unlike his insect counterparts, he himself could not fly. When he lost his footing, this time it was not just an act. He slipped on the rain-slick bowl not far from the top of the clock tower, fell, and broke his neck. He died instantly on the roof of the courthouse. The people of Murfreesboro put his body in a coffin with a clear lid and stood the coffin up in the window of a local business on the square. At the foot of the coffin sat the sign: "Do you know this man?" After a few days, the townspeople had to bury him, and to this day, he rests in an unmarked grave.

If you liked that story, then you are in for a treat. This is just one of several that the BoroTellers, a local guild of storytelling enthusiasts, told around this time last year as they gave one hour tours to people who love a good yarn.

And yes, according to the BoroTellers, all of the stories they told were true.

With some luck, this year the nights of late



Graphic by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

October will be cool and clear, perfect conditions for the BoroTellers as they lead groups of eager kids and adults on tours around downtown Murfreesboro, thrilling them with tales of our town's sometimes hilarious, sometimes chilling past.

The event is called Haunted Murfreesboro, and it runs from 8 to 10 p.m. (with a new tour departing every 15 minutes) during the last two Fridays and Saturdays of October (the 19, 20, 26, and 27). Tours will also be held on Thursday, October 25, running from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person, and tours depart from 118 West Vine St., across from the Linebaugh Library and Murfreesboro Civic Plaza.

Member and co-founder of the BoroTellers Jette Halladay has been preparing for Haunted Murfreesboro. The walking tour is only in its third year, but as with both previous years, Halladay and her fellow storytellers should expect a huge turnout.

During her years at MTSU, Halladay met other

storytelling enthusiasts – mostly through her class – and that is how the BoroTellers, Haunted Murfreesboro, and many of the other storytelling events around town came to be.

"Many of the students wanted to continue the storytelling workshop after the class," she says, "and we weren't offering an advanced storytelling class, so we formed a storytelling guild. It's been in existence for probably about 11 years now."

They never expected Haunted Murfreesboro to be a huge success. They decided to charge five dollars a head and hope that about a hundred people would show up. A thousand people came, Halladay says, laughing.

"We found ourselves racing to make sure we got everyone on the tour," she says. "We weren't prepared for that many. So the second year we were a little bit more prepared. But this is our third year, and we've realized that we've got something going here, and we have to decide if we want to keep it going."

Halladay did not want to say too much about this year's stories. "You have to come to Haunted

Murfreesboro," she said. The BoroTellers have promised one another that they will tell certain stories only at Haunted Murfreesboro and nowhere else, unless a story is already largely known by the public, such as the one about the Human Fly. She did talk about some characters featured in a few of the new stories. Some of them will be about grave robbers, ghosts, or the Civil War. "There's an interesting fellow who had an experience preaching the gospel to animals," she says.

"There's a story about the last man to be executed in the electric chair in Tennessee who was from Murfreesboro."

Just like last year, the stories will be as diverse, funny and entertaining as the storytellers themselves.

A good story can enthrall people, transporting them back to a different time and perhaps to a different place. The BoroTellers work hard to capture the humorous and strange elements of our town's history. Maybe, if an audience is lucky enough, humorous or strange things will happen on the tour.

Last year, as Boone Westfall, one of the BoroTellers, told the story of the Human Fly to a group of adults and kids, something unexpected happened.

They made their way back to Vine Street, and he was getting ready to wrap up the tour. Standing outside of the firehouse on the corner of Vine and Spring on that clear night, the tour group could see the courthouse a couple blocks away where the Human Fly fell to his death so many years before. In his resonant baritone of a voice and his slow, mesmerizing style of telling, Boone ended the story by saying that when the Human Fly fell, the fire department was dispatched and came to the scene of the accident to try and save the man. Just as Boone said the words "fire department," a siren went off and within seconds, a fire truck bolted from the firehouse garage, responding to a call.

The audience laughed, all of them a little bit chilled, but definitely appreciating the bizarre coincidence, just one in the long history of our haunted town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

For more information and reservations, visit borotellers.org. ♦

SPORTS

Omens:

And the men who won't bathe because of them

I am Sportacus



J. Owen Shipley
Sports
Editor

For many fans, the result of a of a sporting event often boils down to the proper distribution of "obvious" omens.

Most dictionaries point out that while omens are either good or bad, there is generally a foreboding connotation associated with the word. They are also mostly derived from superstitious practices and out-dated religious beliefs.

Sports omens are somewhat different. They can be either good or bad with no connotation of negativity (because a bad omen for the other team is a good omen for yours) but they do come from the same part of the human psyche.

Namely, they explain what our blind faith (or if you're a Jets fan, unwinding negativity) in certain teams can not.

How did unranked South Florida beat no. 13 Auburn?

If you're an Auburn fan, the answer might be as simple as you having washed your lucky socks but if you're a Bulls fan the omen may have been as simple as Bubba's Pizza Shack finally finding your duplex without having to call and interrupt the game.

Sport's writers are not immune to such superstitions. More specifically, I'm not.

For example, the best pre-game food I've ever eaten was a tie between the steak I had in Denton Texas last year and the rack of ribs I ate in the press box in Memphis on Saturday.

The result of those delicious pregame meals? A combined 56-7 and my two favorite games as an MT fan.

Now, on the other hand, the worst food I've ever had was definitely at home two weeks ago versus Virginia.

The pressbox meal was some form of barbecue that looked so similar to the baked beans that I was too scared to try either. Result? MT misses out on one of the biggest upsets in school history by a measly two points.

This isn't to say that I believe my meals can sway games, I may be a drunk but I'm not crazy. What means is omens are as important to the game of football as cheerleaders, jumbotrons, and nachos. In the end, while they have nothing what so ever to do with the games out come, they can drastically alter the experience of a win or a loss.

Possibly the scariest omen, in my book, is the announcement of a fireworks show before a game. Ninety percent of the time that is a move that seems to blow up into the home team's face. Ask North Texas how that worked last year.

When MT announced fireworks before the Virginia game I knew they were in trouble. For the entire rest of the game, despite the momentum seeming to be in MT's favor I just knew that something terrible would happen.

Sure enough, after the game I had to shout my press-conference questions over loud explosions and that feeling of fate gnawing at my pride.

The beautiful thing is, had we won that game, I would have felt like we won twice, against the cavaliers and against fate itself.

Negative omens are hard to deal with, it's true. Luckily, nothing beats a good omen.

When their tiger mascot slept through the pregame show, I knew Memphis was in trouble.

See Omen-acus, 7



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raiders celebrated their second win in three games before a loud visiting section filled with MT fans. MT is now 4-1 against in-state Football Bowl Subdivision opponents, including 3-0 against Vanderbilt.

Blue Raiders return home

Football team take on Indians in contest that could determine conference championship

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will look to improve its conference record Saturday as they prepare to take on the Arkansas State Indians at home in a game that could have Sun Belt Conference championship ramifications.

The Indians (3-3, 1-1 Sun Belt) are coming off a 52-21 home win against conference foe Louisiana-Lafayette. Despite being outscored by an average of 15 points in their three losses, ASU has managed to play teams tough, including No. 19 Texas, who was only able to beat the Indians by eight points despite having home field advantage. However, ASU is 0-3 in road contests.

"They are a really good team," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "They are No. 1 in total offense in [the Sun Belt] and they are No. 1 in total defense in our conference. They have been in every game they have played, whether it's been Texas or Tennessee."

The Raiders (2-5, 1-1 SBC) got a 21-7 win at Memphis last Saturday in the first meeting between the two teams in over 50 years. In that game, MT was able

to shut the Tigers down in the second half, allowing only 65 yards total offense. The Raiders also prevented Memphis from converting a single third down conversion after halftime.

"I thought it was a great win for our football team," Stockstill said. "I thought they competed really well and played really well at certain points in the game. We challenged our team at halftime to play a little more physical and [with] more toughness and they did that. I thought we really dominated the second half."

One key for the Raiders will be stopping ASU quarterback Corey Leonard, who is averaging 299.8 total yards a game. Leonard has also scored 16 touchdowns this season, including four on the ground.

Similarly, the Indians will have to cope with MT's own dual-threat quarterback, true-freshman Dwight Dasher. Dasher set the MT record for most rushing yards by a quarterback in a single game with his 180-yard rushing performance against Memphis. Dasher is not strictly a runner, though. In four games as a starter, he has surpassed 230 passing yards twice and has thrown for no fewer than 169 yards.

"There are some similarities [between Dasher and Leonard,]" Stockstill said. "Corey has already gone through what Dwight is [going through.] Every game and every practice is a learning experience for Dwight, and it's probably true for Corey, except Dwight has played in four games to Corey's 16 or 17."

This game could help determine the Sun Belt champion. Currently four teams (Troy, Florida Atlantic, ASU and MT) have one loss or fewer in conference play. Whoever loses this game is likely to be out of the SBC title picture.

"This is a very tight league," Stockstill said. "There is no game in this league you can look at and think it's a sure win. You don't talk about winning the conference right now. You play Arkansas State and try to do you best and then go on to the next game. Hopefully one loss can win the conference and hopefully that happens."

The game is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. at Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium. ♦

VB loses first SBC game

By Clarence Plank

Staff Writer

For just the second time in 23 attempts this season, the MT volleyball team tasted the bitterness of defeat. To add to the distaste, the loss was to Sun Belt Conference rival Western Kentucky.

Costly errors held the Blue Raiders to a .188 hitting percentage, giving the Hilltoppers a 3-0 victory on Monday night in Bowling Green.

It marks the first time this season that the Blue Raiders have been swept in a series. The Raiders fell to 21-2, 8-1 in conference play. Western Kentucky is 20-4, 9-0 and remains the only undefeated team in the East Division. The Hilltoppers' win ended MT's eleven-game winning streak.

Last year, the Raiders snapped WKU 24-home game win streak and won a share of the Sun Belt Conference title.

"I was very disappointed in our team tonight," head coach Matt Peck said. "I don't think Western is one of the best teams we've played. We just didn't show up to play. Western played a great match and had a great game plan. We were outplayed. They deserve to be in first-place right now."

MT is currently in second place behind the Hilltoppers with a rematch scheduled on November 9 at 7 p.m.

Ashley Adams had 10 kills and hit .348 and Izabela Kozon finished with seven kills and four digs. Kozon scored two aces in the series.

The Blue Raiders committed six service and 12 reception errors. Three of those errors cost the Raiders game two.

"When your team has two or three people who

do not show up, are not focused for a big match and not executing our game plan you're not going to win too many matches," Peck said. "I don't know, maybe our team will play better now that we have a conference loss."

"I am very puzzled at this result," Peck said. "We had great matches this past weekend. I felt confident going into this match, and I totally overestimated what our team was able to do tonight. We had some pretty poor performances and we have to regroup. We have a big weekend ahead of us and again I am very disappointed in this outcome tonight."

MT faces Louisiana-Monroe on Friday and Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday before wrapping up its tour with a game on Monday against New Orleans.

Coming into this weekend's match against a winless ULM (0-22, 0-9) team, MT may have its hands full with a team that lost to North Texas 3-1.

MT will need to stop Warhawk Lima Sam Fogg, who had a triple-double, with 16 kills, 14 digs and 28 assists, in the loss to North Texas, to pull out the win.

ULL (3-22, 2-8) was unable to break its 10 game losing streak to North Texas over the weekend and looks to face Western Kentucky a day before MT arrives.

The Blue Raiders are 5-1 against ULM dating back to 2001 season and they face a New Orleans club that is 11-11 and 5-4 in conference play.

UNO lost to division leader Denver on Sunday and looks to get back into winning after they face Western Kentucky on Saturday.

After this series MT only has five games remaining before the end of the season and the SBC Championships in Denver, Co. ♦



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Junior Ashley Adams led the Blue Raiders with 10 kills for a .348 hitting percentage

The SUPP Overall Top-25

No.	Team	Fraction	Pts
1.	Ohio State	0.9453	709
2.	South Florida	0.9080	681
3.	Oklahoma	0.8680	651
4.	Boston College	0.8667	650
5.	LSU	0.7933	595
6.	South Carolina	0.6867	515
7.	Oregon	0.6587	494
8.	Kentucky	0.6387	479
9.	West Virginia	0.6200	465
10.	California	0.5653	424
11.	USC	0.5520	414
12.	Arizona State	0.5333	400
13.	Virginia Tech	0.4733	355
14.	Florida	0.4507	338
15.	Kansas	0.4013	301
16.	Missouri	0.2987	224
17.	Hawaii	0.2773	208
18.	Texas	0.2627	197
19.	Auburn	0.2627	197
20.	Tennessee	0.1720	129
21.	Georgia	0.1613	121
22.	Cincinnati	0.1427	107
23.	Texas Tech	0.1120	84
24.	Michigan	0.0813	61
25.	Penn State	0.0440	33

Also receiving votes:
Virginia 0.0413
Wisconsin 0.0400
Rutgers 0.0400
Illinois 0.0387
Alabama 0.0213

Omen-acus

Continued from 6

It was the only way I could have enjoyed that game more. Because of a rack of barbecued ribs and a sleeping cat, a great win had been transformed into a game of destiny. And because I had known before Kick off that it would end that positively, my caveman-like superstitions were confirmed.

I know all of this might sound psychotic, but omens are just one of the things that make being a sports fan a worth while experience — unless you're friends with one of those guys who didn't bathe during an entire post season because he smelled bad the night his team snuck in to the play offs.

So if you're reading this and you think sports fans are all stupid and brain-dead, I have one bit of advice for you: get over it.

This is the sports section, stupid and crazy are our bread and butter. If you want sanity, go read the want ads.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior English major. He can be reached at mspace.com/lamsportacus.

Memphis:

Continued from 1

MT, who has had trouble stopping teams on third down, held Memphis to just five of 17 third down conversions after allowing the Tigers to convert four of their first five.

Memphis' only score came in the first quarter.

"It's something we've been focusing on throughout the week," junior cornerback Alex Suber said. "I think we did better last week versus Virginia. It just came down to us on defense having pride and playing a little bit harder."

MT will return to Floyd Stadium Saturday to take on Sun Belt foe Arkansas State. The game is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. CST. ♦

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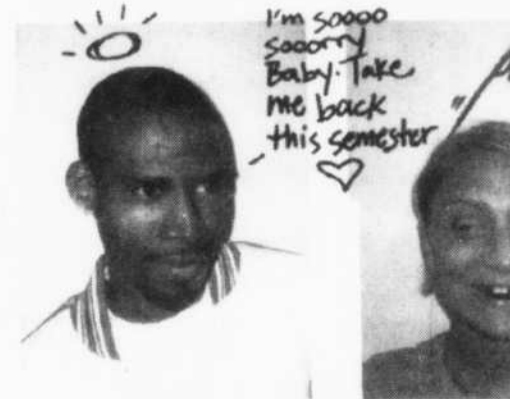
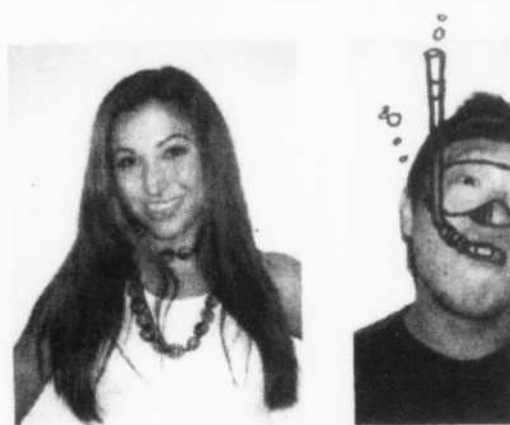
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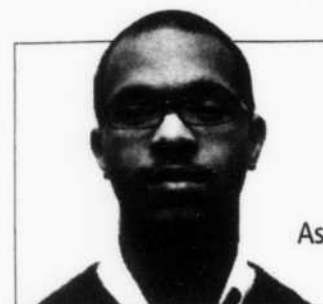
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Watch Us At The Grill



Sun Belt weighs bowl options



The Lowedown

Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, the Sun Belt Conference is sitting at a 3-3 record against Conference USA. The Blue Raiders evened the record this past Saturday by defeating C-USA member, University of Memphis, 21-7. Sadly, even if Middle Tennessee wins the rest of its games this season, there is a chance that the football coaches will be getting ready to recruit new players instead of getting the team ready for a bowl game. This situation has become one of the leading conversations in the SBC offices in New Orleans. In order for the Sun Belt Conference to continue gaining credibility, they must earn more guaranteed bowl slots.

Currently, the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl is the only bowl tie-in for the Sun Belt while C-USA has six bowl tie-ins. This makes the SBC championship that much more valuable. Last year, for example, Troy and Middle Tennessee shared the conference championship. Troy ended up making the trip to New Orleans because of the

Trojans victory over the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee did end up in the Motor City Bowl but if a higher tier team finished bowl-eligible, MT would have easily been sitting back in Murfreesboro. The Blue Raiders suffered this fate in 2001 when they went 8-3 and tied for first place in the conference with North Texas. The Mean Green went to New Orleans while the Blue Raiders were getting ready for next season.

Message boards have been buzzing on the subject of another bowl game since the competition of the conference has risen. The conference is the youngest in the FBS division, which has also brought about its share of jokes. Games against SEC and Big 12 powerhouses have added losses to team records and bruises to player egos.

Recently, schools in the SBC have hired new coaches, recruited better players, and played teams closer to their competition. The result has been upsets from Troy (Oklahoma State), FAU (Minnesota), Arkansas State (Army and Memphis), and Middle Tennessee (Vanderbilt and Memphis). The record against the C-USA has been a striking point amongst fans because last year the SBC won the series 4-3. With two more games against the C-USA to go, the SBC could win the series again. The C-USA has six guaranteed bowl slots.

Chris Massaro, director of athletics for Middle Tennessee, has expressed his opinion on the subject several times within the last year but has also revealed details that many fans may not realize. "The second bowl slot is

ideal and necessary [for the SBC], but you must be able to finance it," Massaro says.

A key to financing the bowls is attendance for home games and bowl games that SBC schools are invited. "Season ticket sales and mailing lists are essential to bowl selection," Massaro stated.

The Motor City Bowl, albeit a crowning achievement in Middle Tennessee athletics history, became a topic of conversation when it comes to inviting Sun Belt schools to bowl games. Middle Tennessee fans were asked to travel to Detroit, Mich., the day after Christmas and the day before the men's and women's basketball teams were to face in-conference rival, Western Kentucky University. Even though the crowd was heavily one sided towards Central Michigan, a school that was a three-hour drive from Ford Field, Middle Tennessee brought out a respectable number of fans. Many of those same fans made the quick turnaround and traveled back to Murfreesboro for both basketball games as well.

If the Sun Belt Conference has its way, the second guaranteed bowl slot would be located in the southeast, whether a slot is granted to them or a new bowl is created. "I think [the southeast] would be the ideal location to host a bowl game [for the conference]," Massaro says. "It's key to be able to drive to a bowl game."

Richard Lowe is junior broadcast journalism major and can be reached at rlowe@mtsutv.org

Soccer beats UALR, ties ASU

By Clarence Plank

Staff Writer

The MT soccer team didn't lose this weekend. Unfortunately it didn't win both contests, either.

Middle Tennessee pulled out a much needed win over Sun Belt Conference foe Arkansas-Little Rock 3-1 on Friday, but tied Arkansas State 0-0 on Sunday.

The Blue Raiders had plenty of opportunities to score on Arkansas State, but failed to do so due to penalties and was shutout for the third time this season. This was the first time that ASU has not lost a game in eight attempts.

"Give Arkansas State credit for battling and keeping us off the board today, and I take nothing from them," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "I also don't feel like we played a very good soccer match. We played a great defensive match but we couldn't capitalize on some scoring chances, especially early when we had a chance to put the pressure on them."

The Blue Raiders got a must win over UALR on Friday, which helped them get back into the SBC tournament chase. They beat the Lady Trojans 3-1.

"It's a huge win for us because UALR is such an improved team and it shows in their record overall and in the league," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We played a tough opponent tonight, and we were fortunate to get some goals there late in the first half."

With the win and the tie, MT (6-5-3, 3-2-1) is now fifth in the SBC standings and has a chance of making a higher seed by the end of the season for the SBC Tournament in November. MT has to win out in order to capture the first seed.

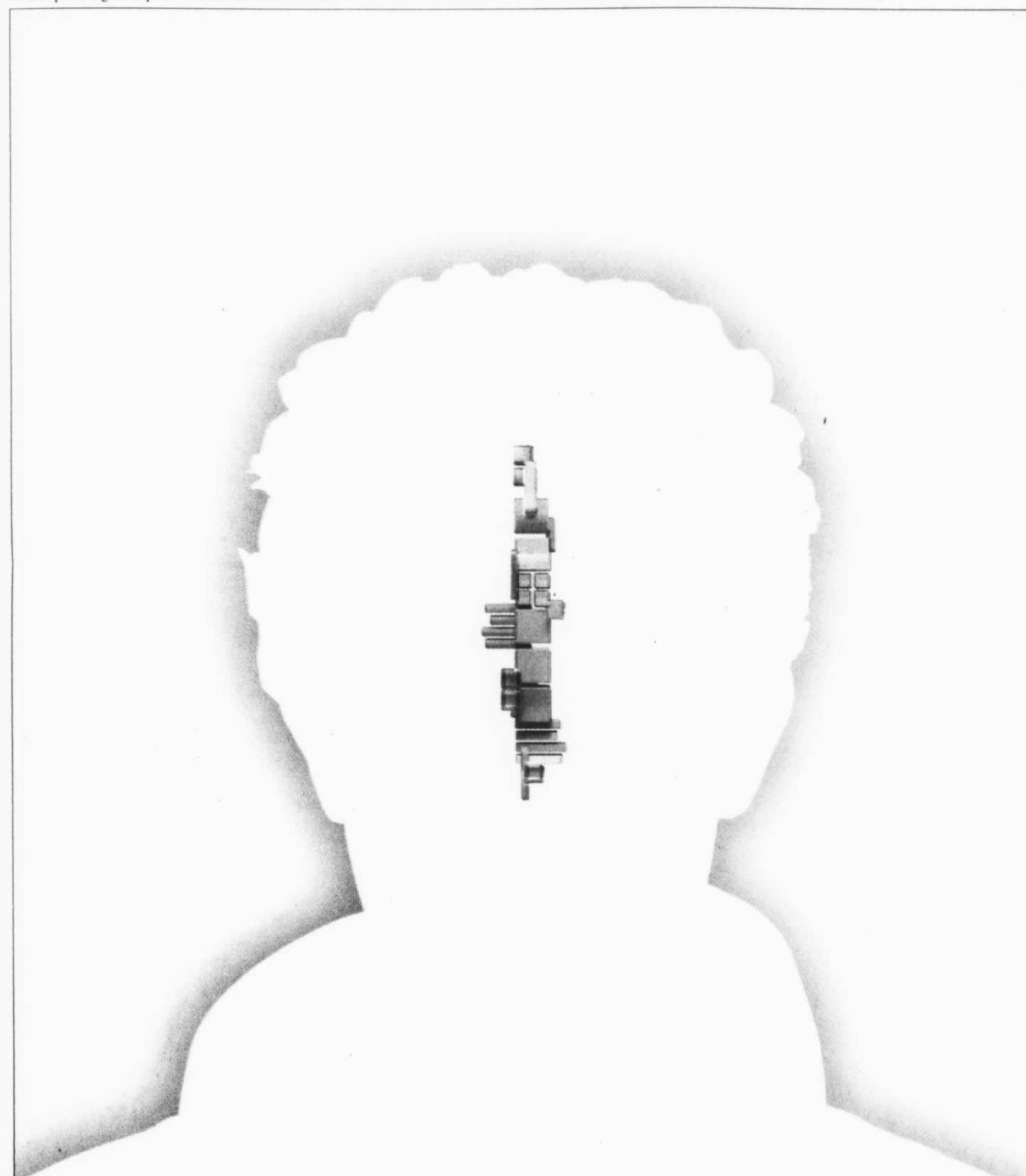
As it stands with this weekend's matches with Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe, the Blue Raiders can easily move into fourth place. The final three games are against defending SBC champion Denver, North Texas and Western Kentucky.

Coming into this weekend's games MT is 4-2 against ULL with MT winning 5-0 last season in Murfreesboro, and so far they have a three game winning streak against the Cajuns. A win will move the Raiders ahead of ULL.

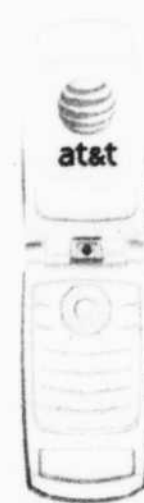
MT has faced ULM a couple of times, and the last meeting was a 4-1 victory in Murfreesboro. ULM host Western before playing MT. The Warhawks beat Florida Atlantic 1-0 a few days ago and hopes to be the spoiler going into the final stretch of the season.

The Blue Raiders have only five more games in conference play before the end of the season. The tie and win gives the Raiders the advantage of keeping pace with Western Kentucky and North Texas who are both 6-0.

It has been a difficult season for the Blue Raiders, but they are still in contention in a close division. MT faces ULL on Friday in Lafayette, La., at 7 p.m. and wraps up the road trip with a match against ULM in Monroe, La., at 1 p.m. ♦



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