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ONLINE

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Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

Phone services considers new approach

Harassing calls prompt change

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

An onslaught of obscene telephone calls to female campus residents has prompted MTSU Telecommunications to begin considering ways to block

harassing callers.

More than 20 complaints of persistent, vulgar phone calls have been made to MTSU Public Safety since Oct. 1, according to the police media log.

Lt. James Fanguy said the

victims – all female – said the caller sounded male. The caller apparently targets random victims, he said.

The calls were probably made from off-campus or cellular phones, he said, and the caller likely used *67 to block his calling identification number from being traced. Such anonymous calls are hard to

trace because there is no record of them.

"We have the ability to track calls incoming and outgoing, but blocked calls don't come with a calling [identification] number," said Stephen Prichard, manager of MTSU Telecommunications. Some calls without calling identification numbers come from

phones using the *67 feature, as well as some older business phones and cell phones.

"We have been talking to BellSouth to see if they can do anything on their end" about eliminating the threat of phone harassment, Prichard said. University officials also have contacted Avaya, formerly Lucent Technologies, about

potential ways to block annoying callers. However, it is unclear what measures can be taken at this point for campus residents.

Neither BellSouth nor Avaya representatives could be reached for comment before press time.

See Phone, 2

Depression increasingly prominent on campus

By Reneé Stephens
Contributor

Depression affects countless people each day, and students on MTSU's campus are no exception.

In fact, as the university's student population increases each year, so do the cases of depression that are annually reported, members of the university counseling staff said.

"More and more students are

coming in with issues of depression," said Michael Johnson, assistant director of Guidance Services.

"Depression has been pretty intense on campus," he said. "And on the average, last year, by appointment, I saw about 1,000 (students). But that doesn't account walk-ins or students brought in."

In addition to his directorship role, Johnson also serves as a counselor for Guidance

Services. Located in the Keathley University Center, Room 329, the center provides confidential counseling services free of charge for all enrolled students.

According to information on the Guidance Service Web site, there are many factors that set the stage for depression. For example, depression can stem from low self-esteem, a

See Depression, 2

Did you know ...

- Depression is one of the most common mental disorders affecting 340 million people in the world today, accounting for a full 10 percent of productive years lost throughout the world.

- No one is immune from depression – it occurs in people of all social classes, all countries and all cultural settings.

- One in four women and one in 10 men can expect to develop depression during their lifetime, but it's not just adults who suffer.

- Depression affects at least one in 50 children under 12 and one in 20 teen-agers.

- About half of all cases of depression are unrecognized and untreated.
- About 10-15 percent of depressed people take their own lives.
- Depression costs the United States an estimated \$53 billion each year.
- The World Health Organization predicts that by the year 2020, depression will be the greatest burden of ill-health to people in the developing world, and that by then, severe depression will be the second largest cause of death and disability.
- Depression is one of the most treatable mental illnesses.

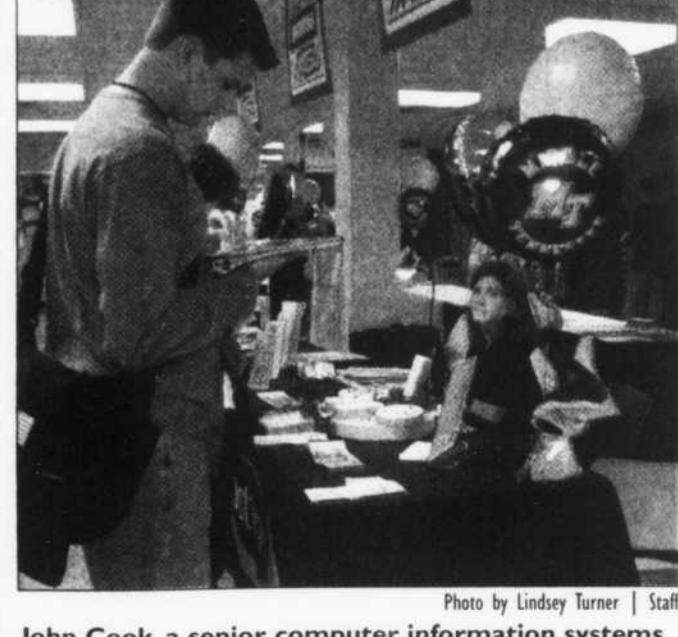
Dean to address teacher shortage

By Lisa Thomason
Staff Writer

The next topic to be addressed in the honors lecture series is one that hits close to home for MTSU students, faculty and administrators.

Gloria Bonner, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, will be presenting a lecture titled "Teacher Shortage." The difficulties in finding teachers have been widely publicized in recent times in the media, and they

A little planning goes a long way



John Cook, a senior computer information systems major, ponders which class ring to buy at the Grad Fair, held this week on the bottom floor of the Keathley University Center.

Two programs encourage reading, student volunteerism

Many students helping expand reading skills of area children

By Roshon Lewis
Contributor

When it comes to the Reach Out and Read program of Middle Tennessee, MTSU's Rebekah Alexander says the endeavor is a win-win situation for all involved.

An assistant professor of elementary and special education, Alexander initiated the volunteer reading program locally with the help of MTSU students, and since that time, thousands of area children have been provided with an opportunity to partake in the reading experience.

"The program is designed to service children 6 months to 5 years of age," Alexander said.

She explained that there are

Blue Moves provides modern dance outlet

In Features, page 4



she said. "Most of the research I have studied [suggests] that if children are read to at a young age, they will be more productive students in the future."

Although the Reach Out and Read program originated in Boston in 1989, Alexander's efforts to expand the program to Tennessee are the program's first in the state.

"We are in our third year, and we have serviced over 3,000 at one site," she said. "Our goal is to service all children."

In addition, Alexander said she feels another reading program recently initiated at MTSU, the Mary Tom Berry program, also will prove essential in helping to improve the reading skills of area Tennesseans, young and old.

"I believe the program is basically a collaborative effort of pediatricians, parents and children that is much needed,"

Alexander, who recently sponsored the group's first meeting at MTSU. "Individuals in this program are basically the forerunners of pushing reading and literacy."

Many MTSU students are among those involved in furthering the reading skills via the Reach Out and Read and Mary Tom Berry programs, she added.

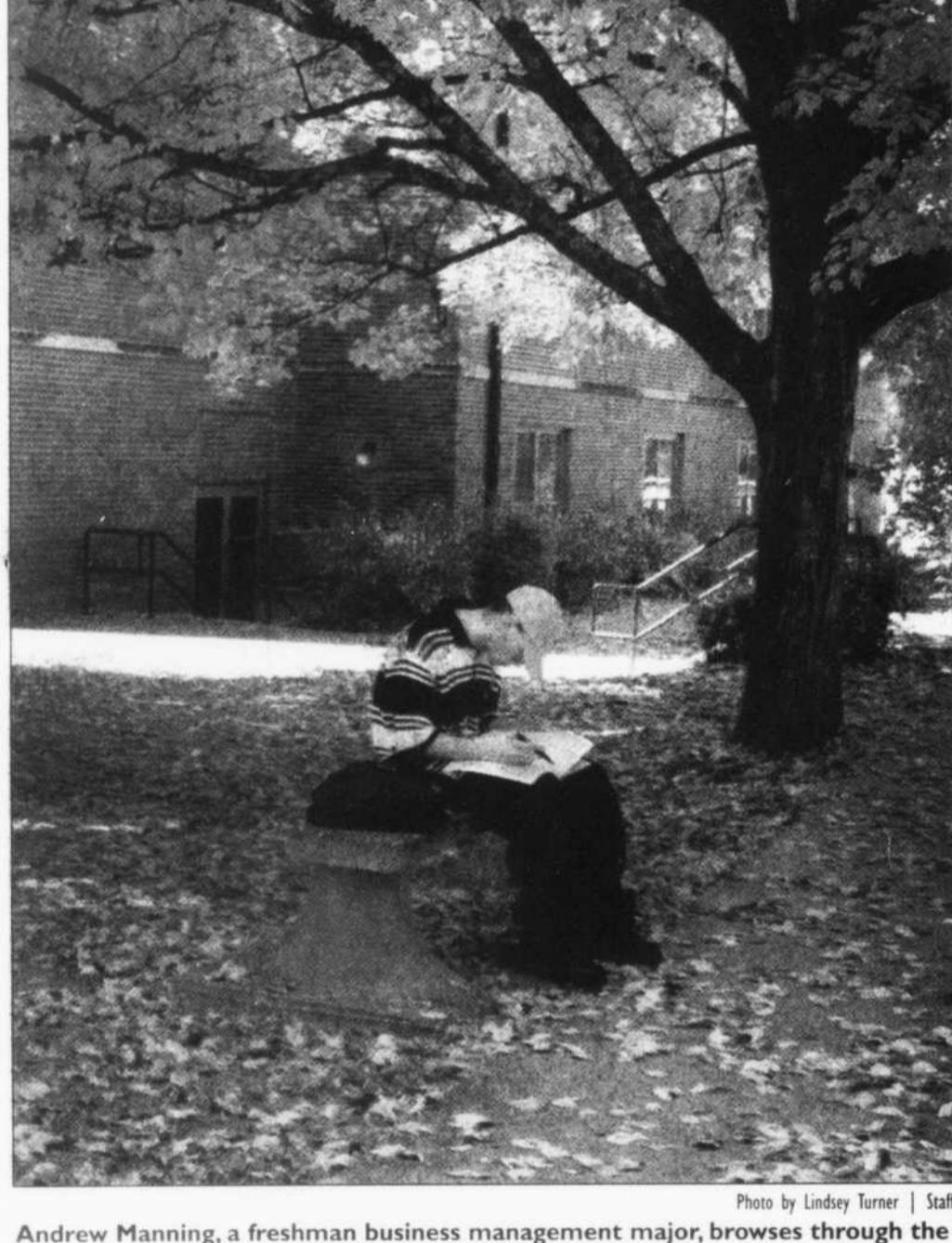
"We have utilized students in the language and literacy class to give them more experience," Alexander said. "They (the students) enjoy the value of the program and the experience of reading in front of parents."

"They also are modeling to parents the type of reading that should be done to their children," she said.

Race Bergman, interim chair for elementary and special edu-

See Read, 2

Leafing through life



Andrew Manning, a freshman business management major, browses through the spring schedule book Tuesday afternoon near the James Union Building.

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CRIME LOG

Compiled By Scott Laming - Staff Writer

The following is a partial list of incidents responded to by the MTSU Police Department between Oct. 10 and Oct. 22. This log was compiled from actual police reports.

Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m.

A 16-year-old student at Blackman High School reported to her Student Resource Officer that, while she was visiting MTSU, a male student had raped her.

Upon questioning by MTSU police, it was found that the act had been consensual sex and that the report was not a rape case.

There was not enough difference in age between the male and female to constitute statutory rape, and no charges were sought.

Friday, Oct. 12 at 1:11 p.m.

At Scarlett Commons, a female student made a call to Campus Safety and said two males shot at her truck with a paintball gun

while she was eating lunch.

After investigation, Michael Keene and Tavarone Cooke Jr. were found as suspects of the vandalism. Cooke was charged with two counts of vandalism under \$500, and Keene was charged for tampering with evidence.

Saturday, Oct. 13 at 12:59 a.m.

At Rutherford Boulevard and East Main Street, police stopped Jon Brandon of Readyville, Tenn., for driving without the car's headlights on.

After asking for identification, the police officer smelled alcohol in the car and asked Brandon to perform a field sobriety test. He failed the test, and after searching the car, police found a rifle in the back seat.

Brandon was charged with a first offense of DUI, underage consumption of alcohol and possession of a weapon on campus.

Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2:25 a.m.

Jose Alfredo Rivas of Murfreesboro was stopped by police for driving erratically near the Kwik Sak on Greenland Drive.

After Rivas failed the field sobriety test, the police officer arrested him for a DUI offense. Rivas also was charged with a violation of the open container law and implied consent.

Monday, Oct. 22 at 12:05 a.m.

Alan Lamont Armstrong of Knoxville was charged with simple domestic assault after he and his roommate had been involved in a fight.

The fight between the two roommates resulted in a broken television, and Armstrong was taken to jail. They both are to appear in court Nov. 1. ♦

To report a crime on campus, call Public Safety at 898-2424.

Depression: Long-term stress often contributes to student depression

Continued from I

chemical imbalance, anxiety, loneliness and stress among other contributors, and multiple factors can work together to cause the depression or many other situations.

Crystal Moon, who has served as a counselor for the June Anderson Women's Center, said in the past, the number of students seeking counseling has overwhelmed her.

"I had two or three times the

requests for counseling than what I could provide for," she said. "I would see at least 20 to 25 people (each week)."

Located in the James Union Building, the JAWC now provides free counseling referrals for female students at MTSU and specializes in helping students deal with issues such as rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and depression.

"Overall, stress for long periods of time is the most contributing factor to depression, but a major problem for stu-

dents is when stress-related issues go unresolved," Moon noted.

Representatives from Guidance Services said they are on campus to help students cope with whatever may be a problem issue, no matter its origin, including stresses that may have been brought about since the World Trade Center bombing.

Immediately during the aftermath of the recent terrorism attacks on the United States, Guidance Services staff

set up a support unit in the KUC for those students who wanted to talk about the horrific events that had just occurred.

As for the emotional impact of the Sept. 11 tragedies, Johnson said the bombings have affected people in many different ways.

Some people, he observed, "are angry, others are traumatized and some [have been] put into the 'I want to control my environment role.'"

Johnson said anyone on campus is welcome to contact

Guidance Services for any reason. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 898-2670; walk-in visits also are accepted.

In the event of an emergency situation outside the center's weekly 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. business hours, Johnson said students are encouraged to contact the Guidance Services Crisis Team at 893-0770. For more information on Guidance Services, visit their Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~countest. ♦

Read:

Continued from I

cation at MTSU, agrees that the volunteer reading programs are valuable on many levels.

"I believe the Reach Out and Read program is an excellent outreach program," Bergman said. "It is an excellent opportunity to get children reading materials and show them the significance of reading and understanding books."

"It really is a win-win program," Alexander said.

For more information on either reading program, including volunteer information, contact Alexander at 898-2343. ♦

Phones: System to block anonymous callers would be free

Continued from I

Though campus phones can't utilize the '67 feature, they can still receive unidentifiable calls. Campus telephones also are not caller-ID equipped,

Analog service requires residents to supply their own phone and answering machine, something Prichard said most students prefer to do. Also, to upgrade all dorm phone service to digital would raise residents' room rates.

Residents will not be charged for a service blocking calls from unidentifiable numbers, Prichard said.

In the meantime, any residents who receive obscene or harassing phone calls can call

Public Safety at campus extension 2424.

"I'm hoping we can come up with something real quick to catch this guy," Prichard said. ♦

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Applications will be available in the JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed. Interviews will be held at the December 7th, 1 p.m. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, October 25, 2001

SIDELINES ◆ 3

Editorial

Mass Comm dean search must be well-balanced

If you are planning to have open-heart surgery, it's probably very important to you to find someone with precise qualifications and skills. When you are looking for someone to mow your yard, the little boy down the street will most likely suffice. What about when you are trying to find a new dean for one of the most respected university programs in the nation?

The College of Mass Communication currently is facing this issue as it resumes its search for a dean. The college originally was looking for someone with stringent academic qualifications — a tenured professor — but more recently is considering individuals with professional experience as well.

We were quick to jump on the "hire Oprah" bandwagon. However, it is clear that even hiring a well-known celebrity would not be 100 percent good for the college. Although skilled in electronic and print media, I doubt Ms. Winfrey could run a Pro Tools session for NSync.

Still, it would be nice to have someone with industry experience. They could bring a fresh perspective to the college and, of course bring a lot of industry attention. In turn, this could be helpful in locating student internships and jobs right out of college. But hiring someone with experience in only one of the three medias taught would not be fair to students in the other medias. The ideal candidate would have experience in all of the medias taught.

But this would still not be enough to qualify a person for dean. It's imperative that a dean has effective managerial skills. Because the dean will be dealing with department heads and representing the college in the community, she or he should be personable and have exceptional communication skills — after all, she or he is the figurehead for the College of Mass Communication.

Placing academic restrictions, such as requiring a Ph.D., for candidates could rob the college of many qualified applicants. An applicant might have all the right degrees and teaching experience but have poor communication skills.

There is no clear right or wrong in this selection process. There are obviously benefits of both academic credentials and professional experience for this very important position. We are hopeful that the university doesn't focus all of its attention on guidelines, but is able to step out of the box in selecting its newest dean. ♦

SIDELINES

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Drivers should be tested for drug use

The Right World View

Matthew C. Martin
Staff Columnist



for cars (our "car culture") into a strong anti-drug policy. People would simply have to make a conscious choice between ingesting psychotropic substances and wanting to apply for a license.

In addition, this policy would serve to others as an initial indicator of the subject's character and his proclivity for drugs and all that drug use entails.

For those justly worrying over the implications this policy would have on our civil liberties, it should be reminded that driving is a privilege delved out by the state, not a right of man.

Some use one or the other (or both) to show success, as stress relief or just to have a "good time." It can be rightly said that very little stigma is placed in owning or enjoying a fine auto, for there is no reason for a stigma to be attached.

Conversely, in most social structures, there is negative reinforcement to those who choose to use drugs. The users are looked down upon and/or barred from certain jobs, associations or groups. Not the case with automobile ownership.

But what if we as a society were to interlock the two in a legal sense? We could set forth that anyone applying for a motor vehicle permit of any type must submit to a drug screening and anyone who tests positive would not be given a permit.

Thus, we could successfully mesh our obsession

with the multitude of drivers are not?

For those American Civil Liberties Union types in my readership (which I doubt by this point exist), I assure you that this policy is not the feared "broad strokes" measure of testing everyone in a community,

then handing out punitive measures. It is merely testing those that bring the testing upon themselves by applying for a license.

Put another way, the state would not be testing everyone, just those who wanted to drive.

The concept of testing motorists also is not altogether foreign in the American legal lexicon. Mandatory drug testing has been common for years among pilots and truckers hauling certain items.

Certainly, through the use of "drug-hiding procedures," the loopholes in this policy could be widened to the point even a stoned driver could drive through them, but in its defense, it sets forth a good idea.

How apt would a 15-year-old be to smoking marijuana if he knew that it meant that on his 16th birthday he would still be walking? Or a real estate agent in his thirties having to bum a ride everywhere for that line of coke he did?

Don't you think this would affect their lives to the point of them not wanting to do drugs for fear of losing their privilege again?

Also, this policy has a preventive nature to it as well — once someone who valued driving saw a friend or associate taking a shank's mare as his sole mode of transportation, would this not affect the thought process when confronted with the choice of drug use? ♦

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I must thank Abbie Hayden for calling on the MTSU population to get involved in Tennessee's budget problems. But I feel that Hayden did not go far enough in telling our population what is going to happen.

First, Hayden seems to be avoiding calling for what needs to be done, which is the adoption of a state income tax. Now, I have talked to several people who ask why this would be the best option.

First, I will address conservative concerns that this will raise the tax burden on Tennesseans. It will not.

How can it do this? Well, very simply, a state income tax is deductible on your federal income taxes, while a sales tax is not. By adopting Sen. Rochelle's tax plan, the state would be able to keep \$500 million that currently goes to the federal treasury. This would solve our financial needs without raising the tax burden on Tennesseans.

Another reason the state should adopt the state income tax is the "flaw" in the current tax structure Hayden refers to. The flaw is that the growth in revenue from the sales tax does not equal inflation, which means cost will grow higher than revenue. An income tax grows with inflation, which means it will be a long-term solution.

To show how bad the sales tax system works, consider this: Every governor, with the exception of our current governor, in the past 40 years has had to raise

the sales tax.

Do not let conservatives and some of our stupid legislators convince you that the budget cuts needed will not affect you. In order to get the budget balanced, they would have to severely cut funding for higher education, which, as Hayden stated, would mean another hike in tuition.

It would probably mean a larger tuition hike than the one we experienced last year. Also consider that both the Democratic and Republican leaders of the state Senate have said they cannot find ways to trim the budget for this year. Tennessee needs more revenue.

Finally, do not let conservatives claim that the problem is uncontrolled spending. Yes, it appears that the state is spending more, but this is an accounting gimmick. First, spending should increase at about 3 percent per year to keep up with inflation. Secondly, the spending increase has not been done by using tax dollars, but with federal dollars, user fees and even increases in your tuition.

I must thank Hayden and join her in calling for the MTSU population to write their representative, but unlike her, I feel you should communicate with both your state representative and state senator. Also, if you would like to know how the state income tax will impact you or your family, visit www.yourtax.org. It will calculate how the Rochelle-Elsea-Head tax bill will impact you.

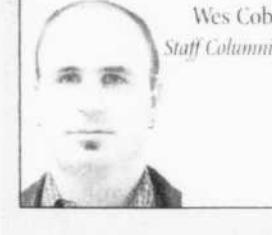
Thomas Hoffman



Are we going to get more war than we bargained for?

Cranial Smorgasbord

Wes Cobb
Staff Columnist



the news, popular sentiment in the Middle East seems to be more anti-American than pro.

A bunch of Western nations coming in to fight against a Muslim nation is very easy to exploit as a new Crusade against Islam for those inclined to do such a thing.

Not to mention the fact that China shares borders with both Afghanistan and India.

That's why I feel like going off and hiding in a cave somewhere when I hear talk of "expanding the conflict."

Something I'm not totally decided on is how to get a hold of bin Laden. I know and you know that our government knows that the Taliban is not going to hand bin Laden over without any evidence.

On one hand, I can see why we won't give them any evidence: We need to protect our sources from our enemies and who says the Taliban has any intention whatsoever of handing the man over no matter what sort of evidence we produce?

On the other hand, the fact that the Taliban didn't tell us to go to hell from the start indicates that they might have been willing to work something out. Perhaps a situation where they didn't get their country bombed? Of course, I'm of the opinion that the Taliban itself could stand to be bombed a few times.

Their offer to turn him over to an impartial country for trial did not seem altogether unreasonable to me. Of course, I also see the need to kill the hydra of terrorism outright instead of just lopping off one of its heads.

In my opinion, we need to ease up on the bombing (aka the "We're going to blow you up until you fork over Osama" policy) and use more Special Ops to fight the terrorists on their own terms.

America must make more and better reassurances that we are not out to persecute Islam (personally, I'm for the United States becoming as politically isolationist as possible).

Perhaps it's still possible to consider some sort of deal to get the Taliban to deport bin Laden to somewhere he can be tried. If we really want to get rid of him, he could meet with an "accident" after we have him out in the open.

I'm not trying to be a doomsayer or alarmist, but if the United States continues to use such a heavy hand in this conflict, we might find ourselves getting more war than we bargained for. ♦

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FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Moves provides students, alumni with modern dance outlet



By Eric M. Junker
Staff Writer

They are called Blue Moves, and they are a well-kept local secret that needs to get out.

Founded in 1989 by three MTSU students, the Blue Moves Modern Dance Company provides an outlet for talented local choreographers and dancers to perform their artistry in major theaters throughout Middle Tennessee.

The group, which includes MTSU students and alumni, has performed at TPAC's Jackson Hall with modern dance icon Rossi Turner as well as at MTSU's Murphy Center with the Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra.

Their recent performances have included sold-out productions at the Rutherford County Center for the Arts.

"When our audiences walk into a theater, we want them to have a continuous theatrical encounter, from the house music before the show to the curtain call," says Amanda Cantrell Roche, founding Blue Moves member and MTSU alumna.

Choreographed exclusively by group members, Blue Moves performances feature dance numbers, theatrical monologues and elaborate multi-

dia experimentation.

Stylistically, the group's dances range from typically iconoclastic and experimental modern dance pieces to light-hearted and whimsical numbers.

"I get the impression that a lot of people think of modern dance as vague movement that is very serious, melodramatic and difficult to interpret," Roche says. "What Blue Moves does is much different than that."

By creating modern dance productions that everyone can enjoy, Blue Moves is helping to subvert this misconception that has long made modern dance a neglected form of high art in America.

Modern dance was first established in 1920's America as a rebellion against the rigid forms and superficiality of classical ballet and the perceived triteness of show dancing.

In fact, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan once called for the abolition of ballet, accusing the popular dance form of "deforming the beautiful woman's body."

By using the motion of their bodies to communicate, modern dancers seek to inspire audiences to a new awareness of inner and outer realities, their performances often delivering

powerful social commentary.

Much to the delight of those who've had a chance to see them perform, the members of Blue Moves share these aspirations. They use their bodies as instruments for expressing the fear, joy and grief of their lives.

Past performances have taken on issues ranging from racism and basic human rights, to police abuse of power and religious freedom.

"Our dances express our opinions and feelings about our surroundings," says Angela Armstrong, MTSU dance instructor and Blue Moves member. "We are constantly sharing ideas and transforming those into dance works. It truly is a great way to express yourself."

The company is currently gearing up for shows to be performed throughout Middle Tennessee this spring.

Dancers wishing to join the group may do so by audition.

Although the group is not currently auditioning female dancers, they are seeking to audition strong male dancers capable of contributing to the group.

Male dancers interested in auditioning for the company should contact Amanda Roche at 865-0408 or e-mail her at roche@edge.net. ♦

Members of Blue Moves Modern Dance Company perform a modern dance piece utilizing space as a background. The group was founded in 1989 by three MTSU students.

Dear Annie

Dear Annie,

I really like one of my professors, and I mean I really like him. He's older than me, of course, but he seems really young for his age even though he's still very mature. He's good looking, but also intelligent, considerate and sensitive – what women want but I don't see in the guys I meet. He's never come on to me or anything, but I'd sure like to get to know him better. Would it be wrong for a student to date a professor?

– Interested student .

Dear Interested Student,

I assume your professor isn't married, right?

I can picture it now. You're sitting in the front row, smiling at him, laughing at all his jokes (even if they aren't funny), staying after class and going to visit him in his office for extra help.

Do you know what people would say if you started dating your professor? They would say: "Well, that's one way to get an A." Your intentions wouldn't even matter. It just wouldn't look good. Usually, I'm not one to worry about what other people might think. However, this is an exception to my rule.

I contacted Robert Jones with Academic Affairs and asked him the rules about student-professor relationships. He was so kind and gave me a huge packet of rules.

Consensual relationship rules state: "Intimate relationships ... between faculty members and students are strongly discouraged due to the inherent inequality of power in

such situations. These relationships could lead to undue favoritism or the perception of undue favoritism."

The rules go into more detail, but I think this pretty much substantiates what I'm trying to say.

I realize that it's hard to find a man who will fit the image of "what women want." Maybe, you are limiting yourself in the guys you meet. Are you talking about the guys you meet in bars? Guys you meet at fraternity parties? If so, of course your teacher acts more mature.

Do you actually know his age? He could be a "young looking" 40-year-old man.

Why would you be attracted to an authoritative, father figure type? Is something missing in your life? Do you feel like you need some guidance? There are some girls who tend to date guys like their father. You may be getting a little too close.

I'm just waiting for the next questions you'll send me. How can I flirt with my teacher? How do I know if he's interested in me? Would it be OK to ask my teacher to meet me for dinner to go over algebra equations? Have you even given any thought as to how you would actually date your teacher?

When your student-professor relationship is over, there's nothing stopping you from pursuing a relationship. However, consider this: if he's as mature as you think ... would he really be interested in dating a student?

Please send your questions to DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com. ♦

Irons crowned Miss Black and Gold

'Queen of the Nile' theme for this year's pageant

By Chris Jones
Staff Writer

Latonya Irons, a 21-year-old senior from Mickey, Tenn., proved herself to be a true Queen of the Nile when she was crowned the 2001-2002 Miss Black and Gold Oct. 15.

This was the 17th Miss Black and Gold pageant of the Kappa Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. presented to the MTSU community.

"Our pageant is designed to show upliftment to women and give them a chance to show their pose and intellect, as well as let MTSU know their talents," said James Mason, former president of the Kappa Xi chapter and pageant coordinator.

The contestants of the pageant were: seniors Michelle Gadson, Irons, Khalilah King, Ta'mar Poole and Dwayna Thompkins; junior Enjoli Barner; sophomores Tiffany Dupree and Alisha Vaughn; and freshman Carmen Triplett.

This year's theme for the pageant was "The Queens of the Nile."

"We've tried to give the pageant a new flavor that would be very good and entertaining," said Ashley Brooks, former Miss Black and Gold of the Kappa Xi chapter and the state of Tennessee.

on why they are Queens of the Nile.

Each contestant was judged on introduction, talent, scholarship, swimwear, eveningwear, a personal interview and the question-and-answer session.

The question this year asked the ladies to explicate some of the positive factors that came from the Sept. 11 incident.

"The bombing brought back the meaning of what this nation stood on, 'one nation under God, indivisible, for liberty and justice for all,'" said contestant Khaliah King, president of

MTSU's chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Irons took the crown with her win in the talent portion, singing a rendition of Barbara Streisand's "Don't Rain On My Parade."

The pageant began with the introduction of the contestants and an exposé from each one



Latonya Irons was crowned Miss Black and Gold Oct. 15 at the Tucker Theatre.

patience and self-discipline, and I've learned it from all the girls," Irons said.

Irons will proceed to the next level competition where she will compete for the title amongst all the other local winners from across the state.

"My goal for the next level is to just keep working on my talent and work on just a lot of things," Irons said.

If she wins the title on the state level, she will then proceed to the regional level where she will compete against six other state representatives.

The winner of the regional will proceed to the next level to compete against four other contenders from across the nation.

"Every winner receives scholarship money, but the amount differs amongst the different chapters and levels," Mason said.

The first runner-up in the pageant was Vaughn, a 20-year-old mass communication major from St. Louis, and the second runner-up was Thompkins, a 21-year-old public relations major from Nashville.

"I feel wonderful and blessed to be runner-up. The one thing that I will remember is that if you want to do anything in life, you must put in hard work and dedication," Vaughn said.

All of the contestants received a yellow rose and a certificate for participation.

The men of Kappa Xi are going to treat all of the contestants to an appreciation dinner.

"I believe that a queen should be treated as a queen and every chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha should treat the ladies like royalty. She should always be recognized at all the chapter's events and the bruh's should always check on her to make sure that she is okay," said Kevin Perry, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.'s national coordinator of the pageant.

"Other than winning, the thing that I will remember most is going out at 12 o'clock at night to Wal-Mart with all the girls to find outfits for the opening act. Now that was memorable," Irons said. ♦

Class adds Brazilian culture to Latin-American studies

By Rebecca Parker
Staff Writer

adviser, "but in Brazil they also speak Portuguese."

The teacher of the class, Soraya Noqueira, is originally from Brazil, so she is teaching her native language and culture.

This course if not offered just to help students learn to communicate in Portuguese, but it also helps them understand the Brazilian culture.

In the past, there have been abroad programs in Brazil dealing with anthropology and political science, but the language was never taught. This was a concern, and a reason for

offering the class.

"You cannot understand Brazil if you do not understand the language," Noqueira said, "and the students are always very interested in knowing the diversity of Brazil." She stressed that it would help students working or studying there to know the language.

Noqueira is not the only one who believes this class is important to the development of the foreign language program.

"We thought majors and minors in the Spanish department would benefit from study-

ing Portuguese," Ortiz said. "As a result of this course, they will know more about the people and cultures where they could possibly work."

The class isn't only for students with a minor or major in foreign language. It can also help students who need to complete general studies requirements.

"Students can benefit in many ways. They will be able to speak another language, better understand Latin America and they can benefit in the job market, not only because they could

work in this market, but because Portuguese is a widely spoken language," Noqueira said.

Portuguese is similar to French, Spanish, Italian and Romanian. Like these languages, it came from Latin.

Noqueira is responsible for developing the class. She wrote the proposal for the course to see if the university would be interested.

"I really love teaching the class. It is very fun," Noqueira said. "I really have a good time."

In addition to helping with

the minors and majors, this class brings a good name to the university.

"Having Portuguese is a plus when looking at what languages a university has," Noqueira said.

"Portuguese is offered in many universities, but before now, was not offered at MTSU. For that reason, it is important to offer the class," Ortiz said. "We need the course to enhance the Latin American studies program, and it is really helping to expand the minor." ♦

Schedule books for the spring 2002 semester are now available.

Books are available on the first floor of the Keathley University Center or in the Scheduling Center on the first floor of the James Union Building. Check your campus mailbox for your registration date.

For help or more information, call the Scheduling Center at 898-5800.

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SIDELINES ♦ 6

SPORTS

Thursday, October 25, 2001



Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Fowler needs to do his research on the Middle Tennessee football team

By David Hunter

Staff Writer

ESPN host Chris Fowler can put up with guys like Dick Vitale and Lee Corso, but he sometimes messes up on names of coaches.

The success of the Middle Tennessee football team has led to a lot of airtime on ESPN. From being favored to win the inaugural Sun Belt Conference title and going the New Orleans Bowl to the huge win over Vanderbilt at the start of the season and the record-breaking scoring output against Idaho, the whole university has been excited about the notoriety the Blue Raiders have gotten.

Unfortunately, it was brought down during a telecast of ESPN's College Gameday a couple weeks ago. Host Chris Fowler was talking about MT's high-scoring offense and the way it has moved up the ladder of college football in the short amount of time they have been in Division I-A and how teams like Troy State are trying to follow that path.

However, he made a big mistake. He said our head coach was Mark Owens. Oops! That can't be right. I thought our coach is Andy McCollum. Mark Owens is MT's sports

information director.

Chris must have misread something or got some really bad information.

Don't get me wrong, he is one of the best hosts at ESPN when he does college football, college basketball, horse racing or when he co-hosted the X-Games. He seems to be very up-to-date with his research on the events he covers.

However, a university like Middle Tennessee is trying to put themselves on the map. The national media must give out correct information. Of course, Fowler is a professional and has been doing broadcasting for many years. Myself, I'm still learning, and everybody makes mistakes.

Except in this case, while most of the country doesn't care, we do. I was hoping he would correct his mistake this past weekend, but he did not. Hopefully he will in the future.

He most certainly will if MT makes it to the New Orleans Bowl. Even with the recent slide they have been through, they will get it together and will be making a trip to New Orleans.

By the way, Mr. Fowler, you will be talking about us for the rest of the season because McCollum will have his team ready to play for the final part of this year.♦

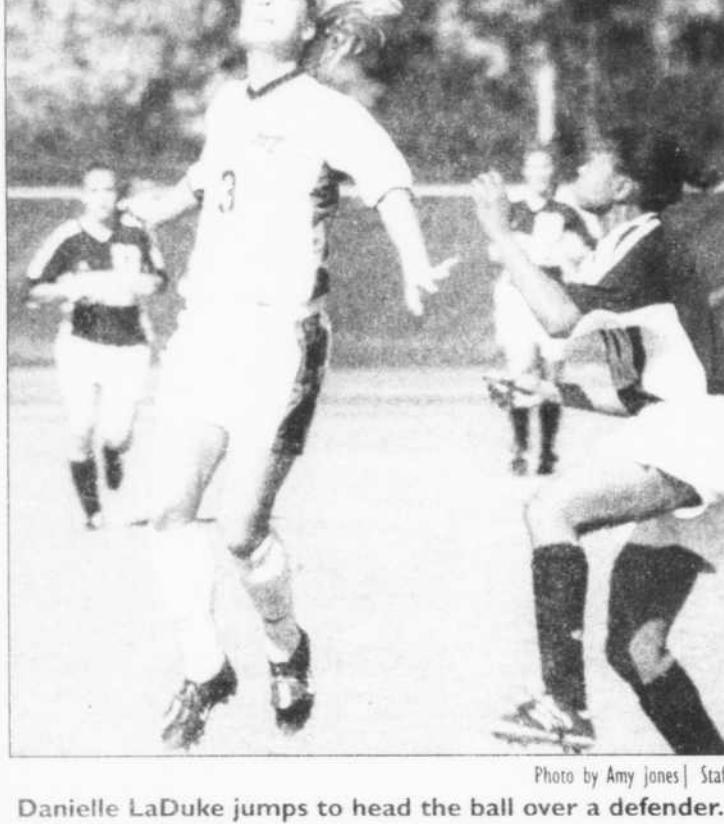


Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Danielle LaDuke jumps to head the ball over a defender.

Blue Raiders honor seniors with big win

By Steven Finley

Staff Writer

Lisa Langrish scored her first career hat trick, and Jenny Cox and Emily Carter added one goal a piece in the Middle Tennessee soccer team's 5-2 victory over Belmont on Senior Appreciation Day Sunday.

MT entered the contest on the rebound from a close 1-0 loss to Western Kentucky two days earlier. Belmont, however, was riding the wave of a recent winning streak in which they outscored their previous two opponents by a combined score of 11-1.

MT completely dominated Belmont in the first half, out-

shooting them by a 15-1 margin and grabbing an early 4-0 lead.

Langrish lit up the scoreboard exactly two minutes into the contest when she headed Megan Schwanke's restart kick past Bruin goalkeeper Mikell Lucas.

The goal from the 18-yard box gave MT an early 1-0 lead.

Langrish then scored again in the 28th minute when she headed in a corner kick from Lindsey Bopp past Lucas to give the Raiders a 2-0 lead.

She then tallied her final goal in the 34th minute, scoring unassisted as she picked up the pieces of a scramble for one of

See Sports, 8

Blue Raiders must win Sun Belt game against New Mexico State

By Shane Marquardt

Staff Writer

Floyd Stadium and the Middle Tennessee football program await the New Mexico State Aggies this Saturday in a pivotal Sun Belt Conference game.

The last time the Blue Raiders were in the friendly confines of Floyd Stadium they were in the driver's seat to represent the conference in the New Orleans Bowl.

Things have changed, and the new driver is their opponent, the Aggies.

"It's a must-win game for us," free safety Michael Woods said. "New Mexico State is number one and in the driver's seat. The conference race is pretty much over if we don't win."

NMSU will be looking to barrel down on an MT program that has been limping as of late. When the Blue Raiders were undefeated and dominating Sun Belt Conference play, their offense was overloading scoreboards while their defense was implying the

bend-but-don't-break motto. Since then, everything has been falling apart for the Blue Raider attack.

"We have to have the intensity and hunger because we have our backs against the wall and need to win to have some breathing room," wide receiver Kendall Newsom said.

Breathing room is something the Aggies will not be supplying. NMSU will provide challenges on both sides of the ball and will be looking to protect their undefeated record in Sun Belt Conference play.

"The team we are playing is first in the conference, and for us to achieve our goals, we have to go through New Mexico State and that comes this week," MT head coach Andy McCollum said.

The Aggie defense will be looking to take advantage of a Blue Raider offense that has all but disappeared in past weeks. NMSU returns half of their starting defense from last year's team and are led by two-time All-Big West Conference linebacker

D'Wayne Taylor.

"Their defense runs to the ball well and are great tacklers," Newsom said.

The Aggie offense moves the ball well and returns their entire receiving core from last year. This does not bode well with an MT defense that has problems defending through the air. However, the move of Woods to the secondary looks to have dammed a unit that was allowing opposing offenses to flow easily in the passing game.

Additional pressure placed on the opposing quarterback, as was shown in the Ole Miss game, could help the MT defense contain an experienced NMSU attack. The Blue Raider defense also will have to account for the Aggie running game, which has proven to be a dangerous weapon in Sun Belt play.

"They are a great running team, like to pound and power the ball at you," Woods said.

"But they also have a lot of play-action fakes. They

are hard to prepare for because they can keep you off-balance with the option."

"It starts with their quarterback and a couple of good running backs," McCollum said. "They're a physical football team; they fly around and have a lot of movement."

Movement is what both teams look to gain from this head-on collision. MT looks to move back into the top spot in the Sun Belt Conference standings, and NMSU stands in the way. The winner could move on to New Orleans.

"We need to play a complete game," McCollum said. "We haven't had that the last three or four weeks. The players are excited about being at home. We've played five out of seven games on the road, and we know that we have three of the last four at our house and that's important to us.♦

"It would be great to see a stadium full of blue on Saturday."

Game time is 2 p.m.♦

Pollack is learning game

Freshman gets help from elder teammates

By Dale Martin

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee tennis team entered the season with an experienced squad. Robert Gustafsson and Oliver Foreman fill the leadership roles on the team and with a junior and a couple of sophomores, everyone on the team has had experience on the college level.

Well, almost everyone. Greg Pollack, a 5-foot-9-inch, 150-pound tennis star out of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., is a freshman here at MTSU.

Although Pollack is new to MT, he is far from new on the tennis courts. He has been playing the game since the age of seven with the assistance of a personal coach. While attending high school, he achieved the rank of No. 2 in the state.

"The competition is at a much higher level in the college teams," Pollack said. "I am really coming into the season not knowing what to expect. It is a big step up from high school, but I have to enter the matches with confidence to give me a chance to win."

Being a freshman and new to the team, Pollack is unsure of what role he will fill on the team, yet is sure he will figure it out as the season progresses.

Another obstacle facing the newcomer is that he has never seen any of his opponent's play before and does not know what to expect even right before the match begins.

"Coach Short spends more time with me working on my technique and knowledge of the game more than the other players to help me develop to the

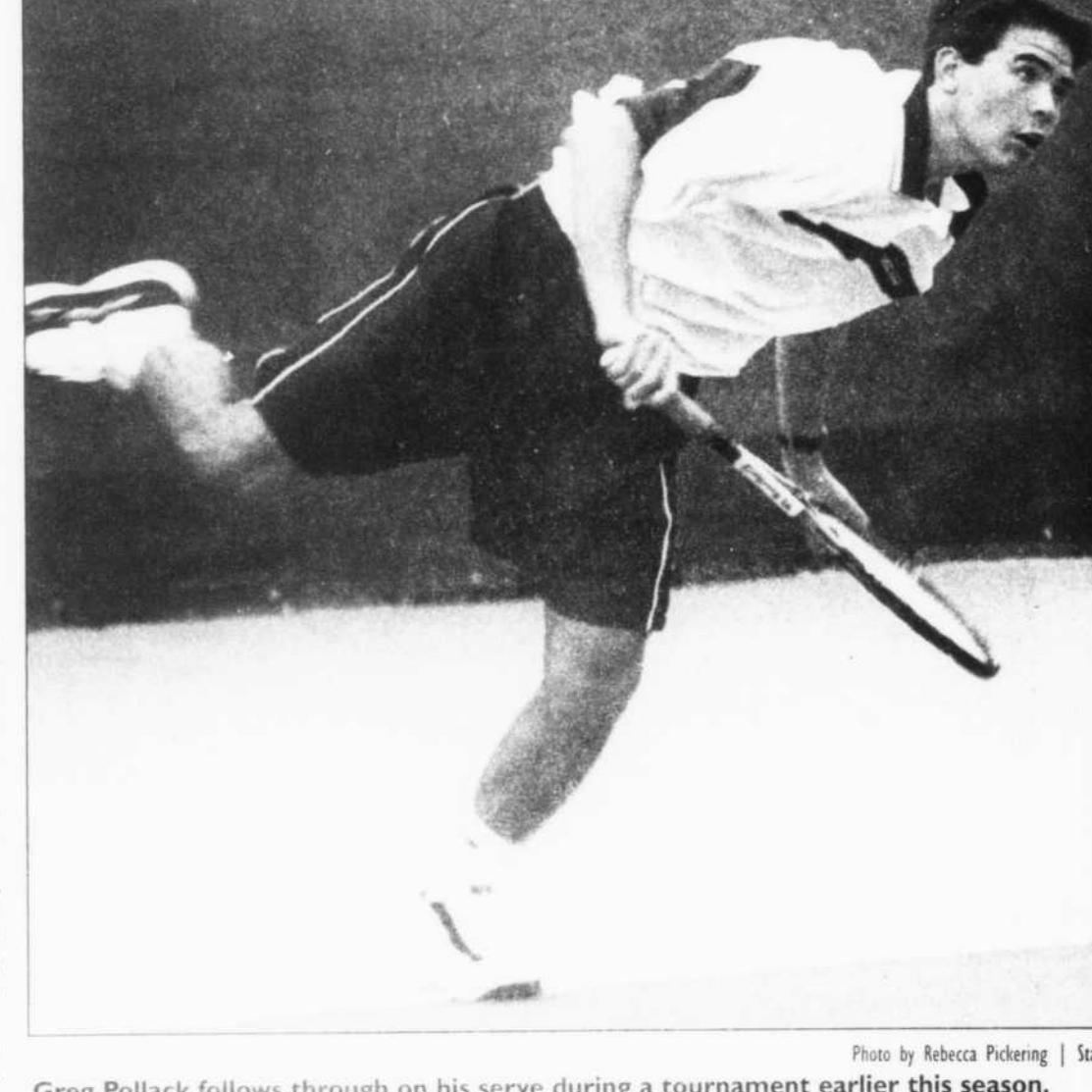


Photo by Rebecca Pickering | Staff

Greg Pollack follows through on his serve during a tournament earlier this season. Pollack is the only freshman on the men's tennis team this season. He reached the finals of the MT Fall Invitational Sept. 14-16. Pollack has played on a limited basis this season due to his lack of experience against college-level competition.

level I need to be at. We have a very close team, and all the other team members help me out also," Pollack said.

Pollack chose to attend MTSU over his hometown college, the University of Memphis, because the team is stronger, and he knew he would need guidance from his teammates the whole season.

He prefers a to play doubles matches on a clay surface, but he has to be able to compete on any kind of surface in college. He also will get a chance to play in singles and doubles for the team this season.

Although Pollack is young and does not have a lot of experience at the college level, he is staying very confident in his game and is focused on what he has to do to be as much help to the team as possible.

With the help of Short, teammates and playing experience, Pollack has the potential to step up and play a leading role for the Blue Raiders in the future.

Pollack reached the semifinals in the MT Fall Invitational and hopes to use that as a building block for his development.

Pollack is focused on what he has to do in order to compete at this level as well as grow into a tremendous weapon on the team. He has the ability to play at this level, and with time, he will receive the experience to achieve his goals of a winning season as a freshman.

The Blue Raider tennis team will be back in action today through Sunday at the Rolex Regionals in Knoxville, Tenn. This is the team's next to last scheduled tournament of the fall season. Spring play will begin Jan. 16 against Hawaii-Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.♦

By Steven Finley

Staff Writer

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MT completely dominated Belmont in the first half, out-

THURSDAY

Men's Tennis

Blue Raiders at South Alabama
Mobile, Ala.
7 p.m.

Women's Tennis

FRIDAY

Football

Blue Raiders at Floyd Stadium
2 p.m.

Volleyball

SATURDAY

Football

Blue Raiders vs. New Mexico State
Floyd Stadium
2 p.m.

Volleyball

Lady Raiders at Arkansas Little-Rock

Little Rock, Ark.
7 p.m.

Cross country

Sun Belt Conference Championships

Bowling Green, Ky.
10 a.m.

SUNDAY

Volleyball

Lady Raiders at Arkansas State
Jonesboro, Ark.
2 p.m.

Soccer

Blue Raiders at Louisiana-Lafayette

Lafayette, La.
1 p.m.

Women's Golf

Lady Raiders at Lady Panther Invitational

Georgia State University
All day

TUESDAY

Volleyball

Lady Raiders at Western Kentucky
Bowling Green, Ky.
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Soccer

Sun Belt Conference Tournament
Miami, Fla.
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Sports: Langrish scores three goals in win

Continued from 6

MT's five corner kicks.

Langrish's three scores were numbers five, six and seven on the season for her.

The barrage continued when Jenny Cox picked up her third goal of the season on a breakaway in the 41st minute. Nicki Fell assisted on the goal, which gave MT a commanding 4-0 lead.

The second half was highlighted by quality play from the Blue Raider defense and goalkeeper Jessica Busey. The Bruins picked up two second-half goals to cut the deficit in half. However, one came on Hayley Alden's goal from 25 yards out that any keeper would have been unable to defend.

Finally, with less than 10 seconds left in the game, Jessica Northcutt assisted Emily Carter on a breakaway goal to give the Blue Raiders a convincing 5-2 win.

"We played very well today, and it was a crucial game because we continue to float

around .500 for the season," Blue Raider head coach Scott Ginn said following the victory.

The win did raise MT back above .500 for the season. MT (8-7) will now head into their final home game of the season with a lot on the line.

Although their position in the Sun Belt Conference standings may not change drastically, confidence and postseason momentum are critical and up for grabs down the stretch.

"We are probably the most dangerous team (in the Sun Belt tournament) because we're so unpredictable. Even we don't know who will show up on game day," Ginn said about his team's postseason chances.

"If I was one of the other coaches in the league, I wouldn't want to play us. We are really dangerous."

The victory was also an event for the team. Four seniors were honored prior to Sunday's contest: goalie Busey, defender Megan Holsten and midfielders Tiffany Moore and Rachael Sulkers. The four have led the

MT program to the most wins of any previous graduating class, posting 36 victories during their four seasons after Sunday's win.

Sulkers was named to the All-OVC second team in 1998 as she tallied 2 goals and 3 assists in 15 starts. Her other accomplishments include being named to the 2000 Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Holsten tallied 13 career points on 3 goals and 7 assists. She started 54 of 56 games in her first three seasons and was named to the 2000 Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Busey finishes her career with a 2.90 goals against average and was named to the 2000 Sun Belt Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Moore has played in 31 career games and was named to the 2000 Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll.

MT plays South Alabama tomorrow at 7 p.m.♦

MT not worried about bad performance

**Commentary by Michael Edwards
Staff Writer**

After a flurry of wins to begin the season, the Middle Tennessee football team has fallen on hard times as of late.

Two weeks ago, MT was favored by 14 points to beat the lowest rated team in college football, North Texas. The Mean Green entered the game rated 117 while the Blue Raiders were as high as they had ever been at 42.

Two weeks later, MT has lost back-to-back games and neither of them were pretty losses. I have often wondered how a team, that really had little trouble scoring against Vanderbilt, could look so out of sync.

I'll take you back to the Louisiana-Monroe game. MT won, but it wasn't a pretty win. The Blue Raiders turned the ball over several times and threw for a season low total in passing yards. After the game, head coach Andy McCollum played the game off to it being on the road, and the team had to deal with the tragedy in New York

City. He said he'd rather win ugly than lose pretty. This is not the same Andy McCollum with whom I talked to two years ago. Something has changed.

A week later, the Blue Raiders took on Louisiana-Lafayette and again they won. Again, it wasn't a pretty win. When I say "pretty win" I mean playing the best they can play. For the second straight week, McCollum said he'd rather win ugly than lose pretty. His concern for the poor performance of the team seemed to dwindle in each game. I heard a lot of comments from some players saying "At least we won," and "It's still a win."

I admit I am not a football expert, but I would say that Vince Lombardi is. The former Packer head coach is perhaps the greatest coach of all time. Lombardi said he was most critical of his team after a win rather than after a loss. It seems like that might work the best. After a win, the team feels good, sometimes too good. The criticism can help keep the team on an even keel. Being more patient with the team after a

loss, can boost their spirits, after all like McCollum says, "No one hurts more than the team."

Lombardi won championships with the Packers, and he didn't have to deal with complacency. He didn't have to deal with players thinking they are better than they are in reality. After a 5-0 start, I believe this MT though they were pretty good, even though they had the lowest rated schedule in the nation. I am sure I will get some dirty looks today at practice, but I guess that is part of my job.

The fact is, if MT plays New Mexico State the way they have played the last five games, they will lose, and perhaps badly. I'll be there, sitting in the aluminum bleachers, yelling at the Aggie players as loudly and obnoxiously as I can. But one isn't enough. This is for everything, the Sun Belt championship, a trip to the New Orleans Bowl and a chance to play on national television.♦

View from the Top appears every Thursday. Michael Edwards can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu or 898-2816.

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