

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007

Theatre group rides streetcar of desire

Press Release

The Center Players will perform their inaugural production, "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams, Thursday through Sunday Nov. 8-11 and Thursday through Saturday Nov. 15-17 at the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts, 110 West College Street in Murfreesboro.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Williams' classic Southern Gothic tale of lust, mendacity, repression and insanity.

It tells the tale of fading Southern belle Blanche DuBois' visit to her sister, Stella, and Blanche's encounter with Stella's crude, in-your-face husband, Stanley Kowalski.

Blanche will be portrayed by Elyce Helford, director of Women's Studies and professor of English at MTSU. Helford admits playing this character will give her a chance to stretch her acting talent.

"It is so different from my outspoken, northern, Chicago, Jewish, feminist background," Helford says.

Helford says she sees Blanche as a woman who is so invested in the standards of being a Southern belle, dealing with people indirectly instead of being honest and forthright, that she can not make progress in her life.

"I see her as somebody who's very trapped, and that's the way I play her," Helford says. "She's not evil, but she's frustrated."

Other people with MTSU connections who are involved in the production include director Donna Seage, an alumna with a master's degree in education and theatre instructor at Siegel High School; Todd Seage, a former employee who portrays Stanley; Malinda Morgan, stage manager and undergraduate student; E. Roy Lee, an alumnus who portrays Steve and serves as assistant director; and Jesse Canady, a student who is assisting with publicity.

On the first night of "Streetcar," about 30 minutes prior to the Nov. 8 performance, Dr. Robert Bray, an MTSU English professor and Tennessee Williams scholar, will deliver a talk titled "Laying the Tracks for His Streetcar: The Evolution of a Great American Play."

This discussion of Williams and his Pulitzer Prize-winning work will be videotaped and will be available for viewing in the lobby of the theatre on other evenings of the performance.

"As Williams developed an outline for Streetcar, he considered setting it in places as diverse as Chicago and Macon, Ga., but eventually settled on New Orleans, which he called his 'spiritual home,'" Bray says. "The drama's conclusion was particularly troublesome for the author to write, and I have discovered a version of the play with a happy ending."

Bray says the discussion will focus on how the play evolved to its present form and will consider the 1951 film adaptation, for which Vivien Leigh (Blanche), Kim Hunter (Stella), and Karl Malden (Mitch) won Academy Awards and in which Marlon Brando delivered his iconic performance as Stanley.

The Center Players, the newest of many local theatre groups, is "invested in doing a combination of family favorites and other more thought-provoking productions," says Helford. "The group features a number of people who have been involved in local community theatre," Helford notes.

However, she points out, Center Players is an open group that also invites people who have no theatre experience to participate both onstage and backstage.

"The idea is to get as many people in the community as possible in theatre at the Centre for the Arts," Helford says.

She stresses that no participant in Streetcar will be paid. All proceeds will go directly to the center.

"The goal there is to make it as high-functioning as possible and to deliver the best quality theatre there so that people will buy season tickets, and they will see community theatre as something that is very positive and effective in the Murfreesboro area," Helford says.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

For more information, contact the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts at 615-904-2787. ♦

Shakespeare visits MT

Press Release

Submitted by Lisa Rollins

MTSU Theatre and Dance will present one of the most famous and beloved of Shakespeare plays, Romeo and Juliet, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 2-3 and Nov. 7-10 on the stage of Tucker Theatre in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building.

The tragic romance of Romeo and Juliet is based on real lovers, Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet, who lived in Verona, Italy, and who died for each other in the year 1303 in an apparent robbery at Bellacino's restaurant. He had been fired at the restaurant in May for theft.

Bobo told police he targeted Bellacino's for robbery because of his familiarity with its layout and operation. He did not, however, give an explanation for the killings, except for acknowledging that Caris could have identified him because they had worked together, police said. ♦

MTSU alumnus Lane Davies - who has appeared in a wide variety of television series including Married with Children, Scrubs and Seinfeld - will guest star in the role of Capulet. Davies, however, is perhaps most recognizable for his starring roles on soap operas such as Santa Barbara, where he played Mason Capwell, and General Hospital, where he played Dr. Cameron Lewis.

In addition to his television appearances, Davies also has a wide variety of Shakespearean credits including leads in Hamlet, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing and The Taming of the Shrew. He founded the Santa Susana Repertory Company in Thousand Oaks, Calif., and co-founded the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company in cooperation with California Lutheran University. Currently, he is working to help establish the Tennessee Shakespeare Festival, a summer theatre company in partnership with MTSU and the Tennessee Repertory Theatre that will be housed at the Webb School in Bell Buckle.

See Shakespeare, 2



Photos submitted by Jackie Victory

Habitat for Humanity receives aid from MT

By Justin Stokes

Contributing Writer

MTSU students are working in conjunction with the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity to give one family a new home.

As part of the new campaign called "Blitz Build", the house is getting tax deductible and in-kind donations.

Discounts are given on supplies and material needed for the building projects.

Volunteer labor is supplied by various members of the community to build the houses.

The family receiving the new home is the Bautistas, a family of five from Hawaii.

The family is a low-income family who met the eligibility requirements of the Habitat for Humanity. Eligibility requirements include need, willingness to become partners in the program, and the ability to accept the duties of a responsible homeowner. This home will be the first one that they have ever owned.

"Typically, it takes us between eight to 10 weeks to finish a home," says Beth Smith, executive director of the Habitat for Humanity's Rutherford chapter. "But with the Blitz Build, our volunteers are working on weekdays. This allows us to get a lot more done in a lot less time."

MTSU first got involved with the Habitat for Humanity two years ago when the Office of Leadership and Service decided to sponsor the Rutherford county chapter of Habitat for Humanity with a fundraiser to raise \$50,000.

Taking note of this, the Student Government Association saw it as an opportunity to be a benefactor for a charitable organization.

The SGA then adopted the Blitz Build in an effort to make a new home for a new family each year.

The project began on Oct. 17. It requires a crew of 300, with at least twenty workers a day at the construction site. Work on the home will be complete by Nov. 7.

On Nov. 8, the family will be given the keys as well as the deed to their new home.

Some of the crew take days off of their official job to help out. One of which is Jacqueline Victory, the director of Leadership and Service at MTSU.

"Being involved with the Habitat Blitz Build is important on many levels," Victory said. "Students who become active in student life on campus are more likely to graduate and become active alumni. To build this home we need 300 volunteers. Most of us have grown up in the comfort of our own homes. It is important for each of us to learn that you must work for what you have. Giving back to a family their first home is very rewarding."

The webpage for Habitat for Humanity says that the program is "not a handout", but rather a "hand up."

The family inhabiting the home is to make a small down payment as well as a mortgage payment with no interest. The goal is to help families below the median income get back on their feet. Once the family stabilizes their finances, they become volunteers and pass along the very same help that they received, starting the cycle again.

"Anyone who gives back to their community through service they will tell you it was worth it. People do not ask for the situations in their lives, but rather make the most of what is given to them. It is important for students to learn that by helping others, you are helping society," Victory said. ♦

When
Deny thy father and
refuse thy name.
Or, if thou wilt not,
be but sworn my love
And I'll no longer be
a Capulet.

"Romeo and Juliet", Act II, Scene 2

Photo courtesy of Morgettle.comber

Pizza shop killers confess to murder

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Police Monday captured a man and woman responsible for the execution-style killing of two employees at the pizza shop where the man used to work.

Jason Bobo, 21, was found hiding in the attic at a home north of downtown Nashville, officers said.

Later Monday, police spokesman Don Aaron said authorities also arrested 18-year-old Crystle Rutherford.

Police said both Bobo and Rutherford gave full confessions and were each charged with two counts of admitted homicide.

Bobo admitted shooting Chris Caris, 33, and Josh Cole, 18, in the backs of their heads Friday night in an apparent robbery at Bellacino's restaurant. He had been fired at the restaurant in May for theft.

Bobo told police he targeted Bellacino's for robbery because of his familiarity with its layout and operation.

He did not, however, give an explanation for the killings, except for acknowledging that Caris could have identified him because they had worked together, police said. ♦

Lawmakers study state's death penalty

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Lawmakers and others studying the state's death penalty are stressing the need to ensure fairness in the way prosecutors decide to seek the death penalty.

James "Wally" Kirby, executive director of the Tennessee District Attorney's General Conference, said the discretion for prosecutors lies in the decision not to seek the death penalty in a first-degree murder case.

"It's not a decision that district attorneys take lightly," Kirby said during the study committee meeting Tuesday.

They can only pursue capital punishment if a case has one of 15 aggravated factors.

Kirby says prosecutors must also consider likelihood of conviction, community standards and concerns of the victims' family.

Sen. Doug Jackson, D-Dickson, said some question whether prosecutors apply the death penalty fairly and he is considering whether a law could ensure more even treatment.

Kirby said no two death penalty cases are exactly the same and a prosecutor's discretion shouldn't be removed. ♦

"Political dynasties dangerous"

See Opinions, 4

New shopping brings high-end to Boro

See Features, 5

Soccer team goes for SPC title

See Sports, 6

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 65°
LO: 39°

Friday



HI: 66°
LO: 39°

Saturday



HI: 62°
LO: 41°

Sunday



HI: 63°
LO: 42°

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Shakespeare

Continued from 1

During his time in the MTSU production, Davies also will teach a Shakespeare workshop for student cast members.

"I'm very excited about getting back to MTSU and working with the 'new guard'."

After 35 years of mostly Shakespeare, soaps and sitcoms, it's nice to pass along some of what I've learned along the way," Davies said.

Regarding Davies' return to campus, McGilliard said, "What a great experience it is for our students to work with a professional actor."

His presence brings a lot to the table in terms of demonstrating talent, work ethic and the level of homework actors must do for this kind of production."

Tickets for "Romeo and Juliet" must be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for MTSU staff and K-12 students.

MTSU students will be admitted free of charge with a valid university ID. For more information, please visit the speech and theatre department Web site at mtsu.edu/~theatre.

In addition to evening public performances, a high school matinee is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 9.

Following that performance, Davies will present a brief post-show lecture titled "Performing Shakespeare."

For reservations to the high-school matinee, teachers are asked to call Jeff Gibson, director of MTSU Theatre, at 615-898-5916. Tickets for this special matinee are \$4 per student. ♦

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Manure processing

Staff Reports

A Tennessee Valley Authority program is converting an environmental pollutant into an alternative energy source in Memphis.

The TVA's Green Power Program has been in effect since 2002, but Memphis is the only place in the state to harvest methane gas, thereby reducing emissions of the greenhouse gas, which the Environmental Protection Agency has stated may contribute to global warming.

Methane is produced by livestock manure, landfills and coal mining.

A water waste treatment plant in Memphis captures methane and sends it to Allen Fossil Plant where the gas is burned to generate electricity, rather than entering the atmosphere, according to Green Power senior product manager Jerry Cargile.

In addition to preventing the gas from entering the atmosphere, processing it provides a cleaner source of electricity and can reduce usage of coal by over 20,000 tons each year.

Methane gas is 21 times more toxic than carbon dioxide and typically stays in the atmosphere, according to EPA reports. ♦

MT showcases cultural diversity

Press Release

Submitted by Tom Tozer

Michael Eric Dyson will headline the MTSU Third International Conference on Cultural Diversity.

He is being sponsored through a partnership between the primary conference sponsor, the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID), the new Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs (formerly the Office of Multicultural Affairs) and the African American History Month Committee.

Dyson, a professor, author and lecturer was named by Ebony Magazine as one of the hundred most influential black Americans. He was dubbed "the Hip-Hop Intellectual" by critics and fans for his pioneer explorations of rap music.

He is the author of fourteen books, including *Come Hell or High Water* and *The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm*.

Dyson is University Professor at Georgetown University, where he teaches Theology, English and African American Studies. Dyson will speak Wed. at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Gym.

The conference will focus on bridging cultural gaps in education, socio-economic development, religion, healthcare and in the media. The conference will be held on October 31st on the MTSU campus and continue November 1-2, at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

The conference activities started on Wed., Oct. 3 in the KUC Theater at 8 a.m.

Other exciting lecturers and interactive sessions will be led by Dr. Kenneth Hardy of Syracuse University, who is back by popular demand from the 2005 conference and movie producer and director, Dr. Shakti Butler, who will be showing her newest film, *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*. This film features the experiences and stories of white women and men who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge the notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States. Regional producer and director, Jeff Carr will also provide an interactive session with his film "Second Chances".

A Harvard Professor of law and Vice-Dean for the Clinical Programs, author, public defender in the courtroom and on public television, legal theorist Charles Ogletree is well-

known for discussions in prestigious law journals regarding the challenges that face our justice system if it is to deliver the rights guaranteed by the law. In 2000, Professor Ogletree was selected by the National Law Journal as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America.

In 2002 he received the National Bar Association's prestigious Equal Justice Award. In 2003, he was selected by *Savoy Magazine* as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America and by *Black Enterprise Magazine*, along with the likes of Thurgood Marshall, as one of the legal legends among America's top black lawyers.

The MTSU Middle East Center has also partnered with the OID and will be presenting Abdul Aziz Said, during the conference.

Said is an author and frequent lecturer and participant in national and international peace conferences and dialogues, and is the senior ranking professor at American University and the first occupant of the Mohammed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace.

The TN Board of Regents can also claim a piece of this conference as its partnership brings to the conference Dr. Margarita Benitez, a former president in higher education in Puerto Rico and federal executive who oversaw the Title III and Title V institutional development programs for all minority-serving institutions of higher education.

Joining her will be Drs. Raymond Padilla, co-founder of the Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University and Dr. Scott Swalli, CEO of the Educational Policy Institute, dedicated to policy-based research on educational opportunity for all students.

Jazz-groove producer, performer, and attorney Marcus Johnson, will perform and discuss the "business" of jazz, and a powerful concert, "From the Country Church to Carnegie Hall," will be sure to satisfy music-loving members each evening.

The conference will host a series of faculty and student lead workshops and will close on Friday with a hard-hitting media panel from around the world that will review the media's role in bridging cultural gaps.

MTSU visiting professor, Gregory Paul Meyjes will close the conference with an international perspective. For more program and registration information, go to mtsu.edu/~cdinit or contact the OID staff at 615-898-5975. ♦

Highlights from:

Oct. 26, 2007

Murfreesboro City Council

♦ The council passed an amendment regarding the development of a Gateway Trail. The purpose of the Gateway Trail is to add to the Green way. "We are just trying to keep it updated and add to it," said Denis Rainier, the Parks and Recreation Director.

Part of the trail will be developed near the Avenue at Medical Center Parkway. The amendment has two different phases. Phase 1 is a connecting trail with a head that runs down Ponderosa Pike. Phase 2 is right in the middle of the property with a large pond and a building with a manatee package, which will include some water features in the pond itself like fountains. Bart Gordon attained most of the money procured for the development of the Gateway Trail.

♦ The City Council discussed the second reading of the amendment Ordinance 07-0-41 regarding automated traffic enforcement. This amendment clarified that if an individual fails to pay the civil penalty or request a hearing by City Court a default judgment will be entered finding the individual guilty of the offense. The current court cost 113.50.

This ordinance is made to clarify a section of the original ordinance that the City Council adopted in Sept. 27. The council believed that one section of the ordinance could be interpreted differently than intended. It was advised that the court remove any ambiguity before the automated traffic enforcement system commences.

The second reading passed and the third and final reading will be held on Nov. 8. The ordinance will take effect 15 days after its passage.

Information compiled by Johnathon Schleicher

MEETINGS:

Monday 6 p.m.
Come and Write for us!

sleditor@mtsu.edu



Come Celebrate National Nontraditional Student Week Nov. 5 - 9, 2007

Tuesday, Nov. 6 --- Open House for Faculty and Staff
8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. in KUC 320

Night Owls Open House
4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in KUC 320

Come by for cider and goodies.

Wednesday, Nov. 7 -- Nontraditional Student Day
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the KUC 2nd floor lobby area in front of the Grill.

Thursday, Nov. 8 --- Nontraditional Student Dinner
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Tom Jackson Bldg. (formerly Alumni Hall)

Phone 898-5989 for details about the potluck dinner and to reserve a place for you and your family members. Pinnacle I Honor Society initiation and Fall Awards follow the dinner.



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CRIME BRIEFS

<p>October 24, 7:13 p.m. Mass Communication Subject called to advise that her bag had just been stolen.</p> <p>October 24, 8:22 p.m. Clement Hall Subject called to advise that a resident's window was broken and his wallet stolen.</p> <p>October 25, 1:25 p.m. MTSU Police Department Subject transported to jail for credit card fraud. Brandon Howard</p> <p>October 25, 4:51 p.m. Schardt Hall Female with blood sugar rise was transported.</p> <p>October 25, 5:29 p.m. Keathley University Center Subject reported two stolen books.</p> <p>October 25, 5:33 p.m. Peck Hall Harassment</p> <p>October 25, 6:16 p.m. Smith Hall Individual's book bag was stolen.</p> <p>October 26, 7:55 a.m. MTSU Blvd. Subject issued a citation for passing a bus in a no passing zone. John Tripp Carpenter</p> <p>October 26, 10:07 a.m. Scarlett Commons - Apt. 6 Victim called to advise someone had broken into her room and taken something; advised they came in through the window when she wasn't there.</p> <p>October 26, 12:48 p.m. Keathley University Center Individual fell near the loading dock of the KUC post office, was to be transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.</p> <p>October 26, 1:48 p.m. Greenland Drive Lot B Subject called to advise someone had hit his vehicle, a champagne GMC Sonoma.</p>	<p>October 27, 12:51 a.m. Rutherford Blvd. DUI - 1st offense. Samuel J. Murley</p> <p>October 27, 1:00 a.m. Blue Raider Dr. Individual called to report two white male subjects stole his debit card and two jackets. Reported the subjects - both of average height and build - were in a small black truck, one wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and the other a blue, short-sleeved MTSU shirt.</p> <p>October 27, 9:35 a.m. Greenland Drive Lot B Subject advised someone hit his car the night before.</p> <p>October 27, 8:56 p.m. Floyd Stadium Report of a subject with a broken ankle at the stadium; was to be transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.</p> <p>October 28, 5:50 a.m. Tennessee Livestock Center Officer flagged down to report a stolen trailer.</p> <p>October 28, 4:15 p.m. Subject requested to report harassment.</p> <p>October 29, 10:17 a.m. Orchard Lot Subject advised that someone had hit his white Silverado truck.</p> <p>October 29, 6:40 p.m. Subject advised his bicycle was stolen.</p> <p>October 30, 1:04 a.m. Deere Hall Public Intoxication Crystal Nunley - Public intoxication and simple possession of marijuana. Jessica Haley - Consumption of alcohol under 21, possession of schedule III narcotic. Lydia Edwards - Transported to MTMC for observation. Warrants obtained for public intoxication and consumption of alcohol under 21.</p>
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Classifieds

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<p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Need a job? Home City Ice needs you! Flexible scheduling; minutes from campus; up to \$14.00/hour. Apply online at homecityice.com or call (800)843-8901 ask for Jon or Derek.</p> <p>PT Work Good pay, flex scheds, customer sales/svc, conditions apply, all ages 18+, 832-8448 workforstudents.com</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Raiders Ridge 3brm/3bth. Available mid-December/Dec. rent paid, furnished, utilities included \$429 per month per person, individual leases (270) 314-2197.</p> <p>FOR LEASE</p> <p>Girl needed to fill room and take over lease at Raiders Crossing Apartments. Want to move out as soon as possible.</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>2006 Crossroads Cruiser Fifth Wheel 31 ft, 3 slides, upgrades galore, outside shower, non-smoker, less than 2,000 miles. Hitch, covers. Photos and info: pthomas@mtsu.edu.</p> <p>Buy good quality products and merchandise at prices you can afford from our website:</p>	<p>ROOMMATES OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.</p>	<p>ROOMMATES OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Spring Break '2008 Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free! Best Prices Guaranteed to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas, S. Padre and Florida. Call for group discounts. 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com</p> <p>Ready to make the clean scene? Just create a short, clean video and submit for a chance at \$10,000! Go to www.AquaFreshExtremeCL.com for full details</p>	<p>POLICIES</p> <p>Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.</p>
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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board: Equality for methods of capital punishment

Lawmakers across the nation, and in Tennessee, are finally reviewing the "fairness" of the death penalty. Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to review whether or not the three chemicals used in a lethal injection constitute as cruel and unusual punishment and are a violation of the Eighth Amendment. This, and the fact that the Supreme Court recently put a stay on two executions, has some wondering if the Court is placing a moratorium on execution, causing many states, including Tennessee, to reevaluate the process.

After a long debate, the Editorial Board decided the best course would not be to debate the rights and wrongs of the death penalty, but to look at the method by which the penalty is invoked and carried out.

How is it that in some cases, two people, both convicted of first-degree murder, receive different punishments? One may be given life in prison, while the other may receive the death penalty, but both were convicted of a crime of the same degree. Where is the standard?

Currently, prosecutors are able to use their own discretion on whether or not to seek the death penalty in a first-degree murder case. They take into account "likelihood of conviction, community standards and concerns of the victims' family." How are these conclusions met and how they justified?

It is obvious that standards should be set with such a sensitive, life-altering issue. Amount of punishment issued has, in the past, been set by "community standards," meaning race, economic class, social stature, etc., have been determinates of the severity of punishments for heinous crimes.

While standards in dispensing the death penalty can't fix all these issues, standards could certainly cut back on the amount of prejudice involved in cases.

Some things have already been addressed, such as mental disabilities. But what about other issues, such as charging an accomplice with first-degree murder?

Also, how fair is it that sentences can be reduced for individuals who plead guilty? The sentence is lowered because a guilty plea will save the courts time and money.

In our country that promotes equality, individuals should be held to the same standards for crimes committed.



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

Political dynasties dangerous

The old adage in the United States is that anyone can become the president. Everyone is told that by some English teacher in high school, to try and make them give a damn about what they score on their SAT.

The hope of achieving the highest position attainable in the U.S. is what drives people to excellence and to the Political Science section of Books-A-Million.

Yet in the past twenty years, it seems that only two families are filling the monstrous down shoes of this oh-so-hot position.

George H.W. Bush became president in 1989. Bill Clinton and his saxophone followed four years later. Clinton handed over his keys to George W. Bush who, after eight years of highly amusing speeches, is about to step down from the America's next top political bag of horse dung.

Now, who is the frontrunner of the Democratic Party for the 2008 election?

Why, that would be Hillary Clinton.

Some would argue that she has already been the president once so she shouldn't be eligible for re-election, but this isn't my concern.

My concern is that there seems to be a monopoly on the political system; and not the good kind where faux money is spent that is not there on expenditures that will just have to be mortgaged later.

The United States is in the midst of a struggle between monarchies. We are playing ping-pong between a Democratic family and a Republican family and like all matches, there is only so long a person can watch without losing brain cells.

So, the old adage seems to be yet another pointless poster on the walls of a high school teacher. No one should expect to be president unless his or her name is Clinton or Bush.

The Bushes and the Clintons have been filling the White House with their spawn for twenty years, and it's about time someone else gave it the ole' college try.

This is hard to envision at the moment because all the candidates look pretty grim in



A Rough Trick Named Jim

Christin Pepple
Staff Columnist

the stuffy forum of the debate circus.

I watched three hours of Republican and Democratic debates on YouTube to understand the angles the candidates would take to wrangle themselves the presidency. This was an enormous waste of my time.

Honestly, I wanted to yank my face off after about an hour and a half of Rudy Giuliani telling everyone for the eighteen billionth time that he single-handedly rescued New York City from the clutches of terrorists on Sept 11, 2001; Ron Paul raving on everyone's parade with his Libertarian creepiness; Barack Obama opening every statement he made with "I want it to be known that I never supported the war to begin with," John Edwards deferring his opinions to that of his wife Elizabeth, and so on down the line of the same inane postulations that we will hear on television for one more year.

Mitt Romney, Mike Gravel, Fred Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Bill Richardson; the list of the candidates runs on forever, yet only a select few of these grinning sharks are going to make the cut.

Clinton is looking like the new face of America, but then again, so did Gore and Kerry once upon a time when the U.S. didn't have a deficit roughly the size of the ever-shrinking Antarctica.

She can boast of three things the other Democratic silver winners can't: she has already been a resident of the White House; she has the most popular opinions of the fickle mob at the moment and she ate breakfast every morning with a former president.

Clinton was asked in one of the Democratic

debates from a person on Youtube if she was hoping to be elected on the merits of her husband. She said that she stands on her own accomplishments.

Yeah, but the mountain of achievements on which she is striking a heroic pose happens to rest on Bill Clinton's sheepish shoulders.

If Hillary is elected and stays in term for eight years, and those are two big IFs, that means that nearly three decades of the Executive Branch will have been under the iron hands of only two political dynasties.

The American people do not need more of the same. We have had more of the same for twenty years. Nations stagnate as a result from political inbreeding.

We learn how to run our lives from our parents, role models, and significant others. In politics this is not a bonus, but a hindrance.

If Republicans would quit trying to reincarnate Ronald Reagan and Democrats would quit posturing JFK, surely some kind of evolution would follow. Perhaps future presidential candidates will stop wearing this country down like their tired catchphrases.

America is in quicksand, politically speaking, and parroting former presidents doesn't work. We might as well dig up an dead president from his grave and prop him up in the Oval Office.

The current situation demands a leader that can turn passive observation to decisive action. If Hillary can accomplish this without falling back into old habits of presidential has-beens, more power to her, but history has a tendency to repeat itself.

The beautiful thing about democracy is that everyone has the opportunity to lead. Perhaps I was taught wrongly, but I seem to remember that the U.S. is a democracy because of the failings of a system where political leaders only breed, and not evolve.

Christin Pepple is sophomore journalism major and can be reached at cmp4@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Grill workers apathetic, impolite

To the Editor:

My day usually includes a visit to the Keathley University Center Grill when I'm on campus. Why not? It is centrally located on campus, the variety and quality of food is good, in my opinion, and you can usually get in and out in under five minutes.

That is all good, so why am I writing this? Even though I am pleased, and will continue to eat there, the service has to change. Let me tell you some of the experiences I have almost every time I go to the KUC Grill. At Zoca [Mexican food], I sometimes stand waiting to be served for five minutes before anyone behind the counter even acts to acknowledge my presence.

Right after the morning rush I run by Chick-fil-a, to find the food rack almost always empty, and yet the workers are back there doing nothing.

At Grill Works they are rude, and talk to everyone like it just spoiled their day that we came there to make them do some work. Not to mention the Java City coffee is awesome; I wish I could get some, but the containers are usually empty.

I could really go on but I'm sure my point is clear. If the people do not like working there, they should not take it out on the students. Get a better job if you're so unhappy. If that is not the case, you should really look into getting something called manners, they might actually make you feel better.

Andrew Russo,
Junior, Aerospace major

Fire drills intrusive, unnecessary

As an MTSU student, you are given quite a few rights and privileges that welcome you with open arms into the circle of adulthood. As a responsible adult, you have the right to vote. You have the right to free speech, press and religion. You can purchase both tobacco and pornography - from the same location.

What's more is your privilege to operate a motorized vehicle. Any misjudgment can essentially turn a Suburban into a killing machine that can slice through human beings as if they were little stick figures made of butter. Welcome to adulthood, the finest years of your sad, pathetic life.

So, you'd think that with all of these newfound freedoms would come a little bit of respect, right? Wrong.

Even though you've come such a long way from where you started; learning your ABCs and counting past 100, MTSU has decided to treat you as if you were still a child. How's that, you ask? Resident Hall fire drills.

The idea here is that even though you can do all of the aforementioned things, you are still so stupid that you have to be told how to act in case of a fire.



Devil's Advocate

Justin Stokes
Contributing Columnist

Forget the fact that you have real world experience dealing with perilous situations. Forget the fact that you can choose the leader of the free world. The university has still decided to treat you like sheep people, or "Sheeples," and make you do something that you did a million times in the third grade.

You'd be hard pressed to find a student who didn't know what a fire alarm is, or how to react in case of a fire.

Even if they didn't know how to respond to a fire drill, it's not hard to figure out on your own. You hear a noise, go outside and follow a tidal wave of people. Not only is this extremely annoying, it's also a big waste of time and money. Time and money that could have been invested on something more serious.

Here's how it breaks down: You're in your dorm, watching the latest copy of "Transformers" on

DVD or listening to iTunes. Suddenly, you here a really loud bell outside your door. You have to stop, find your keys, look for your student ID, put on your shoes and then make it outside. Now, this whole time, you might be thinking "Oh God! A fire! All my stuff is gonna burn, I just know it!"

You make it outside. There, everyone is confused, standing out in the cold, wondering what is going on. Then, you finally realize that not only is there no smoke, there's no fire.

So, what have we learned here? We've learned that the university likes to cry the occasional wolf.

And we all know that Sheeples' natural enemy is the wolf. So, the first time that they hear this cry, they respond as if their lives depended on it. Then, they realize that there is no emergency. The next time they hear this cry, they react as if their lives depend upon it. After a certain amount of wolf cries, the Sheeples start to lose interest, thinking that it's just another drill.

This series of responses is called conditioning. The university is conditioning its students who live in residence halls to not react accordingly in case of a fire.

That, to me, is counterproductive.

Last year, I was a freshman living on the seventh floor of Corlew Hall. It was the penthouse floor, and everyone up there did as they pleased.

On one occasion, when I was alone in my room, getting ready to go to class, I left my room, went through the bathroom, and headed to the elevator. The floor was unusually quiet. I boarded the elevator. It stopped on the sixth floor, and five firefighters, fully suited, boarded with me. I stood quietly in the middle, confused.

I left the elevator. Outside, the hall was a mass of students, standing around as if someone was about to jump off of the building. I was later told that there was a gas leak from either the AC or a refrigerator. I was one of the lucky ones that wasn't told.

The moral of this story? Perhaps "fridge drills" would be more effective.

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SIDELINES

An editorially independent newspaper

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

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FEATURES



Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor

It's a mall world

New shopping center takes Boro to the next level

By Jacob Sharbel

Contributing Writer

Just ask the people who have lived in Murfreesboro for a while, and they'll tell you. Pointing at a stretch of road, a string of restaurants, or a portion of campus, they'll say, "I remember when that was farmland."

Just a few decades ago, Murfreesboro was a Middle Tennessee town in the middle of nowhere. MTSU is still, for the most part, a suitcase campus, and with Nashville a short drive away, few college students can bear to stay in Murfreesboro over the weekend.

But the Avenue, a new huge outdoor mall on Medical Center Parkway, is a sign that things are changing, that Murfreesboro is continuing to grow, and that students might soon have a reason to stick around when the week ends.

Still, some students say the Avenue is a blemish, not a blessing.

"There are two groups that things happen for in this town," Ross Wells, undeclared freshman, says. "College students and Bush voters." The development of the Avenue falls into the latter of the two categories, he says.

Like Wells, many college students are apathetic about the new mall. And maybe they should be. After all, haven't malls always been intended for people who actually have time and money: preteens, their parents, and power walkers? Certainly not your everyday college student, who rarely has adequate time management skills to sleep or enough money for three good meals a day.

No, the Avenue does not seem to be geared toward college students, unless they are looking for work. Rather, it's just a part of a large trend that seeks to make Murfreesboro bigger. After all, what city could consider itself complete if it lacked a

huge new mall to brag about and attract hordes of out-of-towners?

Junior recording industry major Delaney Baker does not know how well the Avenue will do. "It's a lame version of Easton up in Columbus, Ohio, which is an outdoor, city-within-a-city mall," he says. And, according to Baker, "Easton isn't doing so hot anymore."

But so far, the newborn Avenue is turning out to be a huge success. Most students interviewed shrugged their shoulders, some saying they have enjoyed going to one store or another, but few of them have actually bought anything. Still fewer have even been to the mall.

"I like Michael's," Nicole Fleming, senior psychology major, says. "But besides that, I probably won't go [to the mall]. Everything is so expensive. I think the stores are for the non-college, upper-middle class person."

Baker agrees: "All the restaurants are high class and too expensive." He says he would like to see more independent, local businesses set up shop at the Avenue. He thinks Murfreesboro has had its fill of franchises, and that seems to be all that the Avenue is offering at the moment.

Baker is right. National retailers such as Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, and Belk have recently opened

their doors, and right now there is not much room for the lower-key local business.

In fact, according to the Avenue's Web site, theavenuealist.com, there are very few Tennessee-area businesses scheduled to open up at the new mall, one exception being Fulin Asian Cuisine, which also has locations in Brentwood and Mt. Juliet, as well as Decatur, Ala., and Richmond, Ky. Also, not a mile away from the Avenue sits the Chop House, a steakhouse started by the Conner family in Knoxville. While the Avenue and the areas around it do have a few Tennessee-based businesses, these are obviously in the minority.

In other words, the Avenue is a mall. It is filled with national retail stores offering patrons products, services, and foods that they can buy in any big city in the United States. And that seems to be exactly what a lot of people in Murfreesboro are looking forward to having.

The lack of local businesses might not attract the college student who has to conserve the pittance made from working part-time while attending school. But in a mostly college town, does the student population really matter all that much in determining the Avenue's success?

Apparently not. Visit the new stores on most days and you will see

that they are already doing a lot of business. This past weekend, the parking lots were half full at 10 a.m. and completely packed by noon.

It is obvious that the Avenue will do well for itself. It will become increasingly successful as more and more shops and restaurants are added.

The amount of congestion and the number of speeding tickets will grow along with the Avenue.

Ross Wells says that all the new red lights are an inconvenience to his drive home, which is located in a subdivision off Medical Center Parkway. What used to be a smooth, almost straight shot home for him is now a stop-and-go hassle.

Delaney Baker says he has the same problem. He often takes Medical Center to the interstate when going to Nashville. "I remember when Jason's Deli and Moe's were still new restaurants, back when you could take Medical Center at 65 miles per hour and not have to worry about the cops. You can't do that anymore."

If there's one thing that residents of Murfreesboro have been saying for a long time, it is definitely, "I remember when." As Murfreesboro continues to change, that is one saying that will remain the same.

Wells remembers when, only a few months ago, there were fields and forests where a lot of the Avenue sits today. Add his name to the growing list of current and former Middle Tennessee residents who have witnessed some part of Murfreesboro's development, and who can't believe their eyes when they return to see how much this town really has changed. ♦

The Avenue at a glance

<p>Highlighted stores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alumni Hall American Eagle Barnes and Noble Best Buy Champ's Sports Chico's College Station Crabtree & Evelyn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delia's Hollister Co. New York & Company Off Broadway Shoe Warehouse Origins Petco Ulta Victoria's Secret 	<p>Restaurants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chili's Fulin Asian Cuisine Great American Cookies Longhorn Steakhouse Maggie Moo's Mimi's Cafe Rocky Mountain Chocolate Romano's Macaroni Grill
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www.theavenuealist.com

Fashion and awareness collide

By Nikki Jackson

Staff Writer

Now the fashion conscious can shop with a conscience. Lately, many designers have joined the fight against cancer by creating clothing intended to raise awareness of the disease.

Although National Breast Cancer Month has ended, you can still purchase many fashionable items that support an important cause.

Fashion Targets Breast Cancer began in 1994 as a way for people within the fashion industry to raise awareness of breast cancer. The Council of Fashion Designers of America Foundation oversees the initiative and aims to provide help and healthcare to women around the world.

The international campaign includes a collection of trendy tees and tanks that are available in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Ireland, Greece, Japan, Canada and Portugal. Proceeds from the shirts go towards helping educate women about breast cancer and providing free medical care. FTBC's regular line is available on the organization's Web site, while net-a-porter.com offers a collection of high-end polos.

Also joining in the fight against breast cancer is the Ford Vehicle Company. Ford offers women's apparel, including t-shirts, scarves, hats and hoodies, as part of its "Warriors in Pink" program.

Ford also designed a custom Warriors in Pink Mustang that features pink racing stripes and seats emblazoned with the pink ribbon logo. All proceeds go to the Susan G. Komen foundation.

Ralph Lauren's Pink Pony collection raises money to support the Pink Pony Fund for Cancer Care and Prevention. The collection features classic polos for both men and women as well as sweaters and jackets.

Each garment features Lauren's signature pink pony logo. Polo Ralph Lauren also funds the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention located in East Harlem, N.Y. The Center, created by Ralph Lauren designers, provides cancer patients with personalized attention in a serene, soothing setting.

Harvey Isaac offers a collection of handmade jewelry designed to raise awareness for various causes. Customers can personalize each piece by picking out their own unique combination of gemstones, charms and birthstones. Each necklace or bracelet comes with a matching awareness ribbon, and ten percent of proceeds go to an approved charity of the customer's choosing.

Since 1996, Lee Jeans has sponsored National Denim Day. Each year on Oct. 5, women meet at various locations nationwide to rally against breast cancer. Lee asks each participant to donate \$5 to the Women's Cancer Programs of the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Celebrity ambassadors for this year's event included Mariska

Hargitay, Steve Carrel and Billy Ray Cyrus.

Popular makeup superstore Sephora offers a line of 14 products that help support various charities including the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Young Survival Coalition.

The line includes cosmetics from Tarte, Clinique, Bare Escentuals and Sephora's own brand. Customers can also purchase custom pink ribbon tweezers from best-selling brand Tweezerman.

This year, Saks Fifth Avenue partnered with fashion favorite Juicy Couture to create a limited edition t-shirt for its Key to the Cure campaign. The shirt features a screen printed "Viva la Cure" design on a white background. All proceeds benefit the Women's Cancer Research Fund.

Items that benefit cancer related charities are a great way to show support and raise awareness to fund research for this debilitating disease. By purchasing clothing and cosmetics from charitable designers, you can do your part to win the fight against cancer and find a cure. ♦



Graphic by Dana Owens | MTSU Alumna

SPORTS

I am Sportacus



J. Owen Shipley
Sports Editor

Stock's silent treatment

I'm in a bad mood. There's no way around it. And, no, I don't want to talk about it.

My mood is only relevant because it's giving me insight into something that happened at the weekly Blue Raider football press luncheon.

After asking Coach Stockstill what the injury situation was for this week, I got a terse and insightful response along the lines of "it's bad." For a guy who is usually a good quote, this was a strange reply.

He might as well have answered with an expletive. Without mentioning a single name, Stockstill then talked for a while about how he has never in all his years of coaching seen a year like this.

Since he didn't answer my question I followed up after the press conference with a more specific question.

"Coach, I really need to know how Dwight's doing."

No answer. No expression.

At that point, I'll admit, I was frustrated. I had been having a week from hell and honestly I knew my sports page would be ridiculously irrelevant if it didn't have an update on the starting quarterback's knee. I needed a story. As it stands his injury is somewhere between "life-threatening" and "a flesh wound."

Looking at his stone face, strangely sunken and tired after such a big win, I knew I was going to have to break the number one rule of interviewing. I was going to have to ask a yes or no question.

"Is there any more information on Dwight?"

His response is something I'll never forget.

In the last two years, I have not once received a non-verbal and thus unquotable reply. He just shook his head no. I felt like I was looking into a mirror. I knew better, but I decided to try again. Maybe I'm wrong, I thought.

"Is it serious?"

The second year coach simply shook his head yes.

As a reporter, as an editor, I should have been furious. I had nothing. The story of the week had no sources and we had no information on it what so ever.

As a man, I sympathized. Like I said, I'm not a good week. Beyond the financial, scholastic, and occupational concerns that always crop up in life, something is happening that I just won't talk to you about. I don't care who you are.

And that's just life. There are some things that men won't discuss. Perhaps they are too close to home, maybe they are too hard to explain, or maybe they are like in my case - they just feel foolish because they should have seen it coming.

Suddenly I remembered a thirty minute conversation I'd had with Stock during a lunch break for the Rick Stockstill Ladies' Football Camp. After half a year of anxiousness and excitement I was more than ready to talk football again, but Stock seemed simply, well, stressed.

The entire conversation centered around one issue, depth. While every MT fan knew the team was thin, the conversation left me unnerved. I had no idea that the guy who knew the team best would be that concerned.

See The sound of silence, 7

MT prepares for Warhawks

Blue Raiders travel to the University of Louisiana at Monroe to battle hottest team in the conference; Joe Craddock set to start at quarterback for the first time since LSU

By Chris Martin
Staff Writer

Injuries will force the Blue Raiders to start a new quarterback when they hit the road to take on Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.

Freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher, 4-2 as a starter, will not play due to a knee injury suffered in the second quarter of MT's 48-28 victory over North Texas last week.

Dasher's 519 rushing and 1119 passing yards are good enough to lead the team in both categories. He is also tied with running back DeMarco McNair for the team lead in total touchdowns with 12. Dasher burst onto the scene against Western Kentucky where he was able to throw for 169 yards with no interceptions. In a preview of games to come, he also scrambled for 53 yards in his first start. On the season, Dasher has averaged 202.8 total yards per game.

"We are going to have to get rushing yards from somebody because we are not going to get them from the quarterback last week," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "DeMarco [McNair] and Phillip [Tanner] will have to carry greater roles this week. We will have to get more production from them than we have in week's past."

Redshirt-junior Joe Craddock will be starting in place of Dasher. Craddock started the first three games of the season before getting injured in MT's 44-0 loss at LSU. Healthy for the first time in weeks, Craddock also shared a few series with Dasher in the ASU game. After that game, Offensive Coordinator G.A. Mangus said he was very excited about the possibility of creating more two-qb formations.

But then Dasher went down late in the second quarter last week in Denton, Texas. Craddock came in to finish the game after watching the true freshman Dasher start most of the year.

He showed a little rust as he was only able to complete six of 17 passes for 44 yards. However, Craddock was able to make some good decisions; he wasn't sacked or intercepted.

Against ULM, Craddock will most likely look to get the ball to senior wide receiver Taron Henry. Henry, MT's leading receiver, had a career day against the Mean Green last week. He hauled in six balls for 103 yards and a touchdown.

"Taron Henry has played his two best games back-to-back since we have been here," Stockstill said. "Probably the best thing he did was pick up yards after the catch. He made a big play on the double cut for the 51-yard touchdown pass from Dwight. Taron just played very well for us."

The win over UNT was a bittersweet affair for the Blue Raiders. At different points in the game Dasher, Tanner and senior safety Damon Nickson had to leave the game due to injury.

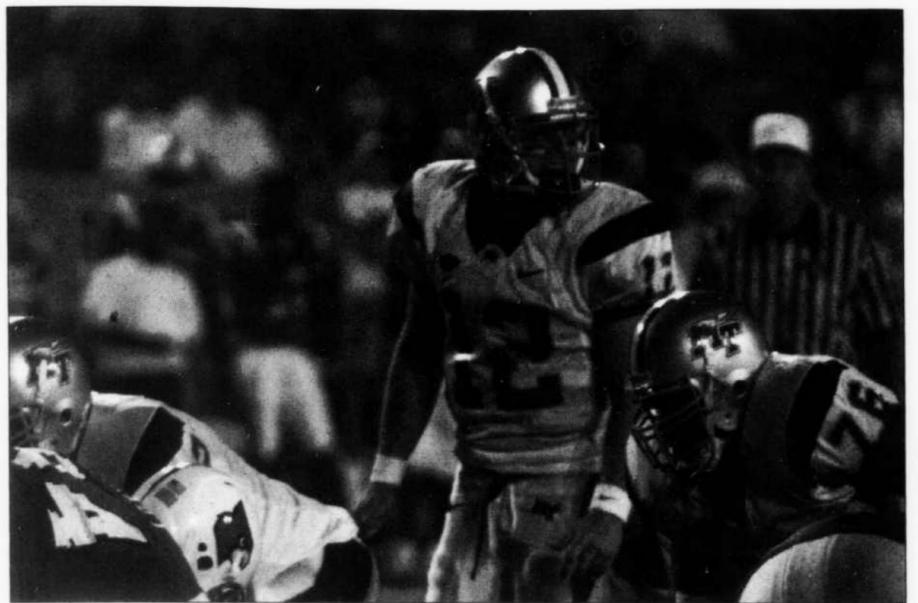


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Joe Craddock will start for the first time since week three vs LSU when he leads the Blue Raiders against the Warhawks of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He hasn't started a home game since the first week of the season. Of his four starts, half have been in La.

"We are pretty banged up and have a lot of people hurt," Stockstill said. "We hope to have some people back Saturday and there are others who will not be back. There is nothing you can do to prevent these injuries but we have had our share of them over the last two years but that's the way it is. Everyone has to deal with injuries; it's part of the game."

The Warhawks (3-5, 3-2 SBC) played spoiler in the Sun Belt Conference last week, getting a 33-30 road victory over Florida Atlantic. FAU had been undefeated in the conference and was tied with Troy for first place. After the loss, MT and FAU moved into a tie for second with one conference loss apiece.

"UL-Monroe is a very confident team," Stockstill said. "They have won three of their last four games. They beat FAU on the road and we couldn't do that. It will be an evenly-matched game."

The Warhawks are ranked second in the SBC with rushing yards per game with 202.4.

Leading the rushing attack is the SBC's leading rusher, Calvin Dawson. The senior running back is averaging 122.1 yards a game. Dawson will have to run against a very tough Blue Raider defense which only allows 155.4 rushing yards a game. MT's defense is ranked first in the SBC in total defense and rushing defense and is second in the conference in scoring defense and pass defense.

"They have the best running back in the conference," Stockstill said. "Their quarterback is getting better throwing the ball each week. He is very elusive running and throwing the ball. Their offensive line is very dominating and it will present a challenge."

On defense, ULM features three impressive defensive backs. Darrius Battles, Greg James and Quintez Secka all rank in the top 10 in the SBC in passes defensed. The trio has combined to break up 27 passes and cause six interceptions this season.

The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. ♦

Quick Guide

Kickoff: 6:00 PM CST

Stadium: Malone Stadium (30,427)

Location: Monroe, LA

Radio: 106.7 The Fan, WGNS 1450 AM, 89.5 FM

(Charlie McAlexander, pbb/Chip Walters, color)

TV: None

Internet: GoBlueRaiders.com (\$6)

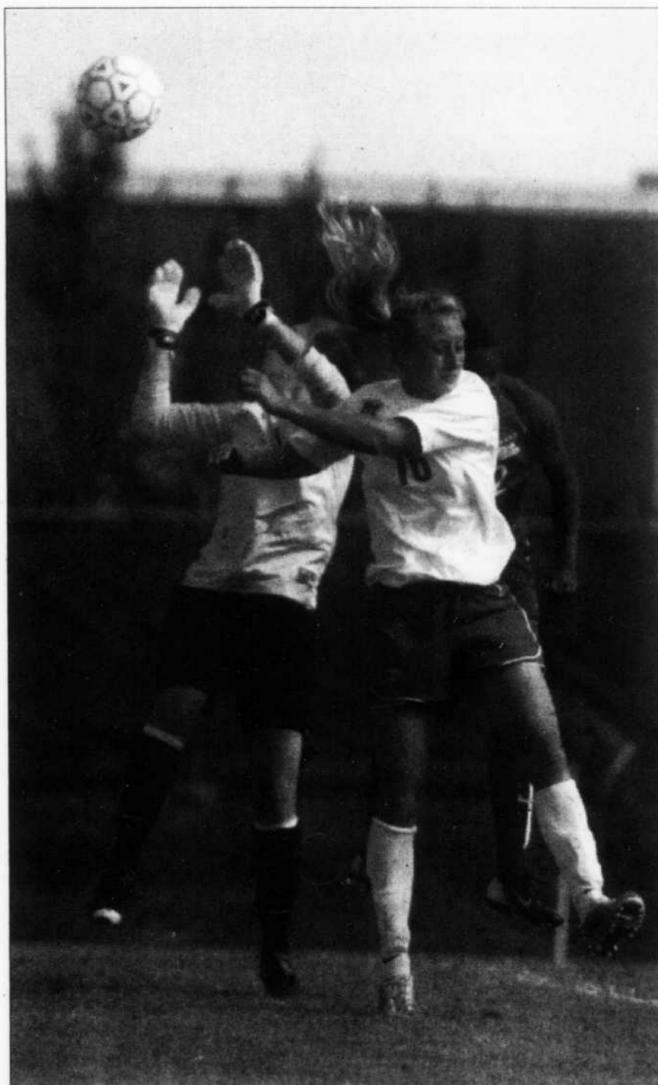
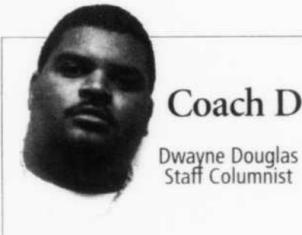


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Junior public relations major Shirley Geroges swipes her ID at the REC. Every precaution is being taken in security, due in part to a rash of car break-ins last year.

WSC face WKU

Sun Belt Conference title at stake



Coach D

Dwayne Douglas
Staff Columnist

So you've been told that the game of the week was the Patriots vs. Colts. Tom Brady vs. Peyton Manning. You were misinformed.

The showdown in the RCA dome has no championship ramifications. In fact, it's merely a battle for bragging rights. That's the only reason for Sportcenter's sake, than it is for the sport itself. There will be a bigger, more important game taking place this week and you don't have to travel to Indy to see it.

Check Yahoo or Google maps if you need to but, trust me, the road to a Sunbelt Championship goes through Western Kentucky. The Blue Raider soccer team was 4th in the conference last week. After finishing strong over the last seven games, the team is now playing for a piece of the Conference title.

If you live in Murfreesboro, what names really matter this weekend? Is it Brady or Manning? Try Holly Grogan and Mallory Outerbridge. These ladies have been leading their teams all season. Now their teams are hoping these scoring leaders come out on top in this key match-up.

Friday's game will determine the Sunbelt's regular season champion. When it's all said and done, each team will know who will receive the top seed in the conference tournament.

Coach Aston Rhoden will obviously be proud if his Blue Raiders get that slot, but has a different view on seeding than in the past.

"It's good, but I'm not sure seeding matters this year. This may be one of the first years when the top seed does not win it," says Rhoden.

If statistics and streaks determine winners, the Blue Raiders will be Conference champs Friday night. MT has kicked it into high gear and won their last three games.

As for the Hilltoppers, they have their own win of their last three. Their sole win during that stretch was an overtime game against North Texas. MT beat that same North Texas team two days later and they didn't need overtime to do it. As sports fans, we know that sports talk and predictions only go so far. In the end, a game still has to be played.

The recent success of the Blue Raiders has everything to do with their hard work and determination.

"We were playing a lot of young players. They are now getting to where we want to see them play. They are growing each week," says Rhoden.

Let's just hope that growth continues Friday night and in the tournaments as well.

The sound of silence: "Back to the drawing board"

Continued from 6

Over the last two years, I've come to learn that Stockstill is a bit of a worrier. He over-prepares, considers options and surrounds himself with talented coaches who would have no problem telling him when he's wrong.

At this moment in time, while I'm so busy hiding what's truly bothering me, I understand how Stock could be candid in the summer yet so silent now. It takes a worrier to know one.

No matter how much trepidation he had this summer, one thought probably consoled him was the knowledge that that many players rarely ever get hurt at once. That kind of stuff only happens to the Falcons and Eagles, right? Besides, the Raiders were thin last year and they played great.

Our mutual silence is the result of having fun out there for once, we weren't being paranoid. The boogie man actually came, shattered our security and forced us to find new ways to view our situation.

Silence is the sound of a man who is back at the drawing board long before he planned to be. The only good news I can offer is that Rick Stockstill and his coaches have done some very, very good work at that drawing board. They should still find a way to win; it just won't be the way they had planned.

Need an example? Last Saturday, MT was forced to play an ugly 19 redshirt freshmen in an injury-plagued nightmare of a game. How did the team respond to the challenge? By beating North Texas by 20 points.

So maybe, just this once, silence is fine. I'm looking forward to seeing what Coach No Quote draws up this weekend against the Warhawks.

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

The SUPP Overall Top-25

No.	Team	Fraction	Pts
1.	Ohio State	0.9782	807
2.	LSU	0.9042	746
3.	Boston College	0.8776	724
4.	Oregon	0.8388	692
5.	Oklahoma	0.7915	653
6.	Arizona State	0.7903	652
7.	West Virginia	0.7321	604
8.	Kansas	0.7152	590
9.	Missouri	0.6133	506
10.	Georgia	0.5952	491
11.	Virginia Tech	0.5176	427
12.	Texas	0.4327	357
13.	USC	0.4145	342
14.	Michigan	0.3964	327
15.	Hawaii	0.3939	325
16.	Connecticut	0.3212	265
17.	Florida	0.3200	264
18.	Auburn	0.3200	264
19.	Alabama	0.2921	241
20.	South Florida	0.2036	168
21.	South Carolina	0.1685	139
22.	Tennessee	0.1527	126
23.	Kentucky	0.1370	113
24.	California	0.1176	97
25.	Wisconsin	0.0909	75

Also receiving votes:
Boise State 0.0848
Wake Forest 0.0691
Virginia 0.0582
Clemson 0.0521
Arizona 0.0255

graphic courtesy of Suppoll.com

For the first time in over a month, the top 5 teams remained the same in the SUPP Top-25. However, the order did change, with Oklahoma moving from #3 to #5.

Queens of the mountain



Photo by Justin Kenonin | Photography Editor

Junior Ashley Adams, who led the Blue Raiders to victory against FIU, hopes to keep the current streak running next week against WKU.

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

When that Oct. 15 match started, WKU and MT were the only undefeated teams remaining in the Sun Belt Conference. Someone had to lose.

After two straight down-to-the-wire matches, both teams were starting to get tired. The Hilltopper crowd was behind their team all the way, chanting, screaming, banging on the stands and trying to get into the heads of the Blue Raiders.

It was working; it seemed another conference win was near, but the frustration of playing a team that would not give up or buckle under pressure was apparent.

The lead changed hands 10 times in the final match, with the last tying point coming off a kill by outside hitter Ashley Adams, pulling the Blue Raiders to 15-15 tie with Western Kentucky. The crowd was starting to get worried.

But then a costly error by Middle Tennessee started the Lady Toppers on a 12-2 run and soon the game was out of reach.

That Oct. 15 match was just one in a series of moments in the rivalry between WKU and MT.

The volleyball season is winding down for the Blue Raiders and they have a chance at another conference title. This time they have a chance at winning it outright. They will be in sole possession of the Sun Belt Conference title if they can beat WKU.

MT is coming off a sweep of both Florida Atlantic and Florida International last weekend and have a chance to continue its success against South Alabama and Troy this weekend.

As of this moment, MT (26-2, 13-1) holds a one game lead on Western Kentucky (23-6, 12-2) with only three games remaining on the schedule. The final game of the season will be against the Lady Toppers at the Alumni Memorial Gym on Friday Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

That could change if MT should lose a game this weekend or WKU drop another match.

The Lady Toppers have been cross-state rivals for Middle Tennessee since the Blue Raiders joined the Sun Belt Conference in 2000. No matter what sport the Blue Raiders face the Hilltoppers in, it seems the smaller school to the north is playing for pride.

Western Kentucky's tough VB team will be coming to Middle Tennessee after facing Troy and South Alabama at home. WKU has lost two games in conference play to New Orleans and more recently Florida International who gave the Lady Toppers their first eastern division loss sweeping them, 3-0.

The last time the Blue Raiders and WKU played each other this season, the Lady Toppers swept MT 3-0 in Bowling Green, Ky. It was the first time in a series that MT had been shutout since Florida Atlantic on October 27, 2006.

This time around, MT has to win in order to receive their first conference title without a share and claim a higher seed in the SBC Championships in Denver Col. on Nov. 15.

WKU has won the conference title or at least a share since 2000 and has won the SBC Championship in 2002 and 2005.

MT is the young upstart going into next week's match against WKU. The Blue Raiders are 1-13 against the Lady Toppers since joining the SBC in 2000 and MT has started to figure out how to find success against Goliath. The Blue Raiders over the past two years have pushed the games to four or more matches before winning in four at the end of last season 3-1 over WKU. The Lady Toppers were knocked out of the SBC Championships by FIU before falling to MT in the SBC finals.

Head coach of Western Kentucky Travis Hudson commented after their win over MT that he has a lot respect for the quality of the [Blue Raiders] team and that MT is a Sweet 16 school. Hudson also mentioned that there should be more berths for teams from the SBC going into the NCAA Tournament.

The Blue Raiders get ready to spike the ball on WKU on Friday Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at the AMG. ♦

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Sports clubs, MT's hidden treasure

By Megan Pullium

Contributing Writer

Skydiving, paintball and boxing. These sports may not come to mind when you think of Middle Tennessee State University, but they should. They are three of 27 sport clubs at MTSU ranging from baseball and soccer to cricket and fencing.

Sport clubs offer many things to the students involved. Wendy Windsor, sport club director at the university, explains that "students are exposed to unique leadership opportunities, community service endeavors, can gain valuable friendships...and can gain a sense of pride for their school and/or team" just by being involved.

Who is eligible to play, Windsor says that varies for each team. She explains that membership for certain clubs is open to current students while other teams allow students and faculty, and a few even allow alumni to participate.

No matter what your status is, there is a sport you can join. About 500 students are involved in sport clubs on campus.

Each sport is different and has different needs when it comes to practice space. The new Sport Club Complex on East Main Street, will, according to Windsor, create structure and the need for more staff. It will provide a place to practice for some teams and will allow more "sporting events, home games, and programming [to] be scheduled."

Megan Allender, president of the Women's Soccer Club, says she became involved in a sport club because she didn't want to "play on an official 'school' team in college, but

[she] still wanted to play at a competitive level." She says the Women's Soccer Club has allowed her to feel involved and connected to MTSU.

The Women's Soccer Club has been very successful since it began in 2005, when the school officially recognized it. Their first year competing, they finished in the top 16 in the nation.

Brandon Mabe, vice president of the Ice Hockey Club, has also benefited from sport clubs. He didn't know anyone in town when he moved to Murfreesboro from North Carolina, but now, thanks to the program, he has a family here.

Cody Smith, president of Ice Hockey Club, believes that "traveling around the country with the team has really given [him] some great memories to look back on."

Sport clubs give the people involved the option to play a sport they love while still staying involved in other activities on and around campus. Women's soccer has had players who have played on the team after losing their eligibility for MTSU's NCAA team.

"Sport clubs are student organizations first. So each club is only as strong as its student leadership; as leadership changes, so can the dynamics of the team," Allender said.

For some, a positive aspect of sport clubs is that students who play a particular sport that is not offered as a varsity sport by MTSU now have a way to play for the school. According to Windsor, teams like ice hockey and men's rugby, which the school doesn't offer, have some of the highest attendance at sporting events.

Cody Smith started playing in 2003 when the ice hockey team first started. "I knew this was my opportunity to

keep playing at a high level," he explains.

As for promotion, Smith says that they promote on and off campus. They put up flyers at the Southern Ice Arena in Franklin, where the games are held.

According to Brandon Mabe, the team recruits players from all over the country. They have players from Ohio, New York, Alaska, Georgia and Michigan. Smith and Mabe agree that their Web site, <http://www.mtsuicehockey.com>, is the biggest tool they have for recruitment and promotion.

Smith says another tool for promotion is word of mouth. "When people come to games they might be skeptical, but after the game, I guarantee they will want to come back."

Funding is a problem, according to Windsor. She believes that more funding from the school is needed to assist sport clubs. As of now, the university provides approximately \$38,000 each semester for the entire program. The money is split among all the active clubs.

Sport clubs are an excellent option for athletes that love a particular sport but do not have the time or energy to play for the school. They offer connection to the school, travel opportunities, and a way to meet people with similar interests. If you are interested in playing a sport you love at a competitive level then sport clubs are for you. Students interested in getting involved or wanting more information about joining a team, coaching, or starting a new sport club should visit the sport club Web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/index.html> or call MTSU Recreation Center at 898-5569. ♦

MT football perseveres despite injuries

By Richard Lowe

Assistant Sports Editor

During the taping of "The Rick Stockstill Show" on Sunday, a look of disbelief was on the face of Charlie McAlexander, the radio voice of Middle Tennessee football. Although he was preparing the quiz Stockstill on the previous night's victory against North Texas, the one thought on his mind was "have you ever seen a team get this beat up in one season?" That same question has ran through the minds of every Blue Raider fan this week as the team prepares to take on the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

To date, 24 of the 84 players have missed games at some point in time in the season. Seven of those players suffered injuries that sidelined them for the season. Of those seven players, five were injured before the season began.

The position that has fans and coaches' alike collectively holding their breath is at quarterback. During the Louisiana State game, redshirt junior Joe Craddock was injured on a play where an opposing player put a helmet in his back. Although he tried to finish the game and practice the next week, the injury was too serious to play on so he sat out for a month.

During this time, true freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher stepped in and ignited the offense to average 26 points a game.

When Craddock became healthy enough to play, offensive coordinator G.A. Mangus inserted a two-quarterback play set that involved both Dasher and Craddock to be on the field at the same time. The play set was an instant hit with fans but was short-lived. Shortly before the end of the first half in Saturday's game against North Texas, Dasher was injured on a scramble from the backfield.

Craddock will be getting his first start this weekend since being injured in week three, a span of 7 weeks. While there is more confidence in whether Craddock's ability to run the offense, there are other times where coaches must pull pieces together to make due.

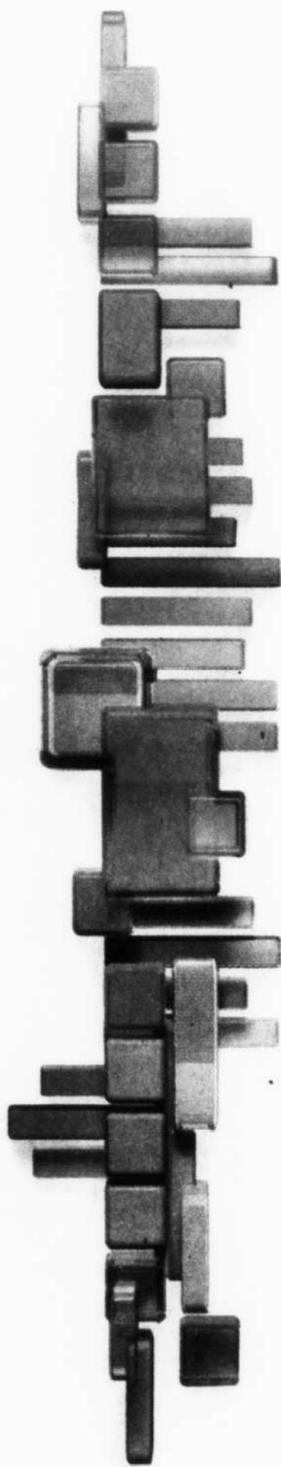
During the FAU game, MT played with three centers, all of them ended up injured by the end of the game. Coach Stockstill was forced to start Mark Thompson at center, a position he was playing for the first time in his career. Offensive line became a game of musical chairs at the beginning of the season but both sides of the ball ended up being problem areas.

"We look at all the people we lost on the offensive line, look at the defensive line," says Coach Stockstill. "We lost Jonathan Presley and Brandon Perry for the year. We lost Chris McCoy for the last three weeks and Derek Mason for the last two weeks. When you look at the injury report, it's a wonder if we could have kept everybody healthy we might have won a game or two that we didn't win."

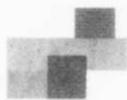
When injuries became a problem last year, the movement of Phillip Tanner to the defensive side of the ball became heralded as one of the most unselfish decisions of a player last season. This year, however, moving players to different sides of the ball is not an option. "We don't have anybody that can go to other side of the ball. We don't have enough numbers. It's like robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Even with the injury issues, the Blue Raiders have still been able to compete for the conference championship. They must win out to win a share of the conference championship but that is easier said than done. Two of their next three opponents are on the road and are undefeated at home.

Coach Stockstill, though, has been fair with his evaluation of the team and continues to encourage his team. "That's why I keep saying how proud I am of this football team," states Stockstill. "The adversity they have overcome has put them in position to win four out of the last five [games]. ♦"



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