

OPINIONS



Columnist Mallory Boyd explains the similarities between "New Atheism" and mainline religions.

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FEATURES



June Anderson brought equal rights to light with creation of MTSU women's center.

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SPORTS



Blue Raider volleyball extends winning streak to five matches after weekend campaign.

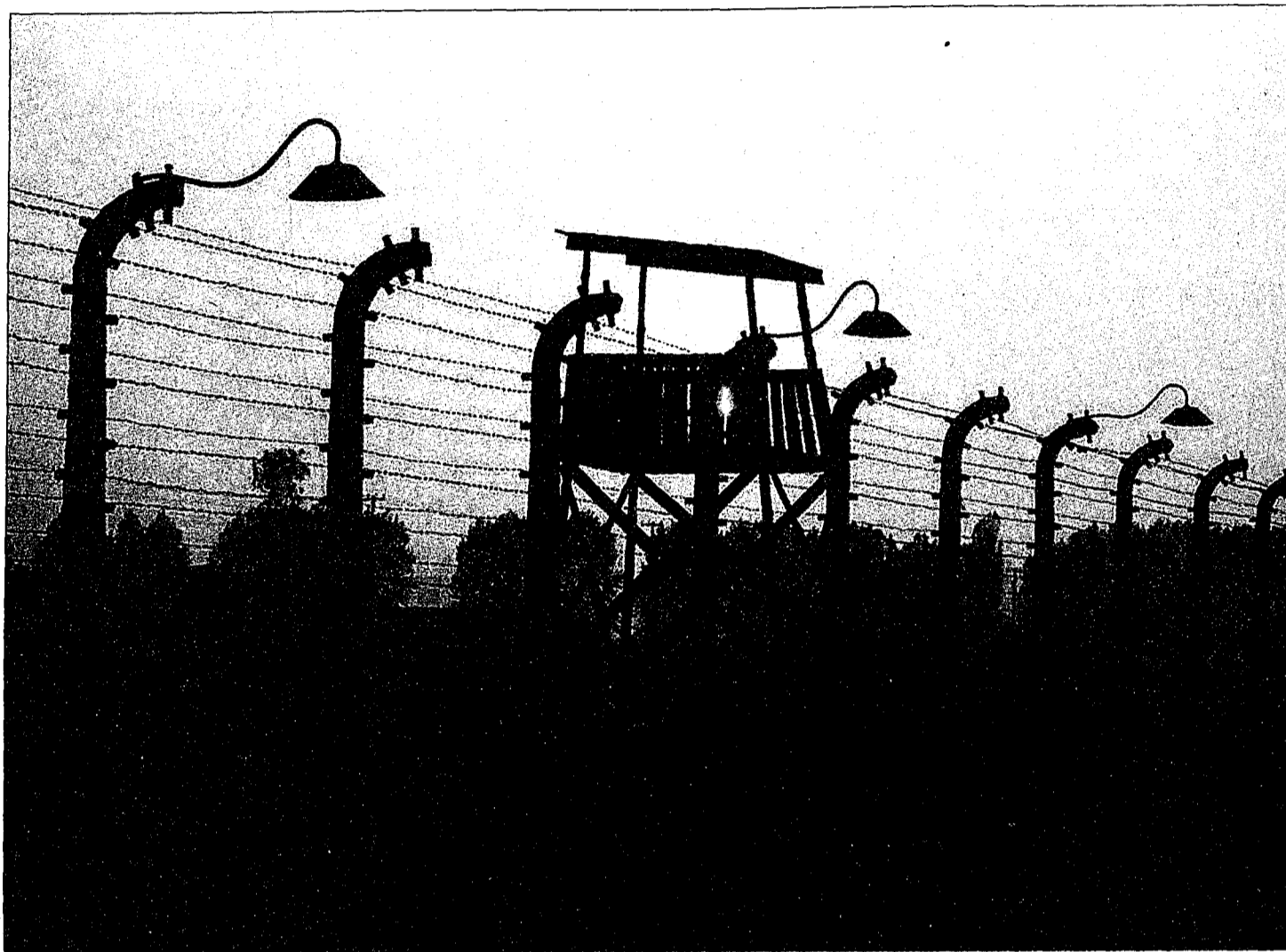
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 14



A Holocaust conference is scheduled for Thursday until Saturday to inform students and faculty of its repercussions in society.

Conference sheds light on ghosts of the Holocaust

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

around forever." There are a number of free events open to the public including "The Paperclip Project," a presentation of a monument made from millions of paperclips by middle-school students in Whitwell, Tenn.; a panel discussion featuring Holocaust scholar Randy Jackson; and two discussions from Gerhard L. Weinberg. Weinberg is an author and Holocaust historian who is set to receive the 2009 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing. His panel discussion, called "Racial Hatred: Black African Victims of Nazism," is scheduled for Oct. 23. On Oct. 23 at 10:20 a.m., a two-hour panel, "Survivors and Liberators," will feature liberators Jimmie Gentry of Franklin, Tenn. and James



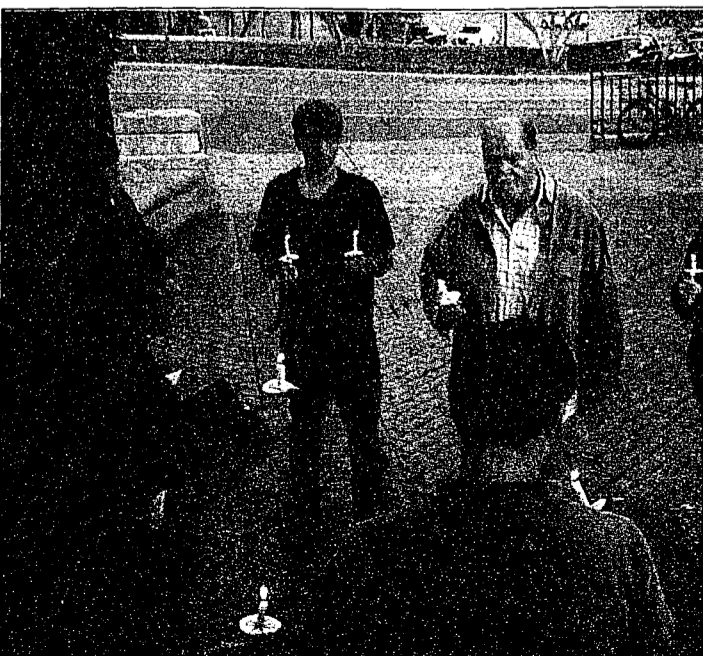
The Holocaust conference will explore racial hatred and Nazism.

Dorris of Chattanooga. Also speaking will be four Holocaust survivors: Eva and Eric Rosenberg of Nashville, Judy Cohen of Toronto, and Fran-

ces Cutler, a Nashville survivor who grew up in France during World War II.

HOLOCAUST, PAGE 2

Students rally for health care change



Community members hold a candlelight vigil to pay respect to those who have died because of an inability to afford health care.

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

MTSU students along with members of the Murfreesboro community and the Tennessee Change That Works campaign gathered at the Murfreesboro Municipal Plaza to rally for Health Care Reform Tuesday evening. The event was part of the National Day of Action, a campaign to encourage American citizens across the country to contact their congressional representatives and Senators. Students first gathered outside the Keathley University Center and staged a smaller rally before commuting downtown. "Today is the National Day of Acton when we will call our congressman and deliver this

message: that health care in the state of Tennessee must be made affordable and available to everyone," said Ashley Renner, a senior philosophy major. "We would like everybody to get out their phones and dial 866-288-1495 - as soon as you are connected, enter your zip code and you will be connected with your congressman's office." Tony Cani, the state director for the Tennessee Change That Works Campaign, said the phone line would be available until the health care bill is passed. He said the automated system would also connect residents to their Senators and provide helpful information about the need for health care reform.

HEALTH, PAGE 2

Stockstill benches MT players for alcohol charges

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

Three MTSU football players arrested on alcohol offenses on Oct 11 were suspended from Saturday's football game against Mississippi State University which resulted in a 27-6 loss to Mississippi State.

Leading receiver Patrick Honeycutt, linebacker Gorby Loreus and reserve quarterback Nick Coleman missed the game, but will return for next Saturday's game against Western Kentucky.

Head coach Rick Stockstill said that the players would be disciplined "in house."

In a statement released before the game on Saturday, Stockstill said he was disappointed and embarrassed for the university's football team.

"As I have said this week, all three are quality young men that made a mistake," Stockstill said. "However, that does not excuse them from the high standards that I want our players to lead their life by both on and off the field."

Murfreesboro police arrested and charged Honeycutt, 22, and Coleman, 22, with furnishing alcohol to minors. Police also arrested and charged Loreus, 19, with underage consumption of alcohol.

In addition to the three football players, freshman baseball pitcher Brandon Hall, 18, and students Christian Lairamore, 18; William Miller, 20; and Amy McElroy, 19, were arrested and charged with underage consumption.

The Murfreesboro police report stated Honeycutt and Coleman had several kegs of beer and were charging money at the door for empty cups to consume beer. The report also said the party was advertised on Facebook, including the price of beer as well as how many kegs would be at the party.

The students were arrested after Murfreesboro police reported to a call of a large party and shots fired at 1402 Destiny Drive. When officers arrived at the party, po-

lice found a man standing in the street who said he had been threatened by another man with a gun, the police report stated.

In a press conference on Oct. 13, Stockstill addressed the arrests of the football players and what would be done as punishment.

Stockstill said that while the players would be disciplined, he wanted everyone to remember that they were "good guys."

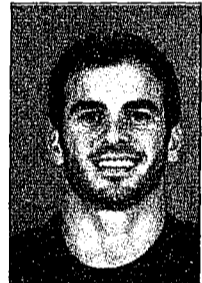
"I do not condone anything they did," Stockstill said. "It is unfortunate and they will be disciplined. They are all three good people."

Stockstill said that he did not want people to think "the boys" were involved with the shooting.

The police report identified 19-year-old Tyson Tharpe of Lebanon, Tenn., as the victim in the alleged shooting. Tharpe claimed he got into a verbal argument with an unidentified male after being asked "what gang he was claiming."

Tharpe told police three males surrounded him while the first male pulled out a semiautomatic pistol and pointed it at Tharpe's face. Tharpe said he then punched the man and ran, and while running he heard gunshots.

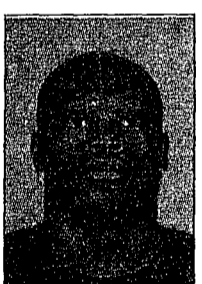
Police found five bullet casings in the roadway in front of Honeycutt and Coleman's residence, but the report does not indicate that they were directly involved in the shooting.



HONEYCUTT



COLEMAN



LOREUS

Disabled student services receives increase in visually impaired students

By ROZALIND RUTH
Position

John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services, said there is a large disabled student population is because of two main factors, an increase in awareness of disability and the adaptive technology MTSU offers.

Harris, who is visually blind, said that 42 to 52 students of the 576 that use the services of DSS are visually impaired or blind.

Sheri Anderson, a sophomore liberal arts major who is blind, said she chose MTSU because of DSS.

"MTSU is the best university for students with all disabilities because of DSS, the tech lab and the assistance that

they have here, which is not necessarily offered at the same level at other universities," Anderson said.

Harris said that visually impaired disabilities are a large part of the office's efforts because of the nature of the disability. He said while students with other disabilities may only use a few services provided by the office, individuals with visual impairment use many.

Harris said that no disability takes preference over another.

"If we solve the issues for people who are visually impaired and individuals who are physically disabled, we solve the issues for other people," Harris said.

Harris said that DSS assesses the needs of students and

provide the accommodations that fit the needs of each student and that the law says that DSS must provide equal access to DSS.

Joseph Quarles, a junior English major who receives services from DSS, said "I don't think it's a matter of preferential treatment - it's a matter of how disabled are you and how much help do you need."

Harris says that he and DSS participate in recruiting students to attend MTSU through institutions and events such as Tennessee School for the Blind, college nights at high schools and college fairs. Harris said that admissions does most of the recruiting and DSS assists with recruiting students with disabilities.

Dwight Johnson, who runs

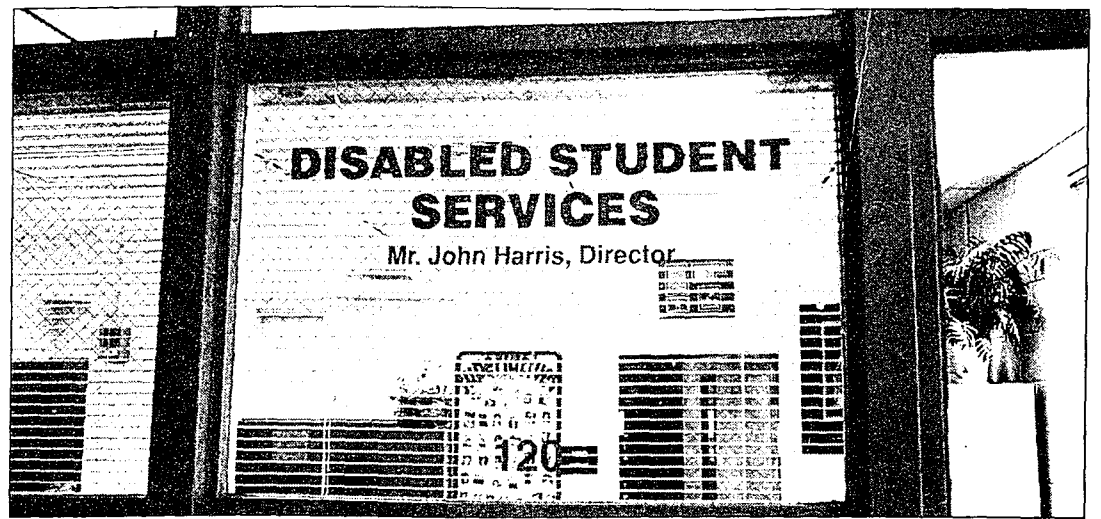


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

An enrollment increase for Disabled Student Services shows many who use their services are visually impaired.

Dwight's Mini Mart located in the Keathley University Center, is blind. He said that having more people with visual impairments on campus makes the students and staff more accommodat-

ing to individuals with his disability. Johnson said he thought it was nice when people offered him help around campus even though he is capable of doing so without assistance.

To read more, visit us online.



HOLOCAUST FROM PAGE 1

"I felt unhappy, alone and confused - I was only 4-years-old," Cutler said. "I was aware that we were at war, [but] I certainly wasn't aware I was Jewish."

Cutler said she was too young to fully comprehend what was really going on, but looking back there are memories that truly stand out in her subconscious mind.

"I remember having nightmares of people being lined up against a wall and people shooting them," Cutler said. "It seeped into the psyche of a young girl."

Cutler said her parents had to put her into a children's home when she was 3-years-old - just after the Germans entered Paris. Cutler was then placed on a farm with a Catholic family and numerous orphanages before she was

able to escape to America with her great aunt.

"My father joined the French resistance - he was wounded in war and died in battle," Cutler said. "My mother did not survive - she was brought to Auschwitz and died there."

Cutler said her mother was 28-years-old when she died, and her father perished before his 30th birthday.

Cutler said when she got older she was able to meet other survivors, an opportunity that provided her with a support group. However, she said it was difficult growing up as there were few survivors her age to talk to and to share their similar stories.

"Even though one hopes that this would never happen again, genocides continue," Cutler said. "We haven't learned from history; we haven't learned to treat others as human beings."

HEALTH FROM PAGE 1

"This is destroying our economy, it's ruining families; it's hurting our livelihood," Cani said. "We hope the actions here in Rutherford County will let Congressman Gordon know how important a strong bill coming out of the House is."

Cani said the results of a strong bill from the House will provide enough momentum to make the Senate's version even better.

Gabrielle Thompson, a sophomore who double majors in global studies and communication studies, said health care reform is especially important for students.

"I don't have health care," Thompson said. "I am relying on the MTSU free clinic to meet my health care needs [and] if I were to get injured, it would be a big problem."

The rally attendees lit candles and held a moment of silence to honor their fellow

Americans who perished due to health care issues.

"We are holding candles to honor the 45,000 people each year who die because of a lack of health care," Cani said. "Thirteen working-age Tennesseans each week, die because they cannot afford health care."

Following the candlelight vigil, the attendees used their cell phones to place a call to their respective representatives.

Joan Hill, a resident of Murfreesboro, said she was more than happy to place the call for health care reform.

"There are a lot of people that don't have access to [health care] through their employer, and it's almost like that card is your ticket to the doctor's office," Hill said. "As long as it is profit motives driving health care in this country, it is not going to work for the people."

Mike Cannon, a senior philosophy and sociology major, said it is important for more members of the student body to get involved with local organizations, like the Tennessee Health Care Coalition and

Tennessee Change That Works, that are avidly pushing for health care reform.

"Health care is one of the essential prerequisites for a healthy and worthwhile life," Cannon said. "The fact that so many people don't have access to it is a huge problem that needs to be addressed."

Thompson said she would also like to see more students taking action so that the government will see the need for changing a broken system.

"I think that if students, even if they had health care, cared and got involved it would be more helpful than just the students that feel passionate about it," Thompson said. "To deny someone health care because of actually having health problems is unethical and I think it should be a human right to have health care."

Cani said the upcoming weeks could be the final weeks in the debate for health care reform, and it is imperative for supporters to voice their opinion now.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

seeks an

Editor in Chief

for the Spring 2010 Semester

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Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8
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Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of Nov. 9

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring 2010 semesters:

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Fight Song sounds HC start

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

Students, alumni and community members packed the Murphy Center for the annual Fight Song Competition hosted by the Student Government Association last Thursday night.

This year, five groups competed for the Fight Song trophy. The winning group consisted of the following organizations: Chi Omega, Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Alpha and Alpha Phi Alpha.

"The most important thing we did was learn how to work together," said Elysa Fortner, a junior journalism major and member of Chi Omega sorority.

Fortner, who was one of the members in charge of her group, said they got grouped with people they didn't know, but that they became close friends while working together.

"I'm looking forward to participating in it next year," Fortner said. "I'm also looking forward to the rest of the Homecoming events and the rest of this year as well."

Fight Song, MTSU's longest standing Homecoming tradition, is a song-and-dance competition where various student organizations place the lyrics of the MTSU fight song to the tune of other popular songs.

Brandon Batts, junior education and behavioral science major and member of Alpha Phi Alpha, said it was interesting for everyone to memorize and per-

form all the choreographed moves, but the result was worth all of the hard work.

"This is my first year competing in it and this is my first year being Greek," Batts said. "I'm glad we competed our first year and actually won and I will look forward to doing it next year."

Third-place winners Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Chi and Pi Kappa Alpha had a "Rock Band" theme that consisted of props and choreographed moves to popular songs from the game.

"We only had two weeks to prepare for it, which was standard for all participants," said Amanda Baskin, a freshman psychology major and member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. "We would practice from around nine p.m. until around two in the morning. It was a definite surprise to win third place."

Mallory Phillips, Homecoming director and senior public relations major, said that out of the four years she has been at MTSU, this year was her favorite.

"The crowd was awesome, the theme was perfect and everyone was rocking out," Phillips said. "Everyone did a fantastic job."

Impact, the MTSU performing arts company, gave a special performance while the judges tallied the scores.

"This was the first year that Impact performed," Phillips said. "They didn't compete, but they did their own awesome rendition of Fight Song."

Judges of Fight Song included Gene Fitch, as-

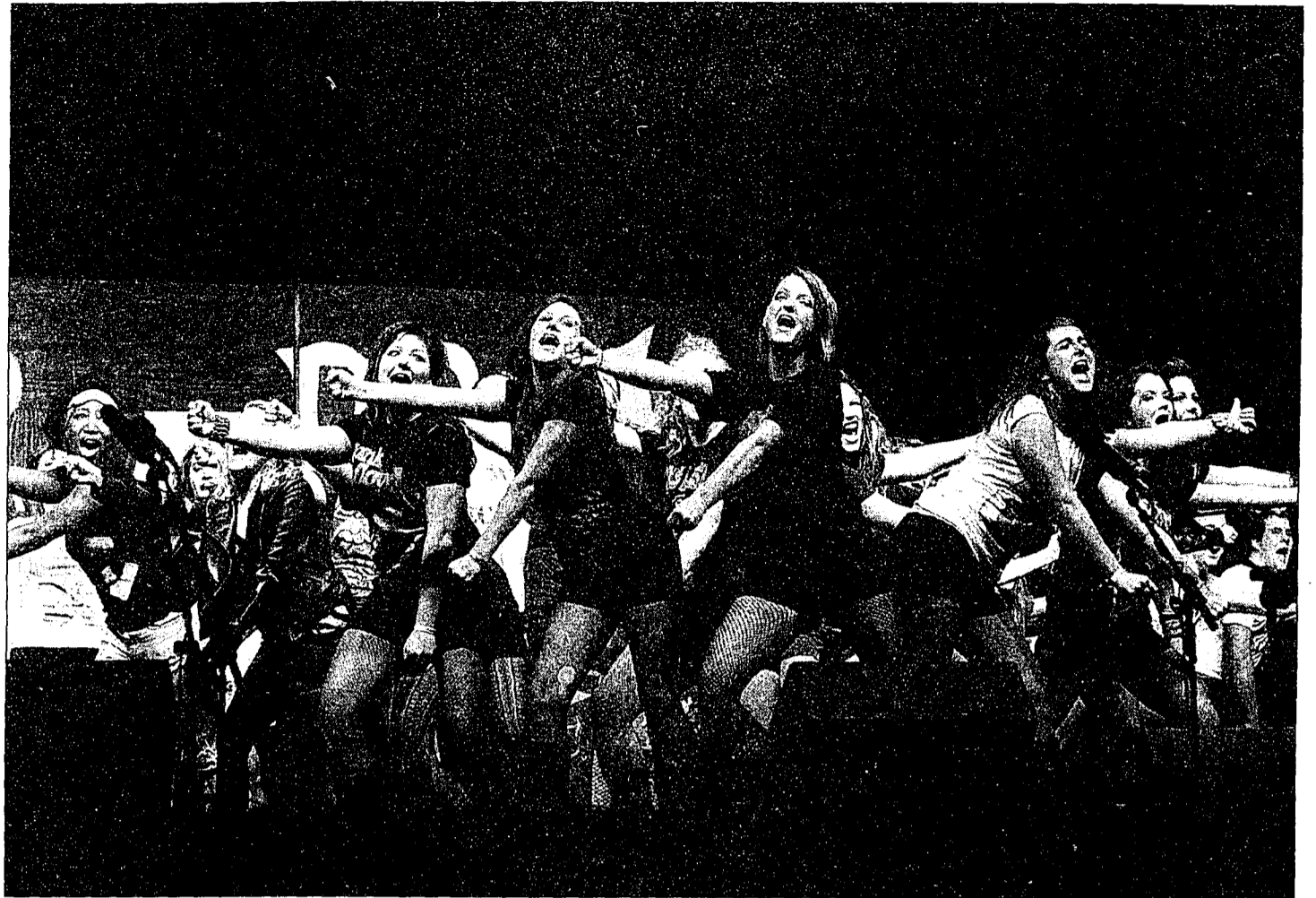


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Members of Chi Omega sorority perform their fight song last Thursday that had a "Rock Band" theme and dance to popular songs from the game.

sociate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life; Angela Armstrong, director and faculty sponsor of MTSU Performing Arts Company; Tommy Macon, associate professor of costume design; Byron Lighty, coordinator of Greek Affairs and MTSU first lady, Elizabeth McPhee.

"The judges were looking for originality, creativity and school spirit," Phillips said. "They also looked at vocal skills, choreography and that the groups stayed within the time limits. The scores were incredibly close."



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Kappa Delta Sorority performed their own version of fight song last Thursday to encourage school spirit.

Timeline for the Rockin' Raider Homecoming 2009

Oct. 21 through 24	Wednesday Oct. 21	Friday Oct. 23	Friday Oct. 23	Saturday Oct. 24	Saturday Oct. 24
MTSU celebrates Homecoming this week with events focused around the theme "Rockin' Raiders." These are the last homecoming events of the semester. In case of inclement weather, check Sidelines online for any scheduling changes.	SWAP DAY Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: KUC Lobby What's going on: Swap Day is a chance for students to bring by clothing with another school logo and swap it out for an MTSU shirt.	CHILI COOKOFF Time: 5 p.m. Location: Murphy Forest What's going on: Students, faculty and community members compete to see who has the hottest and best tasting chili recipe.	NPHC STEP SHOW Time: 7 p.m. Location: Murphy Center What's going on: Members of the National Pan-Hellenic fraternities and sororities presents their annual Step competition.	PARADE Time: 10 a.m. Location: Middle Tenn. Blvd What's going on: Various MTSU clubs, including Greek Life and professional organizations, parade their floats through downtown.	MTSU vs WKU Time: 2:30 p.m. Location: Floyd Stadium What's going on: MTSU Blue Raiders face off against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. Tailgating for the game will be in Walnut Grove.

Homecoming plans to rock the Raiders

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Numerous organizations are participating in the events this week leading up to the MTSU versus Western Kentucky University Homecoming game Saturday.

With last week's Fight Song completed, the next big events include Swap Day this Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center lobby and the Chili Cook-Off, a philanthropic event for Habitat for Humanity, this Friday at 5 p.m. on the Murphy Center Lawn.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council is hosting its Step Show Friday at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at

the door.

"Last year's show saw around 500 people," said Mallory Phillips, Homecoming director and senior public relations major. "This show is a really big deal, we get people from all over the state to come see it. The winning organization gets some of the proceeds of the show for scholarships."

All of the events hosted by the Student Government Association are free except for the Chili Cook-Off with a \$3 admission. Phillips said they are geared towards students in an effort to give them something to get involved in on campus.

"SGA is here specifically for the students, so we do these events for them."

The day of the game will be packed full of events, including

the annual Homecoming Parade at 10 a.m. The parade will travel down East Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard, ending at Faulkenberry Drive.

"We have a really good lineup

S. Clinton who graduated from MTSU in 1969. Clinton's most memorable work includes the scores for "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" and its sequels and "Mortal

“SGA is here specifically for the students, so we do these events for them.”

MALLORY PHILLIPS
HOMECOMING DIRECTOR

this year," Phillips said. "Lots of diverse student organizations as well as community members participate in it."

This year's parade grand marshal is Grammy- and Emmy-nominated composer, George

Kombat" and its sequel.

When the parade is over, tailgating will begin with SGA and Student Programming coming together to host a concert in Walnut Grove to go along with the Rockin' Raider Homecom-

ing theme. The Raider Walk will commence at 12:15 p.m. in front of Peck Hall.

"We have been doing it for about 10 years before every game," said Phillips. "The band, cheerleaders and football players stand at the sidewalk in front of the horseshoe and sing the Fight Song, a couple of cheers and then everyone will march to the stadium together."

Phillips said that while she has been involved with homecoming in years past, she tried hard this year to make it as easy as possible for every student organization to get involved.

"It's always been for every student organization," Phillips said. "But sometimes I think the smaller groups are a little intimidated by bigger organizations, like the Greeks."

Michael McCall, a junior criminal justice major and Homecoming chair for Wesley Foundation, a campus ministry, said it is participating in Homecoming events so that it can give back to the university.

"I feel that the Greeks have more money and members to put behind the events," McCall said. "I think it's really important that other organizations get out there too and support their university, that way, we can all show that it's not just a Greek campus."

To read more, visit us online.



Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Holocaust awareness important, not enough

Starting today, MTSU is hosting the ninth Biennial Holocaust Conference.

This event is dedicated to propagating knowledge about the Holocaust.

It is tremendously important for us to remember this horrific occurrence, and we may use this opportunity to expose and halt other genocides.

As is the tradition of ignorant Americans, we are aware of the Holocaust. We're aware of Rwanda, Somalia, Kashmir, Georgia, Uganda, Croatia, Zimbabwe and the Philippines. We have an abundance of awareness, and a dearth of strong action. Only when our economic interests are threatened do we act.

As a powerful nation the U.S. is well-positioned to lead the rest of the world in confronting genocide wherever it rears its head. We have the might, but fail to take initiative.

The lesson of the Holocaust is partially that it seemed so inconceivable at the time that it could have happened at all.

However, as we study tragedies of nearly seven decades past, we fail to address current situations.

As scholars and members of the human family, it is our duty never to forget. We ignore genocide at our own peril.

Listen to the editorial board online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions



"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

New movement offers fresh face, recycled dogma

One morning this week, my favorite news station ran a particularly intriguing story. It had to do with New Atheism and the platform of the people that identify with this label.



My point, and I do have one

Mallory Boyd

What it sounded like was a new label for a faction of atheists who are incredibly extreme with their views. Isn't that crazy? Atheist extremists. Who would have thought?

Being in a country where the majority of the population subscribes to Christianity, one would think it is already hard enough to be labeled an atheist. Why invite more trouble by being loud and obnoxious? If that is the way they want to handle things, then they are just as bad as the organizations they are trying to condemn.

Who cares what people want to believe? The problem does not come with people's beliefs. The problem arises when people try and push those beliefs onto other people. I could believe that unicorns and ogres exist to fight each other and it would never bother anyone if it were simply my own belief.

This country was founded on religious freedom. The English came here because they wanted to be able to practice the religion of their choosing. Since then, they have proceeded to persecute non-Christians in the United States in the same way that they themselves were persecuted in the old country, but whatever. Vicious cycle.

The way that New Atheists portray themselves makes it look as though they are more interested in provoking Christians into a fight than proving scientifically that any kind of god does not exist.

Events such as "Blasphemy Day" with the tagline "Because your god is a joke" just make them look like a bunch of 12-year-olds who could not come up with something better to yell on the playground.

The mere fact that they call it "Blasphemy Day" indicates that they recognize that certain things are sacred. Perhaps they were too concerned with getting under the skin of Christians and not concerned enough with publicizing their cause to notice.

If it were about standing up for one's right to believe (or not, as the case may be) then that would be one thing. If it were about teaching evolution in schools, then it might be a worthy fight.

As it stands, the fight that they are trying to start is one that is completely and totally unwinnable. It is absolutely pointless. Trying

to convince Christians that there is no God is about as fruitful as trying to convince atheists that there is one.

While I do not necessarily identify with any particular religion, it is completely and totally unacceptable in a civilized society to berate others because of theirs.

Things like this are not about whether a person believes in any certain deity. It is about human decency. It is about acceptance. It is about teaching future generations to be better than this one.

People should never treat other people like these groups are treating each other, regardless of how they have been treated in the past. It is human nature to want to reciprocate, and atheists have taken a beating at the hand of all organized religions, not just Christianity.

The thing that those religions will never understand is that by judging atheists, they are completely discrediting themselves. Christians who outwardly oppose and condemn atheists are in no way acting Christ-like.

Telling other people that their religious beliefs are wrong, regardless of how much evidence is available to the contrary, is unnecessary.

You never know; things may be so bad in someone's life that their spirituality is all that is keeping them going, and that should never be taken away from them.

There are so many bigger, better fights for which to put the gloves on right now. Take up the fight to end hunger, starting here at home. Work with underprivileged children. Work toward something that will help improve humanity rather than turn it against itself.

Society would do better to build itself up and move forward, rather than tear itself down and breed complacency. The way to prove a point is not through name-calling and inflammatory speech. Many adults and organizations in this country would do well to remember that.

Mallory Boyd is a sophomore history major and can be reached at mnb2v@mtsu.edu

Town halls important to MT

A little over a week ago, President Sidney McPhee addressed the Student Government Association. He practically wooed everyone with his charisma and his reassurance that he is listening to the student body.

If this is so, then why has McPhee said he wouldn't allow another "circus" to happen? This was in reference to a town hall last semester when students jumped up on stage as he was talking, with a sign that read "Fire McPhee." Now, it was extremely rude, but how does one expect students to act when they feel like that their concerns are not being acknowledged?

Yes, as McPhee said, there is a 10 percent factor that must be taken into consideration. The individuals who, no matter what you do, will not take kindly to your point of view or how you are going to position MTSU toward the future. It is also wise to consider maybe this 10 percent is the only watchdog group the student body has, without which the administration would be free to run rampant.

McPhee said that people typically look at the negative and never the positive. He then continued to bash the protesters that were out on his



Gender identity theft

Brandon Thomas

lawn last semester. These students were trying to do more than get that 30 second spot on the news, as McPhee suggested. They formed a coalition connected with other Tennessee colleges. These students demanded redress and marched on the state capital pressuring their representatives to fund higher education. The students also were able to speak to Gov. Phil Bredesen about their concerns and it was only the cold shoulder of the McPhee administration that stirred the pot for the rally on his lawn to take place.

It seems that McPhee is starting to listen to the students a little bit more, with the exception of town halls. How

can the president of a university intentionally circumvent the students and use the old "Well I talked to the SGA; they are student representatives" card? As one of many SGA senators, there is no possible way these particular issues, such as the restructuring of colleges or the budget cuts, are going to be addressed thoroughly.

How can we answer these concerns? That is something only the president of MTSU can do. Being fearful of what could happen at any given forum should not be enough to pressure individuals to keep quiet about the president's appearance in a public setting. Doing so would be breaking the law. Fear of another "circus" is also not enough to deny students a town hall.

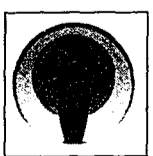
If McPhee is looking for an apology for the protests on his lawn, it's not going to happen. However, if he's looking for an apology for the "Fire McPhee" sign, let me be the first from the 10 percent to say "Sorry, it was a stupid move."

Now let's move on as a united university and find a solution to our money woes.

Brandon Thomas is an SGA senator for the College of Liberal Arts, and can be reached at b1t3a@mtsu.edu



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Corrections:

The article "Author helps students fight domestic violence" (Oct. 15) was incorrectly attributed to Dustin Evans. It was written by staff writer Marie Kempf.

In the article "Faculty senate left with questions" (Oct. 15), Chuck Higgins, professor from the physics and astronomy department said that "the timeline [was] ridiculous."

Sidelines regrets these errors

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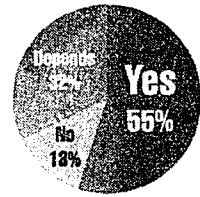
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DOES MTSU DO ENOUGH TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS?

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FEATURES



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Play poignant Holocaust portrait Domestic violence awareness needed

By BYRON WILKES
Editor in Chief

The MTSU Theatre Department's production of "Dear Finder," a piece that melds actual accounts of Holocaust victims and survivors with the weight of historical facts, premieres tonight at 7:30 p.m.

"Dear Finder" presents the brutality of the Holocaust in an especially emotional performance by 14 students. The show is not for the particularly sensitive, as much of the material is graphic.

That's not to say the presentation isn't effective; it is simply difficult to describe without personally absorbing the show. Yet the players and crew meaningfully capture the narratives of a mere handful of the millions affected by this atrocity.

The result of their efforts will leave you reeling at not only the scale and context of this genocide, but questioning your own beliefs and moral fiber in a modern world still plagued by ethnic cleansing.

Director Jacqueline Springfield says that the play was chosen in part because of the concurrent Holocaust Studies Conference.

"I had [the cast] do research on the different survivors, the actual words that were taken from their diaries," Springfield says. "So they did research on who the survivors were, who the members of the SS were that they are also playing."

The play's title is a reference to a letter found among several others inside a milk can, the play's central image. Milk cans and tin boxes were buried underneath the streets of Warsaw during the rise of the ghettos along with human teeth.

The teeth, exist, as indisputable genetic evidence of Nazi Germany's atrocious crimes, and the milk cans and tins were filled with documents ranging from wills to letters to obituaries to give firsthand accounts to the finders.

Along with the milk can, a large portion of the set, which is modeled after a concentration camp, comprises dirt actually taken from the practice football field. Cast members powerfully portray the act of Jewish men, women and children mercilessly forced to dig their own graves before being shot.

Even if you accept that what you are seeing is but synthesized, strictly seeing so many bodies hit the earth after hearing a gunshot delivers the fundamental message of destruction. Although it gives only a tiny glimpse into what life and death was like during the Holocaust, the lifelessness of various cast members is both palpable and jarring.

One specific scene meticulously recounts the massacre at Babi Yar, where approximately 30,000 Russian Jews were murdered over just two days, as well as tens of thousands more in the months that followed. Actress Elizabeth Williams gives the agonizing monologue of a Jewish woman while Stephanie Freeman and the rest of the cast pantomime the action. The unification will leave you speechless at the monstrosity that mankind can be at its worst.

"The way that it's structured it's abstract, it's stylized within another moment that's completely as real as you

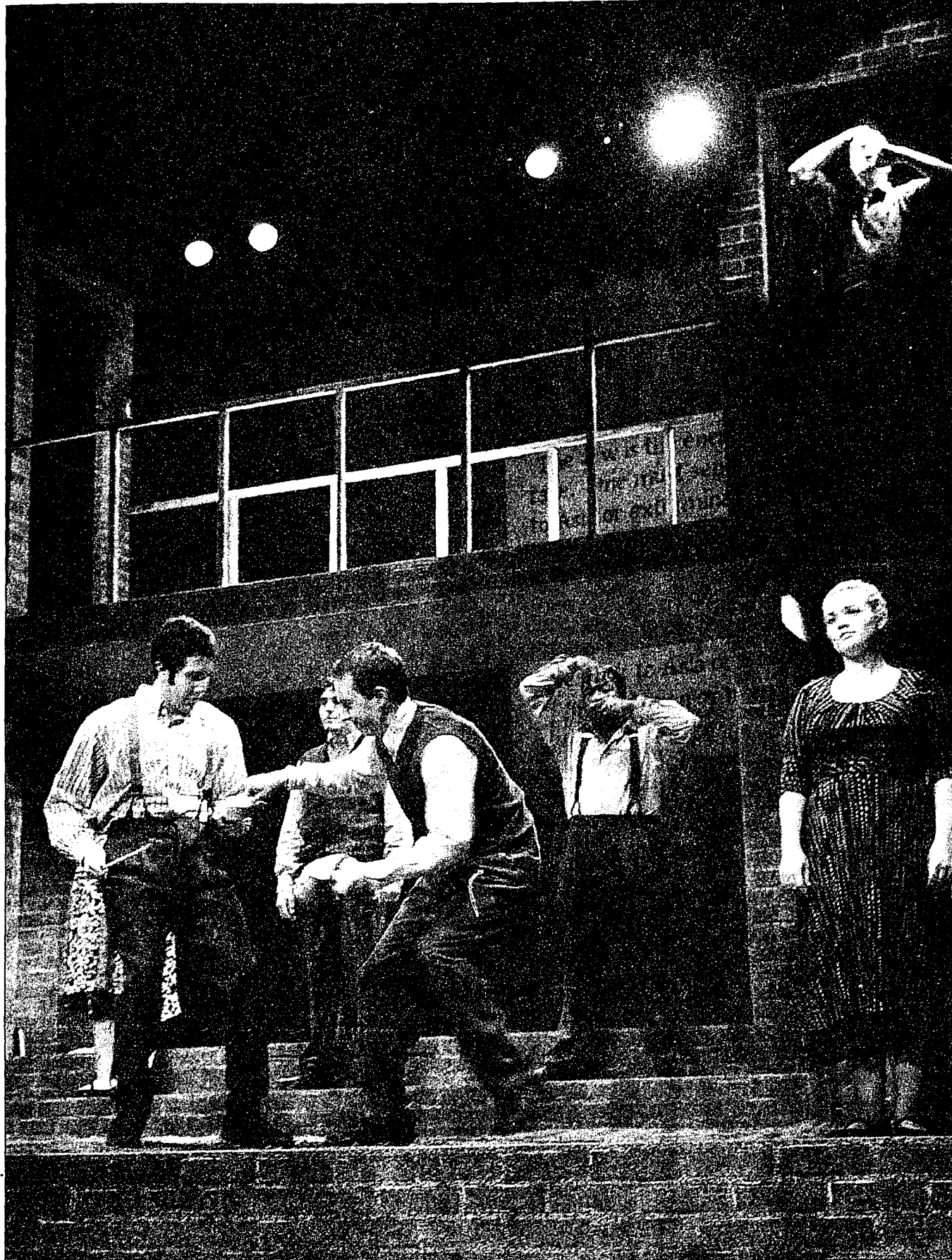


Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer

Cast members of "Dear Finder" lampoon Adolf Hitler's slow process of remilitarizing of the Rhineland, setting the stage for WWII.

can get it," Freeman says. "It's been this great challenge to get to do this great opportunity. It's been so much more than a play."

The set itself comes alive with malevolence during scenes that take place in the concentration camp. As the lights dim and various cast members describe the utterly detestable conditions of the camps, you can almost smell the acrid odor of burning human flesh and hair. The cast and crew have expertly portrayed the betrayal with which fellow man trapped and slaughtered their Jewish neighbors.

The cast remains humble about their performances in "Dear Finder," describing the experience widely as a privilege; the combined efforts of cast and crew flawlessly capture the poignancy of the lives and deaths of those affected by genocide.

At the end, headlines are read from the past decade concerning the mur-



Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer

Cast members construct a map showing Nazi Germany during its largest occupation.

ders of individuals singled out because of their beliefs and ethnicity. The denouement reminds audience members that genocide and the apathy of developed nations and their citizens, still pervades humankind around the world.

Showtimes: Oct. 22 -24 at 7:30 p.m.
Admission: Free with MTSU ID, \$5 for staff and K-12, and \$10 general admission. Tickets can be bought Monday through Friday at the Tucker Theatre box office

June Anderson: women's rights pioneer

By CLARA RASMUSSEN
Contributing Writer



June Anderson

If you ever feel alone, face a difficult problem, need help deciding about your future or maybe just need to have someone to talk to, stop by the June Anderson Women's Center, in Room 206 of the James Union Building.

The big window at the Women's Center allows plenty of light in, brightening up the room, along with colorful flowers and beautiful pictures that fit the room like a glove, giving you a taste for life. But what will catch your eye will be the diversity of books in and new information ready

to fulfill a reader's hunger.

The staff, which includes Director Terri Johnson, and Executive Aide Mary Ann Guiliano, along with student assistants and volunteers, will welcome you with a smile and tell you to "make yourself at home."

"The center has added

"We must work for a woman counselor, work to serve as outstanding role models for our women students and work to be 'super women,' if that is what it takes to achieve equal recognition in academia..."

JUNE ANDERSON
SIDELINES, SEPT. 5, 1980

many programs and services through the years, such as re-establishing National Women's History Month, while expanding 'Take Back the Night,' 'Gender Circles' and 'Voices We Haven't Heard' and adding the Health component for AIDS Awareness, Heart Disease and Breast Cancer Awareness,"

Johnson says.

But what is the story behind the June Anderson Women's Center, how did everything get started, and who was June S. Anderson?

In 1926, Anderson was born in Tipton County, Tennessee. She was a only child surrounded by "many well-educated strong women;

all of them were mothers or school teachers, they didn't go into careers other than that," says June's cousin, Ouida Hawkins.

Anderson attended high school in Ripley, Tenn., and as a teenager, loved to dance what the bobbysoxers called the jitterbug. "It was hilarious," remembers Hawkins.

As a good student and hard worker, Anderson continued her education at George Peabody College, receiving her B.S. in chemistry and biology in 1947, and her master's degree in chemistry and English in 1948.

According to the "Statistical Abstract of the United States for 2004," there were 475,940 incidents of violence against women by an intimate partner as, "current spouses, former spouses, current boy/girlfriends, and former boy/girlfriends."

The statistic includes the following types of violence: rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, or simple assault.

The "Impact of Domestic Violence on The Tennessee Economy" report, presented to the Tennessee General Assembly by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, reports that the annual cost of domestic violence on the Tennessee economy is \$174 million. These costs include lost wages in the business community, costs to the legal system, and costs to the social service system.

The Murfreesboro community does have resources for those who are victims of domestic violence, and for the perpetrators of domestic violence.

The June Anderson Women's Center, located on the Middle Tennessee State University campus in the James Union Building room 206, the purpose is to "offer a safe haven for the women of MTSU, to provide advocacy for women on campus and to enable them to feel safe," reported as they embark on their journey in higher education," is one such community resource.

"Stopping violence as a whole is the key to everything," says Terri Johnson, director of the JAWC.

She said that around the world women are still thought of as lower class, and when things get bad, like the economy and men losing their jobs, they take it out on the people they see as lower than themselves, beginning "dominating the lesser person." Johnson also believes that a contributing factor in on-going violence is the general lack of civility in society as a whole.

She went on to say that we are immune to violence in society because of the amount of violence we see on television. Johnson made a strong case that women often stay with abusers because of the escalation of violence that occurs when they start making plans to leave.

She explained that as the victim attempts to leave, the abuser steps up his or her threats and intimidation, and the actual violence gets "more vicious."

As the abuser lives up to threat after threat, the victim becomes convinced that leaving would be more dangerous than staying because each attempt to leave results in the abuser increasing the violence. There is also a tendency for the victim to blame his or herself.

"The women internalize the issue, and do not get help because they feel there is still a stigma and feeling of shame that it is their fault. The violent person blames them, and so does society," Johnson said.

Renada Lee, junior education major, is a volunteer at the JAWC, who advises her friends to "use your voice."

VIOLENCE FROM PAGE 5

Lee said that when she hears about the different people who have been victims of domestic violence, she realizes it can happen to anyone.

She tells her friends that they must be more aware of the signs of potential violence and they must tell someone, "even at the smallest inkling" that they are having an issue.

Lee advises everyone to take immediate action when violence occurs. She tells her friends to go to the JAWC, or contact the police.

Lee intends to continue to stay involved with domestic violence issues.

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program of Murfreesboro is another recourse locally available to victims of domestic violence. The program is a non-profit organization committed to ending violence and discrimination in the lives of victims suffering the pain, fear and shame of domestic abuse.

Goals of the program include helping prevent occurrences of domestic violence between family and household members, reducing the effects of domestic violence for victims by establishing a crisis line and shelter program.

The program also promotes educating the community regarding the incidents and causes of domestic violence, raises volunteer commitment in areas of domestic violence, and assists victims in establishing themselves as independent individuals.

The program provides counseling and guidance on how to tackle legal issues such as getting an order of protection. They also have volunteers and staff, who accompany victims of violence to the hospital.

The executive director of the Domestic Violence Program of Murfreesboro, Deborah Johnson, explained how the program works.

The Domestic Violence Program of Murfreesboro oversees the shelter for women built on land donated by the city. For the safety of those who are there, the location of the shelter is not publicly disclosed.

The shelter provides a place for victims to stay for up to six weeks when the woman leaves an abusive relationship. They start out with a two-week probationary stay that is extended once the facility managers are sure the facility is a good fit for them.

During their stay, the victims are assisted with job searches, orders of protection and any other needs that may arise. Once the six weeks have passed, their situation is evaluated. Most are able to move on at that time.

For those who may still need more assistance, for whatever reason, an evaluation is done for their particular situation, and then the staff makes a decision if they should remain at the shelter, or if they need some other accommodations. Among the reasons the victim may need more assistance are things like health problems and disabilities.

The staff of the program work with other shelters in Tennessee to fill the needs of those who seek shelter and assistance. They may also need to move a victim if his or her abuser locates the shelter in Murfreesboro.

A good outcome is getting the individual, and any children he or she may have, settled after the legalities are worked out.

The children of the victims of domestic abuse do remain in school, and, depending on their particular situation, they may stay in contact with their father or mother through visitation. Deborah Johnson cited the low self-esteem of the abuser as a major cause of domestic violence.

She said that the abuser will take more and more control of the victim, draining the victim of their sense of self-worth, and eventually the abuser completely drains the energy from the victim.

The childhood of the abuser often lacked in a "sense of worth teaching," Deborah Johnson said.

Deborah Johnson said that the impact of abuse is far reaching. The impact includes both financial and psychological components.

For instance, she said, "violence leads to violence" and the children living in households where abuse occurs are very angry.

Deborah Johnson echoed the sentiments of Terri Johnson by saying that community involvement is an essential component in combating the widespread problem of domestic violence.

"We must demand elected officials take this issue seriously," Deborah Johnson said.

Royal Bangs garner worldwide fame

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

It is difficult to believe that the unassuming guy in the green hoodie on the stairs at Mercy Lounge fronts Royal Bangs, a blasty pop-rock band that has already played South by Southwest and Bonnaroo in its relatively short career to date. Not only that, but Royal Bangs managed to pique the interest of "Spin," "Rolling Stone" and "NME" with its first album "We Breed Champions." Now, after releasing "Let It Beep" mid-September on Audio Eagle, vocalist/keyboardist/guitarist Ryan Schaefer opts to talk on the freezing balcony about the follow up.

Knoxville has provided a "good home base" for the band, which has been marking time as such for four years, though Schaefer and drummer Chris Rusk have been playing together for eight. Schaefer describes Knoxville as a cheap city to live in with a decent music scene, and Royal Bangs built up support through playing local nightclub – and Schaefer's former workplace – the Pilot Light. In its early



Photo courtesy of Royal Bangs

Knoxville-based band perform at Mercy Lounge to promote their most recent album.

years, here and there the band pieced together "We Breed Champions" sans studio, purely for the sake of preserving the material, and released it for free.

To read more, visit us online.



ANDERSON FROM PAGE 5

In 1954, Anderson earned the General Electric Fellowship in Physics and, in 1957, won a Distinguished Science Teacher Award for Tennessee. In 1958, she received the National Science Foundation Grant in Biology at Converse College.

Anderson pursued her Ph.D. in chemistry and statistics at Florida State University in 1964 and, in 1975, founded and became president of the Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women (CFAW, now AFAW – Association for Faculty and Administrative Women) at MTSU.

"June Anderson was the impetus for the center," recalls Dr. Jan Hayes. "She was a highly respected, tenured, full professor in the Chemistry Department who cared about helping women on campus."

"She had a dream of being a medical doctor, which was a very unusual occupation for a woman," Hawkins says. "June had some experiences in class that upset her: many people talked down to her and made her feel much discriminated against, and I think in some classes she was the only female."

After going through this difficult time, Anderson resolved to protect women from being hurt or prevented from reaching their dreams. She decided that it was time to put an end to discrimination against women.

This decision was the basis for the birth of the Women's Information Service for Education, known today as the June Anderson Women's Center.

Ayne Cantrell remembers that "June was like a pit bull. When she sunk her teeth into something, she wouldn't let go until she got some satisfaction." Her fight would continue until women on campus had the same benefits as men, such as equal pay.

In 1977, Anderson testified before the National Advisory Council for the Education of Women on discrimination patterns at MTSU. As a result, the Women's Equity Action League made complaints to the Dept. of Labor, under Executive Order 11246, resulting in monetary compensation for some women faculty at MTSU for a total of \$50,000 in back pay.

According to Bené Cox, a founder of WISE, "Dr. June Anderson was a highly educated, focused, determined, indefatigable, stable, strong woman who realized that the women faculty of MTSU deserved equal compensation and professional status as enjoyed by our male colleagues."

In 1979, Anderson held workshops on rape, abuse and the battery of women. Within two years, programs like Rape Alertness were established in all of the women's dorms. Campus environments were made safer when bushes and trees were trimmed and better lighting was provided.

Later in 1979, Anderson won a grant from the Women's Educational Equity Act and helped to establish the Equity Resource Center for the Basic Skills Workshops for Women with a 10th grade education or above.

As director of the center, Anderson reported, "The Basic Fundamental Skills Workshop, an idea of the Women's Infor-

mation Service for Education, has become eligible for a \$250,000 three-year grant." As a result of the grant, a program was instituted for women re-entering school through WISE.

In 1982, a course was offered at MTSU on writing resumes and cover letters for job applications.

That same year, the June Anderson Foundation was established to provide scholarships for women over the age of 23 who were pursuing undergraduate degrees in non-traditional fields for women.

Hawkins remembers how Anderson's goal was to "support women who wanted to be in nontraditional careers, which today we take for granted. Her desire was that a woman would be able to do whatever she chooses to do, that she doesn't have to do something that was not comfortable for her."

Through Anderson's fight and dedication to a better future for women, we are still benefiting from it 32 years later. She changed many women's lives for the better and, as Anderson stated, "Women should be self-fulfilled," reported *Sidelines* on Oct. 25, 1977.

"June Anderson did not see why any woman should regard herself as a second-class citizen," Cox notes.

On a cold January day, the heart of the organization stopped beating. Anderson died at 57 at Middle Tennessee Medical Clinic on Jan. 13, 1984. She had been in a coma since Dec. 31, 1983 after a stroke.

In 1985, WISE was renamed the June Anderson Women's Center in recognition of her efforts.

Dealing with Domestic Violence

According to Terri Johnson, preventative measures must be taken by everyone to stop the violence:

▼ People must be educated about their rights. The more educated people are, the less likely they are to feel trapped.

▼ The community must stop judging the victims of domestic violence.

▼ The community must play a part in informing victims about the resources available to them.

▼ Anger management can help an abuser after they are in trouble, but there must be earlier education efforts made during the elementary and middle school years.

▼ There must be an educational effort made that reinforces "women as human beings, and not objects that are owned," and that anger should not be taken out on women.

According to Deborah Johnson, victims of domestic violence have some issues to overcome:

▼ Their desire to have love, families and a "happily-ever-after" scenario is so strong it contributes to their lack of awareness.

▼ Women are taught to "stick in there."

▼ The victim has a belief that they must improve themselves more to get the abuser to love them more.

▼ Once they are able to overcome these thoughts, they often still feel trapped because for economic reasons.

▼ They come to believe they should stay for the financial well-being of their children, thus sacrificing themselves.



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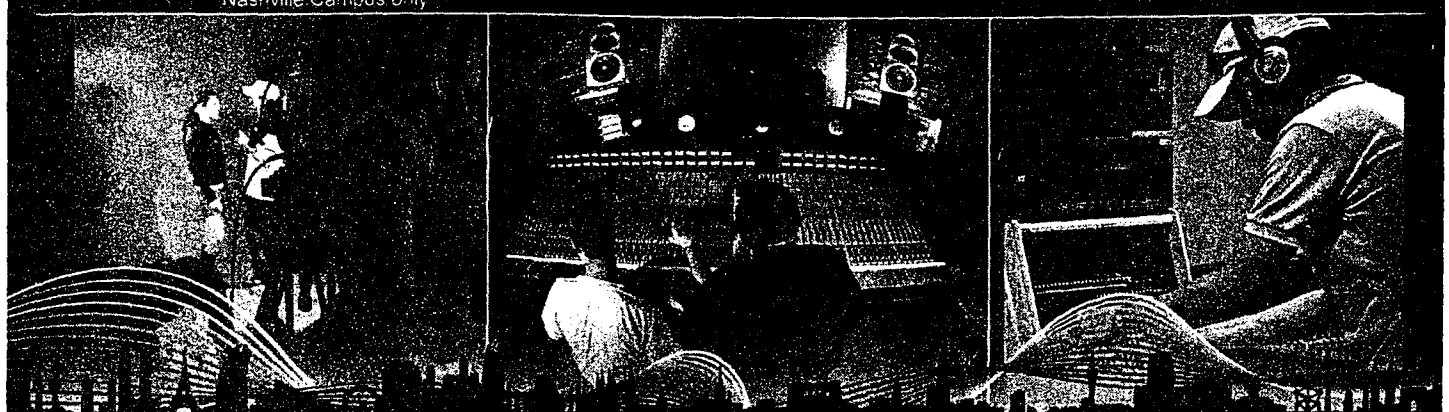
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SPORTS

Turnovers, interceptions cost MT win

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Four turnovers and missed opportunities on offense cost the Blue Raiders as the Mississippi State University Bulldogs rolled to a 27-6 victory Saturday at Floyd Stadium.

MT's defense was shredded on the ground, giving up 135 yards and two touchdowns to MSU running back Anthony Dixon, who set the all-time Bulldog career rushing record with a 57-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

"This was a chance to play another good football team from the best conference in America," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "They played better than us."

Both teams started slowly, trading punts on the first five possessions of the first quarter before MSU quarterback Tyson Lee scored on a 39-yard scramble to put the Bulldogs up 7-0.

Poor field position hampered the Blue Raider offense in the first quarter as well, with each drive starting deep in its own territory and without the playmaking ability of junior quarterback Dwight Dasher, who did not make the start due to missing a team workout.

MSU added a 24-yard field goal by junior kicker Derek DePasquale early in the second quarter to increase its lead to 10-0.

When Dasher entered the game in the second quarter, the offense responded by driving deep into MSU territory, but were turned away just short of the goal line and had to settle for an 18-yard field goal by junior kicker Alan Gendreau to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 10-3.

MSU would respond with Dixon's record-setting touchdown run, increasing its lead to 17-3.

MT would put together another drive near the end of the half, but once again failed to score a touchdown and settles for a 24-yard field goal from Gendreau.

"You can't do that against an SEC team," Rick Stockstill said. "You can't kick

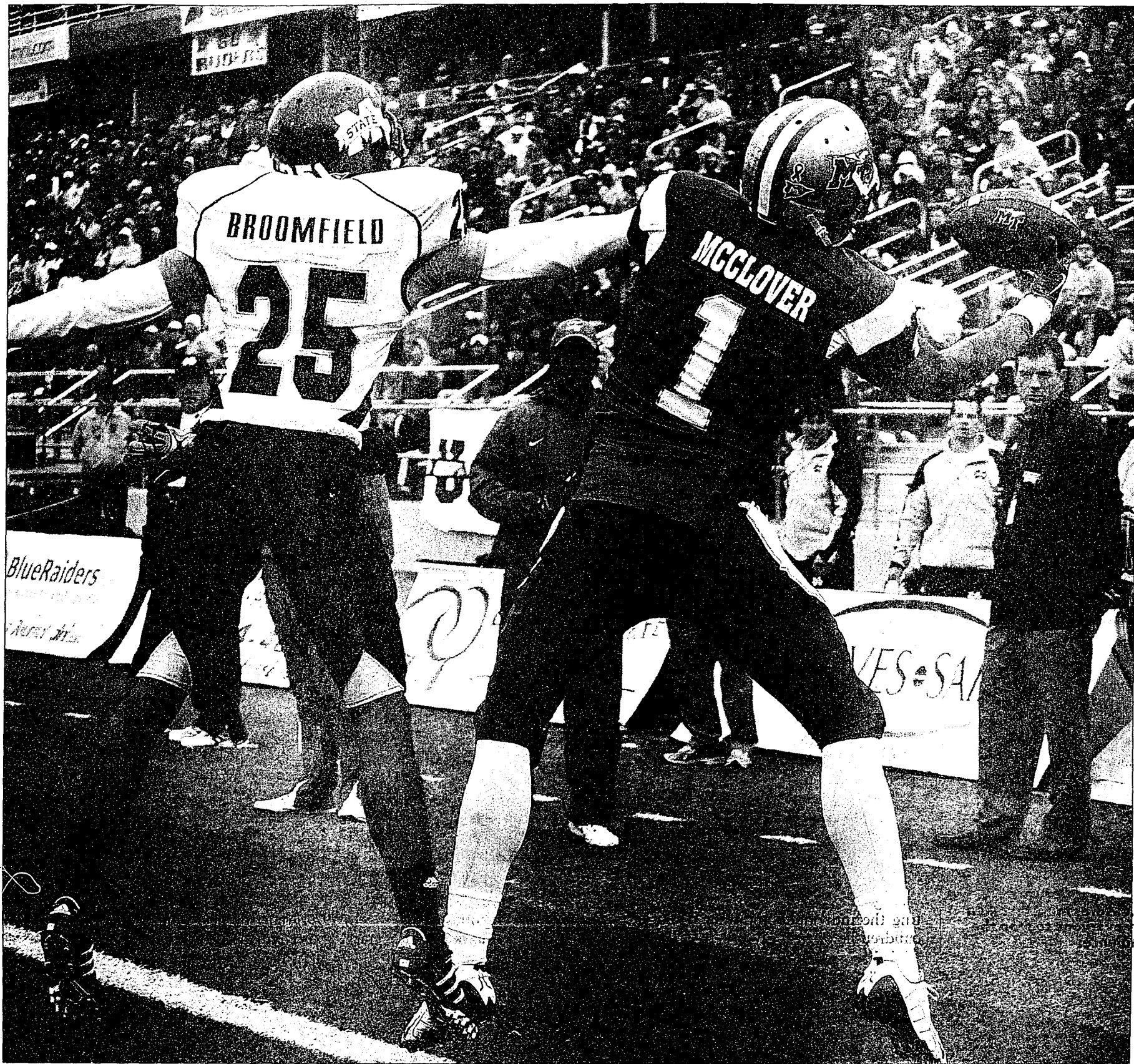


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Senior wide receiver Chris McClover fights to stay in bounds after the tough catch. McClover caught three passes for a total of 36 yards on Saturday against Mississippi State.

field goals and expect to have a chance to win."

MT had several chances in the second half, but three interceptions thrown by Dasher proved to be costly as the Blue Raiders were shut out for the remainder of the game.

Dasher finished 11-22 for 129 yards.

A stiff MT defense held its own in the second half,

but the turnovers gave the Bulldogs good enough field position to make it easier to add points, with a 36-yard DePasquale field goal late in the third quarter to increase the lead to 20-6, and a one-yard touchdown run by Dixon to seal the 27-6 final.

"I thought the defense really played hard in the second half," Stockstill said. "We had chances and it

just got away from us at the end."

The absence of running back Phillip Tanner was apparent, as the Blue Raiders could only muster 42 net rushing yards for the day, with Dasher leading the team with 49 yards on 13 carries.

"We're struggling so much right now trying to find a way to run the ball," Stock-

still said. "Without Phillip Tanner we moved [Desmond Gee] back there and we just couldn't block up front."

The game saw one of the largest crowds in Blue Raiders history, drawing 23,882 fans despite cold weather.

The Blue Raiders fall to 3-3, and are now finished with its out-of-conference schedule.

"We've beaten two real

good teams out of conference," Stockstill said. "I like our team. We've got some issues because of injuries but we jump back into conference play the rest of the way and I'm excited about our team."

The Blue Raiders host Western Kentucky University this week for the school's Homecoming game. Kick-off is set for 2:30 p.m.

Volleyball takes weekend wins

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider volleyball team garnered a pair of conference victories this weekend by shutting out Denver and taking Western Kentucky 3-1.

On Sunday afternoon, the first set against the Denver Pioneers was an offensive standout, as both teams battled for the lead. Tied at 25, MT rallied and pulled out the win off of a kill at the hands of Leslie Clark.

The Blue Raiders reigned from there on out. Denver tried to rally throughout the second set, but MT held the scoreboard, never letting the Pioneers get closer than two points. After Mead's kill, the Blue Raiders led 2-0.

MT encountered smooth sailing in the third set, cruising to a 24-16 victory. A kill by junior Alyssa Wistrick, from an assist by Clark, sealed the match.

Senior Ashley Mead and junior Izabela Kozon tied for the team lead with nine

kills against the Pioneers. After only two sets, Mead led the team with a .444 hitting percentage. She also hit 32 for 65 with just nine errors.

MT continued its hot streak this past Tuesday night by taking a 3-1 win over conference rival Western Kentucky. This was the fifth-straight win for the MT volleyball team.

This win marks only the second time since head coach Matt Peck took over the program that MT has won two matches against WKU in a season.

"It is huge to get the monkey off our back," Peck said. "We have won here before in 2006, but we have come in before and played some poor matches. If you look at the stats we totally controlled the match, but if you look at the score, it doesn't look that way."

The Blue Raiders knocked down 53 kills for a .289 attack percentage in the match. Kozon again led the team with 14 kills, while Mead added another 11.

Senior Ashley Waugh accounted for 12 of the team's 40 total digs on the night.

The two teams began the first set by trading the lead. After tying at 12, MT powered through for a 24-22 lead after a WKU player hit the ball out of bounds. A kill from sophomore Stacy Oladinni put the Blue Raiders up 1-0.

The second match carried much of the same momentum as the first. MT took the early 6-2 lead, but was held by insistent Hilltopper pressure. After catching up to within one point at 10-9, WKU kept fighting and pulled away with the 21-19 lead late in the set. Two straight service aces by Mead would change the swing and ensure the 2-0 Blue Raider lead.

The third set was hard fought, but the Hilltoppers took the lead at 18-16. MT tied the score at 20, but WKU would take five straight points for the 25-20 victory and to force a fourth set.

The Hilltoppers took ear-

ly control in the fourth set, setting up an early 5-1 lead.

After a timeout, the Blue Raiders fought back and took a three-point lead of their own at 14-11, which extended to six, at 19-13, later in the set.

The pressure continued to mount from WKU, which cut the lead back down to 21-20, MT. With the set tied at 23, the Hilltoppers took the next point for 24. The Blue Raiders rallied and took the next two straight points for a final victory of 25-24, 3-1 total.

"I am a little disappointed in our serving; we had 17 service errors," Peck said.

"We did pull out the match and it was really good for me to see that win those games were tight we were fighting at the right time."

The Blue Raiders will continue their four-match tour this weekend as the team faces UL-Lafayette, UL-Monroe and New Orleans. The first match, against UL-Lafayette, will start Friday at 7 p.m.



Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Senior Janay Yancey stares down the ball for a return against Denver. Yancey would accumulate seven kills, adding to the team total of 45.

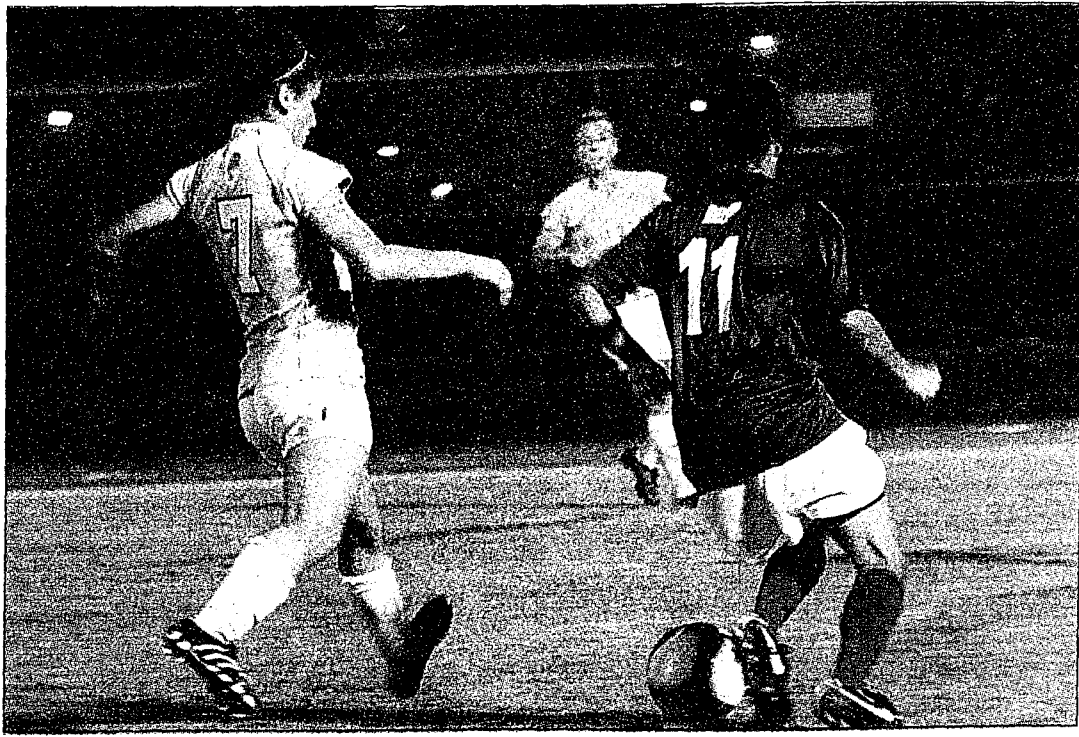


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Sophomore forward Regina Thomas looks for an out against FIU. The Blue Raiders won the match 2-0.

MT soccer wins on road

Team rallies to best conference opponents

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The MT soccer team lit up the field over the weekend as the team took two road victories to add to their 12-3-1 record.

The Blue Raiders have the best start to a season since the 2006 squad opened at 14-2.

Friday saw junior midfielder Vanessa Mueggler score her first career hat trick, accounting for half of MT's total scoring in the 6-1 win over conference foe Louisiana-Monroe. Mueggler is now within one goal of the team's leading scorer, sophomore forward Shan Jones.

"It was great to rebound from the loss we had [last] Sunday," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "I am proud of our team on how we responded and reacted to playing in a tough environment."

Mueggler scored first at 35:21, when her shot from 25 yards away banked off the left goal post and sailed past ULM's goalkeeper Alex Holland.

She then tallied a pair of goals in the last three minutes of the second half. At 78:52, freshman midfielder Allison Stallard sent a right cross flying into the box, catching Mueggler's foot and then the net.

Mueggler's final tally came at 81:54, when sophomore midfielder Laura Lamberth shot a ball through the mid-field, leading to Mueggler's shot from 20 yards out.

Jones, who added a pair of

goals to the score to put her season scoring total at 10, also paced the game. She took an unassisted score at 23:13, and another off a feed from sophomore forward Regina Thomas at 87:29.

Thomas took a goal herself, giving MT the game's first score at 18:35 from 10 yards out.

ULM's sole goal came at 31:04 as Amy Porch found Kelly Browne near the bounds of the 18-yard box on a deflection.

In the opening 45 minutes, MT goaltender Rebecca Cushing put a stop to two Warhawk shots between the Blue Raider posts. Freshman Jessica Gilchrist stepped in during the final period.

Sunday saw the Blue Raiders at UL-Lafayette and down at the half. The team would recover and find the goal four times in the second period to score a 4-2 against the conference opponent.

"I am really proud of how this team responded after being down at the half," Rhoden said. "Overall, it was a great team win."

"Getting a victory like we did today gives us confidence as we head into next weekend against two very solid opponents."

This is only the second time this season that the soccer team has trailed at the half, with the first happening at Dayton on August 30. The Blue Raiders would end up losing that game 4-0.

Play opened up on Sunday with a pair of goals five minutes apart. Kelli Jestes started

scoring at 17:16 from a Kennedy Richards assist.

Richards attempted a goal of her own, but goalie Cushing denied her attempt. This save resulted in a loose ball that the Ragin' Cajuns' junior midfielder Jordan Blevins found and put in the net at 22:18.

This score gave the 2-0 lead to Louisiana, who was able to keep the edge until the end of the first period.

The Blue Raiders freshly started in the second half, however, as the team controlled the shots 12-3.

Senior forward Jen Threlkeld began the scoring for MT off an assist from Mueggler at 58:20. Leading scorer Jones would then tie the score at 70:08 after Threlkeld fed her the ball from midfield.

Sophomore midfielder Hope Suominen gave MT the advantage when her free kick from just outside the box slipped past the defenders at 78:18.

Threlkeld then put the final score on the board at 78:18 when she was given a free kick opportunity from an assist by midfielder Stallard.

After playing the Ragin' Cajuns, three Blue Raiders have now reached the 20-point mark. Jones leads with 25 goals, but is closely followed by Mueggler's 22. Threlkeld has contributed 20 thus far.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action at 7 p.m. on Friday when the team will play host to Sun Belt conference leader North Texas. The team will also host Denver for a 1 p.m. Sunday match for the final home match of the season.

Lady Raiders could win division

STAFF REPORT

It looks like the Lady Raiders have been picked by the Sun Belt Conference to maintain their place atop the SBC East, among other accolades. The SBC announced on Tuesday its picks for Preseason All-Sun Belt First Team, Second Team and Third Team and its picks for Eastern and Western Divisions.

The conference also added to senior forward Alysha Clark's preseason accolades by naming the Mt. Juliet native the Preseason Player of the Year.

"We are excited about the fact that we again are selected to win the East," head coach Rick Insell said. "However, what matters is at the end of the year. How you do during the season and how you end up is the most important."

The team, which finished with a 28-6 overall record (17-1 SBC) last season, took 11.5 of a possible 13 votes to claim the East Division. MT won out over fellow division members like Western Kentucky, FIU and Troy.

UALR was selected to take the Sun Belt West, taking all 13 available votes.

Clark was chosen as the Preseason Player of the Year following her pick as the conference's top player last season. She finished as the nation's leading scorer, averaging 27.5 points per game, and helped to lead the Lady Raiders to the First Round of the NCAA Tournament.

Clark was also named to the First Team All-Sun Belt, along with fellow senior forward Brandi Brown. Brown averaged 11.9 ppg in the 2008-09 season, and was named to the Third Team All-Sun Belt.

Senior guard Chelsia Lymon was named to the Second Team All-Sun Belt squad, making her second-straight selection to the team.

Last season, Lymon was named the Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year and earned Third Team All-Sun Belt accolades at the end of the season.

"It means more that [the other coaches] respect our players, two of which made first team and another on second team," Insell said. "I am excited for Alysha, Brandi and Chelsia. For them to show that type of respect for our players and our program, I am excited about that."

Following their first NCAA sanctioned practice on Friday, the Lady Raiders will continue to prepare for their season opener against the University of Central Florida. The game is set for Nov. 15 at 2 p.m.



Preseason All-Sun Belt Teams

FIRST TEAM:

- Alysha Clark (Middle Tennessee, Sr., F)
- Brandi Brown (Middle Tennessee, Sr., F)
- Chastity Reed (UALR, Jr., F)
- Shakira Nettles (South Alabama, Sr., G)
- Arnika Brown (Western Kentucky, Sr., F)

SECOND TEAM:

- Chelsia Lymon (Middle Tennessee, Sr., G)
- Monika Bosilj (FIU, Sr., G)
- Kim Sitzmann (UALR, Sr., G)
- Kaetlyn Murdoch (Denver, So., F)
- Dominique Duck (Western Kentucky, Sr., F)

THIRD TEAM:

- Ebonie Jefferson (Arkansas State, Sr., G)
- Brittany Bowe (Florida Atlantic, Sr., G)
- Brittany Helm (New Orleans, Sr., G)
- Brittney James (North Texas, Sr., G)
- Kenzie Rich (Western Kentucky, Sr., G)

Preseason Poll:

EAST DIVISION:

- Middle Tennessee (11.5), 76.5
- Western Kentucky (1), 62
- South Alabama, 48
- Florida Atlantic (0.5), 38.5
- FIU, 26
- Troy, 22

WEST DIVISION:

- UALR (13), 90
- Denver, 73
- Arkansas State, 66
- New Orleans, 43
- North Texas, 43
- ULM, 34
- Louisiana, 15

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