

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

Attempted murder in dorm

Student attacked, beaten in Cummings Hall; alleged attacker in police custody

By Andy Harper
Managing Editor

An MTSU freshman remains stable in critical condition after being allegedly attacked by another student in Cummings Hall dormitory Tuesday night.

Ashley Manis, freshman undeclared and resident of Cummings Hall, was discovered in room 420 of Cummings a little before midnight, said Buddy Peaster, chief of the MTSU police department.

Kevin Sisco, freshman aerospace major and resident of room 420, was arrested and charged with attempted first-degree murder. He was booked at the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office at 9:40 a.m. on Wednesday.

Both students are 18 years old; Ashley is from Cordova, Tenn. and Sisco is from Murfreesboro.

Manis sustained extreme head-trauma and numerous internal injuries including several broken bones, Peaster said. When EMS paramedics responded, Manis was immediately transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center and later taken by LifeFlight to Vanderbilt hospital.

"The weapon is unknown," Peaster said. "Murfreesboro City Police will sort through the evidence gathered in the room." Peaster said there is always a possibility of multiple weapons used, but because of the injuries sustained by Manis, the weapon is not "traditional." He did confirm the use of a blunt object in the attack.

Sisco's court date is Nov. 27 and his bail is set at \$300,000. He has not posted bail and currently remains in custody at the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention.

While the relationship between the Sisco and Manis is unknown, there is a previous situation in which both were issued citations, Peaster said.

On Sept. 9, Manis and Sisco were in room 420 of Cummings Hall and were called to investigate the possible pres-

ence of alcohol and a head injury.

Sisco had sustained minor scrapes to his head, Peaster said. When police arrived, they found alcohol, a knife and a pair of brass knuckles. Manis was charged with underage consumption and possession of weapons on campus. Both were issued citations.

The campus was alerted Wednesday morning via e-mail and administration held a meeting with the residents and staff of Cummings Hall in the afternoon.

"We really wanted to give you [the students] an opportunity to hear what we know," Peaster said at the Cummings Hall meeting. "We want to answer your questions the best we can and make you apart of the on-going investigation."

In addition to Peaster, Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, Sarah Sudak, executive director of Housing and Residential Life, and Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, were present.

Peaster, with the support of the other campus administrators, briefed the residents of the hall on the situation and gave students an opportunity to ask questions.

Some of the student questions included issues of safety and policies for visitors.

"We just want everyone to know that the policies for the dorm will not be changed," Sudak said. "We will continue the same visiting hours and check-in system as before."

Sudak reminded all students that for the safety measures to be effective, they would need to abide by the standing policies and cooperate with the dormitory staff.

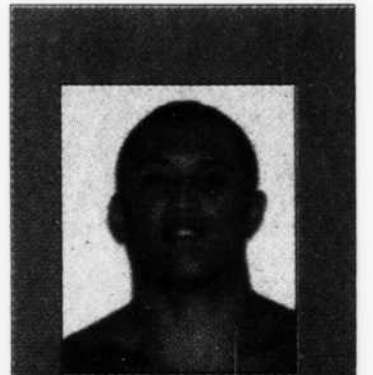
Peaster concluded the question and answer session by asking for any students with knowledge of either Manis or Sisco and students who might be witnesses to come and speak with the campus police. ♦



Ashley Manis

White Female
18-years-old
Freshman, Undeclared
Cordova, Tenn. resident
Status: Stable in critical condition

Location: Vanderbilt Hospital
Injuries: Severe head trauma, numerous broken bones, lacerated liver.



Kevin Sisco

Asian Male
18-years-old
Freshman, Aerospace
Murfreesboro resident
Status: Rutherford County

Location: Sheriff's Office Adult Detention
Bond: \$300,000
Court Date: Nov. 27, 2007



Photo by Justin Keoninh | Photo Editor
Cummings Hall, a building of dorms, was the scene of the attempted murder of Ashley Manis by Kevin Sisco.

Faces in the Crowd

Do you feel that smoking should be banned in restaurants?



Kabeya



Ndinda

"[Smoking] is a personal right. If you take that away, what else is there? I'm not offending anyone."

-Billy Kabeya, senior marketing student

"You're not that close to kids for it to matter."

-Carine Ndinda, junior nursing major



Sampler



Caylor

"I work at a restaurant and we get a lot of complaints from people that smoke drifts over [into the non-smoking section]."

-Lauryn Sampler, junior nursing major

"I think its good to ban it inside the restaurant, but I think its unfair for smokers to not have the opportunity."

-Laura Caylor, senior nursing major

Information gathered by Amanda Warner.

Smoking banned in public places, See News, 2

Alumnus McLean dead at 60

By Andy Harper
Managing Editor

Bob McLean, the MTSU alumnus who pledged the university \$2.5 million dollars, committed suicide Tuesday morning at a church in Shelbyville, Tenn.

Bryan Elliot, two-year senior pastor of the First Christian Church, discovered the body of the 60-year-old man at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

"Luckily, I only saw the body from a distance," Elliot said. "I saw someone laying down and knew something was wrong. I was wary and smart enough not to approach."

Police received a call from Elliot at 8:13 a.m. and immediately responded.

"It appeared to be a self-inflicted wound with a .38-caliber pistol," said Austin Swing, chief of the Shelbyville Police Department.

According to Swing, McLean was last seen leaving his brother's house at 11 p.m. Monday night. The approximated time of death has not yet been determined. McLean's brother, Tom, is a resident of Shelbyville.

"[Bob] McLean was a Murfreesboro resident but owned about five properties," Swing said. "To the best of our knowledge, McLean had recently been living with his brother Tom."

The police investigation continues, but there have been no reports from anyone who heard the shot, Swing said.

"The university is certainly saddened by the recent news of Mr. McLean's death," said Sidney McPhee, in a statement released on Tuesday. "We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. The death of an MTSU alumnus is always a loss to the family."

George Riordan, director of the McLean School of Music, mirrored McPhee's statement and expressed his sympathy

for McLean's family.

"It's very tragic for the whole community as well as the university and friends who were investors with him," Riordan said.

The church sponsors a scholarship for members seeking higher education, Elliot said. The scholarship is funded by Ron Vanatta and was managed by Bob McLean's company. McLean did not attend the church, although Elliot said he was a friend of Tom McLean.

One of the members of First Christian Church is Chris Keller, a 2007 graduate with a degree in music. Keller is now the church pianist.

"I didn't really know [McLean], although I heard his name all the time," Keller said. "I do know Ron Vanatta and he is really upset. The entire event has hit everyone pretty hard."

The bankruptcy case involving McLean's investments will continue, said Bob Waldschmidt, the United States Bankruptcy Court trustee, Tuesday to *The Daily News Journal*.

Waldschmidt is overseeing the case in which a number of investors claim that McLean misappropriated \$20 million of their money. A hearing was held yesterday for the case. Waldschmidt said McLean was intending to be present.

"Death does not cause the bankruptcy case to go away," Waldschmidt said. "I've e-mailed with him in the past few days. It was basically in preparation for the hearing. He did plan on attending the hearing."

As for renaming the McLean School of Music, Riordan said the matter is still undecided.

"I'm all for changing the name in my opinion," Keller said. "They should name it after another investor or maybe a significant professor. I hope the state will come in and help to clear the debts." ♦



Bob McLean

Homecoming candidate's signs stolen

Staff Reports

Homecoming Queen candidate Noel Roberts had 46 signs on campus that were advertising her campaign stolen on Tuesday.

Roberts, junior mass communications major, said that a friend of hers noticed one of her signs on the ground that had tire marks on it. Roberts went to get it and to fix another one of her signs that had fallen over when she discovered that all of her signs had been taken from their places on campus.

Roberts only has four of her 50 signs left, excluding the one that she said looked as if it "had flow out of the back of a truck and was run over."

Roberts said that she filed a report with the campus police at 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Campus police is in custody of the one sign that has been found and they told Roberts that they would try to lift fingerprints from it to ascertain who is responsible.

"It really hurt my feelings. I thought Homecoming was supposed to be fun and light. I didn't think that it would be like this," Roberts said. ♦

Rape Aggressive Defense taught

See News, 2

MTSU ranked high in alcohol incidents

See Features, 5

Blue Raiders to try for first win at home

See Sports, 6

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 80°
LO: 56°

Friday



HI: 83°
LO: 55°

Saturday



HI: 85°
LO: 59°

Sunday



HI: 85°
LO: 61°

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Restaurants and bars turn smoke-free

By Amanda Warner
Staff Writer

On Oct. 1, the Non-Smoker Protection Act will go into effect across Tennessee, banning smoking in most public places, such as in restaurants, hotels and shopping malls.

Other places that will be affected by the ban include public and private educational institutes, health care facilities, sports arenas, restrooms, lobbies, hallways and child care facilities.

There are a few places that will be exempt from the new law, including private homes and vehicles, places that only allow people above the age of 21, public places that are not enclosed, private clubs and smoking rooms inside of hotels.

In addition, buildings that have garage-type doors or removable sides or vents will be exempt from the ban.

Due to the fact that smoking is not allowed in public places where there are adults and children under the age of 21, restaurants and bars all over the state are being forced to decide to serve people over 21 and always ask for identification, or to become smoke-free to continue serving children and young adults.

"All we can do is inform customers about the ban, but we will be non-smoking," said Steven Smith, manager at Chili's in Murfreesboro.

Several restaurants have gotten a jump-start on the smoking ban.

Both Buffalo Wild Wings and Red Robin in

Murfreesboro have been smoke-free for months.

"I think it's a good thing, not smoking in restaurants," said Kendra Adcock, a freshman business major.

Restaurants must post signs that tell customers that no smoking is allowed in the building. It is also required that current and potential employees be notified of the ban.

Governor Phil Bredesen signed the act into law on June 11 of this year.

According to Lydia Lenker, the press secretary for the governor's Communications Office, "This is the biggest step in smoke-free legislation that any tobacco state has ever taken to improve the health and lives of thousands of citizens."

"I'm urging businesses to go smoke-free rather than pursue one of the exceptions," wrote Bill Paul, the public health director for Nashville Metro, in an opinion piece for *The Tennessean* on Sept. 18.

"It will save lives. And judging from what has happened in other places and the shrinking number of smokers, it probably won't hurt business," he said.

The new law will be put into effect to protect people who are non-smokers, he stated, adding that it also protects employees from being exposed to secondhand smoke.

According to Paul, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified secondhand smoke as a Class A carcinogen because it contains more than 50 cancer-causing chemicals."



Photo illustration by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

Rape Aggression Defense open to women on campus

By Tiffany Gibson
Staff Writer

MTSU's public safety department will be holding rape aggression self-defense classes from Sept. 25 until Oct. 30. Classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights in the Public Safety Training Room located on 1412 East Main Street.

The RAD program is designed as a resource for female students and women of the community to strengthen their natural desires to resist rape aggression. A few of the general assaults covered throughout the course include rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy, stalking and abduction.

Accompanying its popular existence and beneficial technique training, RAD is the only self-defense program endorsed by the International Association of Law Enforcement Administrators.

"I think it's a good thing for young women to experience," said Jane Stone, RAD student and concerned parent.

Throughout the 6 week period of the program students will focus on the four major risks that make up 90% of self defense. These risks are mainly referred to as risk awareness, risk reduction, risk recognition and risk avoidance. By studying these risks, basic principles of self-defense will be taught to students. The basic principles involve increasing reaction time, obtaining good balance, developing a plan of action, using distraction techniques, identifying vulnerable locations, using personal weapons and avoiding confronting force with force and avoiding panic.

To ensure that these tactics are taught correctly, RAD Instructor David Smith will be using methods such as simulation training to help build self-confidence and control over a situation. Simulation training will be accomplished by a fellow officer mimicking the realism of an attack while the victim tries to escape. By having experience with an attack Smith believes that women will be able to make a more educated resistance.

"The RAD program tries to take a different approach towards self-defense by teaching young women personal safety along with awareness of their surroundings," said Smith.

RAD also offers discussion topics referring to date rape drug scenarios, stalking and family or friend encounters. According to Smith submission is not an option for participants because the entire RAD program is built on the emphasis of taking charge and fighting back.

Many universities across the United States use RAD as a campus program to protect their students since sexual assault numbers have continued to increase. Statistics show that 1 out of 4 women will be sexually assaulted in some way, by the time she graduates. MTSU, along with the Murfreesboro Police Department, is proud to offer RAD free to its students and community.

"It's great to know that they're putting in programs to teach self-defense for women because on average 65% of women don't know how to defend themselves against a predator," said Hallie Matthews, freshmen and Criminal Justice major. ♦

" "

I think it's a good thing for young women to experience.

Jane Stone
RAD student and concerned parent

MTSU ROAD RALLY MEMPHIS

FRIDAY: OCTOBER 12TH

2:00 PM: DEPART FROM LIVESTOCK CENTER PARKING LOT

6:00 PM: ARRIVE IN MEMPHIS

SATURDAY: OCTOBER 13TH

7:00 PM: KICK-OFF MTSU BLUE RAIDERS VS. MEMPHIS TIGERS
FOLLOWING THE GAME: DEPARTURE TO MURFREESBORO

HOTEL:
♦ MEMPHIS MARIOTT DOWNTOWN
(5 BLOCKS FROM BEALE STREET)

TRIP INCLUDES:
♦ TRANSPORTATION
♦ HOTEL
♦ \$30 GAME TICKET

ALL FOR
\$65!

DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 3RD!
SIGN-UP IN KUC 208 OR SIGN-UP ONLINE
HTTP://WWW.GREEKBILL.COM/MTSUROADRALLY.ASP

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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CRIME BRIEFS

Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m. Theft - Under \$500 Gracy Hall Victim reported her credit card was stolen and used.

Sept. 20, 11:09 a.m. Non-aggravated Assault Business Aerospace Building. Report of harassment and assault.

Sept. 20, 6:41 p.m. Vagrancy Trespass Floyd Stadium Individual removed from campus after trying to use another person's ID to enter game.

Sept. 20, 8:35 p.m. Vandalism Under \$500 Peck Hall Victim reported his vehicle was vandalized.

Sept. 20, 9:12 p.m. Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct Floyd Stadium Joshua McGee

Sept. 20, 9:45 p.m. Possession of Drug Paraphernalia Wood Hall Jenny Harris

Sept. 20, 9:55 p.m. Vandalism Under \$500 Womack Lane Lot Subject reported rear windshield of her car was busted.

Sept. 21, 12:04 a.m. Theft from Auto - Breaking In Womack Lane Lot Subject called to advise her car window had been busted out.

Sept. 21, 12:04 a.m. Theft from Auto -

Breaking In Greek Row Subject advised the window had been busted out of his silver Jeep Cherokee and several items were taken.

Sept. 21, 9:32 a.m. Theft - Bicycles Under \$500 Judd Hall Subject called to advise someone had taken the front wheel off his bike.

Sept. 21, 10:19 a.m. Vandalism Under \$500 Sims Hall Individual called and reported graffiti on the picnic table.

Sept. 21, 1:44 p.m. Traffic - Hit & Run Orchard Lot Victim reported his vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

Sept. 21, 2:43 p.m. Theft - Under \$500 Nicks Hall Victim reported her purse was stolen from her dorm room.

Sept. 21, 4:54 p.m. Theft - Over \$500 Nicks Hall Victim reported his laptop and "computer stuff" had been stolen from his dorm room.

Sept. 22, 12:26 a.m. Alcohol Consumption - Under 21 Deere Hall Lauren Keys Kevin Porter Britton Powell Powell & Porter were transported to MTMC by ambulance due to their extreme level of intoxication.

Sept. 22, 11:43 a.m. Theft - Under \$500 Pi Kappa Alpha House Victim reported his vehicle had been broken into and belongings had been taken.

Sept. 23, 11:44 p.m. Theft - Under \$500 James E. Walker Library Librarian reported that a black female left the library, setting off the theft detection alarms, and refused to return to the desk.

Sept. 24, 12:35 a.m. Vandalism Under \$500 Alpha Gamma Rho Individuals reported one of their members drove by and shot paint balls at the house and people on the front porch.

Sept. 24, 3:32 a.m. Drug Abuse & Possession of Drug Paraphernalia Corlew Hall Eric D. Jones

Sept. 24, 11:20 a.m. Vandalism - Over \$500 MTSU Campus Residential Life Maintenance reported some of the courtyard lights were vandalized.

Sept. 24, 3:53 p.m. Theft - Under \$500 James E. Walker Library Victim reported her cell phone had been stolen.

Sept. 24, 10:17 p.m. Theft - Over \$500 James E. Walker Library Individual claimed he chained his bike to another bike he had reported as stolen.

When he returned, both bikes were gone. He later found one of the bikes at Peck Hall.

Sept. 25, 12:34 a.m. Domestic Assault Nicks Hall Jessica Walker

Sept. 25, 3:01 a.m. Warrant Sigma Nu House Brett Adams arrested for Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and an Active Warrant for Failure to Appear (Theft).

Sept. 25, 10:31 a.m. Theft - Under \$500 Learning Resources Center Victim reported some of her personal belongings and medication had been stolen from her desk.

Sept. 25, 1:32 p.m. Traffic - Hit & Run Scarlett Commons Victim reported her vehicle had been vandalized.

Sept. 25, 3:07 p.m. Theft - Under \$500 Kirksey Old Main Victim reported her purse had been lost or stolen.

Sept. 25, 4:25 p.m. Driving - Reckless MTSU Blvd.

Sept. 25, 8:47 p.m. Traffic - Hit & Run Military Memorial Individual reported that an older model red Honda Civic had just backed into a charcoal Nissan Maxima. Advised the suspect vehicle should have rear bumper damage.

Sign up now for MTSU's Emergency Text-Messaging System

Sign up at: mtsu.edu/alert4u

Be Warned

Be Prepared

Be On Alert



GRADUATING?

~ *Not Returning to MTSU?*

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing CANCELLATIONS for the Spring 2008 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2007 semester. The deadline for submitting CANCELLATIONS for prepayment refund is **Monday, October 15, 2007**. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline. For additional information contact Housing and Residential Life,

615-898-2971.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

McLean's death solves nothing

The untimely death of philanthropist Robert W. McLean poses more questions than it answers. In the wake of his fall from grace, he leaves a controversial legacy. Both 'supporters' and 'victims' are coming out of the woodwork.

Instead of posthumously praising or condemning the man as thief or donor, the community should unite to pick up the pieces. There are plenty of those.

MTSU's McLean School of Music is caught between a rock and a hard place. Bob McLean's pledge to the university purchased brand-new Steinway pianos for the entire School. The benefits of that donation have had a tremendously positive effect on the school, in terms of student recruiting, gaining new faculty and overall prestige. However, with the name 'McLean' attached to the school, it will be difficult to conduct fund-raising efforts, to the detriment of the School of Music.

In spite of recent events, the School of Music is reaching out, not to help itself, but to aid another university in need. On Thursday, Oct. 4, the McLean School of Music will host a PRISM concert to benefit Southern University at New Orleans, which was virtually destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. This sets an example that the community would be wise to follow: the School of Music will continue to do its work.

Another case would be the MTSU Athletic Department. McLean also pledged large sums of money to construction projects, providing a catalyst for expansion, reputation-building and overall growth. Of course, the football team continues to play, and the brand-new BlueTube is up and running. Life goes on.

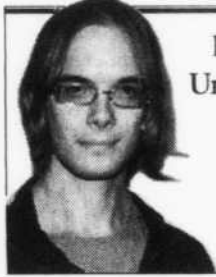
MTSU needs to look to the future. Regardless of whether or not the Tennessee Board of Regents decides to rename the McLean School of Music, we still have the Steinway pianos. In spite of their origin, they sound fabulous. The new baseball stadium is already under construction. Like it or not, MTSU has benefited from the philanthropic work of Bob McLean.

This affair brings to light a sad fact about MTSU. We do not honor our alumni based on their accomplishments. We honor them based on their checkbooks.

The appearance of a silver lining in this cloud depends on the actions of university and community in the future. If we brush the whole affair under the rug, we gain nothing. If we acknowledge the difficulties presented by this situation, but continue to work and grow, we may mend our reputation.

District police proposal bad for Metro schools

Violence in schools has always been a hot topic in politics at all levels. Incidents such as the shootings at Virginia Tech earlier this year, as well as the more recent shooting of two students at Delaware State University, as well as older incidents like the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School or the attack on an Amish schoolhouse in 2006, highlight this fact every time they happen.



Fair and Unbalanced
Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

In response to events like these, Nashville is deciding whether or not to increase the police presence in local schools. Ralph Thompson, assistant superintendent of student services for Metro, told *The Tennessean* that he would like the Metro Board of Education to consider establishing a police department for the school district.

Thompson told reporters that schools would benefit from having a police presence on every campus. Which they already do, in case he didn't notice – Metro, as well as most neighboring school districts, have resource officers in nearly every high school and middle school. These officers, as described by the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, are meant to uphold the law at a school, as well as serve as a counselor and teacher in regard to legal matters.

In other words, they police the school, as well as explain to students why and how to obey the law. This seems pretty comprehensive, and while an increase in incidents of assault, as well as alcohol and drug possession, in Metro schools may require an expansion of the School Resource Officer program, establishing a department solely to police schools seems to be an excessive response.

Thompson's suggestion is a bad idea for Metro, or for anywhere in Middle Tennessee. It would create a redundant service, establishing a new police force where one already exists. Incidents requiring outside intervention should be handled by community police departments instead of one over-reaching office, to ensure that cases are handled in the community by those who live there and know the people there.

In addition, placing a large police presence in schools sends a message to students that we, as adults, do not trust them to make decisions without someone watching their every move. Thompson himself has said that establishing a district police department is less about addressing a specific problem in Metro schools, and increasing police visibility to students.

The smaller presence of SROs encourages these officers to get to know the student body, in order to best know how to do their job as cop, counselor and teacher. Ideally, this should engage the students with the officer, and lead them to feel as though the police are people genuinely concerned with their safety and well-being. A larger force would likely find it more difficult to present the same image.

Most importantly, though, is that Metro schools, like many other school districts, simply cannot afford such grandiose measures. Creating a large, dedicated police force in every school may reduce the numbers of crimes that happen in those schools, but the school district itself may not have the money or the resources available to run and maintain such a department. Universities like ours have access to these things, unlike urban school districts, especially ones whose budget battles make front-page headlines for weeks.

Students and teachers should feel safe in their classrooms, but should not have to pass through security checkpoints and armed guards in order to feel that way. It will be months before Metro makes a decision one way or the other, and should use this time wisely, and examine alternative measures that do not involve putting a cop in every hallway. We need safe schools, but not at the price of turning every one into a miniature police state.

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



And Friends
frankhasenmueller@gmail.com
Frank Hasenmueller

Abortion is genocide by definition

By Meredith Eugene Hunt

Contributing Columnist

This commentary is in response to the *Sidelines* Editorial Board's [Sept. 13] article titled, "Accurate language essential in debate."

Contrary to the Editorial Board's observations, our use of the term genocide in the Genocide Awareness Project is not flippant. Nor is the use of photos of victims of atrocity exploitive when it is done for humanitarian and educational reasons. We respect the people who have suffered, and our intention is to show the fundamental similarities between killing large numbers of born people and killing large numbers of pre-born people. Also, our hope is to sensitize people with regard to various atrocities, including those of genocide. If any legitimate criticism can be made, it would be that we need to update our images to include victims of the genocide in Sudan.

Look at the history of the creation of the term: In August 1941, Winston Churchill called the German's "methodical, merciless butchery" of Jewish people in occupied Soviet Russia "a crime without a name." Polish born advisor to the U.S. military, Raphael Lemkin, gave that kind of crime – the destruction of groups of people – a name when he coined the word "genocide." The word appeared in print for the first time in his 1944 book, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*. In this book, Lemkin began by saying, "New conceptions require new terms."

Another significant milestone in genocide awareness was

reached when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the final text of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. Since then, 140 nations have ratified the Convention. Genocide is viewed as the worst of the worst imaginable crimes called, "Crimes Against Humanity." The Convention and the International Criminal Court define genocide as:

"any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: Killing members of the group; Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

By the above definition, abortion could have genocidal characteristics, but would not qualify as genocide legally, because unwanted pre-born children as a group is not "national, ethnic, racial, or religious." Of course, an objection is that pre-born children are not human or are not persons. Our graphic photos presented evidence that they are human. Our discussion at the display strongly supported that they are persons. To quickly address this issue, I will say that there is virtual unanimous scientific consensus that an individual human life begins at fertilization. And check any dictionary for the definition of person. Entry number one will be "a human being."

And yet consider other legal definitions of genocide. In addition to ratifying the UN Convention, many world states have their own statutes that define genocide in terms differing from the international standard. Some laws are more narrow and some broader.

Amnesty International's website lists a dozen states whose laws against genocide either increase the number of protected groups or increase the scope of offenses that qualify as being genocide. Amnesty International sees the development of broader definitions of genocide to be positive. For example, in Ecuador, the number of groups is expanded to include those defined on the basis of political condition, gender, sexual orientation, age, health, or conscience.

The official French definition, while not as specific as Ecuador's, is perhaps the most inclusive of any nation. France's definition of genocide begins with the recognized target groups of "national, ethnic, racial and religious" but adds, "or of a group determined by any other arbitrary criterion."

So it seems that the Genocide Awareness Project is not far afield in expanding the meaning of genocide. In the case of abortion, the group of human beings intended for destruction "in whole or in part" is determined by size, age, degree of dependency, location, level of function and a vague, imposed condition of unwantedness; abortion therefore qualifies as genocide under the French definition, and that of a few other nations, because those criterion are all arbitrary as excluders from the human family.

All this being said, it is not our intent to advocate for abortion to be classed as the crime of genocide. In some respects, a woman who aborts is a second victim. She has grown up in a culture where abortion is legal and generally accepted – where knowledge of the true nature of abortion has been suppressed, where autonomy at the expense of others is celebrated, where sexuality is separated from the begetting and rearing of offspring. Often, because of pressure from parents or the boyfriend/husband, or from other sources, she may feel that she has no other choice. Our use of the word "genocide" in the Genocide Awareness Project to describe the massive (55 million per year) world-wide government-supported destruction of pre-born children points to an evil occurring presently in our own nation and communities – an atrocity with which all of us to one degree or another are complicit.

Because genocide as a word connects to race and by extension to religion, ethnicity and nationality, I recognize that genocide is not a perfect expression for describing abortion, nor is it perfect for many historical occurrences when unthinkable large numbers of people are murdered. However "abortion" doesn't do the reality justice, and this is why "genocide" is the most accurate term we have now. Until we have a better word, maybe a new and unique word, abortion remains a crime without a name.

Hunt was the on-site director of the GAP at MTSU. He can be reached at lifedadvocates@earthlink.net.

Deregulated journalism dangerous

It is an axiom that capitalism and democracy are inextricably entwined. Where there is one, the other must be close by, conventional wisdom goes.

It makes sense. Democracy affords people choices in their government, and capitalism affords people choices in their marketplace. America is founded on the union of these principles.

In fact, the key treatise of free-market economics, Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations," was first published in 1776, the same year as the signing of our Declaration of Independence.

It seems like a perfect match, but compatibility issues between the two leave room for doubt.

In theory, capitalism is a means by which individuals solve the problems and meet the needs of others, driven not by altruism but by profitable self-interest. Nowadays, this makes it increasingly difficult to conceive of value in terms of anything but wealth; in other words, if something isn't a commodity, it might as well not exist.

Consequences abound, ranging from ecological destruction to rampant human exploitation. One of the most troubling effects though, is the way capitalism, taken to its logical extreme, has begun to imperil democracy in this country, due to the corrosive effect of deregulation on the mass media.

Deregulation is commonly purported to enhance flexibility within an industry, thereby invigorating competition and thus innovation. Sadly, but not surprisingly, for the news media in the past few years it has instead ushered in dramatic industry consolidation, as a few conglomerates have assimilated many smaller independent outlets.

Consider The *Los Angeles Times*, which in recent years saw its reporting staff slashed by 25 percent under new ownership by Chicago's



iscaRIOT
Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

Tribune Company. There's Clear Channel Communications, which replaced hundreds of live radio DJ's with computerized voice-tracking systems, excising local content and homogenizing playlists nationwide.

In both of these examples, it's worth noting that in the last year owners have chosen to discard much of what they already pillaged, as if to illustrate their strategy's lack of long-term sustainability. It is clear most owners value profits over informing audiences about pressing current events, and as a result market logic trumps journalistic standards.

Thus, a trade-off. To maximize revenue, more resources are spent covering the hijinks of idiot celebrities, with fewer resources for the kind of investigative journalism that is instrumental to checking and balancing power.

As a 'watchdog,' the press is sometimes called the fourth estate. This brand of independent oversight proved powerful enough during the Nixon administration to unhinge his crooked presidency, but high-minded democratic ideals rarely impress investors.

While the Internet can rapidly transmit individually tailored news from a variety of international sources, at present it alone cannot reverse such negative trends, and might not ever if net neutrality goes the way of laser discs and dinosaurs.

Furthermore, one can find many stories about an event on the internet, but they're all

told from the same angle – myriad variations of the same sparse facts. It's simply more economic to duplicate another company's coverage than it is to report directly.

In his book "Fighting for Air," Eric Klinenberg provides a concrete example of the fallout to journalism's decline.

A few years ago in San Francisco, a shady businessman named James Meadows was put in charge of directing renovations in the Presidio, a publicly-owned park that is home to many threatened plant species. Meadows' history was rife with bankruptcy and included literally dozens of lawsuits, but none of the area's major press outlets investigated his references at the time.

True to form, he quickly squandered trust funds through questionable seven-figure cost overruns, as well as a BMW convertible and renovations for a mansion overlooking the park, where he stayed, rent-free.

Luckily, freelance journalist Kerry Tremain smelled a rat and investigated, eventually publishing his findings about Meadows' expenditures in a tiny local magazine. This drew scrutiny from the larger news organizations, ultimately pressuring Meadows to resign.

Despite spending six months investigating the story at his own expense, as well as saving the city millions, Tremain's efforts earned him only six thousand dollars – "About the same amount I would have gotten if I had interviewed a celebrity chef instead of doing investigative work," he told Klinenberg. Indeed.

Regrettably, the value of the fourth estate to democracy does not readily translate to a line graph at a shareholders' meeting, so capitalism offers little incentive for investigative journalism.

It's a pity – there's plenty of need for it.

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FEATURES

Drinking still a big problem on campus

Campus has high ranking for alcohol-related incidents

By Mark Bell
Contributing Writer

"In 2005, almost one in four ... college students [22.9 percent or approximately 1.8 million] met the medical criteria for substance abuse or dependence, almost triple the proportion [8.5 percent] in the general population."

That's the word from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and the Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities in the March 2007 report on "Wasting the Best and Brightest: Substance Abuse at America's Colleges and Universities."

What's more disturbing is that, according to statistics taken from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's 2006 Crime on Campus report, MTSU ranks highest among the 19 Tennessee Board of Regents schools when comparing the number of students convicted of substance-related crimes such as drug possession, charges of driving under

the influence and public drunkenness, though the fact that MTSU is the largest school in

Tennessee could also be a contributing factor in its ranking.

Lieutenant Jim Fanguy of the MTSU Police Department claims that the reason MTSU ranks high for substance crimes is because MTSU police are "looking for it [substance crime] and finding it."

Coming in a close second in relation to drug and narcotics charges among college campuses is Tennessee State University. TSU is followed closely by East Tennessee State University, the University of Memphis, and Tennessee Technological University.

Most of the DUI violations among Tennessee Board of Regents schools came from MTSU, ETSU and Austin Peay State University. Cases of public drunkenness were highest at MTSU, ETSU, the University of Memphis, APSU and TTU.

MTSU also ranked highest in substance-related categories such as drug equipment possession and liquor law violations, which alone resulted in 130 charges at MTSU over the past year.

What can a student seriously expect from his or her administration though, especially at a time when national studies by CASA show the rates of alcohol use among 18-to-20-year-old college students at 58 percent, with 40 percent taking part in binge drinking? Take a second look there. That's among students who aren't even of legal age. If you're a male, congratulations; you're even more likely to be an underage drinker.

This is a trend that

hasn't changed since 1993, when underage drinking on college campuses hit this plateau.

It's so alarming to CASA Chairman and President Joseph A. Califano Jr. that he writes, "Accepting as inevitable this college culture of alcohol and other drug abuse threatens not only the present well being of millions of college students, but also the future capacity of our nation to maintain its leadership in the fiercely competitive global economy."

Califano sees unchanging attitudes about drugs and alcohol among college campuses across the United States as unacceptable and charges college presidents, deans and trustees with facilitating "a college culture of alcohol and drug abuse that is linked to poor student academic performance, depression, anxiety, suicide, property damage, vandalism, fights, and a host of medical problems" and goes on to blame college administrations for assuming a "Pontius Pilate posture, leaving the problem in the hands of the students."

"When administrators receive young people into colleges and universi-

ties, they no longer can shirk responsibility on these issues," Califano adds, "too much evidence exists of the harmful consequences of substance use."

There is some good news to report, however, because overall in Tennessee's colleges, drug and narcotics violations fell by 12 percent for the first time since 2003. Drug equipment violations also saw a decline, according to the latest TBI report, by 8 percent.

However, with the good comes more bad. Driving under the influence violations among Tennessee college students saw a 10 percent rise in the past year, with 17 more violations in 2006 than in 2005, when the number was already at 165.

Fanguy pointed out that a grant offered by the Governors Highway Safety Program for \$5,000 is helping "enforcement efforts with alcohol use on campus."

According to TBI Crime on Campus reports, it appears that MTSU has stepped up its enforcement of substance crimes since 2005. That explains the 78 percent increase in liquor law violation cases between 2005 and 2006. Total increases in substance crimes on MTSU campus between 2005 and 2006 was 44 percent.

Cases of public drunkenness have risen sharply by 29 percent among Tennessee college students, following a four-year pattern of increases in this area. At MTSU a 14 percent increase was observed in cases of public drunkenness.

Dr. Pat Spangler, medical director of MTSU, claims alcohol is the biggest problem facing most college campuses right now.

"Back in the 60s and 70s I saw a lot of drug use ... but that

has transformed into more alcohol use now," Spangler explains.

CASA studies show that on a national level binge drinking frequently is up 16 percent, drinking on more than 10 occasions in the past month is up 25 percent, and getting drunk three or more times in the past month is up 26 percent.

According to the TBI campus crime data on TBR schools, college students attending technical or community colleges are at a decreased risk of encountering substance-related crimes on their campus. This may just be an indicator of the lack of security personnel investigating these types of crimes on campus, however. Motlow State, for example, had no security personnel as of 2006. There are also major differences in the reporting of substance crimes among TBR schools that simply cannot be ignored.

Spangler argues the numbers in the report may indicate a lack of reporting by other campuses. Why? "Some schools may not be reporting ... cases they find," he explains, "[because] reporting could give a school a bad reputation."

"I believe the police here do an excellent job and make our students become responsible for their actions instead of glossing over things, making excuses, or not pressing charges," says Spangler fervently.

Statistics in the TBI crime on campus report shows MTSU doesn't have the largest police force among TBR schools though. T S U took that

honor, but has reported 23 less narcotics violations, 29 less drug equipment violations, 27 less DUI cases, 16 less cases of public drunkenness, and 126 less cases of liquor law violations than MTSU in 2006.

Fanguy admits that while these numbers seem discouraging the MTSU Police Department is "doing its best to enforce the law."

"Student affairs asked us to work with them to take care of this problem," Fanguy stresses. "We want to stress that we do not tolerate underage drinking."

Fanguy defends the job done by MTSU police saying "under the current circumstances the department has done a good job of protecting our community for a number of years."

Obviously, statistics from these reports are showing that substance crimes are a problem shared by most campuses across the country. Within TBR schools, it seems that MTSU may have the biggest problem in reference to substance crimes if reporting is accurate and complete. What matters most, however, is that these crimes are properly addressed.

Perhaps Califano stated it best when he wrote, "It is time to take the 'high' out of higher education." ♦



Peace Corps visit campus, recruit potential volunteers

By Emily Sterrie
Contributing Writer

Do you drink to world peace? Do your post-graduation plans involve saving the world? If so, then the Peace Corps may be the perfect jumping-off point for your career. Named by Business Week as the "fifth most ideal undergraduate employer," and one of the "best places to launch a career" as ranked by Universum, the Peace Corps provides graduates with incredible opportunities to serve America while serving others the world over and enriching their cultural perspectives — not to mention their resumé.

As a part of MTSU's Career Fair on September 20th, the Peace Corps was on hand to recruit and inform potential volunteers, and Kyle Jessop, a returned volunteer from Zambia and Lesotho, represented the Corps at the event.

Jessop observed that MTSU students have a lot of potential for the Peace Corps, and in fact, more than forty-five university alumni have volunteered with the organization.

So what is the Peace Corps all about, you may be wondering? Well, not surprisingly, their main mission is the promotion of world peace, friendship, and the better understanding of diverse peoples and cultures. By imbedding volunteers into communities in need throughout 74 different countries, the Peace Corps helps those areas with support in programs such as education and youth

community development, environment, health and the HIV/AIDS crisis, business development and information technology, agriculture, and more. "Bottom line," says Jessop, "you're going where there's a need; you're working towards sustainable development."

The personal benefits of a stint in the Peace Corps are no doubt invaluable, but so are the benefits it can reap for your future career, explains Jessop. Volunteering for the Peace Corps "separates you from so many other people without that world perspective," he says. It's a great way to get your foot in the door, and "Peace Corps Volunteer" can certainly live up any grad's resumé. Career-wise, the Peace Corps is a great move, and the same is true for your education. All volunteers receive intensive language, cultural, and technical training, and

they offer many opportunities to obtain scholarships, pay off loans, and even get your Master's degree. Many volunteers go on to become professors and educators or work for non-profit organizations, and the Corps provides non-competitive eligibility for government jobs.

It may sound amazing, but make no mistake: the Peace Corps is not for everyone. To become a volunteer, you must be willing to commit 27 months of your life to training and service abroad. The first three months are devoted to extensive preparations and training for service, and the following two years consist of overseas service work with communities in need. And, as the title implies, it is a "volunteer" position, as in non-paying, but Peace Corps volunteers come from all walks of life, and almost anyone is capable of serving the organization. Benefits of volunteering

include paid flights to and from your country of service, a living allowance that is in keeping with the median living expenses of your overseas community, full medical and dental coverage, and a \$6,000 readjustment allowance to help get you back on your feet when you return to America.

The unique aspect of the Peace Corps is that volunteers are not only going to places in need, but they are integrating themselves into these communities for two years at a time which allows them, Jessop says, "to hear and feel the needs of the community." You start to come up with ideas and understand the ways that these places need help, and what will truly benefit them, "and you're respected for that because you are a community member."

Another important aim of the Peace Corps is to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served. In other countries, explains Jessop, "the news exposure is all about war and violence, and that's all these people ever see. But you have the opportunity to show that America is not all negative — to express how different we are."

The pay may be insignificant and the living conditions far from luxurious, but what better way is there to help people in need, gain personal fulfillment, travel the world, and launch a career simultaneously? For more information on the Peace Corps and future recruiting meetings at MTSU, check out peacecorps.gov. ♦

Bottom line, you're always going to go to a place where there's a need; you're working towards sustainable development.

Kyle Jessop
Peace Corp volunteer

SPORTS



Coldplay-action
Chris Martin
Staff Columnist

Notre-Lame

How the Irish have fallen, the irony that is Charlie Weis

Notre Dame is 0-4, does that sound familiar? It shouldn't.

Since they first played in 1887, the fighting Irish have never started a season at 0-4.

Now that that number is starting to sink in, one can't help but consider Tyrone Willingham's time as Notre Dame head coach.

For those of you that don't remember, here's how his 'tenure' went.

In 2002, Willingham was hired away from Stanford to take over a struggling Fighting Irish program which had gone 5-6 the previous season.

Willingham seemed to find instant success, compiling a 10-3 record in his first year. Most impressive of all were his wins over Florida State and Michigan.

Unfortunately for Willingham, the success didn't last. After his first season, Notre Dame went 11-12 and he was fired after only three seasons by a school that never fires coaches before their contracts expire.

Some people believed Willingham was not given a fair shake because he was black. I'm not going to touch that issue- it's been done- but to fire a coach before he has a chance to play his first recruiting class graduate is ridiculous.

What makes it even more shocking is that this is Notre Dame we are talking about, one of the most conservative schools in college football history when it comes to hiring and firing coaches.

ND has never been a school that received Alabama-like pressure from boosters doing what exactly happened to Willingham? Were the money-men suddenly calling the shots at a religious school? And do they really even have boosters or do they just collect titles?

In the end, it doesn't matter why. One thing is for sure, Willingham was never given a fair opportunity to succeed.

Enter Charlie Weis.

Weis, the current head coach and former New England Patriots offensive coordinator, started his Notre Dame tenure in the same fashion as Willingham. He took over a 6-6 team and, in his first season, led them to a 9-3 record with Willingham's players, including star quarterback Brady Quinn.

But then, after just one season, Weis was rewarded with a 10-year contract extension.

Allow that to settle for a bit. Ten years. Willingham wasn't given three years, but Weis has one good season and all of a sudden he's the second coming of Knute Rockne. Weis will be Notre Dame's coach more than three times longer than Willingham.

Weis was able to sustain his success; going 10-3 in his second season. However, it was a very deceptive 10-3. The Irish were 1-3 against top-25 opponents and five of their wins came against Army, Navy, Air Force, North Carolina and Stanford.

Now that Weis no longer has Willingham recruits Quinn, Jeff Samardzija, Victor Abiamiri and Darius Walker, he's 0-4, and it hasn't been pretty.

Notre Dame's defense has not held an opposing offense to less than 31 points. To further concern the Gold-domers, the Irish have managed to score only 27 points.

Now, lets think about that number for a second.

Notre Dame has scored fewer points all season than their defense has allowed in a single game. Notre Dame is supposed to be the New York Yankees of college football, yet they've been shutout by Michigan 38-0 and their closest game was a 31-14 shellacking at the hands of Michigan State. Yet the calls for Weis' firing have been quiet, if they exist at all.

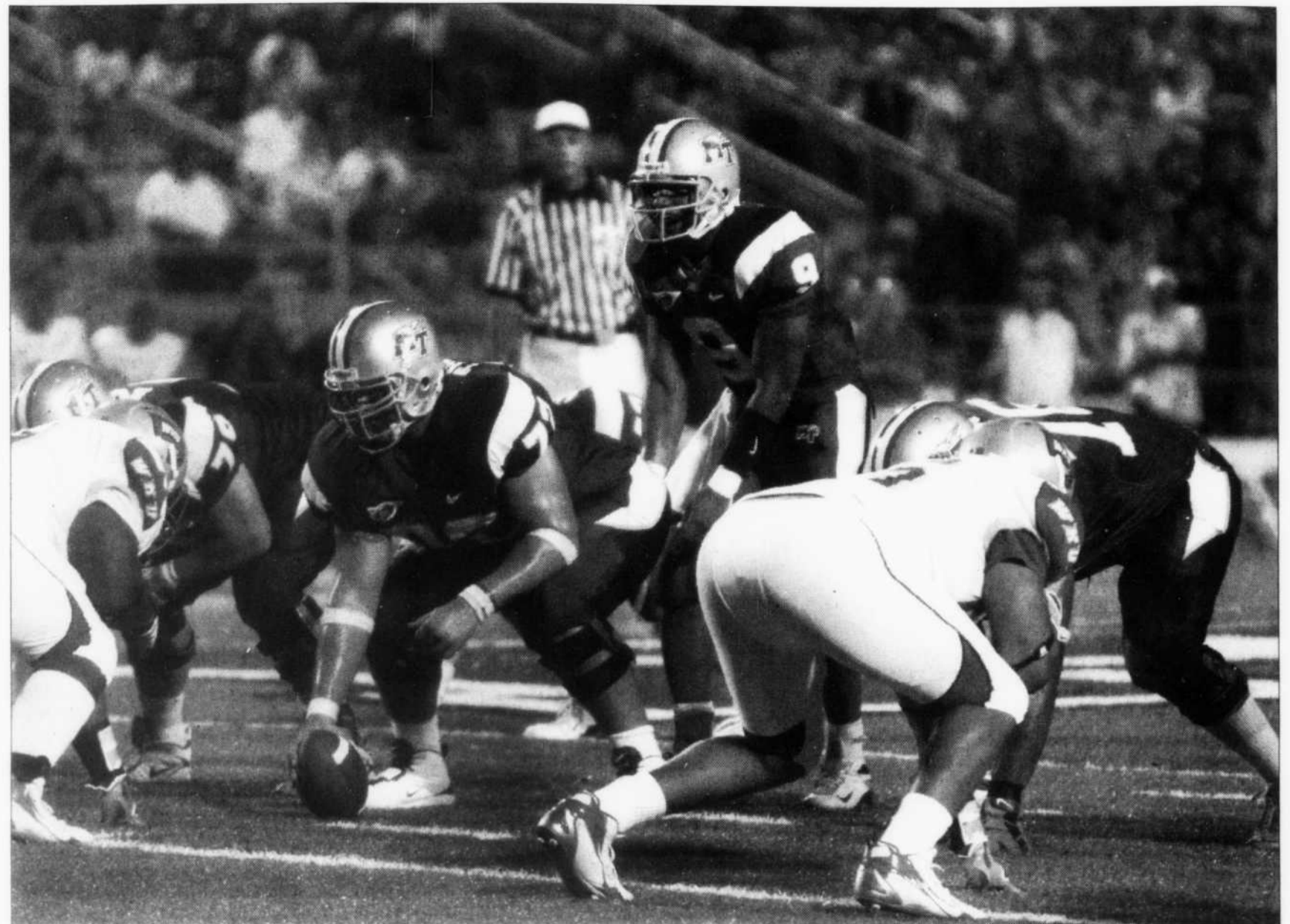
Meanwhile, Willingham was able to land on his feet at Washington where the Huskies were coming off a 1-10 season with their lone win coming against San Jose State.

Washington's record has gotten better every year since Willingham arrived, improving from 1-10 in 2004 to 2-9 in 2005 and 5-7 in 2006. This season, the Huskies have gotten off to a 2-2 start and have an impressive looking quarterback in Jake Locker.

Who knows, maybe Weis will win out this year or maybe this is just a young team with a freshman quarterback that will improve with experience.

As it stands now, Charlie Weis is something that Tyrone Willingham is not. 0-4.

MT faces Golden Panthers



True freshman Dwight Dasher will be making his second career start Saturday against Florida International. Against Western Kentucky, he threw for 169 yards and rushed for 53 yards.

Both teams looking for their first victory of the season

By Chris Martin
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will be looking for its first victory, Saturday, against Florida International in MT's first Sun Belt home game.

The Raiders are coming off a disappointing 20-17 loss at home to Western Kentucky where a missed field goal with five seconds left secured the victory for the Hilltoppers.

"We had two critical areas on defense, we didn't tackle, and we couldn't get off the line on third down," MT coach Rick Stockstill said. "A lot of those third-down conversions were a result of missed tackles. Offensively, we could not stay on the field and we could not convert third-down conversions."

The loss is the fourth this season for the Raiders. MT is on a 7 game losing streak that started with a November 17 loss to South Carolina last year.

"I love our team, I love our attitude," Stockstill said. "There has not been one game out of these four where we have laid down and not finished the game. We work hard, we practice hard. When you go through so

many changes like he have had because of the injuries up front, it just makes it difficult to have continuity."

One bright spot for the Blue Raiders in that loss was the outstanding play of freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher who replaced the injured Joe Craddock. Dasher completed 14-of-24 passes for 169 yards with no interceptions and rushed for 53 yards.

"I thought Dwight Dasher played exceptionally well," Stockstill said. "He gave us a chance to win the game, he didn't turn the ball over, and he played very well at the end to give us a chance to send the game to overtime."

Dasher's performance is even more impressive considering he didn't know he was starting until two days before the game.

"He didn't find out he was getting the start until Tuesday, so he was very limited in terms of preparation getting just Tuesday and Wednesday and Wednesday was a limited practice so we didn't give him a lot and (Dasher) was limited."

Florida International University head coach Mario Cristobal has revealed some of his game plan for Dasher. "A quarterback like [Dasher] must rely on the

success of his offensive line so we must beat their offensive line to the punch. Middle hurt Western Kentucky several times with the run last week, but they shot themselves in the foot as they got closer to the endzone. We know [Dasher] is a big-time threat and we have to come up with a way to contain him. As good of an overall team as they are, we've got to make sure that their quarterback doesn't beat us with his feet too."

FIU is coming of a 55-3 loss to Kansas, their 16th loss in a row. Ironically, FIU's last win came against the Blue Raiders in the Panthers' last game of the 2005 season.

FIU does, however, lead the Sun Belt conference in tackles for loss and sacks.

"They are a high pressure team," Stockstill said. "They do a lot of blitzing and stunting. They are athletic and can run and their secondary is good which allows them to put pressure on the quarterback."

The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at Johnny "Red" Floyd stadium. Audio, video and stats for the game can be found streaming live on goblueraiders.com.

The Lowe Down on MT/FIU matchup

By Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

When MT has the ball

MT QB Dwight Dasher looked good in the first start in his career against WKU but could not pull off the victory. His first full week of practice with the first team offense should help the offense tremendously.

FIU's defense is allowing over 40 points a game but that stat is deceiving. They have faced off against #17 Penn State, Maryland, Miami, and Kansas. This will be the first time the defense will be facing off against a manageable opponent.

Advantage: MTSU

When FIU has the ball

Redshirt freshman Wayne Younger is in his first year as starting quarterback for the Golden Panthers. He will face a defense that is ranked 113th in the nation.

On the other hand, the MT defense should be smiling at the fact that they will be facing an offense that is ranked 118th in the nation. If the game is close, the advantage goes to FIU, but turnovers should make sure MT will have a comfortable lead.

Advantage: MTSU

When MT is kicking

MT is ranked first in the conference in kickoff coverage and third in punting. The problems arise when it comes time for field goals to be kicked. Matt King is one for four this season and will need to be more consistent before he becomes a liability for his team.

FIU's Lionell Singleton was one of the top players on last year's team. This year, he is still trying to find his groove.

Advantage: Even

When FIU is kicking

Last year's one-point victory by MT was because of a missed extra point by Chris Patullo. This year, FIU is one for two in extra point attempts. MT is ranked 5th in kick returns, with Coach Stockstill replacing Damon Nickson with Desmond Gee as a kick returner since the Louisville game.

Advantage: Even

Intangibles

Heading into this game last year, both teams were seen as wild cards for the Sun Belt title. This year, both are heading into this game looking for their first victory of the season. With an impressive student turnout last Thursday, the feeling around campus is that more will show up this weekend despite the close loss by the Blue Raiders last week.

Advantage: MTSU

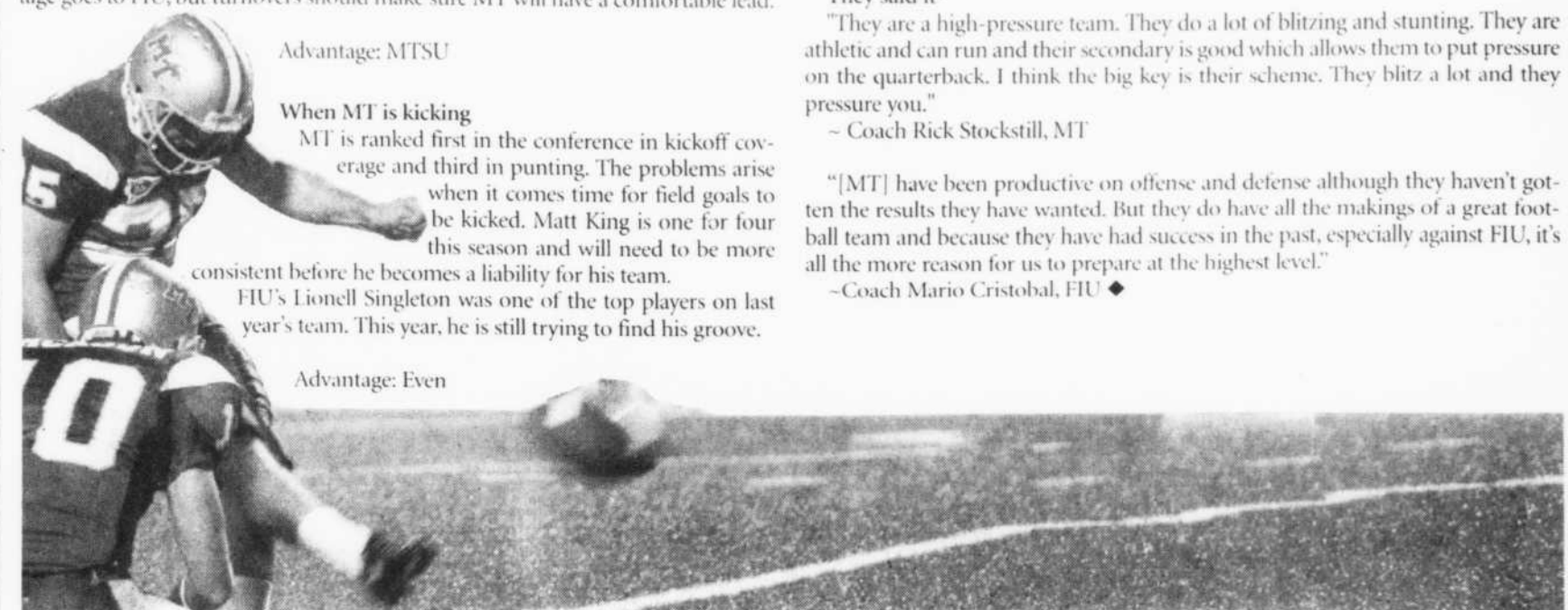
They said it-

"They are a high-pressure team. They do a lot of blitzing and stunting. They are athletic and can run and their secondary is good which allows them to put pressure on the quarterback. I think the big key is their scheme. They blitz a lot and they pressure you."

- Coach Rick Stockstill, MT

"[MT] have been productive on offense and defense although they haven't gotten the results they have wanted. But they do have all the makings of a great football team and because they have had success in the past, especially against FIU, it's all the more reason for us to prepare at the highest level."

- Coach Mario Cristobal, FIU ♦



The Sportacus Brief:

Don't give up on Blue Raiders just yet; more fans in the stands equals more wins

By J. Owen Shipley
Sports Editor

To save myself the trouble of going door to door, I've prepared a form conversation between myself, and you, the reader, about this Saturday's home football game and why you should attend.

"Hey, you there. With the paper. What's your name?"
"Me? Um, I'm [your name here]." You look confused.

"Hello [your name here]. They call me Sportacus. Well my mom does. She's my biggest fan. Anyways, yeah, I was wondering what you were doing on Saturday. You see, there's this game and—" "Oh, I see where this is going," you say to me. "I would go to the game, really I would it's just [insert your excuse here]."

"Oh, wow," I reply. "I had no idea it was legal to [verb] a [noun] so close to a school zone. Good luck with that."

Very confused, you wonder what that was all about. You have no idea who I am, or why I just invited you to a football game. You wonder to yourself, am I missing something?

And that is when I pop up behind you dressed like the Burger King with one last question.

"Why do you hate fun?" I yell in front of everyone in the [campus building].

"What?" You reply, startled by the sudden volume

of my voice, and the speed of my costume change.

"WHY DO YOU HATE FUN?"
"I don't."

"Then how could you possibly avoid this game? The Dwight Dasher era has begun! True freshman quarterbacks never look as poised as 'The Dash' did last week and you're going to miss a chance to see him play?"

"But we lost last week," you say.

"By three points, after missing two field goals. The important thing is, Dash was amazing."

"But I don't want to watch another loss."

"First of all. You've got something on your shirt. [flicks you in the nose]. Secondly, we're playing FIU, owners of one of the longest losing streaks in recent memory. If we lose this game, I'm moving to China and teaching Spanglish."

"Last, but not least, this team is young. No matter what happens this year, next year figures to be a big year no matter who is at quarterback as our talented tandem continues to mature."

"Don't you want to be able to say I was there the first time Dash won a game?"

"Honestly, [some version of I don't care.]"

"Did I mention you can drink on campus during game days?"

Your smile betrays you.

"See you there kiddo," I mumble through my BK mask as I prepare to ambush yet another unsuspecting student. I love my job.

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What am I doing here?

A non sports-fan analyzes a typical MTSU gameday



The anti-sports guy

Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

I don't understand you. Yes, you. Mr. sports-page reader. I saw you tailgating in the grove by Peck Hall last Thursday before the game. You were the guy who said "Woo" in response to that other guy saying "Woo."

Come to think of it, that's the only place I've ever seen you. Do you even go to class? Or maybe you're majoring in business. I'm not in that building very much.

Sorry, I don't mean to condescend. In some respects, you amaze me.

You see, years of getting busted for skateboarding and innumerable fines for traffic violations have ingrained in me a healthy fear of law enforcement - I suspect it may border on an irrational phobia.

But on Thursday you bravely marched up the steps of Peck Hall, with your red plastic cup of what I doubt was cream soda, right in front of the cop who was addressing there. Your courage was peerless in the face of adversity, even though you botched his question about your birth date.

I feel certain that were I caught in a similar situation with the police, a compounding series of nervous errors on my part would find me facing lethal injection. You kept your cool though, and were simply told without rancor or reprimand to wade back into the blue sea of fellow football supporters.

There are other things I admire to about you, as well such as your ability to tolerate listening to Smash Mouth.

Actually, never mind. That's a lame talent.

In fact, I should admit I don't care for sports or beer or crowds. Even so, I expect we still have plenty of things in common. For instance, I feel sure we both hate the textbook industry.

Further, I noticed you hate being in public without a shirt. I can relate. While I don't know what happened to yours, I imagine if I was caught in a similar predicament - being shirtless in a huge crowd on campus - I might try to cover up a little bit with a layer of blue paint too.

The unbridled exuberance you display when yelling at passing strangers is commendable - if only I could act as free of inhibition as you! Why, I wouldn't know where to begin, what with all the things I would yell. Probably swear words, which I think again puts us on the same page.

Granted, I don't particularly relate to the vicarious thrill you enjoyed when "your" team wins. You and your friends probably proclaim "We won," despite being largely irrelevant to the game-winning play.

On the other hand, I prefer to live vicariously through arguably even more ridiculous things, like video games and late-night cartoons.

Despite such shortcomings there is still one thing you might appreciate about me. Because I won't be attending future football games, you can rest assured of the availability of an extra parking space on campus - think of that space as a gift from me to you.

So it seems that although I don't particularly care for the rituals of tailgating or football, we're really not adversaries at all. It's just a case of different strokes for different folks, as they say.

Please don't hit me.

Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at dgp2h@mtsu.edu. He was asked to write this article, he did not volunteer. Don't hit him.

The SUPP Overall Top-25

No.	Team	Fraction	Pts
1.	USC	0.8238	659
2.	LSU	0.8150	652
3.	Oklahoma	0.7700	616
4.	Florida	0.7125	570
5.	Texas	0.6438	515
6.	California	0.6275	502
7.	Ohio State	0.6050	484
8.	West Virginia	0.5913	473
9.	Wisconsin	0.5063	405
10.	Rutgers	0.5025	402
11.	Oregon	0.4450	356
12.	Boston College	0.4350	348
13.	Clemson	0.3538	283
14.	Georgia	0.3113	249
15.	Kentucky	0.2975	238
16.	Virginia Tech	0.2712	217
17.	South Carolina	0.2537	203
18.	South Florida	0.2375	190
19.	Hawaii	0.2300	184
20.	Penn State	0.2075	166
21.	Missouri	0.1663	133
22.	Alabama	0.1275	102
23.	Nebraska	0.0975	78
24.	Michigan State	0.0775	62
25.	Arizona State	0.0525	42

Also receiving votes:
UCLA 0.0400
Texas A & M 0.0375
Michigan 0.0363
Cincinnati 0.0363
Georgia Tech 0.0288

Graphic courtesy of Suppoll.com

The Student University Poll is compiled from a national student poll and anyone with an MTSU e-mail can submit to at suppoll.com and a national student editor poll.

Back to school-do's

Do get a great cut
Don't jack it up to heaven
(...and DON'Ts)

Do get a professional massage
Don't nap in the mall massage-lounge

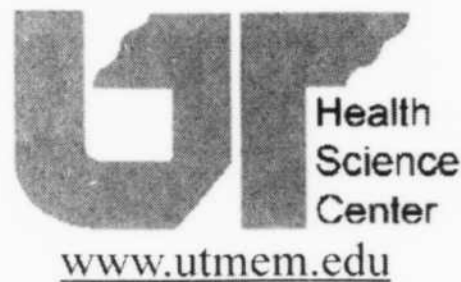
Do get a rejuvenating facial
Don't spackie over the bad spots

Do get a real manicure
Don't clean your nails with your keys



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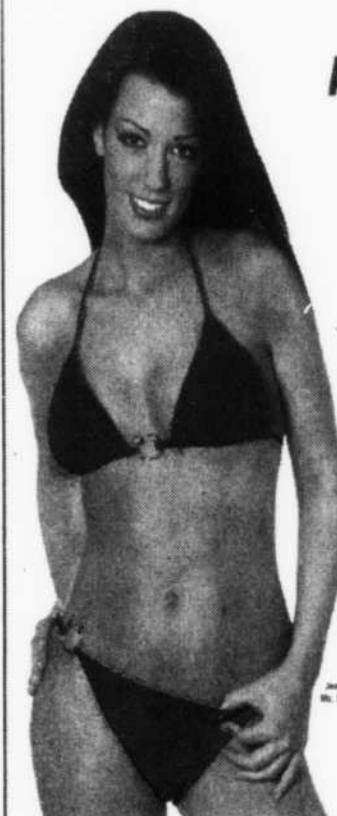
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