



Movies Galore

Check out how your favorite summer movie stacks up

See Weekend Flash, page 5



Raiders fall

Fighting Illini take a 35-6 win over the Blue Raiders

See Sports, page 7

Fowl Play

Athletic director leaving MTSU

See Sports, page 7

INSIDE: Students vote against new grading system See News, page 2

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University



Beer cans and trash lie scattered across a parking lot on Greek Row.

Photo provided

Senate committees brainstorm fall plans

By Mary Anna Brown
SGA Beat Reporter

The Student Government Association has established four new Senate committees to aid in the execution of SGA business this fall.

The first committee is the Internal Affairs Committee, headed by junior Ginny Barton. The purpose of the Internal Affairs Committee is to aid in the procedures inside the SGA. These include the impeachment proceedings of senators as well as reviewing the constitutionality of proposed bills, amendments and resolutions.

"The overall plan of the Senate this year is to have the majority of the legislation come from each of the different committees," Barton said. "Legislation coming from our committee should help the internal structure of the SGA run more smoothly and efficiently," Barton said the goal at the first meeting is to come up with different ideas for legislation and how they can aid the SGA.

Senate members serving on the Internal Affairs Committee are sophomore Jocelyn Blue, senior Samantha Marburger, senior Jason Michael, junior Kelly Stuard, sophomore Adam Tune and Michael Shirley.

The External Affairs Committee is also a new Senate committee this fall, devoted to the development of public relations for the SGA. The committee will make contacts with the various media facilities on campus and also organizes and administers the community service projects. Junior Jaime Burns is in charge of the External Affairs Committee.

"Our main goal is to connect MTSU students with Rutherford County by See Senate, 3

SGA gets headstart on Homecoming

By Mary Anna Brown
SGA Beat Reporter

As MTSU's Homecoming 2000 approaches, the Student Government Association and the Homecoming Committee are making preparations for this year's activities.

The theme for the festivities is "Rockin'-N-Rollin with the Raiders," senior Homecoming Chairman Jennifer Jones said. "We have come up with lots of new activities in addition to the traditional Homecoming contests we have each year."

Homecoming week is Oct. 8 through 14, but plans are already underway to ensure that Homecoming 2000 is a success.

The first call to business for the Homecoming Committee is composing the 2000 Homecoming Queen ballots. All Homecoming Queen nominations must be submitted to the SGA office in KUC 208 by 4 p.m. on Sept. 11.

The process for selecting the 2000 Homecoming King is based entirely on which nominee generates the most money in a campus wide fundraiser. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity. Homecoming King entry forms are due in the SGA office by 4 p.m. on Sept. 29.

The SGA has teamed up with See SGA, 3

Take one down and pass it around

By James Evans and Turner Hutchens
Editor in Chief and Assistant News Editor

Fraternities at MTSU held their bid days for new pledges Saturday, and parties were held on Greek Row that night.

By Sunday morning the area was blanketed with empty beer boxes and cans — a sign that alcohol had been present during the festivities.

Drinking on campus — even on Greek Row — is illegal, but MTSU officials said they don't plan to take action because it is unknown which individuals or which fraternities were involved.

Vic Felts, director of Greek Life, said at this point there's nothing that can be done about the situation because he has to know which fraternities were directly responsible before he can press charges and turn the matter over to Judicial Affairs.

"We can't do anything," Felts said, "not unless we can prove who did it."

Felts explained that Judicial Affairs can't hold all fraternities responsible. Instead there has to be witnesses or some other evidence so that they can prove which groups were responsible.

At this time, there is no evidence and no leads, Felts said.

Felts criticized Public Safety's lack of action over the weekend.

Public Safety's job, Felts said, is to patrol the campus area and stop things such as drinking on campus. But that didn't happen this weekend for some reason, he said.

Felts said he has had discussions in the past with Public Safety Chief Jack Drugmand about drinking on Greek Row. According to Felts, Drugmand's reaction was that some of his officers don't like to make people angry, so they don't always cite students for drinking, but other officers do.

"It just depends on what officer you get," Felts said.

Jim Fanguy, a lieutenant with Public Safety, feels differently than Felts.

"It is university policy that alcohol is not allowed on campus," Fanguy said. "It is state law that the consumption of alcohol under 21 is illegal."

"Our job is to enforce these laws and regulations. It's our job, and we do our job."

One citation was issued Saturday night at 1:45 a.m., but it was for a disturbance that was not caused by students. Sigma Alpha Epsilon made the call. ♦



Beer bottles and cans behind the Sig Nu house.

Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

New president vows not to 'tread water'

By James Evans
Editor in Chief

When Gene Smith attended MTSU in the 50s, he was here on a football management scholarship.

Basically, he was a water boy.

Now, more than 30 years later, he's the president.

Since 1971, Smith has served as the vice president for Business and Finance at The University of Memphis.

That was until Charles Manning — chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents — offered Smith a job as the interim president of MTSU.

Smith said he was a little hesitant.

"At first I didn't know, because I was sitting in my own kingdom down there and I had a great staff," he said. "Then it occurred to me that this university was in great shape."

Smith graduated from MTSU in 1957, and even though the campus has changed a lot since then, he believes he can still be of use.

"I thought I could come back and keep it moving," he said. "We're not going to tread water."

"I love to dream."

Smith has big shoes to fill in the wake of former President James Walker, but he's not planning to be overbearing during his tenure.

"I would like to see us move forward," he said. "I bring no other agenda with me."

As far as the issue with school spirit, Smith said he thinks a lot of students have weekend jobs and that contributes to the problem. Another part of the



Interim president Gene Smith laughs while talking about his plans for MTSU.

Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

problem is that MTSU has to compete with entertainment venues in Nashville on the weekends.

The sports program here could be one remedy to the apathy plague, he said.

"I guess winning would help," Smith said with a smile but added, "I don't have the answer."

One advantage he said MTSU has over Memphis is the Murphy Center and the new stadium. One potential problem in Memphis is that the sports facilities are off campus. Still, he said students there will

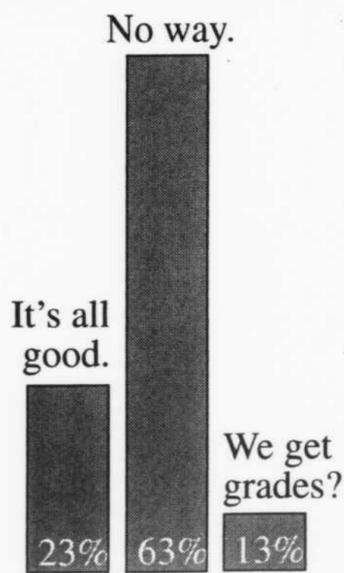
travel any distance if the school is winning.

When Smith finishes his tenure at MTSU, he plans to retire and move back to Memphis to be close to his family. He said he'll still be involved with Memphis University, but not as a paid employee.

Until then, he and his wife will live on campus in the president's house on the west side of campus.

Smith's tenure will last for approximately one year. Manning has said he wants to select a permanent person for the presidency by early spring 2001. ♦

How you felt about the new grading system



Total of 52 votes

This week's question:

Should drinking be allowed on campus?

Vote online at www.sidelines.mtsu.edu

Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Design Editor

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled By Turner Hutchens - Assistant News Editor

Talk about Kurds

Kani Xulam of the American Kurds Information Network will present "The Kurds: Past and Future" on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 3:30 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 227. Part of the film "Good Kurds, Bad Kurds" will also be shown.

Many Kurdish refugees have settled in Middle Tennessee, and the region is now said to be home to the largest Kurd population in the United States.

The American Kurdish Information Network is a non-profit organization established to inform about Kurds and Kurdish interests in the United States.

Fellowship is available

Graduating seniors planning on entering a Ph.D. program in the Humanities are eligible for the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies.

The fellowship covers graduate tuition, required fees for the first year of graduate study, and a stipend of \$15,000. The deadline for applications is in early December. Anyone interested should visit <http://www.woodrow.org/mellon>.

Kappa Sigma is recognized for excellence

The MTSU chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity has been recognized for excellence in chapter operations for the 1999-2000 academic year by Kappa Sigma at the Fraternity's Leadership Conference Program.

The Leadership Conference Program focused on Kappa Sigma's four core values of fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service.

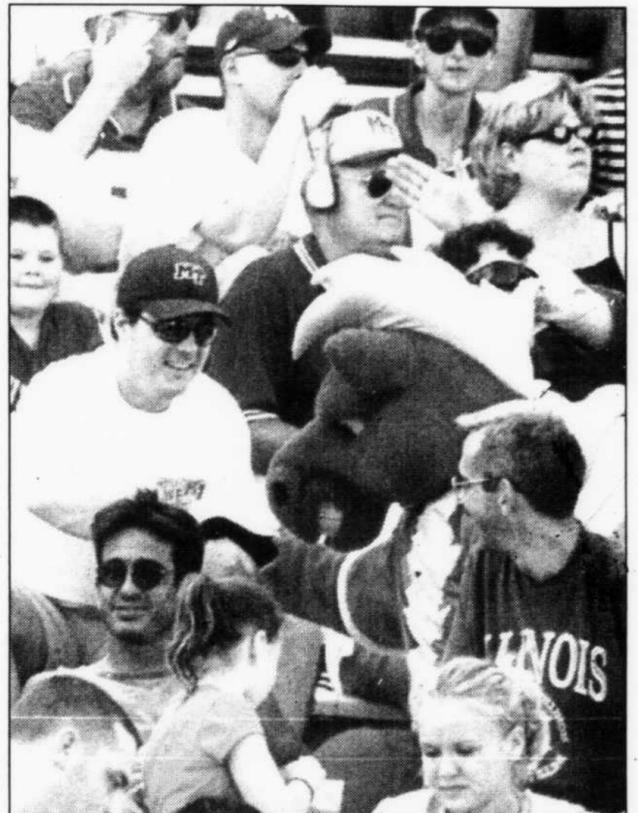


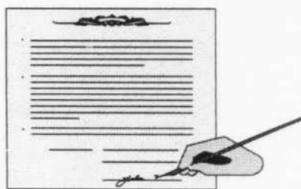
Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor
Lightning mingles with the crowd during Saturday's Blue Raider football game at Illinois.

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Like the design, hate the design, tell me.
Email comments to Raymond at sldesign@mtsu.edu

ATTENTION : Students, Staff, & Faculty



The University Rules Committee annually reviews MTSU's promulgated institutional rules. This material appears in the 2000-2001 edition of the Student Rights & Responsibilities publication. Proposals for changes to existing rules, or for the creation of new rules, must be submitted no later than September 13, 2000, to Dr. David Hays (MTSU Box 30). Regulations appearing in the MTSU Traffic & Parking Rules pamphlet are also a part of the University's institutional rules. Proposed additions or changes in these rules must be submitted to Ms. Connie Hagberg (MTSU Box 147), also no later than September 13, 2000.

Proposals are to be typed and must contain the following information: (1) the text of the rules as it now appears; (2) the text of the rules as proposed; and (3) a statement of rationale which supports the proposed change. Item (1) should be disregarded if the proposal is for a new rule

Meetings of the Rules Committee will be announced via Sidelines and on campus e-mail.



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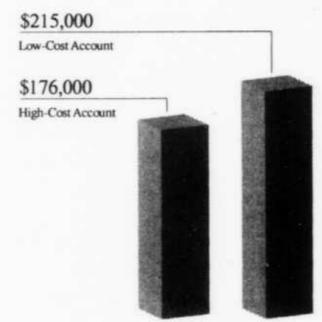
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SGA: Homecoming plans underway for fall already

Continued from 1

Aramark Food Services again this year to spur students to vote in the Homecoming elections. "When you vote for the Homecoming Queen and the Freshman Senate, Aramark is giving away free cups to all students," Jones said. "Students can use the cups for 25 cent refills in the JUB cafeteria and the Grille."

Elections for the Homecoming Queen and Freshman Senate will be held Sept. 25 through 27. In order to encourage participation on every organization on campus, a revision in the Homecoming contest point system has been made. "We are presenting more opportunities for organizations to be winners in the Homecoming activities," Jones said. "There will be a winner for each event and there will be individual trophies as well."

Jones said the new point system will allow smaller organizations and organizations with a limited amount of time to participate in their choice of activities. Some of the traditional activities include Fight Song, Chili Cookoff, and the

Homecoming Parade. Events to be added this year are Battle of the Bands, Funflex and a sky-diving simulator set up on The Knoll. Details about these events will be advertised closer to Homecoming week.

The SGA is encouraging all organizations and groups on campus to participate in Homecoming week. "There will be three informational meetings for delegates of organizations who are wanting to participate," Jones said.

The mandatory Homecoming delegate meetings are Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2. Organizations interested should send one or two representatives. Homecoming participants can pick up entry forms at the delegate meeting on Sept. 18. All forms must be complete with entry fees and signatures by 4 p.m. on Oct. 2.

Channel 10 will be hosting a Homecoming special to be aired Sept. 18 through 22 during their prime-time hours of programming.

For more information about Homecoming 2000, visit the SGA office in KUC 208 or call 898-2464. ♦

Senate: Committees begin fall planning

Continued from 1

volunteering and taking an active role in our community," Burns said. "We want Murfreesboro to know that we are here for more than just an education."

Burns stated that the External Affairs Committee is in the process of brainstorming new ideas for service projects in addition to the ones they already have planned.

"We intend to continue some of the same service projects as SGA did last year," Burns said. "The 'Make A Difference Day' was a success last year as was the basketball tournament for underprivileged kids and the National Healthcare Center visitation and activity days." The External Affairs Committee is introducing a new event this year called the "Miles of Dimes" where MTSU students will collect and distribute toys at an SGA hosted Christmas party for underprivileged children.

Some of last year's community service events are changing

to encourage more student involvement. "We have decided not to participate in the roadside cleanup this year," Burns said. "Instead, we want to plan an activity in its place that is located on campus."

Senate members serving on the External Affairs Committee are senior Jeremy Baker, junior Kelley Dodd, senior David Fletcher, sophomore Selena Hutchenson, sophomore Tracey Johnson, senior Richard Montgomery, and sophomore Missy Warren.

Another new Senate committee is the Student Life Committee headed up by Junior Susan Wilson. The Student Life Committee considers matter dealing with non-academic and co-curricular items and issues and includes dealing with school spirit and traditions.

"One of the activities we have planned for this fall are the student pep rallies in the parking lot of the Murphy Center before all home football games," Wilson said. "We want to cater more events toward students

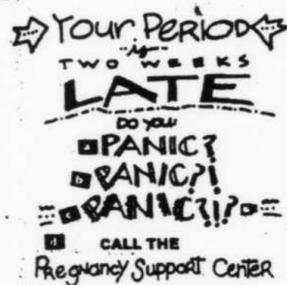
and make events more convenient."

Senate members serving on the Student Life committee are junior Jeremy Helton, senior Russ Henderson, senior Jennifer Jones, Kara Matthews and Amanda Griffin.

The last new Senate committee is the Academic Affairs Committee with junior Emmy Hickman in charge. This committee will work for the best academic environment at MTSU to facilitate learning for the student body and to give the students flexibility to use the many resources at MTSU. The Academic Affairs Committee will meet soon to discuss plans for the upcoming semester.

Senate members serving on the Academic Affairs Committee are senior Jonathon Bancroft, junior Travis Blunt, senior Michael Defere, junior Mary Elizabeth Farrar, sophomore Amy Ford and Nick Presebelos.

To offer comments and suggestions for the Senate committees, visit the SGA office in KUC 208 or call 898-2464. ♦



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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The deadline to apply for student activity fee funds is Friday, September 15.

Applications for funds are now available in KUC 130

To be eligible for funds, you MUST attend one of the Student Organization Orientation sessions

Orientation will take place on the following:

Thursday, August 31	3:00 P.M.	KUC 322
Tuesday, September 05	4:00 P.M.	KUC 322
Wednesday, September 06	5:00 P.M.	KUC 322

For further information call 898-2750.

OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff Smith, make some waves in the wake of President Walker

It's a good thing that Interim President Gene Smith wants to do more than tread water and babysit the university until a permanent president is found.

But for now, Smith has said he doesn't have an agenda except to keep the university moving forward.

He's not even sure what to do about school spirit. No one is.

But not treading water is not enough. Smith needs to make some waves.

Sometimes a little revolution is a healthy thing.

This university needs fresh ideas to keep it moving before it starts to slowly grind to a halt. Smith is the perfect person to be the bearer of these new ideas.

For 37 years, he's been at The

University of Memphis — a school that in the past was in a similar situation as MTSU and broke free. Memphis is now the second largest school in the state, and its academic quality rivals that of the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

In short, Smith, we want to pick your brain and use your experience at Memphis to further this school along by absorbing things that worked there.

Hopefully, the new permanent president will also be from outside the MTSU family. That way, we can get additional perspectives instead of recycling the same old rhetoric.

No offense is intended for anyone at this university who may be interested in the job. It's just time for a new generation to move the ball down the field.

Tuition hike example of Regent tyranny

Jonathan Sword
Staff Writer

How would you feel if someone took something from you without asking? What would you do?

This summer when I was in Guatemala, the government there (definitely not the world's most democratic), tried to raise bus fares in Guatemala City. Though the fare hike only amounted to a few cents, riots broke out the day it was announced.

Fares soon returned to normal, but not until three people had been killed, dozens seriously injured and the U.S. State Department had issued a travel warning. In a place like Guatemala, a few cents a day means a lot.

Meanwhile, several hundred miles to the north, another undemocratic governing body was concocting a fare increase of their own: one that would be met with considerably less opposition.

The Tennessee Board of Regents — with no input from the students who pay their salaries — decided this summer to raise tuition at MTSU by 10 percent. In addition, for the "convenience" of those of us who don't own a car, they decided we now get to pay for the parking spaces of those who do.

I'm mad. I'm also naive, apparently.

I was expecting students to protest, or to at least complain. I wasn't expecting (or wanting) riots, but I was sure it would be a topic of conver-

sation.

Maybe, I hoped, this was just the sort of thing to provoke the sort of activism present on other college campuses.

Instead when I ask other students what they think about the rate hike, I get the now cliché response, "Well, MTSU is still a bargain."

Come on people! College should be free. It could be, if we demanded it. (It is in a lot of other countries). MTSU is not now, nor is it ever been a "bargain." Certainly it isn't 10-percent better than it was just a few months ago.

I am mad for several reasons.

I'm mad at the Tennessee Board of Regents for not seeking student input on the tuition increase nor on the fee "readjustment."

I'm mad because when they voted for these things this summer, they didn't even know where they were going to spend the extra money.

I'm mad because the Board of Regents, by conducting their dirty business this way (while students are away on vacation), send a strong message to the young people of this state that their opinions don't matter.

And I'm mad because after readjusting the fees so that we never have to pay for a parking space even if we never drive on campus, they've tried to convince us our lives are somehow easier. They are liars.

If someone stole a couple hundred dollars out of your wallet, you would be mad, right? The Tennessee Board of Regents has done just that. ♦

SIDELINES

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

Letters to the Editor

Why should students pay for parking at all?

A recent *Sidelines* suggested that requiring freshmen to park on the outskirts will improve parking in the central part of campus.

As a professor, I have watched the "parking problem" grow as the student and staff population has grown. I have also served on the parking committee and dealt personally with some of the issues.

I too once suggested that parking for students be restricted in some fashion.

Recently, the university sent a memo concerning the addition of parking fees to all students fees, and they provided a justification for the parking fees. Their justification for parking fees (to pay students to give other students tickets and to pay for the bus system) does not seem reasonable.

In fact, I can see no good reason to charge students for parking at all. Why not simply do away with parking fees?

Let's allow anyone to park anywhere at any time.

The Raider Express is a useless expense and is not serving the majority of students. Get rid of it.

With no parking rules, there is no need for ticket-givers. Get rid of them.

Cars occupying handicapped and reserved spaces, as well as those blocking fire hydrants or loading docks, can be towed by a Murfreesboro towing service — one that pays the university for the privilege on an annual contract basis. They merely drive around campus looking for violators.

We can shut down parking services, eliminate the expense of the personnel and building and make this a democratic campus in which all parking is equally accessible to all.

Donald F. Kendrick

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and content.

White's column nothing more than propaganda

Well it's an election year again, so lately I've been discounting a lot of what I read. But Angela White's comments in her article "Atypical Woman" so stereotype Southern women that she falls victim to the same divisiveness that she seems to think is at the core of all gender issues. Ms. White uses women's rights as a pretext for her own personal political beliefs. And this is unfortunate since partisan politics tends to trivialize women's issues...not that women's issues should take precedence over anyone else's issues.

I gathered from reading "Atypical Woman" that Angela White has no desire to move to a small Southern town and become president of the Junior League, which is probably best for everyone. She paints Southern women with a pretty broad brush as being brainwashed by upbringing and religion. But from the tenor of her article, I'm not sure who's brainwashed.

According to White, these types of women view feminism as threatening to "perks" like a man simply holding the door for them. But her "perks of ladyhood" are frankly examples of simple civility. And I don't see civility as a gender issue. Civility is about doing little things for one another that makes life more pleasant and bearable. Holding the door for someone is neither a political nor sexist statement. It's a simple act of kindness.

She goes on to state, "Women are actually being swayed by George W. Bush...and these women are putting our future at risk." Now this isn't an appeal for equality but an indictment of anyone who doesn't share her political beliefs. Hey, maybe it's something in the water down south, but Ms. White just doesn't think we're too bright. But that's okay, because we're all smart enough to see that this is just a little piece of political propaganda dressed up like a serious social issue.

Ms. White concludes with, "Conservative women need to think beyond themselves...with-out letting their personal morals and judgments get in the way." Good advice Ms. White — you should give it a try.

Jennifer McMillen
jem2m@mtsu.edu

Computer labs in serious need of additional staff

Hey *Sidelines*,

I've read your articles about lack of help at MTSU. I am presently taking the 217 (C++) computer class, and I can tell you from first-hand experience that the labs are terribly understaffed.

You can easily spend half of the two-hour lab waiting on some help, and when (and if) it comes, you are lucky to get five minutes of their time to help straighten out a week's worth of problems.

Being a tutor myself (in the calculus-help lab), I know that a tutor can only spend one-on-one time with a certain number of people in a certain amount of time, and I also know that nothing is as good as one-on-one help. Simply stated, the computer labs need more help.

Don Kimble
drk2b@mtsu.edu

Nicotine withdrawal no excuse to be a potty mouth

Editor,
Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum may be better smelling, but she still has a foul mouth.

Don Geddes
Graduate Student

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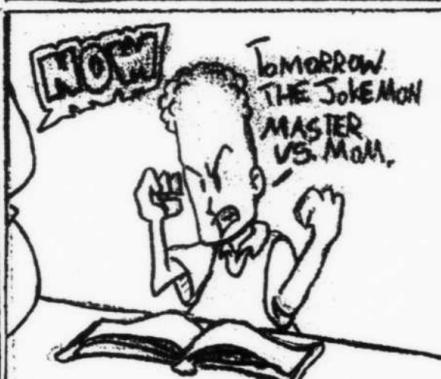
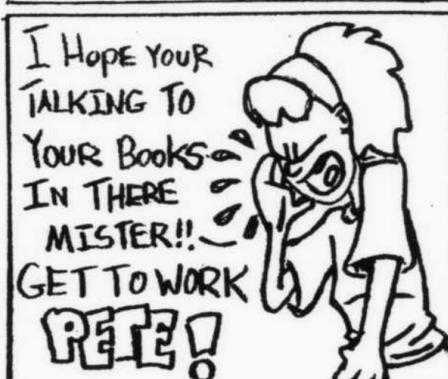
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STYL TRAVEL



By: Andre Harris



Summer 'sizzlers' fizzle

By Jared Wilson
Staff Writer

Summer is almost over, and this film buff feels a bit cheated. This season's Hollywood offerings were par for the course in terms of box office sales, but this summer's movies, for the most part, struck out in the overall excellence department.

Going back to June, Ridley Scott's bold epic *Gladiator* seemed the most promising. It offered some fine performances, from Joaquin Phoenix, most specifically, and great visuals. Russell Crowe was a dandy anti-hero, but in the end, the film seemed to prefer style to substance. Ridley's film is a revenge fantasy, plain and simple, and its *Spartacus* meets *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* flare usually works.

Around the same time Crowe was bludgeoning visitors in the coliseum, Jonathan Mostow's WWII submarine thriller *U-571* debuted. This film provided some great scenes of authentic suspense and claustrophobia. The ensemble cast, including Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel and Bill Paxton worked well together, creating some intriguing drama. Ultimately however, *U-571* will be this decade's *Memphis Belle*, a decent war flick nobody really remembers.

Perhaps the most promising of the popcorn movies was the John Woo and Tom Cruise collaboration in *Mission: Impossible 2*. It certainly lived up to the hype with the action sequences, further cementing Woo's position as the best living action film director. The Woo signatures — slow motion, doves, two-fisted gunplay — all made appearances. Cruise, as always, lights up the screen with his overwhelming charisma. The problem with *M:2*, though, was its sheer goofiness. Chalk it up to "comic bookishness" if you like, but the simplistic story, with all of its inconsistencies and ridiculous twists, swallowed up its good intentions. Technically superb; dialogically moronic.

Later this summer, Disney released a Bruce Willis vehicle entitled *Disney's The Kid* to sidestep legal action by Charlie Chaplin's estate (Chaplin already had a *The Kid*). Forget that you can't copyright titles or that the works are separated by so many decades, nobody would confuse the two. This isn't the silliest thing about *Disney's The Kid*. The movie is about a bitter image consultant (Willis) who meets himself as a child. The surprising thing about this film is that it's actually pretty good. It bypasses its irritatingly "cutesy" potential and achieves pure charm and wit. In the heap of summer blockbusters, *Disney's The Kid* is a rare gem.

In an attempt at resurrecting the comic book adaptation trend, Bryan Singer directed Marvel's *X-Men*. Not

much can be said about this film, which spends its full running time explaining the X-Men's origins while toying with a lame plot about the super-villain Magneto mutating the world's leaders. Technically the film is impressive, but it's an ultimately unsatisfying franchise starter.

Robert Zemeckis directed a creepy supernatural thriller called *What Lies Beneath*, starring Michelle Pfeiffer as a woman haunted by a ghost from the past. Harrison Ford plays her husband, a man who may or may not have something to do with the ghostly apparitions. Zemeckis's attempts at emulating Hitchcock are a little misguided. Hitchcock's ghost would have been a psychological manifestation (or something like that), but Zemeckis has never been known for his subtlety. The worst thing about *What Lies Beneath* is that its advertising campaign reveals the entire plot! If you've seen the commercials and previews, you know all the twists and turns. This was a horrible move by the people behind the film's promotion.

On the other hand, *Hollow Man* is a thriller that actually thrills. Paul Verhoeven directs this film about a scientist (Kevin Bacon) who invents an invisibility formula for the Pentagon, and who moves from testing it on animals to testing it on himself. Apparently, the formula increases aggression and paranoia, because he proceeds to terrorize his colleagues, including his former girlfriend, played by Elisabeth Shue. *Hollow Man* begins rather well and then devolves into a silly mess. But it's fun all the way through, even bordering on camp.

It's a surprisingly satisfying sci-fi flick with astounding special effects from the director behind other "silly" thrillers like *Basic Instinct*, *Total Recall*, and *Starship Troopers*.

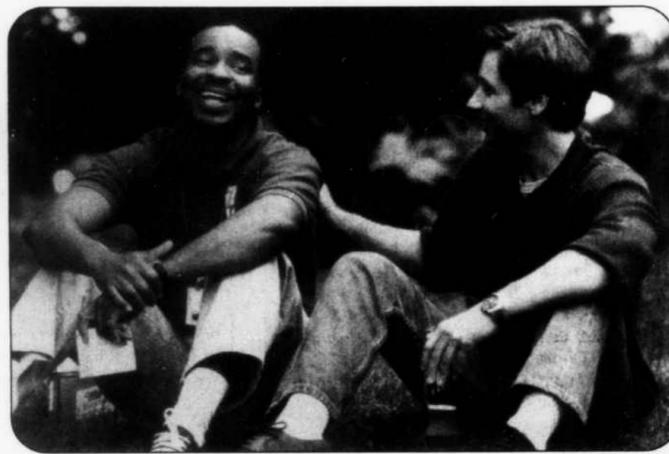
Taking the opposite route, *The Replacements*, starring Keanu Reeves as a college football hero who gets a chance at the pros when the NFL players strike, begins awfully and gets better, but is still inferior to Verhoeven's film.

The Replacements is a comedy that believes the more jokes it throws out there, the better chance it has of being



Photos Provided

{Above} Elisabeth Shue and Kevin Bacon star in the suspense thriller *The Hollow Man*. {Left} Ben Stiller, Jenna Elfman and Edward Norton are friends reunited in *Keeping the Faith*. {Below} David Alan Grier and David Duchovny share a laugh in *Return to Me*.



funny. This sort of thing may work for parody films like the *Naked Gun* series, but for a character-based comedy, it's much too risky a scheme. Gene Hackman is utterly wasted as the coach assigned to lead the replacements for the Washington Sentinels. Keanu Reeves is, as always, a dolt. Despite some decent efforts from character actors Orlando Jones (best known for his "Make 7-Up Yours" TV spots) and Rhys Ifans (best known as Hugh Grant's roomie in *Notting Hill*), this film is immensely disappointing. The saddest part for me was to see Jon Favreau, the great writer and actor behind the indie hit *Swingers*, degrade himself as a thickheaded, built-like-

an-ox defensive lineman. *The Replacements* can be fun (and even funny) at times, but it's not worth the ticket price. It could be this generation's *Police Academy*.

So, while the summer offered moviegoers some real thrills and chills, none of its films were particularly memorable, and none of them qualify as Oscar contenders. The best of the summer films may have been a pair of romantic comedies, *Keeping the Faith* and *Return to Me*. However, the odds of the Academy noticing either one of these works are virtually nil. One can only look to the fall with better hopes. ♦

Judgement

- GLADIATOR • B-
- U-571 • B-
- MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2 • C+
- DISNEY'S THE KID • B
- X-MEN • C
- WHAT LIES BENEATH • C
- THE HOLLOW MAN • B-
- THE REPLACEMENTS • D+
- KEEPING THE FAITH • A
- RETURN TO ME • B

'Ugly' plot only skin deep

Strong characters, upbeat music fills out 'Coyote'

By Bill McIntire
Staff Writer

Coyote Ugly is a perfect end of summer movie. It's fun. It's energetic. It has a handful of beautiful women. And it doesn't make you think too much.

The plot revolves around a young songwriter named Violet (Piper Perabo) who leaves home to make it big in New York City. When an uncaring music industry and crippling stage fright threaten to end her dream, the spunky Violet takes a job as a barmaid at the sexually charged watering hole, *Coyote Ugly*.

The Coyotes, the name given collectively to the barmaids, trade on their individual personas. Violet, renamed Jersey and played off as a reformed nun, is joined by Rachel the Bitch (Bridget Moynahan), and Cammie the Russian Tease (Isabella Miko) when she replaces Zoe (Tyra Banks) who still comes in for the replacement performance. The whole operation is controlled by Lil (Maria Bello), the self-appointed original Coyote. The bar's name is deliberately ironic.

There's not an ugly lady in the bunch. From there Violet's new career takes center stage as she struggles for acceptance from her father (John Goodman), her new boyfriend (Adam Garcia), and the world in general when she finds performing on top of a bar comes easier than on stage.

Yes, it's a simple story that takes absolutely no chances. Gina Wendkos' script stays comfortably within the conventions of the "girl with a dream" plotline we've all come to know so well. But if you're willing to condemn this movie for the plot, you're missing the point entirely.

Like any formula movie, the story is not plot



Photo Provided

driven. The strength is in the characters. David McNally isn't directing Shakespeare here and he knows it. None of the actors need to push the creative envelope to sell their characters. Instead McNally concentrates on giving each character, and thus the film as a whole, a distinctive and

likeable personality. Goodman is reliably paternal in his overstuffed teddy bear way. Beecake is witty and engaging with just enough beefcake scenes to attract hordes of 16 year-old girls. But I'm not a 16 year-old girl. I'm a 30 year-old man, so let's talk about the women.

With the exception of *Violet*, none of the Coyotes are given much depth. Character nuance is drawn in very broad strokes and is usually best expressed when dancing on the bar. This lack of substance in no way limits their screen time. These are all beautiful women, although *Violet* is more cute than sexy when compared to her comrades, who know how to dance up a storm and work a crowd, whether it's the onscreen bar patrons or movie audiences. Their energy is fun and infectious.

Since the movie is named for the establishment itself, a decent effort is made to give the setting its own personality through unique customs such as dousing customers who ask for water to the cheer of "Hell no H2O!", a selection limited to beer and liquors named after men and a truly great jukebox. The Coyotes get to dance, and in *Violet*'s case sing, to one of the best movie soundtracks I've heard in years. Original songs by LeAnn Rimes are combined with established favorites from artists as diverse as Kid Rock and Charlie Daniels, making for an upbeat collection that's just right for this party.

With a PG-13 rating, *Coyote Ugly* doesn't have any more sexual bite than a hard tease, perhaps giving it a softer edge than it deserves. At its heart, it's a teen movie trying to act grown up, and for the most part succeeding. It also succeeds where too many summer films fail to deliver - it's just fun. You probably won't see *Coyote Ugly* win any Oscars unless Rime's "Can't Fight the Moonlight" wins for Best Song (which could happen depending on what Disney offers this year).

This isn't the kind of movie that wins awards. This is simply one last great summer fling, and that's enough. ♦

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Name of the game plan: laughs

'Replacements' sports a laid-back 'play'

By Bill McIntire
Staff writer

My first reaction to *Any Given Sunday* was that it could have been really good if it had been about an hour shorter. *The Replacements* almost proves it.

Some might not consider this a fair comparison. After all, Oliver Stone's treatment of professional football was considerably more ambitious than the current Howard Deutch comedy. The difference is that Stone's film overextended itself by highlighting the drama behind the scenes. *The Replacements* reserves the action for the games. The result is a much tighter and enjoyable movie.

This film is a spoof of the 1987 NFL strike. The fictional Washington Sentinels solve the walkout by allowing maverick coach, Jimmy McGinty (Gene Hackman) to recruit anyone he wants to play the last four games of the season. McGinty assembles a team of misfits, including a soccer player from Wales (Rhys Ifans), a SWAT team commando (Jon Favreau), a sumo wrestler (Ace Yonamine), and a couple of gangster thugs (Michael Taliferro and Faizon Love). To lead this surly bunch, McGinty

hires Shane Falco (Keanu Reeves), a quarterback best remembered for a disastrous Sugar Bowl defeat. With a spot in the playoffs at stake, McGinty and Falco lead their warriors into battle with nothing to lose.

That last sentence may seem like a contradiction. It isn't. Even if the replacement Sentinels manage to make it into the playoffs - you can probably guess right now whether they do or not, but I won't spoil it for you - the strike ends with the regular season, and so do the replacements. In another context this could be a fatal flaw to the story because it inevitably tarnishes any triumph the team achieves. Not here. This film glosses over that particular aspect of the story so well it isn't even noticeable until the final moments of the movie. It's not the story or any of the other silly little subplots that get picked up along the way that matter. That's all just window dressing for what really counts - football.

The game sequences, while not as technically proficient as in *Any Given Sunday*, are just as involving for gridiron fans. The action is made all the more credible by the commentary of John Madden, who has no



Photo Provided

more idea what the Sentinels are doing than anyone else, but still manages to call the plays anyway, in his own bombastic style. The action only slips up when the climactic play of the last game shamelessly mirrors the same moment in *Any Given Sunday* too much, but it works well enough to be forgivable.

This movie is so laid back and fun that the actors almost seem secondary. Solid perform-

ances by Hackman and Reeves get lost among the comic mayhem. Even 7-Up pitcher Orlando Jones, who could have easily used this as a vehicle on the coat tails of Reeves and Hackman, is underwritten enough to make him very funny without being overbearing.

No one is given too much screen time, so no one can dominate the action. That's just

another aspect of the game that the movie gets right. It's a team sport so the team gets featured over individuals.

The Replacements had a very simple goal. It wanted to make a funny movie about football. Realism was obviously never an aim, and it's a better movie because of it. This movie never takes itself too seriously, so audiences don't feel obligated to either. ♦

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Internationally Renowned Mark Morris Dance Group to Perform in Nashville

The internationally renowned Mark Morris Dance Group will perform at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center September 8-9 on a tour that includes stops in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis and Honolulu.

Called the "Mozart of Modern Dance" by *The Washington Post*, choreographer Mark Morris, who will be performing on the TPAC stage with the company, is known worldwide for his creativity, diversity, and devotion to music.

Mark Morris makes no exception to his rule of performing to live music. The Dance Group travels with a company of musicians who appear with the troupe.

"Everything you have heard about Morris is true," wrote Alasair Macaulay in a representative review in the *London Financial Times*. "There is no more musical, inventive, volatile, or entertaining dancemaker currently afoot ... Morris alone is infusing America modern dance with the freshness that may rescue it from weary formula and resuscitate it for a younger generation." ♦



photo provided

An excerpt from "Dancing Honeymoon," The Mark Morris Dance Group, will perform this weekend at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville.

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Blue Raiders not as bad as people think

I am sure many of you know by now that your Blue Raiders suffered a heart-breaking loss this past weekend. On the other hand I am sure that you don't know how close that 35-6 score really was. I am sure many of you had written off the Blue Raiders even before they played the game.



Michael Barrett
Sports Editor

Well, I want you all to know that you should be very proud of your team. They played their hearts out and left everything on the field. Had they not had a few penalties and a couple key mistakes, they would have had a great opportunity to win this game.

To all the guys on the team this is for you. I was there and I am proud to say, I was cheering you guys on. You did this university proud and I am eagerly anticipating this weekend's match-up with Florida.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to tell the students here that we have a pretty darn good football team. These guys are going to surprise some people this season and wouldn't you like to be there to see it happen. Your Blue Raiders take on the Florida Gators this weekend down in Gainesville.

Florida comes in to the game ranked No. 5 in the coach's poll. This is the highest ranked opponent MTSU has faced since playing No. 1 Florida State in 1991.

I have seen several signs around campus offering trips down to Gainesville to go watch the game. I don't want to misquote any prices, but I will say it's a very good deal.

"The Swamp" as it is affectionately known, is one of the greatest college football environments in the country. This may be the game that your Blue Raiders put it all together and stun the world and wouldn't it be great to say you were there to see it all.

Even if for an unknown reason you claim you're a Vol's fan, you should go to this game just to root for your beloved Blue Raiders and against those hated Gators.

I am taking it upon myself to title this game as "Operation Toledo." In case you don't know, The University of Toledo played heavily favored Penn State and beat them convincingly. I see no reason in the world we can't do the same.

So before you are to quick to write off MTSU again, think to yourself, can this be our game? Can the Blue Raiders shock the world?

Go Big Blue and so you in "The Swamp." ♦

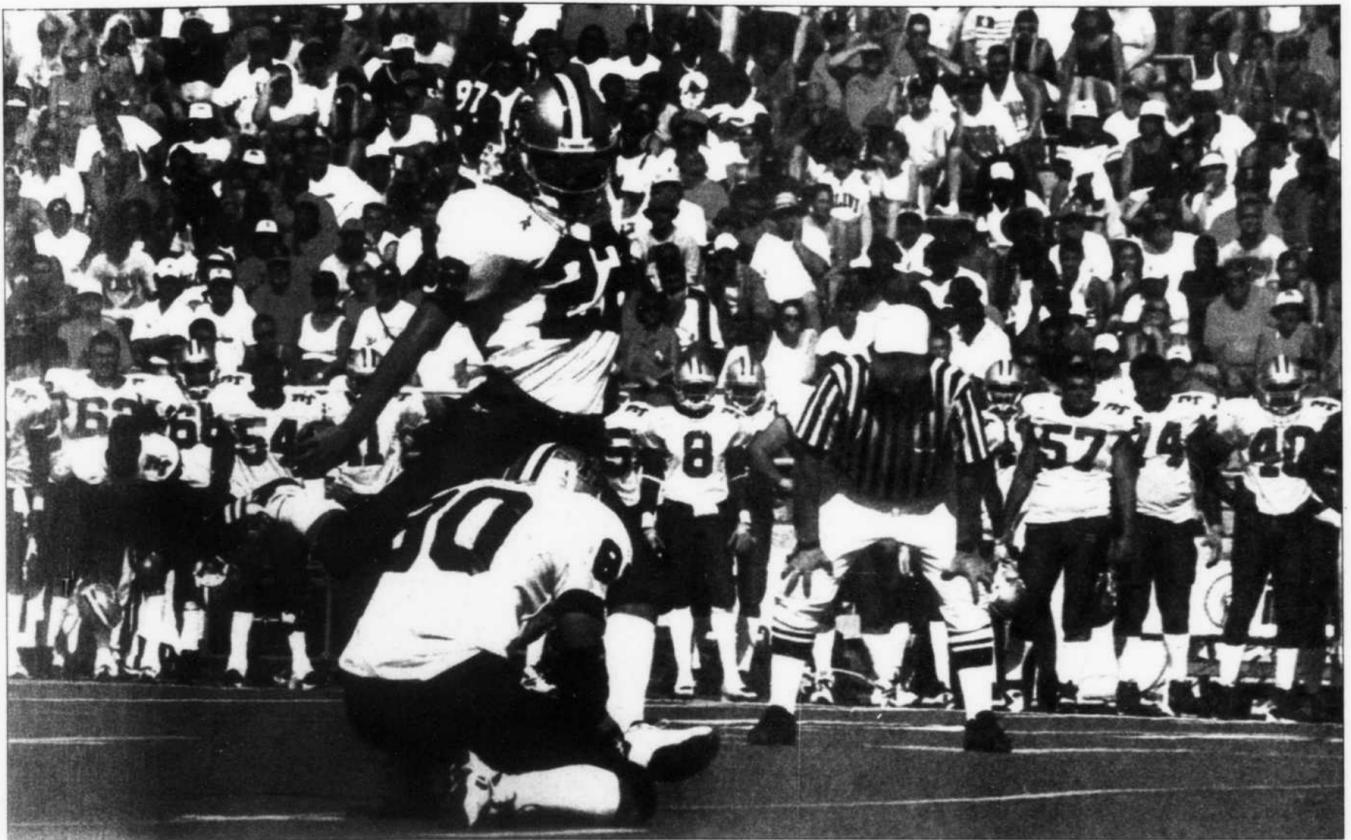


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Brian Kelly kicks one of two field goals during Saturday's game against the Fighting Illini. Kelly scored the only points for the Blue Raiders.

Raiders drown in Champaign

By Michael Edwards
Sports Writer

Jubilant. Heartache. Joyful. Disappointed.

Those four words, in that order, sum up the Blue Raiders season opener against Illinois, which resulted in a 35-6 loss.

"We practiced too hard to come down here, and lose 35-6," said Jason Johnson, junior quarterback. "We worked hard in the hot sun."

Despite a 7-6 halftime score and a dominating performance turned in by the defense that is exactly what happened to the Blue Raiders on Saturday.

Junior quarterback Wes Counts, who split time with Johnson, continued his success as a Blue Raider throwing for 150 yards and two interceptions.

Johnson saw considerable playing time, throwing for 112 yards on 13-of-16 passing.

At the half Middle Tennessee had out gained Illinois in nearly every statistical category but one: total points.

On four separate drives, the Blue Raiders successfully drove the field, stopping only because of a miscue on the offense.

Middle Tennessee's defense stifled the No. 10 offense in the country, while the offense owned the Illinois defense - except when it came to scoring points.

The second drive for MTSU, started at their own 20. The Blue Raiders drove on the Illinois to the Illinois 32 yardline, before Counts was sacked for a four-yard loss, forcing the Blue Raiders into third down and 14 yards

to go. Counts heaved the ball down the side to 6-foot-4 receiver Tyrone Calico, who made a Randy Moss-like catch, but was ruled out of bounds by the officials.

Johnson was unable to force the action in his first opportunity but, did manage to drive the ball 46 yards before stalling at the Illinois 36, on the Raiders next drive.

Although, nothing had happened yet for Middle Tennessee, the Raiders had owned the first quarter statistically.

With just a few seconds having ticked off the second quarter clock, the Big Blue drove again, this time from their own 33.

After reaching mid-field, Johnson hit receiver Hansford Johnson for 16 yards, before coughing up the snap, losing 14 yards and essentially ending their chance on that drive.

The Blue Raider defense managed to hold the Illini inside the Illinois 20 before forcing a punt which was stopped at the Illinois 45, after a seven yard return by Hansford Johnson.

Counts and the Raiders had great field position and took advantage by driving to the Illinois 9 before picking up a holding penalty.

On the ensuing play, Counts hit receiver David Youell for 12 yards to the seven, but the Raiders were tagged with a personal foul, backing them up to the 22. Kicker Brian Kelly hit a 39 yard field goal to make it 7-0 in favor of the Illini.

Middle Tennessee didn't wait long to attack again. Linebacker Glenn

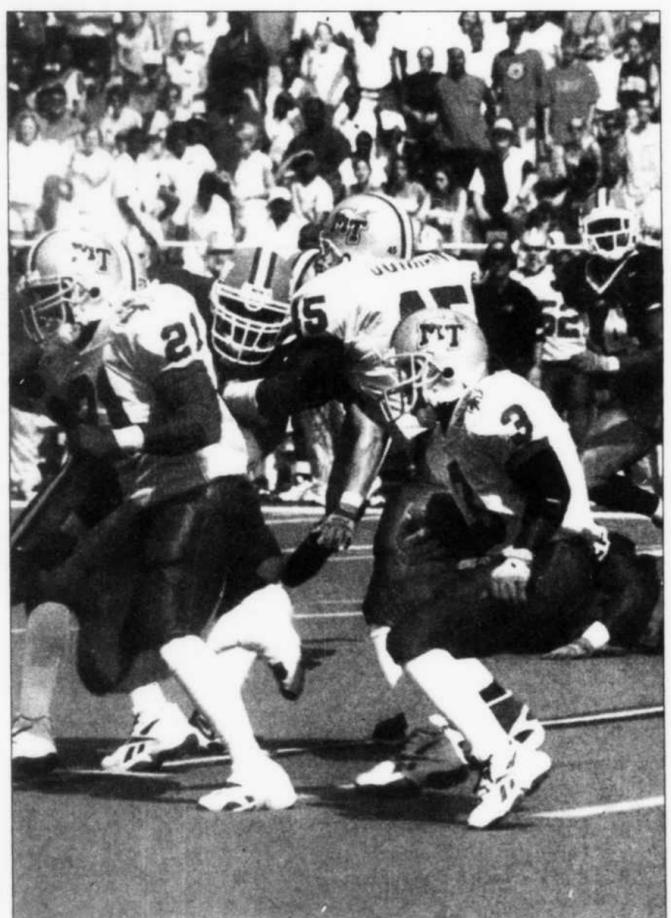


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Hansford Johnson cuts back against the Fighting Illini.

See Champaign, 8

Fowl Play

Athletic Director leaves MTSU for NC State



Fowler

Staff Reports

Less than a month after President Walker's announcement that he will leave MTSU for Southern Illinois University, MTSU's athletics director, Lee Fowler, has been named as the new athletic director at North Carolina State.

Fowler, who has been MTSU's athletics director since 1994, will succeed Les Robinson, who became The Citadel's athletic director last Friday.

Although Fowler could not be reached for comment, he was quoted as saying after his interview with N.C. State chancellor Marye Ann Fox last month that he felt good about his chances.

Fowler will officially take over as N.C. State's athletic director Oct. 1., the same day President Walker starts at SIU.

Fowler will have a five-year contract and an annual package worth more than \$250,000.

Lee Moon, Wyoming athletics director, and Bobby Purcell, executive director of N.C. State Wolfpack Club, were informed they would not be the choice Sunday. However, it was only when Jim Copeland, athletics director at Southern Methodist, withdrew from the candidacy that Fowler's position became official. Both men were leading candidates in the race.

An interim athletics director will be chosen soon while MTSU searches for Fowler's replacement. Possible candidates for the interim position are Larry Counts, associate athletics director; Boots Donnelly, former football coach and current director of community relations; and golf coach Johnny Moore. ♦

Volleyball set for another season

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

The MTSU volleyball team is pumped up for a new season.

Most of the Lady Raiders team from last year is returning this season. They lost only one senior from last season, Kelly Smith. A temporary loss was also suffered when senior Abby Hartup broke her hand in practice two weeks ago.

"No one is necessarily going to take Kelly's place," Kissee says. "She's just the type of personality you don't replace. You just now have a new team and a very new makeup."

The Lady Raiders begin the season with only ten players. Coach Kissee uses a system in which eight people are actually starters. Those players are Kelly Quinn and Goldie Bilyeu-Sears at setter; Lindsay Pritchard and Jennifer Hignite as middle hitters; Katie Thiesen, Alicia Scott, and Karisse Baker as right side hitters; Shakeithia Deckard and Erin Hillstrom as left side hitters.

"It's a pretty balanced attack," Kissee said. "We have the capability of every player averaging three kills per game. Up until Abby got hurt that was the most depth we've had on the out-

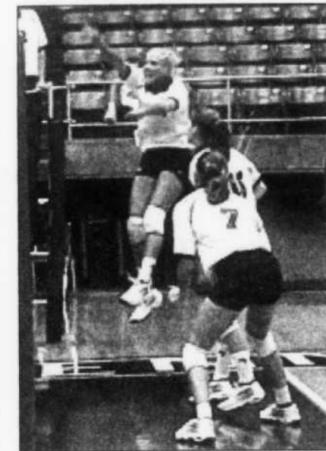


Photo Provided

side since I've been here. It's been awesome! It's been like who's going to start and that's a great problem to have."

The biggest strengths for the Lady Raiders are their chemistry, versatility and the depth on the outside.

Senior Lindsay Pritchard is the go to player and the leader of the team, while sophomore Katie Thiesen is another strength on the right side.

"Lindsay is our go to. She's come

along very well, worked hard for four years, is in great shape, and is a great example for the girls," Kissee said. "Katie has been hitting well, working on her shots, working on being more deceptive, speeding her arm up, and getting better."

Kissee sees the move to the Sun Belt as a very positive move. The move to the Sun Belt Conference has increased scholarship money for the Lady Raiders, which allows them to draw more people.

Most conference teams will pose tough competition for the Lady Raiders.

"I expect us to be in the hunt in the Sun Belt. We have the talent to do that," Kissee said. "The only thing we have to do to make that talent work for us is to work hard in practice. The competition will be higher and that will make us better. It will be tough at first."

The Lady Raiders are trying to increase student support by having a residence hall challenge at home games.

It will be tournament format and each resident hall will have a team that will play between the second and third game.

They will be able to win prizes for their resident hall. The Lady Raiders play their first home match tonight. ♦

Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and ranking in the previous poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Nebraska (39)	1-0	1,736	1
2. Florida St. (28)	1-0	1,725	2
3. Michigan	1-0	1,513	6
4. Miami	1-0	1,493	5
5. Wisconsin (1)	1-0	1,391	4
6. Texas (2)	0-0	1,345	7
7. Kansas St.	2-0	1,334	8
8. Florida	1-0	1,263	9
9. Georgia	1-0	1,245	10
10. Virginia Tech	1-0	1,119	11
11. Southern Cal	1-0	964	12
12. Tennessee	1-0	901	13
13. Alabama	0-1	824	3
14. Purdue	1-0	805	15
15. Washington	1-0	773	14
16. UCLA (1)	1-0	766	—
17. Clemson	1-0	612	17
18. Ohio St.	1-0	591	16
19. Mississippi	1-0	528	18
20. Oklahoma	1-0	487	19
21. Illinois	1-0	398	21
22. TCU	0-0	354	20
23. Notre Dame	1-0	166	—
24. Michigan St.	0-0	150	24
25. Southern Miss.	0-1	125	22

-AP

Men's X-country team sweeps APSU duals

MT Media Relations

It was a productive day, to say the least, for the Blue Raider men's cross country team.

The Blue Raiders won all three of its dual meets with Austin Peay (16-39), Tennessee Tech (20-35) and Tennessee State (15-40) at the Austin Peay State University Invitational in Clarksville. Though one race was staged, the event was scored as individual dual meets.

Geoffrey Lagat, Levi Sybert and Anthony McGary, who finished in the top three spots respectively, led the Blue Raiders.

Geoffrey had an excellent race, head coach Dean Hayes said. He was under control all the way.

We had great help from two more newcomers. So we are greatly improved over 1999.

Lagat finished the four-mile race with a time of 21:26 fol-

lowed by Sybert's 22:14 and McGary's 22:18. Thomas Mbanda was sixth overall, finishing with a time of 22:25, while John Cheek was also a top 10 finisher at 23:21 for ninth place.

Thomas Mbanda has really improved since last Spring, Hayes added. John Cheek was solid and the top returnee.

Unfortunately, the men's team which is in the midst of a rebuilding year didn't fare as

well. The Lady Raiders dropped all three of their scored dual meets, losing to Tennessee Tech 15-40, Tennessee State 17-38 and Austin Peay 15-40.

The women did a good job, Hayes said, and should improve as the year goes along.

Both the men and women will be in action September 16 when they travel Sun Belt rival Western Kentucky. ♦

Champaign: Illini wear down Raiders

Continued from 7

Jones stopped the driving Illini by intercepting Illinoi's quarterback Kurt Kitner's pass.

Taking over at his own 30, Counts drove to the Illinois 28 before handing off to tailback Dwone Hicks, who flashed through the line and ran 18 yards wideopen yards before being stopped by his own blocker at the Illinois 10.

Middle knocked off seven more to the three by running

with Hicks. However, after Counts was sacked, the Raiders were forced to close the half, with a field goal, heading to the locker room, down 7-6.

"We kept telling ourselves 7-6 wasn't good enough," Johnson said. "We should have had at least 21 points in the first half."

"We hear about all these records we are throwing," Head Coach Andy McCollum said speaking off receiver Kendal Newson being three catches shy of being the MTSU all-time

leading receiver.

"We move it up and down the field, but we've got to finish the job, and it's not anything they did. It's what we did."

The Raiders first half dominance would not lead into second half success.

Illinois marched down the field in monotonous Big Ten fashion, scoring on the first drive.

Middle turned the ball over on their first possession with a Counts interception. Illinois, once again, punched it in the end zone

to extend the lead to 21-6.

Middle drove late but stalled at the Illini 14. Again, Middle had an opportunity to score when Counts placed a pass perfectly to a wide open Calico, who dropped it.

"We came up here, and tried like hell, but we didn't get it done," Counts said.

McCollum said "We hear about the rushing yards and the passing yards, but we didn't get it in the endzone and that's the bottom line." ♦

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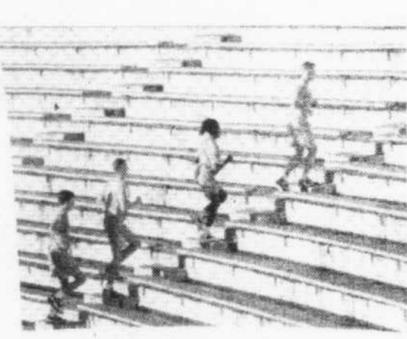
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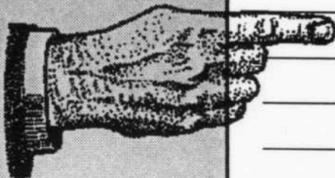
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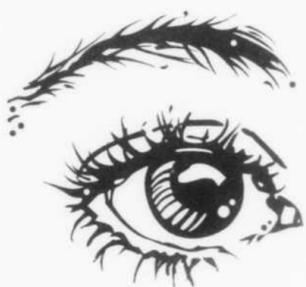
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