

Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 40

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather
Partly Cloudy
55/39

Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro:
\$1.94

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

MT defeats Utah State 60-59 in home opener

Middle Tennessee Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach Donnie Tyndall did his home-



work. With just more than three seconds remaining in regulation and a 60-59 Blue Raider lead, Tyndall told head coach Kermit Davis what inbound play Utah State would run for what would be the final play of the ballgame.

Sure enough, Tyndall was correct.

page 7

Role-playing games, comics join forces at local store

You might not be able to spot Grant Cooley when you first walk into Grand Adventures. He isn't behind the counter and he isn't pushing products on customers.

Instead, Cooley is casually reclined in the back half of the gaming and comic book store, hanging out with his customers, playing *Battlefront* on X-Box and assisting any current Saturday tournaments that might need judging, advice or just a friendly observer.

page 5

Organization holds slavery forum

The Interested Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. are hosting the Modern Day Slavery Forum on Sunday and at 7 p.m. On Sunday night, the movie "Dying to Leave" will be shown in the Keathley University Center, Room 322. The movie explores modern-day slavery and will be free. The Modern Day Slavery Forum will be held in the Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Room. Light refreshments will be served. Topics discussed will include forced labor and human trafficking.

Brother of Health Services director missing

The brother-in-law of Rick Chapman, director of Health Services, has been missing since Tues., Nov. 15. It is believed that after he stopped taking a certain medication, Joe Caston Jr. may have become confused and wandered away from his home in the area of Highway 96 and Pitts Lane in Murfreesboro.

He was last seen walking his dog (a black Husky and German Shepherd mix) near the Food Lion at Northfield Boulevard and Highway 96. Caston is a 42-year-old white male, 6'2" tall, approximately 200 lbs. and has brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information should contact the Murfreesboro Police Department at 893-1311.

Opinions.....4
Features.....5
Classifieds.....6
Sports.....7

Firing McCollum difficult, best for program

By Johnathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee athletic director Chris Massaro spoke on the firing of MT football coach Andy McCollum for the first time in a press conference held on Monday.

Massaro said the decision was a difficult one, but felt it was one that was best for the program.

"Coach Andy Mac is to be commended for his seven years of faithful service his tireless efforts," Massaro said. "It is my hopes that he will be remembered as a coach who ushered in Division I football and won our first conference championship."

"However, we have had four straight losing seasons and a 10-11 record at home over the last 21 games, including a 1-4 home record this season. We've achieved mediocre results, and it's our expectations for our teams to perform at a higher level within our conference. I

believe this change is necessary to move our program forward."

McCollum will continue to coach the Blue Raiders in their final two games, which include a game this weekend at Troy and a Dec. 3 make-up date at Florida International.

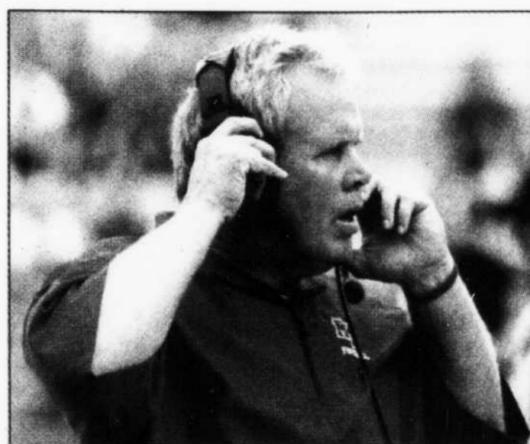
McCollum did not address his dismissal publicly, but did release a statement in a press release handed out at the announcement.

"Right now, my only focus is on these last two games and our players," McCollum said. "I will not comment on this situation until the season is complete. All of my energy and this staff's energy will be spent on trying to win these two games."

While McCollum vows to stick to the plan of playing the last two games of the season, Massaro said the search for a new coach has already begun.

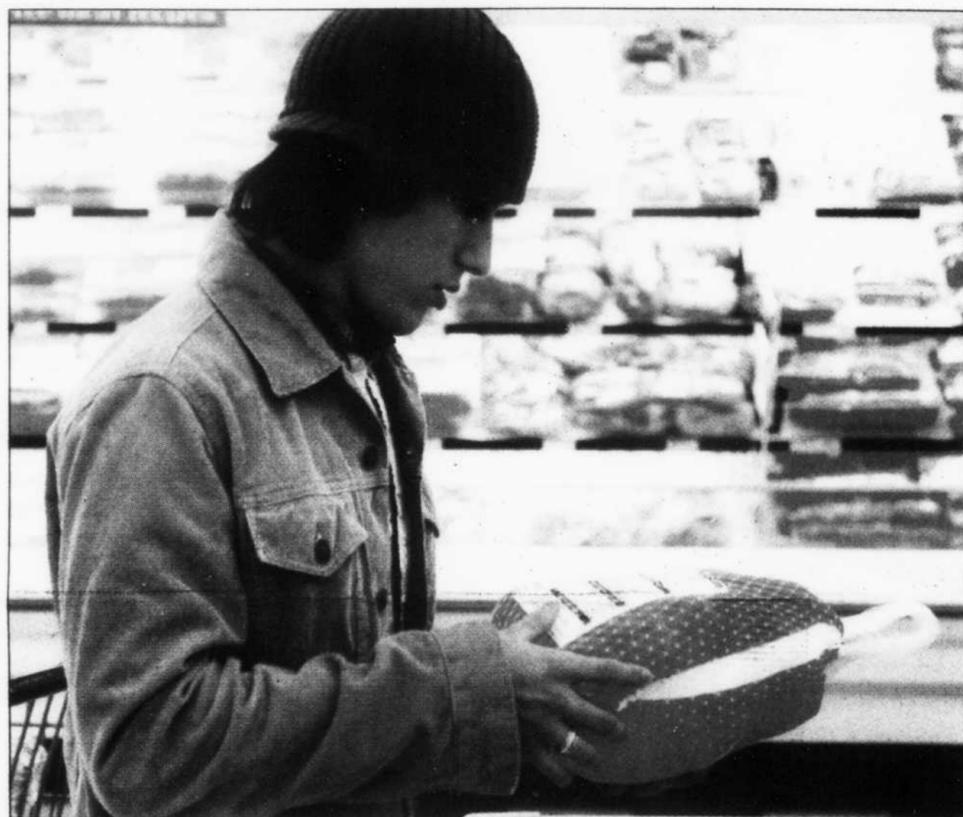
"We will begin our search immediately, and I want to ensure our supporters that we will seek

see McCollum Fired, page 7



Football head coach Andy McCollum, who will be relieved of his duties at the end of this season, won MTSU their first conference championship.

Happy, happy holidays!



Jonathan Strantz shops for a Thanksgiving turkey yesterday afternoon. For college students who are turkey-shopping, a good rule of thumb to guarantee plenty of leftovers is to buy a turkey that weighs three times as many pounds as the number of people who will be eating.

Photo by Daniel Oakley | Staff Photographer

Oral contracts cause theater overbooking

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Controversy over booking in Tucker Theater for last week's "Get Your Laugh On Comedy Night" is due to a lack of a written facility contract.

The comedy event was co-sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Association of Black Journalists and the United Student Coalition, members of which say they were verbally assured use of Tucker Theater.

According to Richard Ivy, producer of the comedy show and member of both MTABJ and USC, a written contract was submitted to the theater to reserve a spot for the comedy act, but the written contract was not pressed due to the presence of a verbal contract.

"There was a verbal agreement between our organizations and the theater, and we did fill out the necessary paperwork, however it was not returned to us," Ivy said.

The theater to use for the MTABJ and USC was Todd Sage. Sage confirmed that their had been facility forms received for consideration, however they were not signed or returned to MTABJ and USC.

"I feel that we did everything possible to find a peaceful resolution," Sage said. "Although at first Richard Ivy seemed very flexible. After some point, they suddenly felt like they could not move the date, particularly once Jason Burks became involved," Sage said.

Cancellation of the comedy show was not an option, according to MTABJ advisor and Electronic Media Communications professor Jennifer Woodard.

"Everything had already been set up and we were only informed of the unavailability of the theater two weeks prior to our actual event," Woodard said.

"Ivy seemed like a person just trying to do a show as an educational experience, and we wanted to help him as much as we could," Sage said. "We never had a volatile meeting, he was very congenial and conducted himself in a very professional manner."

According to Sage, when it seemed that there was not a resolution to be found, he had asked Ivy if the acts for the comedian show had been contacted. Ivy said they had. Sage then inquired whether the acts were flexible and could be moved to another date, and was told by Ivy the acts could do the show on another day.

"We would have gladly worked to help make the show right, we would have helped with fees and probably even helped redo advertising, posters and tickets that had already been printed," Sage said.

Instead, the agreement settled between the MTABJ / USC and the theater would be to supply the comedian show with \$10,000 and relocate the show to the MTSU Recreation Center.

"The money was not a form of payoff," Woodard said. "The money all went to move the production from Tucker to the Recreation Center. Lighting, sound equipment, reproduction of advertising, even a stage had to be built, all of which took the \$10,000."

Some, however, are not as confident the money was not a form of payment.

"I say it was hush money from the school," Ivy said. "Simply because events like Spike Lee and Alpha Phi Alpha's Ms. Black and Gold Pageant were 'overbooked' as well."

Ivy also noted that as part of the \$10,000, another verbal agreement was given where the school would help to put up signs at all MTSU entrances announcing the relocation of the show.

"They did not go through with it. We asked

see Theater, page 2

Bush's approval down among evangelicals

MT Poll reports dissatisfaction with Iraq war, president

By Sandi Van Orden
State and Local Editor

Tennesseans disapprove of George W. Bush, want a change in the U.S. Congress, do not approve of the course of the country and view the war in Iraq as the largest national problem, according to the MTSU Poll.

Bush's approval rating has dropped to 49 percent among evangelical Christians from 69 percent

last spring, according to the poll. His overall approval rating in the state dropped from 55 percent in the spring to 40 percent this fall.

Sixty-one percent of Tennesseans, and 33 percent of Republicans polled, want the next president to have a different approach, while 32 percent want someone with a similar approach.

For Congress and the coming midterm elections, there could be a shift among Tennesseans. Of those polled, 36 percent want the Republicans to retain control, 40 percent would like to see the Democrats gain control and 21 percent were

unsure of who should have control of the Congress.

Twenty-one percent of Tennesseans view the war in Iraq as the largest national problem.

The results indicating what is the most prominent problem in the country appear to be contingent on the candidate voted for in the 2004 election. Of Bush voters, 15 percent named Iraq the top problem, while 26 percent of Kerry voters and 27 percent of respondents who voted for another candidate or did not vote said Iraq was the top problem.

Fifteen percent of Bush voters said "moral and

family values" were the largest problem. Only 3 percent of Kerry voters and 11 percent of other respondents agreed.

Bush himself was considered the largest problem among 22 percent of Kerry voters, 16 percent of other voters and 4 percent of Bush voters.

Of those polled, 40 percent said it was a mistake to send troops to Iraq, and 45 percent said it was not. Of Republicans polled, 84 percent said it was not a mistake, while 86 percent of Democrats said it was. Independents were split — 50 percent view it as a mistake and 40 percent said it was not.

see Poll, page 2

New Sidelines editor-in-chief named amid controversy

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Sarah Mullen will serve as editor-in-chief of *Sidelines* next semester, after being chosen by the editor selection committee on Nov. 11.

Mullen, who has written for *The Columbia Daily Herald*, was selected over Emily Stahl, current assistant news editor who has been a staff member for two years.

"I think she's really qualified,

excited about the job, has professional experience and respect for journalism," said Fern Greenbank, *Sidelines* Publisher and Adviser.

The controversy lies in the fact that Mullen was encouraged to apply and supported by Greenbank.

Greenbank knew Mullen as a student in a reporting class she taught last spring. It was clear Mullen was very experienced and performed above the class level, she said. Greenbank said she kept in contact with Mullen after the semester ended.

Although Greenbank said she didn't know Stahl, she said it would be preferable for someone on the *Sidelines* staff to become editor-in-chief.

Though Mullen said she applied to be a writer for the paper twice, she never joined the *Sidelines* staff. She said the first time she applied last August, she never received a

phone call and assumed the paper did not need additional staff.

The second time she applied was at the *Sidelines* Open House. She said she received one phone call from the paper, but never acted upon it because she was too busy this semester. Matt Anderson, the current editor in chief of *Sidelines*, said he had spoken with Mullen at the meeting and invited her to come to future staff meetings, but she never did.

Because no one else had expressed interest in the position, Greenbank said she approached Mullen to apply as editor the last week of October. She said Stahl did not come forward until the last minute.

Stahl said she had been interested in the position since the fall of 2004, but said she hesitated because of miscommunications that led to

see Sidelines Editor, page 2

World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Economy Afghanistan Election Process Genocide
World Bank Iraq Katrina Afghanistan Supreme Court

Terror suspect Padilla indicted, accused of overseas plot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen held in a Navy brig as an enemy combatant for more than three years, was charged Tuesday with being part of a North American terror cell that sent money and recruits overseas to "murder, maim and kidnap."

However, absent from the indictment were the sensational allegations made earlier by top Justice Department officials: that Padilla sought to blow up U.S. hotels and apartment buildings and planned an attack on America with a radiological "dirty bomb."

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales wouldn't say why none of those allegations were included in the indictment, commenting only on the charges that were returned by a Miami grand jury against Padilla and four other alleged members of a terror cell.

"The indictment of Padilla traveled overseas to train as a terrorist with the intention of fighting a violent jihad," Gonzales said.

Suicide bomber in Iraq kills 21; 3 U.S. soldiers reported dead as toll hits 2,100

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide car bomber killed 21 people in northern Iraq on Tuesday after insurgents lured police to the scene by shooting an officer, officials said. The U.S. command said three more U.S. soldiers have been killed, pushing the American military death toll for the conflict to 2,100.

Elsewhere, insurgents fired a mortar shell at a U.S. ceremony transferring one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Tikrit to Iraqi control. The shell failed to explode but sent the U.S. ambassador, the top American commander and robed tribal sheiks scurrying for cover as the round whistled overhead.

The suicide bomber struck on a busy commercial street in

Kirkuk, a mixed Arab, Kurdish and Turkoman city in an oil-producing region 180 miles north of Baghdad. About half the dead were police who rushed to the scene after gunmen killed a fellow officer.

In addition to the 21 dead, another 24 people were wounded, according to police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qader.

Vatican says sexually active gays unwelcome as priests, but doesn't 'transitory' homosexuals

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican is toughening its stand against gay candidates for the priesthood, specifying in a new document that even men with "transitory" homosexual tendencies must overcome their urges for at least three years before entering the clergy.

A long-awaited "Instrucio," due to be released next week, was posted Tuesday on the Internet by the Italian Catholic news agency Adista. A church official who has read the document confirmed its authenticity; he asked that his name not be used because the piece has not been published by the Vatican.

Conservative Roman Catholics who have decried the "gay subculture" in seminaries will likely applaud the policy because it clarifies what the Vatican expects of seminarians and their administrators.

Critics of the policy warned that, if enforced, it will likely result in seminarians lying about their orientation and will decrease the already dwindling number of priests in the United States.

U.S. Muslim accused of plotting to join al-Qaida and assassinate President Bush is convicted

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — An American Muslim student was convicted Tuesday of joining al-Qaida and plotting to assassinate President Bush. The federal jury rejected

Ahmed Omar Abu Ali's claim that Saudi authorities whipped and tortured him to extract a false confession.

Abu Ali, a 24-year-old U.S. citizen born to a Jordanian father and raised in Falls Church, Va., could get life in prison on charges that included conspiracy to assassinate the president, conspiracy to hijack aircraft and providing support to al-Qaida.

The jury deliberated for 2 1/2 days. Abu Ali swallowed hard before the verdict was read but otherwise showed little emotion. He did not testify at his trial.

"Obviously the jury has spoken, but the fight is not over," defense attorney Khurram Wahid said. "We intend to use the justice system to prove our client's innocence."

Florida teacher accused of sex with 14-year-old student pleads guilty in deal to avoid prison

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A female teacher pleaded guilty Tuesday to having sex with a 14-year-old student, avoiding prison as part of a plea agreement.

Debra Lafave, 25, whose sensational case made tabloid headlines, will serve three years of house arrest and seven years' probation. She pleaded guilty to two counts of lewd and lascivious battery.

The former Greco Middle School reading teacher apologized during the hearing, saying "I accept full responsibility for my actions."

The boy told investigators the two had sex in a classroom at the school, located in Temple Terrace near Tampa, in her Riverview town house and once in a vehicle while his 15-year-old cousin drove them around Marion County.

The boy told investigators Lafave told him her marriage was in trouble and that she was aroused by the fact that having sex with him was not allowed. He said he and Lafave, a newlywed at the time, got to know each other on their way back from a class trip to SeaWorld

Orlando in May 2004.

Study says breast-feeding might help prevent diabetes in mothers

CHICAGO (AP) — Breast-feeding is thought to protect babies from developing diabetes. Now research suggests it might even help keep their mothers from getting the disease, too.

A study found that the longer women nursed, the lower their risks of developing diabetes.

The findings are far from conclusive, but the researchers say breast-feeding may change the study's lead author and a researcher at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

That theory is partly based on evidence in rats and humans showing that breast-feeding mothers had lower blood-sugar levels than those who did not breast-feed.

The new study, published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, involved 157,000 nurses who participated in two long-running health studies.

Merkel faces daunting challenges as Germany's first female chancellor

BERLIN (AP) — Conservative Angela Merkel took power Tuesday as Germany's first female chancellor and its first leader to grow up behind the Iron Curtain, saying the public was eager for the government to get to work after six months of political turmoil.

But the 51-year-old former scientist will have a tough job turning around Europe's biggest economy after years of stagnation. In a potential sign of trouble ahead, more than 50 members of Merkel's unwieldy 448-lawmaker coalition voted

against her Tuesday. Still, the strength of her party's alliance with the left-wing Social Democrats allowed her to win easily in the lower house, or Bundestag.

"Expectations are very high among people in this country that problems get solved, policies made and decisions taken," Merkel said as she ceremonially took over the imposing chancellery across from the Reichstag parliament building.

In an interview for ARD public television, she said the "no" votes did not bother her.

Kenya rejects proposed constitution, dealing blow to president's power

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — President Mwai Kibaki conceded defeat Tuesday in Kenya's first constitutional referendum since independence, a setback to a leader many believe broke his promises to root out the corruption and autocracy that has plagued this east African nation for decades.

Kenya rejected the proposed constitution by 57 percent to 43 percent in voting Monday, said Samuel Kivuitu, chairman of the Electoral Commission of Kenya. Because a third of adult Kenyans cannot read, a banana meaning "yes" and an orange meaning "no."

"Many people rejected the proposed constitution," Kibaki said in an address to the nation. "My government will respect the verdict of the people."

Final results will be published Friday.

Wall Street encouraged by Fed's stance on economy

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks extended their rally Tuesday after the Federal Reserve's latest take on the economy raised hopes that the central bank's string of interest rate hikes are coming to an end.

Minutes from the Fed's Open Market Committee meet-

ing Nov. 1 showed that policy makers remained worried that high energy prices would spark widespread inflation — all but guaranteeing more rate hikes. Yet the Fed also said it would remain sensitive to economic data and hawks would do to a slowing economy, which investors treated as a possible sign that the Fed could end rate hikes over the next few months.

The release of the minutes turned the market around, lifting the major indexes out of losses and giving new life to Wall Street's November rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 51.15, or 0.47 percent, to 10,871.43.

Unable to get a stadium, Marlins to pursue relocation

MIAMI (AP) — The Florida Marlins will look into relocation as early as the 2008 season, after years of unsuccessful attempts to secure a baseball-only stadium in downtown Miami.

Marlins president David Samson said Tuesday the team has received permission from the commissioner's office to investigate its options in other cities. Samson added owner Jeffrey Loria's primary intention is to keep the team in South Florida, but added that no deal will be struck for a ballpark in Miami.

Las Vegas and Portland, Ore., which both failed to land the Montreal Expos before that franchise moved to Washington a year ago, are likely to try to lure the franchise.

"No longer can baseball in South Florida be assured," Loria said in a statement read by Samson. "It is now clear to us that there will be no baseball stadium in the city of Miami. So we must begin to explore other options. Therefore, we will expand our search beyond the city of Miami." ♦

From Crime Log, page 2

from the back of his car on a skateboard and failure to show proof of insurance.

Sunday, November 20 - 2:12 a.m. Mapco Express - 1012 North Tennessee Boulevard Checking Vehicle

Bryan Hendrix, 24, was arrested for driving on a revoked license.

Sunday, November 20 - 11:16 a.m. Nicks Hall Possession of Alcoholic Beverage by One Under 21 Years of Age

Officers out on an Adopt-a-Cop walk through discovered several subjects underage in possession of alcohol. The university to handle disciplinary action.

Sunday, November 20 - 4:50 p.m. Nicks Hall Vandalism Under \$500

Officers responded to a complaint of vandalism and found the second floor fire extinguisher vandalized.

Sunday, November 20 - 6:12 p.m. Monohan Hall Disorderly Conduct

Derek Gregory, 22, was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Sunday, November 20 - 9:29 p.m. Student Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that his credit cards and money were stolen

from his wallet at the Recreation Center. Victim placed his belongings in a locker but did not place a lock on it.

Monday, November 21 - 5:05 p.m. Family Apartment G Harassing/Threatening Phone Call

Victim reported that she was receiving harassing phone calls from her ex-boyfriend.

Monday, November 21 - 5:24 p.m. Blue Raider Drive First Offense DUI

Matthew Lenard, 23, was arrested and charged with his first offense of driving under the influence of an intoxicant, violation of open container law, reckless endangerment and leaving the scene of an accident.

Monday, November 21 - 7:10 p.m. Cummings Lot Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Victim reported that his black Honda Prelude had been struck while in the Cummings Lot.

Monday, November 21 - 9:48 p.m. Corlew Hall Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that he had some belongings stolen and his computer screen vandalized. ♦

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WINTER SPECIALS

Blow Wax \$2.99 (regular \$10.00)

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Opinions



From the Editorial Board

Evangelicals change their minds

The results are in. President Bush is losing his footing. According to the Middle Tennessee Poll, his approval rating dropped by 20 percent to 49 percent.

A devoted Democrat might smirk a little upon reading this statistic, but when he reads that the statistic is among evangelical Christians, Bush's chief supporters, or so he thought, the smirk will be lost in an all-out belly laugh.

If the people who elected Bush to the White House, the people who are naturally predisposed to defend him, are ducking their heads in shame, what does that say for Bush's success as a president?

The situation in which he finds himself would be similar to finding out that your mom doesn't have your back. If the one person, or demographic, who will swear up and down that you can do no wrong gets wishy-washy, you're screwed.

The chorus of hallelujah's is fading.

Bush can't be held completely responsible for his short-comings, though. After all, can he really be expected to end abortion and put a stop to those abominable gays? He only gets to appoint two of the Supreme Court justices, you know.

Also prominent in the numbers is the growing sentiment that it's time to choke down a big helping of humble pie and pull our soldiers out of Iraq. Forty percent of those polled say it was a mistake to send troops to war in the first place, including 16 percent of Republicans, 86 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of Independents.

Moving on...what the hell are "moral and family values," exactly? Apparently, 15 percent of Bush voters believe they are the biggest problem for the country right now, and 41 percent of pollees believe Bush will improve them.

It can be difficult to improve a vague and frustratingly ambiguous thing like "moral and family values," so to help President Bush live up to the expectations of 41 percent of Tennesseans, here are some suggestions, given our dearly-held stereotypical conception of the Bush voter's mind.

There would be 14 percent more baseball, and 17 percent more of mom's apple pie. There would be 87 percent less non-Protestant religious activity, and 88 percent more money. We'll have 90 percent less sex, so put your pants back on. Fox News would be Fair and Balanced 27 hours a day. And finally, Ruth Bader Ginsburg would spend a whole week in stocks.

God bless America. ♦

Men becoming desperate for more 'chick' shows

With shows like *Desperate Housewives* and *Laguna Beach*, female viewers are no longer the only target audience. Men have decided to engage in the guilty pleasures of dirty laundry and rich-kid drama bull.

The excuses: "But there isn't anything else on," "All the women are really hot," and the classic, overused "my girlfriend makes me watch it."

The trouble: guys are not being man enough to own up to that these shows might actually have decent plot hooks and while yes, we all know that the sex appeal is irresistible, men, just as much as women, cannot help getting attached to the characters.

We all know that there will always be the excuses to shoot down the accusations of actually enjoying these shows. Sports commentary and the History Channel are still good covers when they might be caught watching a 'chick' show.

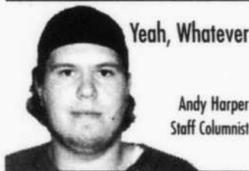
However, whether in the proverbial closet or not, men have developed a strong attraction. Even Teri Hatcher who plays Susan on *Housewives* (but I'm sure you fellows out there knew that), is even hearing how popular the show has become, particularly with men.

"It definitely has that element of women wanting to get together and watch it," Hatcher said on *De Rode Loper*. "But I was just having a male friend of mine say to me this morning that just as many men watch it because they want to know, 'How's my wife really thinking when I'm not in the house?' So they're kind of looking at it from that point of view."

Men are definitely looking at these shows from some point of view, maybe not that one, but they definitely value the show's...aspects.

Of course, we cannot forget the California Dream Queens of *Laguna Beach* and their sultry, saucy and sickening melodrama of not being able to find the right dress or handle boyfriend problems.

But, hey, they are still running around in tight bikinis ready to pop, so that should be justification enough for any straight male viewer.



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper
Staff Columnist

Wrong, because now the beach sex show has a new routine. Unlike the classic

Baywatch, which didn't have a plot past Pam running in slow motion, shows like *Beach* require actually following the storyline in order to be able to keep up with all the mid-drift drama and fully appreciate each character.

And they have all become very popular. Names like Bree Van De Kamp and Edie Britt or Kristin and Talan have become bachelor pad regulars. It seems that guys have become just as familiar with the stories, dramas and episodes as girls.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing. As Hatcher said, the shows may provide some insight for men into the feminine mind, a cheat sheet for the opposite sex.

But are the women portrayed really the women in real life? Has anyone ever known the hot-mom-next-door to lock herself out of her house in nothing but a bath towel? What about the senior socialite bound for ski bunny parties but at the same time worrying about her college-bound boyfriend?

Perhaps, but the better question is whether these are the norms and not the exceptions. It seems logical that if a guy truly wanted to know what a woman thought or felt, he would ask, instead of tuning-in to the next all-new episode.

All aside, variety from Spike TV and ESPN is a good thing. The value of accessorizing one's television viewing pleasure should be well appreciated. And while having regular favorites does the avid TV watcher well, adding in a little dirty laundry to your Sunday night or flipping between commercials to the beach soap of MTV is nothing for any guy to be ashamed of. ♦

Andy Harper is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

United States' 'do as I say' approach hypocritical

It is easy to say that our country's global policies are hypocritical. So easy, in fact, that it is exactly what I'm doing right now.

Often, this hypocrisy stems from the fact that our country switches its commander-in-chief every four to eight years. These individuals don't necessarily agree on foreign policy, ideology or even whether Budweiser or Miller tastes the best. Some of our leaders believe in diplomacy and others believe in imperialism. Often these ideas switch between our two party system depending on poll numbers and public sentiment.

Recently, our country's stance is best exemplified in the old parental saying, "Do what I say, not what I do." We proclaim certain standards to the world regarding weapons of mass destruction, prisoner treatment and all-around decency. Decency is a subjective idea that relates to how one group is supposedly better than another and used to prove moral supremacy. In the name of decency or "standards," proclamations are made, whether it be through structured resolution such as the Geneva Convention, or just typical diplomacy. It is important to note these standards are ignored whenever they do not benefit us.

In the war in Iraq, the United States has shown that we care very little about the global precedent we set. The case is often made that a preemptive strike does not coincide with common law in almost any nation. Imagine if someone person-



So It Goes.

Benjamin Cooley
Staff Columnist

ally tried to defend murdering his or her neighbor by saying, "he threatened me in the past, and I think he might have a weapon." By this very bunk logic, North Korea would have every right to attack us. I'm obviously not saying they will or they should. I'm just saying it would be justifiable by the standard we used for invasion; furthermore, the Koreans know we have weapons and we have threatened them more recently than the Iraqis had threatened us.

The present administration has been forced to look bad by a few thuggish soldiers. These morons used unethical torture techniques in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, but rather than chastising and renouncing these acts, Vice President Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld have said we need to protect our torture techniques. Consider the outrage our country often has for those Arabic and Islamic leaders who do not renounce terrorist attacks. This is the same premise isn't it?

Furthermore, is the broomstick anal probe really necessary? Couldn't we just force them to watch a *Late Night* with

Adam Conolla marathon? This might be a slightly crueler and definitely more unusual punishment.

The administration promised us weapons of mass destruction and when they didn't surface, they pointed at chemical warfare. I'm not sure I'm the only one that has noticed, but we have been using chemical warfare in our attacks on the insurgents. Recent Italian and Polish news sources have reported the discovery of white phosphorus used during the attacks on Fallujah. The Geneva Convention would ban this being an "incendiary device," being that it kills indiscriminately. White phosphorus is a chemical which is used sometimes to create a smokescreen; however, it burns into the skin and cannot be put out. This chemical must be dug out of the still rotting flesh. Recent pictures have surfaced showing the gruesome effects of the chemical.

I'm not saying I have a problem with torture, preemptive strikes, or chemical warfare. OK, I am saying that, but regardless, we should not pretend we are against something that we actually use ourselves.

Otherwise, it will be like that old drug PSA with us asking the insurgents or the terrorists, "where did you learn to do that?" Their response: "I learned it from your dad." ♦

Benjamin Cooley is a senior political science major and can be reached at br2h@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Solidarity disputes Editorial Board's view

To the Editor,

The Wednesday, Nov. 16, Editorial Board opinion on Solidarity's "Killer Coke" campaign is flawed on multiple counts. I'd like to respond on the group's behalf.

First, the legality of placing fliers on campus Coke machines has been rightly questioned. As Solidarity wishes to remain at least as legal as its legitimacy and effectiveness requires, our withdrawing from this up-to-now ubiquitous campus custom is negotiable. However, no Solidarity member has ever claimed, as the editors allege, that placing fliers there is an act of "free speech" guaranteed by a "right." Fliers were placed there owing to the obvious symbolic significance of that location, and because it is as good as any other. No member ever unplugged a vending machine for any reason; we oppose this tactic and regret its association with the group in some minds.

What is infinitely more interesting is the editors' reduction of an important human rights issue to a question of the "touchy" (in the Coke rep's words) legal implications of two percent of the flier placement of a single signatory group on a single day of activism. We are engaged in an international campaign to stop the murder of working people. Your chosen coverage focus is monumentally baffling and shameful.

Moving on, the editors suggest it is wrong to target the American Coca-Cola company because the human rights abuses we allege occurred in a Colombian plant which "operates independently of the U.S. division of the company." This is absolutely false: Coca-Cola Company (USA) has direct ownership of 75 percent of the bottling companies charged with worker abuses. Of the rest, as reported in the Dec., 2003, *Forbes Magazine*, it "effectively controls them by maintaining big equity stakes and a heavy presence on their boards, and by providing their main source of business." The top American Coke executives populate the Boards of Directors of all of its bottlers and own significant amounts of their voting stock. Every bottling contract is governed by a "Bottler's Agreement" which permits Coke USA to inspect and override any aspect of the production process, including "treatment of employees." These agreements permit Coke to revoke or fail to renew the bottling concessions of any company that neglects to comply with its directives.

Using these "levers" of control, Coke has vetoed everything from the sale of Colombian bottling companies to the color of their product transport trucks. It seems obvious that the same oversight could be brought to bear against employee abuses. But we needn't speculate on this point: In the early 1980's, American Coke invoked its bottlers' agreements to demand that its Guatemalan bottlers - in some cases, the same companies we are targeting - halt violence against trade union workers there. This action followed a nine-year campaign against Coke USA similar in all major respects to ours. (This makes much of the editors' claim that Coke USA is too "big" for "the lefties" to tackle; indeed, "the lefties" already have, and won.)

Nor is our campaign overly focussed upon, as the editors mock, "an assassination that happened in another continent in - get this - 1996," or events occurring at any single bottling plant. The last assassination of a SINALTRAINAL (the union that represents Colombian Coke workers) leader occurred in 2002, and another was kidnapped two months ago. Fully 4,000 members of Colombian unions have been killed since 1986. These abuses are documented in hundreds of worker interviews conducted in multiple independent human rights inquiries. These inquiries show an ongoing pattern of complicity in and direction of these acts on the part of the Colombian

Coke bottlers, similar to those admitted by Coke USA in Guatemala.

Finally, the editors' suggestion that we pursue "local labor issues" instead is puzzling. For "local" versus "global" activism presents no either-or prospect; of course a group can do both. Just last semester Solidarity ran - successfully - a campaign to restore to MTSU's Aramark cashiers their stools, removed after 26 years of use on the premise that standing workers are more "productive" than sitting ones. Moreover, poor labor standards abroad induce "local" corporations to relocate, and this threat induces "local" workers to accept poorer conditions here as the alternative to unemployment. In this sense, "global" labor interests are at the same time "local" ones.

Joshua Liner
Senior, Philosophy Major

Safety, not race, reason for show's move

To the Editor:

There were so many things wrong with Thursday, Nov. 17th's paper in regards to "The Rocky Horror Show" and the MTABJ.

Obviously very little research was put into this particular article. If the theatre department had cancelled the 7:30 show, we would have had to do something to ensure that the set was going to be 100 percent safe while the comedians were on stage. There is no guarantee that anyone on stage wouldn't accidentally damage something. Pieces of our set would have also needed to be taken down for safety reasons. In order for us to do that, they would have essentially been making a mockery of all the work the students did, staying until 5 in the morning several nights, and sleeping in the BDA to finish the set.

Keeping the show had very little to do with money. There are classes that require students to see the productions for a grade. Honestly, does it make sense to take even one opportunity from students as opposed to having a comedy show that I'm sure did just as well as it would have done across campus?

Also, the water being sold has nothing to do with making money for the show, either. The water is being sold for the benefit of the student-run theatre fraternity. So, even if APO sold \$1 worth of water, none of that would have gone to the show.

And honestly, I am offended that "race" was introduced into this matter at all. I am a black student at MTSU and also a theatre major and for someone to say something about race playing a part in this matter is not only completely unfounded, but obviously also designed only to cause problems.

Also, those photos posted in Thursday's paper are absolutely illegal. They are property of the Samuel French Company, which owns the rights to "The Rocky Horror Show." All anyone would actually have to do is send a copy of the paper to the company and there would more than likely be some legal action taken. When companies have the rights to a show, they are much like record companies. They have all the rights to every bit of publicity. The reason the casts of shows have "photo call" is so there are pictures available for publicity.

It's not illegal to have photos for the paper normally, but since these particular photos were taken for the show, they are illegal, because in a sense they are property of SFC, no matter who took them.

Also, the fact that the actors expressly stated that no pictures or recording devices of any kind were allowed in the theatre means that your newspaper may need to work with the staff on ethics.

Jennifer Blake
Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts

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Grand Adventures COMICS & GAMES GET PERSONAL

Retailer combines role-playing games, back-issue comics in store where customers play

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

You might not be able to spot Grant Cooley when you first walk into Grand Adventures. He isn't behind the counter and he isn't pushing products on customers.

Instead, Cooley is casually reclined in the back half of the gaming and comic book store, hanging out with his customers, playing *Battlefront* on X-Box and assisting any current Saturday tournaments that might need judging, advice or just a friendly observer.

"This is different than any other shop," says Cooley, owner and manager of Grand Adventures. "There are not many hybrids gaming/comic shops; some are just one or the other. It mostly has to do with the room in a shop and how it is conducive to the activities."

Any gamer searching for a place to spread their character wings or claws would not be disappointed by Grand Adventures' spacious atmosphere that includes seven huge, hand-made wooden gaming tables, a decent sized area of back issue comics and wall-to-wall figures, collectables, gaming supplies and player manuals.

"I was doing freelance designing and started helping the other two owners of Grand Adventures with some graphics and with their gaming system - both of them knew only about comics," says Cooley. "I eventually jumped on board with the other two and have now become the only active partner and manager."

"I frequented a lot of shops before Grand Adventures," continues Cooley, "some that have



Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

Top: Jason Francis and Russell Crichton talk about *War Hammer* while their landscape awaits future battles.



Left: Regular gamers feel comfortable and have room to spread out on the big tables provided at the shop.

comics or some with games and a few that try to be hybrids, but Grand Adventures just had a completely different atmosphere, I guess it was the size and the accommodation potential for gamers."

But it is not just the size of the store that is its defining feature, the reason why customers come back again and again is the management.

"I'm in here a lot," says Michael Nick, MTSU senior and recording industry major. "Grant just hangs out, sometimes we'll play *Confrontation* or *HeroClix* or sometimes just X-Box. Whatever we're really in the mood for,

it's just really comfortable."

Cooley, aside from being the owner and a friend to customers, is also an avid game player himself.

"I basically grew up in a shop, and I worked in gaming shops through high school and played in college," Cooley remembers. "It's been about 15 years now and it is something that has become a big part of my life."

"I think that's the big difference between this shop and others. I've been playing for so long, competing in leagues and with other people. Most game shop owners don't mix their gaming

passion with business, but if you have a shop owner out there playing, it generates more enthusiasm, you get to know everyone by name and you get to work on your craft and help others with theirs," says Cooley.

"The environment is so friendly, and because of that, I've gotten to know a lot of people who come in and play," says Hugh Schmitt, 14, who has now become a veteran gamer at Grand Adventures.

Ben Young, another Grand Adventures regular, says that you can always find someone who wants to play.

"Even if no one is around, Grant will play any game. Everyone who is here often knows everyone else and just about everyone is connected with each other in some way," says Young.

Nick agrees with Young and says that "each individual game has its community of people, but because so many people play so many

see Gaming page 6

Not your average students

MTSU's older generation makes its way on campus



By Juli Shipley
Contributor

Each fall on campus, new freshmen discover the freedom of being on their own and of life in the university environment. For most of them, this is the beginning of their lives and their first time living away from home. Sprinkled in the mix of these young faces are a crowd of folks who blend in quite easily with their youthful faces, yet live completely different lives. These are the 20-somethings that have already developed their existence and are beginning college for the first time. Where do they fit in?

They may have postponed their education because of children, have spent time in the Military or have chosen different paths that have led them back to the educational environment. Some may be returning to school to acquire additional skills to improve their current job situation, and many are coming back to school after years off in order to complete their degree.

It was travel that pulled me away from school. I wanted to see the world, get out on my own and try to take care of myself. I had never even done a load of my own laundry or been out of the south. I was ready to explore the universe around me and school didn't fit in with those desires.

"I was more willing to put forth the effort that it takes to do well, because I know what the 'real world' looks like"

-Kelly Jones, senior nontraditional student

I felt I'd learned enough of books that far and the world had many other lessons for me.

Finding a good job at 22 allowed Kelly Jones, now a senior in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, to enroll at MTSU. The cushion it provided her allowed for less hours on the job and more hours in the classroom and at home with her son, Caiden.

Aric Wells began his first semester last January at 25 in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, after

eight years in the military. For him, studying on the university level was a natural progression of continuing his own education and the military provided him with the financial assistance he needs to complete his degree.

Whatever the individual case, one thing is certain: these are not your typical college students. Adult learners are more serious about their education and tend to be more successful students with higher grade point averages than their

younger classmates.

Wells realizes that he is more focused and mature today than he would've been had he enrolled sooner.

Jones has discovered that for herself, as well.

"One of the biggest benefits I have found is that I appreciate school and what it has to offer," she says. "I was more willing to put forth the effort that it takes to do well because I know what the 'real world' looks like."

Wells tend to focus more on the tasks at hand rather than the cute student down the row.

Most of us show up early for classes, unlike some younger students who often don't show up at all. You'll find us sitting in the front row, vehemently taking notes while you organize your day planner and text-message your friends.

Unfortunately, for those of us that work 40 or more hours a week to pay our own rent, bills and car notes, there is less time to participate in on-campus events and extracurricular activities.

Jones manages to find time to balance work and studies and still finds time for the thing she is most passionate about by being the publicity coordinator for the Middle

Tennessee Anthropological Society.

The age differences between us and our coeds does have its drawbacks. For one, we are less focused on the social elements on the university atmosphere. Unfortunate for the football team, but wonderful for our GPAs. We are less concerned with joining Greek organizations because we tend to have a great support group of friends already.

We are more inclined to come to school in pajamas because we aren't here to be cute. I will be trucking it in my sneakers because it's a long walk from my house to the Mass Communications building.

There are elements of frustration in being in your mid-20s and finding yourself surrounded by younger undergraduates on campus, but Jones sees the light:

"I think that some younger students are somewhat at a disadvantage because, for many, college is a first taste of real freedom and decision-making. No one is going to make you do anything. I think it takes a bit of maturity to know that even though there is no one there to say you have to go to class and study, you still have to. Most younger students do not realize

see Students page 6

Almost Thanksgiving Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 19) – A lot of people are very cautious, but not you. So this Thanksgiving why don't you not cook that turkey as long as you're suppose to. Living on the edge may kill you, but what the hey.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) – You are like a "gentle cartoon character" that likes to sit and smell the roses...or coffee. But, if you sit around for too long and don't help with Thanksgiving dinner clean up you're going to get punched in the face.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) – Apparently you like to gossip. Not only do you thrive on rumors, but you're persuasive while spreading them. On Thursday, tell someone while they're eating that you're thankful for vomit.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) – The one thing that would make you happy would be cracking open your crab shell of safety. Too bad you'll never be that bold. Settle for cracking open that walnut at an obligatory holiday gathering this week. Close enough.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) – You don't like being hindered with petty rules. So, when you're cooking this Thanksgiving, don't be mad when everyone thinks your food sucks because you didn't follow the recipe.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) – An astrologer once said, "In the same way wheat is turned into bread to feed our bodies, you want to utilize the gifts you were born with to nourish the world." Well aren't you on an ego trip? Eat your stuffing, and let that be the end of nourishing thoughts.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) – You're very good at understanding another's point of view and considering emotions. But I bet you didn't think about how that poor dead turkey you're about to eat on Thursday feels. How insensitive.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) – The immature

Scorpio tries to use people and manipulate situations out of personal avarice. The mature Scorpio tries to control in positive ways. Either way you hate to feel out of control. Too bad I predict a severe case of diarrhea for you on Thanksgiving day.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) – You Sagittarians never talk about your emotions because that would be too much of a commitment to another person. Keeping your eye on the fire escape will only help you get out in time if there's a fire while cooking on Thursday, but won't help you at all in relationships.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) – You always test the loyalty of those closest to you in small ways. Although you're a loser still need to feel loved and appreciated. So, when everyone thinks you're gross for eating giblets, its OK. The people who love you will still give you their last bite of pie anyway.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) – You sure do like to tell the truth about everything. That's honorable, but when it gets you in trouble on Thursday with the cook, don't be surprised if you don't get any dinner because of your frankness.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) – You'll probably have trouble your entire life with saying "NO" to anyone who gives you a plea for help. On Thanksgiving, spend some time helping yourself to every dish available and say no when someone offers the Adkins Diet as a solution to your weight problem. ♦

From Gaming, page 5

different games, the cross-over allows everyone to know everyone else."

Cooley's basic philosophy about customers, both first-timers and veterans, is if you want to know how to play a game, he is going to sit down and show you a demo because everything he sells, he plays.

"I also am able to explain to a customer what I like about the game or help them find a game better suited to their interests. Knowing the craft and the product makes the experience for customers much more productive," says Cooley.

Customers for Grand Adventures range from all ages, some participants are as young as seven.

"I've really tried to make this a safe and really fun environment," says Cooley. "We have little kids in here all the time and a lot of their parents used to bring them in the morning and watch them, but now, some parents drop off their kids because they know we'll take care of them."

Grand Adventures is definitely a gaming environment that promotes health and happy competitiveness, comradeship and compassion for its customers.

"A shop like this survives on the loyalty of their customer base. I don't try to just sell my merchandise; I want to help people find the right game for them, the one that they really enjoy," says Cooley. "I just try to get everything right with my customers, balance quality with care and if I do that right, the rest will all fall into place." ♦

From Students, page 5

this until later in their college careers when grades start to become important to them."

For most of the Older Wiser Learners (or OWLs as MTSU calls its on-campus organization for older students), there are many things to balance on a daily basis. Most of us work full time and there are families to consider. For many adult learners, it's the presence of children that have kept them out of school. It's difficult to juggle raising a family and applying algebraic theories.

Junior John Salaway took time off from school to be with his daughter, Elizabeth, 3. He also used the time to focus on his music, inspired by his new muse. He's back in school now, hoping to combine his prior knowledge of music with the skills he's acquiring while studying.

There are other relationships to consider and maintain as well. By the mid-20s, these students have concrete connections with our parents, siblings, friends and

lovers. If one is accustomed to taking the time to cultivate these relationships, it can be even tougher to find the room to fit everything into the equation.

The Education Center is there to help us prepare for our futures. They offer a mentoring program, help and support via counseling and a plethora of lectures on learning how to study, stress management, and test-taking. There are support groups for balancing school, family, career and positive parenting.

There are ups and downs to being an older and wiser learner. We're experts at multitasking, but it can be difficult to find enough time in the day to take care of things.

Our age and wisdom set us apart from younger graduates even if they don't know who we are. We blend in like Abercrombie and Doc Martens. We'll be the ones offering you a spare pencil or Scantron when you are in need. But we may also be the ones throwing off the curve on those big exams. ♦

Happy, uh, Thanksgiving?

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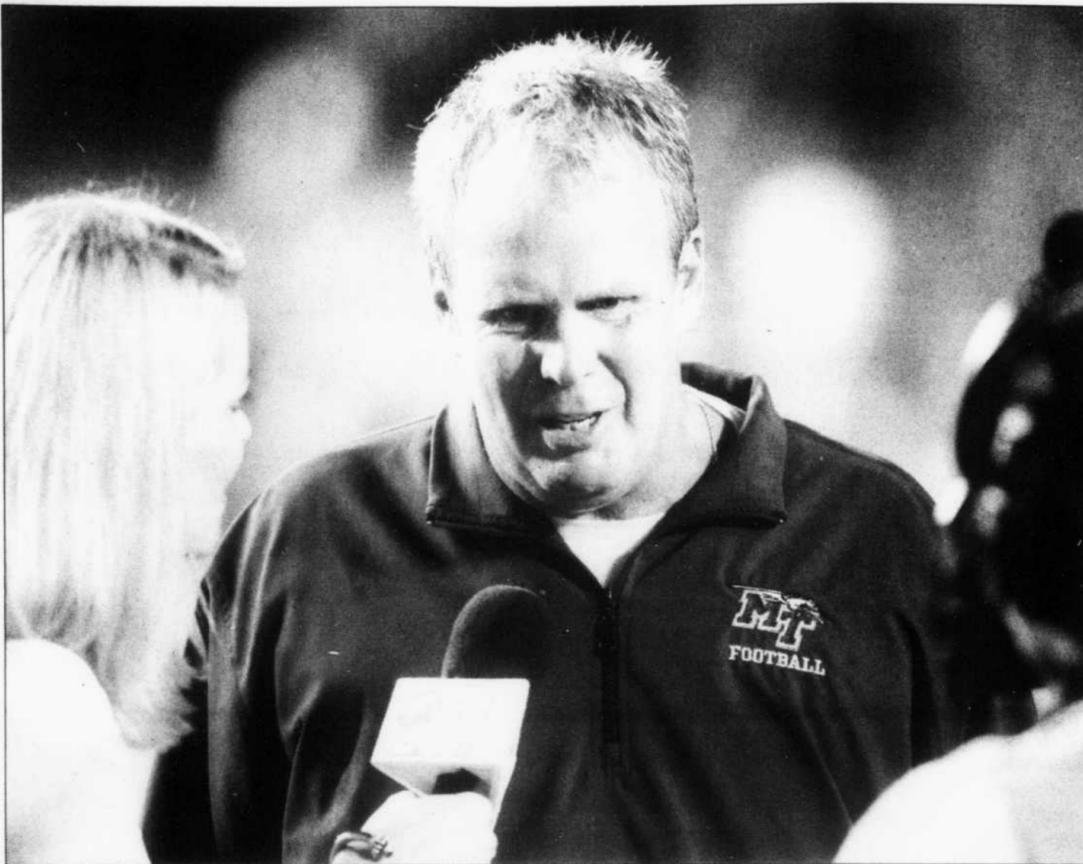
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McCollum dismissed, will coach last two games



From McCollum Fired, page 1

the very best coach for this position," Massaro said. "MTSU is a wonderful institution, and it is my pledge to you that this will be a comprehensive search that will land a coach who will move this program forward."

"With Hurricane Wilma postponing our game with Florida International until Dec. 3, I felt like it was best for all concerned to make this announcement now," Massaro said. "Dec. 3 is an awfully late date for Middle Tennessee State to enter the competition for head coaches."

Massaro did not mention any possible candidates at this time, but did mention he would use any contacts he may have to find a possible solution.

"Obviously, there has been some people I've run across in my 20 years that I've got some kind of affinity for," Massaro said. "I think more of that will help me do background and weed out potential candidates or bring people forward. But I don't think any of that is an absolute."

Massaro confirmed he will set up an advisory committee to assist with the interview process, but the final decision on the new coach would ultimately be his.

While the search for a new era of MT football has begun, the Blue Raiders face Troy this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Movie Gallery Stadium. The game can be seen locally on WB Channel 18. ♦

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
 McCollum addresses members of the press following the Blue Raiders' first win of the season against Southeastern Conference opponent Vanderbilt, who was then undefeated. McCollum, who has been dismissed from his position, will continue to coach the Blue Raiders throughout the remainder of this season, which includes a road game at Troy this weekend and one at Florida International on Dec. 3. This is McCollum's seventh year as the Blue Raiders' head football coach.

Blue Raiders defeat Utah State 60-59 in home opener

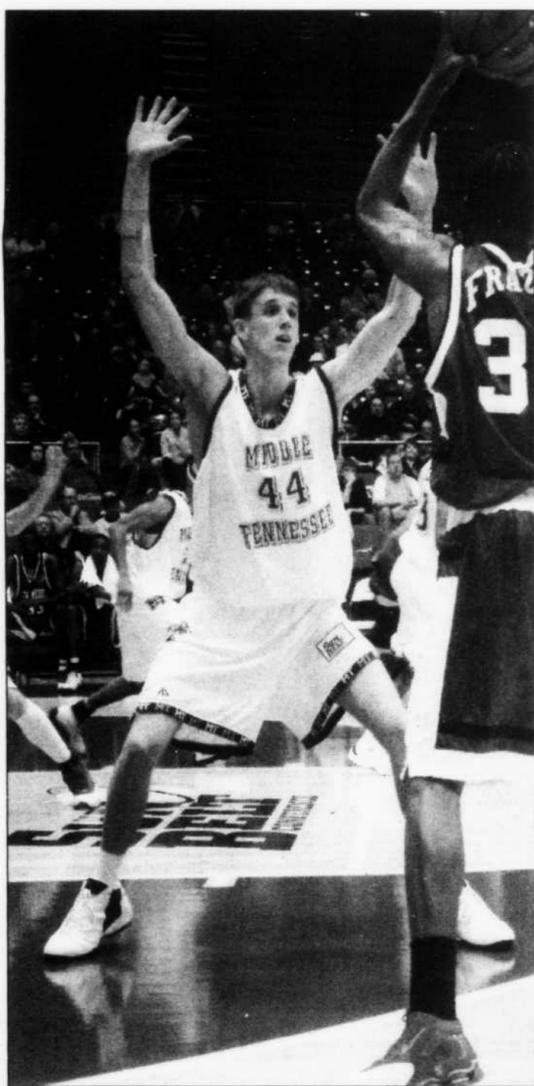


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
 MT junior Kyle Young applied the defensive pressure that stopped Utah State's Nate Harris from making the game winning shot.

Blue Raiders clinch victory in final three seconds at Murphy Center

By Jonathan Hutton
 Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee Men's Basketball Associate Head Coach Donnie Tyndall did his homework.

"With just more than three seconds remaining in regulation and a 60-59 Blue Raider lead, Tyndall told head coach Kermit Davis what inbound play Utah State would run for what would be the final play of the ballgame.

Sure enough, Tyndall was correct.

"Donnie did a great job with the scout," Davis said. "He pegged the play at the end."

Utah State ran an out-of-bounds play that had two options with their two best players. Nate Harris had a direct feed to the middle of the lane, and Jaycee Carroll, who in-bounded the ball, came off a pick on the back-side.

"I went to Donnie, and he said, 'Coach, they're going to do two things, and they line up in this alignment,' and we had one timeout, so we wanted to watch what they did, and when they got in the one set, they had scored on that play earlier. So we substituted Tim Blue to get him over the ball and took Vogelsberg out. So we put a 6-foot-10-inch guy over the ball and ... make them throw the ball out about 10-15 feet further out than

they would like to catch it."

The pass went inside to Harris, whose fade-away jumper was altered by Kyle Young's defensive pressure.

"They did a pretty good job," Utah State Head Coach Stew Morrill. "He had a tough look. It could have went down, but it was a tough shot. They did a good job defensively."

In front of the fourth largest crowd in season-opener history, the Blue Raiders battled back and forth with Utah State all game. Junior guard Bud Howard got the start over senior Marcus Morrison and played well the entire game, scoring 14 points and leading MT with seven rebounds.

"Bud Howard just kind of makes winning plays at the end, just with the steals and the save, and that's what he does continually in practice," Davis said. "He was just a lot better in practice. I'm not saying our guys take off days, but there are days when he can be the most physical guy in the gym, and the last four or five days he was. We have really tough practices. We didn't play very well, I didn't think, against Union. He was our toughest guy. I think it just carried over right into the game tonight."

Utah State made 14-of-25 shots in the first half, with 12 of their first 15 points coming in the paint and mainly from first-team All-WAC player Nate

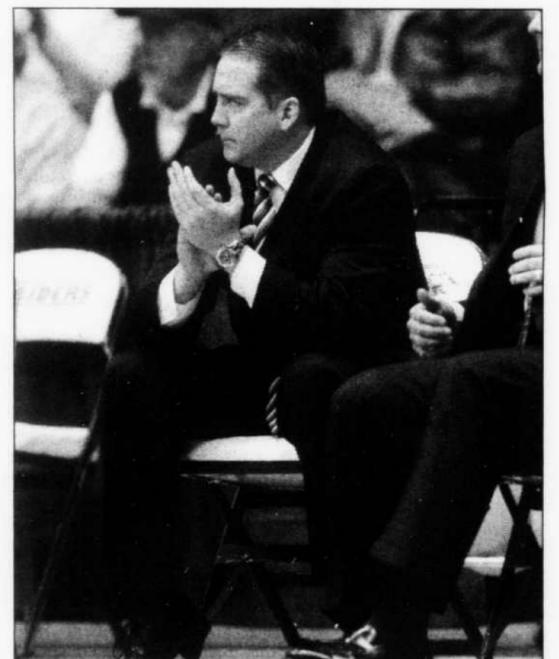


Photo provided by MT Media Relations
 MT Associate head coach Donnie Tyndall, pictured above, was instrumental in the team's last-minute win Tuesday.

Harris, who had nine points in the first half but was held to just two in the second half.

"Coach has been telling us all preseason how good of a team and how many returning players they had," Young said. "We came in and let them shoot 56 percent in the first half, so we kind of realized there so we had to hold them to better defensive field goal percentage in the second half."

Davis explained the energized play of the Blue Raiders is due to hard practices and the opening night atmosphere, where many students cheered on MT.

"A sense of urgency just goes up to the top when you start playing for real and when you start playing quality opponents like this. It was a great student body crowd. I thought they cheered at the right times and really picked our team up." ♦

SBC teams face off for victories, bowl berths on Saturday

Teams to watch this weekend La.-Lafayette Cajuns, La. Monroe Indians

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

It's rivalry week in the Sun Belt Conference, and a league title with a bowl berth is on the line. All games are on Saturday.

Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (5-5, 4-2) at Louisiana-Monroe Indians (5-1, 5-5) 2:30 p.m.

The "Battle of the Bayou" will play a part in deciding the SBC champion and who goes to the New Orleans Bowl.

If ULM wins, they're in,



but ULL has to win and hope that North Texas beats Arkansas State to get the berth.

ULL has never been in a bowl game in school history. ULL last appeared in a bowl in 1970, losing to Tennessee State in the Grantland Rice Bowl.

The Indians lead the all-time series 21-19, including the last three. In last year's game, ULM kicker Regan Walter nailed a 37-yard field goal with seven seconds to go in the 13-10 win.

Last week, ULM defeated Florida International 28-7 while ULM knocked off UNT 24-19.



ULLM safety Kevin Payne earned SBC Defensive Player of the Week with 13 tackles in the win.

Arkansas State Indians (5-5, 4-2) at North Texas Mean Green (2-8, 2-4) 1 p.m.

This is the other game that decides the SBC championship.

ASU can go to the New Orleans Bowl with a win and a ULM loss.

Last year, UNT knocked off ASU 31-7.



Last week, both teams lost their games. ASU fell to Army 38-10, while UNT dropped to ULM 24-19.

The last time ASU went to a bowl game was 1970, when they defeated Central Missouri State 38-21 in the Pecan Bowl.

Florida Atlantic Owls (2-8, 2-4) at Florida International Golden Panthers (3-6, 1-4) 5 p.m.

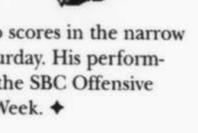
The fourth annual Shula Bowl takes place this weekend as these two new members of the SBC fight for bragging rights in the Sunshine State.

FAU leads the series 3-0, includ-

ing a 17-10 win in last year's game.

Last week, FIU knocked off Western Kentucky 38-35 in the final seconds. FAU had the week off. FIU kicker Adam Moss nailed a 36-yard field goal to end the game and give the Golden Panthers the victory, earning him SBC Special Teams Player of the Week.

Golden Panther quarterback Josh Padrick threw for 324 yards with a score. He also rushed for two scores in the narrow victory on Saturday. His performance got him the SBC Offensive Player of the Week. ♦



Stewart wins 2005 Nextel Series Chase for the Cup; Biffle places second

Shifting Gears

Wendy Caldwell
Sports Editor



The Nextel Chase for the Cup came to an end Sunday at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, and Tony Stewart drove off with the championship.

Greg Biffle won Sunday's Ford 400, moving him up two spots to finish the season in second place. Biffle was the Busch Series champion in 2002 and the Busch Series Rookie of the Year in 2001. He finished this season 35 points away from the championship.

Mark Martin finished second on Sunday, moving him to fourth overall, up one spot from last week. Martin finished fourth in last year's Chase for the Cup and was a runner-up for the NASCAR championship in 2002,

1998, 1994 and 1990. Martin finished 105 points behind Stewart.

Matt Kenseth finished third in Sunday's race, keeping him seventh overall, 181 points behind Stewart. Kenseth was the 1998 runner-up for the Busch Series championship and was the Rookie of the Year in 2000. In 2003, he was NASCAR champion.

Carl Edwards was fourth on Sunday, tying him with Biffle for second overall, 35 points away from the championship.

Ryan Newman earned a seventh-place finish on Sunday, keeping him at sixth overall. In 2002, he was Rookie of the Year.

Neither was a Cup contender this year.

Jeremy Mayfield rounded out Sunday's top 10, which was good enough to move him up from 10th to ninth to finish off the season 460 points behind Stewart. Mayfield finished 10th in last year's Chase for the Cup.

Stewart finished Sunday's race 15th, earning him an overall total of 6533 points. Stewart won three poles and five races in 36 starts this year. He finished in the top 10 in 25 of the races and in the top five in 17. Stewart was Rookie of the

Year in 1999. In 2002, he was NASCAR champion. In 2003, he finished seventh in points. Last year, he finished sixth.

Jimmie Johnson finished 40th on Sunday due to an accident. Johnson fell three spots to fifth overall, 127 points behind Stewart. Johnson finished second in points last year and in 2003.

Rusty Wallace finished 13th on Sunday, keeping him in eighth overall. Wallace was Rookie of the Year in 1984 and was NASCAR champion

in 1989. Wallace finished the season 393 points behind Stewart.

Kurt Busch finished 10th overall, 559 points behind Stewart. In 2001, he was runner-up for Nextel Cup Rookie of the Year. In 2002, he finished third in points, and in 2003, he finished 11th in points. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached via e-mail at slsports@mtsu.edu.

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From left to right: Mark Winger, Gina Fassel, Matt Fabian, Eric Watts

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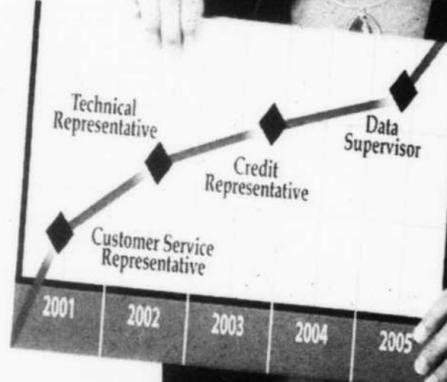
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