



SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Monday, Oct. 22, 2007

Raiders wage war with Fight Song

By Andy Harper

Managing Editor

MTSU kicked off Homecoming this Friday with their annual performance of "Fight Song" at Murphy Center.

"Fight song is a part of the homecoming activities," said Josh McKenzie, senior electronic media journalism major and assistant fight song director. "This year, it was a little bit early, but it sets up all the other activities for rest of semester, up until homecoming."

Winners of Fight Song were Alpha Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Order, Alpha Tau Omega.

Fight Song is one of many events sponsored by the Student Government Association during Homecoming. Other events include a banner competition, chili cook-off and "Paint the Halls Blue."

Fight Song is a performance competition where several campus organizations form groups and construct a routine focused around the Homecoming theme, McKenzie said. Groups will fuse the MTSU fight song into the melodies of other songs that best represent their assigned theme.

This year's theme is "A Red, White and Blue Raider Salute." The theme is in honor of Veterans Day, on which Homecoming weekend falls, McKenzie said.

Six teams competed in this year's Fight Song. Each group was assigned a specific branch of the military to represent the theme.

"The different branches of military included the Navy, Army and National Guard," McKenzie said. "The groups centered their entire performances around their assigned services."

Groups are rated on performance, crowd appeal, theme and spirit. Pre-performance work, such as timeliness and organization, is also a part of the overall scoring.

"Fight song is usually a big production," McKenzie said. "A lot of people came this year. I was surprised by how many people showed up." ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon perform at Friday night's "Fight Song" at the Murphy Center. Fight Song is one of the many competitions sponsored by the Student Government Association for Homecoming.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Redshirt senior DeMarco McNair helped MT gain 205 yards rushing. He scored one touchdown and had 76 yards on 19 carries. The Blue Raiders defeated Arkansas State 24-7.

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about the attendance at MT home football games?



Sparks



McCarthy

"I think the attendance is really low. I'm disappointed. I go to all the home games and I expect a lot bigger crowd."

-Chelsea Sparks, freshman athletic training major

"Personally I think it's poor. More people should be showing up to these games. They should be supporting their school with 110 percent."

-Daniel McCarthy, freshman animal science major



Colvert



Disser

"Not as good as usual, but it's alright. I mean it is Saturday and an early game, people are still drunk from last night."

-Kevin Colvert, sophomore agriculture business major

"I think the attendance was pitiful. I wish I knew why. We are whipping them really bad, there's not really any point in staying."

-Steven Disser, senior political science major



Photo courtesy MorgueFile

New year to bring incentives for teachers in Tennessee

By Brittany Carruthers

Contributing Writer

Teachers in Tennessee will see higher pay incentives next year after a new state law was implemented to entice students into pursuing the field of education.

The law mandated that school districts must develop plans for incentives for teachers in math, science, special education and other fields by next school year.

"MTSU, as well as other schools, is having some difficulty turning out

enough math and science educators that are licensed to teach, and the state considers highly qualified," said Connie Jones, director of elementary and special education. She said that the pay increases may be an attempt to lure people away from jobs that are traditionally more lucrative.

"I'm definitely for pay increases. If it gets more teachers into this system, good," said David Lawrence, professor at Motlow State Community College in Nashville.

However, Tennessee Education Association officials label the plan as

unfair and say that it masks the issue of schools not paying teachers a competitive salary.

According to the TEA Web site, the average public school teacher in the United States earned \$34 an hour in 2005. Tennessee ranks 32 nationally in salary for classroom teachers, with an average pay of \$42,076 annually. Both Georgia and North Carolina ranked higher in the 2005-06 survey.

Jones said there is a great need for improvement in teacher pay incentives, and that the funds are well deserved.

"Teachers can only give so much of themselves and their time and their effort," she said. "And I think 98 percent of teachers do that."

Jones said that inadequate teachers should be removed from the classroom.

"It discredits the organization when you allow people who are not doing their job to remain and pay them at the same rate," Jones said.

Philip Waldrop, associate dean of teacher education, believes many factors go into this cause-and-effect motive of having the pay incentives changed.

Waldrop said some state legislators who became interested in this situation saw it as a major issue discussed around the country, and some state organizations and people on the board of education got involved to make a change.

"They are beginning to make a sort of common understanding that pay is the issue and the shortage areas of raising the pay would be a way to attract people to the teaching profession," he said.

Waldrop acknowledges that this issue has recently come to the forefront, but it is clear there are other issues in the education system.

"Another real issue might be classroom size," Lawrence said. "They just shove as many students in the classroom as possible."

Waldrop believes that one solution may be to monitor implementation for policies like this and make sure everyone is doing their part to try to recruit people as they come through MTSU into teaching professions. ♦

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Pictorial; student's first football game

See Features, 3

iscaRIOT lines up Target in its sight

See Opinions, 4

MT defense sets all-time sack record

See Sports, 6

LOCAL FORECAST

Monday



HI: 72°
LO: 61°

Tuesday



HI: 65°
LO: 50°

Wednesday



HI: 60°
LO: 48°

Thursday



HI: 66°
LO: 45°

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"Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" brought to MTSU

The creative team behind the Emmy award winning HBO special, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," came to campus, lectured and answered questions about their project, their careers and how to make a movie.

By Christin Pepple

Campus News Editor

The creative team behind the HBO Emmy award-winning made-for-television movie "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" came to MTSU to lecture and answer questions about their project on Oct. 10 in the Keathley University Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The panel included the movie's director, Yves Simoneau, screenwriter Daniel Giat and composer George S. Clinton.

The dialogue, questions and presentations of clips from the film were directed by Beverly Keel, recording industry professor and director of MTSU's Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies.

The event was sponsored by the MTSU Distinguished Lectures Committee, the MTSU Tom T. Hall Lecture Series, BMI and the Brian Williams SunTrust Lecture Series. It was put together by Bob Wood, coordinator of production and technology in MTSU's Department of Recording Industry.

"Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" is based on a book by Dee Brown that explores the ramifications of American westward expansion on Native American culture. It earned 17 Emmy nominations and six wins.

"It gives us a chance to reflect on a dark time in American history that has parallels with things that are happening currently," Wood said.

Before the discussion between the panelists started, the beginning segment of the film was shown. After it was done Simoneau said, "It is a challenge to grab people's attention and keep it. We wanted something spectacular to describe what was going on at this time period to begin with."

Simoneau has received several Emmy awards and nominations for his work. He did not attend college. Instead, he became a cameraman for a news channel and then moved to film.

"I learned more in action than I would have in college at that time in my life," Simoneau said. "I never had to look for work actually and I was always attracted to elements in a project such as 'Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.'"

Clinton is an MTSU alumnus that majored in music and drama. He went to Los Angeles after college and caught his break when he was offered the opportunity to score a Cheech and Chong movie after someone saw a band that he was in play.

"I got a call and it went basically like this - 'Dude, want to write music for a movie?' and I said, 'Sure,'" Clinton said.

"I knew I wanted to use a Native American flute player and an all-male chorus in 'Bury My Heart,' but



Music editor, Mike Flicker, director Yves Simoneau, music supervisor Eveyen Klean, composer George S. Clinton and MTSU professor Bob Wood pose for a picture at the scoring session of "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" in the AO Scoring Stage, CA.



Anna Paquin as Elaine Goodale and Adam Beech as Charles Eastman have a conversation in a scene from "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee."

it was a challenge to find a way to make the music flow through the structure of this film," Clinton said.

Clinton also said that he collected Native American instruments and that he didn't want the score to sound like "some white guy trying to play a genuine, authentic Indian instrument." He employed the talents of a well-known Native American musician throughout much of the score.

"I was very fortunate to be permitted to attend the recording sessions for the film score for 'Wounded Knee,'" Wood said. "It was there that George introduced me to Yves, who was gracious and treated me like an old friend. I was very interested to observe how involved Yves was in the recording of the music." The interaction between the director and the com-

poser was very congenial and relaxed, but all their conversations had a musical outcome. Yves knew exactly how he wanted the music to support the film.

One of the challenges that the entire crew faced was the compression of the historical process in time and dramatic dimensions.

"I have done a lot of historical pieces and it is impossible to be completely accurate - dramatic shortcuts and devices are always used," Simoneau said.

Giat said that the project he originally wrote had to be cut in half.

"We had to tell one of the most important stories in American history so economically," Giat said. "My challenge in the end was to tell a story that was true

to the book and the history in a very small time frame."

Giat started his career not as a writer, but as a classical music disc jockey instead. He said that writing did not feel like something that he had any real aptitude at until he attended college. He caught his break after his HBO hit "Path to War."

The panelists also answered several questions from students about their careers, processes and their roles working on the film, such as why the film was given its name, how much the film cost and what advice a professional would give to a student beginning in film scoring.

Simoneau said of the name of the movie, "It's such a haunting title. It is poetic and non-specific."

He also said that it cost slightly under \$15 million over a period of 39 days to make.

Clinton gave his advice for the student who asked how to get started in the music scoring business, saying "Take as many classes and grab as many opportunities as possible, but the business is about four elements; how much talent you have, how much luck you have, how much determination you have and who you know."

"It's rare that students have the opportunity to hear about movie making from professionals who give them first-hand information," Wood said.

After the lecture concluded, awards were presented to the panelists for devoting their time, and several students waited to speak directly to them to ask them more personally-directed questions.

"I have a feeling that all things are possible after speaking with these distinguished men and that I am part of a school that can teach me how to excel," said Cornelius Johnson, junior recording industry major.

"I think it's great that they are bringing people in who work in the real industry, not just dinosaurs who have read about it. It is hopeful to know that these guys once sat in my shoes and if they can do it, so can I," said Matt Nelson, senior music industry major.

The panelists shared personal thoughts on teaching the particulars of their trade to college students.

"I've done some teaching and it is something I enjoy very much. I want to find a way to share my experience with students in a positive way through my career," Giat said.

"It's a great thing to be back at MTSU. This school gave me so much and inspired me so much. It's wonderful to give something back in any way that I can," Clinton said.

"It's a whole different world after school is out and I wish that I had a mentor at times and it is something that I would have loved to have and perhaps be to someone else," Simoneau said. ♦

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SOFTWARE TRAINING

*** MANDATORY ***

Deadline now extended to November 15, 2007!

All student organization presidents and advisors are required to attend a software training session prior to November 15, 2007. Failure for both the president and advisor to attend a session will result in the organization's inability to reserve campus space, host programs, fundraisers, etc.

For a list of session dates, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~camporgs.

Campus Briefs

MTSU Serves as Host for Conference on Poet Milton

The Department of English at MTSU will again serve as the sponsor and host of the ninth biennial Conference on John Milton, renowned English poet, Oct. 25-27 at the Double Tree Hotel in Murfreesboro.

For more information on the conference, please visit the conference Web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~english2/milton.htm> or contact Donovan directly at 898-5898.

Free Legal Clinic

A free legal clinic, sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center with support from the Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association, will be held on Oct. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in JUB Room 206 and is open to all MTSU students and personnel; appointments are required. Call 898-2193 to schedule an appointment.

Kevin Roberts "The Food Dude" Comes to KUC Grill

Chef Kevin Roberts will be at the KUC Grill on Oct. 25 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Come see Roberts cook some food and teach you how to make your own food on a healthy but cheap budget.

Flu Shots

The School of Nursing will be working with Health Services to offer flu shots, to students, faculty and staff, Nov. 6-8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost will be \$23, check or cash only. Appointments may be made beginning Oct. 15 by e-mailing lawrence@mtsu.edu.

Gender Circles

Gender Circles, weekly discussions focusing on gender related issues, will be held Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 1-3 p.m. in JUB Room 206.

"Hairspray" at KUC Theater Oct. 22-26

MTSU Films Committee presents "Hairspray," Oct. 22-26. Student admission is \$2. Show times are 7 & 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 p.m. on Friday.

Family Fall Festival

Project HELP's Annual Family Fall Festival will be held Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. at 206 N. Baird Lane. Contact 898-2458 for more information.

Greek Life

A "Greek Camp" for new members is being held on Oct. 26-28. For more information on this, and other Greek events contact Greek Life at 898-5812 or visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~greeks/

Collage Accepting Applications for Spring 2008 Staff

Collage, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Medalist winner, is accepting applications for the spring 2008 staff. Positions include editor-in-chief, online editor, designer, assistant editor, literature arts editor, assistant literature arts editor, visual arts editor, assistant visual arts editor, editorial review staff, and communication staff.

Applicants must be full-time MTSU students with at least a grade point average of 3.0. Applications for editor-in-chief are due Nov. 2; all other staff position applications are due Nov. 16. E-mail collage@mtsu.edu for more information or an application or stop by the Collage office, Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building room 224.

For more information on these and a listing of all campus briefs, check out mtsusidelines.com

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Dropping McLean from school of music

Associated Press

Middle Tennessee State University says it wants to drop the name of a troubled and its music school after his finances crumbled and he was found dead in an apparent suicide.

Bob McLean was found dead in Shelbyville last month after he was accused of taking more than \$40 million from investors, but appears to have lost the money day-trading stocks in 2001 and 2002.

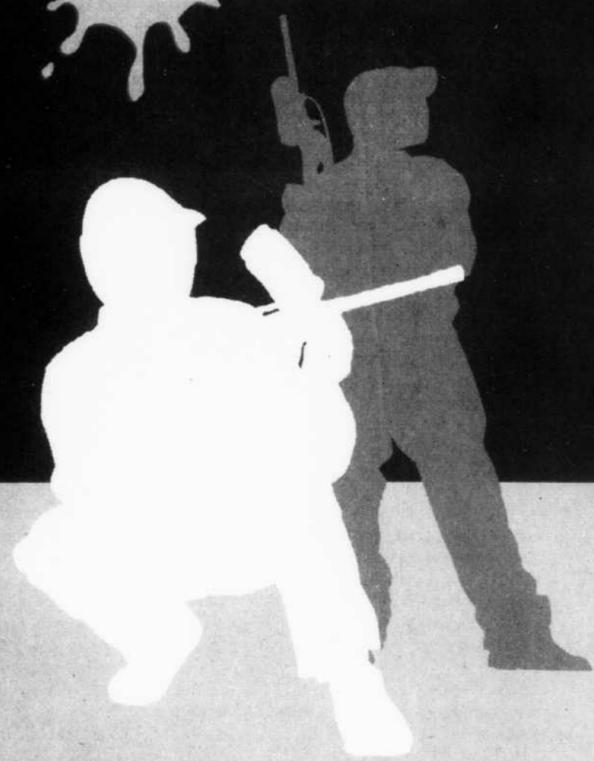
The school was named for him after McLean pledged money to buy 54 Steinway pianos for his alma mater. A change would have to be approved by the Board of Regents.

Trustees handling McLean's bankruptcy are also looking at pledges he made to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to acquire prized instruments. ♦

Information from: *The Daily News Journal*, <http://www.dnj.com>

FREE PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT!

NATIONAL GUARD PAINTBALL



what

The National Guard is hosting a free paintball tournament open to students. All equipment including markers, paintballs, and safety gear will be provided for free.

1st place team will win \$1,000 and additional prizes will be given to the 2nd and 3rd place teams. Free lunch provided to all tournament participants.

who

Create your own team of up to 10 players and go head-to-head against other students.

when

Saturday, November 3, 2007

where

The tournament will take place just minutes from campus.

how

Visit www.GuardPaintball.com to register and get more information about the paintball tournament and upcoming campus events.



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Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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ROOMMATES

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POLICIES

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insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Lack of teacher pay affecting education

We all know about the sad plight that is teacher pay in this country, but the lack of funds is especially prevalent in Tennessee. In our lifetime, education has always been a back-burner issue. Everyone will readily admit that teachers are not being paid enough, but the discussion ends there. People have become so desensitized to the issue that they stop talking about solutions.

Tennessee legislators have finally passed a bill forcing boards of education to give teachers better benefits. But how? Is the state going to give more? If not, then school systems will have to rebudget their money, cutting positions and funding in certain vital areas.

Countries in Europe and all over the world have been gaining momentum in the field of education. And if the United States doesn't step up to the plate, we will be left in the dust.

But federal money is being funneled into defense spending to make sure that we surpass the world in arms.

Remember, the saying is, "Knowledge is power," not "Weaponry is power."

A good education system is the basis for an effective, strong, powerful country.

If teachers made more money, maybe a larger group of students would understand how truly honorable and respectable the field can be, and more will chose it as their major.

Instead, teaching is perceived as a back up career. The attitude that "those who can't do, teach" is still prevalent in the minds of many. This makes the role of education seem sub par and cheapens the hard work of those who strive to do their best to educate.

But what if the popular notion was "those who have mastery, teach?" How different would the education system be?

Letter to the Editor

Sig Ep prevented from helping out

To the Editor:

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity has recently been placed on social probation. This limits the types of events we, as a fraternity, can host. We are not allowed to have mixers with sororities or throw parties, which is understandable.

We have trouble understanding why we are not allowed to host philanthropic events. Due to our social probation, we have cancelled a haunted house we were planning for the Rutherford County Boys and Girls Club and are back to the drawing board for our "Queen of Hearts Week."

"Queen of Hearts Week" is Sig Ep's fundraising week; all proceeds go to the American Heart Association. Plans were being made for a benefit concert on Sig Ep's 14+ acres located on East Main Street to cap off Queen of Hearts Week, but with our recent placement on social probation by the judicial board, we are not allowed to hold such a concert.

Keeping a fraternity from throwing parties is fine, but how can you tell them not to be involved in the community? Most, if not all fraternities are founded on a cornerstone of community service. By not allowing these types of events to take place, it is implied that all fraternities are only good for intramural sports, homecoming floats, and football attendance. Making a positive impact on the community does not seem to be a priority to the judicial board. However, community outreach is an integral part of the Greek system. This is why so many student and community leaders, faculty and staff are alumni of Greek Life organizations. Fraternities and sororities provide students with leadership skills they can't get anywhere else.

I cannot disagree more with the judicial board's decision to not allow fundraising and philanthropic events to take place on our property because I feel that these events could benefit the community. Additionally, Sigma Phi Epsilon agrees with the judicial board in that its charges require disciplinary actions against those responsible.

The Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon have taken action against those people; some actions resulting in banishment, others in required community service hours. Further action is not necessary from the Judicial Board, especially action prohibiting us from holding philanthropic events.

Sean Mahoney
Junior, College of Mass Communications
Sigma Phi Epsilon

Correction

On Thursday, Oct. 18, Kaela Spees' letter to the editor ran with an incorrect headline. The headline should have read "Focus on other football players."

Sidelines regrets the error.

Your opinions.

Give them to us.

slopinio@mtsu.edu



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

Third-party contractors shifty

I've often suspected corporate fecklessness would be the death of me. Until recently, I would've guessed it'd be the auto industry that killed me. In fact, it was partly due to this aversion to cars that I decided to buy a bicycle a few weeks ago.

We're all used to tolerating lackadaisically assembled sandwiches, which endanger a good lunch, but riding a lackadaisically assembled bicycle endangered my life.

The story begins with an innocent desire to find a bike I could ride for Critical Mass - Murfreesboro's monthly mobile festival of bikes.

Side note: What's more exciting than riding bikes? Riding bikes with 40 people down Old Fort Parkway, that's what. Interested parties can pedal over to the park by the water tower on Bell Street at 6 p.m. on the last Friday of the month.

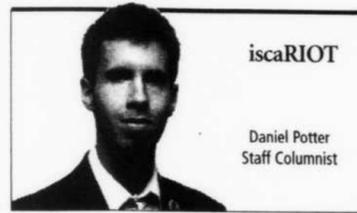
Anyway, at first I looked to buy a used bike on Craigslist, or through a thrift shop, but the only bikes in my price range were kid size. So I broke down and bought the cheapest adult-size bike possible at Target - because hey, at least it's not Wal-Mart.

Shortly after getting my new bike home, I noticed its back wheel was a bit loose. So I called a local bike fanatic, who suggested I ride it the few blocks over to his place, where his tools are, so he could have a look.

The ride over was sketchy even before the bike failed mechanically. Night was falling, and stubbly men in baseball caps yelled bizarre things at me as their truck passed.

I don't know what makes it so appealing to yell at cyclists from moving vehicles, but I assume it's their beer. Of course, being drunk at 7:30pm suggests alcoholism, which incidentally, causes impotence.

Regardless, my bike didn't yet have a light, and the back wheel sounded awful, so I opted for the sidewalk instead of riding with traffic. This proved fortunate when the bike's handlebars separated from the fork, transform-



iscaRIOT

Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

ing it into a hands-free model. Luckily, the cords remained intact, enabling me to brake and dismount unscathed but irritated.

It actually took several minutes of calling friends for a ride before my vexation reached an appropriate degree; my father reminded me that the bike being mere trash on the sidewalk was a fine thing, rather than trash swamped around me in an ambulance - or a hearse.

Upon returning to Target, I saw a man wheeling a new kid-size bike to his minivan. "Be sure and tighten everything up on that before you let your kid ride it," I told him.

Target informed me their bikes are assembled by a third-party contractor - not their fault - and offered an exchange or refund. Still needing a ride for Critical Mass, I would've been content to just swap the lemon, but they were out of equally cheap models, and wanted me to pay the balance on anything more expensive.

In other words, they saw nearly killing me as an opportunity to up-sell me, not a potential lawsuit.

Legal action was an empty threat because I'm reluctant to feed lawyers just to see corporate bureaucrats get eaten. I meant it, however, when I informed the manager that I write an opinions column, have a radio show and am extremely whiny. Triple threat - have some!

"OK," she answered indifferently. If she's not paid enough to feign concern for her company's image, it's no wonder the people slapping bikes together don't care. Makes you wonder

about their pharmacy.

I took a refund and filed a complaint, including my phone number.

As if to prove something, my car was rear-ended the next morning.

That afternoon I went and found a place on East Main called Horseman's Supply that sells refurbished bikes - would that I'd known sooner, but I only heard about it when my bike consultant advised me to ditch the lemon. I've ridden that used bike about 20 miles so far and it has yet to jeopardize my life.

Another day passed, and a lady in Minnesota called and apologized on behalf of Target, reminding me the bike was actually assembled by a third party contractor - not their fault - and offered to mail me a gift card for double the lemon's value to smooth things over.

I accepted, mentioning this column, then quizzed her about her profession. Turns out she also works for a third party contractor. Target insulates itself from liability with one, then redeems itself with another. At least they know comedy.

The bottom line is I'm still in love with cycling, and warier than ever of cars and feckless corporations. Since I already bought another bike, I'm instead spending Target's gift card on things that won't kill me if they're defective - things like books.

I'm starting with Naomi Klein's latest, "The Shock Doctrine," which happens to be about third-party contracting, albeit with far scarier corporations, like Halliburton and Blackwater.

I'll have to pay close attention to this one. After all, if I'd absorbed the wisdom of Klein's last book, the compelling "No Logo," I might've known that walking into Target was a terrible idea in the first place.

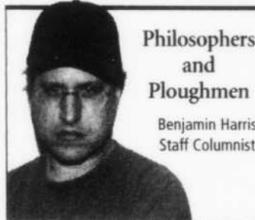
Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at dgp2h@mtsu.edu.

Keep church and state separate

Politicized faith is unethical. Faith is belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence. It is actually virtually synonymous with superstition in this regard. For this reason faith, regardless of any benefits argued in its favor, must be disqualified as a legitimate pillar of public policy under the rule of law.

There is overwhelming evidence that the founders intended the separation of religion and government to be law. There is the establishment clause in the First Amendment. There is also the "no religious test" stipulation in the Constitution.

Here are some quotes that further demonstrate this fact: "Christianity neither is, nor ever was, a part of the common law," said Thomas Jefferson. "The government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion..." - George Washington. "... I have no doubt that every new example will succeed, as every past one has done, in showing that religion and Government will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together." James Madison. The argument is not that the framers did not see value with regards to religion's role in society. The point is that mixing religion and government compromises the benefits of both.



Philosophers and Ploughmen

Benjamin Harris
Staff Columnist

I would argue that events since 2000 bear this out.

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force," said George Washington. Proponents of politicized religion are arguing that religion needs to use force to be effective. I would classify that as yielding to temptation, a sin that will wreak grievous consequences if left unchecked.

Why is separation of church and state mandated under the law? The United States is a child of the age of enlightenment which was a literary and philosophical movement in the eighteenth century. This movement held that upholding the principle of the rule of law is essential to securing basic liberty which is an inherent right of the people. However, in order to preserve liberty we are responsible to act accordingly. Under the rule of law, we have a legal responsibility to act only on that which we can know with reasonable certainty,

not that which we merely believe. For example, imagine you purchase a car. On your first drive, the brakes fail and a pedestrian is killed. In court it is revealed that you had not inspected the brakes prior to driving because the seller told you the brakes were fine, and you believed him. Instead of being responsible for an accident, you are now possibly looking at second degree murder.

In order for the rule of law to function, we have to accept clear parameters regarding how we define that which can be known with reasonable certainty. In a sane world, these parameters consist of the presence of empirical evidence and inferences that can be logically derived from such. Many of the problems we face that are a result of deception or stupidity - and which aren't? - can be avoided by simply holding people accountable to support their claims with evidence before endorsing action based on those claims.

"The September 11th attack was inspired by hatred of our freedom." Response: "do you have any evidence to support your claim?" "Al-Qaida is in partnership with Iraq." Response: "do you have any evidence to support your claim?" "Abortion is genocide." Response: "do you have any evidence to support your claim?" You get the idea. This means that before any

action, for example infringing on liberty or starting a war, is taken; "we the people" must demand that evidence must be produced. This evidence must indicate that the action is justified, be examined by competent parties, debated openly and finally confirmed before the action takes place. The American people are the only true guardians of principled governance and as such it is our responsibility to hold our government, the media, and even our fellow citizens accountable to this standard in order for the rule of law to be maintained. Otherwise, we are reduced to mob rule, which is tyranny.

Politicized faith, the act of wanting to base public policy on revelation such as that found in scripture, disregards the necessity of evidence to this process and undermines the rule of law. The founders understood this clearly.

In the United States, all are free to worship as they see fit privately. However, the only legal and ethical recourse for Americans that insist on living in a nation where religion is public policy is to move to one.

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FEATURES



TOUCHDOWN

Photos and story by Yvonne Cao

I am an exchange student from China. I have been encouraged to look beyond China and learn more about the world. Before I came here, I only knew about American culture from watching TV and movies. Since sports seemed to be so much a part of American culture, I knew I wanted to experience a live event.

Clickhouse from the top

◆ The marching band was the most exciting part to me. Back home, we just use recorded music for sporting events, but it never creates the same atmosphere as live music. After the game, my friends and I couldn't get the songs out of our head for days.

◆ It was so cool to see every MTSU student wearing blue for the game. Some of the guys in blue were actually not wearing any shirts. They painted themselves in blue and wrote "MTSU!" on their chests. I guess they have to stand for the whole game.

I was shocked by the "blue ocean" when I entered the stadium. Almost everyone was dressed in blue and arrived early. That showed so much pride in their school. Wearing school colors is not popular in China.

After our team got a touchdown, all the fans went crazy. Although my friend and I had no idea what was going on, we still cheered with all the fans.

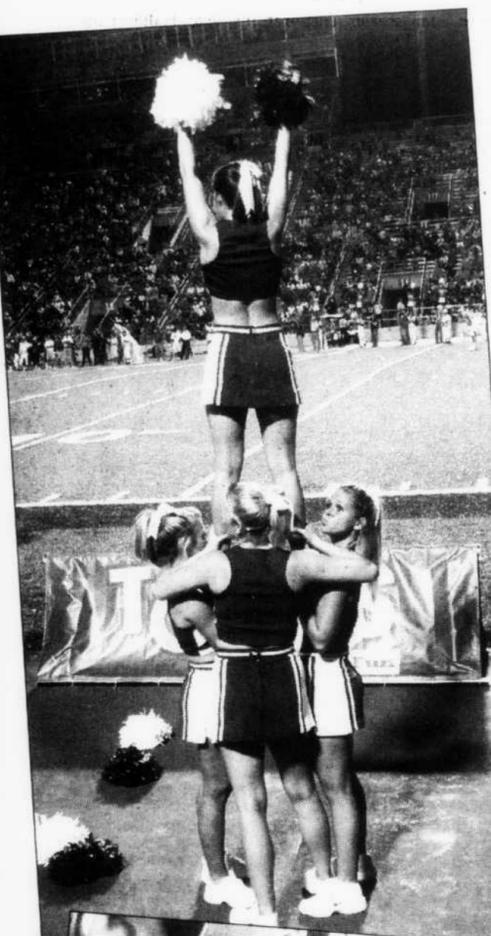
◆ My friend took a picture of me and the mascot of MTSU, Blue Lighting, which was pretty cool. I wanted to hug it, but I didn't know if it was a boy or a girl!

◆ Most exchange students have no idea of the rules of American football. To us, it just looks like some big men knocking each other down and running. But what we did feel was the excitement and passion of the game.

At the end of the game, the players all came to the fans raising their helmets in the victory salute. We cheered like any family celebrating good news.

◆ Cheerleaders in movies always have negative stereotypes, but when I saw them in the game, they did a really good job and got the crowd more excited. They are pretty and I love the smiles on their faces.

◆ Overall, I learned so much from the game. It was a cultural and educational experience, and it was great fun.



SPORTS



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The Middle Tennessee defense held Arkansas State's offense to 138 yards. The Indians entered the game ranked 19th in the nation and led the Sun Belt Conference in total offense. The MT defense also forced four turnovers and picked up nine sacks, a school record.

Jones, defense sack ASU for win

By Chris Martin
Staff Writer



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
True freshman Jeremy Kellem and red-shirt-junior Taron Henry each had big games just before the final buzzer as the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Louisiana - Monroe 1 - 0.

Middle Tennessee broke the school record for a single game Saturday, en route to a 24-7 stomping of the Arkansas State Indians.

The Blue Raiders (3-5, 2-1 Sun Belt) dropped ASU (3-4, 1-2 SBC) quarterback Corey Leonard nine times to break the old record of eight sacks set in 2001 against Connecticut. Seven different MT defenders were able to put Leonard on the ground: Tavares Jones, Damon Nickson, Trevor Jenkins, Dwight Smith, Chance Dunleavy, Lonnie Clemons and Derek Shropshire.

"Everybody was doing their job, running up the field, getting penetration, just getting after the ball," Jenkins said. "That's what coach always emphasizes. We didn't care about the record. We just wanted to make plays and get that W."

Leonard, who before the game was ranked second in the Sun Belt Conference in total yards per game with 299.8, had a difficult time with the Blue Raider defense. He was only able to complete nine of 19 passes for 116 yards and one touchdown. On the ground, he carried the ball 17 times for negative 19 yards. Not only was he sacked nine times, but he also threw three interceptions, including two to freshman standout safety Jeremy Kellem.

"We all play off each other [on defense], but our defensive line gets it started by rushing the quarterback and making him panic and [forcing] bad throws, and then we're able to break on the ball and get interceptions," Kellem said. "Our defensive line did a real good job, and I'm proud of them."

The pass was not the only successful area on defense for

MT. Coming into the game, Indians' tailback Reggie Arnold was second in the SBC in rushing yards per game with 106.7. However, the Blue Raiders' were able to hold Arnold to just 39 yards on 14 carries.

"We want to be the number one defense," Kellem said. "When we go against a top offense, we want to prove to the world and the Sun Belt that we can stop them. We want to come out here and stop the run first, which our defensive line and linebackers really did, and that allowed us to focus more on the pass and make plays."

Joe Craddock, who had not played since the LSU game on Sept. 15, threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Taron Henry in the second quarter. That TD pass was Craddock's first since he threw two against Louisville on Sept. 6.

Perhaps the most impressive play of the game was an incompleting. In one of the first plays to ever feature both MT quarterbacks on the field at the same time, true freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher lined up behind center while red-shirt junior quarterback Joe Craddock lined up as a receiver in the slot. Dasher then the snap, threw a screen pass to Craddock, who then rolled out to his right and faked a reverse before throwing a bomb downfield to a wide open Dasher. After the game Craddock explained what had gone wrong with the trick play.

"It felt good to finally get that out there," Craddock said. "That play was a lot of fun. He had ran so many plays before, he was real, real tired. If I had known that I would have lofted it up a little more. I threw it how we did in practice when he wasn't as tired."

Offensive coordinator, G.A. Mangus, used both Craddock and true freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher running a few trick plays. In one play, Dasher lined up in the back field while Craddock was under center. Dasher then motioned to the slot and Craddock threw an incomplete pass to Dasher. However, a pass interference penalty gave MT the first down regardless.

Offensive coordinator G. A. Mangus said from his view it looked like it was a sure touchdown.

"Dwight was by him, I kind of lost him in the [crowd] but he had the safety beat."

Mangus has long been saying that the key to the offense he's had in mind will be to utilize the skills of both quarterbacks at the same time. According to Craddock, Mangus has been planning on using two quarterback packages since Dasher signed his letter of intent. He told

Craddock over the summer that he was "sure when Dasher would be ready he knew that by mid-season he hoped to be designing plays that he had never been able to use before.

"I've said it before, we need two guys," Mangus said. "For us, what everyone perceives as a trick play we practice so much that they [aren't] trick plays. I want to continue to build on some of those packages. It's fun. I look forward to having both of those guys available."

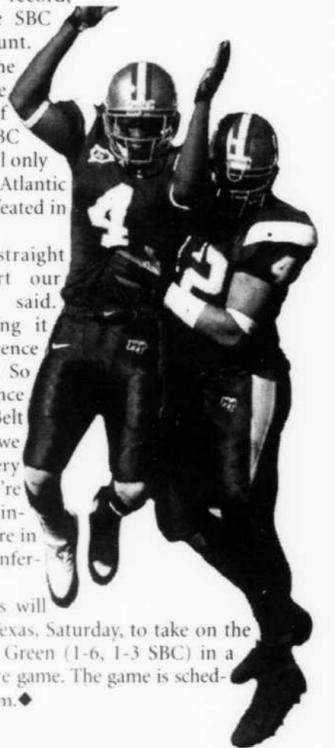
Despite starting the season 0-4, this win gives the Blue Raiders' its third in four games, with the only loss coming at the hands of Virginia who had to kick a last-second field goal to put the Blue Raiders away.

Despite its 3-5 record, MT is still in the SBC championship hunt.

With the victory, the Blue Raiders take sole possession of third place in the SBC standings. They trail only Troy and Florida Atlantic who are both undefeated in conference play.

"Losing four straight games really hurt our mindset," Kellem said. "The positive thing it was only one conference game that we lost. So we still had a chance to win the Sun Belt championship. So we just came back every week and now we're on a two-game winning streak and we're in the thick of our [conference] schedule."

The Blue Raiders will travel to Denton, Texas, Saturday, to take on the North Texas Mean Green (1-6, 1-3 SBC) in a Sun Belt Conference game. The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. ♦



Sports Briefs: VB and WSC win in La.

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

With a 3-0 win against Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday in Lafayette, La MT's Blue Raider volleyball program improved their record to 23-2 and 10-1 in the conference.

Ashley Asberry and Izabela Kozon led the team with eight kills. Kozon had two service aces, one block and two block assists, while scoring 12 points.

Asberry hit .429, with one block and block assist in the game. MT recorded 10 service aces, 40 kills and hit for .272 as a team.

Leslie Clark racked up on the assists grabbing 32 in the game. Alicia Lemau'u and Clark had three services aces.

The Blue Raiders held the Cajuns to a .055 hitting percentage and 24 kills, with four team members hitting in the negative.

The Blue Raiders got out in front in game one and never looked back. MT held ULL to score 12 points.

In the second game MT led by as much as 22-11 and held the Cajuns to just four more points before the Blue Raiders put the game away.

Game three ULL rallied to a 15-13 lead and the Raiders never gave up. Both teams traded scores but MT was able to go up 23-21 eventually putting away the Cajuns 30-25.

Friday night the Blue Raiders began their road trip through Louisiana at Monroe and beat the Warhawks 3-0.

Ashley Mead scored 12 kills and hit .381. Teammate Asberry had 11 kills with .562 and five block assists.

Ashley Adams and Sasha McGlothlin both had nine kills, respectively. Lemau'u, Ashley Waugh and Adams each had eight digs in the game. The Blue Raiders had 49 kills, hit .407, had nine blocks and 41 digs.

MT led game one by ten points 17-7 before eventually winning the first game 30-18.

Game two was a different story as the Warhawks kept fighting to stay alive. Both

teams traded points with ULL tying the game at 14 all. MT started to gain some ground and came up with the 30-25 win.

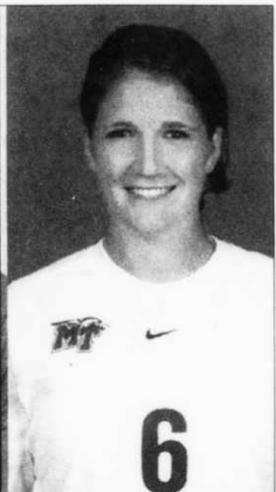
Middle Tennessee faces New Orleans on Monday coming home to face Florida Atlantic, Florida International, South Alabama, Troy, and Western Kentucky in the final home stand of the regular season.

MT soccer is finally starting to look a little more like last year's squad after a five game unbeaten streak.

MT (8-5-3, 5-2-1) soccer is coasting on a four game unbeaten streak heading into this weekend after beating Louisiana-Lafayette 3-1 in Lafayette.

"I was pleased that we finally were able to finish some good balls," MT Head coach Aston Rhoden said after the Blue Raiders beat Louisiana-Lafayette 3-1. "We were able to control things for the most part and the defense continued to play well for us. There is a great deal of balance in our conference this year so anytime you

See Soccer, 7



Photos courtesy of MT Media Relations

Juniors Ashley Adams ended Saturday's volleyball match against Louisiana - Lafayette with a hitting percentage of .429. The volleyball team won 3 - 0. For the soccer team, Sophomore Jen Threlkeld's team-leading eighth goal of the season just beat the final buzzer as the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Louisiana - Monroe 1 - 0.

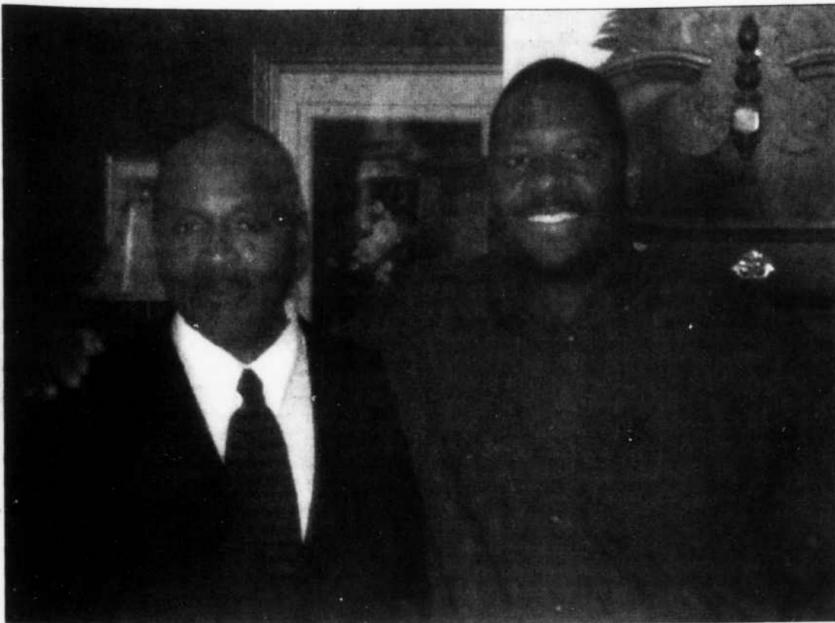


Photo from Trevor Jenkins' Facebook

Junior Defensive Tackle Trevor Jenkins hopes to someday follow in his father's foot steps and become a preacher. Jenkins has said that religion has always been a big part of his life. Growing up in Macon, Georgia he knew from an early age that he wanted to become a preacher but says that the decision was independent of who his father was. "I made that decision on my own," he said.

WWJD? Smile.

By J. Owen Shipley
Sports Editor

In the two years I've been covering Blue Raiders' football there are a few things I have come to count on; DT Trevor Jenkins being available to talk and that talk having to do with a lot more than just football.

"First of all, I'd like to give all honor to Jesus Christ," Jenkins will say to begin every interview.

For two years I've been hearing this and to be honest it almost always warms my heart. After the loss to Virginia, Trevor was the only upbeat player in the room. Even I was heart broken, but his smile can't be stolen by a missed field goal; his charm and good nature do not depend upon a score.

I had already finished my interviews for the game when I saw him in the corner, looking like a black Buddha in shoulder pads with "Jesus is Lord" written on his wrist tape.

I didn't walk over there to have a God talk. I honestly just wanted to talk to the guy who I considered a good friend. I was upset about the loss and somehow knew he could make me feel better.

When he started the interview with his automatic praise of JC, I bowed my head as usual and waited to begin. For the first time, Trevor looked at me and said, "hey man, please print that. Please."

He'd never asked me anything like that before. I had always assumed he was just trying to be humble.

I stammered that I wasn't sure how to fit it in but I would try. I knew I couldn't just stick that in a sports story. He had shocked me out my woe-is-me attitude. I wasn't even worried about the UVA loss anymore. How, I asked him, could he be so upbeat after such a disappointing game?

"I play for Christ," he said. "You always win when you play for that. In men's eyes there's a winner and a loser but when you play for Christ you always win. Like the scripture says, everything you find in your hands to do, do it unto the Lord."

I have to admit, I was dumbfounded. I immediately wondered, if he could have this much of a calming effect on me, a sports writer, "just how big is his influence on the team?"

People get called leaders all the time, but I was suddenly obsessed with finding out just how much of a role his faith had in holding together what I consider to be the classiest team in college football.

Over the next three weeks, I talked to several coaches and players about Jenkins' role on the team. Most of the conversations were off the record, but almost everyone said the same thing.

"He brings us together in a lot of ways outside of football. He's a person players look to like a father outside of their father at home. A lot of players go to [him] to talk about their problems in life," true freshman LB Jeremy Perry said.

Jenkins, a former Macon Telegraph Athlete of the Year, can be just as vicious on the field as he is gen-

tle off of it but Jenkins has told me he tries hard to turn it off once the whistle blows. He admits it isn't always easy, but in Saturday's game against ASU he proved his reserve when he chastised Sr. Tavares Jones for celebrating after one of his two sacks.

"Tavares," he yelled. "Come back, we still got another play."

"Tavares was very hyped and into the moment but we couldn't afford a penalty," Jenkins explained later.

According to Perry, Jenkins' work and positive attitude are the glue that has held the MT defense together through hard times this year.

"He's a powerful person. I think that's just the way it is. Everyone who comes into contact with him can't help but be affected. After a bad play, he's the first one to come and say 'it's alright- we can bend but we won't break,'" Perry said.

"He's not the only [role model] we have," said Head Coach Rick Stockstill. "But he's been in a bunch of games now. He's an experienced player and he's doing a great job with our younger guys, helping them out and coaching them."

While Jenkins isn't leading the team in sacks, his 8.5 tackles for loss are by far the best for the Blue Raiders. Tackles for a loss may not be as flashy as interceptions or sacks but they are the best way to stop the run- something the Blue Raiders have done very well in the last three games.

His play on the line has been totally unselfish. Many of the sacks recorded by his fellow Blue Raiders were the result of Jenkins tying up two or more blockers at the line of scrimmage and forcing them away from the play.

After being named defensive captain of the ASU game Jenkins' tackle for a loss ended the Indians' first drive and his sack two drives later ended their third.

With Jenkins as a captain, the Blue Raiders had 9 total sacks on the day, a new school record. They only allowed 138 total yards against the number one offense in the Sun Belt. MT also held the Indians to a season low of 22 yards rushing.

After the game, I found Trevor waiting in his usual spot, with his usual smile. A white suture stretching from his chin to his bottom lip covered a bloody cut that in no way affected his grin. He laughed about the injury, basically saying once he realized he hadn't bit through his lip, he stopped worrying.

"God has blessed me with this ability, so I'm going to honor him by playing full speed," Jenkins told me with a swollen smile.

"This is bigger than me, this is bigger than football, this is a chance for me to witness to other players and I do it all the time. That's what you should write about. Don't write an article about me, write an article about Jesus."

And though I'm not a much of a Christian myself, once I asked myself "why not?" it was already decided. If being a Christian makes him a better football player, it's news to me. ♦

MT golf suffers setback

By Brian Estes
Staff Writer

In what could be seen as a setback for the MT men's golf team, the Blue Raiders finished ninth out of 13 teams in the Brickyard Tournament in Macon, Ga., on Oct. 7-9. The ball just wouldn't roll the right way for the Blue Raiders.

"We played awful," said MT junior golfer Chas Narramore. "It was the worst tournament we've played since I've been here. Rick [Cochran] played decent, but no one else played well at all."

The tournament boasted the toughest field the Blue Raiders have faced this year. The Georgia Bulldogs, who finished second to Stanford last year in the NCAA championship, took top honors at Brickyard by shooting 33-under par as a team. ACC power Clemson finished second, and last year's ACC co-division champ Georgia Tech rounded out the top three.

"Georgia is probably the best team in the country, and they played like it," said men's head golf coach Whit Turnbow. "It was good for us to get a feel as to where we are and where those folks are. When we see them at regionals, we'll know a little more what to expect."

For the first time this season, no Blue Raider shot under par. Rick Cochran led the way with a 2-over par, and was followed by Craig Smith

with a 5-over par. Narramore, the Sun Belt Conference player of the month for September, shot 10-over. MT shot 20-over as a team.

"It was mostly a lack of preparation for us," Smith said. "Mental preparation was probably the biggest thing for me, at least."

The highlight of the tournament for the Blue Raiders may have come in the second round, when they were able to rally into a seventh-place tie with Kennesaw State and were only 8-over par as a team. That led Turnbow to say that he was hopeful the third round would bring out MT's best performance.

It didn't. "It was an extremely competitive field," said Darin Hoff, who runs the operations of the Brickyard at Riverside Golf Course. "I don't think it should be a reason for [MT] to hang their heads. It should be a foundation that they use as a stepping stone for the future."

Turnbow credited his team's performance to the layoff between Brickyard and the end of MT's previous tournament, the Jaguar Intercollegiate, which took place Sept. 17-18.

"I made a scheduling mistake," Turnbow said. "I'll take the heat for this week."

Smith said he also thought the break had a

See Brickyard, 8

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The game in pictures

Middle Tennessee vs. Arkansas State

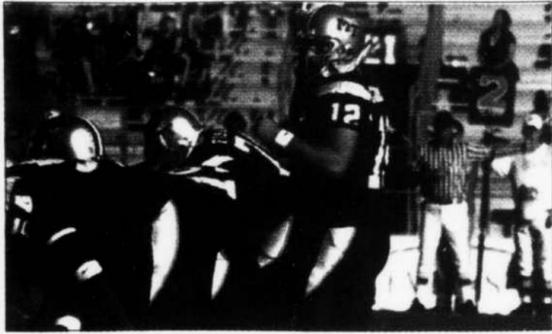


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Redshirt junior Joe Craddock saw action for the first time since starting at QB against LSU in week three. He had one touchdown.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Redshirt junior Taron Henry led all receivers with 3 catches for 71 yards and two touchdowns. He now has three touchdowns for the season.

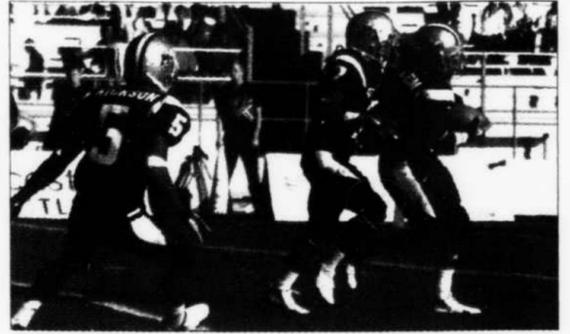


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
True freshman Jeremy Kellen had a career day with two interceptions, both taking place in the first half of Saturday's game against the Indians.

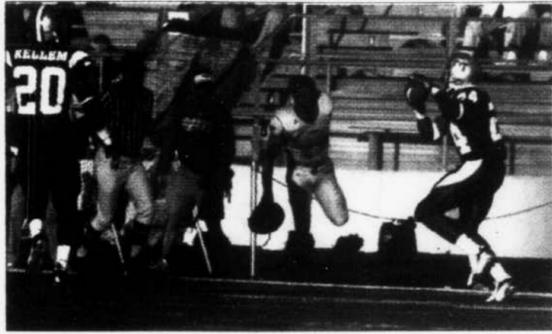


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Redshirt senior Bradley Robinson caught his third interception of the season and 12th of his career. He is now fourth all-time in MT history for career interceptions.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
True freshman Dwight Dasher was shaken up in the second quarter but returned later in the game. He finished with 118 yards passing and 95 yards rushing.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Senior Damon Nickson has come on strong in the second part of the season. Nickson had four tackles in the game, including a sack and this tackle for a loss.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
MT offensive coordinator G.A. Mangus called several trick plays in the game, including a WR screen pass that involved quarterbacks Joe Craddock and Dwight Dasher.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
The struggles in the kicking game continued as David DeFatta and Matt King combined to make one field goal out of four attempts.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
The fans in the student section were busy changing the numbers on the "Sack-O-Meter." MT's defense recorded nine sacks, a new single game school record.

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Sidelines Players of the Week

Offense
Joe Craddock QB 5 - 11 200 lbs. r-Junior
Craddock returned to action Saturday after suffering a back injury that has sidelined since week four. He has been completely unselfish as a back-up and moved the offense after Dasher was briefly injured (50 percent passing, one TD).

Defense
Tavares Jones DE 6 - 2 242 lbs. Senior
Jones led the defense with six tackles and two sacks in Saturday's game against ASU. He has 10 sacks for his career. As a unit, the Blue Raiders recorded nine sacks against the Indians.

Sports Briefs: MT road trip

Continued from 6

can pick up a conference road win at this point in the season it is big."
Kala Morgan got her 34th career goal, moving her closer to Holly Grogan's 37 mark on the all-time list with Morgan now in second place.
Kela Casiple had eight saves against ULL and is 5-2-1 on the year for the rookie.
MT followed the ULL win with another road win in Louisiana, this time against Monroe. The Blue Raiders narrowly avoided playing a school record fifth overtime match by scoring late in the game to win 1-0.
Sophomore Jen Threlkeld tied the team lead with eight goals on the season after scoring the game winning goal.
"It was a very tough match and Louisiana-Monroe played great and we were just fortunate to get a break there at the end," Middle Tennessee coach Aston Rhoden said. "This was a pivotal win for us in the conference race because nothing is settled as far as the eight teams that make the postseason conference tournament so this was a big weekend for us."
Middle Tennessee will look to continue its momentum when it plays host to Denver and North Texas next Friday and Sunday, respectively. It will be the final home weekend of the season. ♦

Brickyard: tough time for MT

Continued from 7

negative impact.
"We had too much time to take our mind off from what we were supposed to be doing," Smith said. "We're used to going out every week and grinding, but you can't blame it on that."
Cochran, however, said he didn't think it was much of a factor.
"I didn't think it was too big of a deal," he said. "Physically, we were ready, but mentally we weren't."
There were other elements besides their play that got MT noticed.
"I just liked [the players'] attitude," Hoff said. "I got nothing but great comments from my committee members about how they were acting, and I hope they would accept an invitation should we relay one next year."
The Blue Raiders are competing in the first round of the Mason Rudolph Championship in Franklin, Tenn. ♦