

Sidelines



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An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

Showers
54/36



Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro: \$2.08

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Lemau'u leads Blue Raiders to victory



You know the saying that defense wins championships?

This year the words rung true for the Blue Raider volleyball team as they made it to the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and finished second in the SBC Eastern Division.

One of the main reasons that the volleyball team is enjoying a record-breaking season is their defense.

The leader on defense has been sophomore libero Alicia Lemau'u. The native of Long Beach, Calif. has been the main stopper this year in the SBC. With her performance she earned the SBC Defensive Player of the Year.

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Counting hours, days, months...



It's 2:10 in the morning and I'm just about ready to shut off the lights and get some sleep before my journalism test in about seven hours. As I reach for the light, my army rings. I hear a surprisingly cheerful "Hey you!" on the other line.

My husband, Spc. Robert W. Stahl, Jr., sounds way more upbeat than I expected, maybe because it's nearly noon where he is.

He is stationed in Samarra, Iraq, with C-troop, 1-33 Cav. of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky. His unit left the United States on September 20, 2005, and will remain in Iraq for at least one year.

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Swing Dance Club to meet tonight

The Guys & Dolls Swing Dance Club will be meeting today from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Murphy Center's dance studio A.

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McCollum fired after seven years

Athletic Department press conference to take place today

By Wendy Caldwell
Sports Editor

Blue Raider head football coach Andy McCollum was fired yesterday, *The Daily News Journal* reported on its Web site.

MT Athletic Director Chris Massaro handed down the decision but gave McCollum the option to finish out the season, which he accepted, according to the article, which cited

"sources close to the program." "We will be having a press conference concerning our football program," Assistant Athletic Director and Media Relations Director Mark Owens said. Owens declined further comment regarding McCollum. The time of today's press conference was unavailable at press time.

McCollum began coaching the Blue Raiders in 1999, the first Division I-A year for MTSU. That season, the team went 3-8. The next year, the Blue Raiders finished the season with a 6-5 record. In 2001, the Blue Raiders were Co-SBC

Champions with an 8-3 record (5-1 SBC). McCollum's last winning season.

The Blue Raiders went 4-8 (2-4 SBC) in 2002 and 4-8 (4-3 SBC) 2003. They improved to 5-6 (4-1 SBC) in 2004 and are now 3-6 (2-3 SBC) with two games left on the season.

Following the home loss to Louisiana-Monroe, players have confirmed that McCollum was told to begin looking for another job. Saturday's loss to North Carolina State ensured a fourth straight losing season. McCollum is 33-44, but his

see McCollum, page 2



MT Head Football Coach Andy McCollum was fired yesterday with two games left on the season. McCollum's record at MT is 33-44 but is 16-28 since 2002.

Kanye rocks the house



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Above: Kanye West headlined Friday's concert in the Murphy Center. West played for a crowd of approximately 2,000, less than a fifth of the venue's capacity.

Right: Fantasia Barrino, winner of American Idol 3, performed before West. The other opening act was Keyshia Cole.



TBR approves McPhee raise

Raises in line for TBR presidents to reflect peers

By Michaela Jackson
Campus News Editor

University President Sidney McPhee will receive a nearly \$20,000 raise over the next 20 months, bringing his salary to just shy of a quarter-million dollars by July 2007.

The raise comes as part of a Tennessee Board of Regents plan to bring TBR presidents' salaries to 90 percent of the salaries earned by presidents of peer institutions, said Mary Morgan, director of communications at TBR.

The Tennessee Higher Education Board revisited the list of peer institutions for each university, according to Morgan, and the salaries are being adjusted accordingly.

As of last summer, McPhee's annual salary was \$204,028, according to TBR. By 2007, he will make \$223,808 a year. McPhee's average annual raise is 6.74 percent, but this increase will comprise a three-year increase of 20.22 percent, the third largest raise among the Board of Regents presidents. McPhee was unavailable for comment, but he told *The Tennessean* he hadn't demanded a major raise.

But he told the paper he would still be paid less than his market value two years from now, the article said.

"The question for folks to decide is whether an institution with a budget of \$250 million ... whether 90 percent of average is acceptable," McPhee said.

The salaries are only set at 90 percent of the peer salaries because TBR is testing a program in which the remaining 10 percent of the salary would be available as an incentive, based on performance.

The plan has not yet been implemented, but it has been approved by TBR in principle,

Morgan said.

If fully approved, the plan would go into effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Morgan also said that there would likely not be enough funding to pay all of the presidents their full 10 percent incentive, even if they earned it.

In response to concerns regarding the presidents receiving raises, even as tuition is increasing and faculty raises have been proportionately less, Morgan said presidents' salaries are a budgetary priority for TBR.

"We have a good group of presidents, and we'd like to keep them," she said. "Dr. McPhee has made faculty raises a substantial priority ... We do believe [faculty salaries] are important. It's just a matter of how much money you have to put into it."

McPhee told *The Tennessean* he hopes to raise professors' salaries, too, to reflect the school's new peers.

Morgan also said tuition raises are unrelated to TBR budgetary decisions.

"Tuition increases in response to a lack of state appropriations," she said.

The most substantial goes to University of Memphis President Shirley Raines, who will make 28.16 percent more than her current salary by 2007.

East Tennessee State President Paul Stanton's raise ranks second behind Raines at a three-year increase of 21.86 percent.

Tennessee State University President Melvin Johnson's salary will increase 18.41 percent, Tennessee Tech President Bob Bell's salary will rise by 19.16 percent and Austin Peay State University President Sherry Hoppe will earn 15.08 percent more by 2007. ♦



McPhee

SEA, administration working on green power

By Wesley Murchison
Staff Writer

Members of Students for Environmental Action and university officials are working to have the green power initiative approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The \$8 tuition increase will be absorbed by administrators, who will work the fee into the budget package that will go before the Tennessee Board of Regents, said Gene Fitch, dean of student life.

If approved, the fee will be divided into two separate funds. \$5 will go towards buying blocks of green-power energy from the Tennessee Valley Authority through the Murfreesboro Electric Department, and \$3 will go towards on-campus generation of clean energy, such as solar panels to replace the on-campus natural gas generation and bio-diesel for the Raider Xpress buses, SEA Director Charles Tidrick said.

SEA has requested the cre-

ation of Student Body Association committee to oversee the collection and the spending of the on-campus funds, Fitch said.

The committee, once passed by Student Government Association senators, will include representatives from Facilities Services to help the committee make proposals and decisions on how best to spend the on-campus funds.

"The folks who would have the knowledge in those areas could be a part of the process,"

Fitch said. "So, if there is an idea that will never make it off the chalkboard, then the representatives will be there to tell them that."

University President Sidney McPhee said the tuition increase is a student organization and student body decision.

"This is not the administration coming in advocating this change," McPhee said.

McPhee said SEA still has a lot of groundwork to do before the initiative can be

passed by the TBR.

SEA will continue working with Fitch, Bob Glenn, vice president for student affairs and Mike Gower, vice president of the business division to prepare for the presentation with TBR.

"If TBR comes and says 'Hey, give us some more back-ground' then we can turn to SEA if we don't have it ourselves," Fitch said.

The implementation of the initiative depends on passage by TBR.

The initiative was passed by 89 percent in the last student election. ♦

MTSU strives to be more energy-efficient

Officials asking students to take small steps toward conservation

By Dale Martin
Staff Writer

MTSU officials are seeking ways to be more energy efficient due to Hurricane Katrina's effects on natural gas prices.

Reserves of natural gas were significantly depleted by the storm, altering the cycle of supply and demand.

"We really have to become more energy efficient," said Joseph Whitefield, director of Center for Energy Efficiency.

Last year, a unit of gas cost MTSU \$7.80. The price has already increased 65 percent to hit \$12.00 this year, and is expected to rise more this winter, according to Whitefield.

MTSU is looking for options that will enable them to maintain a comfort range but still lower the amount they spend on gas.

"It is tough to get a standard on campus," said David Gray, assistant vice president of Facilities Services. "There are 120 buildings on this campus and each of them are different when it comes to heating. We can never anticipate how many times a door will be open," Gray said.

"Right now we are looking at 70 degrees to be our consistent temperature level," Whitefield said.

"We really need people to be

more conscious of what they are doing," Gray said. "Turning off the lights when you leave a dorm room may not seem like that big of a deal, but if everyone does it, it will really make a difference."

Different buildings are affected differently by the rising costs. Some of the older buildings on campus are wired differently, and are not really designed to handle the new technology that has developed over the past years, according to Gray.

The main focus on energy conservation will be during off hours, so students and faculty will not be affected. Classes on Saturday and Sunday are being taken into consideration, though, since there are four buildings on campus that host a weekend class.

Temperature is regulated two different ways on the campus. First, there are local controls, by which the temperature is regulated from inside the building. Second are central controls, which are located inside the energy plant and monitored by computers.

The campus energy system also utilizes motion sensors. They are designed to reduce electricity use, and are mainly located in the bathrooms. When someone walks in, the lights come on. After there has been no motion for a certain period of time, they go off, Gray said.

Some faculty members have resorted to space heaters as an alternate heating source, but



Photo by Carter Fort | Photo Editor

"We really need people to be more conscious of what they are doing. Turning off the lights when you leave a dorm room may not seem like that big of a deal, but if everyone does it, it will really make a difference," David Gray, assistant vice president of Facility Services said.

this may not be the best thing, according to Whitefield, since the MTSU gas bill also includes electricity and sewage fees.

"The space heaters really aren't saving us any money. Since the electricity and gas are combined, and with electricity

prices up as well, it is basically just taking the money and spending it in a different way," Whitefield said.

"This winter is definitely the determining factor for heating issues and we are hoping for a very mild winter," Gray said. ♦

Frist's last year in Senate possibly toughest

By Jonathan M. Katz
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Long past dark Thursday at the Capitol, Bill Frist was in a joking mood.

"What's the news? What's next? How's it going?" he asked a reporter, smiling as he walked across the tiled floor from his office to the Senate chamber.

Just a few hours later, the Senate would pass a \$60 billion bill extending the Bush tax cuts - just the sort of gritty horse-trading that burnishes the reputation of a Senate majority leader.

For Frist, that victory comes near the end of a tough year. Dogged by scandal and trouble, the Tennessee Republican is struggling to maintain his hold on the Senate.

Republican chairmen have nixed his plans, and angry conservatives question his spine. Democratic leaders brazenly defy him, sending him into a televised rage about being "slapped in the face."

He's closely identified with a Republican president whose popularity is at an all-time low, in a party whose other leaders are knee-deep in accusations and scandal. Frist himself faces

multiple federal investigations over the profitable timing of when he sold his shares in HCA Inc., the hospital chain founded by his family.

James A. Thurber, director of American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, said he's heard a joke around Washington that sums up Frist's current situation:

"He came in like Jimmy Stewart, and he's going out like Martha Stewart," Thurber said.

That's exactly the sort of perception Frist will have to overcome if he wants to win the Republican nomination for president in 2008.

Asked to evaluate the past year, Frist replied with a list of legislative accomplishments: A new bankruptcy law, long sought by banks and credit card companies. Bills to fund highways and energy projects that Congress had been unable to pass for several years.

"I've been very pleased with the year thus far," he said. But does he still feel like he's an effective leader in the Senate?

"You just heard the track record," he said.

Other Republican senators

defended Frist's record, which includes completing most of the appropriations bills in Congress this year and shepherding through the confirmation of Chief Justice John Roberts.

"I think he's got a great record of success. There's a lot of stuff he got done," said Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa.

But that might not be enough to preserve his power in the Senate, said Bruce Oppenheimer, a political science professor at Vanderbilt University. "He still lacks some of the instincts that some of the people who rise to that position usually have, politically."

Thurber said the troubles are rooted in the way Frist became majority leader. He took over from Sen. Trent Lott in 2002, after the Mississippi Republican took heat for comments made at a party honoring then-Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Because he had ascended so quickly into the role instead of climbing into it over time, Frist delegated leadership tasks to colleagues like Santorum, Thurber said. "He relied on others ... and that weakened him as a leader."

Last week, Frist found him-

self in a firestorm over a resolution requesting White House reports on progress in Iraq and calls for "significant transition" toward withdrawal over 2006. The Wall Street Journal editorial page issued a stern rebuke Friday: "Majority Leader Bill Frist did his reputation no good by allowing this spectacle."

Frist offered his resolution as a compromise instead of a more harshly worded Democratic measure, and he called it an "absolute repudiation" of the Democrats' move after it passed. But conservative blogger and radio host Hugh Hewitt called Frist's characterization a "denial of the reality of Monday's collapse."

Tom Perdue, an Atlanta-based political consultant and the architect of Frist's 1994 Senate campaign, was livid.

"There is no leadership right now. It is a total leadership vacuum," he said. "I blame that on the president. I like the president, but he has sure dropped the ball in the last six to eight months."

Perdue said Frist's personality has put him in an impossible situation: Trying to manage a Republican-controlled Senate,

but unwilling to use pressure to bring them in line.

"I feel bad for Sen. Frist. I care for him very much as a person and I care for him very much as a U.S. senator. I think he got rolled by the cowardly Republicans ... I wish he would walk around with a baseball bat and use it on occasion," Perdue said.

There have several other bumps this month. On Nov. 1, Democratic Leader Harry Reid stunned Frist by throwing the Senate into closed session to discuss prewar intelligence without consulting the Republican leader. Frist said the Senate had been "hijacked."

"(Never have) I been slapped in the face with such an affront to the leadership of this grand institution," Frist said to the cameras. "For the next year and a half, I can't trust Sen. Reid."

Reid said that things have cooled off since the maneuver. "I think it's fine," Reid said of their working relationship now.

Frist was rebuked again, gently, in November when Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., declined to investigate a press

leak related to secret CIA detention centers. Frist and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., drafted a letter calling on committees to investigate, but Roberts asked him to hold off.

During a standoff this spring over using the filibuster to hold up judicial nominees, a group of moderate Democrats and Republicans in the Senate reached a compromise without him.

Frist has announced he would retire at the end of next year, giving him only one lame-duck year to convince Republican donors he's the man to back in 2008, Oppenheimer said.

But a statewide poll released Monday from Middle Tennessee State University showed his home state undecided on a potential presidential run. Twenty-four percent said they would pick Frist, while 22 percent said they would pick any Democratic opponent. The poll of 608 adults in Tennessee had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

But one majority was clear: 61 percent said they wanted someone with policies and programs different from President Bush. ♦

TennCare officials didn't share data on those it disenrolled

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - TennCare officials had detailed information on health conditions of people losing their TennCare coverage but denied such data existed to medical experts creating a safety net program.

Members of the task force charged with creating the safety net program designed to help people cut from TennCare find care said they asked in February for detailed information about people coming off the program. State officials told them such data was not and would not be available.

"We asked for the information so we could have a sense of where the biggest needs might be, so we could respond to them," said Jim Brexler, president and CEO of Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga, who specifically requested the information while serving on the task force appointed by

Gov. Phil Bredesen.

Through the state's open records law, the Tennessee newspaper obtained copies of e-mails that show the Bureau of TennCare had generated a computer analysis last year that details the nearly 1,000 illnesses suffered by people expected to be cut from TennCare. E-mails further show that officials shared this report with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, which manages care for many TennCare enrollees.

TennCare officials declined to discuss the computer analysis. TennCare spokeswoman Marilyn Elam said in an e-mail that "there's simply no one that can recall why the ad hoc report was produced and for whom it was generated for."

E-mail records show Darin Gordon, TennCare chief financial officer, e-mailed the report on Dec. 23, 2004, to Sonya Nelson, vice president of

Medicaid Administration for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

Gordon sent copies of the message to Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz, TennCare Director J.D. Hickey and Jim Shulman, a Goetz assistant who later took TennCare oversight of the safety net.

Like TennCare officials, BlueCross' Nelson said she could not recall the report and could not recall whether she requested it or whether TennCare "proactively sent it to her," said Mary Thompson, a company spokeswoman.

Some lawmakers and enrollee advocates suspect political reasons behind the information not being provided.

"I can't imagine their rationale on this," said state Sen. Jim Bryson, R-Franklin. "I'm almost speechless. The only reason I could think of (for not releasing data) is they didn't want it

being public information. Maybe they didn't want people to know how sick some of the people are that are being cut. That's the only rationale I can come up with."

Health Commissioner Kenneth Robinson, a Bredesen appointee and head of the now-disbanded safety-net task force, said he believed the information was irrelevant.

"I think we had all decided that the disease-specific information was not critical for the broader work the task force was going to be engaged in," he said. "There was no need for that information."

Brexler disagreed. "I think it is critical that those who are planning for the future of TennCare and addressing the impact of its cuts use as much data as possible to focus on the care requirements of the population," he said. ♦

From McCollum, page 1

record over the past four seasons is 16-28.

McCollum began his coaching career at MTSU in 1982 as Head Junior Varsity Coach. He then served as an assistant coach from 1983-1988 under Boots Donnelly, who served as athletic director until last spring. McCollum also held coaching

positions at UTEP, Baylor and a seven-week stint at Tennessee.

The Blue Raiders have lost the last four home openers and have struggled with attendance requirements since entering I-A. After dismissing Donnelly, Massaro was hired to replace him. ♦

Correction: Last week's story, "Candidates prepare for county race," said that Truman Jones would not run for another term as sheriff. Jones plans to run in next year's race. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Bush urges China on rights, trade surplus

BEIJING (AP) — Amid concern over a crackdown on dissidents, President Bush pressed China on Sunday to expand religious, political and social freedom and won renewed promises but no concrete actions from President Hu Jintao to open China's huge markets to U.S. farmers and businesses.

Hu said the two leaders sought an outcome of "mutual benefit and win-win results." But their meeting Sunday at the Great Hall of the People on the edge of Tiananmen Square appeared to produce no breakthroughs on U.S. demands for currency reforms in China and no details about how China would cut its trade surplus with the United States, on track to hit \$200 billion this year.

Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Andrew Secresty of State and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed dismay over a crackdown on dissidents before Bush arrived. She said the U.S. side would raise the issue "quite vociferously with the Chinese government to both get a clarification and to make clear that we believe open societies allow people to express themselves."

Iraq ambush kills 24, including 1 Marine

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An ambush on a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol northwest of Baghdad left 15 civilians, eight insurgents and a U.S. Marine dead from a roadside bomb and the fire-fight that followed, a U.S. military statement said Sunday.

The attack began with an improvised explosive device detonating next to the Marine's vehicle in the town of Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad, on Saturday, the U.S. command said.

Fifteen Iraqi civilians were also killed by the blast, which was followed by an insurgent attack with small arms fire, the statement said.

"Iraqi army soldiers and Marines returned fire killing eight insurgents and wounding another," the statement said.

Also on Saturday, a suicide bomber detonated his car in a crowd of Shiite mourners north of Baghdad, killing at least 36 people.

Pa. teen attends slain parents' funeral

LITITZ, Pa. (AP) — Kara Borden sat with her four siblings in the chapel of Lancaster Bible College for her parents' funeral. On the Borden's street, white ribbons were affixed to mailboxes to honor their memory.

The relationship between 18-year-old David Ludwig and 14-year-old Borden was a closely guarded secret. There was good reason to keep things quiet: Their four-year age difference displeased their parents.

The tensions in the Borden house apparently spilled over last Sunday, when police say Ludwig fatally shot Kara's parents, Michael and Cathryn Borden, after an argument about their relationship, then fled with the girl. The two were found the following day after a chase and crash in Indiana. Ludwig is being held without bail on murder and kidnapping charges; Kara is in the care of relatives and church members.

"They weren't officially boyfriend and girlfriend because their parents didn't approve of them being together," said 16-year-old Stephanie Mannon, one of Kara's neighbors. "Sometimes they would secretly get together."

Deadly storm weakens, should miss Florida

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Tropical Storm Gamma weakened Sunday, a day after it deluged the coast of Central America and killed at least six people — three in flooding in Honduras and three in the crash of a small plane belonging to a Belize plane owned by filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola.

Forecasters said the slow-moving Gamma, the 24th named storm of an already record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season, was likely to miss

Florida. The storm's top sustained winds weakened to near 40 mph. Gamma was expected to stay well below hurricane strength of 74 mph and could be downgraded to a tropical depression within a day, the National Hurricane Center said in Miami.

Early Sunday, Gamma was drifting slowly northward toward Cuba, forecasters said.

Earlier forecasts showed Gamma following a course similar to the one taken by Hurricane Wilma, which barreled across south Florida on Oct. 24, causing 21 deaths, damaging homes and bringing widespread power outages. But it was now expected to skirt Florida.

At 1 a.m. EST Sunday, the storm was about 220 miles east-southeast of Belize City and about 75 miles north-northeast of Limon, Honduras. It was drifting northward at about 2 mph.

Iraq pullout rejected in rancorous vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House spurned calls for an immediate pullout of troops from Iraq in a vote hastily arranged by the GOP that Democrats vociferously denounced as politically motivated.

"To cut and run would invite terrorism into our backyards, and no one wants to see troops fighting terrorism on American soil," Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said Friday night after the House, as planned, rejected a GOP-written resolution for immediate withdrawal. The vote, held as lawmakers rushed toward a two-week Thanksgiving break, was 403-3.

Democrats accused Republicans of orchestrating a political stunt that prohibited thoughtful debate on the issue, and nearly all voted against the measure.

That included Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, the Democratic hawk whose call Thursday for pulling out troops set off a nasty, personal debate over the war.

Ali honored at opening of hometown center

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Muhammad Ali can still draw a big crowd. The boxing great took center stage in his hometown Saturday night to celebrate the opening of the Muhammad Ali Center, a six-story tribute to Ali's storied career and a legacy to his ideals of peace and tolerance.

The Hollywood-style event, at a performing arts center next door to the Ali Center, drew an adoring cast of actors, singers, athletes and even a former president, Bill Clinton — reflecting the champ's star appeal.

"The world is a better place because of you," Clinton said. "You thrilled us as a fighter and you inspired us even more as a force for peace and reconciliation, understanding and respect."

Though frail, Ali still flashed his famous playfulness. As Clinton praised him, Ali discreetly put two fingers in a V-shape behind the former president's head, drawing laughter from the crowd and Clinton.

Clinton said Ali was unmatched as a fighter: "No one was ever more beautiful or brash or bright or powerful or fast in the ring. It was breathtaking."

Aguilera reportedly marries music executive

NEW YORK (AP) — Christina Aguilera has found out what a girl wants, and now she's married him.

The 24-year-old pop singer tied the knot with music executive Jordan Bratman in a Saturday evening ceremony at Staglin Family Vineyard in northern California's Napa Valley. Us Weekly reported on its Web site.

Sources told the magazine that Aguilera, her hair decorated in jewels and pulled back in a bun topped by white flowers, walked down the aisle in a Christian Lacroix gown. The couple exchanged rings in front of about 130 guests.

Aguilera and Bratman arrived in Napa Valley on

Wednesday to kick off wedding festivities, with a Japanese-themed rehearsal dinner Friday night at the Auberge Du Soleil resort, Us Weekly reported.

Bratman, 28, proposed to Aguilera in February while on vacation in Carmel, Calif. Their hotel room was filled with rose petals, balloons and gift boxes.

"When I got to the last box, there was a ring in it," Aguilera told People magazine. "He got down on one knee and said 'Will you do me the honor of being my wife? I've been floating ever since.'"

Thirty-two U.S. students Rhodes Scholars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-two college students from across the United States, including a Stanford University student who hopes to become a medical researcher, have been selected as Rhodes Scholar for 2006, the Rhodes Scholarship trust announced Sunday.

The scholars, selected from 903 applicants who were endorsed by 333 colleges and universities, will enter Oxford University in England next October. The scholarships are the oldest of the international study awards available to American students and provide two or three years of study at Oxford.

Among the winners is Elizabeth W. Mayne, 23, a senior at Stanford University majoring in biology with a focus in biochemistry and biophysics.

Besides studying cell cycle regulation, Mayne has spent time setting up workshops on Shakespeare for underprivileged students in the San Francisco Bay area.

Honduran teen escapes prison for fifth time

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — A 16-year-old boy accused of killing a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent has escaped from a juvenile prison for the fifth time in three years — just as he promised, an official said.

Herlan Colindres, a street

gang member implicated in 16 other killings, slipped out of the crumbling juvenile rehabilitation center in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said Napoleon Nazari, national police director of criminal investigations, on Saturday.

Colindres and his 13-year-old bodyguard were arrested in July in the killing of Michael Timothy Markey, a DEA agent who was shot to death July 29 while visiting a temple dedicated to Honduras' patron saint outside of Tegucigalpa.

It was Colindres' second escape in less than four months — and the fifth in three years — from the same prison, where bricks can easily be chipped from the walls.

No. 1 USC Survives 50-42 Fresno St. Scare

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No. 1 Southern California got another major scare night. But the electrifying Reggie Bush wouldn't let the Trojans lose.

Bush, making a strong Heisman Trophy statement Saturday, ran for a career-high 294 yards on 23 carries and scored twice. He led the Trojans to a wild 50-42 victory over No. 16 Fresno State and keeping their hopes alive and unprecedented third straight national championship.

Bush, a Heisman finalist as a sophomore last year, also caught three passes for 68 yards and set a school record with 513 all-purpose yards, easily breaking the mark of 368 set by Anthony Davis against Notre Dame in 1972.

The win was the 33rd straight USC and its 26th in a row at the Los Angeles Coliseum, where a crowd of 90,007 watched the 23-point underdog Bulldogs give the Trojans all they could handle.

USC (11-0, 7-0 Pac-10) kept its streak alive Oct. 15 by scoring on a 1-yard run by Matt Leinart with 3 seconds remaining for a 34-31 victory over Notre Dame. This game came close to rivaling that one in fourth-quarter drama. ♦

SIDELINES ONLINE

Middle Tennessee State University



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Opinions

From the Editorial Board

Andy Mac: The honeymoon's over

It finally happened: Andy McCollum was fired. All the praying to the football gods has finally paid off.

When McCollum first came to MT as head coach in 1999, things were OK. We even had a few winning seasons to go with our newfound Division I-A status. The match seemed to fit, and the Blue Raiders were looking to become a rising power in the Sun Belt.

However, it didn't take long for Blue Raider fans to realize the honeymoon was over, and we're glad the Athletic Department jumped on the bandwagon.

With all the commotion over our Division I-A status, they've pulled out all the stops, including bringing in half of Outkast to try to boost attendance. Now, however, they're finally doing something that could lead to the deciding factor in home attendance: victories.

In the past four years, the Blue Raiders have lost home openers to large (at least, by our standards) crowds. This season, they failed to score in the second half of the first three games, beginning with an embarrassing second half at Alabama in which they gave up 17 points and scored none.

After losing again on Saturday, the Blue Raiders are guaranteed one more losing season, and that's one more than we can afford.

McCollum's glory days have passed. Sure, he has earned coaching honors and even received the first vote in school history in the Preseason Associated Press poll. But that was in 2002, and since then, it's been all quiet on the coaching front. We've yet to hear the same praise that McCollum used to receive for his coaching style.

McCollum is known for his "no excuses" coaching mindset, and we're glad to see no excuses are being accepted. Sure, the losses can be pawned off on such popular scapegoats as schedules, but, with the exception of the 2003 season, McCollum's SBC record has been fairly consistent with his overall record, and the SBC isn't a conference known for producing football powerhouses, and North Texas, the team we just can't seem to avoid losing to, is no Southern California.

If we expect to keep our Division I-A status and actually consistently fill seats, this is just the next step. When former Athletic Director Boots Donnelly was let go in the spring, we knew then that the Athletic Department meant business. Keeping a coach who has failed to perform to standard in the past four seasons is bad business. ♦

Why the heck is there class on Wednesday?

With the semester winding down and the holiday season upon us, one question comes to mind: Why are there classes on Wednesday?

Holidays are supposed to be about spending time with family, eating more than you ought to and passing out on the couch during the third quarter.

Thanksgiving makes this especially difficult because it always occurs on a Thursday. This makes for a short work week and a long weekend, a nice break before everyone realizes that the next major holiday is Christmas and panic sets in.

This also creates problems for people with moderate traveling to do: those whose families are just close enough to obligate holiday travel.

Holiday travel is a frightening beast itself. Gas prices tend to rise, making that trip to the pump take a bigger bite out of the wallet than usual.

Rush hour starts earlier and lasts later the day before because everyone is rushing home to get a head start on the journey.

And then there are the holiday drivers.

This wouldn't be a big issue if there was a mass exodus to a free all-you-can-drink binge buffet, but along with the better food comes extended family, people whose paths only cross a few times a year.

Aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents swarm around, asking you when you're getting married, when you're graduating and everything else you were supposed to have accomplished already because their children are getting too old to be in your wedding and don't you want to start a family of your own?

Also, is that tattoo real, how long have you had it, and did your daddy know about it? And what are you going to do



Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

if you wear a backless wedding dress?

But I digress.

Having to wait to travel until Wednesday evening means late arrivals that don't coincide with everyone else's tendency to wake up at 5:30 a.m. because seven people need to use the oven today and you're on a tight schedule.

Students with families out of state probably don't have ample traveling time to see relatives, and if they have time to travel, there's a reasonable chance that's all they have time for. Traveling eight hours round-trip for a meal hardly seems worth it, regardless of how good the food is.

Add to that the Friday after Thanksgiving, widely known as the busiest shopping day of the year, when hoards upon hoards of eager consumers flock to malls and Wal-Mart Supercenters to max out credit cards they'll spend the next calendar year and then some paying off.

All that traveling, money spending and dealing with people is enough to warrant an extra day off.

If the university is unable to provide students with a full day off on Wednesday, they should at least consider a half day, canceling all classes that begin after noon. That way, those who had to travel would have ample time to do so and still feel like they had some time off. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached at visa717@aol.com.

Look to allies to assist training of Iraqi forces

Years ago, before I moved to Tennessee, I was in an alternative school program that took me out of my normal classes and across town.

I did all sorts of activities in the program, but what remains embedded in my mind are the presentations my two teachers would have us do regularly. It was something I was never very good at. To this day, I can remember my teachers reminding me, over and over, that all of my presentations needed a beginning, middle and an end – especially an end.

Following the news from Washington lately, I feel as though the White House could use a lecture on that very idea.

The war in Iraq has gone on for about two and a half years. Now, this isn't a very long time for a war, at least by history's standards. The American Revolution took eight years, the Civil War, five. The United States was involved in Vietnam for 17 years (from the beginning of U.S. training of South Vietnamese forces to the end of the pullout.) If you really want to see a war that dragged on endlessly, look at medieval France and England: those two countries fought almost continuously over territory for 116 years.

However, two and a half years is a long time to fight a war that has cost the lives of 2,279 soldiers from 17 different countries without have any sort of functioning plan or strategy to meet the goal of full Iraqi independence.

This matter has been the powder keg that, in the last few days, has blown the roof out from over Congress and started a shouting match usually reserved for the crotchety old men of the English House of Lords. Pennsylvania Democrat John Murtha's failed resolution to immediately withdraw from Iraq seems to have brought out whatever bitterness and anger the House's members have been holding back for months.

Meanwhile, half a world away, President George W. Bush told troops – and the world, for that matter – that "as Iraqis stand up, we will stand down."



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

Right now, however, Iraqis – particularly, those being recruited to form the country's new military and police forces – aren't very keen on standing up and listening to Americans telling them what they need to do in order to secure their country. U.S. leaders are hoping to eventually have Iraqis training their fellow citizens to protect and serve by next year. However, as problems of extortion, rape and desertion by Iraqi forces continue, it is clear that transitional steps are needed.

The United States, in theory, at least, has allies in the Arab world. Not very many, but some. It stands to reason that, if you want your employees to respect their leadership, you find them a leader they can relate to. Wouldn't it make sense, then, that we should be looking to our allies to find people that Iraqis will be more willing to listen to?

Think about it. Who would you feel more comfortable taking orders from: someone from a country with a far different culture and a different environment from yours, or someone who's at least lived in the area for a while, speaks similarly to the way you do and understands just what you're getting at, most of the time?

Unless you're a masochist, you'll probably feel more comfortable with the second option.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration and its officials at the Pentagon don't seem to get that. Instead of pursuing diplomatic options and finding ways to draw trainers from around the Middle East, contracts are drawn up for security and training companies here. Civilians are continuously put in harm's way

because no one is exploring other avenues to get Iraqi security firmly on its feet.

It would be unfair to say that things are hopeless. Progress is being made, albeit slowly. Officers within Iraq's military and police forces said they have been receiving more information from citizens about insurgent activity. Working harder to bridge the culture gap, however, could speed things up and put the day when Iraqis will take care of their own defense a little more in reach.

Wars are easy enough to begin, assuming the proper preparations have been made. You storm in with rockets flying, troops in step with guns roaring. With enough popular support and political backing, one can probably start a war just about anytime one wants, again assuming that preparations have been made.

The middle of any lengthy war is harder, and requires not only supplies and personnel, but a full understanding of who exactly you're fighting against and who's working with you. Without this knowledge, war breaks down into an endless shouting match accompanied by gunfire. Despite what some of the president's friends may think, brute force alone, while it can win battles, cannot end wars.

Yanking our troops out of Iraq tomorrow isn't going to solve anything. It may end the insurgency we are seeing today, but without the means to protect itself, Iraq's central government is susceptible to destruction by anyone who wants to grab control for themselves.

The White House, however, needs to remember that someday this war will have to end. In order for it to end, we need to find better ways to prepare Iraq to stand up for itself. If we cannot do this, then no amount of presidential posturing will help our troops stand down from this conflict. ♦

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

Letters to the Editor

Parking should reflect student needs

To the Editor:

I am fed up with being told that laziness is the only possible reason I wouldn't want to park in Outer Mongolia. I happen to suffer from both asthma and fibromyalgia, and while neither of my conditions is severe enough to qualify for a handicap parking tag, long walks do cause me quite a bit of discomfort. In a student body as diverse as ours, I am sure you would find a significant proportion of students in similar situations – weight disorders, sports injuries, hernias or any number of illnesses, disorders and injuries which make long walks excruciating. This doesn't even touch on the subject of our older students.

I understand that this is exactly what the buses are for, but again, many of our students are what we call nontraditional. They commute from outside of Murfreesboro, where they have children, jobs, and a number of other responsibilities. The last thing we need is one more hassle to try to work our schedules around. The next time someone feels like making some self-righteous comment about the parking situation, try an experiment:

Be late for class because the babysitter didn't show up on time, on about four hours of sleep because they gave you forced overtime at work and run the mile or two from the parking lot with a heavy backpack on your back while sucking on your inhaler and trying to tune out the growing pain and numbness in your lower extremities.

So no one accuses me of just whining, here are a number of solutions, some of them quite simple:

First, no more special parking for faculty and staff. I have an enormous deal of respect for the people who work hard to provide my education. In fact, I intend to join their ranks one day. However, the last time I checked, I was the one paying \$1,839 to attend here. The current situation is analogous to parking at the back of the Kroger parking lot because all of the good spaces were reserved for the employees. This could free up a few hundred good spaces, and what's more, when forced to park with the general population, others will create pressure to make the parking situation better.

Second, there are ample empty spaces on campus unused. Beginning immediately, they should be graveled and used for parking. I am thinking, in particular, of that big courtyard between Peck Hall and Cope, but there are numerous other grassy spots which could quickly and cheaply be converted into prime parking. I understand that a sprawl of concrete, rock and automobiles is not as aesthetically pleasing as the trees and meadows which decorate our campus. However, the last time I checked I was here for an education, not to take a nature-walk every morning.

Third, as has been suggested numerous times, a parking garage is the ultimate solution. Yes, a parking garage costs

money. Apparently, we found the money to build a Sports Hall of Fame and a new Honors Building; buildings which only benefit a small portion of our student body. While the money for these buildings most likely came from alumni donations and specially earmarked funds, it doesn't make it right. A policy of no new building until we have completed a parking garage would ensure convenient parking for everyone on campus. If some member of the alumni wants their shrine to MTSU football built quickly, well, then they can help to fund the garage we so desperately need. And if any alumnus wants to ensure a legacy of generosity, whoever funds the garage that prevents students from ever again having to hike miles to class will be remembered with the highest regard.

Eric West
Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts

Department deserves more coverage

To the Editor:

I am a sophomore at MTSU, and last night I went to see the Rocky Horror Show performance. I have to say that it was by far the most entertaining play I have ever seen at MTSU; however, I do not feel it is getting the credit it deserves.

Conveniently, my roommate was the lead character of the play, so I knew all about it, but I don't feel that the rest of the campus was well-informed. I also do not feel that the theatre department receives enough recognition here on campus. They work very hard to bring entertainment to MTSU, so the least we can do is make sure they receive proper coverage.

I would really like to see more articles about the theatre department in the *Sidelines*. I think it would really mean a lot to the members of the theatre department and really boost their morale.

In addition to the Rocky Horror Show, I have not been aware of many other performances here on campus. I think it would be beneficial to not only the theatre department, but to our university in order to make sure the community is more informed. I believe that MTSU should be proud of their excellent theatre students, and recognize more often that we have one of the strongest theatre programs in the southeast. MTSU theatre is known in New York for doing Off Broadway shows, but who knew? Obviously not our campus, and that is not something to admit.

We really need to start paying more attention to these students and their accomplishments. They really have a lot to offer to our university in the way of entertainment and nationwide exposure.

Noel Roberts
Freshman, College of Mass Communications

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Living

Counting hours, days, months

page 5
November 21, 2005



Photo contributed by Sfc. Jay Morse
Stahl aims his gun, ready and attentive, but doesn't actually shoot.

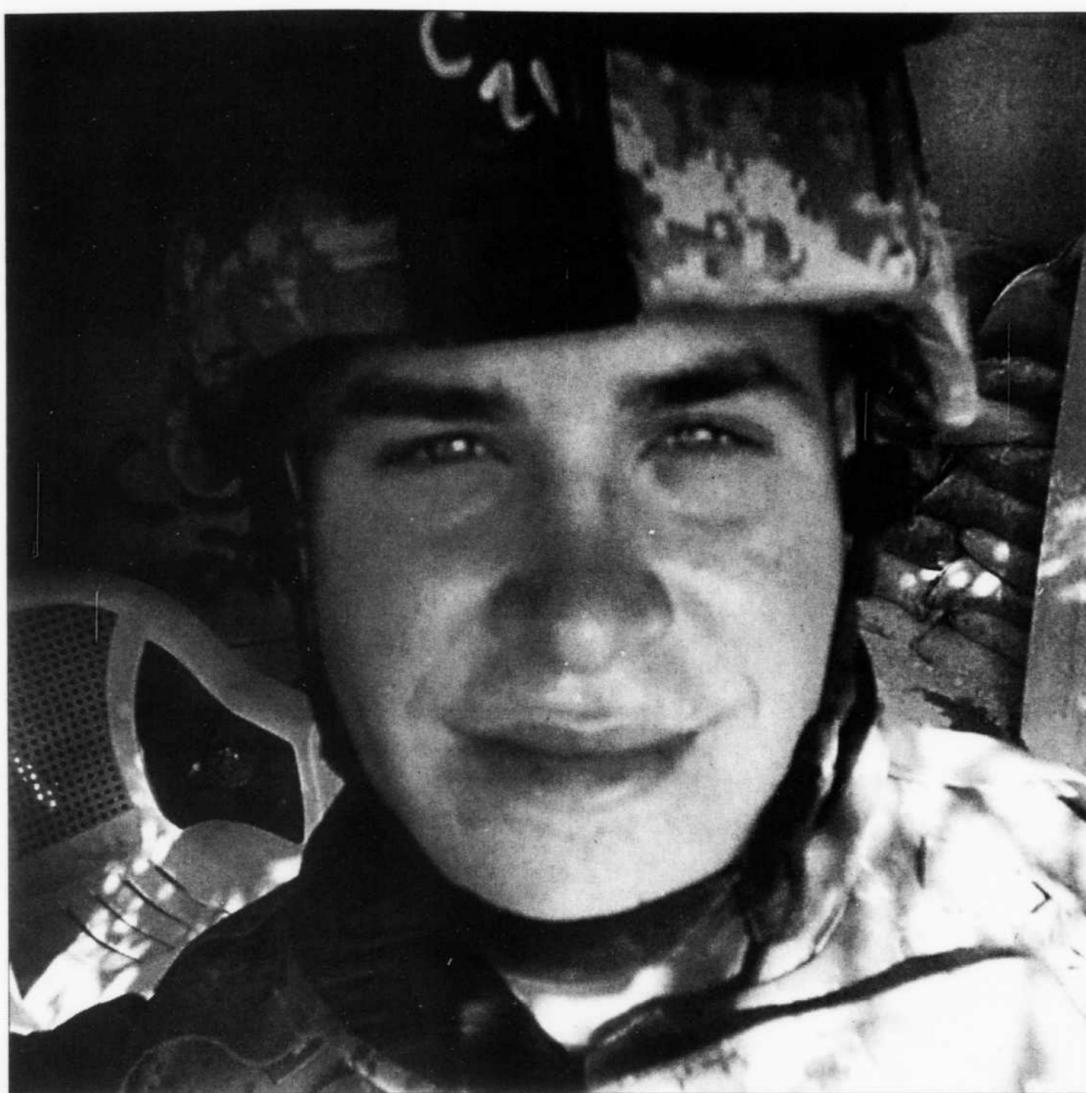


Photo contributed by Rob Stahl
Rob Stahl is stationed in Samarra, Iraq with C-troop, 1-33 Cavalry of the 101st Airborne Division based out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Wife awaits husband's return from Iraq; focuses on normal routine for now



Emily Stahl
Staff Columnist

It's 2:10 in the morning and I'm just about ready to shut off the lights and get some sleep before my journalism test in about seven hours. As I reach for the light, my phone rings. I hear a surprisingly cheerful "Hey you!" on the other line. My husband, Spc. Robert W. Stahl, Jr., sounds way more upbeat than I expected, maybe because it's nearly noon where he is.

He is stationed in Samarra, Iraq, with C-troop, 1-33 Cav. of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky. His unit left the United States on September 20, 2005, and will remain in Iraq for at least one year.

As a family member left behind, every day is a challenge. I get more and more frustrated as time goes on, but I try to take one day at a time and focus on the positive.

One of the hardest parts of deployment is communication. Phone calls, along with emails, are spotty. Sometimes I get a phone call

every two or three days, and sometimes I only hear from him once a week. The Internet service there is unreliable as well because of "blackouts" that occur whenever someone gets hurt.

We write letters to each other, mainly to have something tangible to show our grandchildren one day. Letter writing is very nostalgic for me, as if I could imagine myself as a World War II Army wife writing letters to my husband at war. Plus, it's very special to hold a letter in my hand, knowing he touched it too only about a week and a half before.

"Just keep hanging in there," he says to me during our early morning phone call. "It will all be worth it in the end."

I know what he says is right, but that doesn't keep me from being frustrated. I miss him like I would miss my left arm if it got chopped off. I can still function, but something just doesn't seem right.

Rob tells me as much as he can about what he and the other soldiers are doing over there without compromising what the Army calls "OPSEC," or operational security. One time he told me about a mission that involved taking school supplies down to the local school for the Iraqi children.

"We can't just give the supplies to the kids—they'll take them off and sell them," he said.

There are tons of children in Iraq. Rob told me that they learn English in school, and their favorite phrase is "Please give me..." Insert either candy or Red Bull in the blank. My husband says that the Iraqi people are obsessed

with Red Bull, which I think is very funny.

We end up having a delightful conversation on this occasion, but it wasn't always like that. It took me a good month to be able to talk on the phone without breaking down in tears. This phone call even makes me laugh.

"I have to go going," Rob says as I look at my watch. He is only allowed 30 minutes on

the phone at a time, although sometimes we break the rule and talk for longer.

Before I know it, we've said our goodbyes and I've hung up the phone. I know that he'll call again as soon as he possibly can.

Each day that passes brings me one step closer to being reunited with my husband. Thank goodness all of my professors have been infi-

nately understanding of the situation thus far.

Until the day comes when he steps off the plane for the last time, I will go on with my daily routine and count the hours, days and months until he comes home, all while waiting for the next glorious time my phone will ring, and his voice will be on the other end. ♦



Photo by Brandi Fleck | Features Editor
Carr is a Symrna resident and is glad to be back to civilian life.

"For a while, every time I closed my eyes I would see dead people, but after the first day you start to get immune to it."

—Nichole Carr, former U.S. Army supply specialist

Life in desert brings Porta-Potty blues

From head-on collisions to Porta-Potty, time in Iraq well spent

By Brandi Fleck
Features Editor

Sitting with knees tucked on a plaid, plush couch with a cigarette in one hand and vodka mixed with Red Bull in another, Nichole Carr smokes, sips and bats her sweeping eyelashes which starkly contrast her baggy Adidas sweat shirt and khaki pants. Carr's playful femininity almost makes you forget she was a soldier.

Carr was honorably discharged from the United States Army after six years as a supply specialist. Although she did not encounter combat, her unique experiences in the war with Iraq did not suppress her personality.

Decorative globes, vanilla candles, and a gold fish aquarium accent Carr's bright, almost obnoxious and outgoing outlook toward life. Humor helps Carr to remain honorable.

"She's a nut who's always making jokes," Becky Amason, Carr's mother, said.

Carr went to Kuwait to build camp Udari at the request of Captain Jennifer Lasne, a best friend that she met while stationed in Germany. Camps were set up all across Kuwait and Iraq among other places as safe havens for the soldiers. However safe the camps were, restrooms usually consisted of trenches in the ground and beams of wood.

Amason asked Carr what her job was the first time they got to talk after Carr volunteered to go to Iraq

with Lasne.

The answer was poop! Amason thought she was joking and Carr promptly told her somebody has to do it. Carr would drive across the desert, listening to Saliva on her headphones, picking up the port o potties that fell off her fork lift and rolled across the sand with contents sloshing only to settle again at a camp where some unsuspecting soldier would open the door instead of using the trench.

Carr got to that point by spontaneously enlisting at age 17. Her family supported her despite the surprise. Basic training was the biggest self-esteem booster Carr has ever had. She says that she's still here and breathing after climbing walls physically and mentally training for war.

"Yes, bad things happen, but bad things happen in war because it's war — people have to die," Carr said.

One of Carr's first jobs after entering Iraq was to inspect going across the borders to make sure Iraqi citizens were not smuggling soldiers to Kuwait. Her location at Camp Ceadars inside of Iraq was about four miles away from Kuwait.

Every day for a month, Carr had to open wooden coffins strapped to cars with ropes, and make sure the body inside was really dead. On occasions, bodies would be wrapped in plastic, other times not. She saw a range of bodies that had died of old age, to civilians with gun shots to the head and children covered in blood.



Carr poses as she takes her own photo at the National Training Camp in Calif. in 1999.

Photo contributed by Nichole Carr

see Life page 6

Night with Boxing Club

One man spreads passion for boxing one student at a time

By William C. Fancher
Contributing Writer

David "The Lion" De Leon is gentle with first-timers.

I arrived in the aerobics room of the Rec Center, where the MTSU Boxing Club meets on campus every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. The turnout was slim that night; almost none of the club's regulars had shown up.

De Leon stood in a corner of the room. At his feet was a large duffel bag filled with equipment—gloves, sparring mitts, speed bags. The club has been in existence for three semesters, with De Leon as President and CEO, but this is only the first semester that it had been awarded funding and equipment from the school.

Surrounding him were the night's five newcomers, watching intently as he demonstrated proper handwrapping technique, and doing their best to fumble along before getting lost in the maze of loops and wrap-arounds. De Leon had told me that a number of women had shown up to club meetings, and tonight four of the five beginners were not just female, but freshman Chi Omega sisters. Since sorority life is not traditionally known as a breeding ground for million-dollar babies, I asked the ladies what had brought them here. They pointed to Brittney Potts.

"I saw [a flyer for the Boxing Club] in here, on the board when I was working out," said Brittney. "I've wanted to box for, like, ever, but my mom wouldn't let me."

Why? I asked. What is the attraction of boxing?

"I don't know. Just, like, the excitement maybe."

The one regular who was present that night was James Pope, criminal justice major and campus safety patrolman. James had been coming to club meetings for two months. He comes for general fitness—"It's a killer on your calves and shoulders the most"—and perhaps some ama-

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
David De Leon and senior marketing major Zach Maddux spar during a Boxing Club meeting last week. Maddux is preparing for his first actual boxing match set for sometime this spring.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Left: David De Leon and Zach Maddux practice combos. The MTSU Boxing Club meets every Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
David De Leon leads a class of students during a recent meeting of the MTSU Boxing Club.

teur aspirations—"in time, you know." James shadowboxed for the better part of two hours, following the schedule of an interval timer, a small box that marks each three-minute round with a piercing electronic whistle.

De Leon lined the first-timers up facing one of the room's mirrored walls and spent about half an hour on bare basics. As a teacher and a coach he takes special care to provide a calm, even peaceful atmosphere. These meetings specialize in the non-contact elements of the sport, such as the invaluable physical workout, since, after all, no one wants to get punched in the face. That is, until

you're ready for it. He spent time with each beginner, providing practical wisdom: "Do not let your heels touch the ground."

"Your first two knuckles will hurt your opponent. Your last two knuckles will hurt yourself."

And even a tale or two from his own training:

"The first day [of training] I did this—jab, jab, jab—for one whole day. I learned one punch a day... There's a lot of guys who want to be fighters, so they try to weed you out."

The story of how David De Leon discovered boxing is even better. "I was jumped. And I knocked these two guys out. Everyone started telling me I should box. In fact, even the guys who jumped me said I should box." Originally from Chicago, De Leon began his training in Fort Worth, TX, eventually moving back to Chicago and winning an Illinois state championship

and a Golden Gloves title. "When I fought in Chicago, I was fighting every weekend," he told me. "Most cities have boxing programs. In Chicago every park district that I've been to had a boxing ring in it, so there's 50, 100 gyms. Here, there's none. Murfreesboro has zero."

On Monday and Friday the club meets at the Police Athletic League gym in Smyrna at 7:30pm, where so far it has received the most recognition. But De Leon has not given up on his dream of a youth boxing program here in Murfreesboro. "I sent a letter to Mayor Bragg, but he never got back to me. But I went through Murfreesboro Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Boys and Girls Club, Housing Authority, YMCA, a couple churches, everything that I could think of—even went to the Moose Lodge. Everyone says it's a great idea...but nobody has [a facility]."

And so for the time being the Boxing Club survives on borrowed facilities and seldom-paid dues. As

the meeting wound down and newcomers left with promises to return ("I love it!" proclaimed cheerful Chi Omega Jenny Gibson), De Leon mulled over different payment options for the club's \$15-per-semester fee. He left the subject unfinished as he began his own workout on the double-end bag, a speed bag suspended from above and below by bungee cord. The bag's pain echoed through the room as he pounded it with focus and agility. Those of us still in the room just watched.

Senior Xiao Wu, the only newcomer that night not to belong to a sorority, was surprised and impressed by the entire evening. "I didn't know the teacher would be, like, a professional."

I almost corrected him, that David De Leon had never fought professionally, but realized that that was beside the point. Professional and amateur are just words, and don't change the fact that it is a tough man who would step into the ring with the Lion. ♦

From Life, page 5

"For a while, every time I closed my eyes I would see dead people, but after the first day you start to get immune to it," Carr said.

Carr was not afraid of her missions. She remained proud through them all.

"If you go out there scared everyday then maybe subconsciously you'll make something happen," Carr said.

Carr volunteered to escort mail trucks from Kuwait to the Baghdad International Airport so that the Iraqi soldiers could not hurt morale by destroying the mail. While driving aggressively on the opposite side of the road to run vehicles off the road, Carr was hit at 55 miles per hour, head on, by a van of eight Iraqi civilians. Glass from the mirror and windshield shredded the left side of her face, neck and arm. Sunglasses protected her eyes, and Carr shrieked when she poured a bottle of water over the blood and saw the glass stuck in her flesh.

Among other events, Carr got stranded in the desert on her 23rd birthday, slept

in one of Hussein's son's palaces and collected \$1,100 that Lasne had to come up with for her mother's funeral expenses. Lasne's mother died of skin cancer.

Adjustment back to civilian life was not easy for Carr. Now that she is out of the army, she thinks about it every time she's broke. She said the pay is great for a single woman living in the barracks.

She did not reenlist because she served what she signed up for and then left to get some intellectual stimulation. Now, Carr is an engineering student at Motlow University and a part time Domino's delivery driver.

Carr grew up with one sister who is one year older than her. They did not get along due to athletic and academic interests during high school, but now they are extremely close. Carr actually surprised her sister, Jennifer Cagle-Gandy, by getting leave to show up to her wedding in July 2003.

Carr loves her friends and family but never belonged to anyone growing up. Her mother served as a role model, but Carr still prided herself on being an individual. She decided to join the army because no one else was doing it.

"When she got back, she was thin, her hair was thin and she just looked different—you could tell that she's gone through something hard to describe," Amason said. ♦



Photo contributed by Nichole Carr



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MT drops road match to NC State Wolfpack 24-3

MT keeps Vandy from bowl game

Sports Commentary



Jonathan Hutton
 Staff Columnist

In the words of Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee football has hit rock bottom.

What he forgot to mention is that it's reached the worst not only in Knoxville - after the loss to Vanderbilt for the first time in 22 years - but everywhere.

The Vols, Blue Raiders, Titans and Commodores all fell to expectations set either before or during this season. When there comes a point in time in which Vanderbilt knocks off Tennessee, Tennessee barely defeats Memphis, and Middle Tennessee defeats Vanderbilt all in the same season, it can't get much more strange. Does that mean the Blue Raiders are state champs? Probably not. We can, at least, brag to UT fans that even we, the so-called "little Middle," could contain the CommodoreOdors.

The most frustrating thing for me to digest is the fact that Middle Tennessee football had a chance to get recognition, not only in the conference, but throughout the entire state this season. Once again, disappointment looms over the football program after the teams fourth consecutive losing season.

Instead of a "no excuses" slogan to begin the 2005 year, the Blue Raiders season theme is better known as "the year of opportunity missed." Even Head Coach Andy McCollum will admit MT had opportunity after opportunity to make plays and finish drives, but they just haven't executed.

Trying to figure out if the Blue Raiders can salvage any remaining games in the season is like trying to figure out what Terrell Owens will say next. No one knows for certain. It's a no-brainer that if they play the way that are capable of they will finish on a high note - it's been that way all season. This team is so unpredictable.

They play against Arkansas State and Florida Atlantic the way they should have played against Louisiana-Lafayette and North Texas (I realize there are more losses to mention). Finishing the season, they could go 2-0, 0-2, 1-1, who knows. I do know it means nothing conference-wise. It's another wasted year on high hopes and expectations for a championship. ♦

By Jonathan Hutton
 Staff Writer

Behind a blocked punt and an interception, North Carolina State defeated Middle Tennessee 24-3 on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders (3-6) opened the game with their longest drive all season in terms of plays and time. MT drove on its opening possession 16 plays, taking 7:42 off the clock for a quick 3-0 lead from Colby Smith from 26 yards out.

MT held the three-point lead up until a 10-play, 71-yard drive to set up a John Deraney 27-yard field goal with 8:24 left in the half.

NCSU (5-5) scored the first touch-

down of the game with 2:38 left in the second quarter after a blocked punt set up a 10-yard run from Andre Brown, which gave the Wolfpack a 10-3 advantage at the half.

NCSU scored quickly on the opening possession of the second half on a four play, 50-yard drive, setting a 17-3

Saturday, November 19

MT 3
 NCSU 24

Next Game at Troy
 November 26

game that the Blue Raiders would fail to overcome. The Wolfpack added to their lead after Clint Marks threw an interception with under nine minutes in the third, which was returned for 50-yards and a 24-3 final score.

Regardless of missing three key defensive starters, the MT defense permitted a season-low 238 yards, and held the Wolfpack to just eight first downs all day. Sophomore defensive end Erik Walden started at outside linebacker due to injuries to Jonathan Bonner (shoulder) and Dennis Burke (knee). Jeremiah Weaver missed the game due to a shoulder problem.

MT quarterback Clint Marks completed 23-of-37 passes for 228 yards, extending his streak to four games in

a row with more than 200 yards passing. Marks' main target was senior wide out Cleannord Saintil, who reeled in 10 receptions for 129 yards. Saintil moved into ninth place all-time in receptions at MT after his 10-catch reception number to 94.

The Blue Raiders had good drives, possessing the ball for over 38 minutes in the ballgame, but stalled any scoring opportunities behind 10 penalties for 74 yards.

The loss guarantees MT their fourth-consecutive losing season and the NCSU win keeps them in bowl contention. ♦

Lemau'u leads Blue Raider defense to Championship

Volleyball standout earns honors for Defensive Player of the Year

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

You know the saying that defense wins championships?

This year the Blue Raiders rung true for the Blue Raider volleyball team as they made it to the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and finished second in the SBC Eastern Division.

One of the main reasons that the volleyball team is enjoying a record-breaking season is their defense.

The leader on defense has been sophomore libero Alicia Lemau'u. The native of Long Beach, Calif. has been the main stopper this year in the SBC. With her performance she earned the SBC Defensive Player of the Year.

Lemau'u became the first Blue Raider to win that type of an award since the Blue Raiders joined the SBC.

Besides being named the SBC Defensive Player of the Year, Lemau'u was also selected to the All-SBC 1st team. Lemau'u was named SBC Defensive Player of the Week on three separate occasions this season.

"Alicia is an unsung hero to us, she is a very steady player and her passing lets us run our offense," MT Head Coach Matt Peck said to MT Media Relations on the day she won the award on Nov. 16. "I am thrilled for Alicia because her high-quality of play has kept us in and helped us win matches."

This year she led the SBC in digs per game with five. She broke a school record for the second year in a row with total digs in season. As a freshman she had a school-best 508 digs on the season. A lot of people ask if there's anything she can't dig?

"I read off the blocker's help a lot. I feed off the blockers," Lemau'u said.



Lemau'u

She stepped it up this season with 520 digs that again broke the school record, and became the fastest player in MT history to reach 1,000 digs in her career.

The key to her success has been telling herself to stay focused before every point.

"Repetition, by staying focused, always reminding me during every point," Lemau'u said. "Before every point, telling me to stay on the lines and watch the blocks. It helps because sometimes you get caught up in it. Reminding just helps you stay focused."

This season the team has enjoyed the best year ever as a member of the SBC with a regular season record 26-3, 10-2. Several MT players have set new individual marks. Lemau'u has been glad to be a part of this team.

"I won't trade it for nothing," Lemau'u said. "Nobody expected us to be here at the finals. I think we proved to ourselves and others that we could do it."

All the starters will be coming back next year, so the future will be improving for the Blue Raiders. If Lemau'u keeps playing the same way she has in the first two seasons, she will be a defensive force in the SBC. Lemau'u might become the SBC's version of a brick wall. The rest of the SBC might watch out. ♦

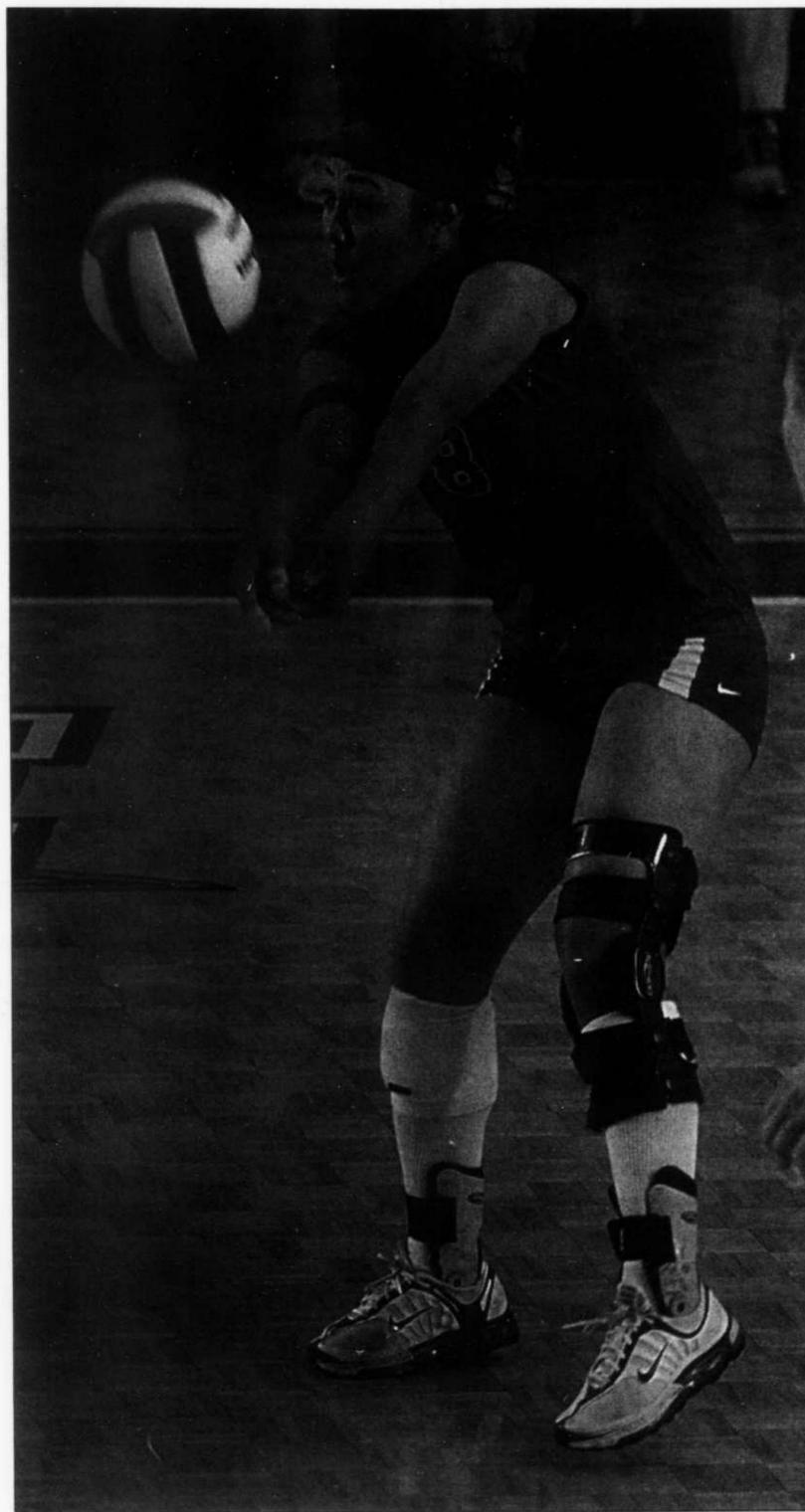


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT's Alicia Lemau'u had a standout season, helping the Blue Raider volleyball squad reach the championship game in the Sun Belt Tournament. The Blue Raiders fell to Western Kentucky 3-2 in yesterday's match.

MT defeats ASU, Denver in Sun Belt tournament; fall to WKU in finals

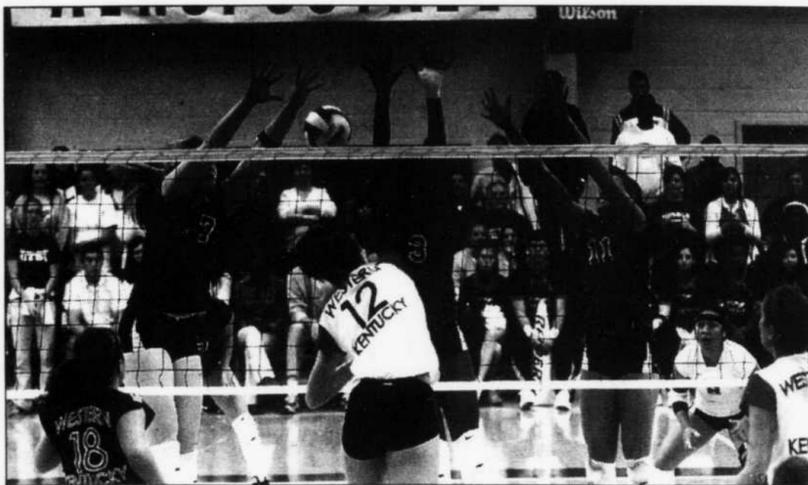


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The Blue Raiders won their matches on Thursday and Friday but fell to Western Kentucky on Saturday. The Blue Raiders hit the Lady Toppers again in the championship game, falling 3-2 to WKU.

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders got what they wanted, but first they had to defeat two tough teams to get that chance.

In the 2005 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Tournament at the Alumni Memorial Gym here in town the Blue Raider Volleyball team advanced to the finals with two 3-0 sweeps.

On Thursday, the No. 2 seed MT knocked out the No. 7 Arkansas State 3-0 in the quarter-finals of the SBC tournament.

The MT defense held the ASU offense to under .055 attack percentage in all three games, including -.028 in the last game.

Andressa Lyra led MT with 14 kills, while Ashley Adams added 10 in the win. Both players made the All-SBC team this season.

The SBC Defensive Player of the Year Alicia Lemau'u had 18 digs.

ASU finished the year with a record of 11-19.

On the Friday, MT advanced to the championship game with a tough 3-0 win over No. 3 Denver.

In the last game, it went back and forth with Blue Raiders pulling out the 31-29 win to end Denver's season.

"We played a very good team today, and played them fully and completely from top to bottom," MT Head Coach Matt Peck said. "They pushed

us, we pushed back." Lyra had 19 kills including nine in the last game, Victoria

Continued on 8

Thursday, November 17

MT 3
 ASU 0

Friday, November 18

MT 3
 Denver 0

Saturday, November 19

MT 2
 WKU 3

Lady Raiders drop season opener to UT-Chattanooga

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Lady Raider basketball head coach Rick Insell was expecting a little more from his first game of the season at Middle Tennessee.

What he got Friday night was a 76-66 upset against in-state rivals Chattanooga. With a crowd of more than 1,500, fans were not expecting a loss this early in the season from the Lady Raiders.

The excitement of coaching his first collegiate game slowly faded into disappointment as the clock wound down and MT could not make the comeback.

What hurt the Lady Raiders the most were the 25 Chattanooga turnovers that rarely seemed to put points on the board. However, MT had 18 turnovers themselves, but the Lady Mocs were able to convert those turnovers to 29 points of the 76.

"I thought our girls pressured pretty good but Chattanooga did a good job handling our pressure," Insell told Media Relations. "I was proud of forcing the 25 turnovers but we didn't do a good job of converting those into points, while Chattanooga was able to do

that successfully."

The game was tied 28-28 at intermission when the Lady Raiders struggled to fight back in the second half. MT managed a 20-9 run but Chattanooga kept the points coming.

MT caught up once again to tie the game at 32 with 16:04 to go. However, the Lady Mocs dominated the run with 12-2 to take the lead 44-34 with 12:01 remaining in the half.

Junior guard Chrissy Givens led MT, making a career night out of the loss. Givens put up 18 points, tying her career high and managed 15 rebounds and seven assists, also tying her career high in those categories.

Krystle Horton put up 14 points while freshman Johnna Abney picked up eight points of her own.

MT shot only 34 percent from the field and the Lady Mocs went 20-28 from the line in the second half.

Three Lady Raiders made their MT debut Friday night. Monique Martin, Abney and LaCondra Mason combined for 20 points and eight rebounds.

MT comes to the Murphy Center for its home opener against Houston Tuesday at 7 p.m. ♦

From Sun Belt tournament, page 7

Monsteralo added 13. Lemau'u had 16 digs.

One of the goals that the team had was making the finals and wanting a rematch against Western Kentucky. WKU gave MT two of their three losses this season. The Hill toppers received the top seed in the tournament. They have been in the finals seven times, while this was MT's first try in the title game.

MT lost 3-2 to Western Kentucky in the finals.

Lyra and Quanshell Scott both received All-Tournament honors for their performances. ♦

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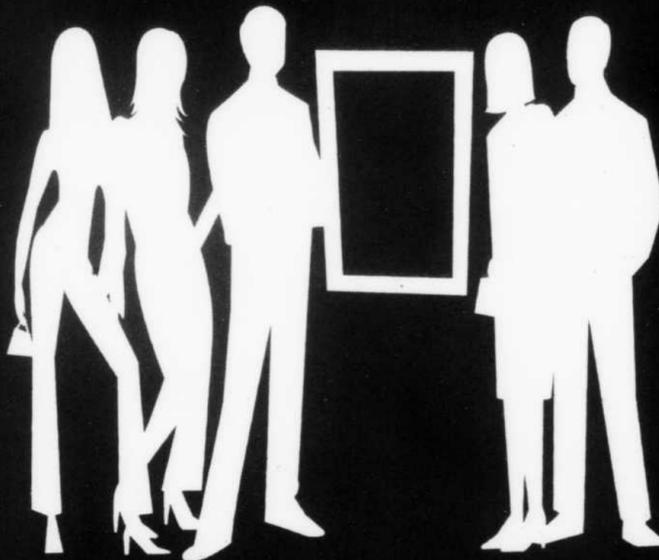
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