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Thursday
36°/21°

Sidelines is the semiweekly student newspaper of MTSU. Anyone can have up to two copies of the current issue free of charge.



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Alleged rape victim's test results pending

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

A female MTSU student who was allegedly sexually assaulted last weekend and a juvenile who was allegedly raped on Nov. 3 both on Greek Row will be waiting for months according to Police Chief, Buddy Peaster.

A female MTSU student claims she was sexually

assaulted on Greek Row sometime between 9 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 6 a.m. on Dec. 4, according to the police report.

"There may be a situation that could lead to a missed opportunity or the delay in identifying a suspect," said Peaster. "It could possibly delay justice, but the reality is that the labs only have so many personnel and only get so much money from

the state to hire."

Peaster said that the tests from the female who was allegedly assaulted Nov. 3 at the Sigma Nu house on Greek Row had not been returned, but no effort is being made to look for alternative testing labs.

"There are plenty of places that put substances in test tubes but sometimes the evidence takes training and skill," Peaster said. "So

there are other labs that could do what they do, but the people at the crime lab are specialists."

Peaster said funding or lack thereof is the main reason for the amount of time the police department has to wait for results.

"Because of funding, that is what the state and TBI are up against," Peaster said.

"It is an unfortunate thing that we have to wait for results," Peaster said.

Peaster said the victim that was allegedly assaulted last week reported that she awoke in a fraternity house on Greek Row and believed she had been sexually assaulted. The victim said she remembers nothing from the hours of the alleged assault. Police officials are trying to contact

a friend of the victim to substantiate the location of the assault.

"She said that she awoke on Greek Row but is unsure of the house she was in," Peaster said. "She said she was sore and knew that someone had had sex with her but wasn't aware of who it was."

ASSAULT, PAGE 2

Senators give students 24-hour options

By MARIE KEMPH
Staff Writer

During the Student Government Association's meeting on Thursday, the Senators passed legislation to propose to have the James E. Walker Library and the Cyber Cafe open for 24 hours in future finals weeks.

Resolution 11-09-F, supporting 24-hour food service, and 12-09-F, which proposed the library to be open 24 hours as well, received support from senators from every college on campus. The first resolution won by a 37-4-3 vote, and the latter by a 41-1-4 vote.

Senators Drew Dunlop, Brandon Thomas and Brenna McDaniel co-sponsored the two bills. The resolutions are designed to provide students with a more conducive academic environment at times when most spend late night hours studying on campus.

"I've spoken to many students who would like the library to be open 24 hours," Dunlop said. Adding that he has spoken with the appropriate library personnel about resolution 12-09-F, but school administrators will have to approve it before it goes into effect.

If adopted by the MTSU administration, the library would be open 24 hours a day from April 26, 2010 until May 6, 2010, and the Cyber Cafe will follow the same schedule. The library and cafe will follow regular operating hours during the rest of the semester.

Senator JaMichael Smith of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences announced he had been working on a similar proposal for the current semester during the Nov. 19 SGA meeting, but was still working on finalizing the details of his resolution.

Smith said he had expressed interest to school administrators about implementing extended library hours during final exams this semester, but was not sure if it would be possible considering the short timeline.

Dunlop, who chairs the Academic Affairs Committee, said his committee was approached earlier in the semester by library services personnel to brainstorm ideas that would address the current needs of students.

Bill 09-09-F also passed Thursday by a 50-1-1 vote, requiring all senators to attend weekly meetings, regardless of their class schedule. College of Mass Communication Senator Erin Johnson co-sponsored the bill, along with nine other senators from various colleges.

"Senators need to be here in order to do their job," Johnson said. "They need to appreciate their responsibilities as senators."

On average, there have been five to 10 senators absent at each weekly meeting during the fall semester, according to attendance records that are kept on file with Heather Rawson, executive vice president and speaker of the senate.

The number of absences reached a peak on Nov. 12, when 16 senators did not attend the weekly meeting.

Bill 10-19-F, a related bill about the attendance and participation of senators, passed by a 42-9-1 vote and requires elected representatives to inform executive officers of any planned absence within 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of an SGA event.

"This is about accountability," said Brandon McNary, SGA president. "Several people that signed up [for SGA events] did not show up and other senators had to do their work."

McNary said he was disappointed in some of the senators during Student Appreciation Week, but did not elaborate on senators who did not meet their responsibilities.

"Overall, it has been fun and we've accomplished a lot," McNary said. "I look forward to the spring semester."

Four resolutions, including one proposing "open parking" hours be the same for the entire campus, were tabled until the next SGA meeting on Jan. 21, 2010.



Students try to stay dry

Rain soaked the MTSU campus on Tuesday, leaving students hurrying to find shelter. The rain started in the early morning and continued through the night. Yesterday, the rain was gone and the sun appeared to mark the last day of classes.



Photos by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Students wear rain boots and use umbrellas to keep dry Tuesday.

CURRENT EVENTS

H1N1 Vaccinations

Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Recreation Center Atrium
Free for MTSU students, faculty and staff

MTSU String Chamber Recital

Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hinton Music Hall
For more information, visit mtsumusic.com

Linda Sack, local dulcimer player

Dec. 10 - 11, 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Admission: free

Wheathouse

Dec. 11, 8 p.m.
Location: The Boro Bar and Grill

Beat Repeat

Dec. 11, 8 p.m.
Location: 527 Mainstreet
Admission: \$5

Southern Culture on the Skids

Dec. 11, 9 p.m.
Location: Mercy Lounge
Admission: \$15

Get Behind the Mule: Benefit for Second Harvest Food Bank

Dec. 12, 9 p.m.
Location: The Basement
Admission: minimum \$7 donation

Thomas Hart Benton: An Epic Life

Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.
Location: The Frist Center for the Visual Arts auditorium
Admission: free

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcopy@mtsu.edu or slnews2@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

Job finding proves difficult

By SARAH GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

Bill Fletcher, director of MTSU's Career Center, said college graduates might have a difficult time finding a job this year due to a 20 percent decrease in job availability.

"Not to oversimplify the problem, but there are too few jobs and too many candidates," Fletcher said. "Employers are cautious about recruiting employees right now in this economy."

Fletcher said students are having a hard time finding a job after they graduate, partly due to irresponsibility. He said students need to allow themselves three to six months prior to graduation to start applying for jobs and submitting their resume and cover letter.

"If you want to have a job by graduation in May, you should definitely be looking now," Fletcher said. "The No. 1 job strategy is networking, and that takes time."

Fletcher said one misconception students have is that when choosing a major they are actually choosing their career. The Career Center director said it is important for students to distinguish their job function: what they want to do and how they want to do it from their major and then choose their career field of choice.

"If anything, students need to

start sooner in thinking about what they want to do with their major," Fletcher said. "I worked with one student who majored in accounting and got a job with the construction company that is working on campus - accounting is the job function and construction is the industry."

The director said students need to be very attentive to detail to be competitive in the job application process, which includes submitting a resume and cover letter.

"A cover letter and a resume are like a handshake," Fletcher said. "They fit together but are not the same - you need both."

Fletcher said there are many Web sites like collegegrad.com that assist students in creating their resume and cover letter. He said the most important aspect of the resume is attention to detail - no misspelled words and be concise, but thorough.

"There's not an employer on the face of this earth that is going to read a six to seven page resume," Fletcher said. "And half a page is too short - one to two pages is a good length for graduating students."

Collegegrad.com states that a common misunderstanding about the cover letter is that it is read before the resume. Employers, instead, look for credentials first and then read the

cover letter, which is not about the applicant, but is tailored towards the specific company to which the graduate is applying. The site also states that a cover letter should demonstrate an applicant's knowledge of the company and explain in specifics what he or she could do to make the company better.

"Use the language of the industry," Fletcher said. "Also include your transferable skills - I don't know of an employer out there not wanting an employee with good communication skills, a diverse work background and people skills."

Fletcher said although the economy is detrimental to the college graduate, students are not taking advantage of the services available to help jump-start their careers. He said students struggle because they do not start the job search process early enough, they are not knowledgeable about the job search process and they do not seek the assistance the Career Center provides.

"Students are not taking advantage of the services they have available," Fletcher said. "Our services are available to currently enrolled students and alumni for entry-level employment."

For more information about the Career Center, visit <http://career.web.mtsu.edu> or call 615-898-2500.

Democratic primary restructured Three candidates left running for governor's seat

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

Within one week, Ward Cammack and Sen. Roy Herron, D-Tenn. 24th, and have dropped out of the Tennessee gubernatorial race, leaving Senate Minority Leader Jim Kyle, D-28th, former House Majority Leader Kim McMillan and Mike McWherter alone in the Democratic primary.

Herron, who previously won the Rutherford County Democratic Straw Poll, informed the public that he would run for the 8th district congressional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 2. Tuesday, Rep. John Tanner, D-8th, announced that he intends on retiring.

"Our nation is facing many challenges in this time of global economic upheaval, war and domestic uncer-

tainty - these challenges affect every family in the 8th district every day," Herron said. "I now ask for the people of this district for the opportunity to serve them in Congress."

Herron received the most support in Rutherford County with 119 votes cast by the democrats at the 2009 straw poll. Kyle was favored second with 81 votes, McMillan with 58, McWherter with 32 votes and 13 were cast for Cammack, who announced his resignation on Thursday.

"One year ago, I entered this race to address our economic challenges of spending our money against ourselves," Cammack said. "Despite significant personal time, money and appeal of my vision for the state, long standing political alliances proved impenetra-

ble and fund raising ground to a halt, effectively ending the campaign."

McMillan said while she and Herron share a similar vision for Tennessee, she feels Herron will be an "exceptional member of Congress."

"I would like to offer Senator Roy Herron and his wife my best wishes on his congressional campaign in the 8th district," McMillan said. "Today, I hope we can begin moving our state forward."

The three remaining candidates are preparing for an inevitable battle against one of the candidates in the Republican primary: U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, state Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey and Bill Gibbons, a Memphis prosecutor.

Student scholarships appear biased

By GARRETT FRANKLYN
Staff Writer

After the in house punishment of three MTSU football players in early October, in which they were suspended from playing against Mississippi State University, some MTSU students wonder whether these athletes are being treated differently from other scholarship recipients.

"Many departments on campus award scholarships to students in applicable majors, students who are members of particular organizations or students who perform some sort of service for the department," said Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships.

Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs said recipients of departmental scholarships are dealt with no differently than any other student, save

the in-house punishment that varies by department. She said there are no unique penalties for students on institutional or organizational scholarships.

"The only time a scholarship is affected by a disciplinary sanction is if the student is suspended or expelled because they are no longer in school, or if they are convicted legally of a drug offense," Sosh-Lightsy said. "We've never intervened before."

Departmental scholarships, particularly in the case of SGA, are based on some specific service or academic value, not necessarily on the character of the student. Athletic scholarships, similarly, are offered on the basis of a student's ability to play a sport.

For the SGA, the scholarship is held to the office, said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

"I've been working in SGA for 12 years," Fitch said. "No executive officer has had a scholarship impacted."

If a scholarship were revoked, the student would undergo a disciplinary process separate from the university's judicial affairs, Fitch said.

"Violations of SGA [regulations] are dealt with in house," Fitch said.

These in house regulations are listed within the SGA constitution. The constitution states that SGA members, as representatives of the students, must conduct themselves in a manner deserving of the high level of trust that the student body places in their leadership.

To read more, visit us online.



ASSAULT FROM PAGE 1

Peaster said that while the victim said she woke up on Greek Row, after interviewing her ex-boyfriend the police weren't sure where she actually was.

"She said she woke up and called an ex-boyfriend and he picked her up," Peaster

said. "We talked to him and he said he didn't pick her up on Greek Row, however she said whatever happened, happened on Greek Row."

Peaster said that because the victim doesn't remember anything from that night, it makes the investigation very difficult.

"When someone doesn't remember anything at all it is hard to come up with

a suspect and how things happened," Peaster said. "Right now the details are very sketchy."

While no real leads have surfaced, Peaster said the police department is working with the fraternity houses on Greek Row to find out whether anyone saw the victim that night or has any information about the night in question.

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FEATURES



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Labs close; computer resources lost

By CATHERINE HANSON
Contributing Writer

At the beginning of this semester, I made my usual trip to the James E. Walker Library to print syllabi and other assignments for my classes and was met with an interesting surprise.

The computers I normally use, which are located against the wall on the first floor of the reference section, were no longer connected to the printers.

All the computers on the first floor were being used, as usual, so in order to print the items I needed, I went to the fourth floor and luckily found an open computer.

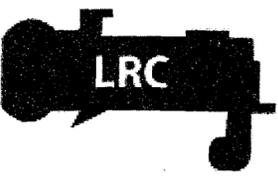
As I left the library I found myself asking the question, "Why did they do this?" To find out, I conferred with Don Craig, dean of the library.

"This was part of an effort to restrict non-students from using the printers in that area so that they would be more available for student use," Craig explains. "This decision has been reversed and these computers are being enabled to print as before."

This isn't the first time Craig has faced issues of computer availability for students.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of explaining to them that there are computers on all four floors of the building," he explains. "There are times when all computers are in use and students may have to wait to use one, as they have to do in other university computer lab locations."

Finding available computers seems to become more difficult with each passing semester. Last semester, the computer lab in Peck Hall was turned into a classroom. Another classroom was needed, but one less computer lab means the others become that much more crowded. Finding a balance between what is needed and

			
<p>Kirksley Old Main</p> <p>Location: 2nd Floor – Rooms 204, 252, 267 3rd Floor – 305, 351, 360</p> <p>Hours of Operation: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 9:15 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed On Weekends</p> <p>Contact Information: 615-898-2144</p>	<p>Learning Resources Center</p> <p>Location: LRC 101A, 101JB</p> <p>Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM-10:00 PM Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Saturday 12:00 PM-4:00 PM Sunday 6:00 PM-10:00 PM</p> <p>Contact Information: 615-898-5191 615-898-2892</p>	<p>Business & Applied Sciences</p> <p>Hours of Operation: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week</p> <p>Contact Information: 615-898-5515</p>	<p>Walker Library</p> <p>Hours of Operation: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. – Midnight Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5p.m. Saturday 8a.m. – 5p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. – Midnight</p> <p>Contact Information: 615-898-2817 615-904-8550</p>

Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

what is extravagant is not an easy task.

"It's frustrating because you never know if you'll find a compute," says Kelly Muldoon, a junior social work major. "Then, when you finally get a computer, chances are you will wait in line for a while behind someone printing out too many pages."

So, what should students do? Many have begun bringing their own laptops to school. As technology becomes more advanced and portable, this seems to be a good solution.

However, not all students can afford a laptop, which makes access to the computers on campus even more important.

Maybe the problem is people don't know where and when to go. A full list of computer labs and their times of operation can be found on the Internet Technology department's homepage. Unfortunately, this list was last updated in 2005.

Also, make sure the lab is available to everyone; for example, you need your student ID to get into the computer lab in the Business and

Aerospace Building. Knowing what time to go to a computer lab is also important. Craig offers these tips:

"Students should plan to use computers during non-peak use times," he says. "Also, learning where computers are located in the other computer labs would be helpful to them."

In some ways it seems that computer availability is becoming a lot like the parking situation on campus, there just isn't enough to go around.

Also, in both cases sometimes the only thing

you can do is be patient and keep looking. Eventually a computer will become available.

After the first few weeks of any semester things begin to calm down, and a routine forms that allows people to get what they need, whether it is a parking spot or a computer.

Another thing to remember is to be respectful of others. Have you ever needed to use a computer and someone was using it just to check his or her Facebook, MySpace or e-mail? A typical first reaction is to get annoyed.

Make sure you don't do the same thing the next time you're using a computer. Do whatever you need to do and move on so more people can use the computers.

The next time you find yourself trying to print a paper at the James E. Walker library, remain calm. Remember to breathe and count to 10 because there are more serious issues to worry about. It's not worth getting upset over, and there is a computer out there somewhere waiting for you.

Memoir recounts professor's personal, Korean history

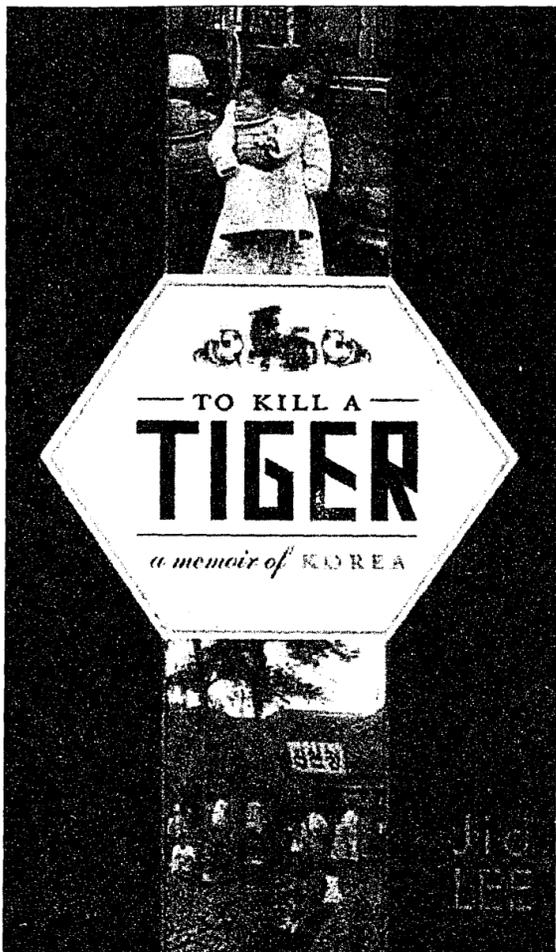


Photo courtesy of Overlook Press

Jid Lee's memoir, "To Kill A Tiger," reflects her life growing up in Korea as well as the history that unfolded during her formative years.

By BRITTANY KLATT
Staff Writer

Korea is a land that has suffered greatly during the 20th century. It was taken over by a foreign army, involved in a civil war and then split into two countries. Yet, it is a place whose history many do not know.

To learn about how the people of Korea were affected by the changes that their country has gone through, people have to look beyond the classroom and seek out books from those who have lived through those experiences.

"To Kill a Tiger: a Memoir of Korea," written by English professor Jid Lee, is the story of one family's life in Korea. The story follows Lee as she struggles to find her path in life. As the novel progresses, readers see her transform from a young, defiant girl to a woman who worked hard to achieve her dreams.

Lee's story is intertwined with her family's story and describes how their lives changed as the years passed. As the world and culture changes, so do the lives of everyone around her.

Although most of the story takes place between the 1960s and 1980s, the novel does explain some Korean history from World War II to modern Korean history. Lee uses her family's history to show how the events of the 20th century have impacted the Korean people.

The flow of the story is a bit awkward at times. Lee often switches between personal stories and historical background. While the personal narrative is written very naturally and is easy to read, the

passages describing historical events are very academic and sometimes dense.

However, the background information is necessary. It provides the readers with the context needed to understand some of the actions taken by her parents. Readers are also given an inside look into parts of Korean history that most people never hear about, like



Jid Lee

English professor, writer

the Korean feminist movement.

Readers who can move past the short history lessons are treated to a moving story about personal triumph. When Lee retells stories of her past, it is impossible for readers not to get dragged into the story. The writing allows the reader to feel as though he or she is actually viewing the events as they occur.

Because readers have practically seen Lee grow-up in front of their eyes, many of them will feel as though they are sharing the experiences with

her. Readers will feel anger and shame whenever she is violently punished by her brothers or joy and excitement when she succeeds in her goal.

One of the great things about the memoir is how many different people can relate to it. Although the story takes place in Korea, many of the themes transcend cultural borders.

Students can relate to the frustration Lee feels as she struggles through her classes and the disappointment she feels when fails to get into her first choice of schools. Students who find it difficult to memorize information will be able to connect with the aggravation Lee feels as a child when she is studying for classes.

The novel also explores the relationship between parents and their children and how that relationship changes over time. As Lee matures, her image of her parents changes. She begins to realize the truth behind their actions and understand their motivations.

Using her own story as an example, Lee shows readers how cultural pressures can overwhelm people. Throughout the memoir her family was torn between the tradition and desires.

Because Lee refused to be subservient to men, whether it was one of her brothers or a boyfriend, she was seen as different. The girls at school did not understand her, and she got in trouble with her parents more than once, but she managed to work hard and resist the social pressures and eventually achieved her dreams.

Abandoning my comfort zone

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Assistant Features Editor

I am scared. It is exactly nine days until graduation, and I refuse to repeat the same mistakes I did when I graduated from high school. I had my whole life planned out. Mama always says, "If you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans."

If my life went according to plan, I wouldn't be writing this. I certainly wouldn't be here at MTSU. I planned to be finishing my first semester of grad school in Baton Rouge attending Louisiana State University.

Well, Mama was right—God sure was laughing.

I began my freshman semester, fall 2005, in New Orleans—10 minutes from the house in which I grew up. I was perfectly content. Two weeks later, my life was uprooted by a disastrous storm.

Hurricane Katrina placed me on another path, one that led me to MTSU and eventually Sidelines. Little did I know it, but one August morning I would leave my life in New Orleans, never to return. The next week I found myself in a new state, school and situation.

I attended Fisk University for a year before making my way to Murfreesboro. The thought of attending a large university always made me cringe with fear. I sought individual attention, and I thought a historically black university like Fisk could provide. This was my first mistake.

While I enjoyed and benefited from my year at Fisk, I discovered it did not have my major and I had to move on.



Faith Franklin

If there is one thing I learned from my Katrina experience, its sometimes you have to move on.

When I came to MTSU, I immediately moved onto campus with some help and guidance from my aunt. My aunt, who lives in Franklin, has been there since the beginning of this journey. A lot of the credit of me staying here has to do with her encouraging words and the silent support of my uncle, who doesn't say much, but at the same time, says a lot.

Once at MTSU, I joined Sidelines, which was really intimidating at first. A well-lit room filled with what appeared to be serious-looking journalists who knew far more than me. Despite intimidation, I went in, got a story and have been here ever since.

Nearly three years later, I have grown to love MTSU and to become comfortable with Murfreesboro. But it's never become my home.

Sometimes I feel like I don't have a home. Katrina took away my comfortable New Orleans, but it also freed me from fear. I'm no longer afraid to move away from what is comfortable.

With graduation quickly approaching, I have found myself without a stra-

tegic step-by-step plan for what's going to happen next, just like many of my fellow graduates.

The economy is a disaster, discouraging most students' prospects for jobs. While I plan on attending law school, you never know what will happen.

I'm quickly realizing that a piece of paper won't protect me from the woes of the world or guarantee me a slot as a working adult. Without a stable place to call home, I'm not sure where to go to from here.

Walking across the stage, shaking hands with President Sidney McPhee and getting a folder is an accomplishment for me and for my family. I'm the first in my immediate family to earn a college degree, a feat that they have supported every step of the way.

But the brief shine of my accomplishment is already fading quick—and I haven't even shaken McPhee's hand.

I'm not bitter; I'm not apathetic. I'm sad.

I'm sad because I'm leaving. It's time to leave, but I've created such a cushy, comfortable box with MTSU and Sidelines. It's time to move on to bigger and better things. I'm just not sure what those "bigger and better" things are right now.

But it's OK. A lot of the time we put ourselves in boxes out of fear. It's fear that paralyzes us and keeps us in those boxes. But there is no reason to be afraid. I don't need another disaster to force me out of my box.

Faith Franklin is graduating with a *bachelors of science in mass communication*. To read more about Faith, check out her blog at halfinyourlife.blogspot.com.

Tips for Graduation

✪ Parking tickets and other outstanding university debts need to be cleared with the Business Office by 4 p.m. Dec. 18. or you will not receive your diploma.

✪ Graduation regalia is available to be picked up Dec. 14 to 17 from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Dec. 18 at the bookstore in the Keathley University Center.

✪ The first ceremony begins at 9 a.m. for the College of Graduate Studies, which includes all masters, specialist in education and doctoral candidates, the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the College of Education and Behavioral Science.

✪ At 1 p.m. the second ceremony for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, the College of Continuing Education and Diversity Learning, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Mass Communication will begin.

✪ Second ceremony candidates will need to be in line by 12 p.m. to receive instructions. Entrance will not be permitted after 12:30 p.m.

✪ The use of cell phones is not tolerated, as well of air horns and similar devices. They will be confiscated if brought in the Murphy Center during graduation.

✪ Live feed from the ceremony will be streamed on MTSU's Web site for those that cannot be present for the ceremony.

TIGER FROM PAGE 3

Lee explores how every member of her family was affected by cultural expectations. Although her eldest brother was given almost anything he wanted because he was the oldest son, his life was not perfect. Because he was seen as the hope of the family, he was expected to make perfect grades and attend elite schools as well as take care of the family.

In a way, Lee both criticizes and sympathizes with the people in her life. She does not always agree with their choices, but by the end, she can understand their motivations.

As time goes on, Lee also begins to notice how those who followed the social expectations also had their own ways of resisting that were not as obvious as hers. Lee's older sister began to play the stock market to earn money while the girls' mother promised to treat her daughters-in-law better than she was treated.

For those who are interested in Korean culture, this book is a great read. Not only does it discuss the country's culture, but it also provides readers with first-hand accounts of historical events. The book is long and dense at times, but well worth the effort.

"To Kill a Tiger" will be available in January 2010 from The Overlook Press.



Up 'Til Dawn
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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Thanks again for all the hard work! Just a reminder if you checked out letters at the Great Lick-A-Thon, please make sure those letters are turned in before the semester is over.

Contact Chloe Robinson or Edgard Izaguirre at uptldawn@mtsu.edu with any questions of concerns.



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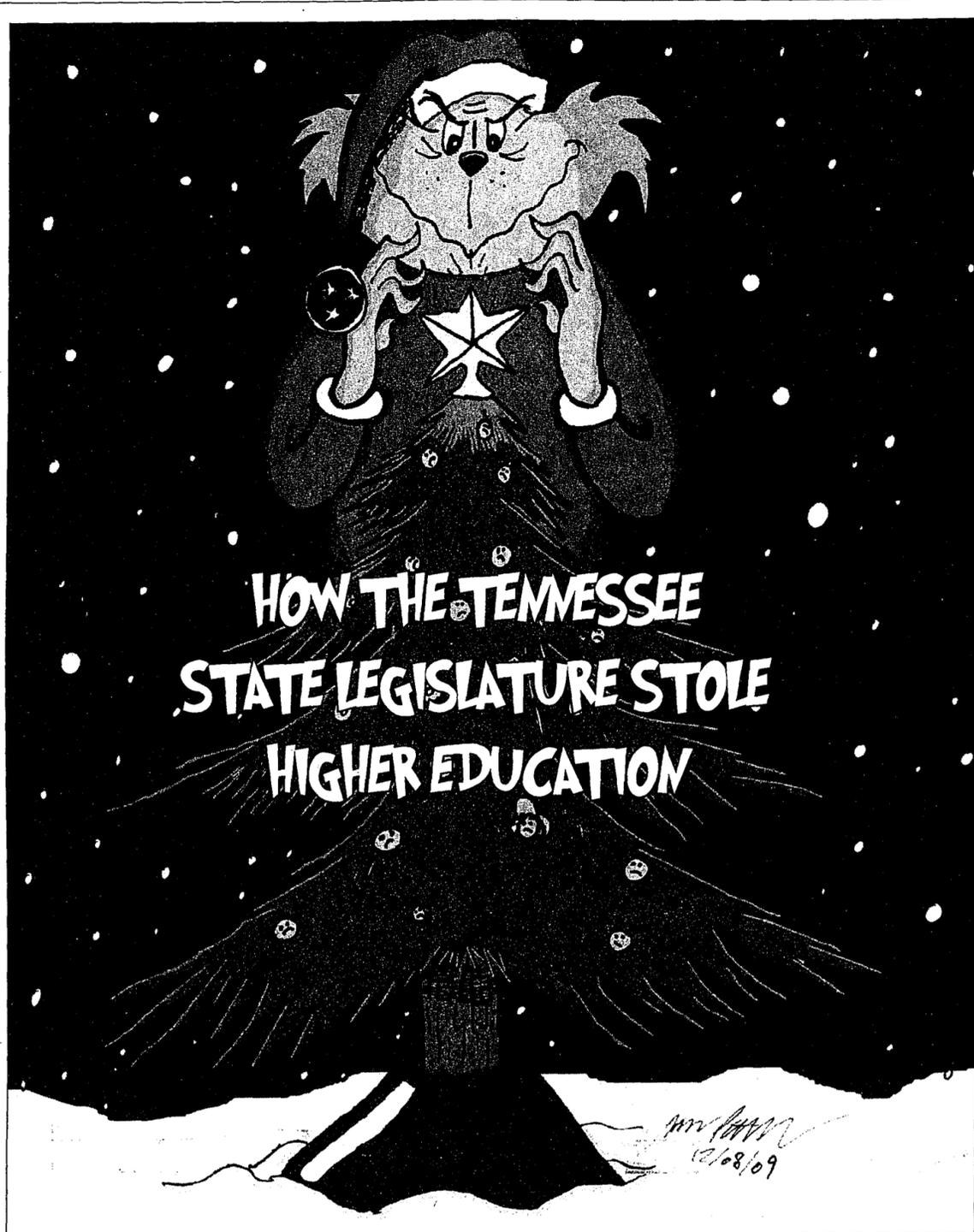
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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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



"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

FROM THE EDITOR:

Memoir of happy camper

Typically when an editor-in-chief is about to graduate from a campus newspaper, he or she writes about his or her great experiences and what freshmen should expect. Because I have multiple research papers to finish and much to do for final exams, I will also be taking this side hatch, but I promise to be as humorously vitriolic, albeit tastefully inoffensive, as I can.



Life is a highway

Byron Wilkes

Students: The economy sucks, so when you're trying to figure out living arrangements, make sure you've scoured Murfreesboro before living on campus. Yes, I will play the devil's advocate here, because when the numbers are crunched, campus life is damned expensive.

I lived in Nicks Hall for a semester and literally used an annuity that was taken out 24 years ago to pay for it. Sick burn, MTSU, sick burn.

Another money leech on campus comes in the form of a basic biological need (if Aramark were a velociraptor, I'd sneer "clever girl," right before it lunged from a hidden jungle path and slit my throat). Food on this campus is expensive too, so bring your meals from home to save some serious funds.

If you want to feel pseudo-productive, complain to Aramark (like the SGA, *Sidelines* or sundry other students have), and a spokesperson will assure you they'll look into the issue.

One of the biggest issues on this campus is parking. Solution: if you can ride a bicycle and live reasonably close, go buy one. You can buy a secondhand model at Horseman's Supply if you're broke, or Murfreesboro Outdoor and Bicycle for higher-end models.

The alternative is driving to campus everyday and getting mad because everyone else had the same idea. Wait till it rains and motorists multiply tenfold.

Parking is tighter than Scrooge McDuck's wallet, and unless you want a cross-country trek to get to class in time, you'd be smart to pull up to class on a bike. I'm still not convinced the lot past Rutherford Boulevard isn't a practical joke on incoming freshmen.

So as not to completely hang my (hopeful) alma mater out to dry entirely, I will say a number of the professors here are pretty useful, staying in their offices past office hours and responding rather quickly to e-mails. Go to mtsureview.com to see what grade former students gave professors before registering.

I'm not trying to say MTSU is a bad school, but it's common sense not to accept anything anyone (including corporations or schools) claims as best without doing some research. I'm one? No, we're one. GO BLUE!

Self-control: does anybody have it?

At the click of a mouse, anyone can access anything they desire. It is a beautiful time when people can have anything they want as long as they have the money or the influence. This can be a great blessing, considering that in the past, people had to slave and sweat to purchase items or they simply had to make it themselves. This is a time of great convenience.

Like Uncle Ben said in Spider-Man, "With great power comes great responsibility."

Some people have not been very responsible with this new cyber power. Rather than considering the depth of their pockets and level of their need, they purchase with unwavering enthusiasm. Some might say this thoughtlessness is good for the economy, but what does it do for the person?

The average American has been instilled with the belief that they can achieve anything. Some Americans, however, were not taught that it takes a lot of hard work and self-control to get to the foremen-



Pearl before swine

Pearl Howell

tioned anything. Some believe they are entitled to it.

Our forefathers broke their backs getting what we now take for granted. Their determination and hard work stemmed from one thing I believe the current U.S. populace lacks: self-control.

Self-control is defined as the ability to control one's own behavior, especially in terms of reaction and impulses. This means one uses patience and force of will to pull away from instant gratifica-

tion in order to achieve an even greater goal in the future. Instead of buying this month's Cosmo, for instance, a young woman might choose to place her money in a savings account to pay for next semester's textbooks.

Young Americans have an appalling lack of this particular character trait.

For the past couple generations, Americans have been living in widespread comfort. Things that were once considered a luxury are now taken for granted and related as needs. Many of America's issues can be traced back to this self-indulgent attitude.

Fifty-eight million Americans are currently overweight. Nearly 60 percent of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended. Between 2001 and 2007, there was an 88 percent increase in cases of syphilis. In the first nine months of 2009, over a million Americans have filed for bankruptcy.

While some of these statistics may be the result of a cruel twist of

fate or unforeseeable circumstances, many of them stem from a complete lack of self-control. People no longer use their willpower to put down that jumbo bag of M&Ms, slip on a condom, and buy what they can afford rather than what they want.

In the past, self-control was a character trait that was not only invaluable, but also necessary for survival and success. These days, however, it is looked upon as almost a fault. The person who does not participate in perpetual indulgence is a wet blanket or a drag. Heaven forbid someone show disinterest in drugs, alcohol or sex at a party. It would ruin the whole event.

The lack of willpower is not only hurting people physically and fiscally, but also mentally. People no longer know how to put up with mild irritations or impulses. Rather than buckling down and dealing with problems, they avoid them or complain. While it is never a bad thing to voice an opinion, it is a travesty to whine about something

that cannot be fixed by any reasonable means.

The problem with self-control is it is incredibly difficult to develop. The reason we don't have it is because we don't want to. Self-control would mean refusing to do something that is pleasurable or fun, and that is hard to do. Sometimes we just have to suck it up, though.

Greed and the fulfillment of base desires could run this country into the ground. If all Americans are looking out for their own interests, who is there to look out for the interests of those who can't voice their own pain? Children, the elderly and the homeless will soon run out of advocates.

And what happens when petty desires overtake common decency? Crime rates rise, corruption invades and soon the country disintegrates into a place unfit to contain life.

A little self-control goes a long way.

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major and can be reached at rph2t@mtsu.edu.



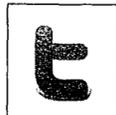
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Online content:

A compendium of holiday favorites - by *Mallory Boyd* in OPINIONS
The column on page 6 is a reprint of Brett Johnson's helpful hints for finals week. The complete original can be found at mtsusidelines.com/opinion

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Finals: helpful hints, redux

Finals time is the most stressful time for college students. An entire semester's work is either obliterated or strengthened by one test.

Finals can be a great thing if approached correctly. But, if not taken seriously, there is an eminent threat to your final grade.

Finals week is a hot topic among researchers. What are the biggest problems faced by students? What are some ways students can improve scores? What is too much studying? Are finals a disproportionate grade when compared to the overall work



Dogood's post

Brett Johnson
of the student?

In a collaborate study by universities of New York, psychologists and physicians have come up with a few detailed points to help students get through finals: Some of

these suggestions seem a bit juvenile and obvious, but seriously think about what is suggested and if you are actually doing these things.

First, do not stress. Your grade is going to be your grade. You can either do your best, or drown yourself in worry. Some stress is good; stress helps to motivate us to do our best. But, if your spending all your time worrying, then you are not focusing on your work. In fact, many times stress can lead to what we call a "nervous breakdown" and often times these breakdowns consume our time. Do not

worry, do what you can. Being stressed affects everything you do; it is the biggest detriment to your success.

Second, get organized. Know what is expected of you and when it is due. Do not spend your time studying and then miss an exam or a paper that is due the day of your exam because you were not paying attention. If you are behind in your work, get started right away.

To read more, visit us online.



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

A Sidelines holiday classic: Dear Santa McPhee...

Dear Santa McPhee, We've tried to be really, really good this year, so here's our holiday wishlist.

We'd like to have "Gravel Parking Lot Day" for professors, so they understand our parking plight.

On a related note, we'd like to tighten up the bus schedule, so we can reliably make it to class. (Sometimes the Green Bus takes 20-plus minutes to come around).

Incidentally, we could use some more buses. Perhaps we could get that BioBus up and running.

We'd like you to ask the Tennessee Board of Regents' Elves to give us some respect. We try really hard, and compared to some of the other schools in the TBR system, we think MTSU has done pretty well for itself, despite the best efforts of those mischievous elves.

We'd like to keep a few

parking lots protected from having buildings put on them. Again, we like to go to class.

We'd like our professors not to live in fear, so can we please stop cutting their positions? This isn't the University of Phoenix Online, so faculty-student ratio is key in presenting the picture of productive academia.

We'd like to have some healthy food (that costs less than a tank of gas per meal) in the new student union building, which is coming along nicely, by the way.

Incidentally, before the building is done, could we replace the elevators with a series of trampolines?

Lastly, demolish Peck Hall. Love,
Sidelines



Listen to the editorial board online at mtsusidelines.com/multimedia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Offensive speech still equals protected speech

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to the letters responding to "From the Editorial Board (Dec. 7)." I just want to say a few things about the right to be offensive. Yes, people have a right to be offensive; however, no one has the right to not be offended. Government-funded entities, like MTSU, do not have the right to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of individuals or student newspapers on the behalf of the offended. This means that if students at a student newspaper want to post approved offensive, "misogynistic" material, then they have every right to do so.

I personally think society has a problem with understanding what is and is not a right. If an individual want to be a sexist, homophobic or a racist bigot, then he or she has every right to, without interference from some government or government-funded entity.

While I don't know what happened with the "misogynistic" flyers, it would sadden me that individuals would destroy advertisement material (which was the property of someone other than themselves) just because they are

offended by it.

Neither individuals nor the government should be able to violate the property rights of others just because the property owner offends people.

For example, if a woman owns a business and decides not to hire someone because of his gender, race, religion or political beliefs, then she, as the business owner, has every right to do so. While government and publicly funded entities cannot and should not discriminate in this manner, privately owned businesses have every right to discriminate against any person they wish. One must keep in mind, however, that discrimination by private business is punished by the market. Not hiring someone for their race or religion means the business is excluding potentially good candidates for hire, while refusing service to individuals leads to a loss of business, not to mention possible boycotts by private organizations and individuals. The offended party, however, does not have the right to sue just because he was offended.

Once we start protecting people from being offended, we have taken away the liberties that people have every right to enjoy.

Christopher Burks
Senior, College of Business

MT Equestrian Team performs valuable service

To the Editor:

A big thank you to the MTSU Equestrian Team for using their spare time during this busy, end-of-the-semester craze to help abused animals.

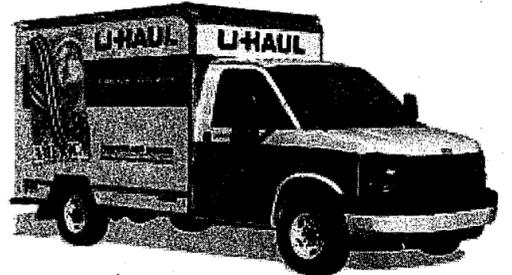
We may never know everything these horses and other farm animals went through, but thanks to the Humane Society of the United States, the Cannon County Sheriff's Office and local volunteers (like our Equestrian Team), they have a second chance at life.

Unfortunately, every year 10 billion other farm animals raised for food don't have a second chance at life. Hens, pigs and dairy cows spend their entire lives in cages so small they can't even turn around. They face routine cruelties such as castration, branding, de-beaking and de-horning.

But you can reduce this suffering every time you sit down to eat by choosing more plant-based foods. Please visit TryVeg.com for free information and recipes.

Kenny Torrella
Senior, College of Mass Communication

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SPORTS

Blue Raiders Big Easy bound

Louisiana Superdome set to host showdown between MT and Southern Miss

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders conclude their historic season Dec. 20 as the team travels to New Orleans, La. to take on Southern Mississippi University in the R & L Carriers New Orleans Bowl.

The game marks MT's second bowl appearance in its short Football Bowl Subdivision existence and the sixth game in school history.

"We are thrilled to extend our season in New Orleans and appreciate the invitation by the R & L Carriers New Orleans Bowl," Director of Athletics Chris Massaro said. "It is a great bowl for our players and fans and we can't wait to get there. We are proud to be one of just two schools in the state of Tennessee going to a bowl game and we will represent the state well."

The Blue Raiders' 9-3 record is the team's best since 1992, with the seven conference wins being the most since becoming a member of the Sun Belt Conference.

"One of our goals entering the season was to play in a bowl game and I am extremely proud of our team and coaching staff for accomplishing this," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "It has been a great year and to win nine games with our schedule is a testament to our players. This team is very deserving of a 13th game."

MT will be facing a 7-5 Southern Miss team that was a win away from playing the University of Houston for

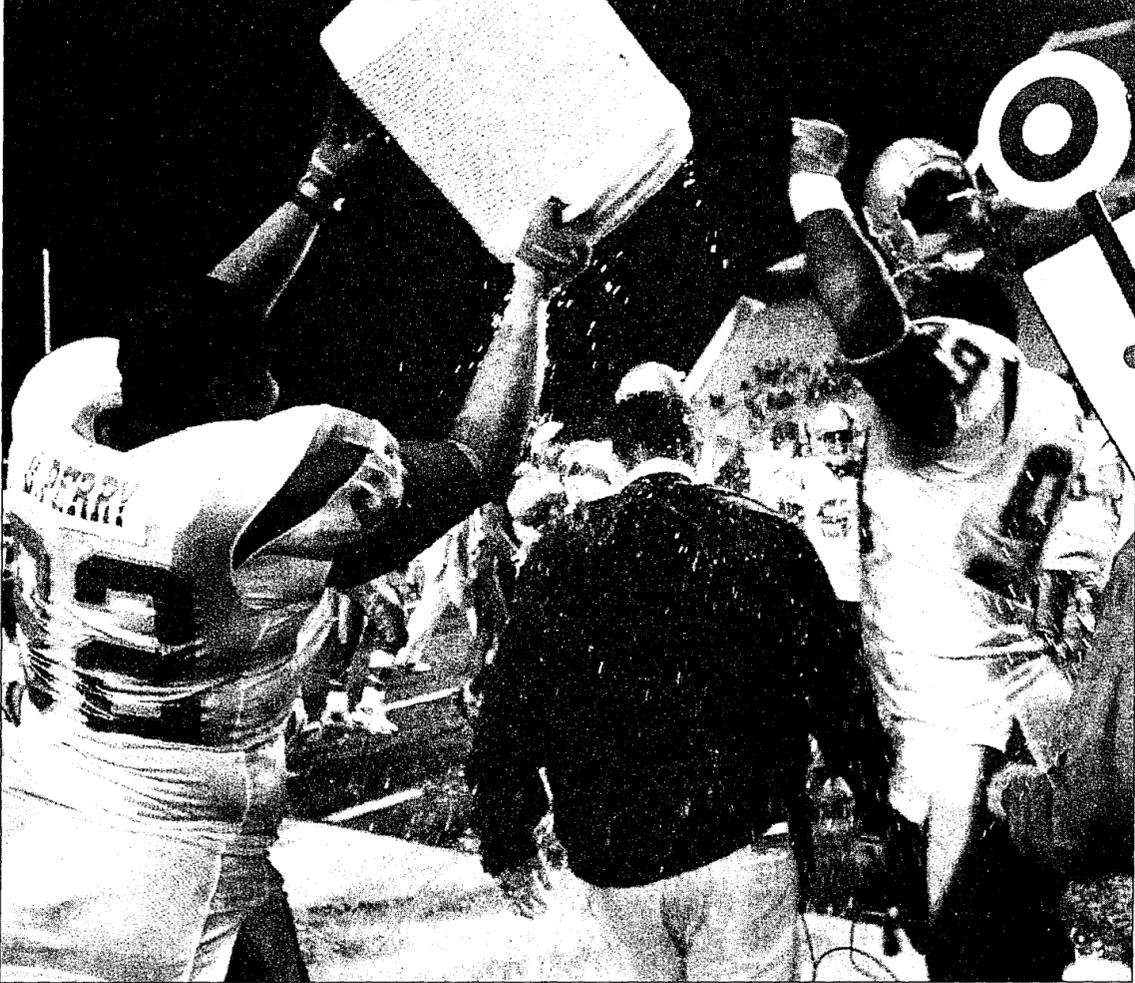


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Blue Raider players celebrate their ninth win of the year, a 38-19 victory at the University of Louisiana at Monroe the traditional way.

the Conference USA championship. Head coach Larry Fedora, assistants Blake Anderson and Todd Bradford and Director of Football Operations Gary Camp are all former MT staff members.

The Golden Eagles are led by two running backs, Damion Fletcher and Tory Harrison, who have combined for over 1,500 yards and 17 touchdowns this season.

The passing attack is led

by quarterback Martevious Young, has passed for 1,590 yards and 13 touchdowns with just one interception. Young is also a rushing threat, running for 348 yards this season.

The Blue Raiders will also have to prepare for a pocket passer in Austin Davis, who, filling in for Young, threw for 1,165 yards and ten touchdowns with just two interceptions.

"We are playing an excellent opponent in Southern Miss who had an excellent chance to be C-USA champs," Stockstill said. "They are very well coached in all three phases of the game and have some very impressive wins this season. I have not watched them on tape but they have a great tradition and we will have to play our best to compete with them."

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher will look to cap off a dominant year in which he threw for 2,627 yards with 21 touchdowns, as well as rushed for 953 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Dasher will attempt to pass on a defense giving up 265 yards per game through the air. As a team, the Golden Eagles have only intercepted the opposing quarterback four times, so opportunities will be there for Dasher to take advantage.

Sophomore D.D. Kyles will likely have a tougher time, as the Golden Eagles give up an average of 122.1 yards per game.

The Blue Raiders are 2-3 in bowl games dating back to 1956.

Tickets are available through the MTSU ticket office. The Student Government Association has put together a road rally trip for \$110, including round-trip transportation, hotel, game ticket and a T-shirt. Students can sign up at the SGA Web site or in the Keathley University Center Room 208.

Blue Raiders can't contain Belmont

Yates solid in return, but sloppy play and fouls allow Bruins to pull away late

By CRAIG HOFFMAN
Staff Writer

One of the last things Kermit Davis said to his team at shoot-around was that he wanted a solid first five minutes.

Instead what he got was a sluggish team that came out flat on offense and lackluster on defense leading to an early 12-4 lead for Belmont. They needed a spark and coming out of the first media timeout and they got it in the form of a trap defense and an immediate turnover. It didn't last long, though, as Belmont again extended their lead to eight with 12:59 left in the half.

Insert James Gallman.

After a Desmond Yates three, Gallman, the freshman from Knoxville, went on a personal 8-3 run and gave MT a two point lead.

The lead didn't last long as Belmont came out of the media timeout 30 seconds after Gallman's second three and tied the game on a Michael Hedgepeth jumper. Hedgepeth scored again 90 seconds later to put Belmont ahead for good.

MT got within one twice more in the second half both on lay-ups by Josh Jones, who scored six points in 43 seconds (his previous career high was 4 points). Belmont always had an answer and closed the half on a 7-2 run over the final 5:33 to lead at the half 38-32.

The second half was much of the same with MT never able to sustain a run to over-

take the Bruins.

MT's best chance to take the lead was with 9:48 left when the Raiders pulled to within two on a Desmond Yates layup. Forty seconds later, with the crowd on its feet after a defensive stop, Yates teed up an open three but the shot rimmed out.

On MT's next possession, Yates again had the ball in his hands and was fouled, sending him to the line for a one-and-one with a chance to tie the game. He missed the front end of the potential pair and MT never came close again.

Belmont's lead hovered between four and eight for the majority of the rest of the game until MT started fouling at the end leading to the final score of 83-71.

The win was Belmont's first in Murfreesboro since 1998.

"I think right now we're not executing," Yates said.

"We're not playing together. On defense we're gambling too much and on offense the ball's staying too much on one side of the floor."

It was Yates' season debut after missing the first seven games with a knee injury, and the forward was satisfied with how he felt.

Head Coach Kermit Davis gave all the credit to Belmont (7-2), who shot 60 percent from 3 point range in the first half and 56 percent from deep in the game, but he was clearly frustrated with his team's performance and particularly his guards, James Washington and

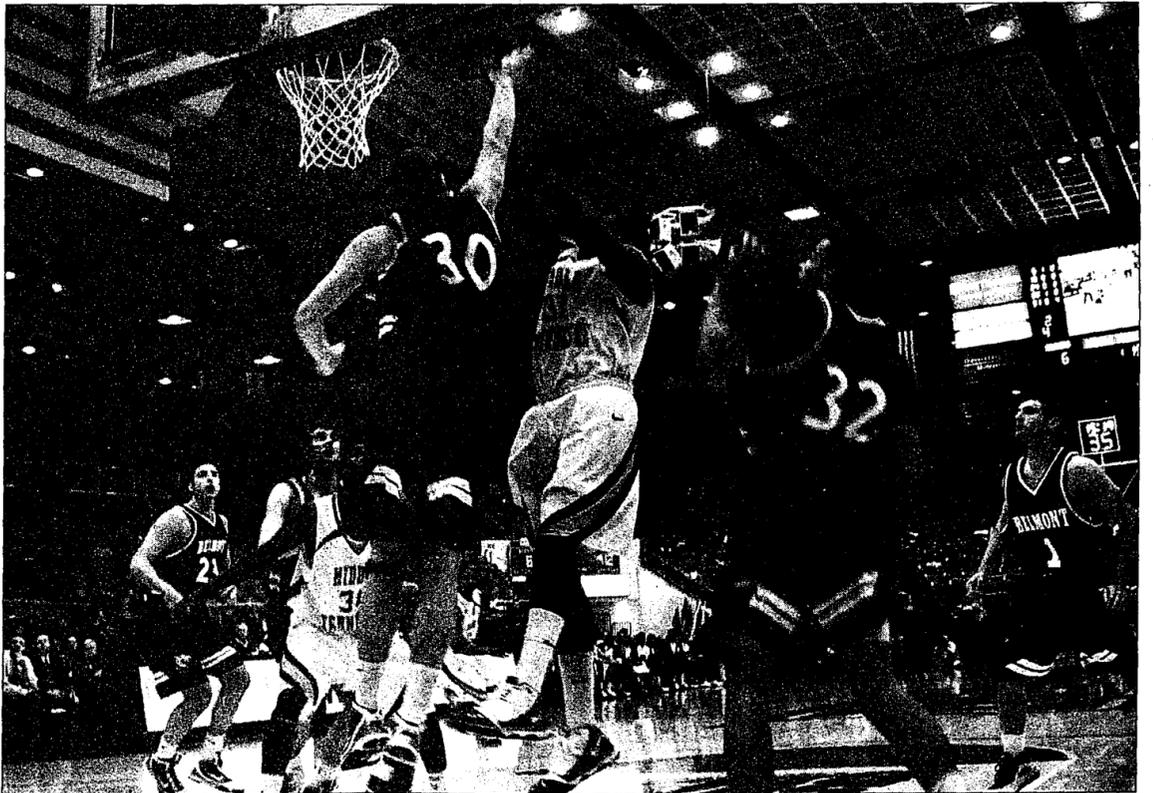


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Forward Desmond Yates of the Blue Raiders goes for a jump shot against the Belmont Bruins. MT would lose 83-71 Tuesday night.

Rod Emanuel.

"The starting 1 and 2 have been really disappointing from the floor," Davis said. "We need to get (Washington) better quality shots."

Davis was also frustrated with the play of his young big men JT Sulton (who didn't play in the second half) and Trevor Ottley, who saw extended minutes because of the foot injury to Theryn Hudson.

"We just struggle to ex-

ecute with JT and Trevor in there," Davis said. "And it's simple things like end-line out of bounds plays that Boogie and Theryn execute without thinking."

Of Belmont's 26 free throws, 25 came in the second half.

Much of the production came from Montarrio Haddock's ability to create his own shot, something he had to try often Tuesday night that resulted in him drop-

ping in 13 points but turning the ball over four times.

MT's biggest game of the non-conference schedule is Friday against Tennessee at the Sommet Center and changes are on the way.

In addition to Yates and the hope that Hudson will also be back from his foot injury, expect to see Gallman, who finished the game with 18 points off the bench, in the starting lineup.

"It would mean a lot to me

being from Knoxville playing against Tennessee," Gallman said. "It would be a good day if I got to start."

The game is part of the Sun Belt Classic and the first part of a double-header featuring Western Kentucky and Vanderbilt in the second game.

Free student tickets are still available at the MTSU ticket office outside Floyd Stadium.

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