

Dean leaving for Corpus Christi

By Mary Rose Fox

Community News Editor

This is the last week that Anantha Babbili will serve as dean of the College of Mass Communication. In one week, he will start his new job as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

Babbili announced on Sept. 5 that he would be leaving, and he is excited about his next job.

"I would not have left to go to another dean's position as a lateral move. I wanted to see some additional challenges in my career and a higher level of administration had an appeal," Babbili said.

"Administrators moving around from place to place is not an unusual event," said Dennis Oneal, head of the department of Electronic Media Communication, adding that it's a major career step for the dean.

Babbili was nominated for the position at Corpus Christi, and chose to accept it because of its reputation and proximity to family.

"I cannot deny the strong pull of the extended family of mine which lives in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area," Babbili said. "So I wanted to combine going to my home state with going to a good university with a higher level administrative challenge."

John Omachonu, associate dean of the college, will step in as interim dean.

"It is definitely a loss for the college. I'm losing a supervisor, I'm losing a friend and I'm losing a col-

league," Omachonu said.

"The Provost at any large university is the chief executive officer of the entire university, in charge of all academic disciplines."

Babbili spent 21 years at Texas Christian University before coming to MTSU five years ago.

"Dr. McPhee had a vision to bring the best to the campus and so I was privileged and honored that he selected me over a great many candidates," Babbili said.

There will be a national search to select a new dean and a committee will start deliberations after the first of the year. Omachonu said that the goal is to have a dean in place by July.

"We're looking forward to a national search to bring in another high quality dean."

Oneal said. He wants a dean that is ambitious and aspires to do good things, not one that will settle down in the position and not move forward.

"I don't want] to get someone who thinks this is the last stop on the road. I'd rather have the competency," he said.

It's important to have a dean who understands how unique the mass communication college is, Oneal said. "Of the mass communication colleges around the country, we're the only one with a recording industry program."

Babbili said that he will miss the faculty from MTSU.

"I have not met a faculty member in this college that does not care about students and that's probably

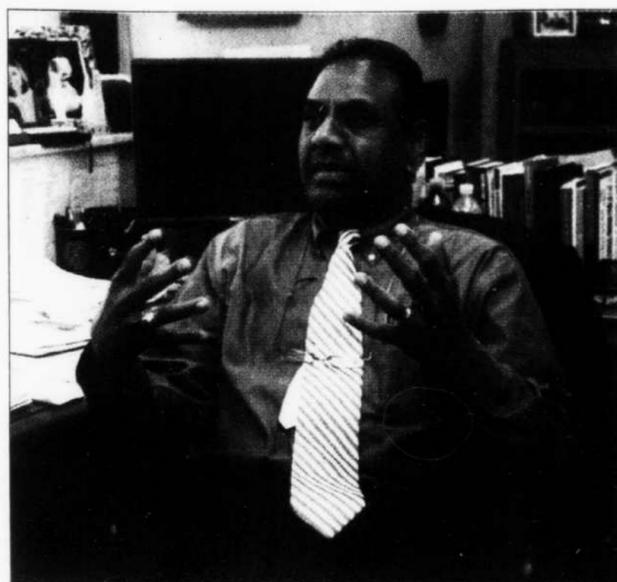


Photo by Justin Keonin | Photo Editor
Mass Communications Dean, Anantha Babbili, sits in his office and discusses his five years at MTSU and his reasons for leaving. His last day is Friday.

the best collection of faculty I've ever worked with," he said. "They truly are the pillar of the education enterprise."

"I really enjoyed working with him," said Lisa McCann, secretary to John Omachonu and Steven Barnes. McCann said that Babbili will be sorely missed by the entire college.

"I hope the best for college," McCann said. "It's a great promotion."

Babbili said that he hopes the col-

lege finds a dean that has a strong vision and who is also an inclusive leader.

"Each member of this college is worthy of respect and they need to be consulted on all decisions," Babbili said, adding that he hopes whoever takes his place will find time to interact with the students. "I really, really think the students are the heart and soul of the university."

"I hope the next dean will deliver the goods." ♦

Faces in the Crowd

A home across from Riverdale High School was seized as part of a major cocaine distribution scheme. How do you feel knowing that something like that is located so close to a high school in your area? (see story)



Everett **Oliva**

"This is a big city and the population is continuously growing. People are always moving in and out. Everyone knows there are drugs, so it's not that big of a shock, but what does surprise me is that it was such a well organized scheme."

-Greg Everett, well pre-optimistic major

"This is a growing city. Problems like this happen and there is little we can do about it. It's upsetting, but it's inevitable. Sooner or later, Nashville and Murfreesboro are going to become one, so we are going to have to get used to this and hope that the police can stay on top of it."

-James Oliva, sophomore RIM major



Biei **Gibbs**

"I do not feel safe. Anyone can do what they want to and there are not enough police to stop it. Everyone says America is safe, but it's not. All these drugs are being imported and we need to watch our boarders not just for immigrants, but everyone. Drug Dealers are just multi-million dollar immigrants."

-Hara Biei, sophomore chemistry major

"I think that's pretty unfortunate for the high school. I hope the kids were not involved or being dealt to because that's too close. They need to be tried as such. I can't look passed that, the justice system needs to throw the book at them. Something that big is not good at all."

-J.T. Gibbs, finance major graduate

Shooting at Delaware State disrupts campus

By Randall Chase

Associated Press

Two students were shot and wounded, one seriously, at Delaware State University early Friday, and the campus was locked down as police searched for a gunman, officials said.

Police had identified two students as "persons of interest," and were questioning one of them, university police Chief James Overton said.

Campus officials said they applied lessons from the tragedy five months ago at Virginia Tech, when a gunman opened fire and killed 32 people before shooting himself. After the shootings were reported to campus police, the university immediately notified dorm leaders to keep students inside, officials said.

"I think the biggest lesson learned from that whole situation at Virginia Tech is don't wait. Once you have an incident, start notifying the community," said university spokesman Carlos Holmes.

The students were apparently returning from a cafe with a group of other students just before 1 a.m. when they were shot, Overton said.

A 17-year-old male student was wounded in the ankle and refused to answer questions by police about the shootings, raising the likelihood that he knew his attacker, according to a federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Classes were canceled for the day and students were being kept inside. Gates at the university's main entrance kept motorists out.

"We cannot assume that he's not on campus," Holmes said. "As long as he's at large, we cannot assure the security of anyone on campus."

The two students were shot on the Campus Mall, between the Memorial Hall gymnasium and Richard S. Grossley Hall, an administrative building. Campus police said they were notified about the shooting at 12:54 a.m.

Holmes said the female student, also 17, appeared to have suffered serious wounds. "They could be potentially life-threatening," he said. The male student's wounds were not as serious and he was hospitalized in stable condition, Holmes said.

The hospital was taken to Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del., with a traumatic wound to the abdomen, said John Wilson, the deputy chief of Kent County Emergency Services. She was in serious condition, Overton said. The man was taken to Kent General Hospital in Dover.

Authorities, with the campus police in charge of the investigation, hoped to get more information once the victims were able to talk. They don't yet know about the possible motive.

"We haven't had a chance to talk to them yet, and that's probably a big reason why the suspect is still at large," Holmes told KYW-TV of Philadelphia.

He said he was not aware of any parties Thursday night, although there was a rally organized to honor the so-called Jena Six, six black teenagers charged in a high school fight in Louisiana.

"It was a very peaceful, very nice rally, very positive," Holmes said. There was no reason to believe the rally was connected to the shootings, but Holmes contrasted the atmosphere of the event with the attack, saying, "It's kind of shocking that this happened afterwards."

Alex Bishoff, 20, a freshman from

See Shooting, 2

New student union in architectural stage

Staff Report

The initial planning phase for the new university center is currently transitioning into the architectural phase involving the examination of construction costs.

The new building, located in the fields north of the honors college, will cost an estimated \$60 million, said Chassen Haynes, senior marketing major and Student Government Association

president. "We are still in the very beginning of pricing the new student building," Haynes said.

The majority of funding for the new building comes from \$61 in the student fee increase enacted this semester.

Plans for the completion of the building are by 2011 – the MTSU centennial, Haynes said.

Construction on the new building is planned to begin next year.

See Union, 3

Drug investigation spans TN counties

Associated Press

Two dozen people have been arrested in a major investigation of drug trafficking and money laundering in Middle Tennessee, the U.S. Attorney's office announced Thursday.

Thirty-one indictments have been handed down in the operation that allegedly brought cocaine and marijuana into Tennessee from Mexico.

Investigators from several agencies raided businesses in Davidson, Rutherford and Williamson counties and confiscated money, cars, weapons and drugs.

The investigation began in the spring of this year and involved 300 officers in the DEA, FBI, IRS and local agencies.

"The investigation and

indictments send a clear message that the United States Attorney's Office, the DEA and its federal, state and local law enforcement partners will target narcotics traffickers that endanger our communities," said U.S. Attorney Paul O'Brien.

According to the indictments, the defendants conspired to acquire large quantities of cocaine and marijuana from sources in Mexico to distribute here.

The defendants performed different roles, including acquiring cocaine and marijuana hundreds of pounds at a time, according to the indictment. The suspects also organized the transportation of the drugs into California and Arizona.

Those who packaged, prepared or stored narcotics were also indicted. ♦

<p>The official report: with Bob Nugent</p> <p>See News, 2</p>	<p>MTSU students show support for Jena 6</p> <p>See Features, 5</p>	<p>MT loses home opener versus WKU</p> <p>See Sports, 6</p>
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LOCAL FORECAST			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
 <p>Hi: 92° Lo: 65°</p>	 <p>Hi: 91° Lo: 66°</p>	 <p>Hi: 87° Lo: 66°</p>	 <p>Hi: 84° Lo: 62°</p>

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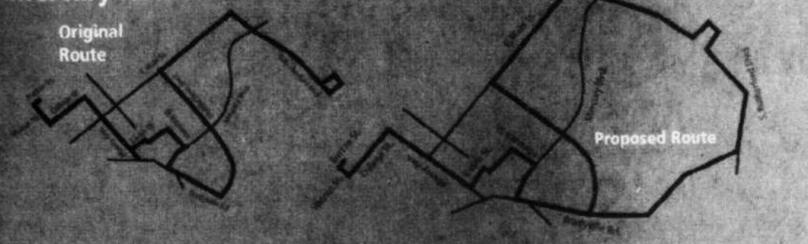
Rover Routes

Murfreesboro is changing Rover's routes to better serve the community. Below are the planned changes.

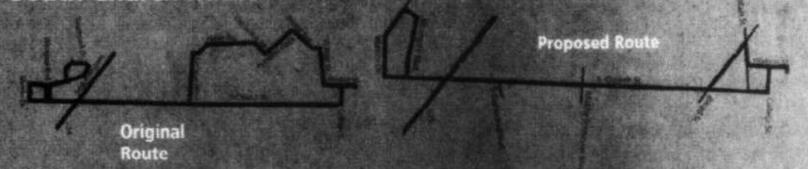
Highland Route



Mercury Route



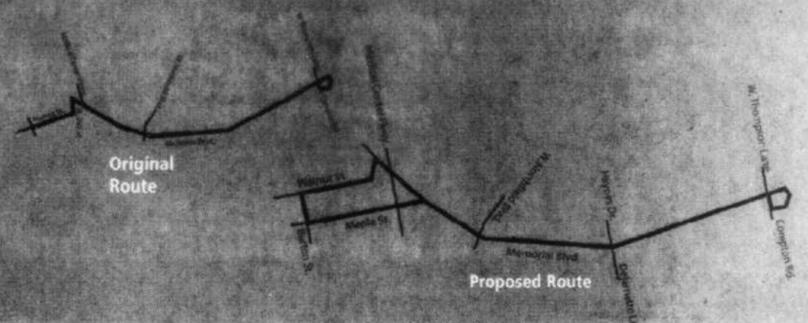
South Church Route



N.W. Broad Route



Memorial Route



THE OFFICIAL REPORT With Bob Nugent



Bob Nugent is the director of transportation in Murfreesboro. He is in charge of the Rover system. For more information, see <http://murfreesboro.tn.gov/government/rover/welcome.htm>

1. What changes are going to take place?

There have been no significant issues brought to our attention pertaining to the changes that were proposed to the routes. Therefore, all of the changes will be implemented.

2. When will they go into effect?

There is still a considerable amount of work that needs to be accomplished prior to changing the service. We are expecting to implement the changes on October 22, 2007.

3. What will these changes do for the riders/community?

In developing the changes we were very careful to limit the negative impact on the existing ridership. As for the expected results of the change, we would hope that we are successful in generating additional ridership and improving our on-time performance.

4. Why were these changes proposed?

When the service was designed the community

was not aware of the benefits of transit. They really didn't know what to expect when the service started. Since the service has been operating the public has recognized the benefits and made several requests. We were able to respond to the requests that were in close proximity to existing routes, especially where ridership was lacking. All-in-all, the changes are improvements to the service now that we have a little experience.

5. What was the overall attitude toward the changes?

Overall both the existing ridership and the general public were very accepting of the proposed changes. As you would probably expect the public would like to see new routes and more service. Although we are not prepared, at this time, for new routes we were able to accommodate some of the requests due to their proximity to existing service.

6. Are there any other short term goals for Rover?

At the present time our goal is to improve the existing service through periodic changes.

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Shooting: Delaware State

Continued from 1

Washington, D.C., said he heard five gunshots and looked out his dormitory window to see people scattering. He said he immediately thought of the Virginia Tech shootings last April.

"Everybody's very upset," Bishoff said.

Timmara Gooden, 20, of Philadelphia, said in a phone interview from her dorm room that she and her suite mates were keeping each other calm and making sure that their parents understand that they're OK.

"We've been locked in here since 1 o'clock this morning," she said. "Right now, we're pretty hungry and waiting so we can go to the cafe, or something."

Students weren't even going into their dorm hallways. "We don't want to walk out there, because we don't know what's going on," Gooden said.

University officials informed students about the shooting with phone calls, a notice posted on the campus Web site and notifications in each dormitory. The notice also was posted at off-campus apartments, officials said. The biggest lesson from the tragedy at Virginia Tech, Holmes said, was to notify the campus right away.

"We directed the students not to leave the dormitory from the outset last night," he said. "They were very obedient. They understood the lessons from the tragedy earlier this year."

The Dover campus was surrounded Friday by groups of recreational vehicles belonging to NASCAR fans in town for weekend races at the Dover Downs Speedway.

A commuter student who arrived Friday morning was barred from campus. Eduardo Rivera, 25, of Milford, said he hadn't known about the shoot-

ings and was surprised by the media gathered outside the main gate.

"I thought it was about racing, or NASCAR, or something like that," he said. "I'm shocked. I don't expect to hear something like this when I'm trying to go to class — it's weird."

Rivera, a sophomore studying physical education and sports management, said he had felt the campus was safe.

At the start of the semester, the campus community held a memorial service for three students and an incoming student shot execution-style Aug. 4 as they hung out at an elementary school in their hometown of Newark, N.J. Natasha Aerial, 19; her brother, Terrance Aerial, 18, and Dashon Harvey, 20, were students. Iofemi Hightower, 20, had planned to attend Delaware State this fall. Natasha Aerial, the only survivor, helped police identify six suspects who have been arrested.

One student said friends of hers were near the shooting Friday when it started. "They were pretty shook up," said Samantha Williams, from Orange, N.J., who is taking a leave from school.

She said students on campus were excited about an upcoming appearance by rappers during homecoming festivities in mid-October.

Delaware State was established in 1891 as the State College for Colored Students. It had about 3,690 students last year. The 400-acre campus is in the northern section of Dover, across the street from the racetrack. ♦

Associated Press writers Lara Jakes Jordan in Washington and Jeffrey Gold in Newark, N.J., contributed to this report.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted in your area; Cheerleading, Baton Twirling, Dance and Tumbling Teachers. Must have own transportation and be good w/kids. Please call 615-896-4683 or 615-347-3595.

Need a job? Home City Ice needs you! Flexible scheduling; minutes from campus; up to \$14.00/hour. Apply online at homecityice.com or call (800)843-8901 ask for Jon or Derek.

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from last column

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#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.

Spring Break '2008 Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free! Best Prices Guaranteed to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas, S. Padre and Florida. Call for group discounts. 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com

Continued from last column

Are you an undergrad who eventually wants to earn a PhD? McNair Program can help with a \$2800 stipend. For more information, call 904-8462.

Get paid to do research! Proposal deadline Oct. 2nd, 4p.m. Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (URSCA) Details at: http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/urca_urc.shtml

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Continued from last column

SALES POLICIES

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

Marketplace of MTSU

Continued to next column

Masquerade ball hosted by sorority

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

A Masquerade Ball is being hosted by Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. on Thursday, Sept. 27. The ball will be held at the James Union Building in the Tennessee Ball Room from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person and \$5 per couple.

"The ball will be a chance for students to enjoy music, get dressed up and celebrate [their] culture," said Maryin Chavez, junior electronic media production major and vice president of Lambda Theta Alpha.

They are hosting the ball "for two reasons," said Luisa Padro, senior public relations major and president of Lambda Theta Alpha. The first being "that the organization needs fundraisers and two, is to bring something a little different to campus."

Padro said that students are always asking what they can do on campus. She said that there is not much people can do here.

"This is an event that people can go to at MTSU," Padro said.

The proceeds from the ball will go to help fund future programming for the Ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha. Next semester the ladies are hosting a semester pageant with the proceeds funding the Multicultural Women's Scholarship.

Wearing a mask is not a

requirement, "but I think that would be the fun part," Padro said.

The best female and male mask will receive a surprise gift and dress is cocktail attire.

"You don't have to go out and buy a prom dress or tuxedo or anything, but something nice and presentable," Padro said.

Members of organizations are encouraged to represent their group on their masks with their symbol or their Greek organizations, for letters.

People who are not in an organization or do not want to represent it may choose to wear a mask representing their culture or just represent to who they are.

"I think everyone should come to meet new people, get dressed up, and it will be fun and get to know the ladies of Lambda Theta Alpha," Chavez said.

"Students should definitely get involved in what's going on, on campus and this is something not to be missed," Padro said. "Most people know that this is a suitcase-type campus, [where] people go to have every weekend. We don't have the community that other universities have."

This event will be an opportunity for people to come out, meet other people that go to their school, just have a good time, and have a reason to get dressed up," Padro said. ♦

Campus Briefs

Free Legal Clinic Thursday

The June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring a Free Legal Clinic Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty, and staff. Space is limited and appointments are required. An appointment with an attorney can be made by calling the JAWC at 898-2193.

Rape Aggression Defense Class for Women Starts Tuesday

The Rape Aggression Defense system is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. It is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts by utilizing easy, effective self-defense/martial arts tactics.

The class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 25, and will run through Tuesday, Oct. 30. Classes will be held from 6-8 p.m. The class is being offered free of charge to all MTSU students, faculty and staff as well as the general public.

Class will be held at the MTSU Public Safety Training Room, located at 1412 East Main Street. Enrollment is limited; for information or to enroll call RAD Instructor David Smith at 615-494-8855.

Dog Show at the Livestock Center

The Greater Murrefreesboro Kennel Club 29th Anniversary Dog Show will be held at the Tennessee Livestock Center on Greenland Drive Sept. 28-30.

The show will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. on Sunday, and are expected to run all day until around 4-5 p.m.; specialty

classes will be held on Friday evening. More than 1,000 dogs are entered and over 130 different breeds will be showcased!

A Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, with profits to benefit local pet ownership Educational Programs. Vendors will also be there to sell everything from monogrammed dog collars to grooming supplies.

Admission to the show is free. Parking is free to anyone with a MTSU parking permit. Otherwise, parking is \$3 for one day or \$5 for both days.

For more information, contact Jackie Delaney at 890-5799.

Greek Life

Various Fraternity and Sorority Recruitment events will be taking place across campus all week. For more information contact Greek Life or visit the Greek Life website at www.mtsu.edu/~greeks/

Book Club

The "Our Friends: Our Selves Book Club" meets on Monday Sept. 24 from 1-3 p.m. in JUB Room 206. The featured book is "The Second Shift" by Arlie Russell Hochschild. For more information call 898-2193.

Walking Horse Show at Miller

The Walking Horse Owner's Association (W.H.O.A.) presents the International Grand Championship Performance Walking Horse Show at the Miller Coliseum on Thompson Lane Sept. 27-29.

The show begins at 6:30 p.m.

Gender Circles, weekly discussions focusing on gender related issues, will be held Wednesday, Sept. 26 from 1-3 p.m. in JUB Room

"Hostel" at KUC Theater Sept. 24-28

MTSU Films Committee presents "Hostel 2," Sept. 24-28. Student admission is \$2. Showtimes are 7 & 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 p.m. on Friday.

"Mother Courage and Her Children"

MTSU Theatre and Dance presents "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht, Sept. 28-29 at 7:30 p.m. on the BDA South Lawn.

For more information, contact 898-2640.

Walk Disney World-Spring and Summer Internship Meetings

The Career and Employment Center is sponsoring informational meetings about Spring and Summer Internships at Walt Disney World on Sept. 24 & 25. Meetings are in KUC Room 316, at 2pm and 5:30 pm on Monday, and at 12 pm on Tuesday.

MTSU's Jewish student union, Hillel, will be celebrating the holiday of "sukkot" this week. The Jewish festival of the fall harvest will bring a "sukkah" in front of the KUC, a place where Jews are asked to dwell as their ancestors did in the wilderness.

On Wednesday, Hillel will be dedicating the sukka, and it will remain in front of the KUC for the duration of the seven-day holiday.

Union: New university student union planned

Continued from 1

said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost of Enrollment Management. Building will take 18 to 24 months. There are also future plans to construct more buildings north of the new student union center.

"The Keathley University Center was built for only about seven to eight thousand students," Haynes said. "We are really looking forward to having a new union center match the population of MTSU."

The student union center will measure about 100,000 square feet, Glenn said. Part of the architectural phase is planning the various elements to be installed within the new student union center.

"A student union basically acts like a den at your house," Glenn said. "It's where you go to relax."

The proposal for the new MTSU "den" includes a restaurant, bigger food court, all student organizations offices and a large 800-seat banquet room. Other proposed ideas include a bank as well as a copying and mailing center.

"MTSU really needs a central place, something modern," Haynes said. "The new student center will help draw people together in a central location."

There will also be a new theater built, which will seat 500, Glenn said. Although it will have a high tech stereo system and stadium seating, it will also double as a classroom when needed.

The main focus will be student-oriented elements, Glenn said. Offices will be the lowest priority for the new center.

"If there is a choice between a banquet room and someone's office, the office will be lost," Glenn said. "There is no reason that students should be paying for someone else's office."

The name of the new student union building has yet to be decided, Glenn said.

"The name will come later on," Haynes said. "Usually, buildings are named after distinguished alumni, donors or distinguished faculty."

As for the KUC, it will be converted into office space, Glenn said. While the student organization offices, the bookstore and post office will move to the new building, the Grille and theater will remain. ♦

Clarifications:

In the Sept. 20 story "Step Afrika rocks campus," Student Programming was responsible for bringing the Step Afrika program to MTSU. *Sidelines* regrets any confusion.

The Constitution-themed box used to house the Sept. 20 editorial regarding the Taser of University of Florida student Andrew Meyer was created by Sean Turner, contributing designer. *Sidelines* regrets this oversight.

GRADUATING?

~ Not Returning to MTSU?

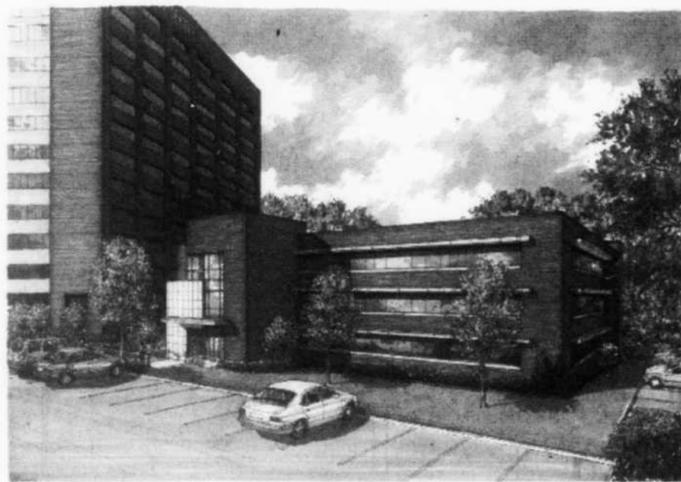
The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing CANCELLATIONS for the Spring 2008 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2007 semester. The deadline for submitting CANCELLATIONS for prepayment refund is Monday, October 15, 2007. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline. For additional information contact Housing and Residential Life,

615-898-2971.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

UT College of Pharmacy is now in East Tennessee!

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy began in Knoxville in 1898 as part of the UT Department of Chemistry. We moved to Memphis in 1909, but now we're back in Knoxville with a new state-of-the-art campus!



UT College of Pharmacy's Knoxville Campus

Have you considered Pharmacy as a career? The field offers dynamic opportunities, considerable job availability, and a competitive salary. Best of all, pharmacists make a difference in the lives of patients every day! Contact us to learn more about pharmacy and our nationally-ranked program.

Come talk to us when we visit MTSU!

When: Thursday, September 27
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: 3rd Floor, Keathley University Center

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VII/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

43 years of Civil Rights and we still have Jena

The Jena Six controversy was a Molotov cocktail; it took just the right ingredients to explode. The individual events that led up to six, underage, black American students being charged as adults for attempted murder, have brought the United States from a simmer over racial issues to a boil.

It is indisputable that what is happening to the black students in Jena, La. is wrong.

The real question is, what exactly was the final catalyst that has proven to the United States that racial issues are still not only prevalent, but glaring, after over 40 years of battles over equal civil rights?

It could have been the fact that the superintendent in charge of Jena High School, once finding out that white students had placed nooses on a tree, brushed the incident off as a prank instead of recognizing it for the obvious hate crime that it was.

It could have been when a white adult pulled a gun on an underage black student, who was later charged with theft after taking it away from the adult so that the student would not be shot.

It could be the fact that no one in the legal system can quite decide whether or not that the six black students who beat up the white student were attempting murder, or simply engaging the white student in the kind of schoolyard brawl that takes place every day at any high school.

There is no way to appropriately place blame in this grossly disproportionate issue of justice. To many, including the media, this was a non-issue before a black student got involved in violence.

The indifference to racism, the overreaction to a simple fist fight and the unimaginable charge of attempted murder for said fight are very messy problems in themselves. When race is added, the situation goes beyond a problem and becomes a powder keg.

Racism is still here. It never left. These children, for that is what they still are, were not alive during the Civil Rights Movement. Why do they still have to fight for its cause?

It seems sad when put simply. After all the protests, the speeches, the demonstrations, the blood-shed, the tears and the perseverance by blacks and whites for civil equality – a bunch of immature children who thought hanging nooses on a tree would be funny or provocative showed us how far we still have to go.



Letters to the Editor

Student deserved Taser by cops

To the Editor:

On Sept. 17, Andrew Meyer, a student at Florida University, caused a public disturbance and was Tasered prior to his arrest. To hear some say it, this is a dreadful story of The Man using a deadly, brutal tool of injustice to squash a poor innocent soul's free speech under his wicked boot, until one does a modicum of research and discovers there is, as always, more to this story than there seems. Such as, for example, both a longer video than most news outlets are showing, (located at <http://video.nbc6.net/player/?id=157250>) as well as eyewitness testimony. Let's address what seem to be the main issues:

1. 'Andrew Meyers' freedom of speech was violated! Senator John Kerry was sponsored by ACCENT, a student-run speaker's bureau which uses donated funds to pay for their events. Booking a venue and sponsoring a speaker both presuppose private contracts. This is the same principle as holding a protest in a mall or in someone's backyard. You cannot, because both are private property. The Constitution and Bill of Rights do not cover private contracts between individuals. Meyer was causing a disturbance at a privately-sponsored function; therefore ACCENT was well within its rights to cut off his microphone and ask the police to escort Meyer off the premises.

2. 'But Meyer was asking perfectly legitimate questions! He wasn't causing a disturbance!' For one thing, the question and answer session was almost over. Once this was announced, according to eyewitness Tyler Antar, Meyer rushed to the front of the line, pushing several students out of the way, and demanded Senator Kerry's attention, interrupting him while he was answering another question. Apparently, Meyer had gotten into a mild altercation with the police prior to this, and received a warning, which is why they were following him. Senator Kerry did ask to allow him to speak, but rather than relaxing and asking a question, Meyer stated that he had read that millions of voters were disenfranchised. Kerry responded that he had read the same book, but Meyers ignored him. The police officer behind Meyers placed her hand on his back to guide him offstage or to warn him to calm down, but he swatted her away and began to descend into incoherence. Senator Kerry can be heard asking for a question in the middle all of this. He finally asked why Kerry could concede, and goaded him, asking if he'd really wanted to be president after all.

One of the ACCENT people signaled to Meyer to leave, but he waved them off, and began asking Kerry why he wasn't trying to get President George W. Bush impeached, and then asked a probing question about whether or not Kerry was in the same secret organization as Bush. He asked these questions rapidly, without giving the senator a chance to respond. An ACCENT member asked the police to remove Meyer. As they took him, he began screaming and flailing. One of his blows actually appears to have connected with an officer, because he managed to break away and then began jumping up and down. After the officers got a grip on him, he asked the crowd why he was being arrested. He began to allow the officers to lead him to the door, until he realized that they were still going to arrest him. He began fighting again, this time straining towards the stage until one officer managed to drag him toward the door, all while asking loudly what he had done. Once in sight of the exit, he made a run for the door, until the police were forced to wrestle him to the ground. Screaming and wriggling, he ignored the instructions of the police, even after one officer loudly warned Meyer that he would be Tased if he didn't calm down. At this point he relaxed, and told the officers he would comply.

Kerry cracked a joke about the situation, and Meyer began fighting and resisting again, loudly declaiming he had no idea why he was being arrested. As they warned, the police Tased him. It should be pointed out that the officers were rather gentle and patient with him up to this point. In fact, they seem to have gone out of their way not to injure him; only to restrain him. They gave him ample warning. Someone screamed about police brutality, which is where the first video ends. The second video continues from this point, as Meyers is taken down the hallway. The policewoman asks him to behave, and tells him to take several deep breaths and calm down. After he refuses to give his name, and tells the officer he is not carrying identification, she begins to explain why he was arrested.

However, as Meyer approaches the doors, he begins screaming at passersby about how the police were going to kill him, and give him to the government to be killed, and how there were people who knew he was there, etc. He then looks straight into the camera and pleads for viewers to tell people why he was arrested, and tells some sympathetic looking people to go to the police station and why he's been arrested, and says again that the government is going to kill him. He also tries to negotiate with the police, saying that if they just take the cuffs off, he'll go peacefully. Surprisingly, they aren't inclined to oblige him. As he leaves the building, he asks someone to come with him to make sure the police don't kill him.

3. 'Meyer did nothing to provoke being Tasered.' Apart from rushing at the stage where a sitting U.S. Senator and ex-Presidential candidate sat? Apart from inciting a violent struggle with, ultimately, six officers, just to get cuffs on him, when all they originally wanted was to take him outside? Remember, as he was fighting against them, he was still straining toward the stage and the senator. The officers had no way of knowing whether or not Meyer had a weapon, and he refused to give them his hands to be cuffed. Given his erratic behavior, and the fact that it took six officers to control him, he could well have been on drugs or possibly even psychotic. For all the officers knew, he might have even been out to harm the senator from the beginning, and was just using his rant to get close enough to attack. Who knows, if such a situation had occurred, we might be calling these officers remiss in not Tasing him.

Fortunately, Meyer is not an assassin or a madman. Nor is he a noble martyr for free speech. He's an annoying, obnoxious kid with at least one Web site in which he describes himself as a "professional heckler" documenting public jokes he's pulled on sports stars and others. Could this be why, as soon as he took the mic, he turned to a female student in the audience and says "Are you taping this? Do you have this? You ready?" before launching into his diatribe? Is this why he kept taunting the officers with statements like "Are you going to Taser me? Are you going to arrest me?" Could this be why his demeanor completely changed as soon as he was in the police car? According to the police report and CNN, he went instantly from a defiant firebrand who pleaded with the crowd not to let the police take him, to a jocular young man who cheerfully told the officers that were no hard feelings, since they hadn't done anything wrong, and passed around business cards with his Web site address on them. He brought those, but not his ID? He even asked if there would be cameras at the jail.

Could it be that Meyer is getting the same reaction he wanted, twice over? He managed to provoke the police into Tasing him. Now, for however long it will last, he's got national fame as the poor boy who was brutally Tasered by jackbooted thugs who wished to silence him.

He caused a public disturbance – it's debatable whether or not he was trying to incite a riot – ignored it when people attempted to get him to leave peacefully, physically resisted when officers tried to get him to leave, actively attacked said officers, and continued to violently resist arrest until, as a last resort, they were forced to use a Taser on him, in order to get him to stop fighting. Even then, he kept apparently trying to incite people to fight the officers and save him. Quite probably all of this was staged so Meyer could get his 15 minutes in the spotlight. People gave it to him. There was indeed a disgrace that day. It happened when news outlets across the country went off half-cocked, before checking the facts behind this event, and made an attention-seeking nutcase famous. Andrew Meyers' undeserved fame, and the fame of crazy attention seekers like him will last as long as people don't bother researching the truth behind the stunts they pull.

Vance Benson
Junior art major

Editorial board's criticism incorrect

To the Editor:

As the organizer of the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) that appeared on the Knoll last week, I wanted to respond to the self-contradictory editorial that appeared in *Sidelines* commenting on the definition of genocide. The editorial board stated that the system of slavery/Jim Crow was not genocide, but in the same column listed Black Americans as "victims of actual genocide." The board stated that Cambodia was an example of genocide – so do we – but used a definition of genocide so narrow that it excludes Cambodia. That's because the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime were not "a national or ethnic group," as required by the board. These Cambodians were killed based on another kind of criteria. That's why many genocide scholars favor and use more inclusive definitions than the one endorsed by the board.

If the board had bothered to ask, we could have shown them some of the most recent scholarship on the debate over narrow vs. broader definitions of genocide. The board is desperate to avoid the real question – who is the unborn? Abortion is genocide if and only if the unborn is a living human being worthy of legal protection. The board offers no evidence nor arguments that some living human beings are unworthy of our protection and thus may be killed. They merely assume their own conclusion that the unborn must certainly be unworthy, much the same as our white predecessors assumed that Black men were certainly "subordinate and inferior."

C. Fletcher Armstrong, PhD
Southeast Director Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

Don't ignore assault, battery in Jena

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the Sept. 20 protests in Jena, La. and Matthew Adair's column on Sept. 13 "Racism persists against Jena Six." No doubt, the students who hung nooses from a tree in the schoolyard should have been duly punished. And all crimes, whether perpetrated by Caucasians or African Americans, that have been committed in Jena should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Many people in Jena, on the campus of MTSU and all across the United States support the movement to "Free the Jena 6."

But the United States is a nation of laws, and the protest to "Free the Jena 6" is nothing more than a protest to legalize assault and battery.

When the facts are weighed and all the instances of provocation are reviewed, one thing remains: six individuals beat up another individual. The kids who hung the nooses should be punished accordingly, the young man who brandished a gun should be punished accordingly and the six students who beat up a fellow student should be punished accordingly. Adair closes his column with a very true statement, "Justice needs to be served in Jena." And he's right; keep assault and battery illegal.

Reed Johnson
Senior, College of Mass Communication

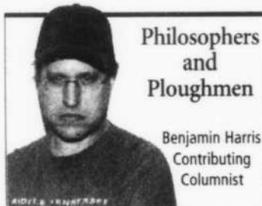
Capitalism must evolve

Capitalism is based on a fallacy. The fallacy is that wealth can be created.

What is the definitive characteristic of this thing we call wealth? Answer: a higher standard of living. For example, a person living in a modern dwelling consuming three meals a day in warmth and comfort is wealthier than one sleeping on a park bench using newspaper for a blanket and scrounging for food in rubbish. This is demonstrated by the fact that the former is consuming more energy than the latter. Therefore, access to greater, and conversely, less expenditure of energy resources equals a higher living standard, also known as increased wealth.

Capitalism encourages technological innovation for the purpose of "increasing wealth," theoretically growing the economy without the need to directly plunder from a neighboring civilization. However, in reality, these innovations mainly serve to develop ways to consume more resources over less time. Because energy resources are inherently finite, it is a zero-sum game. No actual energy, or wealth, is ever created. As long as energy resources appear abundant, this system seems to work to maximize human potential. But when the resources appear scarce conflict and turmoil become more and more likely. For example, virtually every aspect of human productivity is currently dependent on petroleum. There is evidence that suggests that demand for crude oil might begin to outstrip supply in the foreseeable future. When this happens, the "misery quotient," to borrow from Thomas Malthus, may hit home in ways that are probably currently outside the scope of the imagination of most Americans. This raises the question: who would bear the brunt of the suffering in this scenario? Or, more to the point, who would not?

Capitalism insists on constantly developing ways to exploit more and more finite resources over less time. Its relationship with conservatism is always one of direct opposition. In no way does this coincide with the mutual best interests of the vast majority of the earth's rapidly growing population. What we are getting is self-



destruction, not progress. Do we really want to allow this?

Now, if an abundant, practical, clean energy resource were to be discovered then I could see the inherent flaw in capitalism ceasing to be an immediate concern. Unfortunately, I am aware of no evidence that new processes of energy conversion, resulting in abundant clean resources, are on the immediate horizon.

Let it be understood that criticism of capitalism is not advocacy of Marxism. The viability of state enforced collectivization has been discredited with regards to productivity and human rights. Capitalism is starting to look primitive. Arguably, today's centralized industrial capitalism is merely a decadent perversion of Adam Smith's vision of a healthy market economy. For example, the price of a company's stock should be determined by the company's value, not the other way around.

We must adapt to survive. We must, as a species, evolve out of our Stone Age mindset and recognize our responsibility to apply our unique ability to reason in order to sort out fact from fiction. For one thing, this would help disempower those that seek to control our wealth through deception and indoctrination. I submit that it would serve our mutual best interests to test the following hypothesis: a population prepared to demand evidence in support of true knowledge on which to base policy, as opposed to blindly bestowing credence upon revelation, proclamation, and speculation; would be in a better position to discover and implement the means to construct more humane ways of cultivating human productivity while alleviating threats such as famine, ecological disaster, and massive global conflict.

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Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters.

We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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FEATURES

Students rally for Jena Six



Photo by Justin Keonin | Photo Editor

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority show support for the Jena 6 at the National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show. The sorority dedicated the performance to the Jena 6.

By Lemon Keith
Staff Writer

Wearing blue attire, cheering and displaying signs reading "Go MTSU" are traditional ways students celebrate the first home game of the season. But this year, six black teenagers in Jena, La. made some students act a little differently.

With MTSU's first home game last Thursday, some grilled burgers while others sat in class. All shades of MTSU t-shirts were worn and faces beamed with blue paint, but among those students, some wore black attire or proudly displayed a black ribbon.

Discussions about the students who have become known in the media as "Jena 6" have frequented campus during the past week, and these students were hoping their black ribbons got noticed and reflected the issue currently going on in Louisiana.

Child development major Martavious Love is very much aware of the issue in Jena. Instead of sporting a traditional game shirt on game day, he wore a large-print black t-shirt reading "Support the Jena Six."

Students passing the Keathly University Center last week most likely saw the Alpha Kappa Psi display table set up to sell \$1 black ribbons in support of donations to the students of Jena High School.

The ribbon sale raised \$300 in an effort to garner support for the six young men in Jena to receive adequate and unbiased representation in court. The proceeds raised were given to the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People and will be given to the family members of the Jena Six.

"Our organization wanted to step up. We saw that no other organizations were, and we are hoping that people will be more aware of what is going on around them," says Shaneikwa Smith, AKPsi member and avid Jena Six supporter. She feels that, although the situation in Jena may not have a huge impact in Murfreesboro, it is an issue that people need to be aware of, one that is bringing racist tensions upon young kids.

"The money raised is going toward the Jena Six's court costs, because we believe in helping them get a fair trial," Smith says. She feels this was a way for MTSU's AKPsi business fraternity to fulfill its mission of community awareness.

Many students may have heard announcements over radio stations such as 92Q or 101.1 the Beat Jamz that asked everyone to wear black as a sign of support for the Jena 6 and their families, but perhaps didn't want to dampen the game day mood.

"I knew that it was game day at MTSU and I thought of the black ribbon as a way for students to bring awareness to the issue without conflicting with the game or school spirit," says Smith, a junior recording industry major. Smith says that people need to be aware of the issue in Jena, La. when "it can affect anyone, regardless of race. Injustice can impact anyone in a fight or someone who is harshly and wrongly accused of doing something."

Love agrees.

"This is not about only college kids supporting the Jena 6, it is about the nation making a statement that this injustice should never happen, but they should question why it is still happening in 2007," he says, his voice hinting at his frustration with the situation. "African-Americans have to come together regardless of region or location and let others know that racial injustice will not be tolerated anywhere."

The color black represents the injustice of the issue, according to Love. He proclaims that "the black will be worn until the issue is resolved and set right."

According to Love, people should get involved by going down to Jena, writing letters, signing petitions, raising donations and "always keeping them in your prayers."

"I hope that when this is all said and done, something like this will never happen again," he says. He adds that people thought this could be pulled over on a small town such as Jena, and is happy that people have stepped up against it.

Graduate student Kenecia Sullivan was unaware of the ribbon sell but she proudly showed her support by wearing black on game day.

Jena Timeline

Aug. 31, 2006: A black student asks permission to sit under the "white tree." A school administrator replies, "you can sit wherever you want."

Sept. 1, 2006: Three nooses in school colors are found hanging from the "white tree."

Sept. 7, 2006: The three students responsible for hanging the nooses are found; the principal recommends them for expulsion.

Sept. 8, 2006: The superintendent overrules the principal's decision, calling it a harmless prank.

Nov. 30, 2006: A fire burns down the main academic building of Jena High School. Investigators rule that it is arson.

Dec. 1, 2006: A black student, Robert Bailey, attends a party and has a bottle broken over his head.

Dec. 2, 2006: A fight is reported at the Gotta Go convenience store outside of Jena. Investigators say three students beat a man and took his shotgun. The students, one of whom was Robert Bailey—the victim of the beating at the party the previous night, say the man, who was also at the party, pulled a sawed off shotgun on the students.

Dec. 4, 2006: White student Justin Barker was allegedly with the students responsible for hanging the nooses, says racial slurs and taunts Robert Bailey about being beaten up at the aforementioned party. He is knocked unconscious by a group of black students. An ambulance is called. Barker is conscious by the time it arrives.

Dec. 7, 2006: The District Attorney announces that the charges against all six have been upgraded to attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit second-degree murder.

Information according to CNN.com

mately show support in some way," she says.

She goes on to say "this could have happened anywhere, because it all started with a group of students who questioned the standard, and sat under a tree."

"Don't accept things as the norm, ask questions," Sullivan says.

She expresses her concern about the young men still incarcerated after the high bail was set, and says that "even though the bill is high, the community needs to raise funds and show other support than marching. I don't understand why funds are not being raised to get a kid out of prison."

Love says he hopes the issue in Jena will raise awareness, so that "all injustice, especially racial, stops across the nation." ♦

Graphic by Sean Turner | Contributing Designer

Environment Briefs

By MICHELLE LOCKE
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Business professor John Stayton remembers when eyes would start rolling at the idea of a "green MBA."

These days, business schools across the country are incorporating the environmental and social costs of doing business into their curricula, and a few, like the program Stayton directs at Dominican University of California, aim for an all-green program.

The goal? How to succeed in business without really frying the planet.

"Essentially we've got to change the way we're doing everything and making everything," said Stayton.

The program Stayton directs was launched at Santa Rosa's New College of California North Bay in 2000 as a Master of Arts in the humanities department and transferred to Dominican last spring. It's one of a handful of such degrees; others include MBAs offered at the Presidio School of

Management in San Francisco and the Bainbridge Graduate Institute in Washington state.

The move to balance economy and ecology is showing up all over, said Rich Leimsider, director of the Center for Business Education at The Aspen Institute, a leadership think tank which reports on how Master of Business Administration programs are adding social and environmental issues to their courses in its biennial "Beyond Grey Pinstripes" report.

"It matters what the senior executives of companies do, say and think," said Leimsider. "If you can change business education to include an appreciation for the social and environmental context you wind up with leaders who are really good at creating value all around."

Almost all business schools have "at least a beachhead" of environmental and social awareness, said Leimsider, and some are doing much more.

The new programs may be environmentally friendly, but they're still all-business.

"We want people who graduate from our program to be able to go toe-to-toe with MBAs from Stanford, Harvard ... all the other fine business schools," said Miguel Esteban, director of enrollment, management and marketing at the Bainbridge program. "We would be doing them an injustice if we weren't giving them those core competencies."

The result is an executive with an edge, Lenox said, from an investment banker deciding whether or not to recommend acquiring a utility company to a retail supplier making a case that his or her company's products have a reduced environmental impact.

"This is a huge area of opportunity," agreed Stayton. "The goal is for our students to be in positions where the more successful they are at advancing their initiatives, the more money they'll be earning." ♦

By CHARMAINE NORONHA
TORONTO (AP) - Governments of almost 200 countries have agreed to speed the elimination of a major greenhouse gas that depletes ozone, U.N. and Canadian officials said Saturday, describing a deal they said was a significant step toward fighting global warming.

The agreement reached Friday night will accelerate a treaty to freeze and phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) which are used in home appliances, some refrigerators, hair sprays and air conditioners, said Nick Nuttall, spokesman for the United Nations Environment Program.

"With this plan of an accelerated freeze and consumption phase-out, we could have potentially significant benefits arising in terms of combating climate change and ozone loss," Nuttall said. "It's a remarkable change in how we view the issue of climate change."

The treaty known as the Montreal

Protocol was originally established in the Canadian city in 1987 to protect the ozone layer from destructive chemicals. It was negotiated by 191 countries to cut back on chemicals blamed for destroying the ozone layer.

The member nations, gathering in Montreal again 20 years later, agreed to freeze production and consumption of HCFCs in 2013.

Developed countries have agreed to reduce production and consumption by 75 percent by 2010 and by 90 percent by 2015 with final phase out in 2020 — 10 years sooner than the earlier agreement. Developing countries have agreed to cut production and consumption by 10 percent in 2015; by 35 percent by 2020 and by 67.5 percent by 2025 with a final phase-out in 2030.

In Washington, the White House said the agreement would cut in half the potential emissions of remaining chemicals harmful to the ozone. ♦

SPORTS

Home game feels exactly like deja vu



The Lowdown

Richard Lowe
Assistant Sports Editor

When the clock struck zero at the end of the game, all I could do was drop my head and curse. I did the same thing right before I went to sleep Thursday night and again when I woke up on Friday morning. The funny thing about those three instances was that I was not alone. 22,806, sans children, in unison sunk their heads to their chest the moment Matt King's field goal attempt went wide left. For many new MTSU fans, this was a horrible ending to what had been an exciting week building up to this game. For the Blue Raider fans that have been here before this season, it seemed more like the same soup, just reheated.

Is it wrong for me to wonder how MTSU will disappoint me next? I'll never forget my first home football game. The week before, the Blue Raiders beat Akron and were not returning home to face Florida Atlantic. The routine at the time was to wake up early, walk over to Blue Raider Bookstore, and buy paraphernalia so I could show my school spirit. I would then take a shower and head over to the tailgating area. Back then; the only tailgaters were church groups and a few fraternities and sororities. These days, Walnut Grove is packed with tailgaters from all over campus.

Attendance was an issue but it wasn't my concern. My concern was to sit back and see what then coach Andy McCollum's team was going to deliver this week. Being from Atlanta, I had never heard of MTSU until it was time to look for a college. However, the moment my parents dropped me off at Judd Hall, I became a Rowdy Raider.

We ended up losing that game 27 to 20 to start off a 3 game losing streak. I thought I was done with the disappointment but then there was the game against Troy at the end of the year that was built up as the Battle of the Palladium. I was cramped in a car for almost 8 hours just to make sure I would see the victory. I guess it was never meant to be then as well because we lost 37 to 17.

The feeling after that loss was "there is always next year." Then we lost to North Texas...again. It was five years in a row that we saw that we couldn't beat the Mean Green.

Just when you thought we were at the bottom of the barrel, we beat Vanderbilt. We blocked the kick and everything was supposed to go up from there. Attendance would never be an issue again. The conference championship would be in our grasp finally. Then we finished the season 4-7 and without a football coach. Beating Troy that year didn't seem to all that great even though we did it.

Then I thought, "Maybe 2006 would be our year!" We had a new coach in Rick Stockstill and it was announced that we were getting new turf. We were flying high at 7-4 after defeating Arkansas State but then we finished the season with three losses. South Carolina wasn't so bad but Troy left a sour taste in my mouth and Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl made us look like we didn't deserve a bowl game.

Then we get to this year where the fan base is excited again and hopes of winning the conference outright would be alive. We also came close to beating Louisville and had lowly Western Kentucky for the home opener.

Then the kick went wide left and we are now 0-4. Every hardcore Middle Tennessee fan almost lost all hope in the team. I didn't lose hope. I was just brought down to reality. I fought with my editor at the beginning of the season saying there is no way we can play 12 straight weeks of football and be successful. It was inevitable that someone would get hurt. Everyone knew of our depth issues but we all wanted to keep the faith. Now let's see how much faith we keep.

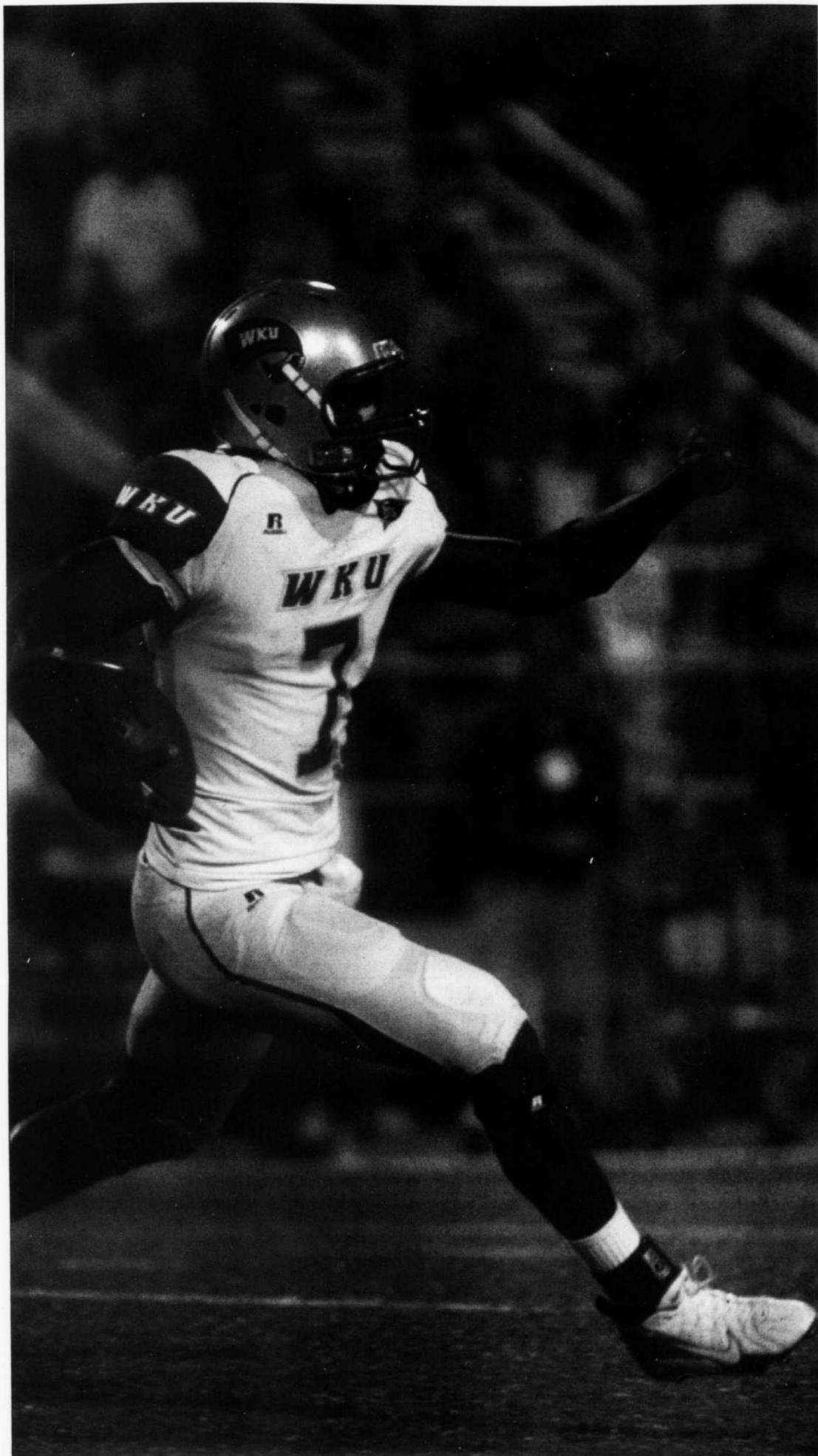
When my parents dropped me off at the stadium, I made a commitment to this university. Through thick and thin, I would stick by it. I still check my high school's football scores every week. I'm still going to wear blue almost every day and spread the good word about my university. We play Florida International on Saturday night and I will be there on the sideline covering this team but deep down I will be cheering them to victory no matter what. I don't have to "grow blue" as the new campaign begs for. I am blue. Let's see who else is too.

Richard Lowe is a junior, broadcast journalism major and can be reached at rlowe@mtstv.org.

Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium

All-Time Attendance Records

1.	27,568	Tennessee State	Sept. 5, 1998
2.	27,519	Southeast Missouri	Sept. 28, 2002
3.	23,261	Florida Atlantic	Aug. 28, 2003
4.	23,106	Idaho	Oct. 6, 2001
5.	22,806	Western Kentucky	Sept. 20, 2007
6.	21,723	Troy State	Sept. 8, 2001



K.J. Black came in during the second half of Thursday's game to change the luck of the Hilltopper offense. He threw for one touchdown and rushed for 56 yards to lead his team to a 20-17 victory over the Blue Raiders.

MT suffers fourth loss

Football team loses home opener and seventh straight game; Dasher replaces injured starting quarterback

By Chris Martin
Staff Writer

Despite causing three turnovers and the surprising play of freshman quarterback Dwight Dasher, a missed field goal with five seconds left in the fourth quarter led to a 20-17 Middle Tennessee loss to Western Kentucky in the Blue Raiders' home opener.

Dasher, who replaced the injured Joe Craddock, completed 14 of 24 passes for 169 yards and rushed for 53 yards in his first collegiate start, but perhaps more importantly, had zero interceptions.

"I think [Dasher] grew up a lot tonight," said Rick Stockstill, MT head coach. "He protected the ball well. He didn't turn it over. He made good decisions. He threw the ball really well, we just didn't catch it very good."

Dasher led a 41-yard drive from the MT 34 to the WKU 17 setting up a 34-yard field goal with five seconds remaining in the game. Matt King kicked the ball wide to end the game.

"[Dasher] put us in a position to tie the game and send it to overtime," Stockstill said. "I'm very pleased with him. I thought he played a very courageous game. I thought he played a very smart game for the first time he's played when the game was on the line."

Both teams were grinding it out on the ground. The teams combined for 353 yards on 86 attempts compared to 281 yards on 39 passing attempts. In fact, of the 26 offensive plays in the first quarter, only six were passes. Western Kentucky (3-1) was able to win the battle on the ground, outgaining the Raiders (0-4, 0-1 Sun Belt) 234 yards to 119.

"We tackled poorly," Stockstill said. "They were running the option, and the option is a great equalizer. They executed it and we didn't tackle very well."

Western Kentucky has run a two quarterback offense all season and it was no different Thursday. Notre Dame transfer David Wolke played the first half and K.J. Black came in relief in the second. Combined, the quarterbacks completed nine of 15 passes for 112 yards and one interception and rushed for 84 yards on 19 carries.

"It was a little adjustment from the first quarterback (Wolke) and the second one (Black)," senior defensive end Erik Walden said. "(Black) was more shifty, looser, but at the same time, we've got to do our job and make plays."

MT was able to force three turnovers while committing none. MT turned two WKU fumbles and an interception into 10 points. Freshman safety Jeremy Kellem, who picked Wolke off as time expired in the first half, continued to make big plays.

"Jeremy Kellem continues to show up," Stockstill said. "He's been very consistent [in the secondary]."

This win gives Western Kentucky their first victory as a Division I-A school. The Hilltoppers will join the Sun Belt and be able to participate in the postseason in 2009.

"They did a good job," Walden said. "They made plays when they had to, but on the other hand, we had some letdowns. We didn't do our job, but give them credit; they won the game."

Middle Tennessee return to Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium, Saturday, to take on Sun Belt opponent Florida International at 6 p.m. ♦

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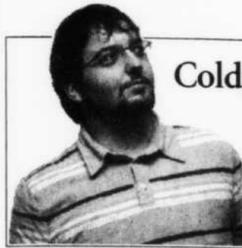
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My first official day on the job



Coldplay-action

Chris Martin
Staff Columnist

I attended my first football game as a member of the media, Thursday, and boy, was it awesome. Most of you would like to think that covering a football game for a newspaper is just business for a journalist, and I may eventually feel that way too, but in the press box, I felt like a kid in a candy store.

I've never had a backstage pass before, until I got my press pass around 5:15 p.m. The press pass can get you into the press box, the luxury boxes, the photo deck, the postgame press conference and even the field during the game.

The first thing I did was go to the press box. I can't say that it was what I imagined it would be like because I didn't have any expectation, but the first thing I noticed when I walked in was the food table to my right. The food wasn't much to write home about, but as a perpetually broke college student, there was an aspect that made it that much more delicious...it was free. Instead of dining on frozen burritos or dollar menu delights, I got to eat some free barbecue chicken and corn on the cob.

Next, I took the stairs up to the photo deck. This is where all the television cameras get their bird's-eye view of the game, and you do get a great view of the field, but you can also see for miles. The view up here was incredible and it made me think Murfreesboro is a much more aesthetically pleasing place than I had given credit. I guess you could say I couldn't see the forest for the trees, because Murfreesboro has a lot of trees. Sometimes I think we just grow so accustomed to our close up view that we don't realize how beautiful everything is when you just take a step back.

When I got back to my seat, there was a sheet of paper that said starting quarterback Joe Craddock would not be playing. I didn't even know he was injured, but I knew Dwight Dasher was going to start at QB 30 minutes before the game started. This is the kind of stuff that

Before the game started, a voice came over the PA that welcomed everyone and set down some rules of behavior in the press box. One rule is that cheering for either team is not allowed. What? While I am trying to become a professional journalist, I am still a football fan watching my school play a football game. Throughout the game I couldn't help but say "Yes!" a little more loudly than I should when MT sacked the quarterback or when Dwight Dasher was scrambling and cutting through the defense, picking up more yards than he should have. Luckily, I was not reprimanded, my editor sitting next to me was not so fortunate on a Western Kentucky fumble that MT recovered.

When surveying how large the press box was, I noticed two guys wearing headsets in a glass room next to where I was sitting. Then, I noticed a banner next to them that read "ESPN College Football." I thought one of the guys looked like Brent Musburger. After studying him for a second I realized it wasn't Musburger, but the fact that I was sitting ten feet from the ESPN commentary team was a real eye opener for me.

It was a little intimidating to think that all these people around me are professionals, some from national media outlets, and here I am taking notes in a notebook from biology class. Even more intimidating was the fact that said notebook had a sheet of paper with cross sections of male and female reproductive organs from where I took notes in biology class my freshman year.

When the second half started, I got nervous. My editor was leaving so I was going to have to cover the post-game press conference by myself. I've been to one press conference before and there were no more than five reporters there. The press box had at least 25

covering the game.

I had never asked a question in a press conference in my life and I certainly had never talked to a player, but when there was five minutes left in the fourth quarter I was going to have to follow other reporters to the conference, because I didn't know where the conference was going to be held.

Sometime during the third quarter, the fire alarm went off. As is the normal reaction to a fire alarm, nobody moved. The alarm then continued to beep once every thirty seconds for the duration of the game.

In the fourth quarter a woman from Media Relations walked down the aisles handing all the reporters interview request sheets. You write down the names of up to three players from each team that you want to interview. I didn't know if I was going to have the courage to ask a question, let alone did I know who I wanted to talk to.

After deciding I would talk to Dwight Dasher and Erik Walden, I tried to quell my nerves and come up with three or four questions for each player.

Then I see the game clock. 7:09.

At this point, the nerves I had been trying to calm flared up again, it was getting close to go time.

At five minutes, I crammed into the elevator with several other media members and a few drunk fans from the luxury boxes.

I then followed a guy I was told to stick close to to where we would be waiting while the game finished. The field.

I don't mean we got to stand along the rail of the first row. I mean my feet were touching the turf. I was two steps away from the sideline. This was easily the most exciting part of my experience. How many people can say they've stood on the sideline of a college football game? I know, many, but it was still cool. When MT turned the ball over on downs, I couldn't help but notice that Western Kentucky would be driving towards the goal I was closest to. I'm not saying I was scared, but I definitely envisioned myself being the guy standing on the sidelines that gets mauled when someone gets tackled near the out of bounds. Fortunately, this did not happen.

Once the game ended, I followed the people I was supposed to follow to the locker room area into the room where the press conference was going to be held.

From what you see on TV, a press conference looks like a grand affair in an auditorium. I must say it is somewhat demystifying when you realize it's in a room not even large enough to fit 30 people with a podium positioned in front of a big tarp that has the MT logo all over it.

I felt out of place because I was typing quotes on my laptop as well as using a tape recorder. I was the only one who had brought a computer with me.

My nerves were soon back with me. This was it. Coach Stockstill and at least three players were going to come into a room and stand six feet away from me and I was supposed to ask questions, despite the fact had no more than four questions already written out. Then Stockstill entered the room. For fear of sounding stupid, I didn't ask Stockstill any questions, but I knew if I wanted to get my quotes I was going to have to ask the players question.

After the coach gave his comments the players came in. I don't think I've ever thought about how big some of these guys really are. Erik Walden a defensive end listed at 6-2 246. I am a hardcore NFL draft fan and if Walden wanted to play defensive end in the pros, he would be considered small. I have stood next to Erik Walden and he is anything but small. I think I will never describe a 246 pound defensive end as small ever again. The fact that he is so massive makes me wonder what the 6-5 275 guys look like.

Thus concluded my first time attending a football game with full press credentials. All I have to say now is: I can't wait until Saturday.

Chris Martin is a sophomore, mass communication student and can be reached at cgm2m@mtsu.edu

SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball team sweeps first games of SBC play

Ashley Adams and Izabela Kozon combined for 26 kills as the Blue Raiders continue their five game winning streak after downing Troy 3-0 on Saturday.

Adams had four attack errors and finished with a .414 attacking percentage, while teammate Ashley Asberry had five block assists and eight kills in the game.

MT finished the series with 52 kills and hitting percentage of .452 and held the Trojans to 24 kills and -.010 hitting.

In the opening game of the Sun Belt Conference the defending champs blue Raiders knocked off South Alabama 3-0 holding then to a .079 hitting percentage.

MT returns home on September 28 to host Denver and North Texas September 30.

Tennis team reaches quarterfinals

The team of Marc Rocafort and Morgan Richard advanced to the quarterfinals of the Southern Intercollegiate Championships hosted by Georgia on Saturday. They defeated the team of Brassenaux and Forman of Wake Forest, 8-6.

They are scheduled to face Aubone and Bowles of Florida State Sunday.

Chris Novak and John Peers beat the team of Cox and Ward of Kentucky, 9-8. They will face Parr and Salma from Wake Forest.

Over in the UTC Steve Baras Tennis Classic the women's tennis team is setting the pace for the rest of the fall season.

Elvaira Yusupova beat UTS No. 3 seed Ballard 6-4, 6-2 and defeated Madeleine Hakansson of Kennesaw State in the semi-finals.

She is scheduled to face Svetlana Pimenova of Eastern Kentucky for the A-singles championship on Sunday.

Stephanie Parkison falls to Pimenova in the semi-finals 6-3, 6-2. Ann-Kristin Siljeström will face teammate Claudia Szabo for the B-singles championship.

Andrea Herrera and Pooja Kommireddi will face each other for the C-singles championship.

The team of Chemin-Siljeström faces Szabo-Hartmann for the A-double championship.

Soccer teams falls short in Sooner Invitational

Soccer team avoids being shutout by Long Beach, but fall 5-1 in the opening game of the Sooner Invitational. MT was down 3-0 going into halftime

MTSU vs. WKU: The game in pictures



Photo by Trey Walker | Staff Photographer
22,806 fans packed into the stands of Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium for the home opener against the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky.

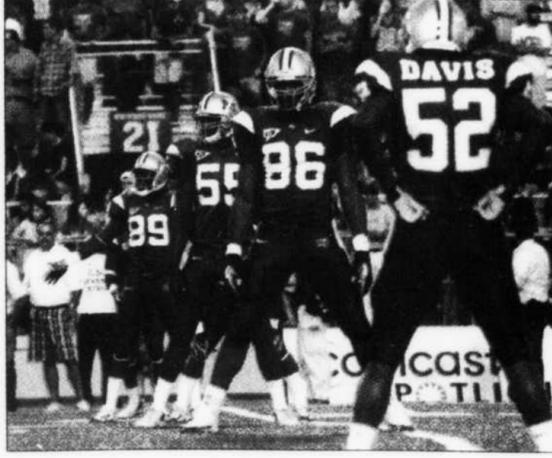


Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
The Blue Raiders patiently wait on the field for the opening kickoff against Western Kentucky.

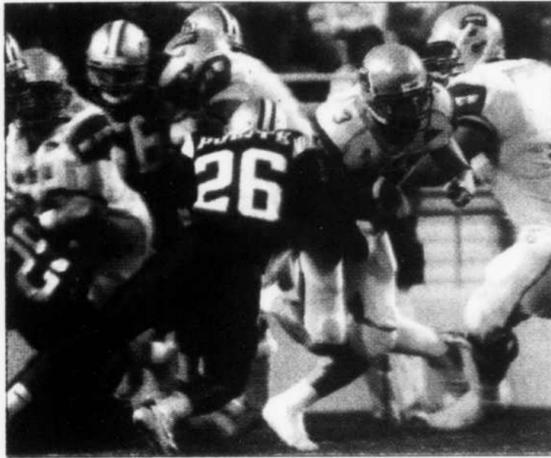


Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Senior cornerback Roy Polite had 9 tackles in the game, including this tackle on Western Kentucky starting quarterback David Wolke.

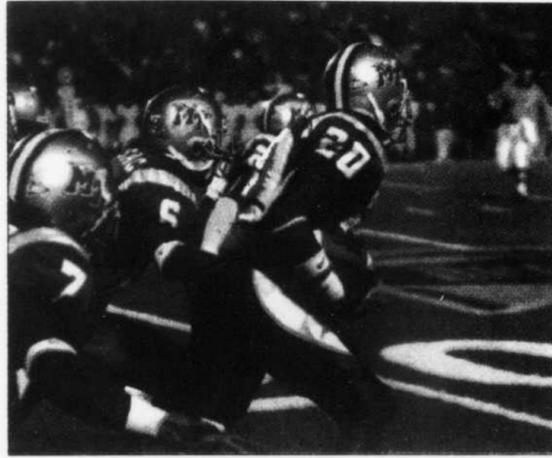


Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Freshman Jeremy Kellem grabbed his first career interception at the end of the first half.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Senior Taron Henry led the Blue Raider wide receivers with six catches for 81 yards. This catch shows him attempting to score a touchdown while falling out of bounds.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Western Kentucky replaced David Wolke with K.J. Black in the second half of Thursday's game. He rushed for 56 yards and threw the game winning touchdown.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Senior cornerback Bradley Robinson played one of his best games of the season with 3 solo tackles and a pass broken up.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
David Wolke, the starting quarterback for Western Kentucky, played in front of the Murfreesboro crowd for the time since high school. He is from Mt. Juliet, TN.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Dwight Dasher kept the final drive alive as he rushed down the field to put his team into field goal range. Freshman Matt King eventually missed the game winning kick.



Photo by Ryan Debooy | Staff Photographer
Western Kentucky head coach David Elson celebrates with his team as they defeat their first FBS opponent of the season, Middle Tennessee State.

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