

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2000

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Partly cloudy



Spouting off

Spit Fire tour performs to audience of 600.

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Riding the Bus

One student tells of his journey to Florida.

See Campus Life, page 8

INSIDE: See Opinions, page 6

An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

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Volume 76 No. 9

Something to chalk about

Professors' responsibility shift a 'misuse of energy'



Photos by Erika Pryor | Photo Editor

(Above) One piece of chalk remains in a Peck Hall classroom as the result of a university-wide policy that denies the supply of classroom materials to departments. (Below) English Professor Charles Wolfe stands astonished at the lack of chalk and other supplies in his classroom. English professors in particular are upset at the onslaught of new responsibilities that they have been handed.

By Erika Pryor
Staff Writer

Every university has its problems. Whether it's housing, Greek life or the everyday hassles of bookstore prices, all universities go through a suffering period. MTSU is currently in its suffering period, according to Watson Hannah, financial management analyst.

One department in particular that is being slighted during this period is the English department. An e-mail memo was circulated to the English faculty stating that the university will no longer be supplying chalk and erasers to the professors.

"This policy has been in effect for a year," said William Connelly, chair of the English department. "I was just trying to let them know."

George Kerrick, a professor of English, received one such memo, and by the next class day all of his chalk was missing.

The professors are also being plagued with the responsibility of locking the classroom doors between classes and are quite displeased with the fact that they already have more than they can handle without the administration adding to their work load.

"It is a misuse of energy," said Elyce Helford, an associate English professor and director of Women's

Studies. "The administration is turning professors into hall monitors."

The average English professor teaches four courses — a total of 120 students — without being able to giving multiple choice tests. They are responsible for grading up to 600 essays a semester in addition to attending faculty meetings.

"The university is ineffectively handling responsibility," Helford said.

With this move by the administration, a responsibility shift has occurred. The professors are now being relied on to police the usage of classrooms, not only in Peck Hall but in every building where English is taught.

"Next thing you know, they will have us cleaning the rooms," Kerrick said.

The English department was given the duty of creating 172 keys and identification passes in a span of four days in order to be able to access the different classrooms around campus.

"Now instead of putting the money where it is needed, they [the administration] would rather pay people to check the doors," Kerrick said.

"The little things add up," said Kerrick.

"This new edict inappropriately places the responsibility of university security on the wrong people," said Ellen Donovan, English professor and

member of the Faculty Senate.

The question that the faculty is asking now is how this newly-proposed plan is supposed to work.

Peck Hall is the center of the problem. The building is shared by many different departments.

"Since every professor in the English department teaches in several different buildings on campus, they should be prepared with the necessary utensils to teach that class, whether it is in Peck Hall or the James Union Building," said Hannah.

Some professors speculate that the university is not placing sufficient funds where they belong. As class size continues to grow and professors continue to be unequipped with the necessary teaching tools, MTSU will continue to find new ways to generate money. But until the administration finds a steady flow of income, they will shift money from one section of the department to the other.

"Technology changes the way the teachers and students approach the material," said Hannah.

Faculty members are concerned that this money shifting is misleading and is not serving its purpose.

"Of all the places where the budget must be cut, I wish it were not in education," said Donovan.

Donovan also suggested that locking of the doors between classes is a "fire hazard."



"Peck Hall is structured differently from the Business and Aerospace building. In the BAS there are places for the students to 'hang out,' but here in Peck Hall, no such space exists," said Donovan. "The students have to gather in the halls, and that creates a serious problem."

This newfound dependency for the professors also affects the students. The fact that the professors must lock their doors and supply their own chalk in addition to the other numerous duties they must perform daily, negatively affects the students' ability to learn, said some students.

"It's sad when a teacher walks into a classroom, tries to write on the board and can't because there is no chalk — plenty of erasers, but no chalk," said Ronda Batts, an English student. ♦

Study reveals tap water as good for you as bottled

By Hillary Bentman
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — Put down that Evian bottle — it might just send you to the dentist's chair.

A recent study conducted by James Lalumandier, executive director of the department of community dentistry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, revealed that bottled water drinkers, who believe they are getting a cleaner, healthier drink, may be better off at the tap.

Case Western researchers compared Cleveland tap water, drawn from four separate sources, to 57 popular brands of bottled water, examining bacteria count and fluoride levels. The 57 samples included spring water, distilled

water and purified drinking water.

In terms of bacteria count, bottled water was purer than tap overall, but one-fourth of the samples had 10 times more bacteria than the tap, Lalumandier said. Ten percent of the bottled water samples had bacteria levels 1,000 times greater than tap water. The researchers are not disclosing the brands of bottled water used.

The team also found that although the tap water tested had optimal levels of fluoride, only five percent of the bottled water had adequate amounts. Fluoride is an important agent for the prevention of tooth decay in both children and adults.

Lalumandier recommends that bottled water drinkers take fluoride supplements to compensate for the low levels in their water. It is difficult, however,

to determine if such a supplement is needed.

Bottlers are not obliged by law to include fluoride levels on the bottle, unless they add fluoride to their water. The only way to determine if a fluoride supplement is needed, according to Lalumandier, is to have the water tested; a process that many are not willing to undertake.

"We called many of the bottlers directly, and they said they knew the fluoride levels of their products, but still did not include the number on the bottle," he said. "I would like to see them put the concentration on the label, especially for children, whose teeth need fluoride the most."

Lalumandier believes the results of the study would be similar in other cities across the country, because a

majority of water plants in the United States use processes similar to those of the Cleveland plants.

He does admit, however, there is no reason consumers should stop drinking bottled water. These products will not make healthy drinkers sick, but Lalumandier says consumers should drink the purest water possible, even if that means drinking products that include fluoride levels off the bottles.

The problem, he says, is that tap water and bottled water are controlled by two different agencies, and are therefore governed by different regulations. Tap water is tested by the Environmental Protection Agency, whereas the Food and Drug Administration tests bottled water.

See Water, 3

Football Season Preview

See Sports, page 10

Rallies promote spirit

By Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

The Student Government Association and Student Affairs are partnering up to promote school spirit by hosting the first ever Raider Rally tomorrow at 5:30 on the Knoll.

The Raider Rally will feature MTSU's own football team, cheerleading squad, dance team and the marching band.

"The Raider Rallies are designed to promote school spirit and support for our athletic teams," SGA Public Relations Director Sarah Elder said. "SGA encourages all students and organizations to attend and show their spirit."

At the last Raider Rally SGA representatives are planning to award the organization with the most school spirit and the most students present at the Raider Rallies with a lighting rod spirit stick.

Free food will be available on the Knoll. ♦

Bush, Gore push toward election

By Erin LaRuffa
The Observer (U. Notre Dame)

(U-WIRE) SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Throughout the spring and most of the summer, many Americans — if they were paying attention to national polls — probably thought Republican nominee George W. Bush would be the next president.

Then came the Democratic National Convention. After trailing Bush for most of the campaign, Vice President Al Gore made significant gains in the polls.

"Going into the conventions, Bush should have been a landslide winner," said Notre Dame government professor David Legee.

Now, no one knows which candidate is ahead.

Although Bush — who labeled himself the "underdog" last Thursday — currently trails in all major national poll, the race is far from finished.

POLLING THE PEOPLE

Newsweek's most recent poll showed Gore leading Bush 47 to 39 percent among registered voters, and 49 to 41 percent among likely voters. Many polls, however, show an even closer race.

Gore leads Bush 47 to 46 percent among likely voters in the Time/CNN poll while the latest Washington Post and ABC News poll has the two candidates locked at 47 percent among registered voters.

Statistical margins of error and other factors make predicting results complicated.

"There are two problems with the polls," said government professor Benjamin Radcliff.

The first, Radcliff explained, is some polls use data from registered voters, while others use data from "likely voters." Registered voters do not necessarily show up at the polls, even if they do support one candidate over the other.

"Even the polls among likely voters will differ depending on how (pollsters) determine who's going to vote," Radcliff said.

The second problem, according to Radcliff, is "the extent to which people have made up their minds" to support a particular candidate.

"This is an election where people will make up their minds later," Legee

See Election, 3

WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Turner Hutchens - Assistant News Editor

Analysts say OPEC output increase will not lower gasoline prices

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has agreed to boost its official oil output by 3 percent, but analysts say the move by the oil producers' cartel will not add enough new crude to world markets to roll fuel prices back decisively from 10-year-highs.

OPEC members agreed Sunday to add 800,000 barrels to their daily production in the face of mounting international pressure to pump more crude and cool sizzling prices. But analysts warn the bulk of the increase will serve only to legitimize the 700,000 barrels that OPEC members are already estimated to be producing each day above their current quota.

They say the impact on prices will be meager - particularly for Americans who depend on heating oil to warm their homes. The new quota will take effect Oct. 1. ♦

Protesters clash with police outside economic summit in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Protesters clashed with police Monday and vandalized the cars of delegates trying to enter an international economic forum - the latest target of an anti-globalization movement.

Thousands of demonstrators surrounding the hotel and casino complex where the three-day Asia-Pacific Economic Summit is being held. They delayed the start of the event organized by the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum.

One delegate, Western Australia state Premier Richard Court, was trapped in his car for about 20 minutes as a crowd of protesters jumped on it and slashed its tires.

Angry clashes broke out as police, some on horseback, broke through the crowd to allow Court's car to pass. ♦

Wen Ho Lee to plead guilty to lesser charge

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Wen Ho Lee, a scientist once denounced by the government as a suspected spy, will go home a free man after he pleads guilty to one of 59 counts of violating national security, government officials said.

Lee, characterized by friends and neighbors as a loyal citizen, is expected to be released after a hearing Monday and be sentenced to



Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor
A representative of the Green Party of Tennessee speaks with an MTSU student at the Student Organizations Fair Wednesday.

the nine months he's already spent behind bars. In exchange, the 60-year-old scientist, who defense lawyers said was singled out for prosecution because he is ethnic Chinese, will divulge all he knows about seven computer tapes onto which he was accused of downloading sensitive information, the officials said. ♦

Gore faces wrath of active environmentalists

WASHINGTON (AP) - An airport controversy at the southern rim of the imperiled Florida's Everglades is causing the vice president problems among disappointed Florida environmentalists. Once considered solidly in GOP nominee George W. Bush's camp, the Florida presidential race has tightened, forcing both candidates to spend more time there.

But just as Gore needs the strong support of environmentalists in the politically crucial state, the dispute over Homestead Air Force Base less than 10 miles from the Everglades is dampening their enthusiasm toward the vice president.

Gore has refused to either support or oppose conversion of the base to a commercial, reliever airport, as some powerful South

Florida Democrats and business interests have urged. ♦

Bush to head toward battleground of Florida

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - George W. Bush is using appearances in Florida, a state that Republican strategists once believed was firmly in his column, to promote his health care and prescription drug proposals. Rival Al Gore's recent surge in the polls has made the GOP presidential nominee's grasp on Florida, with its prize of 25 electoral votes, less certain.

Bush's brother Jeb is governor of Florida, but that may not be enough to offset a spirited challenge by Gore and running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman. Bush will spend two days campaigning in Florida, traveling to Clearwater, West Palm Beach and Orlando. Then he heads for several days of campaigning on the West Coast, with a stop in St. Louis on Tuesday on the way. ♦

West Wing wins by a landslide at Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) - One by one, the cast and creators of *The West Wing* ascended to the stage Sunday night to collect their statuettes. Richard Schiff, who plays the grim aide Toby Ziegler, and Allison Janney, the White House's tough press secretary, winners of the supporting actor Emmys.

Thomas Schlamme, winner for dramatic directing. And most of all, Aaron Sorkin - creator of the acclaimed show about a president who believes in doing what's right.

The nine Emmys for *The West Wing* broke the previous record of eight in a single season, set by *ER* and *Hill Street Blues* in their first years. Four of the *West Wing* Emmys came in technical categories. ♦

Bob Knight fired as Indiana basketball coach

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana University fired coach Bob Knight on Sunday, ending three tumultuous decades at a school where he was one of basketball's best coaches but also one of its most volatile.

Knight's temper finally did him in last week when he grabbed freshman Kent Harvey by the arm to lecture him about manners and respect. The freshman had greeted the coach by saying: "Hey Knight, what's up?"

Knight - who said in a news conference Friday that he had merely told Harvey he should address him as "Coach Knight" or "Mr. Knight" - had been under a "zero-tolerance" school policy that included no "inappropriate" physical contact with students. ♦

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Election: Less-known candidates running

Continued from I

said. Some voters, however, choose strictly along party lines.

"There are lots of people who were never going to vote Democratic or never going to vote Republican," American government professor Christina Wolbrecht said. On the other hand, she pointed out, there are a lot of independent voters, many of whom have not decided which candidate to support.

Radcliff, however, believes most voters have made up their minds at this point in the race. Past history indicates voters may make up their minds by early September. Over the past 50 years, the presidential candidates with a significant lead on Labor Day went on to win in November. However, that trend is not relevant in this election year.

"When one candidate is clearly ahead going into Labor Day, that maxim holds, but neither candidate had a clear lead," Legee said. "It's a very close race."

Of course, national polls do not determine the outcome of elections — the electoral college does. To win, a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes from the states.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE UP FOR GRABS

Experts disagree as to whether Bush or Gore are leading in terms of electoral votes.

"On that basis, at the moment, Bush looks somewhat stronger ... But Gore may have the edge on the issues and in his mastery of the rapid-response techniques that will dominate the endgame," according to a Sept. 11 U.S. News and World Report article.

"My own sense is that Gore is going to win," Radcliff said.

Radcliff argued Gore is certain to win a few states, such as California and New York, while Bush is certain to win other states, such as Texas. There are other "toss-up" states where the winner is still unclear.

He believes Bush will win the toss-up state of Ohio, while Gore will win the toss-up states of Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

"The election is over if Gore can win Pennsylvania," the final toss-up state, according to Radcliff.

A FOUR-WAY RACE

Bush and Gore are not the only candidates running for president this year. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader and Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan are also expected to be on the ballot in November.

A four-way race is "much more difficult to predict," according to Legee. Nader may be pulling liberal voters from

Gore's left, while Buchanan will be pulling conservative voters from Bush's right.

Currently, 4 percent of likely voters support Nader and 1 percent of likely voters back Buchanan, according to the Time/CNN poll.

Radcliff said Buchanan is not significantly effecting the race because divisions within the Reform Party prevent him from receiving money from the Federal Election Commission.

"He could become important later if he can get his hands on that large chunk of money," Radcliff said.

Similarly, Nader will have only a "marginal" effect, according to Radcliff. While Nader could take some votes away from Gore, Radcliff said Gore's move to the left since the Democratic convention will convince those voters to support Gore.

The convention appears to have been a major boost to Gore's campaign. Candidates usually go up in the polls immediately following their conventions and, right now, Gore appears to be holding onto his gain.

"Gore got a large bump out of the conventions and has been able to hold onto that," Radcliff said.

Radcliff explained the Democratic National Convention was designed to "electrify" traditional Democratic constituencies

such as labor, women's and minority's groups.

The question now remains whether Gore will be able to maintain his new support.

VICE PRESIDENTS NOT SECONDARY PLAYERS

Voters will not simply be choosing between Bush and Gore on Nov. 7 — the candidates' running mates will play a factor as well. Gore's choice to run with Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman and Bush's choice of Texas businessman Dick Cheney could be an important factor in deciding their vote.

Leege said he believes Lieberman is a positive addition to the Democratic ticket.

"Joe Lieberman helped him immensely because Lieberman brings credibility to the differences between Clinton and Gore," Leege said.

On the other hand, Bush may be hurt by Cheney, who served as defense secretary under Bush's father, Leege said.

"I think that Cheney actually hurt Bush," Leege said. "(It suggests) he needed an old hand around to reassure voters."

The upcoming presidential debates will also shape the way voters view the candidates.

"I think George Bush has an opportunity to allay some fears people have about him," Wolbrecht said. ♦

Water: Bottled proven better than tap

Continued from I

Lalumandier's research did not include testing filtered tap water. He does say that some water filters will remove fluoride, while others will not.

"In general, the rule of thumb is that the less expensive filters probably will not remove fluoride," Lalumandier said.

Although bottled water is more likely to have lower bacteria counts, as a dentist Lalumandier says that tap is just better for your health.

"Personally, I'll stick to the tap," he said. ♦

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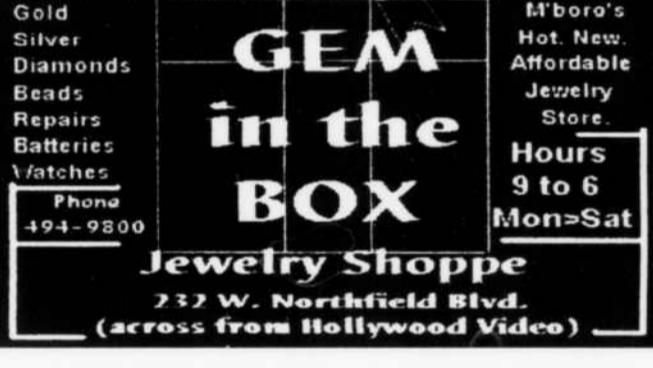


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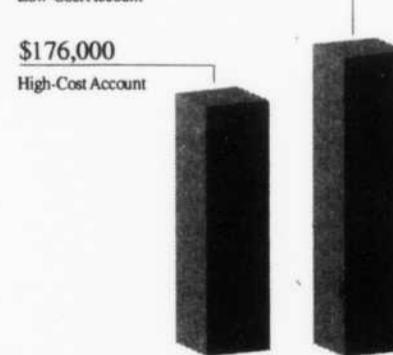
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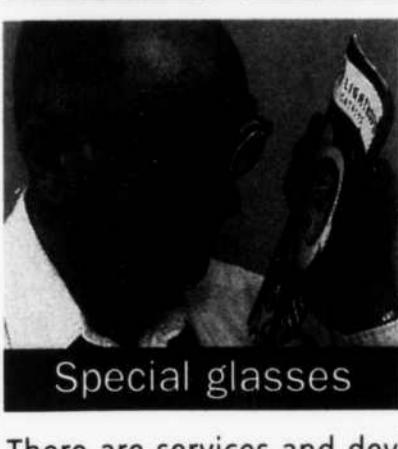
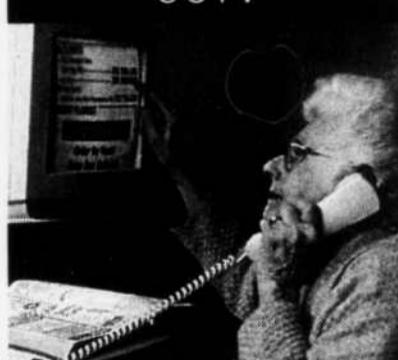
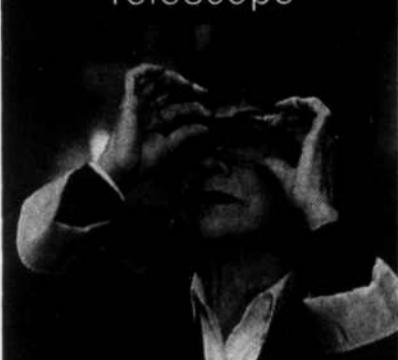
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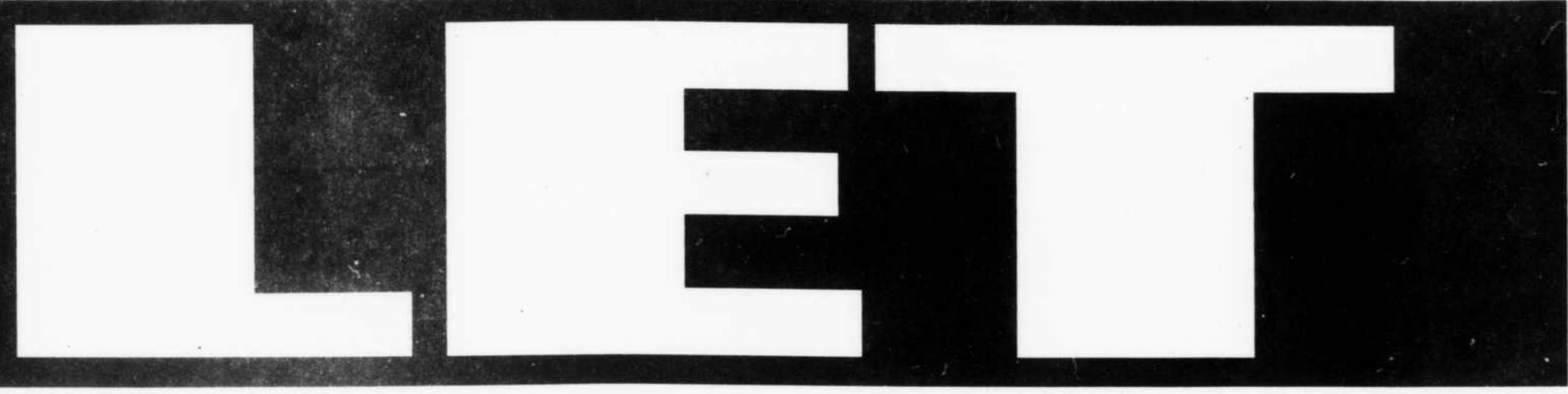
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OPINIONS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff Professors don't deserve to bear additional burdens

Responsibility — it's something that plagues everyone after they hit adulthood. It's a good thing, but you know what they say about too much of any good thing. It's painful.

Currently, English professors are filling that pain.

In addition to their normal duties, they are now being charged with a slew of others not related to their specialties.

Did these professor's go through years of advanced education to become babysitters for classrooms? Simple answer: no.

On top of all of this is the fact that professors in this state are grossly underpaid in comparison to other states.

Now the university is giving them more duties for the same amount.

That sounds like good management skills. Maybe next the professors should starting

volunteering for heavier class loads. That should improve morale.

Professors in any department that feel these new responsibilities are misguided should refuse to do them. Especially tenured faculty who have more job security. It's called passive resistance.

Yes, the university is going through hard times, and administrators are having to search for creative ways to counter the financial shortages.

But at the core of the any university is the quality of academics, which is why professors are here.

Don't place the burden on them.

Instead, the administration should be taking the blunt of the headache and cater to the professors to keep them happy and their morale high. We all know the money's not enough.

Correction

In Michael Edwards' column "Wake up Greeks -- no one cares" that ran Wednesday, Edwards misled readers about the organization responsible for organizing the Mr. MTSU Pageant. The group responsible actually only has approximately 120 members, and raised nearly 4,500, according to Greek officials.

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Letters to the Editor

Latta lacking logic in his argument

To the editor:

Although I would hope that everyone within the campus community would consistently break down a person's statements and examine them for truth and logic, I know that this is not always done, and that popular opinion can be swayed with an argument that is logically flawed.

This is why Kevin Latta's Campaign Commentary column in the Monday, September 11th edition of *Sidelines* disturbs me so much (and also why I implore every voter on campus to analyze the political spel that is being tossed around right now). An argument like Mr. Latta's should not swing anyone on an issue. It is an argument that is backed with fallacy, and not with the "fact-based logic" he claims to have used.

Mr. Latta first says that Gore has criticized George W. Bush's support of a Texas law that would allow citizens to carry a concealed weapon. This fact is not in dispute.

However, Mr. Latta then goes on to make the argument that Gore is wrong on this issue because in the states where a concealed weapon is allowed on the person, violent crime has actually dropped.

Do you see the problem here? Mr. Latta is using the logical fallacy described in Latin as "post hoc ergo propter hoc" ("after this, therefore because of this"), more commonly known as the coincidental correlation. This occurs when a person assumes that just because one thing follows another that the one thing was caused by the other. Mr. Latta commits this fallacy because he is implying that the drop in violent crime (and the lack of a rise of it) is a result of the licensing of people in these states to carry concealed weapons.

Mr. Latta, you need to prove this argument somehow! If you're claiming that concealed weapons actually helped lower the crime rate, you have to take into account that there could be other causes that contributed to this drop (i.e.

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or content.

better law enforcement, circumstantially decreased opportunities for crime, etc.). Just because a drop in crime occurred after these states allowed the licensing of people to carry concealed weapons doesn't mean that the licensing caused it or that the licensing was the sole cause of it!

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Morgan Travers
jmt2c@mtsu.edu

Latta left out some statistics in his research

Sidelines,

In response to the second half of Kevin Latta's series "Gore Out To Steal America's Rights," he left out a few details.

My research indicated that, from 1994 to 1998, there has been a 19.4% decline in violent crime, while the compromise percentage of the 31 states with concealed-weapons permits has declined only 11.4%. In addition, 1,600+ citizens of the state of Texas alone have had their permits revoked for either violating the terms of the permit or being arrested for the use of their handgun.

Not exactly what Kevin Latta wants you to hear.

Jason Cox
jrc2r@mtsu.edu

Greeks do not receive preferential treatment

Dear Readers of *Sidelines* and Mr. Brian Spencer,

I would like to take this time to remark on the negative comments Mr. Spencer made on the 11th of September. I agree that MTSU needs to improve the overcrowding, lack of professors and other major issues.

However, I am pleased that someone is addressing school spirit at this university. School

spirit is a positive thing. It give the student body pride in the school in which they have decided to attend.

As for the "preferential" treatment fraternities receive, sir, you are quite naive of the entire Greek system. We as Greeks are under the same rules and regulations that every student and student organization is under, if not more. We are under extreme scrutiny due to the fact that we are Greek members. The general thought is that we are beer guzzling, womanizing, toga wearing, frat boys.

However this generalization does not pertain to a single one of by brothers or any member of the Greek system that I know.

To addresses the issue of "sacred MTSU land" I invite you, Mr. Spencer to form a 75 member strong organization, do worthwhile activities for the university, donate thousands of hours to the community and promote student involvement. Then raise 2.5 million dollars and petition the university for a piece of that "sacred land". Finally I would like to address the issue of alcohol. Alcohol is on campus. Not only on Greek row but also throughout campus. I have not read anyone attacking the beer cans I step over walking by dorms or the 42 people who were caught with alcohol in last year. No, it is the Greeks' fault there is alcohol on campus.

Angry Fraternity Man

Sorority member should have guts to use her name

Dear Miss Concerned Sorority Member,

It seems to me that if you were so "concerned" about the way that Greeks are depicted in *Sidelines*, then why didn't you print your name instead of hiding behind an unimaginative pen name? Isn't it a major goal of sororities to teach you to stand up for yourself and what you believe in?

Rachel Parrish
rp2a@mtsu.edu

Bring me your worried, your tired, your weak

Miss Mom

An advice column

Sue Doenim

Staff Columnist

Plunging into the unfamiliar surroundings, experiences and activities associated with campus life can be a traumatic ordeal for some new and, at times, seasoned students.

Some students may harbor depression when finding themselves, for the first time in their lives, separated from their long-established support groups consisting of family members, childhood friends and high school sweethearts.

Such feelings of separation anxiety accompanied by a new-found, yet unprepared for, independence may cause a student to either withdraw socially or make irrational decisions that may deter him/her from acquiring an education. Other students may have no difficulty attending

classes but are suffering from low self-esteem, involved in a poor relationship, questioning their sexuality or using a substance to cope with their stressful class schedule.

These particular situations are not uncommon amongst a student body, and therefore I am offering free advice and/or options for those students who have problems they are unwilling or unable to discuss with family members or friends.

When asking for help, one must understand that advice is not gospel, but it can be an enlightening experience, or it can be used as a tool for discovering options. Advice can be cut-and-dry or unexpectedly painful.

Whatever the question, the response will be delivered with an open-mind and with honesty. I do not mince my words.

One must be specific in detail when asking for advice. For example, if one feels like they do not "fit in" with their peer group, elaborate as to "why" the feelings exist.

Are you overweight, gay or extremely shy? Specific details will get you a specific response.

On the other hand, questions can relate to a temporary problem: One student may have difficulty speaking in front of a class, while another is grappling with the major he/she wishes to pursue.

Remember, most likely there exists no problem that has yet to be experienced by another, and your question could actually help someone else who is afraid to reach out.

I do not wish to mislead anyone into believing that I am a certified counselor or possess a degree in psychology.

I am just a middle-aged student who has re-entered the academic mainstream for the second time in my life. The first time I failed miserably and dropped out. As an adult, my grades improved dramatically, and I am currently working on my second degree.

My failure was due to immaturity and lack of direction. My achievements are the result of life

experiences that have improved my coping skills and rational decision-making.

In the past, I have worked in a field associated with alcoholism and drug use, eating disorders and co-dependency.

Through my friendships and acquaintances, I have vicariously experienced the loss of a significant other, abortion, adoption, physical abuse, rape, prejudice and incest. In the wake of their problems, I have developed the ability to listen and speak without reservation.

The cumulative knowledge gained from these friendships and the ability to respond to the problem are what I am offering the student body.

You can forward your questions to slopino@mtsu.edu. Do not use your real name, and forward information where you can be reached if your question is not publishable. I feel that your situation warrants an immediate response.

Information received for *Sidelines* publication will remain confidential.♦

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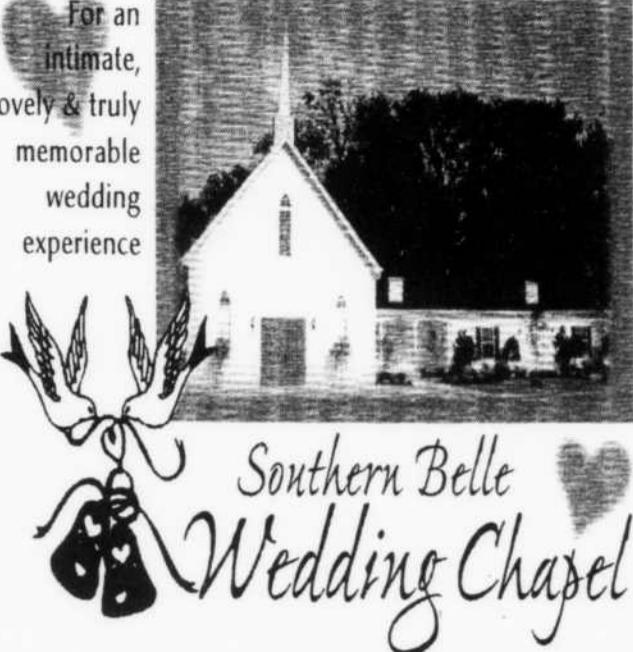
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CAMPUS LIFE

8 ◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN



Spitfire lights up the stage

The Spitfire Tour, sponsored by Colleges.com, graced Tucker Theatre's stage Tuesday night. A total of five speakers performed to an audience of approximately 600.

Above: Artist Angelo Moore levels with the crowd during his performance on fatherhood.

Below left: Moderator Michael Franti does some spoken word about racism.

Below right: Lydia Lunch gets real about raising children, or not raising them in her case, and leads a tyrant against men being fathers.



Photos by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

MTSU battled Florida; students battled the bus

By R. Colin Fly

Online Editor

What was the Florida bus trip hosted by the Student Government Association like?

One word: grueling.

We rode on the three buses for a total of 24 hours. That's 24 hours out of a possible 42.

What were the highlights?

Meeting a ton of new people. Even though I'm a junior and went with a couple of seniors, there were many freshmen eager for a new experience. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

We headed out two hours behind schedule on Friday at about 4 p.m. We had to make a few stops in Murfreesboro and then bolted through 500 miles of "beautiful Georgia asphalt." We reached dinner at Macon at about 10 p.m. Eastern time and had a chance to meet some of the members of the other buses.

We pulled into our hotel in Lake City, Fla., at about 2 a.m. and had a chance to get settled. Here's the odd thing: the football team, the cheerleaders, the students on the trip and even most of the administration stayed in Lake City, which is an hour away from the University of Florida. The alumni, however, stayed three blocks from the stadium.

Who is more important in a football game at Florida, the players or the fans?

The next morning we got up and hit a breakfast bar at Shoney's, then headed for the pep rally with the alumni.

As we drove through the city, some of the students on our bus made signs supporting the Blue Raiders and even one that had an X through a visor with the saying, "Spuck Furrier."

And what was the reaction of the Florida fans?

A few middle fingers, but mainly a bunch of smiles and laughs. We weren't being taken seriously. In fact, the local paper, The Gainesville Sun, said that the game was a "dress rehearsal." Some of the other local papers gave us a good deal of respect.

The line on the game was 40, but no paper predicted the shutout to follow. In fact, the Lake City newspaper had a good size spread on Dwone Hicks and the MTSU program.

For a little known school athletically, we got a lot of positive coverage in Florida.

The whole area of North Florida is kind of a cursed place. Extremely hot and humid with no beach for miles upon miles. The whole area rotates between rain and heat. In the span of our 16 hours in Florida, it rained five different times.

The University of Florida is an interesting and diverse campus. It's a wet campus and bars line up to the stadium. We arrived in Gainesville about three hours before the game and the streets were already packed with fans.

So, we would walk a while, stop for a beer, and then walk a little more. A nice little stroll.

Everyone says Florida fans are jerks. I think it's because everyone who says Florida fans are jerks are, in fact, Tennessee fans. Maybe they weren't taking us seriously, maybe we weren't taking ourselves seriously; but the majority of Florida fans talked football instead of trash. Our student section bumped right up against the Florida student section and while they harassed Lightning, our beloved mascot, a little bit, the majority of the "trash talk" was in good humor.

Oh, the fan who harassed Lightning was escorted from the stadium. So, the police there were fair and tough on policy.

Speaking of police, after the 55-0 afterthought (which some called a game), they had to help us leave Gainesville. Not because of the Florida fans, but one immature MTSU student who should have been left. He had decided to go out drinking after the game, instead of joining the bus. Two hours later, the Gainesville Police returned our MTSU student and we left, lacking dinner.

The staff who coordinated the trip was excellent. John Marshall, Josh Pounders and the rest of the SGA staff, as well as the cheerleading coach and his group were more patient than can be expected.

The cheerleader coach even missed



Photo by R. Colin Fly | Online Editor
Students prepare to board a bus last Friday to go to the Florida game. They spent a total of 24 hours riding to and from the game.

the Titans game the next day because of the time lost in the search for the missing student in Florida. Any other group would have left his ass in Florida.

We had to stop at a 24 hour Wal-Mart for dinner and then we left for the promised land of Tennessee, passing through the beautiful Georgia asphalt of I-75.

The city of Atlanta was peaceful at 4

a.m. The lights were on, the traffic was gone and a majority of the students were asleep. The time to reflect, listening to my CD player and watching the big city lights pass by made the trip on the bus worth it.

We pulled back into Murfreesboro at 8:30 a.m. The SGA invited all the students to take the next bus trip, planned for Starkville, Miss., to catch MTSU play Mississippi State Oct. 28.◆

ON CAMPUS

Compiled By Courtney Huckabee - Features Editor

To submit an On Campus announcement, come by the James Union Building, Room 308. Due to limited space, some announcements with later dates may be held.

Sept. 14

Registration for intramural volleyball goes on until Sept. 27 at the Recreation Center. All leagues are open—male, female, co-rec. Call Chris or Warren for information at 898-2104.

Phi Sigma Pi invites any students with a 3.0 GPA or higher to come find out how they can enrich their experience at MTSU. Informational meetings will be held Sept. 12-14 at 7 p.m. in KUC 324. Contact Matthew Peachey at 890-4744 for more information.

Middle Tennessee Students of Objectivism will sponsor a video-lecture, "Intro to Objectivism, Ayn Rand's Philosophy," at 7 p.m. in KUC Room 315. Contact Luc Travers at 893-9531 for more information.

The first MTSU volunteer fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14. Students and student organizations wishing to become involved in community service both on and off campus may come by to talk with representatives from area community agencies. Free drinks will be served. Call 904-8418 for more information. Rain date is Sept. 21.

Sept. 15

Dr. Yoshinori Kamo of Louisiana State University presents, "Marriage and Family: Women's Satisfaction in Japan and in the U.S.," at 6:30 p.m. in the BAS SunTrust Room. A social period will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Applications for Student Activity Funds are available in KUC 130. The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. For more information call 898-2750.

Student Affairs presents, "Welcome Back Comedy Showcase" with comedian Tommy Davidson at 8 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. It is free and open to the public. Tickets are available in the student activities office, KUC 308.

Sept. 19

Learn to kayak with Campus Recreation so you too can enjoy the great outdoors. Contact Mitch or Charla for more information at 898-2104. Lessons are from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Rec. Center pool.

Sept. 20

Learn to kayak with Campus Recreation so you too can enjoy the great outdoors. Contact Mitch or Charla for more information at 898-2104. Lessons are from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Rec. Center pool.

The University Rules Committee for the 2000-2001 academic year will meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20 in KUC Room 210. Contact Dr. David Hays at 898-2440 for more information.

Sept. 21

The University of Tennessee, Memphis Health Science Center will be on the MTSU Campus from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in KUC Rooms 324, 322A, 322B, 322C and 314 to answer questions and talk with students about programs in the health sciences.

The Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service are offering several technical training and certification classes this fall. One course, AutoCAD, will be held on Thursdays from Sept. 21 through Dec. 7. It is worth three CEUs and costs \$325.

Contact Saeed D. Foroudastan in the department of engineering technology and industrial studies for more information.

Sept. 23

Raft, kayak or funyak the scenic Hiwassee River with Campus Recreation. The cost is \$12 for students and \$15 for guests. Contact Jenny or Mitch for more information at 898-2104.

Sept. 24

Campus Recreation is going rock climbing on the scenic

Cumberland Plateau. Spend the day in the beautiful Tennessee countryside. Contact either Mitch or Charla for more information at 898-2104.

Sept. 25

June Anderson Women's Center is offering a "Math Anxiety Workshop" from 3-4 p.m. in JUB Room 204. Eliminate math anxiety in one session! Call 898-2193 to register.

Sept. 26

Come learn to rock climb and belay the right way with Campus Rec. at 6 p.m. Call Jenny or Mitch at 898-2104 for more information.

Sept. 27

June Anderson Women's Center is holding a Test Anxiety Workshop from 3-4 p.m. in JUB Room 204. End test anxiety in one session! Call 898-2193 to register.

Sept. 28

Captain's meeting for intramural volleyball at 5 p.m. in the Campus Recreation office. Call Chris or Warren at 898-2104 for more information.

Ongoing

Want to travel to places like California, Kansas, Florida and Illinois? Want to speak your mind and learn about interesting issues? Want to miss class on Fridays and have an excuse? Join the MTSU Debate Team! The Debate Team meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in BDA 220. Contact Drew or Ben at 898-2273 for more information.

Ever wonder what your dreams mean? Curious about how they can help you be happier and live a more fulfilling life? Learn to use art, drama and discussion for personal guidance and growth in The Dream Group sponsored by June Anderson Women's Center. The Dream Group meets every Monday at 10 a.m. in the BAS SunTrust Room. It is open to all women students. Contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725 for more information.

June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring an Eating Disorders Support Group for women students struggling with over-eating, body image, anorexia or bulimia every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in CKNB 124. Contact Mary Glantz for more information at 898-5725. All contacts are confidential.

June Anderson Women's Center is holding a Survivors of Sexual Abuse Support Group every Thursday at 3 p.m. in CKNB 124 for women students who are survivors of sexual abuse. Contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725 for more information. All contacts are confidential.

Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational campus ministry, invite all to attend their weekly meeting every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the LRC Room 221. For more information contact Mike at 848-6741 or Eric at 896-2039.

The Works of Phil Vanderweg will be displayed in the Art Barn Gallery through Sept. 27 during regular gallery hours.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes welcomes all students to come for fellowship every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Football Game Day Room located between the stadium and athletic weight room, across from Murphy Center. There will be great speakers, Bible studies, activities and friendship. Contact Rhonda Neitzel at 893-6109 for more information.

The Presbyterian Student Fellowship welcomes everyone on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. to a fellowship of study, singing, friends and fun. For more information call Rich at 893-1787 or Mary at 867-7370.

The Victory Church and Raider Victory Ministries invite everyone to attend their service on Sundays in the KUC Theater at 10 a.m.

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7 and 9:30 p.m. \$2.00

MTSU Ideas and Issues and
MT Anthropology Society present



Tennessee Archaeology Awareness Week Lectures

"Archaeology in the Dark Zone: Cave Investigations in the Midsouth"

Sarah Sherwood
Monday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
JUB Tennessee Room

and

"Current Tennessee Research"

Dr. Kevin E. Smith
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.
JUB Tennessee Room

Both lectures are FREE and OPEN

MTSU Fine Arts and MT Anthropology Society

present
Joseph Campbell Film Series



Mythos I - Part 4 and Mythos II - Part 1
The Shaping of Our Western Tradition

Sept. 20, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
KUC Theater FREE and OPEN



Series continues:
September 27
October 4/25
November 1/8/15/29

Series to include: *The Power of Myth*,
Mythos, *Mythos 2*, *The Hero's Journey*,
and *Sukhavati: Place of Bliss*

Star of
In Living Color
and
Between Brothers
also
Booty Call
Woo
Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls
and
Strictly Business

Student Affairs
COMEDY SHOWCASE

with
TOMMY DAVIDSON

Friday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m.
Tucker Theatre - FREE with ticket
Tickets available in Student Activities Office
KUC Room 308. Information - 898-2551

Visit our webpages:
www.mtsu.edu/~specevnt



FOOTBALL PREVIEW

10 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders look for first win

By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

After two straight weeks of being beat to death by two of the best teams that America can offer, the Blue Raiders come home this weekend to take on their former Ohio Valley Conference foe Murray State.

Last time these two teams met, Middle Tennessee was a I-AA program trying to make it onto the big time football level, while Murray State was a I-AA team that were content with their level of competition. Middle Tennessee won the game that day going away, 35-14.

Many things have changed since that time. Middle Tennessee has, obviously, moved to another level in football and the Racers have changed coaches. Joe Pannunzio switched from an assistant under Tommy Tuberville to the Racers' head coach.

In his first outing as head coach, Pannunzio led the Racers to a 42-20 victory over the Salukis of Southern Illinois. The next game, however, they were beat down by the Samford Bulldogs, 19-17.

The Blue Raiders, on the other hand, choked in Illinois and were pummeled in Gainesville against the Florida Gators. The "Big Blue" should have something about which to fight.

"They're hurt," Blue Raiders head coach Andy McCollum said. "They are doing what it takes to be successful."

When Middle Tennessee has the ball

The "Air Raiders," from a year ago, have yet to take flight this season, probably because they have taken on two of the most talented defenses in the country. Middle Tennessee will play two quarterbacks on Saturday just as they have done in the first two games. Backup Jason Johnson has completed 23 of 32 (71 percent) of his passes while starter Wes Counts has completed 19 of 40 passes for 47 percent. Johnson has thrown for 15 less yards on eight less attempts. Counts leads the way with 208 yards passing and two interceptions, both came against Illinois, and five sacks, while Johnson has been sacked one time and has thrown an interception against Florida. The key stat, however, which is touchdown passes, still remains empty for both players.

The Raiders will send receivers Kendall Newson, David Youell, Tyrone Calico and Hansford Johnson into the game. Youell has doubled his career reception total in two games, while getting considerable playing time, as the others are having problems holding onto the football. Newson stands as the Blue Raiders all-time leader in receptions, after catching three passes last week, to move into first place. Calico will have a big advantage over the Murray State defensive backs. Calico, a 6-foot-4 receiver, will have at least five inches over either starting corner back for the Racers.

The Racer defensive line should have trouble doing any damage to the Middle offensive line. The average Blue Raider offensive lineman is 6-foot-3, 298 pounds, while the Racer defensive line averages 6-foot-2, 240. That 60 pounds should come in handy when tailback Dwone Hicks gets the ball. Hicks is averaging 98 yards per game, including 134 against Illinois. He rushed for over four yards per carry against Florida. He should have holes to run through Saturday.

Tailback Jamison Palmer is not going to play, and is probably out for the year.

Middle Tennessee has not scored a touchdown since the East Tennessee State game, last year. They have not scored, at all, in six quarters.

When Murray State has the ball

The best thing to say about the Racers offense is that they scored 42 points at home against Southern Illinois. They Racers will send out an offensive line which averages about 288 pounds, while the Raiders defensive line will put up about 277 pounds per man. Two key linemen, who were injured in the second half against the Illini are tackle Brent Walker and end Curtis Daniely. Both are questionable for Saturday.

The Racers have averaged only 347 yards against their first two opponents, 150 of those yards came on the ground and 196 came by way of the pass. Murray State is, however, scoring at a rate of 29 a game. Murray has an edge in every statistical category, but they played Samford University and Southern Illinois. Middle played Illinois and Florida on the road. The tougher opponents should have prepared the Raiders for the I-AA opponent.

The Skinny

Middle Tennessee has better players at every position, thanks to the great recruiting by McCollum and his band of believers. This is a chance for the Blue Raiders to win, and win very convincingly. If by some chance MTSU does not win this game, well, let's not even talk about what will happen then. Middle Tennessee takes their frustrations out on the Racers, running away with a 56-3 win.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. at Floyd Stadium.♦

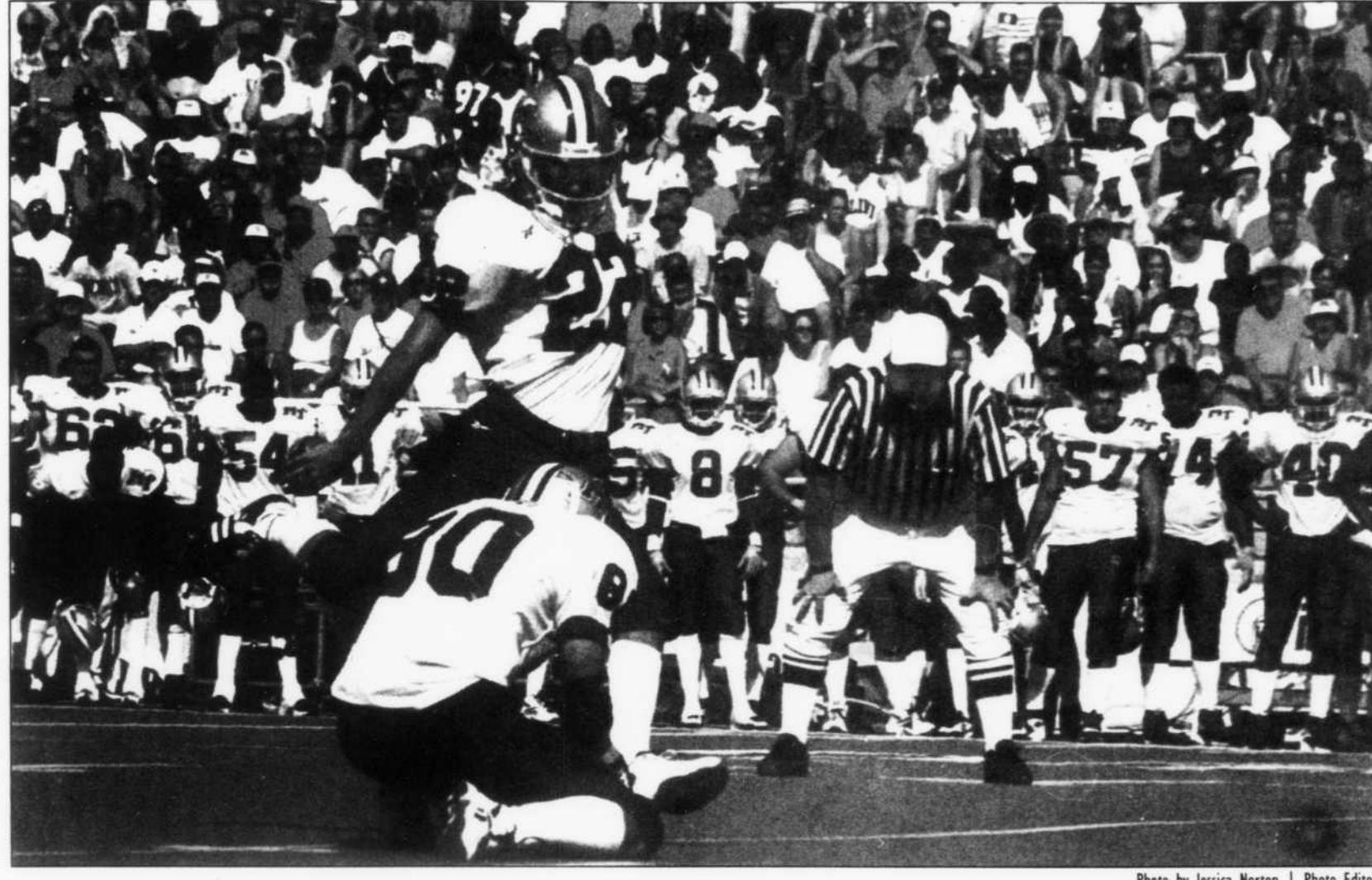


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Brian Kelly connects for one of his two field goals for the season.

Raiders begin sophomore season in Division I-A

MT Media Relations

The 1999 season was a transition year for the Middle Tennessee football program, but 2000 appears to be the year it begins moving up the I-A ladder. With 17 starters and 46 lettermen returning, confidence and excitement are at an all-time high in the Blue Raider camp.

The 2000 season, which looks to be the most challenging in school history, will be the last for Middle Tennessee as a I-A independent. The Blue Raiders will begin competing for a bowl berth and a Sun Belt Conference title in 2001. This year's schedule, however, will see Middle Tennessee battle teams from the Big Ten, SEC, ACC, WAC, C-USA and Big East, along with two future Sun Belt foes.

"We have a huge challenge ahead of us this season," head coach Andy McCollum said. "But these guys will not back down from anything. They proved that last year. All we have to do is keep working hard, stay focused, and good things will happen." That success may rest on the shoulders of an offense that had three receivers combine for 181 catches, a quarterback that registered a school best three straight 300-yard passing games and a tailback position that rushed for more than 1,000 yards. But what may send the Blue Raiders over the top is a much-improved defense. By simplifying the defensive scheme, making some position changes, and adding some impact recruits, this year's version of the 3-4 could be what the doctor ordered.

Following is an in-depth preview of each position:

OFFENSE

Last year, Middle Tennessee's fast break, wide-open style offense produced 24.7 points a game, 357.8 yards a contest, and set numerous records. Not bad for a team playing its first I-A season against the likes of Mississippi State, Arizona, Arkansas and Louisiana Tech. But with 10 starters back and an overall better knowledge of the system, the Blue Raider offense could be the most explosive in school history in 2000.

"We have shown a lot of improvement since we kicked things off a year ago," offensive coordinator Larry Fedora said. "We still have a long ways to go, but we are more confident in what we are trying to do, and there is a better understanding. I expect us to be a much better offensive football team this fall."

A couple of areas that needed fine-tuning were addressed and emphasized during spring drills. One was cutting down on turnovers, while the other was trying to develop a better running attack. In 1999, the Blue Raiders had 24 offensive turnovers, or 2.2 per game, which resulted in 93 points. "We're not good enough to start giving the football away to the opposition," McCollum said. "We have to stay focused every snap and take care of the football in order to win games."

As for running the football, the Blue Raiders averaged just 111 yards a game and had only two players rush for over 100 yards in a single-game. But with a talented trio of backs in the fold, the Blue Raider ground attack is expected to improve. "We spent a lot of time this spring on being a more physical football team," McCollum said. "We

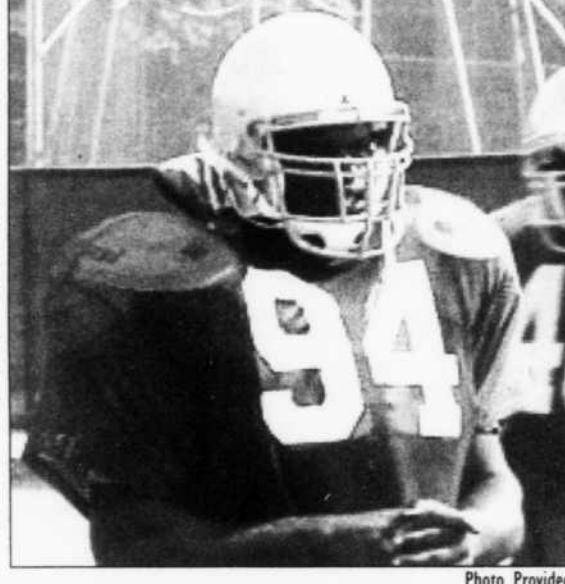
have to be physical in order to run the ball the way I want to."

With a better understanding of the philosophy and a talented cast of characters running the show, the Blue Raiders could rewrite the record books again in 2000.

Following is a position-by-position look at the Blue Raider offense:

QUARTERBACKS

A lot has changed and a lot has stayed the same at the quarterback position for 2000. Junior Wes Counts, who broke five single-game records and established six new single-season marks in 1999, returns as the starter after coming off the best statistical year of any signal-caller in school history. The southpaw from Murfreesboro completed 63.8 percent of his passes while throwing for a school record 2,603 yards. Counts, who rated 26th in the nation in total offense, had three straight 300-yard passing games to become the first Middle Tennessee quarterback to accom-



Ray Miller

plish that feat. Known for his dedication and work ethic, Counts could have an even better year in 2000 with the weapons he has back at receiver.

Behind Counts is what has changed about the position. With redshirt freshman Fred Smith and transfer Lance Phillips, the Blue Raiders have quality depth for the first time since 1996. Smith, from Knoxville, TN, sat out the 1999 season in order to gain experience and

Preview continued, page 11

Raider Rewards to kick off this Saturday

MT Media Relations

Saturday, the athletic department will kick-off its Raider Rewards program at the football game against Murray State.

Middle Tennessee will be of just a few universities to offer the reward program for attending home events. Raider Rewards is a fan appreciation program designed to reward attendance at Blue Raider football, volleyball, and mens and womens basketball home games.

Most importantly, participating in Raider Rewards is free.

Each home game attended, participants will earn 10 points.

There are 39 home dates in the four sports for a maximum total of

390 points.

Each time you attend a home game you will earn points that reward participants with rewards such as free popcorn (10 points) to two free season tickets to all sports next year (390 points).

To get started with Raider Rewards, fans can register to obtain a free card at any time during the year and can immediately begin participating by swiping the card at one of the kiosks located throughout the Murphy Center and Floyd Stadium.

Students will receive a gray card and fans will receive a blue card once signed up.

For more information on Raider Rewards, contact Michael Jordan at 615.898.5323.♦

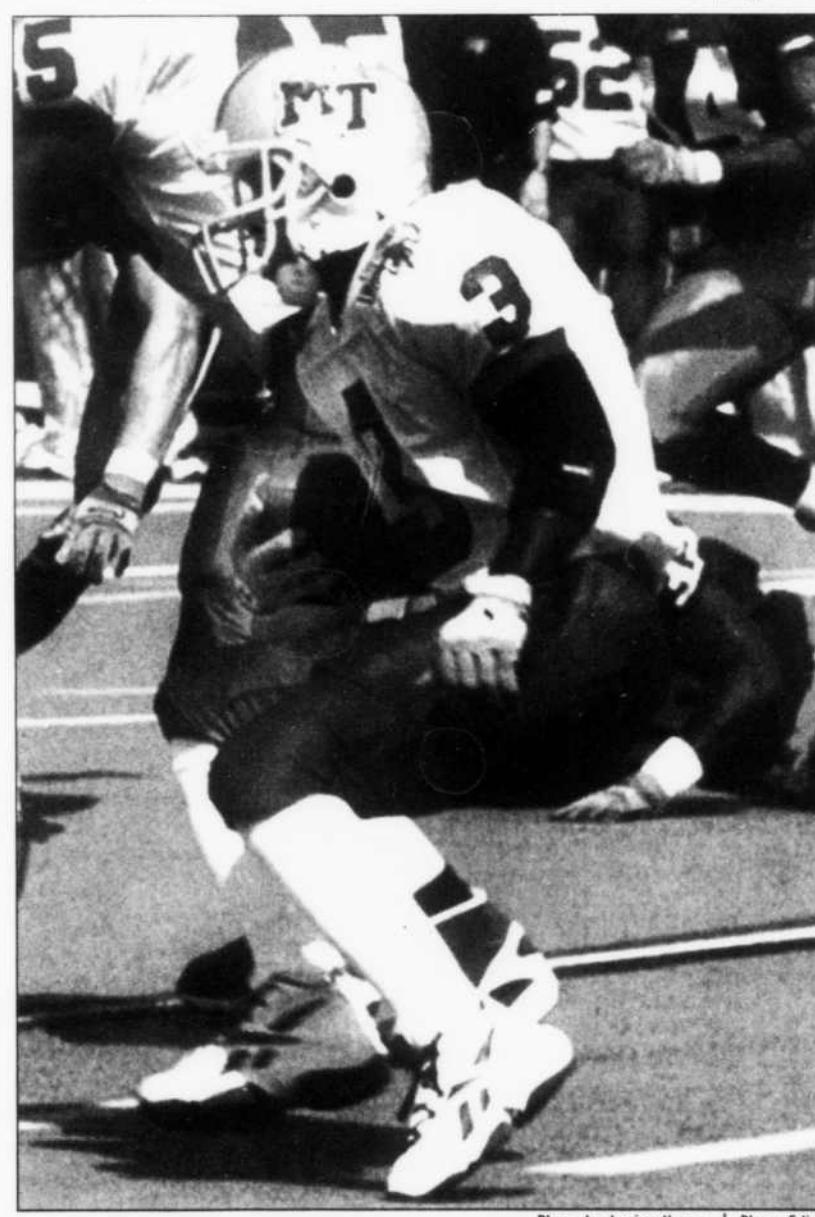


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Hansford Johnson cuts back against Illinois' defense.

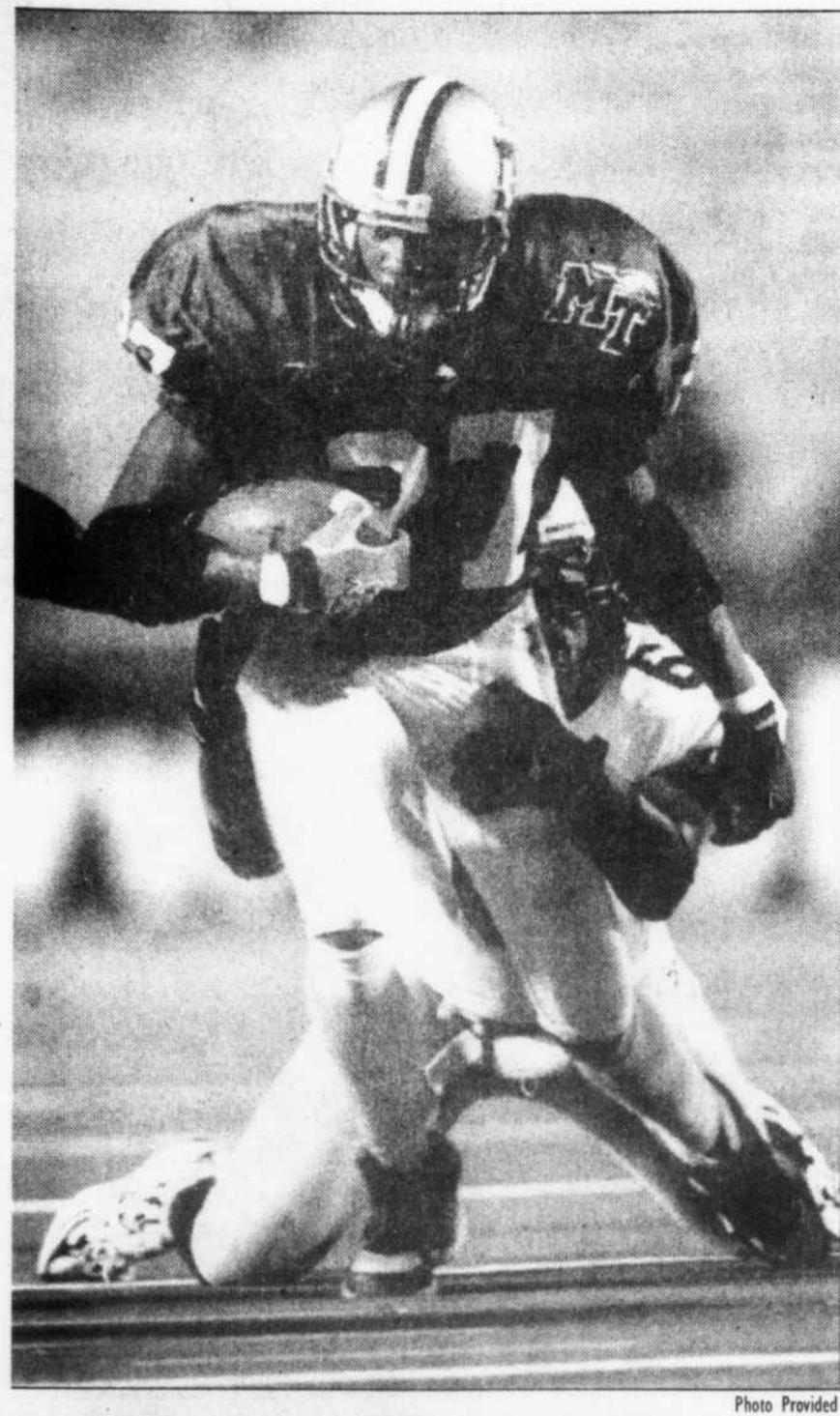


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learn the system. A strong-armed quarterback, he possesses all the tools to be a future starter. Smith, who adds speed to the position, came out of high school regarded as one of the top athletes in the state.

Phillips is the newcomer of the group after making his way to MT via Mississippi. The 6-2, 222-pounder from nearby Smyrna, worked on the scout team a year ago while sitting out. Phillips impressed Blue Raider coaches in the spring with his cannon-like right arm and overall strength. The former baseball standout recorded a bench press of 385 to rate among the best on the team.

RUNNING BACKS

An area that has improved tremendously from 1999 is at running back where a duo of capable runners return. Dwone Hicks and Jamison Palmer highlight the stable of backs.

"I am really pleased with the progress of Jamison and Dwone," Fedora said. "They give us two very solid runners."

Hicks, out of Huntsville, AL, played in every game as a freshman and rushed for 182 yards on 39 carries. In a win over UT Martin, he exploded for his first 100-yard rushing game when he tallied 104 from the fullback position. Hicks, a powerful runner, also showed he could catch the ball with five receptions. Listed co-No. 1 on the depth chart with Palmer coming out of spring, coaches feel Hicks could have a breakout year in 2000.

Palmer, who will share time with Hicks, returns after leading the Blue Raiders in rushing last season with 548 yards and nine touchdowns. A native of St. Louis, MO, he has the speed to get outside and is also a receiving weapon out of the backfield. Palmer, who had at least one reception in nine games, racked up a career best 183 yards and three touchdowns in a win

over Wofford. In one of his better performances, Palmer registered 72 yards on 10 carries against nationally-ranked Arizona to go with a season-high six catches.

Palmer also doubles as the Blue Raiders' kickoff return man where he averaged 19.7 yards a return and was among the national leaders for much of the season.

FULLBACKS

Coaches hope for more fullback involvement in 2000 even though there's not a great deal of experience. The only returning player with game experience is starter Jason Spray, who only collected six carries a year ago. One of the most dedicated players on the team, Spray rushed for only nine yards on the season and had one catch for 14 yards.

Behind Spray will be sophomores John Madrick and Steve Ellison. Madrick, a walk-on from Covington, KY, is a new member to the position after moving over from linebacker this past spring. Madrick has never seen action in a collegiate game, but the coaches like his enthusiasm and toughness.

Ellison sat out the 1999 season but worked extensively on the offensive scout team. The Eatonton, GA, native has not played in a game since his senior year of high school in 1997.

RECEIVERS

The top position on the team, in terms of ability, production, and excitement, is at wide receiver where the four leading pass catchers from 1999 return. In its first year of I-A football last season, the receiving corps was instrumental in Middle Tennessee finishing the year as the 32nd ranked passing offense in the country.

Leading what is arguably the best group of receivers ever assembled at Middle Tennessee is junior all-star can-

didate Kendall Newson. A 6-2, 186-pounder from Decatur, GA, Newson has all the tools to dominate a football game. In 1999, Newson blistered the school record with 69 receptions for 918 yards and five touchdowns to go along with four 100-yard receiving games. Against Wofford, Newson hauled in a career best 11 catches for 162 yards, then followed that up with a seven-catch, 170-yard performance at Louisiana-Lafayette. The 2000 season could be an even bigger year for Newson, who needs just 11 more receptions to become the all-time leader in that category and is within reach of being the career leader in receiving yards.

Listed behind Newson at the "Y" (slot) spot is sophomore P.J. Johnson. Johnson, out of Owensboro, KY, has struggled with injuries his entire career, but made progress in the offseason and participated in his first spring drills this past year.

The cat-quick Hansford Johnson will move from the "X" spot to maintain the "H" (slot) position. The coaches hope the switch to "H" will put Johnson in better position to utilize his speed and quickness in the open field. The junior from Norcross, GA, is coming off his best year with 47 snags for 513 yards and four touchdowns. Johnson, who benches nearly twice his weight, had four games with five or more catches, including eight each against Mississippi State and Troy State last year.

Backing up Johnson will be sophomore David Youell from Sevierville, TN. The best route runner on the team, Youell is a possession type receiver with excellent hands. In 1999, Youell played in every game and collected four passes for 38 yards, including three against Arkansas.

Starting at the "X" (split end) posi-

Preview continued, page 12

Photo by JEFFREY D. HARRIS

tion will be all-star candidate Tyrone Calico. The Millington, TN, native had the best rookie season of any receiver in school history last year by registering 65 receptions for 695 yards and five touchdowns to rank 26th in the country in catches per game. Calico, 6-4, 215, set the single-game school record with 12 receptions (111 yards) in the season finale against East Tennessee. With his size, big play potential and a year's experience under his belt, Calico should be an even bigger force in 2000.

Behind Calico is senior Rashaad Craft out of Houston, TX. Craft played in all 11 games last season, including eight as a starter, and registered nine receptions for 83 yards and a touchdown. Known as the hardest working member of the receiving corps, Craft is the emotional leader of the group who has improved each year in the program.

Also battling for time at the "X" receiver slot is sophomore walk-on Sean Saylor. The Louisville, KY, native played in two games during the 1999 season, but did not register a catch.

The favorite at the "Z" (flanker) spot will be junior Nick Payne, who never had the chance to showcase his abilities last year because of injuries. At 6-4 and a vertical jump of 40 inches, Payne can be a handful for the opposition. The Florissant, MO, native played in eight games a year ago and hauled in two passes for 16 yards.

Joining Payne at the position will be senior Ryan Smith and junior Derrick Yates. Better known as "Pops" by his teammates, Smith played in just two games as a junior and caught one pass for 14 yards. Regarded as one of the groups' hardest workers, Smith has the ability to play all four receiver positions. Yates, a junior college transfer, sat out the 1999 campaign in order to learn the system better. Johnson, out of Owensboro, KY, has struggled with injuries his entire career, but made progress in the offseason and participated in his first spring drills this past year.

Senior Xavier Hatnot retained his starting tight end spot coming out of spring practice and hopes to be more of a factor his final year. The junior college transfer played in every game during the 1999 season and came up with four catches for 27 yards.

Pressing Hatnot for the starting job will be freshman Brett Bucher, who transferred from NC State. Bucher impressed coaches in the spring with his toughness, but still needs to learn the system. In high school, the Huntsville, AL, native played both sides of the ball but earned accolades as a tight end.

Also in the mix will be sophomore Lucas Frost, who really had a good spring catching the foot-

ball. Frost, from Jonesboro, GA, saw action in all 11 games last year but most of his time came on special teams.

Others fighting for time at tight end will be sophomores Marvin Dean and Reggie Polk.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The heart and soul of any offense are the guys up front that do all the dirty work without much recognition. For Middle Tennessee's fast break attack to be successful, this bunch has to get it done in the trenches. With all five starters back and a deeper overall unit, look for this year's group to be the program's most improved.

The anchor to this year's line is the tough, hard-nosed Barry Hall. The senior from Fairmount, GA, enters the 2000 season having started a team best 31 straight games from his right tackle spot. Hall, 6-6, 300 pounds, averaged 62.9 snaps a game in 1999 to lead the team.

Playing behind Hall will be freshman Brandon Westbrook and junior Montez Haywood. A super prospect from Cumming, GA, Westbrook will make a major push for starting time. The 6-6, 275-pounder has natural ability and all the tools to be a great one before he graduates.

Haywood is a walk-on from Antioch, TN, who works extremely hard and has overachieved his entire career. Look for him to add depth and see spot duty during the season. Freshman Chris Scott is also competing for playing time.

Next to Hall at right guard will be senior Gil Matias, who was one of three junior college linemen to step in and fill immediate needs a year ago. The steadiest performer on the line, Matias started 10 of 11 games as a junior and averaged 52.1 snaps a contest. Behind Matias will be sophomore Kevin Pascoe, who earned a start last year at nationally-ranked Arizona. At 6-3, 286, Pascoe is a dependable lineman with strength and ability.

Also in the mix at right guard is freshman Gary Sanders, who was redshirted in 1999. The Hendersonville, TN, native is loaded with talent but needs to mature.

Senior Brock Lillis, one of the fiercest competitors on the team, will man the center position. The junior college transfer, who was one of just eight players to start every game last season, averaged 60.6 snaps a game and had 80 on two different occasions.

Battling behind Lillis will be sophomore Glen Elarbee from Carrollton, GA. Elarbee was a solid backup last year, but enjoyed a great offseason and could compete for the starting spot in the fall. Kelechukwu Oparah, who played on the defensive scout team last year, moved to the center position in the spring to add depth.

Senior Reggie Primas will start at left guard with stiff competition coming from freshman Josh Willoughby. Primas, one of the team's best run blockers, started every game as a junior and averaged 61.8 snaps a contest. Willoughby, from Antioch, TN, sat out last year after suffering a knee injury, but should be at 100 percent when fall camp opens. A strong and skilled player, Willoughby has unlimited potential but needs experience.

Also at left guard will be walk-on Jonathan Barry, who saw action in one game last year but was on the travel squad.

Like last year, one of the best battles for starting duty will be at left tackle where senior Chris Howington and junior college transfer David Coy are competing. Howington has been a part-time starter the past two years, and has steadily improved each season. The Knoxville, TN, native, who owns the team's top bench press, averaged 48.4 snaps a game a year ago.

Coy, who enrolled at Middle Tennessee last January, is physical and possesses good pass blocking skills. The 6-4, 286-pounder from Wentzville, MO, impressed the coaching staff in winter workouts and with a solid spring.

Listed third at left tackle is sophomore Joel Neece, who moved over from tight end during spring drills. Also a member of special teams,



Photo Provided

Coach Andy McCollum

Neece played in 10 of 11 games in 1999.

DEFENSE

The Blue Raiders knew going into their first I-A season last year that defense might be the toughest challenge. Not only was Middle Tennessee playing at the highest level, but it also employed a new 3-4 scheme. The Blue Raiders found out in a hurry that the biggest difference from I-AA to I-A was speed, so during recruiting and offseason workouts the emphasis was on improving that area.

The coaches believe the addition of strength and speed coach Robb Rogers and his condition-

Preview cont., page 13



2000 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 16	MURRAY STATE	6 PM
Sept. 23	at Maryland	5 PM
Oct. 7	LOUISIANA TECH	6 PM
Oct. 14	LOUISIANA-MONROE (HC)	6 PM
Oct. 21	at UAB	2:30 PM
Oct. 28	at Mississippi State	1:30 PM
Nov. 4	at Connecticut	11:30 AM
Nov. 11	SOUTH FLORIDA	2 PM
Nov. 18	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	2 PM

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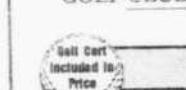
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OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

ing program, along with an excellent recruiting class, will go a long way to change the look of the defense in 2000.

Another plus for the Blue Raiders is the fact that eight starters are back, including the top two tacklers, and leading sacker.

Following is a position-by-position look at the Blue Raider defense:

DEFENSIVE LINE

At right end, sophomore Curtis Daniely appears to be the front runner to gain the starting spot. The 6-5, 271-pounder from Forsyth, GA, played the final five games of the year last season, including two as a starter. Daniely, who enjoyed a solid spring, has the ability to be an outstanding pass rusher and a difference maker along the front line.

Battling Daniely for playing time will be senior Brent Walker, who played in nine games after transferring from Ventura CC. Walker finished his junior year with eight tackles, including three at Arizona. Also in the picture is walk-on Joe Moos from Riverdale High School. Moos has made the most improvement in the weight room of any player on the team over the past eight months. Moos started his Blue Raider career on the offensive line, but made the move to defense during the spring.

Anchoring down the middle of the Blue Raider line at tackle will be sophomore Ray Miller. The former 4A Defensive Player of the Year in Georgia sat out the 1999 season due to NCAA academic guidelines. At 6-2, 258 pounds, Miller may be undersized for the position, but he has tremendous footwork, strength and toughness. The Powder Springs, GA, native made a major impact for the defense during

the spring, and coaches hope he continues his progression into the fall.

Behind Miller is big Diko Tinch from Abbeville, SC. The 6-3, 302 pound junior college transfer, was used mainly in goal line situations a year ago, but coaches want him to become an every-down type player. Senior Martez Phelps is also in the picture. Phelps, a starter the past two years, is a classic overachiever who does it all on heart and desire. The former walk-on tallied 38 tackles in 1999, including six each against Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette.

Holding down the left end slot will be senior Terrence King. A starter as a junior, King was sixth on the team in tackles and led the Blue Raiders in sacks and tackles for loss. The transfer out of Magee, MS, has a motor that never stops, and for Middle Tennessee's defense to be successful he is the guy that has to make plays.

Sophomore Jonathan Proby will play behind King. Proby, out of Madison, GA, competed in 10 games last season and collected 12 tackles. Coaches love his work habits and feel he has the size and physical ability to be a major contributor.

Senior LeBron Elder will also compete for time. A spot player a year ago, Elder has all the tools to be a solid pass rusher, and with his improvement in the weight room he should be in line for increased playing time.

LINEBACKERS

The most experienced linebacker in the program is once again the leader of the group. Senior Keith Pauldo, who has played in every game since he arrived at Middle Tennessee, will battle for the starting job at the "Mike" posi-

tion. Pauldo, from Dublin, GA, is moving back to the inside after spending last year at the "Sam" spot. An aggressive and strong player, Pauldo collected 56 tackles last year to finish fourth on the team.

Fighting Pauldo for the starting job will be sophomore Randy Arnold from nearby Nashville and junior Billy Durham.

A tough-minded and aggressive player, Arnold has tremendous potential and should make a major impact on the defense this fall. The 5-11, 230 pounder suffered a knee injury and had to miss the final four games of the season last year, but should be back to 100 percent when the Blue Raiders hit the field on September 2.

Durham, who ended spring drills at No. 1, played in eight

Meet the coaches



Photo Provided

Head Coach: Andy McCollum
Offensive Coordinator: Larry Fedora
Defensive Coordinator: Miles Aldridge
Quarterback Coach: Alex Robins
Outside Linebackers Coach: Howard McMahan
Tight Ends Coach: Floyd Walker
Offensive Line/Recruiting Coordinator: Joe Wickline
Defensive Line Coach: Kacy Rodgers
Secondary Coach: Mike Woodford
Wide Receivers Coach: Steve Bird
Director of Football Operations: Tom Fiveash
Graduate Assistant/Offense: Jeff Watson
Graduate Assistant/Defense: Marcus Walls
Football Strength Coach: Robb Rogers

games last season, while seeing a bulk of his time on special teams. The Marietta, GA, native impressed coaches with his play in the spring, which should make the battle for starting honors in the fall one of the more interesting battles on the team.

Also in the mix is Matt Mondelli. Mondelli, a walk-on

Preview cont., 14

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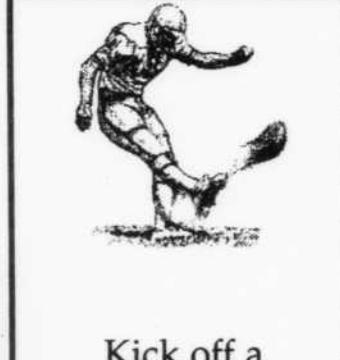
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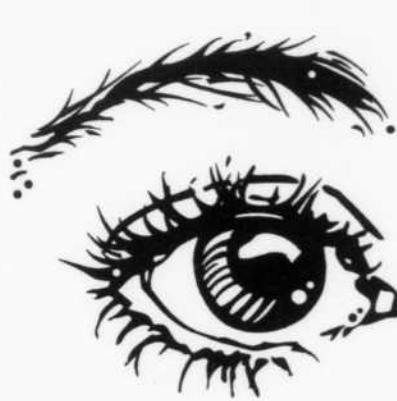


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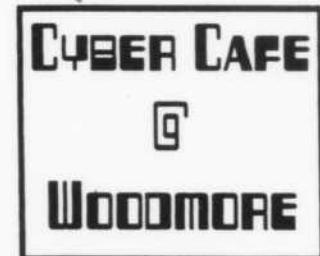
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