

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2002

50 66



Mostly Cloudy

Faced with
fear and fire

MTSU student
fights wildfires
during summer

In Living, 4

MT gets first
Sun Belt win
over Lafayette,
48-35

In Sports, 6



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
Who do you plan to vote for in the
gubernatorial election?

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 36

Campus Briefs

New dyslexia research topic of meeting

Research concerning dyslexia will be the topic of conversation during a conference to be held at MTSU Saturday.

"Dyslexia Across Generations" will host presenters from Nebraska to Washington, D.C. Human genetics and brain imaging and how they relate to dyslexia will be at the heart of the conference.

The gathering is designed for educators, parents and others interested in the disorder. It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building.

For more information, contact Dianie Sawyer, director of MTSU's Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia, at 494-8880.

Admission application deadline set for spring

Officials have announced that Dec. 15 will be the deadline to apply for admission to MTSU for the spring 2003 semester.

The reasons cited were an increase in the quantity and quality of people applying to attend the university.

"We're not at the point where we're setting cutoffs on test scores or grade point averages on anything other than what is already in place," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, in a press release.

Hand-delivered and online applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Dec. 13, while all other applications need only have a postmark of Dec. 15 or earlier.

Prospective students should apply no later than early January in order to register in time for classes. Applications received and processed after Dec. 15 will go on a waiting list. July 1 will be the deadline to apply for undergraduate admission for the fall 2003 semester. This is ahead of this year's Aug. 9 deadline.

For more information, call 898-2111.

Housing dedication ceremony to be held

Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity will hand over the keys to a new house on Saturday to a Murfreesboro family.

Lavonda Nelson and her two children will occupy the three-bedroom home on University Street. The family contributed 400 "sweat-equity" hours to the home's construction and will receive a no-interest mortgage on the home.

Attendees at the ceremony include the Nelson family, volunteers who worked on the house, state Rep. John Hood and other Murfreesboro community members.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet to be on campus

W. D. Snodgrass, Pulitzer prize-winning poet, will read his poetry Thursday, at 4:30 in the James Union Building's Hazelwood Dining Room. The event is free and open.

MT Poll aims for community opinion

By Dennis Sterle
Contributor

Students from the College of Mass Communication will be calling residents of the state this week in the semi-annual MT poll to ask questions regarding a state lottery, the economy, war in Iraq and what people feel about the phrase "God Bless America."

The referendum to change the state constitution to allow a lottery will be decided Nov. 5.

"We are not trying to predict whether a lottery will pass or fail," said Ken Blake, operations

manager for the poll and associate professor in the School of Journalism.

"By the time we release the results, the lottery will be a decided issue," Blake said. "We are more interested in who planned to vote for the lottery."

Arguments in support of the lottery include keeping revenue in the state, money currently being spent in surrounding states. According to many people who support the lottery, money raised would go to improving education.

Those opposing the lottery claim it is immoral and it will

hurt poor and less educated Tennesseans.

"Research shows lotteries are played by people who can least afford them," Blake said. "We want to see if that would be the case in Tennessee."

People who are of lower income and less education usually tend to buy multiple tickets to improve their odds, he said.

"Reality is they are improving their odds of winning, but the improvement is so small, it is not worth the amount of money they are spending," Blake said.

"Some of these people buy

10 to 20 tickets," Blake added.

Questions in the poll covering the economy have been asked every year. This year the poll is concerned with the declining stock market. The nation's economy is slowing down, and the poll wants to know how Tennesseans are coping.

The results can be compared to how Tennesseans have felt in years past. Also, data collected can compare Tennesseans' thoughts to the rest of the nation.

"Tennessee has just been ordered by a court to equalize

teachers' pay across the state. Teachers in rural areas will be paid the same as teachers in urban areas. This, in some accounts, will cost the state a lot of money," Blake noted.

On the situation with war in Iraq, the poll wants to find out simply how residents feel about the country's involvement and their feelings on America's foreign policy in general.

The area of the poll which was covered by the spring 2002 poll - and going to be covered again - is what people mean

See Poll, 2

Candidate visits MTSU

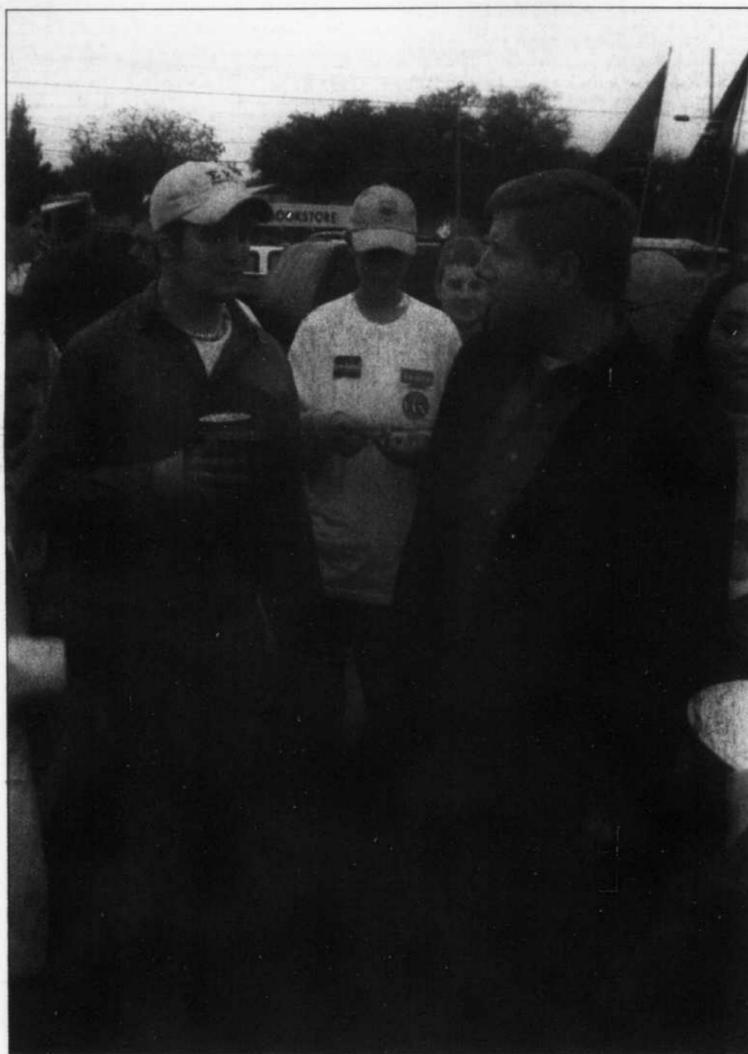


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Gubernatorial candidate and Sigma Chi alumnus Van Hilleary discusses politics with current Sigma Chi member Ryan Driber before Saturday's football game in the Greenland Drive parking lot outside Floyd Stadium.

President to open up for 'Open Line' Q&A

Questions can
be placed by
phone or e-mail
for consideration

By Kristy Adams
Staff Writer

MTSU President Sidney McPhee will sit in the hot seat tonight for an hour-long *Open Line* session, where he'll answer unscripted questions about the campus.

Questions ranging from student parking to tuition increase are permissible. The show airs on Channel 10 tonight at 8 p.m.

"People appreciate the opportunity to hear from the president," McPhee said. "It [also] gives me the opportunity to hear concerns from students and faculty members."

As well as call-in questions, there will be e-mail, live audience and pre-taped video questions for McPhee. According to Terra Grant, the general manager of Channel 10 and producer of *Open Line*, all questions will be new to McPhee.

"The president has no idea what he's going to be asked," Grant said. She said there are few limits on the questions that can be asked.

Before questioning McPhee, callers will talk to a telephone operator at Channel 10. The operator will help the caller form his or her question. Grant said this should shorten on-air time spent on each question. Once the question is formed, the caller receives a chance to have a personal conversation

with the head of MTSU.

Grant recommends inquirers to call 10 to 15 minutes before the show so questions can be asked immediately once airing begins.

During the hour show, McPhee will not be alone in answering questions. Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, will also have approximately 15 minutes to address callers.

Open Line first took place last semester after Grant and former Channel 10 adviser Bob Pondillo came up with the idea and McPhee agreed to participate.

"An institution this size is a very complex institution," McPhee said, adding that *Open Line* allows him "to have direct contact" with others on campus.

While claiming *Open Line* was mainly Pondillo's idea, Grant said they both thought the program would be good for Channel 10.

"It's a great opportunity for anyone who has questions," Grant said.

Open Line's host for tonight is Neil Price, with Marcy Clemons as the co-host. Members of student organizations will be invited to participate in the studio audience. Others interested are welcome to attend.

This event and past *Open Lines*, will occasionally be aired on Channel 5 Plus, as well as Channel 10.

The next *Open Line* is scheduled for Nov. 20. To ask McPhee a question during tonight's show, call 494-8953 or e-mail openline@mtsu.edu.

Gore: 'News plus' drives network programming

By Patrick Chinnery
Assistant News Editor

Visiting campus for the last time this semester, Al Gore delivered a speech on the history of the media and answered questions from students and community members yesterday in the James Union Building.

Attended by a crowd of more than 400 students and community members, the lecture was the final installment in this semester's Seigenthaler Lecture Series on Media and Democracy.

Gore spent much of his time yesterday revisiting the idea of "news plus," which he discussed in his first talk on Oct. 15.

The cause of news plus, according to Gore, is the evolution of news as a commodity.

He then made sure to point out that he used commodity in the sense of a good available from an unlimited source.

"News has become routine and cheap," Gore said. "It's becoming more standardized and homogenized."

The major networks - ABC, NBC and CBS - have become high cost providers of a low cost commodity - news, he said. Consequently, they, as well as cable networks such as CNN and FOX News, have had to add something extra to their news broadcasts to differentiate



Gore

See Poll, 2

Education in global society examined

By Nick Fowler
Staff Writer

Students from other countries have an advantage over American students, President Sidney McPhee said at the honors lecture Monday.

"They know this culture and they use that as a competitive advantage," McPhee said. He stressed the importance of American students getting a global education in order to compete in a global society.

McPhee's lecture was titled, "What does it mean to be educated in a global community?"

A global education focuses on educational activities and matters beyond the United States and on the difference in cultures within the United States. The education should emphasize differences in culture, language, religion and history, he said.



Photo by Blake Pearson | Staff Photographer

Junior pre-med major Ada Egbji talks with President Sidney McPhee after Monday's honors lecture.

"In the American system we see a de-emphasis on a globally educated individual," McPhee said. He said the education sys-

tem has been more focused on careers. Students want to know

See Honors, 2

Ten Commandment proponents join to rally

Citizens spar in defense, opposition of recent decision

By Kristin Hall
Contributor

A rally Thursday night to support the Rutherford County Commission's decision to display the Ten Commandments brought together politics and religion, which left some with flared tempers.

June Griffin, the Ten Commandments advocate who brought the issue to Rutherford County in April, energized the crowd with her strong statements about the plaintiff's lawyers, the American Civil Liberties Union.

The crowd that night cheered and clapped to see her take to the podium.

"We whipped the ACLU in 1925, and we're going to do it again," she said, referring to the famous Scopes Monkey Trial held in Griffin's hometown of Dayton, Tenn.

Although it was defeated in 1925, the ACLU prevailed in the end to allow the teaching of evolution, and they might prevail again in the Rutherford County case. In June, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Echols ordered the plaque to be taken down pending a trial to decide the issue.

This fact only seemed to spur Griffin on as she spoke with the powerful enthusiasm that has made her one of the most notable supporters in Tennessee on this issue.

Griffin has traveled to almost every county in the state, many of which have agreed to post the Ten Commandments, even with the threat of lawsuits hanging over their heads.

"God's going to bring a revival here that's going to make the ACLU tremble," Griffin said.

The main argument given at the rally was that the Ten Commandments serve as a his-

torical document from which modern law derives, and do not necessarily inhibit civil rights of non-Christians.

Eric Stanley, the lawyer defending the commission, explained and cited how each commandment was the basis for a law in the United States, although some he mentioned were colonial law and no longer apply.

"Efforts to remove the Ten Commandments are really nothing more than efforts to rewrite American history," Stanley said, "and to deny our religious heritage."

"I have brought this work out of my own money and my own time and the ordination of the almighty God," Griffin said.

However, Griffin hasn't been the only one who has put money into the cause. David Swindler, the organizer of the rally, said that \$17,000 had already been collected, but that there might be a need for more than \$100,000.

"Unfortunately, our freedom must be defended with money," Swindler said.

Stanley, who works for a Christian civil liberties organization based in Florida called Liberty Counsel, is defending the county free of charge, but the \$100,000 price tag is attached to ACLU's Nashville lawyer, George Barrett.

He estimated that his legal fees would exceed that amount in an article in the *Tennessean* on April 19.

If the ACLU wins the lawsuit, the judge could order that the county commission reimburse the ACLU's litigation costs.

"I believe," Swindler said, "that there is enough money in Rutherford County that we can easily fight this battle without having to touch any taxpayers' money."

In east Tennessee, the Hamilton County Commission now faces a hefty sum after the ACLU won their case against the county's posting of the Ten Commandments.

Stanley feels that the decision in Hamilton County has no

bearing on the Rutherford County trial because they posted the commandments alone.

The posting in Rutherford County, until it was pulled down, was surrounded by other historical documents like the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact.

"I don't believe that the courts are ready right now to uphold a single copy of the Ten Commandments by itself," Stanley said.

Similarly, Sumner County is facing opposition after they posted the Ten Commandments. Although no lawsuits have been filed, Stanley said he thinks that county might be waiting to see the outcome in Murfreesboro.

"I think Rutherford County is kind of the test case for these historical document displays," Stanley said.

This issue brought out a crowd of about 1,000 men, women and children to the lawn outside the courthouse. The crowd also included one agitated supporter of the commandments.

A Vietnam veteran, later identified as Kevin Youse, ripped up the sign of a Ten Commandments protester and smacked a news camera.

The police intervened and escorted him to the back of the crowd.

Stanley said he felt that the episode was unfortunate, but that everyone at the rally understood that it wasn't indicative of the entire crowd.

"There's absolutely no reason to get belligerent or violent about it," Stanley said.

Griffin had a different interpretation of the activist.

"The Vietnam vets have the right to do whatever they want to in public," she said.

However, Stanley could see that the positive aspects of the rally outweighed the negative.

"A little bit of division in our country, a little bit of good debate never hurt anybody," Stanley said. ♦

Honors: Students encouraged to take part in multicultural activities, classes

Continued from 1

whether a class will help them get a job. A globally educated student will be able to get jobs with multinational corporations that are looking for employees who can survive in a global world, McPhee said.

McPhee said his own international education benefited him. He grew up in the Bahamas and was educated under the British system. The difference between the American system and the British system became apparent when he left the Bahamas to go to college in America. He took the General Certificate of Education for which he received 23 hours of college credit.

"When I went to Texas, I had a sense of America and the world that my classmates did not," he said.

He, like many other international students, knew more about the world and American

culture than American students know about the world and other cultures.

Because of his international education, he has been able to visit and lecture in Malaysia, Singapore, Israel, Belgium, Canada and China.

McPhee cited a number of statistics to illustrate this point. In the U.S. university system there are 200 countries represented by 548,000 international students, while there are only 45,000 U.S. students overseas.

Students must take an active effort to understand other cultures, formally and informally. He suggested students take classes involving other cultures.

"The best way to understand a person of another culture is to sit down in a cafe with a cup of coffee and talk to that person," he said.

"Because of the successes we've had as a nation we've become myopic," McPhee said.

"We have developed a sense

that what we do is right," he added.

MTSU is planning to beef up its international studies program, McPhee said.

McPhee also included two quotes from Jan Sadlak which he felt provided particular insight into international education.

"Access to higher education is perceived as a privilege but as a right or a 'public good.' Education therefore, is an important entity in the process of globalization ... Globalization implicitly requires that we learn to adjust to a new kind of world, one of the characteristics of which is what I would call the prevalence of 'multiple identities.'" ♦

CRIME LOG

- Friday, Oct. 11 - 9:12 a.m.**
Theft
Windrush Apartments
A lost or stolen golf cart was recovered by Murfreesboro Police Department, and returned to MTSU.
- Saturday, Oct. 12 - 2:55 a.m.**
Vandalism over \$500
New Parking Lot off Rutherford Blvd.
Four cars had their windows smashed. Two witnesses saw a white box-like car pulling away from parking lot. Nothing was taken from the vehicles.
- Sunday, Oct. 13 - 12:14 a.m.**
Theft under \$500
Cummings Hall
A theft report was filled out at Cummings Hall.
- Monday, Oct. 14 - 11:37 a.m.**
Arrest
Alumni Memorial Gym
Craig Forrester of Kingsport, Tenn., was arrested on Monday due to an outstanding warrant, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia most likely to be used in conjunction with marijuana.
- Monday, Oct. 14 - 5:40 p.m.**
Indecent exposure
Crestland Avenue at Division Street
A male subject reportedly exposed his naked person to a female subject before he left the area. The act perpetrated by the male subject was not well-received by the female subject.

Gore: Speed, not accuracy, rule news

Continued from 1

themselves. That something is news plus.

"[The networks] are having to sell a new kind of hybrid product - news plus. News plus entertainment, news plus attitude, news plus opinion," Gore said.

The rush to create an individualized program has led to a variety of approaches, Gore said, including the Naked News, as viewed at www.nakednews.com and news with an attitude, such as FOX News.

Gore added that some cable newscasters now cater to a specific political audience, to get a subscription of several hundred thousand viewers and "rise out of the cacophony."

In the rush to be the first to break a story, news networks often run pre-written pieces on a topic when breaking news

happens, without taking the time to fact check or add details to the story, Gore said. Moreover, the packaged pieces usually have a politically biased slant.

"[The networks] have made themselves vulnerable to the sudden arrival of prepackaged and preprocessed facts according to a particular point of view - be it political or commercial point of view... These manufactured creations get around the world before any real checking is done to see if it is fully accurate," Gore said.

The former vice president said he believes that the increase in availability and accessibility of news will lead to a strong globalization effect, with news coverage of small towns as well as the major media markets.

In the post-lecture session, Gore faced questions on a variety of topics, from the best way for a child to develop leadership

skills to whether he supported a war against Iraq.

"Do you have any advice for young people like myself, who want to develop leadership and serve the next generation?" Nevada Shelton, a local boy, asked Gore.

Gore managed to relate his answer to the topic at hand.

"The best advice I can give you is to find a good newspaper and read it every day," he said. "Develop a sense of how events flow from one to another."

When asked if he supported a military strike against Iraq, Gore said that he didn't think there was enough proof to justify action.

"Saddam Hussein's a very bad guy, and I believe the world would be better off if he was dislodged from power ... I've seen no link between Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. If there is one, let's see the evidence," Gore said. ♦

Poll: Survey extended over entire state

Continued from 1

when they say, or hear, the phrase, "God Bless America."

The findings in the spring of 2002 were that conservatives felt religious, whereas political liberals felt a patriotic meaning.

This semester, the poll will be looking more in-depth at where those attitudes originate, and why these same three words mean different things to different people.

"One advantage after five

years is we are starting to get long term data about Tennesseans," Blake said. "We can take Tennesseans' attitudes about subjects today and compare them to attitudes in the past. It helps us better understand Tennesseans."

The phone numbers of respondents are randomly chosen by a computer. The poll is scheduled to last two weeks, starting on Oct. 21 and ending Nov 2. During the process, 600 residents of Tennessee will com-

plete the survey. Blake and Robert Wyatt founded the poll in 1998.

In the beginning, the poll covered only middle Tennessee, but in the past two years has been expanded to cover the entire state.

To find summaries and major findings of the poll for the past five years, visit www.mtsu.edu/mtpoll. ♦

Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

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OPINIONS

3 ◆ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 23, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

Bredesen's our guy

Sometimes a choice is so clear and distinct that the *Sidelines* editorial board must speak out in favor of one candidate over another, despite our reservations about endorsing candidates. This is why we have chosen to endorse former Nashville mayor and Democratic nominee Phil Bredesen for governor.

Republican candidate Van Hilleary has repeatedly taken shots at Bredesen for everything from endorsing a state income tax (which Bredesen has denied) to poking fun at Bredesen for being a rich Yankee-born guy with no real connections to the people of Tennessee. In short, Hilleary seems to take issue with Bredesen having a successful career outside of elected office.

Perhaps this is because Hilleary, a relatively young man in his early 40s, has never held a job that was not an elected office or a position with the family business, a textile company, save his time in the military reserves, where he served in Bush the elder's Iraq campaign.

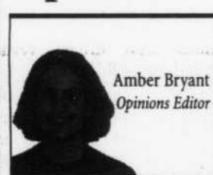
Hilleary has worked hard to paint himself as 'one of us' – someone with common sense, strong (Christian, likely Protestant) values and a belief that government should be as unobtrusive as possible. In trying to convey this image, he has revealed himself to be exactly like the worst of Tennessee's citizens – uninformed, divisive and rather ignorant to the hows and whys of government, assuming that it is all bad.

Bredesen, meanwhile, was responsible for bringing the Oilers/Titans to Nashville, the new arena that attracted a startup NHL franchise and the new Nashville Public Library. Before serving as mayor he was active in business, having founded Health America. He is an intellectual, which some consider to be a bad thing.

The *Sidelines* staff, on the other hand, considers intelligence to be a good thing. Between Bredesen and Hilleary – a guy that we wouldn't trust to be an advertising representative, much less a governor – Bredesen is the clear choice. ◆

From the Opinions Editor

Religious doctor should separate beliefs, work



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

As if Iraq isn't enough, now President Bush is trying to take over my ovaries.

The Bush Administration is planning to appoint obstetrician/gynecologist, anti-abortionist and religious zealot W. David Hager to lead a Food and Drug Administration panel on managing women's health. This man has a religious track record a mile long. He, along with his wife, is the author of *As Jesus Cared for Women: Restoring Women Then and Now*, which claims that premenstrual syndrome and headaches can be healed through faith in Christ and reading specific passages in the Bible. According to CNN.com, "In his private practice, two sources familiar with it say, Hager refuses to prescribe contraceptives to unmarried women."

To make matters worse, yesterday *Boston Globe* columnist Ellen Goodman appeared in *The Tennessean*, stating, "Last August [Hager] helped the Christian Medical Association produce a 'citizens' petition' asking the FDA to take [RU-486, the emergency

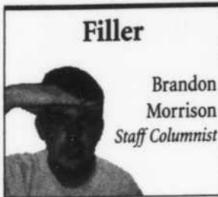
contraceptive pill] off the market." In other words, Hager is completely ignoring scientific research and contraceptive education, at the expense of thousands of women, to win favor with his Lord. I find it unbelievably infuriating that someone thinks he knows God, the possible Creator of a gazillion universes, well enough to try and take away a woman's reproductive freedom.

Obviously, this man is a hindrance to both feminine and religious progress. Using manipulative religious tactics to control an entire gender's right to choice is the oldest trick in the book and isn't conducive to Christians if they wish to be considered educated instead of brainwashed.

Hager's behavior is borderline misogynistic and completely unacceptable. Not only are his religious beliefs so archaic and antifeminine it's disgusting, he is obviously biased and, therefore, unfit to be a doctor, let alone the leader of a national health association.

When "morality" pushes the rights of any group to the background and attempts to control them, greed and selfishness is almost always at play. Doing it in the name of God only makes it more evil. ◆

Vacation does wonders for outlook



Filler

Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

Fall Break was the first time since summer that I've spent any real time at home.

Home changes a lot after two months. I would've thought that I might be used to change after spending last year in Murfreesboro, but I'm not. It's still weird to go home and see that a whole world has evolved just a little

more than the last time I was there.

I spent some time with some of my old friends who haven't graduated high school yet.

Before, they were the center of my world. If I needed to feel better, I'd go hang out with my buddies. I spent a lot of time with these guys, and they meant a lot to me.

But now, they've lost their charm and influence. If home is where the heart is, then I've lost touch with my heart.

The women are finally approachable. Football players aren't as threatening. Adults aren't as adult-

like as they used to be.

It's difficult adjusting to a world that's moved on without you.

I think that we young adults sometimes have problems dealing with change.

I understand that we're supposed to change with the times easily. We're supposed to be the wave of the future, leading the pack in social, political and personal change. We're supposed to be flexible.

I don't think this is the case. Instead of our being flexible, I think we don't take life seriously.

It's like going out with a bunch of friends to lunch

while you're full. It doesn't matter where you go to eat because you're full already. Where you eat doesn't pertain to you.

It's the same thing with our outlook with life. We feel that a lot of life doesn't apply to us because we either can't control it or don't choose to.

"I've got to move again. Oh well, I can't avoid it."

"My grades are lower than ever. My professor must hate me."

"My girlfriend caught me cheating and broke up with me. Guess it wasn't meant to be."

Since we don't take aspects of our life very

seriously, change doesn't affect us very strongly. When something we care about changes, however, it bothers us because of our attachment. When we're younger we don't have as many attachments, therefore we handle change better.

Our lives revolve around change, so we can't avoid it. We need to understand where our fear of change lies in order to face it better. ◆

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore graphic communications major and can be reached via e-mail at bjm2k@mtsu.edu.

America needs more language education



A Single Voice

Heidi Ward
Staff Columnist

Half of the rest of the world speaks our language, but how many of us can speak theirs? America needs to catch up with the rest of the world when it comes to language education.

Most often when I say this, I'm answered with the question: why bother if everyone speaks English anyway?

Just because others can speak English doesn't mean they should have to. I don't ever want to be one of those Americans who go abroad and get angry because the people selling them their souvenirs don't speak English. This actually happens. I've seen it.

Speaking from experience, people will be much more obliged to help you (whether they speak English or not) if you at least try to speak their language.

While studying in Germany, I needed to have passport photos taken. I asked in stumbling German if someone could take my photograph, my accent completely apparent. He replied in halting English with a smile. It's about respect.

How many people have you heard mutter under their breaths about immigrants?

They say, "If you're going to move to a country, learn the language."

These people have obviously never tried to master a language.

It's hard, but it's worth it. However, part of the reason it's so hard is because we don't start foreign language classes young enough.

It is much easier for a child to acquire a language than an adult, or even a teenager. Someone who has learned one other language will have a much easier time learning another.

This is why most other countries start teaching their children a foreign language before they are 10 years old.

We don't even have language classes until junior high, and that's if they're even offered. Most Americans, if they take a foreign language class, won't take it until they are at least 15.

While all 50 states include foreign language classes in their curricula and 40 have laws that require at least two year's worth to be available, only 10 have laws requiring students to take these courses. And that is only the college bound or honors students.

It would benefit everyone to make foreign language education part of the core curriculum starting in elementary school.

Learning another language gives a person an understanding of another culture that they wouldn't have had otherwise. It also helps to build a better appreciation and understanding of their own.

In fact, studies have shown that students who have studied a foreign language statistically do better on standardized tests in English.

In its 1992 report, "College Bound Seniors: The 1992 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers," the College Entrance Examination Board reported that students who averaged four or more years of foreign language study scored higher on the verbal section of the SAT than those who had studied four or more years in any other subject area.

Also, students who'd taken four or more years of foreign language had the same scores as students who'd studied four years of mathematics.

While not everybody will retain everything or master the language, research suggests that students who've studied another language are also often more creative and better at solving complex problems.

Not to mention that learning a language will make someone better at communicating and help them to have more job opportunities.

Let's face it – the world is becoming smaller and the need to be able to communicate with others is important.

As long as Americans continue to act as though we only need to know one language, we are saying to the rest of the world, "We don't care to communicate with you on any level other than our own."

It's time we show the world we're willing to try. ◆

Heidi Ward is a senior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at hlw2a@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Hating hate groups intolerant

To the Editor:

I think "Kimbrell warns against hate speech" should have a disclaimer (Oct. 9, 2002). It should say, "although I hate the hate groups, wishing to take the same tactics of brainwashing to reeducate those I classify as 'fundamentalists' in order to protect our tolerant perfect society, I'm not a hypocrite."

I'm sure Kimbrell had good intentions, but his speech can lead to a different kind of persecution, in which the seemingly righteous tolerant person becomes a fanatical fundamentalist without noticing the change. I think people need to know that "fundamentalism" isn't to be thrown around so lightly. I believe, like many Americans, that the Constitution of the United States is a fundamental law. I believe I made fundamental changes when I gave my life to Christ. For many others, fundamental changes come when they give themselves to a cause. What fundamental changes happened to you when you sit in front of the Capitol opposing the possible war on Iraq, hugging a tree or saving endangered species as opposed to just sitting on your duff?

Kimbrell claims, "Islam may have a horrible record [...], but Christianity's is worse." First, there is a difference between professing Christians and actual ones. Second, even with the number crunching, they need to stop being vague. Political causes have caused more deaths combined than religious ones. A lot of people ignorantly exaggerate the numbers when it involves religion. The people who claim religion is responsible for more deaths also tend to ignore the responsibility that politics and other contributing factors play. Perhaps we should also look into why people join these hate groups. It could be that reverse psychology has a hand; we tell them not to touch the forbidden fruit and they're curious. It could be that our society leaves a moral vacuum with the ideas of situational ethics and moral relativity. I don't care anymore; I've found the fundamentals in Christianity satisfying.

Stephen Brace

Ranting not proper journalism

To the Editor:

I normally don't waste my time responding to ignorance. However, I received an e-mail from a prominent local biologist (unaffiliated with MTSU) expressing concern over Marshal Weber's column ("Ecosystem sucks," Oct. 10, 2002). After reading the column, I share his concerns.

In this inaccurately named column (not once is anything mentioned about an ecosystem), the author makes comments referring to "some blind albino salamander that stumbles about in a pool of slime-licking algae to sustain its pathetic and miserable existence." I can only assume that being a responsible "staff columnist" the author has been in a cave and witnessed these creatures stumbling about and possesses that unique ability to communicate with salamanders so he could determine how pathetic and miserable their life is. Otherwise, I would think that an editor would question such statements.

I realize that this is an opinions section and I won't attack the columnist's opinion. I do, however, think that it's a shame that this section of *Sidelines* has turned into a forum for the ranting and ravings of someone's personal misconceptions and stereotypes with no regard for proper journalism. With the online publishing of this paper, *Sidelines* is no longer limited to this campus, so the editors should be more concerned with the content of the articles printed.

The e-mail I received this morning had the following statement: "That such garbage goes unanswered and unedited in the campus newspaper is a blot on MTSU as far as I am concerned." It frightens me to think how people outside MTSU view the school when asinine columns such as this one are routinely published in the school newspaper.

Steve Samoray

Comments? E-mail us at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

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

*denotes member of editorial board

Faced with fear and fire

MTSU student fights wildfires during summer

By Jarret Rice
Contributor

Katy Wansing had a choice to make. During summers she worked full-time as a biological technician at the Stones River National Battlefield, removing large invasive plants and cutting grass.

Then, in late April, Wansing's boss gave her a choice. She could devote a couple of weeks to fighting wildfires, which would include training camp for certification. Or, she could hang out and cut grass.

She chose to haul 45 pounds of water on her back with an axe in hand while climbing a mountain side toward an unpredictable wall of fire.

Her older sister, Haley, questioned her physical condition. Her younger sister, Hannah, questioned the safety of her mission. Her friends were supportive.

"Go girl," Wansing said they told her. Her mother, Sherry, was surprised and concerned but didn't feel it was out of Wansing's nature to do such a thing. Sherry and her husband, Bruce, talked of Wansing's connection to wildlife. Bruce said he would have expected Wansing to "go clean up a stream, but not fight a fire."

What made her say 'yes' to fighting wildland fires?

"Reasons not to sign up - just that I might miss school, and I could die," she says.

She contemplated for a while.

"I thought it would be thrilling. It was new, a character builder ... might open up other opportunities."

Wansing is a biology major with a concentration in microbiology. Where is the connection between this and forest fires?

"It's not related to the area of biology I study, but it is related to being Katy Wansing."

The first step in the adventure of "being Katy Wansing" was training camp.

"It was not as hard as I thought it would be," she said. "The classroom portion was easy."

In the classroom, Wansing was taught the science of fire. Outside, among the Great Smoky Mountains, Wansing was taught the importance of communication and awareness. These two words would equal safety.

And speaking of safety, she learned to look out for snags. Snags are trees or parts of trees that are in danger of falling. After a fire chars an area, what once was the forest canopy is an entanglement of loose limbs and tree tops waiting to fall.

Training involved digging fire lines.

"A fire line is a barrier between an area that is burning and an area you want to protect," Wansing says. It is a fairly shallow ditch with all the ground overturned. This has the potential to stop the fire's progression because the ditch provides no fuel to feed the fire.

Wansing was one of five women in a training



Photo provided

MTSU biology major Katy Wansing diligently helped stifle the East Fork fires in Utah during June and July.

camp of 35. Nevertheless, she felt she had to prove herself among the testosterone-heavy atmosphere.

She carried 45 pounds in a backpack and trudged three miles in less than 45 minutes. That's a needed average speed of four miles per hour.

"Did it," she said. "Next test, please."

The firefighter's most valuable accessory on his or her pack is the fire shelter. One at a time, Wansing and her comrades pushed their way up a slope as if a fire was chasing them. Once at the top, they had 20 seconds to deploy the shelter and get under it.

Deploying the stiff silver shelter wasn't easy; most people needed the full 20 seconds.

"I got to the top of the hill and looked at the instructor," she said. "His thumb released from the timer. I reached back to pull the shelter from its casing, and it would not budge. I kept struggling with it and it wouldn't come out. I felt so

defeated, embarrassed and determined at the same time. Everybody was watching me, wondering if the blonde could handle it."

"My instructor told me I had 10 seconds left and to go ahead and stop."

Even though you could attempt the test twice, Wansing was determined.

"I told him I could do it and bit my glove off my hand, reached back and yanked as hard as I could. It flew out. I whipped it into shape and was under that thing fast."

She made it on time.

The crowd was shocked. The instructor had never seen anyone deploy a shelter that quickly.

"It was at that moment, I felt that I was in."

Wansing had proven herself. But, still, at this point, what she was now certified to do was not yet real in her mind. She was just doing it. Most others on her crew do this for a living.

After training, she returned home and back to her normal job. Fire season was in full swing.

It began early this year due to severe drought. Her boss told her it would be any day. There was no backing out now. She was committed to two weeks on-site at a wildfire.

On June 30, the telephone rang.

"My boss told me to be packed and stay by the phone," she says.

Reality suddenly hit.

"I became so scared, I was crying. I was a mess. Up to that point, none of it was real."

Wansing fit everything she needed into a large red backpack that was issued to her.

"I felt at that time that I had made a big mistake and that the next two weeks would be a nightmare." The idea of a thrill was gone and replaced with tears and feelings of obligation.

Wansing and a friend from work met up with the assembled team in Knoxville, Tenn., for their flight. The plane landed four hours later.

See Fires, 6

Dear Annie

Dating your high school teacher

Dear Annie,

I just turned 18 a couple of months ago, and I went out to a bar with some of my friends. I ended up running into my high school chemistry teacher. He's not that old. He's only 25. I really like him and I always thought he was so cute in high school. I didn't like chemistry, but I thought he was nice. Anyway, my problem is that my friends think that it's totally weird that I'm dating my high-school teacher. I haven't told my parents yet. Do you have any suggestions as to how I can do that? And what should I do about my friends thinking that it's weird? How can I make them understand? Do you think that it's weird? Any advice would be helpful. Thanks. - Misunderstood

Dear Misunderstood,

It is not every day that someone dates her high school teacher, which could be why people would question the situation. I'm wondering if the relationship is weird for you because you haven't been out of high school for very long.

I keep trying to put myself in your situation - I can't imagine being there. I considered teachers as authority figures. I never considered any of them attractive. But you did and this is your story.

So, tell me how the story ends. Are you going to be caught up in the fact that you're "dating your high school teacher?" Or are you going to focus on the person that he is and the person that you are and discover if this relationship will work - despite how you might be seen socially.

Why is it so important for your friends to

understand your relationship? Does it really matter what they think? If it does, then this leads me to ask again, are you bothered by the fact that you're dating your high school teacher? Because it doesn't matter if anyone else thinks that it's weird.

If you explain how you feel about this guy to your friends and they're true friends, they will understand. You shouldn't have to defend your decisions to your friends. Remember, you can't control what others think - you can only control what you think.

Now, here's how you can break the news to your parents. Ready? Say, "Mom, Dad, I'm dating this new guy ... I think you know him ... you probably met him at a parent/teacher conference." OK - all kidding aside - just tell them.

If you don't feel uncomfortable about dating your teacher, why would you feel uncomfortable telling your parents?

Just remember, it doesn't matter if you're misunderstood. What matters is if you understand what you're doing.

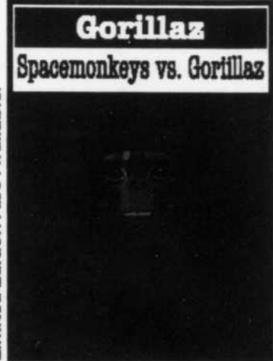
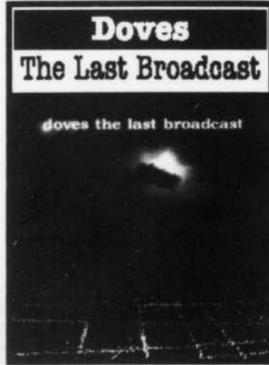
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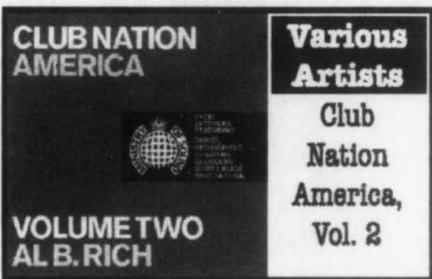
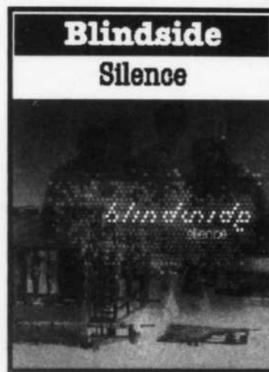
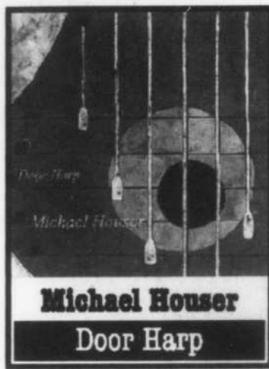
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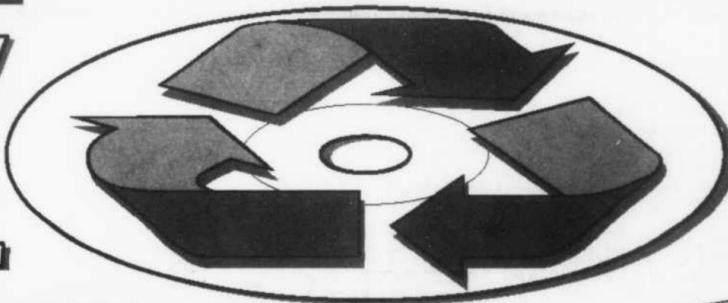
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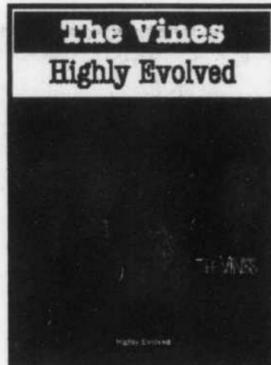
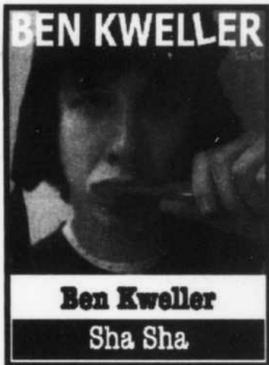
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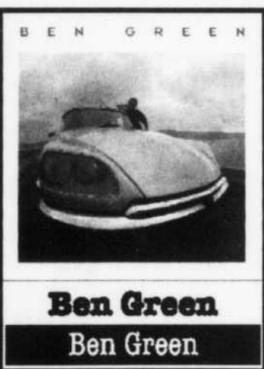
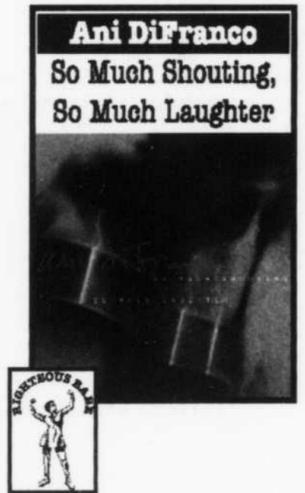
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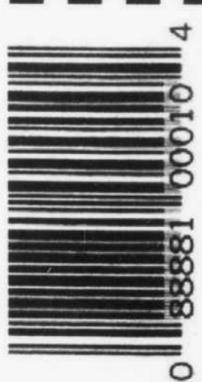


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Fires: Student diligently trains to fight fires while studying microbiology at MTSU



One of 270 wildland fires, the East Fork fire destroyed more than 5,000 acres in Utah this summer.

Continued from 4

miles from their destination in the northeast corner of Utah in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in the Uinta Mountains.

The bus crawled for two hours uphill to their campsite at 8,500 feet.

Wansing's challenger has been labeled the East Fork fire and lies among the Bear Boy Scout retreat in what she calls beautiful country.

Wansing's vast tent community consisted of 12 fire crews (20 people each), seven fire engines, two air tankers (planes that drop fire retardant), three helicopters, a temporary mess hall, three phones, a meteorologist and a mapping department.

"You really get to know people in these circumstances," she says. "You work at least 12 hours a day with them, stand in the phone line with them, ride the bus with them, eat with them."

The East Fork fire was one of 270 wildland fires burning across the U.S. As of July 1, the Forest Service had evacuated more than 100 homes and asked an additional 300 to leave voluntarily. There had been reports of the possibility that Boy Scouts may have been starting campfires even though the federal and state government had banned all campfires outside of developed areas. The fire was 75 percent contained and had destroyed 5,000 acres.

The fire was visible from the camp.

"This was intimidating, but I

hold on to. It was just a climb in the dust."

A pulaski, she says, is "a tool with an axe on one side and a sharp hoe-like thing on the other side."

Wansing would return to camp around 7:30 each evening. She worked every day those two weeks.

"You could stay in camp if you got sick (caught the camp crud) or just couldn't handle it."

"Nobody seemed to give people crap for missing a day, but I did feel like I had to prove I could tough it out."

In the evening, Wansing would eat dinner, sharpen her tools, fill her water bottles, wait in the phone line to call home, and get to bed.

"I tried to get plenty of rest," she says. "I was always afraid that I would not get enough sleep."

As of July 3, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported flames reaching at times to 150 feet into the air. The fire doubled its size in one day. It would only be a few days before the Forest Service would announce the East Fork fire as its top wildlife priority. Structures were in danger and the dry conditions and intense heat were only increasing.

After a few days of digging trenches and extinguishing flames, Wansing was more concerned with her physical condition than her fear of the flames.

"The idea is that you always have a safety zone," she said. She defined a safety zone as an area that cannot burn. This is typically an area that is already burned, a body of water or a road.

Up the mountain, gusty winds were assisting the spread of spot fires. Hot spots within the main fire explode, rocketing burning masses into the smoke-filled sky, where the fiery embers mark the birth of a spot fire. The afternoon's tempera-

ture and dry conditions assisted the wind's initiative to spread and merge the fires.

"Where we stood and where we were to extinguish the fires was on level terrain just at the top of a slope," Wansing says.

From there, looking up, to the top of the next slope was a smoldering graveyard of charred forest glowing red with remnants of the force that had its way with the green mountain top.

"The way we got up there was a zigzagging up and around," she said. "It was no way to get out in an emergency. Our only real safety zone was at the bottom of the hill where we started, on the road."

The road will not burn. The problem wasn't the spot fires Wansing and her comrades were to extinguish, but that the

hill down to the road was littered with spot fires.

"It was scary, and I expressed my concern to others, but I just accepted it and stayed alert."

Every year, wildland fires claim the life of several firefighters. Katy remarked that "if you look at the reports, most all are vehicle related."

Their main water suppliers, fire engines, were radioed to leave the hillside.

"Any time structures are in danger they become priority."

Her crew's duty switched from extinguishing the fires to containing them.

As of July 13, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reported the fire to be 75 percent contained. There have been several injuries, only one serious.

Wansing's crew worked diligently.

"My mind was on my job, digging the fire lines around the fires," she says.

Success was theirs. Wansing returned to camp with feelings of satisfaction and visions of home.

The East Fork fire has been estimated to have destroyed 14,200 acres at a cost of \$12.2 million.

Katy expressed satisfaction in the test she passed.

She recommends that other students consider fighting wildland fires because "no one could experience something like that and not build character."

She says that students shouldn't avoid such an experience in fear for their safety.

"If you act safe, you'll be safe," she says. ♦

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Student Orientation Assistants and Clerical Staff for CUSTOMS 2003

Applications available in KUC 122. Application deadline is Friday, November 15, 20

Non-conference games putting pinch on SBC

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Reporter

The Sun Belt Conference seems to be having problems with the outside world this year.

The conference is 8-29 in non-SBC games and 1-20 against conferences that qualify for the Bowl Championship Series.

The Blue Raiders finally broke the Sun Belt jinx of the Southeastern Conference when they beat Vanderbilt 21-20. This was the first SBC win against the SEC this year.

However, politics plays a role in this as well.

"There is such a disparity in the strength of I-A teams that there is no way they can all keep up, and it all goes back to money," *Tennessean* columnist David Climer explained. "Smaller teams don't have the history or the recruiting budgets to fall back on to recruit the needed players."

Prestige plays a factor as well.

"UT-Knoxville is called the 'The' University of Tennessee at Knoxville," commented Middle Tennessee Athletics Director Boots Donnelly.

"We are just Middle Tennessee and what do you think of that?"

"It bothers the hell out of me."

The week that the Blue Raiders played UT, they were originally scheduled to play Georgia Tech.

"We got the phone call from Tennessee seeing if there was a possibility we couldn't play. Then we had to make a switch with Georgia Tech," said Donnelly. "Because of when Tennessee wanted to play we had to put Tennessee in Georgia Tech's time slot."

Out of the three games that MT lost against the SEC this year, they lost by an average of 16.5 points. However, other SBC teams have not quite had the same success. The University North Texas lost to the University of Alabama 33-7 and New Mexico State University lost to the



University of Georgia, 41-10. The most recent is a 52-10 thrashing of Arkansas State University by Mississippi State University on Saturday.

"As we progress into I-A, and as we move our program forward, we want the opportunity to play quality football teams and we want to use those as a measuring stick," Donnelly said.

"The easiest way to use a football game as a measuring stick is to be able to find out where you are, and in order to find out where you are, you have to play the best."

When the Blue Raiders travel to certain schools, they get a certain amount of money from each school.

According to Donnelly, there is a contract set up with each school with a predetermined amount.

For UT and Alabama, the Blue Raiders were awarded \$1 million. MT got approximately \$250,000 from Vanderbilt and Kentucky.

"You never know what the expenses for a team might be when traveling," Donnelly said.

See Sun Belt, 8

Volleyball team ends streak against UT Vols

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

After roaring out to a two games-to-one lead, the Lady Raider volleyball team didn't have enough gas left in the tank to finish off the University of Tennessee Oct. 16 in Knoxville.

After losing game one, the Lady Raiders (11-9) took games two and three by outscoring the Lady Vols 30-23 and 30-21 respectively.

Keke Deckard led the Middle Tennessee effort. The sophomore from Nacogdoches, Texas, scored her 13th double-double of the season with 17 kills and 20 digs.

In a match characterized by rallies, UT's furious rally in game two fell just short as they scored nine straight to cut what had been a 27-14 MT lead to

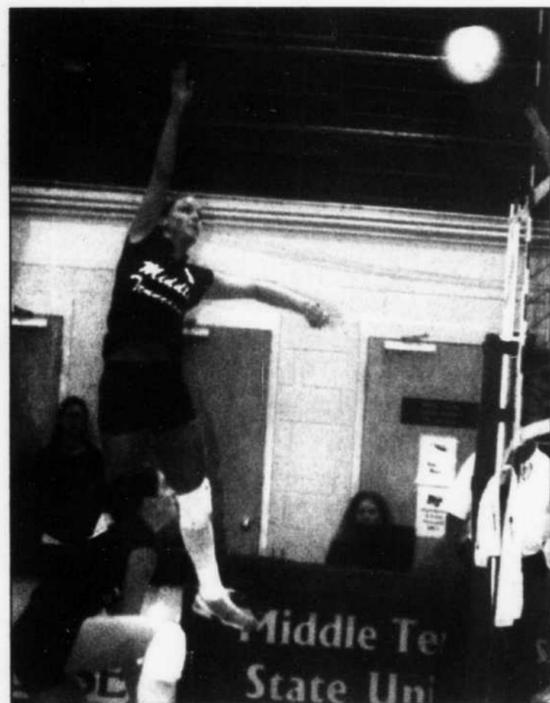
27-23, but MT put away three straight points to seal the game.

Likewise, in game four after falling behind the Lady Raiders and only one game away from losing the match, the Lady Vols went up 26-8 before a 12-2 MT run closed the gap. UT was able to put the game away 30-20, and easily handled game five 15-8.

In the mind of MT head coach Lisa Kisse, there was no doubt what the difference in the game was.

"I believe we gave this game away with our passing," she said. "Our passing totally broke down in games four and five."

In addition to Deckard's strong effort, Dara McClean added 14 kills, while Karisse Baker and Jennifer Hignite chipped in 11 a piece. ◆



File Photo

Dara McClean goes up high to block a ball.

MT gets first Sun Belt win over Lafayette, 48-35

Offense looks like old in Blue Raider triumph Saturday

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

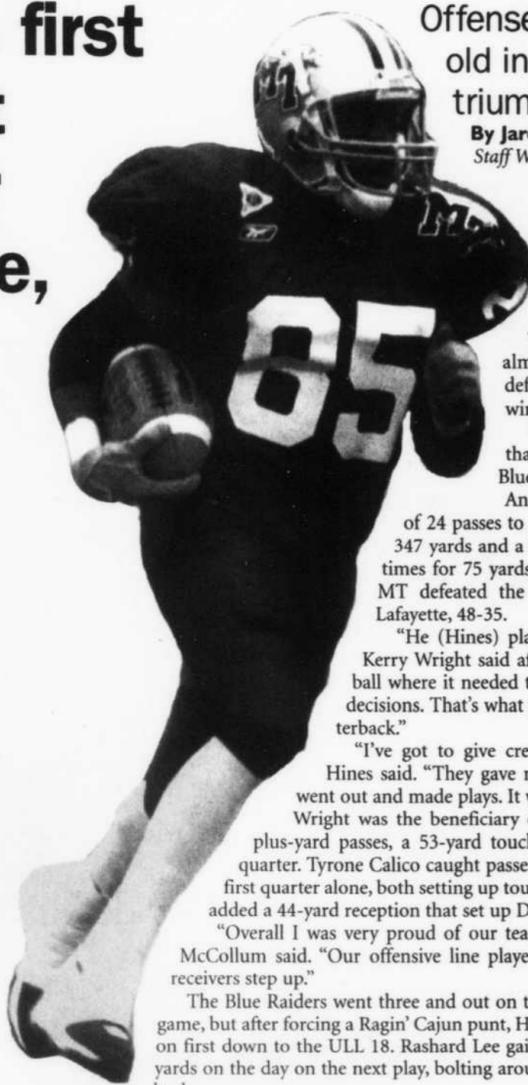


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Chris Henry made an important 44-yard run that led to a touchdown Saturday.

Saturday at Floyd Stadium, it was easy to get a sense of déjà vu.

Something seemed oddly familiar about watching the Middle Tennessee offense score almost at will, while the defense made enough plays to win.

Then comes the realization that maybe, just maybe, the Blue Raiders are back on track.

Andrico Hines completed 17 of 24 passes to nine different receivers for 347 yards and a touchdown and rushed 20 times for 75 yards and three touchdowns as MT defeated the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 48-35.

"He (Hines) played magnificent," receiver Kerry Wright said after the game. "He put the ball where it needed to be, didn't make any bad decisions. That's what you look for in your quarterback."

"I've got to give credit to the offensive line," Hines said. "They gave me time, and the receivers went out and made plays. It wasn't just me."

Wright was the beneficiary of one of Hines' four 40-plus-yard passes, a 53-yard touchdown strike in the third quarter. Tyrone Calico caught passes of 44 and 51 yards in the first quarter alone, both setting up touchdown runs. Chris Henry added a 44-yard reception that set up Dwone Hicks' 4-yard run.

"Overall I was very proud of our team," MT head coach Andy McCollum said. "Our offensive line played well, and we had some receivers step up."

The Blue Raiders went three and out on their first possession of the game, but after forcing a Ragin' Cajun punt, Hines hit Calico for 51 yards on first down to the ULL 18. Rashard Lee gained the majority of his 28 yards on the day on the next play, bolting around the right side for a 7-0 lead.

After getting the ball back, Hines found Calico again, this time for 44 yards down to the ULL 15. Three plays later it was Hines going in from 3 yards out to make it 14-0 Blue Raiders with five minutes and 30 seconds left in the first quarter.

It seemed a blowout was in the making but three MT miscues led to 15 unanswered Ragin' Cajun points, putting the Blue Raiders down by one.

After Muhammad Rashada intercepted ULL quarterback Jon Van Cleave's pass at the MT five, Hines and Hicks crossed signals and Hines' option pitch bounced into the end zone for a safety.

After the ensuing free kick, ULL drove 68 yards and scored on a 1-yard run by fullback Blake Bourque.

MT held ULL on fourth and two at the MT 22. Tyrone Calico fumbled on an end around, giving the ball back to the Cajuns at the MT 37. Aaron Pitts intercepted Van Cleave in the end zone on third and goal from the 3, but a roughing the passer call on Devarick Scandrett gave the ball back to the Cajuns and Jerome Coleman went in from 2 yards out to give ULL a 15-14 lead.

"We had some problems, but we'll get that coached up and get better from it," McCollum explained. "It's easier to correct when you

See Football, 8

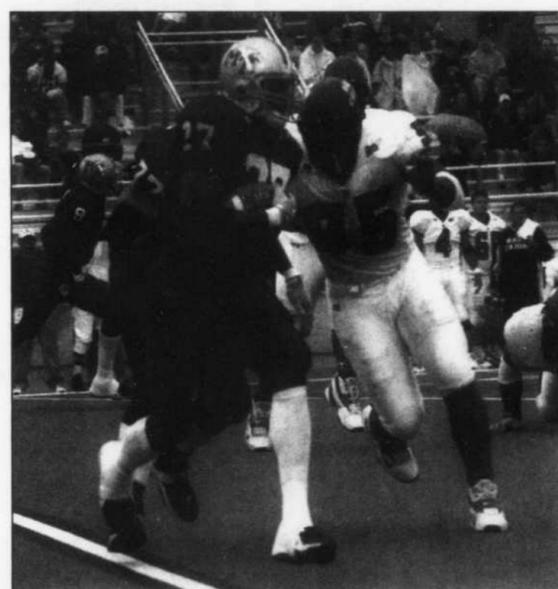


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Tyrone Calico was injured in Saturday's game.

Football Notebook

- After averaging only 17 points a game through their first six games, the MT offense exploded for 48 on Saturday. Andrico Hines was the leading rusher and passer as he ran for 75 yards and threw for 347 as the Blue Raiders racked up 520 yards of total offense.

- MT's defense turned in its best performance of the year against the run, holding ULL to just 20 yards on 32 carries, an average of less than 1 yard per carry.

- Kareem Bland made his first start of the season at linebacker and made the most of it. The senior from Conley, Ga., tied with Tony Sutton for the team high in tackles. Bland also added a sack.

- Muhammad Rashada grabbed his second interception of the year, stepping in front of Ragin' Cajun receiver Andre George at the MT 5-yard line when it appeared ULL was heading for a touchdown.

- Rashard Lee saw his three game streak of gaining 100-plus yards rushing come to an end. Lee gained 28 yards on 11 carries. One of those however was an 18-yard touchdown on his first carry of the game.

- Hines set career highs in passing yards, rushing yards, and rushing touchdowns yesterday. Hines tallied the second biggest total offense day in MT history as he ran for 75 yards and three touchdowns and threw for 347 yards and another score.

- Brian Kelly got his groove back as he made field goals of 40 and 37 yards, the first of which put MT ahead 15 points - just 23 seconds remaining in the first half. Kelly had missed his last two field goal attempts. ◆

Middle Tennessee defense continues roll despite few glitches

By David Hunter
Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee defense bent but did not break in Saturday's 48-35 victory over the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The defense gave up some big plays at the end of the game as ULL trying to make a furious comeback. However, the defense also made some key stops to help the offense put some points on the board.

"We were flying around a little better on defense today," MT linebacker Brandon Lynch said. "I thought we played well in the first half, but we still gave up some big plays in the passing game, which we need to get corrected."

ULL quarterback Jon Van Cleave completed 28-41 passes for 396 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw an interception to Muhammad Rashada in the first quarter. Van Cleave was sacked three times in the game by linebackers

Kenny Edwards, Kareem Bland and defensive end Curtis Daniely.

Bland had a career high in sacks and a season high in tackles with eight in his first start of the season. The sack by Daniely in the third quarter was his first of the season. Edwards' sack in the first quarter was his first ever.

The defense did not allow any points by ULL on their first four possessions.

ULL receivers Fred Stamps and Andre George combined for 17 catches for 282 yards and a touchdown.

The defense held the rushing attack of ULL to only 20 yards, and an average of 0.6 per carry. ULL running back Jerome Coleman ran the ball for 32 yards and two touchdowns.

Late in the fourth quarter with less than three minutes left in the contest. Van Cleave hit George with a 44-yard pass to the MT 1-yard line with the Blue Raiders up 45-29.

"I thought defensively did some really good things early," head coach Andy

McCullum said. "Our defense kept us in the first half when we were turning the ball over and making some mistakes."

"We had a couple of breakdowns. You don't let people behind you when you're ahead like that. We'll get that straight."

However, the defense hung tough and stopped ULL three times at the MT goal line. On fourth down, Coleman finally scored from the one to cut the MT lead down to 48-35.

"The defense going out there on that last series on the goal line to make them take four downs to score, that took about a minute and a half off the clock. Even though they scored, that was key," McCullum said.

"That allowed us to just get one first down and finish this thing up."

This week the defense has another tough task ahead when the Blue Raiders travel to Idaho.

The game time is 2 p.m. Saturday. ◆

2002 Sun Belt Conference volleyball overview

2002 SBC Volleyball Standings

Week of Oct. 21

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
Western Kentucky	22	4	.846	W8
Arkansas-Little Rock	9	9	.500	W2
Arkansas State	8	13	.381	W1
Middle Tennessee	12	10	.545	L1
Florida International	6	16	.273	L2

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
New Mexico State	17	5	.773	W1
North Texas	12	12	.500	W4
UL Lafayette	9	11	.450	W3
New Orleans	9	13	.409	L1
Denver	2	15	.118	L6
South Alabama	5	12	.294	L7

Arkansas-Little Rock

Ivana Kuzmic led the Trojans with 31 kills and 25 blocks (8 solo, 17 assists, 2.27 blocks per game) during three matches last week. She posted double-digit kills in all three matches with 10 against Oral Roberts, 11 against South Alabama and 10 against New Orleans.

Kuzmic has now double-digit kills in eight of her past nine matches. She tallied her fourth double-digit block match of the season with 10 (three solo, seven assists) against New Orleans. She compiled a .409 hitting percentage against South Alabama her second highest total for the season.

MacKenzie Eisler posted a team-high 32 digs (3.20 digs per game) during three matches last week.

Arkansas State

Miranda Griffin had 43 kills (3.07 k/g) in three matches and hit .301 during the week.

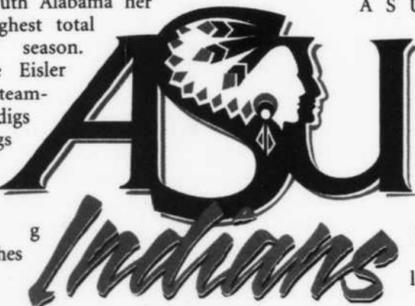
She also, had one ace along with 10 total blocks (two solo, eight block assists). Tessa MacMilliam recorded 60 digs (4.29 d/g) in three matches last week.



Florida International

Adriana Fundora recorded her ninth double-double of the season and first 20-20 of the year with a season-high 26 kills and 20 digs, along with four service aces against once-beaten Miami. She followed that performance with a combined 11 kills and 12 digs at North Texas and Louisiana-Lafayette.

In 11 games, the junior averaged 3.36 kills per game, 0.45 service aces, 2.91 digs and 0.36 blocks. Fundora has a team high 283 kills, 233 digs and 41 service aces on the season. Jennifer Owens added 16 kills, five digs and blocking assists in the win over Miami. ♦



snapped a three-game losing streak with the win against USA. Three Lady Indians have reached the 200-kill plateau. Miranda Griffin leads the team with

Sun Belt: Money determining opponents

Continued from 7

"A big part of it depends on whether or not a team flies or drives. Even if a team was to drive, then we still have to rent out a hotel for them to rent before. How would you like to have just a jug of orange juice, travel 1,300 miles and then have to play the next day?"

In order to gain an automatic BCS bid, teams must be in

one of six conferences or Notre Dame. They are the following: Atlantic Coast Conference, SEC, Big 10, Big 12, Big East and Pacific 10.

Another factor in the equation for SBC football is recruiting.

"When we went I-A, we had to make sure that we would recruit the right kids into the program," Donnelly said. "Fortunately we have been able

to do that."

However, MT head coach Andy McCollum is a little concerned about the future of recruiting.

"For the meantime, I have no idea what this means for recruiting," McCollum said. "This (playing BCS schools) did make our name known nationwide, but since we are 1-5, I don't know what that is going to do for our respect." ♦

Football: Van Cleave hit hard by defense

Continued from 7

win than when you lose."

MT would answer with a 40-yard Brian Kelly field goal to close out the half.

"For the offense to go back down and get the field goal before the half was big," McCollum said. "We said 'you know we had a lead but we did some things to hurt ourselves, but we're going into the half up two,' that was key."

The teams traded touch-

downs before MT reeled off 21 straight to take a 45-22 lead. Hines scored on a 1-yard run, hit Kerry Wright for a 53-yard touchdown and found Chris Henry for 44 yards to set up Hicks' 4-yard touchdown.

The Blue Raider defense made just enough plays, picking off Van Cleave once, sacking him three times and limiting the Ragin' Cajuns to just 20 yards on 32 carries.

Though ULL quarterback Van Cleave passed for 396 yards

and two touchdowns, McCollum was pleased with his team's overall defensive effort.

"If you don't stop the run you've got problems," McCollum said. "We were able to stop the run and play very physical, but their offense is good."

The win moves the Blue Raiders to 2-5 overall, 1-1 in the conference. ULL drops to 1-6 overall, and remain in search of their first Sun Belt Conference victory at 0-2. ♦

Wednesday, October 23 @ 7:30 p.m.

LIVE

FREE Concert on the Knoll

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IS MORALITY POSSIBLE WITHOUT GOD?

A Dialogue between **Tom Flynn**, editor of *FREE INQUIRY* Magazine, a publication of the Council for Secular Humanism, and **Dr. Randall Bush**, Professor of Philosophy and Christian Studies at Union University.

The discussion will be moderated by Dr. John Vile, Chair of MTSU's Political Science Department. A time for questions from the audience will follow the dialogue.

Monday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.
JUB Tennessee Room

This event is jointly sponsored by the MTSU Chapters of the Campus Freethought Alliance and Baptist Collegiate Ministries