



Amnesty film shows maternal mortality.

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MON 72°/48°

TUES 69°/48°

WED 69°/46°

Ticket distribution plan in place for MSU game.

Sports, page 7



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

VOL. 86, NO. 8

Gender identity bill passes through SGA senate

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

The gender identity bill that originally failed during the summer vote of the Student Government Association senate passed last Thursday, 23 to 3.

The bill will require gender identity to be included in the SGA constitution. The bill will now become a referendum, which will

require a two-third vote by the student body.

Brandon Thomas, SGA senator and member of MT Lambda, originally introduced the bill during the summer and said that its reintroduction and passage was a great step towards making the inclusion of gender identity a reality.

"I am very happy that it passed through the SGA," Thomas said. "Its original

failure kind of discouraged me, but I had to keep on going because this affects more people than just one person or just me."

Thomas said that gender identity is the gender(s), or lack thereof, with which a person identifies. He said it is not necessarily based on biological fact nor is it always based on sexual orientation. The gender identities one may choose from include male, female, both,

somewhere in between or neither.

come of the vote because he didn't fully understand

subject, he realized that it was important.

"There are a couple of reasons why I wanted it to pass - One, the TBR system, which is the umbrella over MTSU, has recently adopted gender identity into [its] non-discriminatory clause; so, under TBR policy, we have to follow it anyways," McNary said.

"It's original failure kind of discouraged me, but I had to keep on going because this affects more people than just one person or just me."

BRANDON THOMAS
SGA SENATOR

Brandon McNary, SGA president, said that he is pleased with the out-

gender identity during the summer vote, but upon further investigation of the

GENDER, PAGE 3

Senator proposes more town hall meetings

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

The Student Government Association is scheduled to vote Thursday, Oct. 8, on a resolution that will require the SGA to hold town hall meetings inviting the current president of the university to address the student body's issues and concerns.

Richard Lowe, senator of the College of Mass Communications, introduced the resolution at last Thursday's senate meeting but requested to take the motion from the table to change the title of the resolution.

Lowe said that he thinks this resolution is important because it gives students the chance to address the president of their university and open the lines of communication between the student body and the administration.

"I think that more than anything, it creates the opportunity for the student body to be able to address the issues to the president of the university," Lowe said. "It needs to become a tradition where the president addresses the student body about what's going on so that no one is lost going into the school year."

Brandon McNary, SGA president, said that the resolution would have passed last week, but needed the revisions first.

"It would have passed in the last meeting, but I had to stop it because it was in violation - so I notified them," McNary said. "It was then taken off of the agenda so Lowe could go and fix the problems and bring it back up."

Lowe said the reason the resolution was removed was

because of the time limit. He said the SGA originally wanted to hold the meeting within the first month, but the problem was that it is university policy not hold any events during the first two weeks of the school year.

"This means you'd only give yourself two weeks to do anything," Lowe said. "We are talking about Week of Welcome and then two weeks to put something together, so we extended that time."

Lowe said that with the changes, the resolution would now give the SGA 45 days to plan the meeting and make sure the next university president has enough time to prepare and participate in the event.

TOWN, PAGE 2

Ladies participate in leadership luncheon

By MEGAN MCSWAIN
Staff Writer

The Association of Faculty and Administrative Women's "Exploring the Campus around Us" program informed attendees about campus resources at its annual fall luncheon Sept. 24.

The organization's lun-

cheon welcomed new faculty and administrative women and featured presentations about using student information to predict academic performance, using databases, teaching workshops and other campus resources.

The AFAW Web site stated that the organiza-

tion, which began in 1975, is concerned with women's issues like mentoring, day care, salary equalization studies and campus safety. Anyone who supports women's issues can become a member - including men.

WOMEN, PAGE 3

Zetas returns to campus

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

After remaining inactive for an entire year, sorority Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity will return to campus this semester and will be recruiting new members this week.

No former members of Zeta were available for comment on the reason for the removal of the chapter. However, Angela King, director of Greek Affairs, said that the sorority made a personal choice to leave campus and were not being removed by the university.

"It wasn't a university decision," King

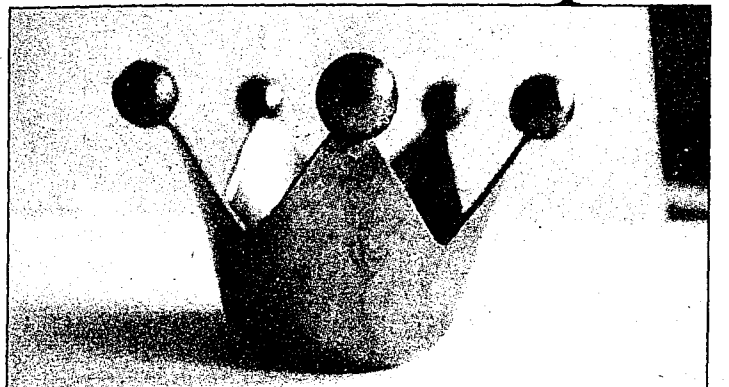


Photo courtesy of morgefile.com

said. "They weren't in trouble; it was just the organization's decision."

Traveling leadership consultant Carrington Clevenger said she didn't wish to comment on why the ZTA's national headquar-

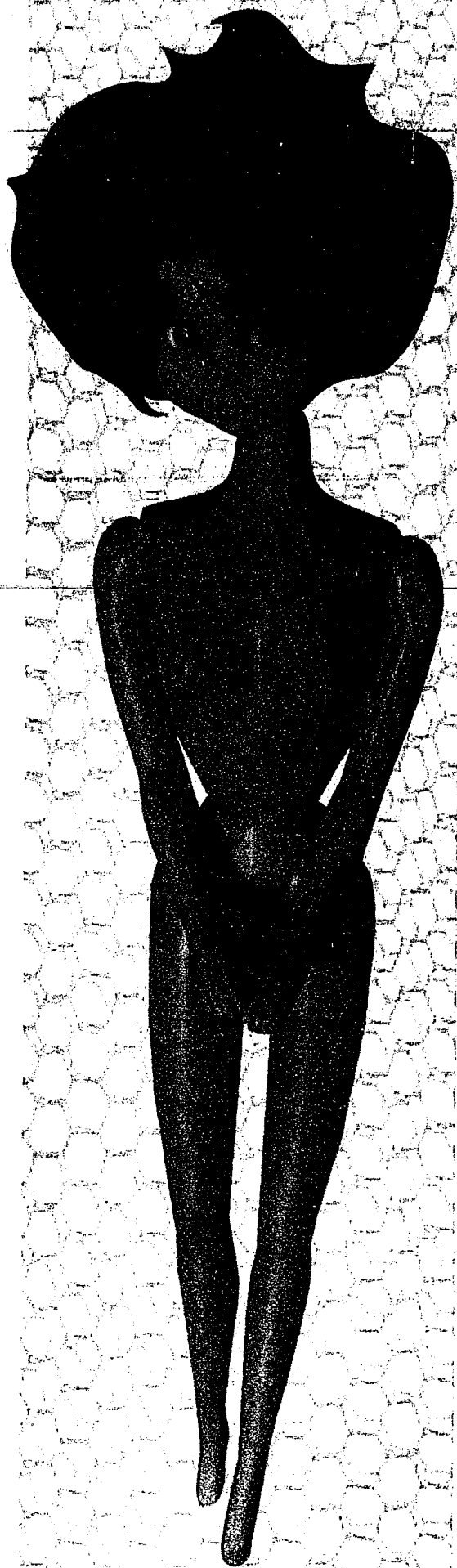
ters decided to shut down the chapter at MTSU.

"It was just a gradual decline," Clevenger said. "It's going to be different this year."

ZETA, PAGE 2

STI RATES IN TENNESSEE WOMEN SPIKE

Page 2



Chlamydia-
In 100,000 women, the rate of chlamydia is 90 percent higher than the 2010 Healthy People goal.

Gonorrhea-
In 100,000 women, the rate of gonorrhea is 90 percent higher than the 2010 Healthy People goal.

Syphilis-
In 100,000 women, the rate of syphilis is 90 percent higher than the 2010 Healthy People goal.

The Women's Health Report Card is a review of more than 3 million women in Tennessee.

Tennessee women fail STI report card

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

The 2009 Tennessee Women's Health Report Card revealed that sexually transmitted infections in women have spiked since 2002.

Health officials viewed the records of more than 3 million women in the state and found cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis had risen between 2002 and 2007.

Maureen Nokes, director of Nursing at the MTSU Health and Student Services, said better technology and more testing is the cause for this spike among college students.

"I think we are seeing more of it in the college because more of them are coming in to be tested, and we have better testing now than we had even three years ago," Nokes said. "The price is very low too, so I think we have more students coming in to do the test, which would obviously make our numbers higher."

The report card stated that in 100,000 women, the rate of chlamydia has risen among Tennessee women by 25 percent. The report card also said that this calculation is 90 percent worse than the Healthy People 2010 benchmark goal.

Nokes said that the fear in sexually transmitted infections has seemed to diminish in relation to when she was younger.

"I just wonder if this generation is as afraid of STIs as older generations were," Nokes said. "When I was 17, if someone said I had chlamydia,

I'd have been hysterical, but we see 20-year-olds come with chlamydia and they are just like 'OK, how long do I have to take the medicine?'"

Nokes said that while there is a cure for chlamydia, continuous infections could be hazardous to a woman's health.

"In the female, consistent chlamydia infections can lead to infertility, and I don't know that girls, young college girls, are thinking about when they have a baby in three or four years," Nokes said. "However, right now is the time to think about that and they should."

In 100,000 women, syphilis and gonorrhea were both 90 percent higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal, which is to eliminate health disparities among different segments of the population.

Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Women's Center, said that she believes more information is the reason for this spike in STIs among women.

"I think people see the se-

mation is a constant among students at MTSU, and that over the past couple of years, more pamphlets have been required to meet the need for information.

"It is a constant," Johnson said. "Sometimes you see more at the beginning of the school year, but we see it throughout the year so we've had to have more information."

Nokes and Johnson disagreed, however, on the reason for the rise in numbers of women with STIs and how the media influenced that.

"I think we have become desensitized to the whole idea because of the media," Nokes said. "I come in, I find out I have an STI, I take an antibiotic for 10 days and it's over."

Nokes said that all of the nurses and doctors at the health center inform both sexually and non-sexually active people about the causes and preventatives of STIs, but that hasn't stopped the cases.

"We remind them to use condoms and inform them

"I think we are seeing more of it in the college because more of them are coming in to be tested."

MAUREEN NOKES
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

riousness of it and are more aware and educated about it," Johnson said. "People are more likely to report it now because of that education."

Johnson said while information is more readily available now, providing infor-

as much as possible," Nokes said. "But again, they are still coming in and they still have it."

Johnson, however, said she felt that more advertising and information has given more women the cour-

fast food theory."

"If your burger is messed up, you want to see the manager," Lowe said. "You don't want to see the cashier, the supervisor or everybody else in between - you want to talk to the person who is in charge of the operation, because that is the person who should know all the answers, and that is the person who should be able to make a change."

Lowe said that the previous town hall meetings were not monitored or scheduled well, and that that is something the SGA is going to take seriously during the preparation of the meetings.

"We want everyone to express their view, but during the past town hall meeting, people jumped on stage with a sign, and we don't want that to happen because at that point, we feel like it is an issue of safety," Lowe said. "We

want this to be an open event where people can express their ideas, but we want to make it as safe as possible for our president, and we don't need people hopping up on stage and holding up banners - it is just as effective if you are in the audience doing the same thing."

McNary said that the scheduling of the event will also be different from previous town hall meetings in that the SGA would make sure it was at a time that the highest number of students could attend.

"It's important to have it at a more convenient time so that a larger group of students can participate, and there are [fewer] classes from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. than 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.," McNary said. "It would open up to a larger crowd and, therefore more questions and concerns, which will allow more things to get answered."

ing leadership consultants to help recruit girls who meet the criteria of ZTA's strive towards excellence.

"We are looking for the whole package," Clevenger said. "Girls that are well-rounded, leaders on campus and willing to put in a little hard work because we are starting this new chapter."

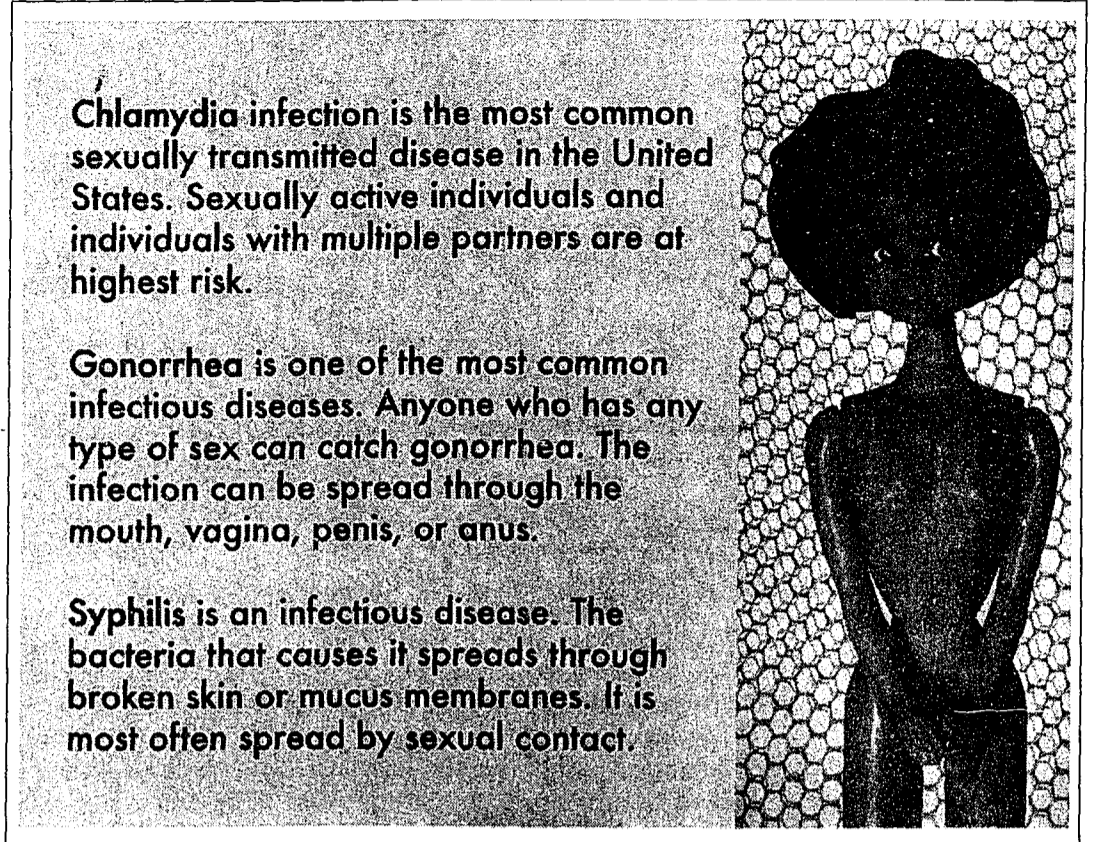
The consultants spent the past week passing out flyers and providing informa-

tion to girls on campus who might be interested in joining the sorority.

"You'd think with such a large population on this campus that everyone knows about Greek life," Varner said. "However, a lot of people don't, so we are providing them an opportunity to join if they haven't joined another already."

Varner said the reason that ZTA is different from other sororities is that its national philanthropy for breast cancer education and awareness is one to which most women will relate.

"People will walk by our table and say, 'Oh, I know someone who has had breast cancer,' whether it's their mom or a friend's mom," Varner said. "It affects so many women, and that just gives you the extra drive to try harder to raise money and awareness."



Chlamydia infection is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Sexually active individuals and individuals with multiple partners are at highest risk.

Gonorrhea is one of the most common infectious diseases. Anyone who has any type of sex can catch gonorrhea. The infection can be spread through the mouth, vagina, penis, or anus.

Syphilis is an infectious disease. The bacteria that causes it spreads through broken skin or mucus membranes. It is most often spread by sexual contact.

Graphic by Shelley Vernon, production manager

age step forward instead of feeling ashamed.

"The secret and shame is being removed and people are more aware that it can happen to anyone," Johnson said. "I think advertisements and the willingness of people to talk about it have helped in that aspect so the women don't feel judged."

Nokes said that Lisa Thomson, director of Health Promotions for MTSU, is teaching students more about STIs and the Tunnel of Terror will also help get students informed.

"With our new health educator and 'The Tunnel of Terror' on Oct. 26, we are really

going to get people knowledgeable about STIs," Nokes said. "We are participating in the event because it's a whole education on STIs."

The Tunnel of Terror is held in the James Union Building where it will provide information on STIs and provide free HIV testing. The test is an oral swab that Nokes said would produce results in 20 minutes.

"It is not 100 percent accurate but if it comes back positive we will do further testing."

Nokes said that the MTSU health center has become a site for the state, and that they do HIV tests for free.

"They don't have to see a doctor - They can just come into the health center at any time and ask and we do it for free," Nokes said.

Nokes said that while information is key, one of the easiest ways to prevent yourself from getting an STI or curing it is to get tested and use protection.

"Be tested early, get your annual exams," Nokes said. "Get exams at age 21 if you're not sexually active - if you are, then within 12 months of when you become sexually active."

Nokes said the earlier STIs are caught, the easier they are to treat.

TOWN FROM PAGE 1

Lowe said the idea of a town hall meeting was not a new one but that he wanted to give students the opportunity every semester to address their problems to the president.

"Student media, Sidelines, WMTS and MTTV, already do a town hall meeting with the SGA on a panel, so I looked at it as something that could be done on a greater scale, seeing as how the SGA and Student Programming have tried to do the same thing with McPhee in the past," Lowe said. "I saw what they did and tried to fix the mistakes that I saw had been made in those attempts, and put it all into our resolution."

Lowe said his idea of holding a town hall meeting was about a year in the making, and was similar to what he calls "the

ZETA FROM PAGE 1

Amanda Varner, another consultant, said she also didn't want to comment on what happened last year and would rather focus on the future.

"They decided to take a break and come back this year starting fresh," Varner said. "Most of the old members went alum."

The organization's national headquarters sent five travel-

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by Lynnese, Ind. Disbr.



BEFORE AFTER

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TBR tobacco ban smokes out Dwight

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

Dwight's Mini Mart can no longer sell tobacco products on the MTSU campus due to a ban enforced by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The vote, which took place Sept. 25, is the TBR's first official mandate against tobacco, although

MTSU remained the only TBR university to sell tobacco products prior to the ban.

"I'm sure that they are trying to do what is best for the majority of people," said Dwight Johnson, proprietor of Dwight's Mini Mart. "I know there are some detrimental effects of tobacco, but the only thing I see is that in our

country, people should have a choice; those that choose to harm their body - it's up to them."

Johnson said 40 percent of his profits come from tobacco products.

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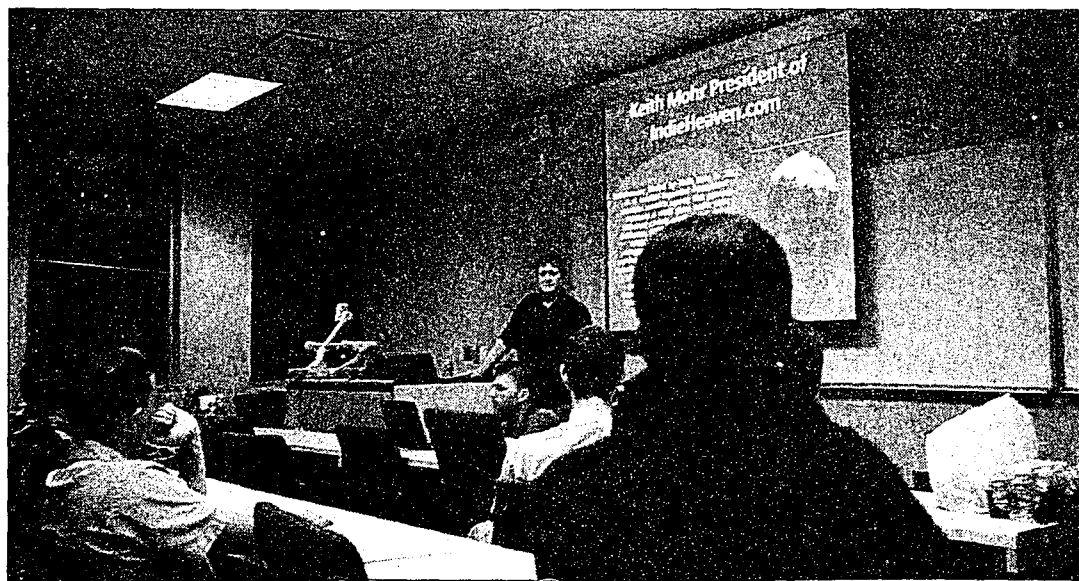


Photo by Sarah Finchum, contributing photographer
Keith Mohr, founder of indieheaven.com, speaks to students about the advantages of signing with a label.

Christian record label rocks campus

By BEN UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Music industry students and aspiring independent artists received advice and perspective from a longtime Christian music industry professional Thursday night.

Keith Mohr, the founder of indieheaven.com, the largest network of independent Christian musicians, spoke

profile and biography, as well as sell their music to fans. Mohr's site is different because artists pay a monthly subscription fee, as opposed to other sites that provide hosting for free.

However, Mohr said his model is better because it gives the artist much more than other sites can provide.

"They get me," Mohr said. "The fee buys a lot of personal

contracts tend to blow up because of frustration - This way I'm here if they need me."

Mohr said the economy has hurt his business by bringing his number of subscribers down to around 630 artists from over 700.

Mohr said he will never try to manage or sign his artists.

"I've never been in a label or wanted to be - I don't like what the system does to artists," Mohr said. "You can't manage independent artists; they want to do their own thing, and that's fine."

Mohr said the immobility of major record labels has led to their downfall.

To read more, visit us online.
online
www.mtsusidelines.com

“It's relationship-based and not contract-based.”

KEITH MOHR
FOUNDER OF INDIEHEAVEN.COM

at the weekly Christian Music Society meeting on the future of the music industry and the options available to independent artists.

Mohr's Web site provides a space for members to create a

attention from me." Mohr said he provides mentoring and advice in addition to fast customer service.

"It's relationship-based and not contract-based," Mohr said. "Relationships based on

GENDER FROM PAGE 1

"There are educational systems across the state including Vanderbilt University, University of Tennessee, Shelbyville High School, Nashville Metro and several others [that] have all adopted it as well; so it is not just something locally, it is a statewide thing."

McNary said that the biggest reason he was happy the bill passed was because all students should feel safe, accepted and represented by the SGA and their university.

"It is important to understand that there is a large majority of students that, if the bill passes, won't affect, and they don't care much about and if it doesn't pass the same is the case," McNary said.

"However if the bill passes there is a small minority of students on campus that now feel more protected, more comfortable with their student government and feel like we represent them, but if it doesn't pass, that same minority of students feel even less comfortable and feel like their student government went out of their way not to protect them."

Thomas said that when it comes to voting for the stu-

dent government, people must set aside their own personal beliefs.

"Opinions have to be left at the door because you are representing 500 students," Thomas said. "I can understand where someone could vote if they aren't knowledgeable - If you aren't knowledgeable, you shouldn't vote."

Thomas said that while the original rejection of the vote was disappointing, the blame can't be placed solely on the other senators that he felt he had made mistakes too.

"I think I kind of fumbled a little bit too and I should have connected with more people and informed them so it would have passed initially," Thomas said. "It is a learning process."

McNary said that he doesn't think the inclusion of gender identity will make a huge impact on the campus as a whole, but it will make a difference.

"You don't have to be similar to every person you represent but you do need to represent them," McNary said. "I don't know that this is going to have a huge impact on the campus as a whole but it will have an impact with a minor group of students and they will feel more represented and that is our goal."

Thomas said that he thought his persistence was the only reason this bill was reintroduced, and had he not pushed the issue, it would have died.

"I don't think it would have been brought up again in this congress, maybe Brandon McNary would have picked it up because he got more knowledgeable about the issue, but I don't know," Thomas said. "I doubt they would have gotten more educated had I not pushed it."

Thomas said that the community is not as informed about gender identity because of the lack of education in the school system.

"I think it hasn't been brought up before because we aren't taught in school about it," Thomas said. "I think there is not really an effort there yet because the transgender movement started in the early '90s and the gay movement started in the '60s, so it is something that has just been progressing over time."

Thomas said it is great to see that the transgender movement has made great strides in less than 20 years.

"I think that's why, because a lot of people just don't know about it," Thomas said. "They don't even know the term, so it is really just education."

WOMEN FROM PAGE 1

"Any faculty member or administrator could choose to support women by membership in the organization," said Carol Ann Baily, director of Off-campus Student Services and former AFAW president. "We invite the male faculty members and administrators to participate in our work."

Amy York, a librarian who was encouraged to attend the fall luncheon a few years ago when she became a new member, said the organization supports and promotes women on campus, and encourages leadership and equality for women.

"It's just a great way for faculty and administrative women to become involved in and contribute to any issues facing women on campus,"

said Kippy Todd, former AFAW treasurer.

Baily said there are still important women's issues to examine and stand up for.

"I think it is important to continue the work for women on campus," Baily said. "We still do not have equal pay in some levels, and we have childcare issues and other equity issues that continue to concern women more than."

CURRENT EVENTS

Developing Your Future: Career Development Week

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, select dates and times
For more information and a list of events, visit mtsu.edu/~career

Twilight Visions: Surrealism photography and Paris

Sept. 28 through Jan. 3
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Admission: \$8.50, \$6.50 students
Free for college students with ID on Thursday and Friday from 5-9 p.m.

National Walking Horse Association National Championship

Show
Sept. 28 - Oct. 3, select times
Location: Tennessee Miller Coliseum
For information, visit nwha.com

B.B. King
Sept. 28-29, 5 p.m.
Location: B.B. King's Blues Club and Restaurant
Admission: \$30

Rock Prophecies
Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
Location: Hinton Music Hall
Admission: free

First Friday Star Party
Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m.
"Atmospheric Fireworks: Auroras in the Solar System"
Location: Wisner-Patten Science

Hall, room 102
Admission: free

Snow Patrol
Oct. 2, 8 p.m.
Location: Ryman Auditorium
Admission: \$30

Mozart's Requiem
Oct. 4, 3 p.m.
Location: Hinton Music Hall

Invasion of the Body Snatchers
Oct. 3-4, 12 p.m.
Oct. 5, 9:30 p.m.
Location: Belcourt Theater
For more information, visit belcourt.org

CRIME BRIEFS

Sept. 21, 1:14 p.m.
Drug Abuse
Wood Hall
The area coordinator called requesting an officer to come dispose of marijuana that was found.

Sept. 22, 3:27 a.m.
Traffic
Friendship Street
Ernesto Ayala was issued a state citation for driving without a license.

Sept. 22, 11:11 a.m.
Traffic
Greenland Drive Lot B
Witness stopped officer and reported seeing a hit and run.

Sept. 22, 11:46 a.m.
Vehicle Stop
Rutherford Boulevard
Daniel Hudgins was charged with possession of burglary tools.

Sept. 22, 12:43 a.m.
Harassment
Sims Hall
Victim reported that he is receiving


harassing phone calls.
Sept. 22, 5:58 p.m.
Assault
Peck Hall
Victim reported that she had been assaulted by another student.

Victim obtained a warrant against the suspect and will be responsible for prosecution once the warrant is served.

Sept. 22, 7:39 p.m.
Theft
Kirksey Old Main
Victim reported that her purse was stolen.

Sept. 22, 7:51 p.m.
Traffic
Greenland Drive Lot B
Victim reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked in the lot.

Sept. 22, 11:30 p.m.
Vandalism
Faulkberry Drive
Report of a blue Honda Civic that has been keyed.



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Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Time to take responsibility for women's health in Tenn.

For the first time in several years, Tennessee has received a failing score in its 2009 Tennessee Women's Health Report card.

This report focuses primarily on women's reproductive health, measuring Tennessee women against national benchmarks and goals for STI reduction.

Our failing scores present a mixed-bag of problems. On one hand, the raw data suggest that more women are infected with entirely preventable and curable STIs.

On the other hand, there is a possibility that more women realize that these infections are dangerous, and are being tested more often.

Either way, now is not the time to slack off in our efforts to make Tennessee a healthier state. The fact remains that we have a high rate of STI infection compared to the rest of the country.

Since testing is more available than now than ever, we have the opportunity to make serious reductions in STI infection.

The benchmarks we've missed are the ones that measure infection rates among different segments of the population. That means that some groups of women get tested, and some don't. These are the things on which to focus.

This is not to say that men should get a pass, either. There ought to be a report card for men's health. It takes two to tango, so it logically follows that if women are catching STIs, they're catching them from men, at least most of the time.

This report card is a long-overdue wake-up call for a state that has lagged in women's health for years.

These infections are entirely preventable, and mature, intelligent, sexually-active men and women should all be interested in staying clean.



Listen to Editorial Board online at mtsusidelines.com/multimedia

Society distracted from issues

"I'ma let you finish but Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time!" —the stinging words from Kanye West heard 'round the world during the MTV Video Music Awards.

Millions watched in disgust as West steamrolled Taylor Swift, whose speech he interrupted after she won best female video. Most are fed up with West's arrogance and him walking around like a Greek god.

Obviously, West is very creative, but he forgets what it's like to be on the bottom. He seems to think that the world owes him something.

Mark Twain said, "the world owes you nothing. It was here first."

West certainly had people talking; his actions shifted the focus of Americans from the war and the economy to him being rude. It became an overnight sensation, resulting in YouTube videos, blogs, Tweets and Facebook quizzes. What West did at the VMAs was disrespectful and irrelevant. While we were caught up in West inter-



Perceptions

Jessica Harris

rupting speeches, thousands of innocent young children were lured or sold into the sex trade, for example.

So what does that say about our society? We are willing to have an overnight movement on interrupted award speeches when it should be a revolution for poverty, Darfur and human trafficking. We have become so wrapped up in pop culture and technology that we have forgotten about the reality of humankind.

Mark Twain also said, "denial ain't just a river in Egypt" and despite popular belief, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Between 14,500 and 17,500 people

have been trafficked into the U.S., according to the Human Trafficking Organization and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is estimated that another 200,000 will be captured within the next year elsewhere.

Most people feel that it's better and safer to remain clueless, rather than get caught up in the problems of the world. We don't want to deal with the reality of the awful inhumane things that don't run on the evening news. The topics that only get public recognition years after the atrocity begins.

An example would be the genocide in Rwanda.

According to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, the massacre started in 1959. Over 800,000 people were involved in the tribal war -mutilated or otherwise affected.

The numbers are staggering; we are talking about small cities. It wasn't until 1994 the war finally ended. In 2004, the movie "Hotel Rwanda" was released, ten years after the fact.

After all the international

"We have to realize what the most important things are. We need to stand up and be in control."

efforts to help Rwanda get back on its feet again, the world reminded itself not to let something like that get out of hand.

Sure enough, several years after "Hotel Rwanda" was released, the conflict in Uganda began. The country is consumed in a civil war, now claiming the lives of innocent children. According to the Huffington Post, over 25,000 children have been "drafted" into the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), while another 40,000 flee their homes to avoid being captured.

We need to turn off the TV and tune into reality. This is not to say that we should do away with entertainment, but to prioritize. For our society, blood will have to be shed (as if enough hasn't been already). Not many Americans were concerned with terrorists, the Middle East and oil until 9/11, when

we declared war as a result. Why do two thousand people have to die before we wake up?

We have got to realize what the most important things are. We need to stand up and stop letting things take their course and be in control. Our society is willing to tolerate poverty, high gas prices and a ridiculously expensive war.

The time has come when enough is enough. We should be helping other nations, and building relationships to help people in this world. We may not all be on the same page but let's find some middle ground that doesn't involve nuclear weapons.

What has changed over the years to make us complacent and willing to tolerate almost anything?

Jessica Harris is a junior journalism major and can be reached at jh3y@mtsu.edu

US, Muslim world need cooperation

More than a billion people are adherents to it. It is arguably the fastest growing religion in the world. Yet there seems to be a cloud of apprehension and fear that hangs over many Americans when it comes to Islam.

There has been much debate about the misconceptions about Islam and from where they come. Some say it is the media's lack of positive coverage on the religion, while others suggest it is just a simple misunderstanding and ignorance of the faith, and some express more negative and hateful views.

Whatever the case, I wanted to know why a religion and culture that billions on the planet embrace is so misunderstood and stereotyped. I started to gain an interest in Islam and the Middle East shortly after the Iraq War began.

Television reports focused almost daily on the battle to oust Saddam Hussein. For the next few months and



I'm just sayin'

Sam Ashby

years, the world's gaze was fixed on the Middle East, much like it is now. By the 2008 presidential election, Islam was a subject that many had trouble understanding.

Although the Iraq War focused my attention on Islam, it wasn't until the past election that I began to sympathize with Muslims in America.

Everyone remembers the rumors and chain e-mails saying that then-Senator Barack Obama was a Muslim and that he had taken his oath for the Senate on the Quran. Although the noise

finally subsided, there are still some people who claim our president is a Muslim.

But what if he were? Would it matter? It shouldn't. This is what former Secretary of State Colin Powell brought up in a now famous interview on "Meet the Press" in October of 2008: "He's always been a Christian. But really the right answer is, what if he is [a Muslim]? Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer's no, that's not America."

After the elections in Iran, reports of election fraud flooded social media sites and major news organizations. Then the protests began. Young and old Iranians alike filled the streets of Tehran and cities all over the globe demanding the world take notice.

It was at this moment, watching the brave young people of Iran risking their lives for democracy and freedom, that I became inspired.

Over the next few days, millions across the globe watched as helpless Iranian citizens were mercilessly beaten and silenced by a cruel regime.

Many gave up their lives for what we here in America often take for granted: freedom. Then after a week or two, the reports stopped. The protests quieted down, and everything went back to the way it was.

That wasn't the case in Iran though. There are still young Iranian students and civilians fighting for their freedom, longing to be heard. Many have been jailed and tortured for simply speaking out against the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

After the noise quieted down, I focused my attention on Muslims here in the U.S. What was being done to spread the knowledge of Islam and defeat the misconceptions and prejudices? Right here at MTSU, the

Muslim Students Association is one of the most active clubs on campus. Their goal is to "educate Muslims and non-Muslims about Islam through a variety of activities and events." It's safe to say that the MSA has an uphill battle to climb when it comes to educating those who may not know a lot about Islam. Like the citizens of Iran, they, too, face an important struggle -one that is just as urgent and necessary as the battle for freedom in Iran.

The battle to help Muslims who are fighting for freedom in Iran and around the globe starts with those who are educating others about Islam, an example being the MSA. These students know that knowledge is power, and with that power comes the chance to improve the lives of millions around the world.

Sam Ashby is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at sa2s@mtsu.edu

Fiscal crisis forces re-evaluation of debt

Those of us who are not economists, who do not speak the language of political money, might be having a hard time grasping what it is that is going on in our economy.

As with most aspects of politics, much of the language used to describe what exactly is happening is misleading and confusing in nature, if not on purpose. Furthermore, trying to do research for oneself is a hefty responsibility. Our discourse is predicated on misleading speech.

To achieve an accurate and well-rounded understanding of the current economic situation would take many hours and a whole lot of research.

To cut through this red tape, I did some research of my own and then inquired of Timmons, an associate professor in the Economics and Finance Department here at MTSU.

During our discourse, Timmons described our economy as one that has been "predicated upon by the easy extension and use of credit." What



Dogood's post

Brett Johnson

this means is that as an economy we have taken advantage of credit lines.

In the past, those who were not in a stable financial situation accessed credit in whatever form, be it credit card finance, loans, etc.

Even worse is that we have seen a large number of creditors who took advantage of the people's desire of this credit.

Essentially, people who have no business taking out loans, applying for credit cards, or financing homes or cars have been given a green light to spend and therefore

run up their debt. What this has done is create a unique situation in which we are both enhanced and hindered by this accumulation of debt.

On the other hand, this debt has helped to boost our economy for generations. Understand that when you swipe your credit card or use a mortgage to buy a home, you do not personally see that money, but it is there.

The person or company to which you are indebted, usually a bank, makes good on your expenditure and forwards the money to wherever it needs to go.

So, while you do not see the money, the economic growth is there. This spending stimulates the economy.

Now, as a nation, we are more likely to spend than to save. We, by all definitions, are a consumer-based economy.

So, imagine a giant pool in which we all throw money and everything is well; schools are refurbished, neighborhoods shoot up left and right, and most people are relatively

"People who have no business taking out loans, applying for credit cards or financing homes or cars have been given the green light to spend and therefore run up their debt."

prosperous. Then we begin to slide into this recession, which has been going on for 18 months.

This recession has exposed a huge problem in the way Americans choose to spend their money. In the past, we have relied heavily upon the people's line of credit to help sustain the economy and boost it in times of recession.

That is, our economy has been majorly dependent on spending, especially those who are going into debt to spend their money since this represents such a large population.

Nowadays, the consumer, according to Timmons, is scared. Consumers have seen a stock market crash, they have seen international economies dwindle and home val-

ues plummet.

"This consumer confidence has manifested itself in the form of less spending," Timmons says, "and the economy is suffering because of it."

In other words, people are scared to spend their money, so we have a much smaller economic stimulus.

And why shouldn't they be scared to spend their money? Record lows in employment and record highs in failing businesses and foreclosures have sent consumers into a downward spiral into fear, anxiety and unwillingness to part with their money.

What is more, those who did spend big now face job layoffs, home foreclosure, and things of that sort. Basically, people who have money are

not spending, and those who did spend before are unable to pay off what they owe.

So what does this all mean for us, as a nation? What it means is that new economic history has to be made. Relying upon spending habits has proven faulty.

Now, there are many ways in which to boost an economy, at least in the short-term.

Yes, billion-dollar plans do occasionally help, but keep in mind that those billions of tax dollars are being spent by politicians.

What have we learned about politicians? They have their own agenda! This money that is supposed to be stimulating our economy winds up being thrown into this world of political bureaucracy.

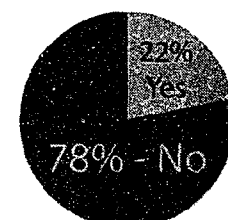
Instead, we need to reevaluate our entire system, which relies too heavily on debt-driven growth. Don't trust a politician to do that.

Brett Johnson is a sophomore English major and can be reached at baj3d@mtsu.edu

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FEATURES



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'Dead Mums Don't Cry' painful, poignant

MTSU Amnesty presents film on maternal mortality rates in third world countries

By **BRITTANY KLATT**
Staff Writer

Multiple women are lying in a single birthing room. One woman groans in agony while she is waiting for her family to bring blood and medicine.

Another woman starts to have fits, but the medicine she needs cannot be found anywhere in the country.

Flies land on a stained wall, watching as another patient is diagnosed. Each of these women is at a risk of dying just because she is pregnant.

On Friday night, the MTSU chapter of Amnesty International shed light on the issue of maternal mortality.

Maternal mortality is the death of a woman during pregnancy or shortly after she gives birth.

The group screened the documentary "Dead Mums Don't Cry." Narrated by BBC reporter Steve Bradshaw, the film shows Dr. Grace Kodindo's struggle to save the lives of mothers and their infants.

"The film focuses on Chad and Honduras, two areas of the world having a true problem with maternal mortality," said E'Narda McCalister, vice president of Amnesty International MTSU.

The film was filled with suspense and tragedy. One woman needed to be rushed

to surgery, but because "hospital blood bank had only 15 bags that day" and none of her type, her family had to search for the blood themselves.

Viewers wait anxiously to see if they can find the blood and breathe a sigh of relief once they do.

The relief soon turns to anguish when the doctors discover that because the surgery was delayed for so long, the woman's womb ruptured. Fortunately, they managed to save the woman's life.

Stories similar to the one above are shown multiple times throughout the film, and there are some women that, despite Kodindo's best efforts, cannot be saved.

While the documentary's main focus was the dangerous conditions that these women are subjected to and the need for change, the film also revealed frustrations and internal conflicts that plague caregivers who are working in these conditions.

At one point in the film Kodindo questions her purpose in Chad if she cannot use her knowledge to save the women who come to her. Kodindo's spirit becomes reinvigorated after she travels to Honduras to see how another impoverished country has lowered their maternal mortality rate.

The contrast between the two countries is startling



Photo courtesy of Bullfrog Films

BBC announcer and the film's narrator Steve Bradshaw shakes hands with Dr. Grace Kodindo in a village in Chad. The film documents Kodindo's struggle to combat maternal mortality rates in her underfunded clinic in Chad and her search for ways to prevent maternal death.

to both Kodindo and the viewers. Although Honduras is not much better economically than Chad, their

clinics were of higher quality than the one Kodindo worked individuals.

At one point she marveled

over the fact that there was an oxygen tank in the birthing room, which her hospital in Chad does not possess. The lack-

ing technology makes the birthing process more dangerous.

AMNESTY, PAGE 6

MTSU Art Department, Salvation Army host auction

By **ELIZABETH WARREN**
Contributing Writer

Seeing the rain pour down, drenching tents and occupants, didn't discourage many from participating in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Craft Fair this past Saturday.

An assortment of people from all over Murfreesboro, including art students from MTSU, brought works to sell for both the Salvation Army and their own causes.

"It's great to get MTSU students involved," says Katie Peachey, president of the Salvation Army's volunteer board.

While they are happy to help the Salvation Army, the art students are working to help fund two educational field trips over the school year.

The first trip is to the University of New Orleans in Louisiana to see the art faculty present some of their works. The second trip is to New York City over spring

break. The students want to see how the art industry works and experience the different artists who are currently in New York.

Art student Johanna Torres says that the art department is going to try to have another fundraiser in the Todd Building this semester. They also do bake sales throughout the year to raise money for the department.

But students were only one group of people at the fair. Many of the vendors were out-of-home businesses. They entered the fair to help the Salvation Army and to make a little extra cash for themselves.

The majority of merchants were selling sundry items - jewelry, handmade soap, Tupperware, dishtowels, quilts, purses, T-shirts, crocheted scarves and hats and hand-painted items like pictures and notebooks.

Annie Bradley, who was selling quilted items, said this was her second year to be in the fair. She started many years ago quilting,

giving the crafts to her family, but one day another quilter told her that she should start trying to sell her product at fairs.

"Now that I sell my products, my family is a little upset," Bradley says. "They want me to keep giving away my stuff, but I just can't do that anymore with how well my business is doing."

Ruth Gheliardi said this was her first year at the fair. She was selling crocheted items. Gheliardi found out about the fair through another woman who is also very active in craft fairs around Tennessee.

She said that craft fairs are a lot like networking. It gives the opportunity to meet someone who knows something different than you, which is always a learning experience.

Part of the learning experience is new products, like Marie Sawyer's Green Pixie Baby booth.



Photo by Sarah Finchum, contributing photographer

Various vendors show their wares inside the auction, held in the Salvation Army headquarters building.

RED KETTLE, PAGE 6

Music

September 28

Rachel Loy w/Goldcure and Stevie Douglas - The Basement - 8 p.m. - \$5

September 29

Zoogma - Exit/In - 8 p.m.
The Basement's New Faces Nite with The Wheels, Bern Kelly, Matt Butcher, Sarah Pray, Summer - The Basement - 8 p.m..

September 30

Lydia with All The Day Holiday and Pay Radio Play - Exit/In - 8 p.m.
ASCAP Rocks The Basement - The Basement

October 1

The Barefoot Renegades - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.
SHIFT, penthouse, Techno, House, Trance - Club 527 - 8 p.m.
Dear and the Headlights with Kinch and The Cold Stares - Exit/In - 8 p.m.
Shotgun Lover w/Victrolas and Smart Bros - The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$5

October 2

Mother Jackson, Up With The Joneses - Wall Street - 9 p.m.
DJ DAILON, DJ WICK-IT & CORLEONE - Club 527 - 10 p.m. - \$5
NEEDTOBREATHE with Serena Ryder - Exit/In - 8 p.m.
Corb Lund - The Basement - 7 p.m.

October 3

Stacy Mitchhart - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.
COOLIO, DJ Cliffy D - Club 527 - 11 p.m. - \$15
Jessie James with Shanna Crooks and Ross Copperman - Exit/In - 8 p.m.

October 4

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers and Carbon Leaf with Dawn Landes - Exit/In - 6:30 p.m.
Jacob Jones w/Michigan City Vandals, Blue Eyed Blacks - The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$5

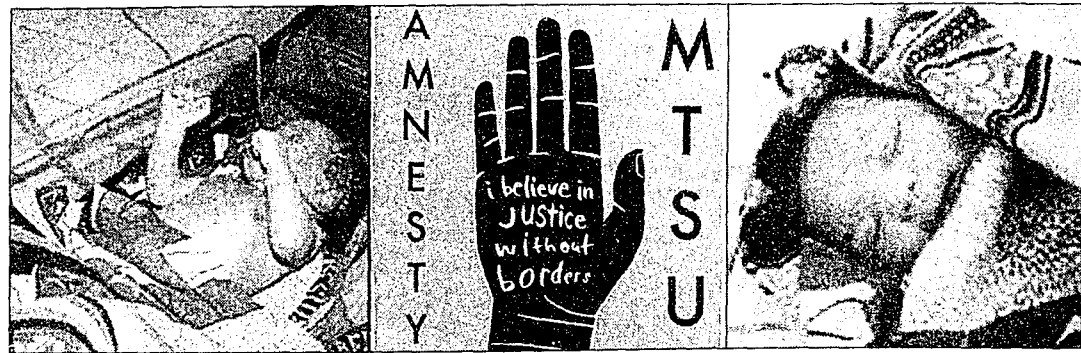


Photo courtesy of Bullring Films and MTSU Amnesty
Two babies (far left and far right), one born in Honduras and one born in Chad, lie wrapped in their blankets after birth. The MTSU Amnesty logo (center) states the club's motto and desire to help others.

AMNESTY FROM PAGE 5

While her visit to Honduras brought hope to Kodindo, she soon became weary after realizing that for the conditions in Chad to get better, the people's attitudes must change.

After a confrontation with Chad's minister of public health where she and Bradshaw questioned her government corruption and the death of 16 year-old girl, Kodindo was emotional.

"I'm not sure how long I can keep going on like this," Kodindo said. Bradshaw later said that two weeks after the documentary was filmed, she was still continuing on with her work.

Although the camera work was not as polished as most people tend to expect films to be, the viewers seemed to prefer it that way.

"It's an actual documenta-

ry," said Kiara Tyler, freshman pharmacy major. "You go out and see the people and what they are going through."

After the screening of the movie, the viewers discussed their reactions to the film. Amanda Marlar, junior speech language and pathol-

For more information or to get involved with the MTSU chapter of Amnesty International, send an e-mail to amnestymtsu@gmail.com.

ogy major, compared a birthing room in the United States to the one shown in the film. She described how much equipment can be found in American birthing rooms.

"You need really nothing to deliver a baby," she said, "but they don't have any of it."

The students also spoke about how the buildings in

Honduras were funded by foreign donors and questioned why Chad has not gotten the same help.

"Maybe their government is structured enough to put the money where it needs to go," suggested Lauren Day, secretary of Amnesty International MTSU.

Other students questioned why maternal mortality is not discussed as much as other human rights issues.

"It's something you would think more people would notice," said McCalister, "but I guess it's not a common occurrence here in the U.S."

According to the film, 1 in 11 women in Chad are at risk of dying during pregnancy while in Great Britain, the number is 1 in 5,100.

So how can students help?

"Join Amnesty International," McCalister said. "It is one of the first things you can do."



Photo by Sarah Finchum, contributing photographer
Ruth Cheliardi works inside the auction at her booth Ruth's Wraps, which was held this past Saturday.

RED KETTLE FROM PAGE 5

The eco-friendly baby products company sells items like cloth diapers made out of 100 percent certified organic cotton terry, organic-made swaddling blankets and organic baby shampoos and body wash.

Sawyer says the purpose of the eco-friendly baby product line was not to make money, but to help the earth and its inhabit-

ants. She wants to improve the world, particularly when her child - her own pixie baby - grows up.

The craft fair also had door prizes, a children's area with painting and carnival festivities and a dining area with snacks for anyone to eat.

Peachey said that this was the second year for the fair.

Last year's fair was called the Salvation Army's Craft Fair, but this year they changed the name because they wanted it to be a pre-

cursor to the fall season.

The famous Salvation Army Red Kettles are brought out around this time each year, which is a signal to everyone that autumn is on its way.

Peachey volunteered at the Salvation Army while she was in college. She said not only do they want to raise money, but the Salvation Army also wants to help people find their building in case they are in need of help, no matter who they are or where they come from.

JAY-Z

NATION

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SPORTS

Blue Raiders shore up offense against North Texas

By ETHAN LANNOM
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider football team traveled to North Texas this week to begin Sun Belt Conference play.

After big wins over Memphis and Maryland, some suspected that Middle Tennessee might have a letdown going to play the Mean Green in Denton. However, this was not the case.

North Texas started off well with a 73-yard opening kickoff return. The Blue Raider defense held strong though, and Jeremy Knott blocked the field goal attempt to give the ball to the MT offense.

Dwight Dasher quickly led Middle Tennessee down the field and found Benjamin Cunningham on a 50-yard touchdown pass down

the sideline to open up the scoring. This was Cunningham's first career reception and touchdown for the Blue Raiders.

After a lost fumble on the ensuing North Texas drive, Middle Tennessee had a short field to work with, starting at the Mean Green 36-yard line. The Blue Raiders could not punch it in though and had to settle for a 20-yard field goal to go ahead 10-0 in the first quarter.

After an empty possession for both teams, North Texas's Lance Dunbar went up the middle for a 66-yard touchdown run, bringing the Mean Green to a 10-7 deficit.

On the next Middle Tennessee possession, the offense once again drove down the field successfully and

kicked another field goal at the beginning of the second quarter. This was a 31-yard one off the leg of sophomore kicker Alan Gendreau.

QB Riley Dodge of North Texas would throw an interception to Kevin Brown on the next possession, which was returned to the six-yard line. From there, Dasher ran it in for a 20-7 lead.

The teams traded punts, and the Mean Green pinned the Blue Raiders on their own 2-yard line midway through the second quarter. From there, the MT offense drove the length of the field, with Dasher scoring on another run near the goal line. His run ended a 12 play 98-yard drive for Middle Tennessee. The drive was the second longest under the four year tenure of head coach Rick Stockstill.

The Blue Raiders ended the first half with a career long 48-yard field goal from Gendreau to lead 30-7.

North Texas did not quit though and came out to play in the second half. Dodge ran it in from four yards out to pull the Mean Green closer, trailing 30-14.

Following a Middle Tennessee punt, North Texas drove down the field once more but was stopped by a Riley Dodge fumble at the 10 yard line. MT junior Emmanuel Perez forced the fumble, and sophomore safety Derrick Crumpton recovered it.

However, the MT offense stalled again and was forced to punt. The Mean Green made better use of this drive, capping it off with a Dunbar 18-yard touchdown scamper. Head-

ing into the final period, North Texas had made it a 30-21 ballgame.

Dasher finally got the offense going again in the fourth quarter. He completed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Desmond Gee with less than 11 minutes remaining in the contest.

The game was sealed with a Jeremy Kellem interception in the endzone. Backup quarterback Brent Burnette entered the game on the next Blue Raider drive for the first action of his career. The final ended up 37-21.

Dwight Dasher finished with his fourth straight 200-yard plus game with 269 yards and two touchdowns. He was also the team's leading rusher with 75 yards and a couple of scores.

With Phillip Tanner out for Middle Tennessee, Ben-

jamin Cunningham had a great game filling in. In addition to his 50-yard touchdown reception, Cunningham also rushed eight times for a career-high 58 yards.

The MT offense has been on fire during this three-game winning streak, scoring 100 points for an average of 33.3 per game. Middle Tennessee scored 30 points or more in three straight games for the first time since 2006.

This win puts the Blue Raiders at 3-1 for the season. This is the team's best start since the 4-0 opening in the 2001 season.

Middle Tennessee plays again Tuesday, Oct. 6, when they take on three-time defending Sun Belt Conference champion Troy on the road in Alabama. The game will be an ESPN2 national broadcast.

MT ticket office set for ticket distribution plan for MSU game

STAFF REPORT

Due to the anticipated demand for tickets to the MT football game against Mississippi State, the Floyd Stadium Ticket Office has developed a ticket distribution plan.

The student ticket distribution plan was devised by the Ticket Office to ensure that tickets are distributed to students in an orderly manner.

Students are able to pick up their Student Ticket and purchase Student Guest tickets at the Floyd Stadium Ticket Office (Gate 1A). Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Students are encouraged to come by early and bring their valid MT student I.D. The deadline to pick up tickets from the office is Oct. 9.

Students are able to pick up one free student ticket per valid MT student ID, and can purchase a maximum of four student guest tickets, priced at \$8 each.

"[This is] mainly because of the high demand of the game," Marco Born, Assistant Director for Ticketing said. "We're anticipating [the game] to be a sell out so we want to make sure that every student gets a ticket."

The tickets are general admission tickets and have no dollar value.

"They are just like the I.D., but we just want to get an idea of how many are coming so we can anticipate the crowd," Born said.

In order to enter the gate on game day, you will need to present the ticket and a valid MT student I.D.

The Mississippi State game is set for Oct. 17.

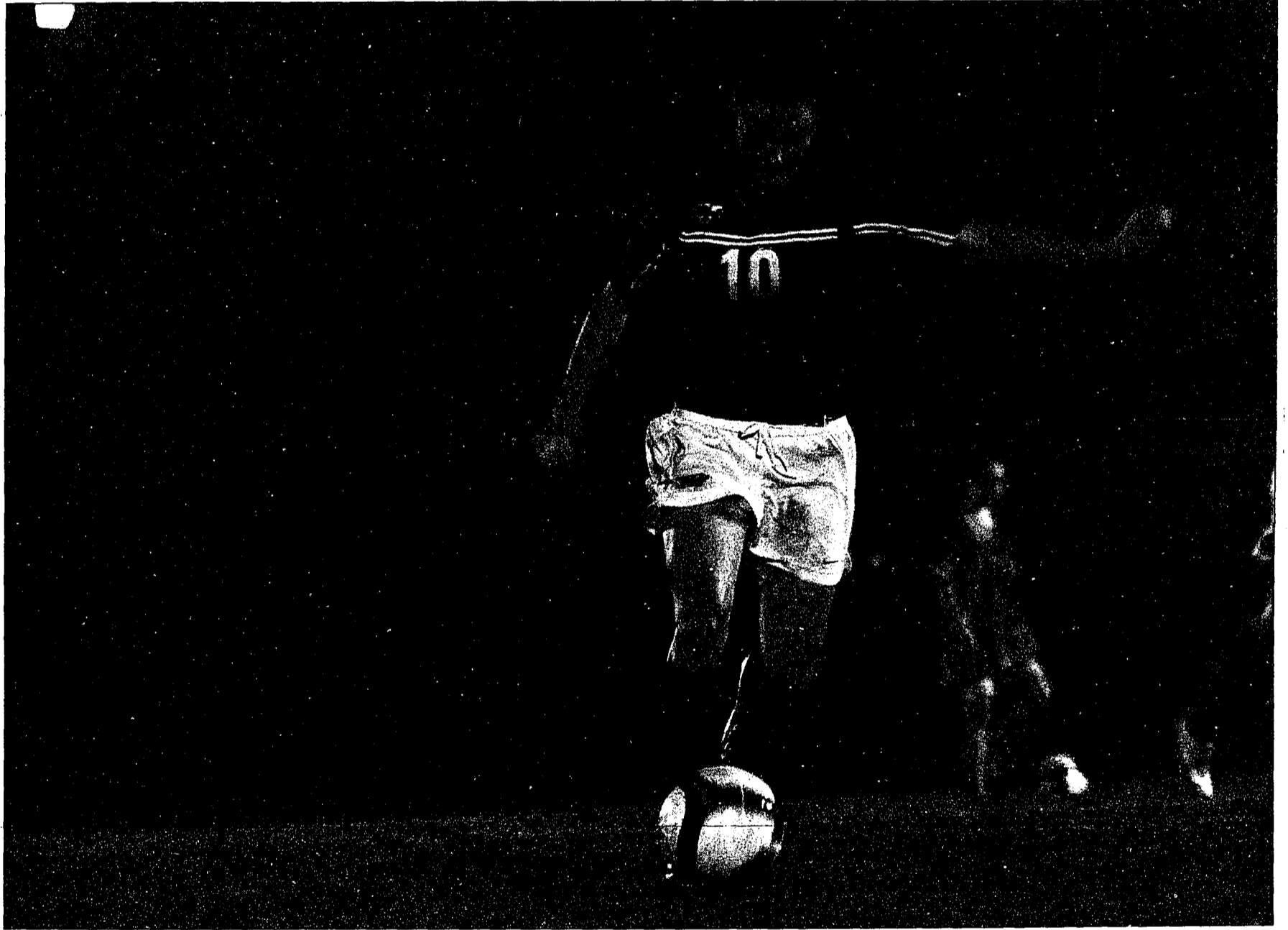


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Sophomore forward Shan Jones barrels down the field during Friday's match against Florida International University. Jones and a teammate led the scoring with three shots.

Soccer gets great season start

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

Two goals in the first half—within four minutes of each other—was all the Blue Raiders needed to take the victory over Florida International University at the Dean A. Hayes Soccer and Track & Field Stadium

“It was definitely a great way to start the conference season. We played a good, complete game against a strong opponent. To be able to get the shutout is a testament to how hard this team

ASTON RHODEN
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE SOCCER

on Friday.

The Blue Raiders extended their winning streak to four matches, and have now won five matches with the victory.

The soccer team also continued the best season start in school history with its sev-

enth win in the opening nine matches of the season.

"It was definitely a great way to start the conference season," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We played a good, complete game against a strong opponent. To be able to get the shutout is a testament to how

hard this team has been working lately."

FIU came out swinging, attempting two shots within the first 12 minutes, from Panthers Amy Jackson and Kasandra Sorzano.

The Golden Panthers took

the majority of the offensive control in the opening 45 minutes, and held an 8-4 shot advantage at the half. But it was the Blue Raiders who found the net first, at the hands of junior midfielder Jaimee Cooper and behind FIU goalie Melaine Raimo.

Cooper became the 12th different Blue Raider to score in 2009 after she drove in the assist from her teammate, junior Vanessa Mueggler, on a corner kick at 31:47.

An FIU foul inside the 18-yard box set up a penalty kick situation just four minutes later. Sophomore Shan Jones lined up and placed the ball behind Raimo for her conference- and team-leading eighth goal of the season.

Although there was no scoring in the second period, the Blue Raiders were successfully able to rebound offensively in the second half. MT held a 7-4 edge on shots against FIU (2-5-2, 0-1 Sun Belt).

Sophomore Rebecca Cushing was given the goalie posi-

tion and walked away from the field with seven saves. This made her second solo shutout of the season.

Jones and freshman Paige Goeglein each led the Blue Raiders with three shots apiece. Marina Pappas was the top threat for the Golden Panthers, shooting for the

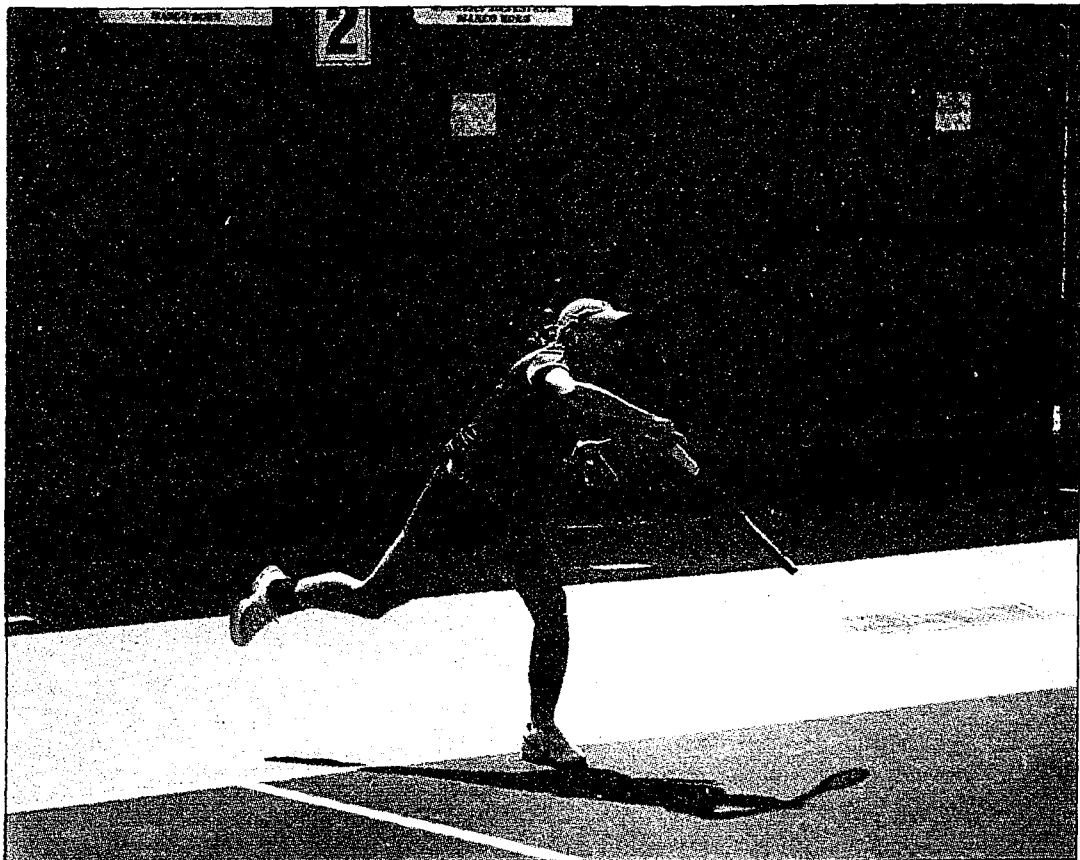
MT goal four times on the match.

MT also played Florida Atlantic on Sunday. The Owls, coming to MT off of a 4-2 loss to Western Kentucky, are 2-6-2 for the season so far. For coverage and a recap of the match, log on to www.mtsusidelines.com.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Freshman midfielder Whitney Jorgenson takes the ball from an FIU player. Jorgenson would pass the ball before she could score.



File photo
Then-junior Natalie Araya serves the ball at last year's Buck Bouldin Fall Classic, held last September.

Women's tennis on top despite weather

Blue Raiders perform well, host annual tournament

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

MT women's tennis began their fall on a strong note as they played host to the Buck Bouldin Fall Classic, a tournament that concluded on Sunday.

"We [are here to see] where our team is at," head coach Alison Ojeda said. "Last year, we had five

against fellow Blue Raider Marietta Bigus and UTC's Brianna Wishing.

In Friday's second set of doubles, Anna Djananova and Natalie Araya took the win from Chattanooga's Jenna Nurik and Emily Hangstefer, 8-6. Nava and Nomoto coupled up again to take their second win of the day with an 8-4 victory over Murray State's

ing Troy's Lopez-Augusto 6-1, 6-0.

Araya took her 6-1, 6-0 win over Murray State's Obukhova, and Dachos followed with a 6-1, 6-1. Nava was the only MT player that needed all three sets to dispatch her opponent, finally knocking off UTC's Taylor 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-7).

Day Two of the Classic was postponed due to inclement weather in the area, but not before the Blue Raiders took one win in doubles action. Bigus and Coffey defeated the Lady Mocs' Bossy and Wishing team, 8-0.

Dachos paired with UTC's Taylor, but the pair lost 8-4 to Murray State's Webb and Canty team.

In singles action, four MT players picked up wins. Three of the wins were in straight sets, but Araya's match with Taylor took the full three sets before she clinched the 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

Nomoto took a 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory against Murray State's Cunitz. Coffey followed, scoring a 6-0, 6-2 win against UTC's Jennemieke van der Veek. The last MT victory before the rain set in was a 6-1, 6-3 victory of Nava over Murray State athlete Lyndsay Ottosen.

Sunday's action included the remaining three doubles matches and 12 singles tilts. For full information on the Buck Bouldin Fall Classic, log on to mtsusidelines.com.

Angela McGahee and Dina Obukhova.

Bigus and Dachos then took to the courts for an 8-5 victory against a second Murray State team, made up of Alexis Webb and Ashley Canty.

Coffey shared a court with UTC's Charlotte Bossy for an 8-5 win against Chattanooga's Wishing and teammate Jennifer Taylor.

Singles play started out with Nomoto who, in her first collegiate singles match, took the win with a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over UALR's Yana Kakovkina. Bigus took the second singles win over a Sun Belt Conference team by defeat-

ALISON OJEDA
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE WOMEN'S TENNIS

new players and with them coming back, practices have been where we were at last April. It has been a good sign that they have spent the year training.

"We are probably better than a year ago because practices have been consistent and steady."

The Blue Raiders came out swinging on Friday and took two of their three doubles matches against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Freshman athletes Carla Nava and Yurri Nomoto took the lead match 8-3. Sophomores Alex Dachos and Taylor Coffey followed suit, capturing their 8-6 victory

Mead and Kozon lead MT to victory over WKU

Blue Raider volleyball goes to three straight wins

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Seniors Ashley Mead and Izabela Kozon reached the 1,000-kill mark for their careers as the Blue Raiders won a close 3-2 (22-25, 25-20, 24-26, 25-20, 15-8) match over Western Kentucky University Friday to open Sun Belt Conference play.

"This was big for us because we beat one of the teams picked at the top of the conference, and we won a five-set match, which we had not done so far this season," head coach Matt Peck said.

Mead finished the game with 17 kills while Kozon finished with eight. Sophomore Stacy Oladinni added 12 kills of her own. As a team, the Blue Raiders scored 53 kills for a hitting percentage of .215, with WKU held to 49 kills and a hitting percentage of .061.

Senior Leslie Clark led the team with 47 assists while the other member of the back row, senior Ashley Waugh, led the team with 12 digs.

All of the first four sets were close, with the Hilltoppers coming from behind to win the first one, and Mead's record-setting kill decisively ending the second set.

WKU scored the final three points to win an exciting third set, during which Kozon scored her record-setting kill to join Mead.

The Blue Raiders went on a 12-4 run after falling behind 16-13 to win another exciting set and tie the match at 2-2.

The fifth and final set was not the close, exciting one that the other four were, with the Blue Raiders finally pulling ahead decisively to take a 15-8 win to finish the match.

MT has won three straight to bring their record to 8-6 while the Hill-

toppers fall to 10-5. With WKU predicted by many to finish near or at the top of the SBC, so a win over the Hilltoppers to start the year could prove big for the Blue Raiders.

MT will be back in action Friday at Florida Atlantic University before heading to Florida International University to play another pre-season favorite Sunday.

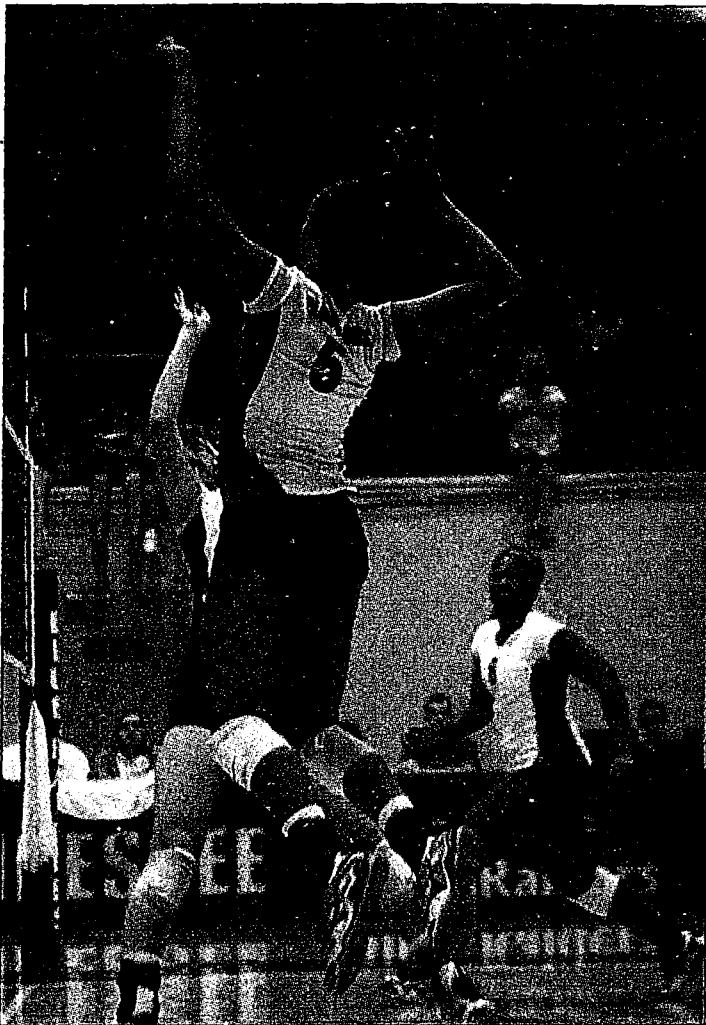


Photo by Alex Treneff, staff photographer
Junior outside hitter Alyssa Wistrick prepares to spike the ball during Friday's match against Western Kentucky. Wistrick scored two kills.

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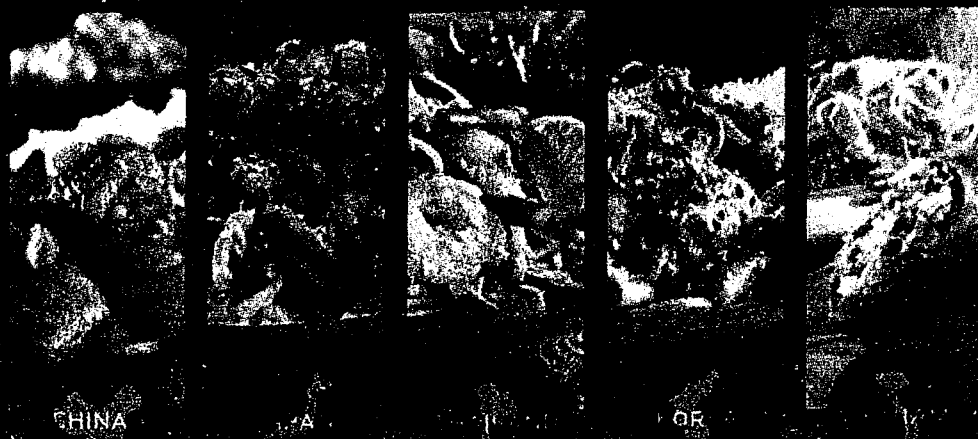
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