



Rain



This week's poll question online at www.mtsusidelines.com

"Did you find the Career Fair to be useful?"

MT falls short in overtime against Tigers

In Sports, 8



Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

The university's editorially independent student newspaper

Volume 79 No. 21

From community to university



Photo by James Harris | Staff Photographer

Students at Motlow State Community College go to their classes on Wednesday. MSCC has campuses in Lynchburg, Smyrna, McMinnville and Fayetteville. As many as 85 percent of Motlow students transfer to MTSU.

Remedial courses offered on campus

Motlow State teaching courses at MTSU

By Liz Karlson
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Board of Regents decided that four-year state universities would no longer teach beginning levels of developmental studies classes starting this past August.

In order to make the transition easier, basic developmental studies courses at the 0700 level such as math, reading and writing

once taught by MTSU will now be taught by Motlow State Community College.

MSCC teachers currently teach beginning courses of math, reading and writing on MTSU's campus, while MTSU still teaches higher levels of developmental studies.

Marva Lucas, the interim chair of developmental studies, says the goal of the partnership is to make transition as seamless as possible.

The goal of the partnership is to enable students to have to convenience of staying close to home or near MTSU's campus,

rather than commute to another school for a single class. It allows students to be enrolled in other MTSU courses while taking a developmental class that would otherwise be offered at another school.

The partnership took place because of a long-standing relationship between MSCC and MTSU. The president of MSCC, Arthur Walker Jr., once attended MTSU part-time. Even though Walker only had a short stay at MTSU, he feels that MTSU is a "fine institution, one with high quality and great leadership."

See Motlow, 2

Employers scout graduates at career fair

Professor offers advice job seekers

By Kyle Postlewaite
Staff Writer

Students facing graduation took their first steps towards gaining employment this past Thursday at the annual MTSU Career and Graduate Fair sponsored by the Career and Employment Center.

More than 100 organizations including the FBI, New York Life Insurance and various branches of the military were on hand to participate and talk with students about job placement and internships. Graduate and professional schools from across the state, including Nashville School of Law, University of Tennessee and schools from other southern states, attended the event.

Concerns about finding jobs in chosen career fields were apparent.

"Now that people are getting degrees, there's no place to use their degree," said Jennifer Krinov, a junior planning to work in healthcare.

"I just want a job," said Ben Davis, a junior concrete industry management major.

Although the nation is still suffering with a bad economy, the Middle Tennessee area is economically stronger than many parts of the country. According to Dave Penn, director of the Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU, the Middle Tennessee area owes much of its better fortune in part to diversification.

"We have a heavy manufac-

turing concentration and we produce the products people want to buy," Penn said. The Nissan plant in Smyrna is one example of the diversification Penn described.

One of the strengths in the Middle Tennessee area is that residents aren't heavily dependent on government employment for jobs.

However, Penn said, "We're fairly dependent on manufacturing, but in sectors that are doing well. So it looks pretty good compared to most of the country."

As the National Association of Colleges and Employers report that hiring rates for graduates are expected to rise, Penn warned about mixed messages that can be relayed.

"It's a tough question to figure out where the labor market is heading because it's been so weak even as the economy has been picking up," Penn said. "Manufacturers have increased output and profits are doing better, but they're not hiring yet."

Penn said that he didn't think hiring conditions that graduates will face will be worse than last year.

The state of the economy certainly is a factor in the hiring of college graduates.

"Our workforce planning is based largely on it," said Tanya Adams, senior recruiter for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The TVA plans to hire between 75 and 125 graduates in the engineering fields, Adams said. For an engineering college graduate, the starting salary is around \$40,000.

However, engineering is one of a few career paths that seem to be hiring graduates.

See Career, 2

Professor awarded Fulbright Grant

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

Jan Quarles, assistant dean and professor of electronic media communication at MTSU, is planning a trip to Cambodia this fall.

Quarles received a Fulbright Grant to go to the Royal University in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

"I will be working with the Royal University doing things like consulting on their curriculum for the department of media and communications," Quarles said. "Basically I will be talking to the faculty and students about the media."

The Royal University is the only university in Phnom Penh



Quarles

and has only been established for about 10 years.

Quarles received the Fulbright Grant in the form of a Senior Specialists Program.

"This program offers short-term grants, usually two to six weeks, where the recipient goes overseas to do teacher training and develop or review curriculum," Quarles said.

The grant is not monetary. The government pays for lodging and travel expenses, but the scholar pays for all other expenses.

The Senior Specialists Program works off a roster that has names of specialists in a large variety of fields.

"Basically they try to match the names on the roster to places they would be the most helpful at," Quarles said. "I have done a lot of work in Southeast Asia and they seemed to think that I would be the best for the job."

Quarles does not think she will have a hard time adjusting to the culture.

"It is a very different culture, but I have worked and traveled in Southeast Asia before. The biggest adjustment will be getting used to the business culture."

In Phnom Penh, the primary

language is Khmer, but some of the older people speak French and some of the younger people speak English.

"I do not really know the languages except for English," Quarles said. "I did learn a few words to get by though. Words like 'hello' and 'thank you.'"

This is not the only Fulbright-sponsored trip Quarles has been on.

"I have taught and directed communications at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, which is now the Victoria University, in Australia from 1989 to 1993," Quarles said.

Quarles will be leaving Sept. 29 and returning Nov. 1. ♦

School violence program tested at Blackman High

By Deanna Bauer
Staff Writer

Strategies to recognize and deal with the threat of school violence were discussed by associates from Rutherford County Schools and the sheriff department.

The videoconference took place on Sept. 18 and was broadcast on MTSU Channel 9 in Murfreesboro from the Learnign Resource Center satellite videoconferencing center.

"An Overview of School Violence - Threat Assessment Teams and Appropriate Interventions" was presented by David Sevier, assistant principal at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro and adjunct assistant professor of educational leadership at MTSU and Deputy Kerry Nelson, Blackman High School resource officer.

Sevier and Nelson developed the Student Threat Evaluation and Management (S.T.E.A.M.) program.

S.T.E.A.M is a structured professional judgment

See Violence, 3



Photo by James Harris | Staff Photographer

Kerry Nelson, Blackman High School Resource Officer, gives a lecture on controlling school violence at MTSU's satellite center Thursday.

Fraternity begins weeklong fund-raiser

Competitions for students planned

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Alpha Gamma Rho's Beta Theta Chapter is hosting its 2nd annual Hay Daze, Sept. 22-26, to benefit their philanthropy Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids was set up by Marilyn Adams in 1986 after her son Keith died in a farming accident on their farm in Iowa, said Michael Shirley, president of AGR.

AGR has scheduled many fun-filled events for the week, which are open to all student organizations.

Tonight, at the Tennessee Livestock Center, is the Cowgirl Olympics where teams of six girls will compete in events such as a sunflower seed spitting contest, a tug of war, a wheelbarrow race and a hay bale toss.

The entry fee for the Olympics is \$25 per team. AGR is charging \$1 admission at the door.

Tuesday, at the AGR house on Greek Row, will be a country

line dancing party complete with dance instructors. The instructors will teach line dances from 7:30-9 p.m. and one can of food per person is requested as the admission fee.

Wednesday will be the AGR Sweetheart Pageant where sorority girls will compete in a talent competition and answer agricultural questions.

"It's like a down home Miss America Pageant," Shirley explained.

The fraternity is charging \$1 for general admission to the pageant.

On Thursday, the brothers are hosting a blood drive at the Keathley University Center, Room 322, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students can register to win Tennessee Titan tickets and pizza.

The week concludes on Friday when the brothers have their mechanical bull riding contest at Stampede Dance Hall and Saloon on Thompson Lane. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. The doors will be open for general admission after the competition is over.

In planning for the week, the brothers went out and got

See Hay Daze, 3

Career: Internships important in job search

Continued from 1

Across the nation many companies are facing a two-step process. First, goods must be showing profit that exceeds the work capacity of their own employees before a company can begin hiring more people.

"I think we're going to see this two-step-forward-one-step-back scenario for another few months, maybe a year," Penn said.

Some students plan to weather the economic storm by furthering their education at graduate school.

When asked if she has thought about attending graduate school, Kim Freeman, a student attending the graduation fair said yes.

Penn pointed out the importance of internships and graduate school for graduates to distinguish themselves from other students.

"Gain some practical experience," he said, "even if you have to do it for free."

Penn said the opportunity cost for graduate school is not wasted when the economy is in a recession.

Penn's advice to graduates is to find an enjoyable job, whether it is directly or indirectly related to your chosen career path. ♦

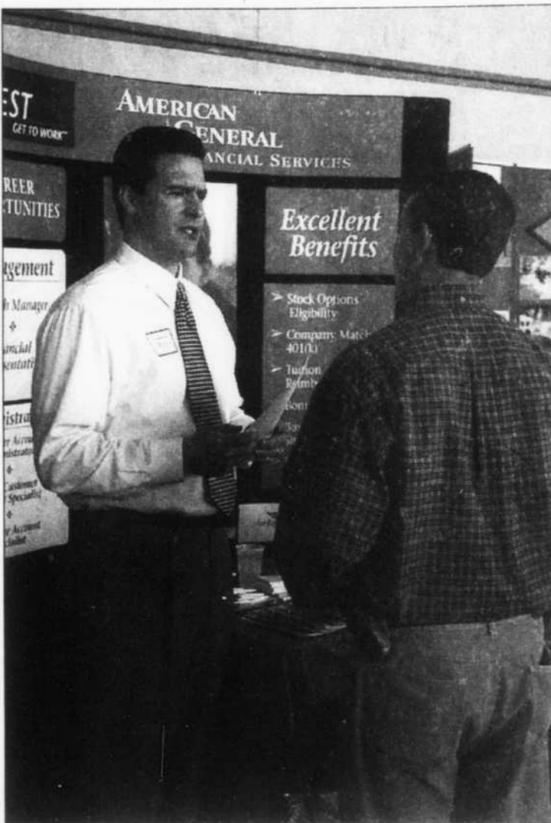


Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer
A representative from American General Financial Services talks to a potential employee at the career fair.

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Motlow: Math most popular remedial class

Continued from 1

Founded in 1969, MSCC offers classes for many programs such as business, economics, pre-med and pharmacy. MSCC has four locations in Tennessee, including Smyrna, Lynchburg, McMinnville and Fayetteville. As many as 85 percent of MSCC students eventually transfer to MTSU.

The only students who are required to take a developmental studies class are those who scored lower than 19 as a sub-score on the ACT. A student who makes a composite score of 22 may still have to take a course, depending on the sub-score in the categories of math, English or writing.

In recent years, the number of students enrolled in some type of developmental class has caused concern as to the quality of Tennessee's educational system.

However, according to Lucas, "This is not a Tennessee issue. Developmental programs are across the nation."

She also said that sometimes ACT scores do not apply to some students taking the courses.

"Students enrolled in this program are not just based on ACT scores, but nontraditional students without ACT scores."

According to the number of students enrolled in developmental studies, math is the most necessary course, because it

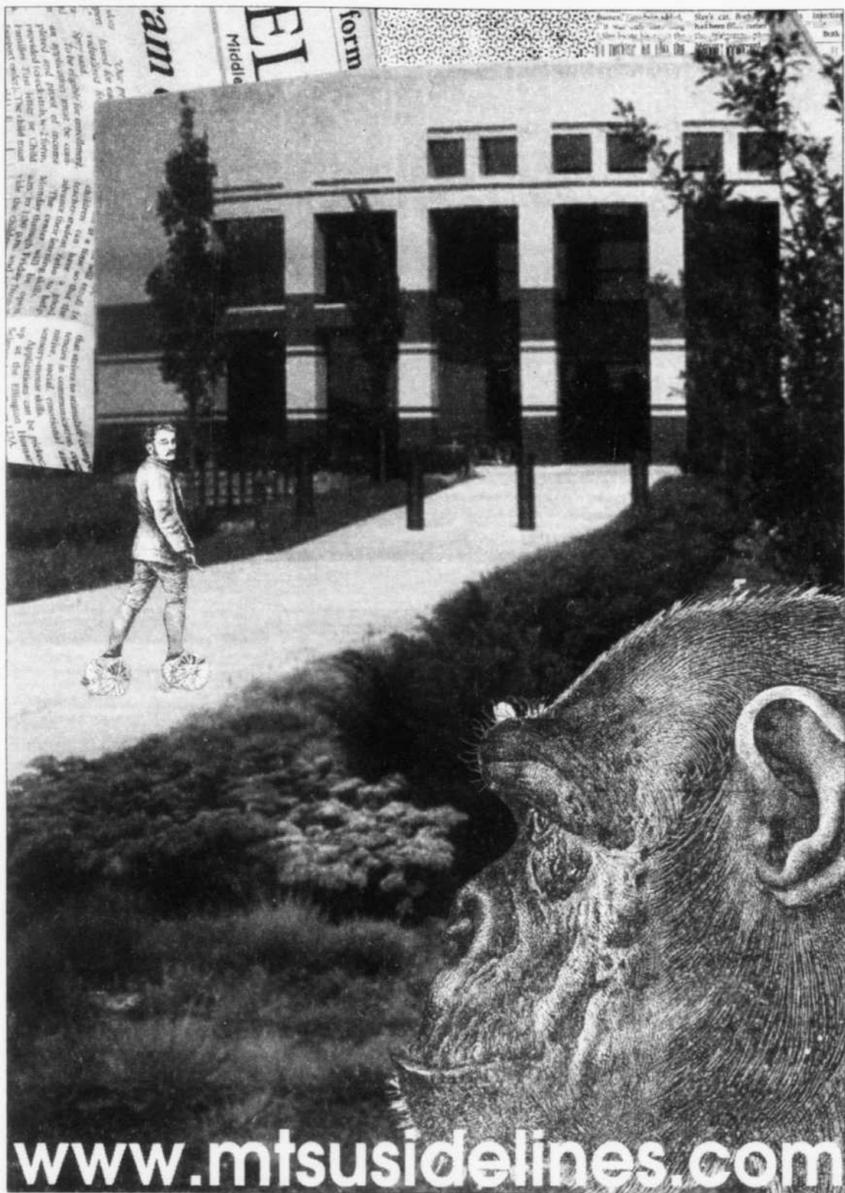
offers the most ranges of classes (three course levels) and has the largest classes in general.

The MSCC classes will be taught in the same areas as the other developmental classes. Some of the areas include Kirksey Old Main and Jones Hall.

Lucas said this partnership is a good one, and that "our goals (MTSU and Motlow) are both keeping the students in mind."

"As long as there is a need for this kind of arrangement," Walker said, "we will continue to work with MTSU."

To find out more about developmental studies courses, visit their website at www.mtsu.edu/~devstud or call 898-5758. ♦



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Violence: System attempts to measure threat level of students

Continued from 1

system that uses a specialized diagnostic tool to determine a student's risk of becoming violent, Sevier said. The program also directs school faculty in intervention and response tactics to help troubled students.

Violence is defined as any word, look or act that threatens a person's body, feelings, property or dignity, Sevier said.

The goal of S.T.E.A.M. is to "keep visual, verbal and social violence from escalating into physical violence," Sevier said.

A key part of the program is the creation of a Threat Assessment Team, which includes school level administrators, school resource officers,

guidance counselors and school psychologists, Nelson said.

"The team is dynamic. It's not static," Nelson said. "It's the best minds I have in the school at that time."

Everyone on the team must make informal contact with the at-risk student several times throughout the year, Nelson said, "giving them an outlet for their frustration."

You cannot predict when violence will occur, Nelson said, but there are indicators.

The diagnostic tool used in the S.T.E.A.M. program is a pie chart divided into 36 slices. Each is labeled with a different criterion, developed or researched by others that may indicate violent tendencies in a

student, Sevier said.

"A person's life is pretty much a tapestry," Nelson said. "What affects you in one aspect of your life often bleeds over into others."

The more criteria present, the greater the likelihood the student will commit a violent act, Sevier said. However, there are no guarantees.

Just because criteria are present, doesn't mean something will happen, Sevier said. And just because criteria are absent, doesn't mean something won't happen.

These 36 criteria include low self esteem, bullying or being bullied, self mutilation, parental apathy, animal cruelty and access to weapons. The criteria

fall under one of the six categories of personality, school, community, health, family or violence issues.

"Leakage" was one of the criteria that was focused on in the presentation.

"Leakage is the actual communication of the threatening behavior," Sevier explained.

Students leak information when talking with their friends, writing notes to classmates, writing in journals and through their drawings, Nelson said.

Information gathered through leakage acts as clues that tell the Threat Assessment Team there is "a struggle not being addressed" inside the student, Nelson said.

Depending on the number of

criteria present in a threat evaluation, the team assesses the threat level as low, medium or high and decides the correct response, Nelson said. School consequences, counseling, expulsion and criminal charges are possible recourses for violent acts.

According to Sevier, tests have yet to be done to measure how effective the S.T.E.A.M. program is at reducing school violence at Blackman High School, where the program was first implemented.

"But we have now a school that is much more attuned to recognizing particular aspects that may lead to school violence," he said.

Nelson and Sevier are co-

founders of School Safety Associates, where they offer S.T.E.A.M. program training to those interested in implementing the threat evaluation system in their school.

The program is specially geared for middle and high school students; however, there are special diagnostic tools used for younger students, Sevier said.

College students also fall into the age range for the program.

For more information on S.T.E.A.M. training, visit www.schoolsafetyassociates.com or call 867-4213. ♦

Hay Daze:

Continued from 1

sponsorships from local companies in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. The money that is raised, both by the sponsorships and admission prices, will go to their philanthropy.

Last year's week-long event raised a substantial amount of money.

"We raised \$2,500 last year and hope to once again meet that goal, and increase it as well," Shirley said.

Last year's winner, Chi Omega, won a four-foot trophy with a tractor on top, which was displayed in their chapter room for the rest of the year.

Shirley urged everyone to come out and support AGR's Hay Daze.

"Everyone is welcome to come out to the house on Tuesday and learn some line dances and get teams together to participate in our events," he said.

For more information about AGR's Hay Daze, call the AGR house at 494-8632 or e-mail Shirley at mas3i@mtsu.edu. ♦

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From the Editorial Board Students well-served by remedial compromise

The Tennessee Board of Regents has decided four-year state universities are to stop offering basic, developmental courses as part of their curriculums.

This decision was made to encourage students with lower test scores to go to a community college for a year or two and then transfer to an university. This is to supposedly help a student be better prepared for the difficulty of a four-year state university.

This could have hindered many future or current MTSU students. However, MTSU has devised a partnership with Motlow State Community College.

The relationship has MSCC paying for the remedial classes that are held on the MTSU campus.

MSCC pays for the teacher and the classroom, and, in turn, this costs the TBR no extra money and keeps students on this campus.

This is an especially good decision for students that are in majors that require specific courses during their freshman year.

For example, without MTSU offering students these courses, it would take music or photography students six or seven years to graduate.

Athletes on scholarship who may not have made sufficient grades in high school would also be hindered without remedial classes on campus.

These athletes would have to juggle practice schedules, games and a school load while traveling to a community college to take classes.

This would be nearly impossible for a student and would probably cost MTSU money in the long run because athletes would no longer choose MTSU, causing athletic attendance and profit to go down.

Also, not all schools prepare their students for life after high school. Many schools teach enough for their students to get by and pass tests, then pass them on to another grade and teacher.

MTSU's decision to make remedial courses available to students is a good decision on the part of the university.

The administration is using the universities' money wisely while not impeding the educational opportunities that a university should offer. ◆

Startling fact: Students buy cheap beer



Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Scientists have made an amazing discovery: College kids buy more beer if it's cheap.

Well, I'm glad somebody spent a lot of time, effort and money uncovering that mystery.

Have these people forgotten what it's like to be in college? I'll refresh their memories.

First off, college kids buy anything if it's cheap. We don't live off Ramen Noodles because of the scrumptious taste. They're cheap, and we're poor. It's a perfect combination.

Second, college kids buy beer. If they buy more of it, they will buy more of it. The fact that there is a demand for beer is a basic economic principle. There is a supply of beer. Lowering the price affects the demand.

Raising the price of beer wouldn't make a significant impact on college drinking. People may buy less beer, but they would still buy it.

When college kids (or anyone for that matter) set out to buy alcohol, there usually isn't a set quantity in mind. Generally, the amount purchased is as much as possible with the little money you have. This is because college kids have limited funding.

These esteemed researches also believe that college drinking is due to

advertising.

Apparently, college kids are too mindless to make their own decisions. When we see a commercial, we must have that product. We are desperate to conform – please, give us the beer.

Here's a news flash: College kids didn't start drinking because the Budweiser frogs told them to. They don't drink because it's cheap.

College students drink for the same reasons other people do. Sometimes they just want to kick back and relax, sometimes they're in a social setting with friends and sometimes there's a really annoying guy a few feet away chanting, "Chug, chug, chug" and you just want to get him to shut up.

According to an article on www.news24.com, bad

grades, sexual aggression and violent and destructive tendencies are all linked to binge drinking.

Well, I'm glad that issue is settled. The article didn't mention it, but binge drinking has also been linked to excessive vomiting and passing out.

The article also states that college programs aimed at informing students of the dangers of drinking are not effective.

That's fairly obvious. Telling students not to drink isn't going to change their minds. People keep forgetting a key point: addiction.

If you tell someone to quit smoking because it's bad for them, odds are they're not going to stop, and they already know it's bad for them.

Even though college is a

time to prepare for the future, most of the people enrolled are still living in the "now." The future is still distant to them, and besides, how many times a day do you think about the condition of your liver?

If beer prices do rise, it will only mean that beer is harder to buy, not impossible to buy.

People will still find some way to finance their activities, even if there are signs all over the liquor store saying how bad it is.

Of course, if they keep raising the cost of tuition, students may not have enough spending money for beer, after all. ◆

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached via e-mail at visa717@aol.com.

Free trade comes at price

By Johnmark Huscher
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. – Let me come clean. I'm a front-page junkie.

If I don't like the leading headline of a newspaper I won't pick it up and if I do, I rarely make it past the front page. I just can't keep up with the California governor's race, the Dalai Lama's visit to the Middle East, the presidential primaries, Hurricane Isabel and the failed World Trade Organization talks. In fact, it's hard work just to know these things are happening.

That's why I wasn't surprised I missed James Brooke's article in Tuesday's *New York Times*. A friend of mine sent me an instant message, pointing me to the article, saying it had something to do with the world trade summit in Cancun. With that, she quickly signed off, leaving this columnist to do a little late-night reading.

For front-page junkies like me who missed the article, allow me to sum it up. In early September a South Korean named Lee Kyung Hae made things right at home and bought a one-way ticket for Cancun, Mexico. Once in Mexico, he headed for the site where the world trade summit was underway. Hae climbed a barricade and produced a pocketknife. In an act of defiance and heroism, Hae plunged the Swiss-army knife into his heart, killing himself.

What reason did a 56-year-old farmer have for taking his own life? For those of us who don't know a lot about the WTO, this is certainly cause for alarm. What did Hae know that we don't? What did he feel so strongly about that he felt his only option was to take his own life in protest?

It could have been the act of a mad man. Reading Hae's personal history, one could certainly conclude that he wasn't completely sane. He stabbed himself

in the stomach at a protest in Geneva a decade ago, and he has reportedly staged 30 hunger strikes. He pledged himself to better the plight of South Korean farmers in the 1970s, only abandoning his cause in death. Clearly, he's either nuttier than squirrel poop or deeply committed to a cause he believed was worth dying for.

I'd like to suggest to you the latter.

Minutes before he climbed the barricade in Cancun, Hae was circulating a document. The suicide note isn't a good-bye or a will and testament. Rather, it's a passionate manifesto on the evils of the WTO with words "that have for so long boiled (his) body." It's a plea to leaders in the WTO to save farmers like Hae from the havoc caused by WTO decisions.

So just what is the WTO doing? In a word: globalization. It's free trade. It's every country getting a piece of the economic pie. Frankly, it's not a bad idea – I just wonder what price we're willing to pay.

In the last round of talks, leaders established a tariff and trade laws that have slowly crippled agricultural workers like Hae. Kyung Hae for the sake of larger "more efficient" economies. Hae and other small farmers held on, but found themselves in too deep. Hae lost his farm four years ago, many others have found their plots to be the same.

He complained that "uncontrolled multinational corporations and a small number of big WTO members" were bullying others into creating a world in which he didn't want to live. It's a world he describes as "inhumane, environmentally degrading, farmer-killing, and undemocratic."

Is Hae alone? Anti-WTO protesters brought talks to a halt in Seattle years back, but Anne Applebaum of the *Washington Post* suggests that anti-globalization is over and, as she says, "not a moment too soon." Hae

certainly didn't think so.

Is the kind of globalization caused by the WTO good? Vernon Smith, co-winner of the Nobel Prize for economics in 2003 said it is. Then again, I'm hesitant to put any faith in award winners since Milli Vanilli won a Grammy back in 1990. OK, Smith, I'll buy into your theory that globalization might be good for someone. The question is, "Who?"

I'll be honest, I think it's good for America. We share the planet, though. I'm not going to suggest that America should fall back into the Great Depression for the sake of workers in other countries. I simply think that if conditions are becoming so bad that farmers are committing public suicide in protest, it's time to take a long look at what we're doing to see if it's worth it.

I'm not going to spout off a brand new economic theory here. In fact, maybe what I want is impossible and we're already too far down the road toward a global economy to turn back now. Of course, Hae's passion doesn't necessarily make him right; maybe he's wrong.

All I want to suggest is that it's worth a second look. Sometimes we get too busy running down the road of progress to realize what or who we are trampling on the way. Free trade is a great idea, but I think the question we should leave hanging in our ears is "At what cost?" Every good thing comes with a price, but how much is too much? Was Hae's farm too high a price? What about Hae's life?

A few months ago Hae protested with 15,000 other farmers wearing a sandwich board. It read, "The WTO kills farmers." In the photos of his death, he is lying on top of a similar, incorrectly punctuated sign, which reads, "WTO! Kills. Farmers."

If Hae were around to comment on his own death, I somehow doubt he would call it suicide. ◆

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.



Say you're in jail. Now, we know no devoted reader of "Schmuck" would ever find themselves in jail, but say you are. Then you get released.

Now, who's stupid enough to be brought back to jail in 43 minutes after said release? Vothy Chhay, that's who.

Vancouver, British Columbia, police released Chhay Sept. 17 at 7:25 a.m. At 8:07 a.m., he was brought back on the exact same charge he was originally arrested for – car prowling.

Car prowling? What a lame crime. If you're going to prowl, you might as well target something cool, like the International Towing and Recovery Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn., or the Imperial Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. If all you want to do is check out cars, go to a dealership.

Back to the story. Around 8 a.m., a Juvenile Court employee noticed Chhay was circling her car. When he tried to open the door – with the handle, not a slim Jim – she asked what he was doing.

According to the clerk, Chhay quickly tried to cover up his actions, and offered her "30 large" (that's

\$30,000 Canadian for those of you not hip to the parlance of our times) plus "something on the side" for her ride. She declined the offer, went inside the court building and told a sheriff's deputy what had transpired. Deputy Tim Gosch found Chhay and arrested him.

It takes a special kind of criminal to carry out a plan like this, and we're not talking special like your grandma calls you. Think more along the lines of a *Crank Yankers* character.

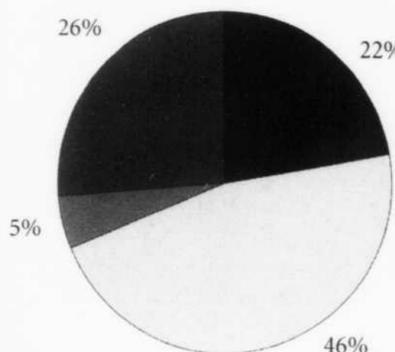
Chhay was a free man, at least until his trial for the first charge of car prowling. Why give that up to look at a Lexus? It's a nice car, but it's not worth stalking. Of course, if these latest charges prove to be true, it wouldn't be surprising for a kid who already has seven convictions, including possessing stolen property and forgery.

A saint, he ain't. ◆

Original story from the Associated Press, via www.seattlepi.com, posted Sept. 18.

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Do you want the university to offer more online courses?" Here's what readers said:



- No – we don't need a nation of people educated by machines (26 percent; 31 votes).
- Yes – It would help cut down on campus congestion (46 percent; 54 votes).
- No – there seems to be a bounty of online courses already (5 percent; 6 votes).
- Yes – my ideal education is one for which I don't have to get out of bed (22 percent; 26 votes).

Be sure to visit www.mtsusidelines.com to vote in this week's poll question: "Did you find the Career Fair to be useful?"

SIDELINES

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

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and a phone number for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

If you see strange men
(or women)
at your window,
tell them to quit staring.
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Obesity a growing problem

Kacey's Corner



Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

Obesity is a growing problem in our country, and if people knew the factors of this problem it would not be growing so rapidly.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was thinking along the same lines. In its 2000 Behavioral Nutrition Roundtable discussion, it began the "Healthy Lifestyles for Healthy Americans" program, which was the group's main goal for that year. The only problem was that Americans didn't get the memo.

The USDA talked about many factors that caused obesity such as genetics, physical environment, habit and compulsive tendencies. The members of the roundtable discussion found that genetics wasn't a major factor of obesity. So genetics shouldn't be used as an excuse when you are watching

All My Children with a gallon of ice cream in your hand.

Obesity has become a major problem just within the last 20 years. Some social and environmental changes have been to blame, like technology, time pressure, fast food and food prices. We can all admit that who ever invented the microwave had to be a god. We all can also admit that we sometimes buy the cheapest, quickest meals because we are poor and we have class in 10 minutes. This is OK sometimes, but if we keep doing it, it will catch up with us.

Another big part of this problem is that our activity level is very low. As a college student you get up and go to class. You take a nap, and maybe you go out that night. This problem does not end after college — it only gets worse. It's to the point that the USDA and local organizations are pushing for more sidewalks so people will walk instead of drive.

Some of the USDA's other initiatives include urging construction companies to erect new buildings where people will have to engage in some physical

activity, such as walking up stairs. The group also wants more health and obesity education so our kids won't have this problem. Weight loss programs and exercise are also important. What's the excuse for MTSU students? We have a recreation center here that is free to use.

I break up with someone or you make an A on a test, your emotions are very high or low and that is when you need food. But when people seek food for comfort, they might just need a friend. It's extremely unhealthy to fill that void with food.

Obesity is a problem that is only getting worse. It's important to be healthy and happy with yourself, and to do the best with what you have. If you are bigger because of genetics and you are as healthy as you can be, that is great. The issue is not weight. It's health and happiness, so "Healthy Lifestyles for Healthy Americans" seems to be the way to go. ♦

Kacey Hercules is a sophomore social work major and can be reached via e-mail at kah2x@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Patriotism does not equal ignorance, racism

To the editor:

The ability to voice our opinions is one of our primary rights as American citizens. However, if someone chooses to state his or her thoughts and feelings on a particular subject, they have the obligation to do so intelligently. Eric Blevins' column is an example of how not to state an opinion.

His column on American patriotism is almost funny in a way. I am intrigued that he correlates patriotism with racism, ignorance and terrorism, when that is not the case. Patriotism is defined as "the love of country, and the devotion to the welfare of one's country."

Blevins grossly misinterprets the definition of patriotism. It is a person's outpouring of love, respect and support that he holds for his country. Patriotism requires a higher standard of intelligence; a degree of knowledge that allows one to be enlightened about what this country stands for and the efforts of the past to uplift our country. It is not a form of cultural racism or widespread ignorance.

Secondly, one should never assume what the answers of others would be when asked a particular question. I don't know anyone who thinks Spanish-speaking people should be eliminated from our country. Any individual who thinks this may very well be patriotic, but that is not the direction in which Blevins was aiming. That person, according to him, would be racist, not patriotic.

Blevins also seems to think that patriotism is our excuse for being the "world bully." America, as it just so happens, is the number one world power. Our strength as a country does not make us terrorists. If we do not step up to the plate, who will? The point of the war in Iraq was not to kill innocent civilians. The objective was to topple a horrific dictator who shamelessly slaughtered hundreds of thousands of his own people just because he could, and who tested chemical weapons on those same innocent civilians.

Blevins' narrow perception dominates his opinion and closes down any avenues for intellectual thought. His selective memory prohibits him from realizing that every country has its flaws. Sure, America has several ghosts in its closet. What country doesn't? Ever hear of the Holocaust, the Spanish Inquisition, the mass murders of "heretics" in Europe and apartheid in South Africa?

It seems to me that Blevins is indeed the "unfortunate soul" out of touch with wisdom." In the future when stating his opinion, he should do so with the wisdom that he so gallantly boasts.

Rachel Wilson
Senior, College of Mass Communication

Know who Dean really is

By Bimal Chaudhari
The Daily Free Press

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — Howard Dean is about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and does, in fact, appear a bit stocky. But while he has lately become a media darling, he is still running as the governor of an obscure and rural Northeastern state. Howard Dean is not exactly a cardboard cut-out of the far left: while he shares a vitriolic hatred of President George W. Bush and holds a McGovernite anti-war stance, he enjoys the support of his state's National Rifle Association chapter. While I will concede Dean has the potential to upset Bush, he has run his campaign largely without media scrutiny. Should Dean get his party's nomination, people will start to ask serious questions about his political "successes."

The first thing everyone will notice is that there is a paucity of information on Dean's political past compared to previous candidates. This is not because Dean did not do anything interesting; it's because he sealed his gubernatorial papers for 10 years (twice the traditional length for his state's governors). Why? According to the governor, on National Public Radio, "We didn't want anything embarrassing appearing in the papers at a critical time in any future endeavour." Knock him all you want. At least he admits he's got things to hide about his stewardship of Vermont.

Damien Ma claims in his recent op-ed ("For future of presidency, Dean inspires hope," *The Daily Free Press*, Sept. 12, pg. 9) that Dean balanced his budget every year without even being compelled to. While this is technically true, we ought to look at how he managed to balance his budget. The governor didn't actually arrange his spending such that it neatly conformed to revenue streams (a recipe for lasting balanced budgets). He instead regularly tapped into "special funds" — those wonderful pools of money that developed throughout the 1990s as states rode a rising economy to larger than expected revenue.

The fact Dean managed to consistently balance the budget over a 10-year period where the United States' economy was in recession only six months is hardly a sign of budgetary wizardry.

Dean might, however, win awards for the sleight of hand he has managed to pull with his claims of universal health insurance. It is certainly admirable to aim for 100 percent coverage, but Dean's experience in Vermont can hardly serve as a model for social policy. Dean managed to provide universal health care to his state's citizens by having one of the highest state participation rates in the federally subsidized Medicaid program. In other words, Dean could ensure every Vermont resident by getting the other 49 states to pay for his beloved universal coverage. Unfortunately, President Dean won't be able to

ask the United Nations to subsidize his fiscally "responsible" way to ensure every American on a balanced budget.

As long as we on social policy, let's look at Dean on children. Dean has long presented himself as a defender of children and loves to take jobs at the president's "No Child Left Behind" initiative. But look at the actual content of his campaign speeches. Even when he's pandering directly to a teachers' union, he is careful to qualify his commitment to increased education funding with the caveat that he can't be held responsible for how indirect aid is spent. Dean loves to carp about misallocated education appropriations, but he has yet to offer a sensible alternative.

And when he refers to his own record as a defender of children and families, he can be blatantly deceptive. He has claimed that he "cut child abuse by 43 percent and child sexual abuse by 70 percent" without explaining that the data is taken from raw totals of an already shrinking population. When you compare Vermont's gains in these areas in the Dean years, the state did worse than the national average. Finally, and most shocking for a doctor, the state of Vermont permits non-doctors to perform abortions. In 1998, more than 180 girls under the age of 18 had abortions in Vermont. More than 90 didn't see a doctor for the procedure. Regardless of what you think of abortion as a social policy, this just isn't sound medical policy. Is this really a track record that inspires hope?

Ma also seems enamored of the possibility of President Dean reinvigorating the economy. The problem is that, as the recent gubernatorial campaign revealed, Vermont lost more manufacturing jobs than it created in the 1990s.

I suppose you could argue that the economy was simply experiencing sectoral shift toward the service sector. But, if the shift already occurred in the Dean years, why has Dean's successor in Vermont made modernizing the Vermont economy and bringing it into the 21st century the center of his economic plan?

Frankly, the notion that our economy can be "rescued" by massive investment in infrastructure, particularly telecommunications, is naive. One of the most frequently cited sources of the recent recession (which, by the way, ended in November 2001) was a significant overinvestment in telecommunications infrastructure. While a policy encouraging more developments in infrastructure might create jobs in the short term, it would undoubtedly exacerbate existing structural inefficiencies for years to come.

While I recognize Ma's uncertainty and fear about his economic and academic future, his criticism is largely misplaced. President Bush inherited an economy that had already dangerously over-invested in telecommunications, as well as

a corporate culture that was beholden to Wall Street profit estimates. It is silly to suggest that these forces would never correct market excesses, just as it is silly to suggest that the former governor of Vermont is a seasoned fiscal conservative and job creator who will "provide jobs for me and millions of other Americans."

Just before he closes, Ma veers away from domestic policy to briefly address foreign and security issues. Sadly, while his analysis may generate sympathy for his own feelings of a future "swinging wildly in limbo," it does little to advance any serious arguments for Dean. The mere disapproval of current policy is insufficient reason for any rational person to support him.

The insinuation Bush has lowered American prestige around the world and that our actions in Afghanistan and Iraq have made this country incredibly unpopular abroad bears with it an implicit understanding that it is more important to be popular than right or safe.

While Madeleine Albright has advocated this view, any sober-minded reader should be able to see the inanity of such a position.

As for his discomfort over his future, I would suggest that Ma is being a bit melodramatic. There is no real reason his future should be significantly more uncertain than that of people in similar circumstances one, five or ten years ago. Certainly the geopolitical climate is different than it was before he entered Boston University, but people have entered the job market or applied to graduate school (apparently Ma's pre-eminent concerns) in all sorts of economic and geopolitical conditions for years without blaming the president.

Finally, Ma makes the obligatory swing at the USA PATRIOT Act. I don't have time to discuss the merits and flaws of this particular piece of legislation, but it is worthwhile to examine Ma's criticism. He claims he is uncomfortable knowing criticism of current policy will lead to action by the Justice Department.

The implication, of course, is that Bush has created a police state to suppress criticism of his policies.

The very existence and popularity of the Howard Dean campaign reveal the foolishness of this view. Here is a candidate whose only concrete "hope" is that he is not George W. Bush.

Last time I checked, John Ashcroft had more important things to worry about than what Howard Dean or Damien Ma had to say.

Howard Dean may have given hope to Ma and the nearly 400,000 supporters on www.deanforamerica.com, but this says far more about their political naivete or willful ignorance of the public record and common sense than it does about Dean's fitness to lead this fine nation. ♦

Your key to campus news and events.
www.mtsusidelines.com

Don't like the rules ?

Attention: Students, Staff & Faculty

The University Rules Committee annually reviews MTSU's promulgated institutional rules. This material appears in the 2003-2004 edition of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* publication. Proposals for changes to existing rules, or for the creation of new rules, must be submitted no later than October 6th, 2003 to Dr. David Hays, MTSU Box 17.

Regulations appearing in the *MTSU Traffic & Parking Rules* pamphlet are also a part of the University's institutional rules. Proposed additions to changes in these rules must be submitted to Ron Malone MTSU Box 130, also no later than October 6th, 2003.

So change them .

Proposals are to be typed and must contain the following:

1. The text of the rule as it now appears.
2. The text of the rule proposed.
3. A statement of rationale which supports the proposed change.

* Item (1) should be disregarded if the proposal is for a new rule.

Proposed rule changes must be submitted on the following media:

1. Hard Copy of the proposed change.
2. On a Macintosh Compatible Disk in MS Word.
3. E-mail to jhayes@mtsu.edu

The Organizational meeting of the Rules Committee will be held Thursday, September 25 @ 3:30 p.m., in Room 210 in the Keathley University Center. Other meetings of the Rules Committee will be announced via Sidelines and on the campus e-mail. These meetings are open to the masses.

Pump up the SPIRIT

Rowdy Raiders get football fans energized

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

Scanning the stadium at an MTSU football game, you see a lot of blue – blue hats, blue t-shirts, blue pendants and posters and ... blue bodies.

These blue people aren't dead, though. In fact, they are probably the most alive people at the game – alive with Raider spirit, that is.

The aptly named Rowdy Raiders is a student spirit organization whose members are willing to do whatever – and they do mean whatever – it takes to get the crowd going in support of their team. This includes painting themselves that darling shade of royal blue that MTSU students and alumni have come to love.

This upbeat student group has been around for about three years and is steadily gaining membership. Currently about 15 strong, the Rowdy Raiders are always on the lookout for new members.

So what does it take to be a Rowdy Raider? "Anybody who wants to join is welcome to," club president and freshman Krystle Gray says.

According to advisor Jonathan Pursley, the group was created to work with the cheerleaders in "get[ting] the crowd riled up."

Anyone who has ever been to an MTSU game knows that they are great at what they do.

Who can resist the call of the blue-bodied fanatics to join in a cheer of school spirit? Who can look into those eyes, desperate for victory, watering from the smell of paint, pleading with you to help in the cause and not at least force a smile and a "hurrah for the team?"

While the Rowdy Raiders are committed to their fellow carousers, any of them would be the first to tell you that what makes them so important is not their title, but their passion for the team.

"All the students are Rowdy Raiders, in a way," Pursley says.

He gives two specific examples to prove his point. The first is the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity hayloft.

"Between us and them, it gets pretty rowdy," Pursley says.

He also mentions his personal favorite exhibition of spirit – a fan who dressed up like a blue raider, with spikes and everything – at the first home game this year against Florida Atlantic University.

While the Rowdy Raiders would like to see more students become official members, they appreciate all who show their spirit – whether in the organization or not.

Pursley says that many of the members of the organization are freshmen.

According to those involved, the benefits of being a Rowdy Raider are unquestionable. Gray sees the Rowdy Raiders as an opportunity to continue the high excitement of football that had been so prevalent in her hometown of Knoxville, Tenn.

She also enjoys the opportunity to run (not jog) onto the field with the football team. Aside from nearly being trampled, one time, as a result of ill-cooperating flip-flops, this is one of her favorite parts of being in the organization.

"It's a lot of fun, and a way to show your school spirit," freshman Crystal Griffey, the group's secretary, says. "It's a rush."

Some of the other advantages of being a Rowdy Raider include energizing the crowd at road games and pep rallies. Members also receive free Cokes at half-time.

If these experiences sound enticing to you, then go ahead and let that blue blood run. According to those who've already made that step, it's one way to show you're true blue in support of your Blue Raiders.

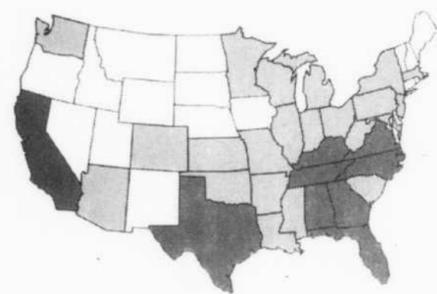
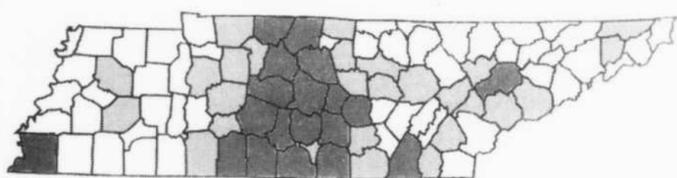
To join the Rowdy Raiders or for more information, contact Jonathan Pursley at 898-5812 or jpursley@mtsu.edu. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Brian Westerman, Curt Oglesby, Brendan Luby and Matt Baxter express their own true blue spirit during the first home game of the year against Florida Atlantic.

Distribution map of living MTSU alumni



□ Less than 100 alumni
 □ 100-500 alumni
 ■ More than 500 alumni

Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

MTSU alumni reside throughout Tennessee and the United States.

Hail to the home of the blue Alumni support alma mater

By Julia Reynolds
Staff Writer

"Three groups make up the university – students, faculty and the alumni," Debbie Coppinger says.

There is no question about which of the three groups Coppinger favors. She is MTSU's director of the alumni relations office and the executive director of the alumni association.

Ironically, Coppinger is not an MTSU alumna. A graduate of Auburn University, she considers it an advantage to have an outsider's perspective.

"I am excited about MTSU. I think MTSU students and faculty don't always appreciate what a great school we have because they haven't experienced other universities. I think MTSU is the best-kept secret in the state," Coppinger says.

Coppinger and MTSU President Sidney McPhee are working with MTSU alumni chapters

around the state to lift the veil of secrecy about MTSU's successes.

County alumni chapters are hosting a series of luncheon presentations by McPhee. The goal of these presentations is to get the message out to alumni that their alma mater is the fastest growing university in the state.

MTSU alumni number 75,000 and reside throughout the nation. Alumni chapters are located in 12 counties in Tennessee, with additional chapters in Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

MTSU alumni chapters routinely contribute to the university through activities such as the graduation breakfast, providing mini-diplomas to graduates, homecoming, the Student Ambassador Program, the annual Grad Fair for graduating seniors and the adopt-a-student program to place students from distant cities with local families.

Another important role for alumni

See Alumni, 7

Dear Emily,

Boyfriend's mom too mothering

Dear Emily,

My boyfriend's mom is so sweet. I love her to death. But she is kind of getting on my nerves.

She keeps acting like she thinks [my boyfriend] is at summer camp or something. She expects him to come home every weekend, and if he gets sick, then she wants to bring him home.

I mean, I honestly love her to death and I admire her because she works her butt off for her family (at home), but she gets a little extreme. If she calls his room and he's not there or no one answers, then she calls me and asks me if I'm talking to him.

It's not bad all the time, but when she does it every day, it gets on my nerves.

What should I do?
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

A good friend of mine once said that when it comes to things like this, you should either get used to it or get out.

Since you seem to have such a close, respectful relationship with your boy's mom, it would be a shame to compromise that by confronting her about constantly checking up on her son.

It would hurt her feelings and probably make things awkward between you two if you tell her she's going overboard with her matronly impulses.

While it is a valid complaint, it seems like your boyfriend is receiving the brunt of the pestering.

Therefore, if the constant babying bothers him as well, then he needs to be the one to communicate that to his

mom, not you.

Who knows – maybe he's a mama's boy and enjoys the extra attention and special treatment from his mom as a welcome break from the typically non-pampering college atmosphere.

The bottom line is, if something is to be said, it's his place to say it.

If you want to, casually bring it up while you're talking to him, and see if you get the impression that it's bothering him too. Otherwise, leave it alone.

Overall, if the good outweighs the bad, and the relationship is worth your commitment, stick with it, and don't mention the mom-trouble. No relationship is perfect, and if you can overlook some minor annoyances, it's probably in both of your interests to do so.

So grin and bear it. Take one for the team.

This kind of laid-back attitude will certainly help you pick your battles wisely in the future, when you encounter other imperfections with either your boyfriend or his kinfolk.

If his mom's pestering is too much to handle and you can't fathom enduring it, consider getting out of the relationship. You won't want a mother-in-law whose lavish attention is intolerable for you. Remember, love is patient and true love can endure anything. I hope everything works out for you. ♦



Send letters to mtsudearemy@hotmail.com

Rude behavior disrupts classroom

By **Petroula Makrinakis**
Staff Writer

Talking while the instructor is lecturing, ringing cell phones, students leaving before the instructor is finished and students engaging in other non-academic activities during class time. Sound familiar?

This all may be reminiscent of high school, but according to Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, disruptive and rude behavior in the college classroom is a growing problem.

"It is a growing problem of thoughtlessness, a bit of immaturity and self-absorption," Glenn says.

Classroom etiquette can be described as a mutually held understanding of guidelines and procedures designed to create a proper and comfortable atmosphere in the classroom.

However, Glenn points out that more often than not, it appears that the individual's needs are considered far more important than the community's needs.

Students say that in addition to the talking and cell phone disruptions, they also find a problem with others eating noisy snacks. For example, chips or snacks with plastic wrapping.

Students also point out that a professor's attitude plays a role in the severity of the disruption.

"It [disruptive behavior] varies from class to class, but I've noticed that it is dependent both on the professor

and the student," Daniel Dorset, a senior biology major, says.

An article in *USA Today*, Sept. 1, 2003 titled "Student Problems Begin at Home" says many schools need to do a better job of addressing disruptive and rude behavior.

Due to the decline in classroom etiquette, many institutions have a declaration of principles, in which the guidelines and expectations are made known to the student.

Glenn explains that MTSU has a group currently working on comprising a set of guidelines and expectations that will aid students in their college classroom experiences.

Glenn says some behavior is considered to be universally rude and disruptive. However, too often, students don't consider that if a behavior is rude in one situation, it might be rude in others as well.

He also says giving the students these guidelines should make for a smoother transition into the university and the community.

"Rights [should be] balanced with responsibility," Glenn says.

But what if these guidelines are not enough to deter students from behaving in a way that is disruptive to the classroom?

Some professors, such as associate professor of English William Levine, say they will eject a student from class if their behavior becomes too disruptive. According to Glenn, such discipli-



Illustration by Jamie Lorange | Staff Illustrator

MTSU is developing guidelines to address the growing trend of rude and disruptive classroom behavior. The behavioral problems aren't limited to this school; a nationwide trend is developing.

nary action is perfectly acceptable.

"Teachers have the right [to take a student out of class]; it is clearly stated in the [student] handbook," Glenn says.

On the other hand, if a student feels he or she has been taken out of the classroom unjustly, then that student

can go to the department chair and file a complaint. Needless to say, there are options for professors and students who find themselves in a situation concerning classroom etiquette.

Glenn maintains it is crucial for the reversal of this bad behavior trend to understand that when students enter a

university, they enter a community. They must coexist with others; it is simply impossible to do so if the main focus is always "me."

Glenn says the student's role in acceptable classroom etiquette is easily summed up.

"Use basic common sense." ♦

Alumni: Graduates help maintain MTSU traditions

Continued from 6

is keeping MTSU traditions alive.

Alumni advisors have created a traditions committee to suggest ways that traditional student activities can be revived. In the process, some little-known facts about MTSU history are coming to light.

For example, alumni have pointed out that the walnut trees that grow between the Cope Building and Peck Hall are actually descendants of trees from Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate in Virginia.

Coppinger cites Don and Hannah Witherspoon as examples of ideal MTSU alumni. The Witherspoons are the co-presidents of the Rutherford County alumni chapter.

"They do just about anything we ask of them and they support everything at the university," Coppinger says.

The Witherspoons recently gave \$25,000 to the university scholarship fund, challenging other Rutherford County graduates to the match the donation.

Every year, the MTSU development office seeks donations from alumni. Those who respond give an average of \$94 per request. There were about 4,000 alumni givers during this calendar year.

According to Kirk Purdom, director of MTSU's development office, alumni-giving is an important part of all university fundraising, and not just because of the dollars donated.

"One of the ways the university is measured is by how graduates give back to the university," Purdom says. "When we solicit corporate givers ... they want to see a high percentage of alumni support for the school before they commit."

According to Kippy Todd, director of donor relations and stewardship, the per-

centage of MTSU alumni who support the university through financial gifts is seven percent. In contrast, the University of Tennessee has alumni support of 14.7 percent.

"Our goal is to grow our alumni giving base to 10 percent in 2004," Todd says.

Jim Andrews, MTSU alumnus and president of the Williamson County alumni chapter, has good reasons for his involvement in alumni activities.

"I saw involvement in the Williamson County chapter as a way to give back to the school that gave a lot to me" Andrews says. "I got a fine education at MTSU, as have my son and daughter."

"I think MTSU is the finest school in the state and in the mid-south," he adds. ♦

Hear ye, hear ye!



Sidelines'
Campus
Events
calendar
is back in
business.

**Come by the JUB,
Room 310, and fill out
the campus events form.**

Campus Calendar

Monday, Sept. 22
Honors Lecture Series
"Gender, Race and Today's U.S. Media Superwomen"
Speaker: Elyce Helford
Peck Hall, Room 109A, 3-3:50 p.m.
For information, call 898-2152.

Sept. 22-26
Midlander Yearbook Portraits
Keathley University Center, 2nd floor lounge, 9-6 p.m.
Seniors call 898-2815 to set up an appointment. All other students may come when convenient. There is no fee to have your picture taken.

Wednesday, Sept. 24
Campus Freethought Alliance Meeting
Peck Hall, Room 200, 6:30 p.m.
The organization meets every other Wednesday. For information, call 494-3290.

Thursday, Sept. 25
June Anderson Women's Center
Free Legal Clinic

JAWC, 7 p.m.
Space is limited. Must have an appointment.
For information, call 898-2193.

Sept. 25-27
The Music Man
Tucker Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
For information, call 898-2103.

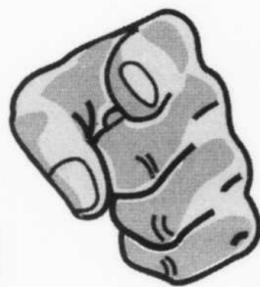
Sept. 26-28
Murfreesboro Kennel Club Dog Show
Tennessee Livestock Center,
Friday, 1 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.
For information, call 898-5575.

Sunday, Sept. 28
"MTSU On the Record"
WMOT-FM 89.5, 7 a.m.
"Tennessee Highland Games"
Guest: John Mauldin
For information, call 898-2919.

School of Music
Beth McGhee senior clarinet recital
Music Hall of Wright Music Building, 3 p.m.
For information, call 898-2493 or e-mail tmus-selm@mtsu.edu.

Tuesday, Sept. 30
15th Annual Jack O. Weatherford Chair of Finance Golf Tournament
Stones River Country Club, 10:45 a.m.
For information, call 898-2883.

'SIDELINES' WANTS YOU

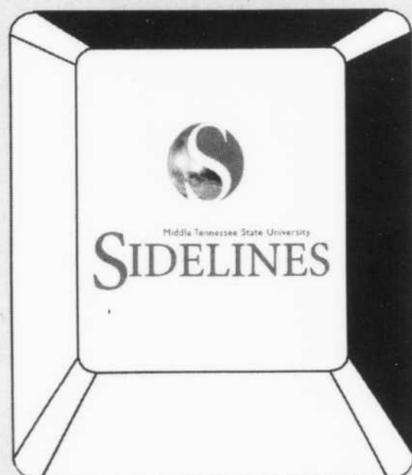


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MT falls short in overtime against Tigers

By Wes Wyrick
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders fell one-point short in a battle this past Saturday against the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Middle Tennessee (0-4) dropped its second close loss of the season, in a 41-40 overtime loss to the Tigers, who are rated No. 23 in the Associated Press Poll and the Coaches' Poll.

Andrico Hines had a season-best performance after putting up 248 yards passing and three touchdowns against No. 4 Tiger defense.

"Words really don't explain how I feel," Hines said to www.CBSsportsline.com. "We were in position to win the game, just a bad break here and there. That's kind of been the story for us this year."

The Missouri defense came into this game giving up an average of 7.3 points per game, but MT began early raising that average.

On MT's opening drive,

Hines led the Blue Raider offense 82 yards down the field. After 16 plays capping the drive off with a four-yard touchdown pass to Wardell Alsop, MT took an early 7-0 advantage.

The drive was highlighted by a decision from MT head coach Andy McCollum to go for a fourth-and-one from the Tiger 10-yard line. Hines converted the first down with a three-yard sneak up the middle.

Heisman candidate Brad Smith brought his Tigers back with two touchdown passes and a field goal to give Missouri a 16-7 lead in the second quarter.

On MT's next drive the Blue Raiders moved the ball 60 yards down the field in two minutes ending with a one-yard touchdown run by Eugene Gross. On the drive, Gross completed a 37-yard pass to Sam Williams setting up MT for the score. The Gross touchdown cut the Missouri lead to 16-14.

On the Tigers next drive, the Blue Raider defense appeared to have the Tigers reeling with a

third-and-17 on their own 21, but Smith struck again.

Smith escaped the pocket and scampered down the field for a 64-yard gain before being caught at the Blue Raider 14-yard line.

From there, running back Zack Abron pushed the ball in the end zone to extend the Tigers' advantage to nine points.

With the ensuing Blue Raider drive, Hines passed for 58 yards, and MT traveled 81 yards in four minutes, capping off the first half with a 21-yard touchdown pass to Kerry Wright to cut the Missouri lead to 23-21 at halftime.

MT took the ball after half-time and moved it 78 yards but stalled at the Tiger two-yard line, setting up Brian Kelly for an easy 19-yard field goal, reclaiming the lead for MT at 24-23.

The Blue Raiders scored again after a Missouri three-

See Football, 9



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

MT running back Eugene Gross runs the ball against the Missouri defense Saturday.

Lady Raiders at home after three weeks

MT takes second after loss to Murray State

By Amy Jones-Foster
Sports Editor

After being on and off the road for the past three weeks, the Lady Raider volleyball team stayed in Murfreesboro this weekend to host the Middle Tennessee Invitational.

MT took a 3-0 victory over Appalachian State University Friday night and a 3-0 win over Western Illinois University

Saturday but fell 0-3 to Murray State University in the final match of the tourney.

"We just really clicked against Appalachian, and we just had everything really going," MT head coach Lisa Kissee said.

During the 30-20, 30-15 and 30-16 victory over ASU (2-8), the Lady Raiders had two players go into double digits in kills.

Outside hitter Dara McLean had 11 kills on the night along with teammate KeKe Deckard, who also had 11. Katherine Dean led ASU with six kills on the night.

The Lady Raiders also combined for a total of seven service aces, while the ASU completed four.

On Saturday morning, MT came back to watch Western Illinois (0-12) in a 30-21, 30-21

and 30-21 match.

The MT co-captains stood out in this match with Karisse Baker leading the Lady Raiders in kills with 21 and a total kill percentage of .613. Deckard took second on the squad in kills with 11 and led the team with 10 digs on the evening.

Freshman Victoria Monasterolo was close behind Deckard with eight kills.

Junior setter Goldie Bilyeu led the team with 25 set assists. "Offensively, we were just really connecting, and I think a lot of that was having Goldie back in the lineup," Kissee said. "She is just more experienced and runs a quicker ball."

After shutting out two squads in the tourney, the Lady Raiders closed the tourney with a physical three-game with MSU (6-4).

MSU beat the Lady Raiders in three close sets of 30-26, 31-25 and 35-33.

"It was disappointing because we didn't play even close to what we are capable of doing," Kissee said. "It would have been nice to at least play well, and then if you lose, you lose."

"The fact that we didn't give up is good and is definitely a positive," Kissee added.

Baker and Deckard led the Lady Raiders again in kills. Baker had 16 while Deckard had 18. Deckard also had 11 digs on the night.

Monasterolo led the team in digs against MSU with 17, while freshman Andressa Lyra had 10.

Setters Megan Sumrell and Bilyeu shared in the 21 set assists and Bilyeu with 17.

MSU's Abbi Gui led the tournament champs in kills with 21, while tourney MVP Nikki Wong led with 45 set assists.

The Lady Raiders will play at home again Tuesday against the University of Memphis. ♦

Volleyball team hosts Memphis tomorrow

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team will try to regroup after a tough loss to Murray State University when it hosts the University of Memphis this Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Although the Lady Raiders (7-7) made several comebacks in the final match of the MT Invitational, they were unable to match MSU's consistency and lost 3-0 (26-30, 29-31, 33-35).

"We're going to have to get over it, basically," MT head coach Lisa Kissee said. "We gave up some situations where we could have put game two away. We could have put game three away, but we also didn't

give up because we were down big in both of those games."

Kissee, however, wasn't going to make excuses for her team, which won two of its three matches this weekend but saw the tournament title go to the MSU Racers.

"The last two weeks, it's been the same situation where it has just been a trust factor," Kissee said. "Our setters and hitters just have to trust each other, and that's what we've been working on. It has to happen. There's no more time."

As the Lady Raiders prepare to embark on a five-game conference road trip beginning this Friday at the University of North Texas,

See Preview, 10

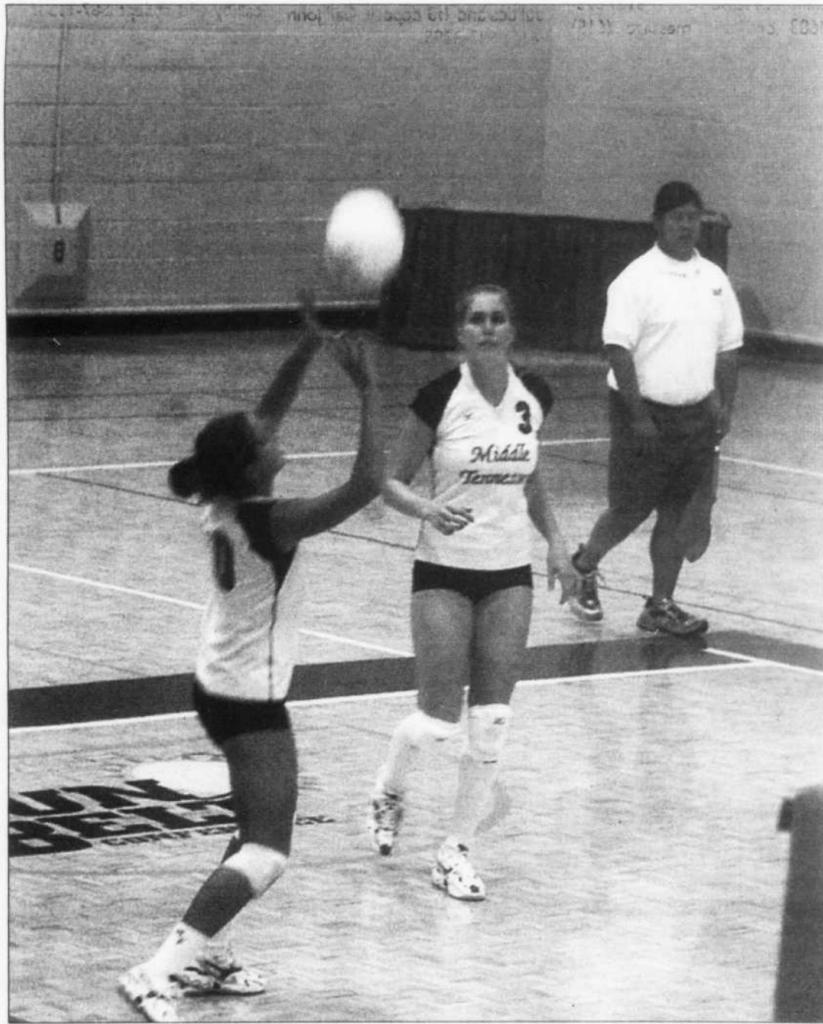


Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Victoria Monasterolo sets up a shot for junior Dara McLean Friday night.

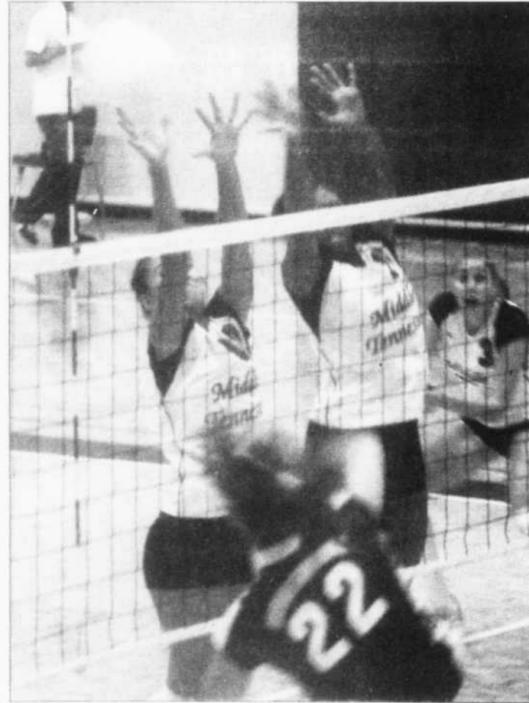


Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Victoria Monasterolo and KeKe Deckard hit a shot against Appalachian State Friday night.

Jump to Division I-A tough for black colleges

Are you serious?



Jonathan Long
Staff Columnist

Next year, Division I-A football will have a new team join its ranks: the Florida A&M Rattlers. The rattlers will be the first historically black college or university to jump from Division I-AA to Division I-A.

It is a ground-breaking move in respect to the little attention

Historically Black Colleges and Universities receive football wise.

Don't be fooled. It is tough to figure out the reason behind the move to Division I-A.

Could it be an attempt at getting higher quality opponents? No. FAMU lost 63-3 against University of Florida and barely defeated Division I-AA Tennessee State 10-7 Saturday.

They have been a perennial Top 25 Division I-AA team since 1995. They lose to Division I-A schools frequently. Even though they open at

Oklahoma next year, their succession from Division I-AA is not because of the need to play better opponents.

With the move, will more athletes be drawn to play at FAMU? First off, it's probably harder to get into their band than to get on their football team.

Then the best players out of high school want attention, the chance to be a star. I don't think I've ever heard Kirk Herbstreit or Lee Corso talk about them, and we probably never will.

Are they doing it to help integrate the program? No.

There are currently three whites out of 63 scholarship players on the team. Let's not forget that this is a historically black university, meaning that whites would be a minority and could get minority scholarships.

This would allow them to give more football scholarships. Many whites, though, frown on the idea of going to a majority black college. This is not something that has just happened there at FAMU. The "H" in "HBCU" stands for historically, meaning has been and not likely to change.

So why the move? The same

reason 99.98 percent of division changes are made in this country, money. J.R.E. Lee, athletics director, said the motivation is strictly monetary. We want to be part of the mainstream as dollars flow.

He feels they deserve that and they do. In that win against TSU, they played in front of a sellout crowd of more than 70,000, even though many cared less about anything other than half-time and the opposite sex. They also sold out Ford Field for the inaugural Detroit Classic, and their game at Florida was the largest crowd of

all time at "The Swamp."

FAMU is ready for Division I-A football, maybe not wins, but Division I-A football dollars.

"We want to be part of a conference that whether we lose them all or win them all, we're still going to get a check for five or six million dollars," Lee said to www.tennessean.com.

It is good to see that a historically black university is finally doing what other colleges have been practicing forever-losing in the long run on the field but winning where it counts in the checkbook. ♦

Football: Blue Raiders go to 0-4

Continued from 8

and-out on a six-yard run by Kevin Davis pushing the Blue Raider advantage to eight points.

The score was 34-26 with MT leading late in the fourth quarter when Smith led the Tigers on a 73-yard venture in four minutes, ending with a 12-yard pass from Smith to receiver Darius Outlaw.

Still down two, Missouri went for the two-point conversion and got it behind a two yard run from Smith tying the game at 34-34, sending the game into overtime.

The Blue Raiders had the ball first in overtime and executed a 24-yard pass to set up a four-yard Hines touchdown.

Kelly's extra point bounced off the left goal post, leaving the Blue Raider lead at six points.

On Missouri's overtime possession, Zack Abron rushed for 20 yards, including a five-yard touchdown run tying the game at 40-40.

A 15-yard celebration penalty on the Tigers made for an extra point attempt from 35 yards out, which was converted

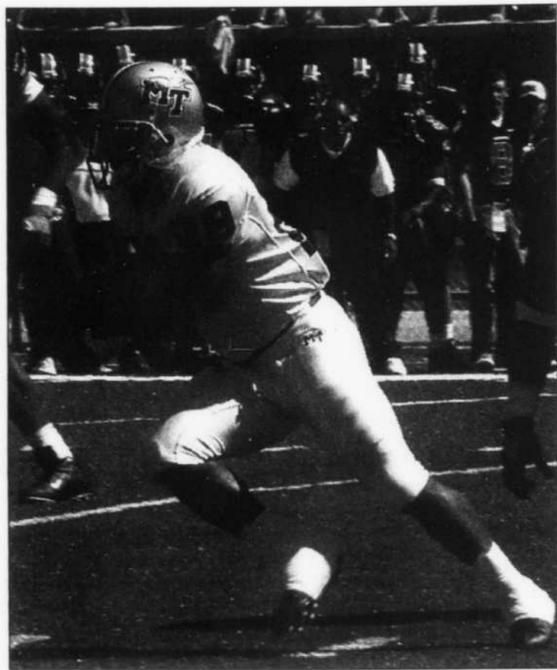


Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Don Calloway runs the ball against Missouri Saturday.

by Missouri kicker Mike Matheny, sinking the Blue Raiders' chances of their first victory over a ranked opponent.

Special teams played a big role in this game, as Missouri gained 164 yards on special teams to MT's 50 yards, setting up the Tiger offense in great field position.

MT will have a week off and then take on the Temple University Owls at Floyd Stadium.

Temple's visit will mark the first to Murfreesboro by a power conference team. Temple (0-3) is a member of the Big East. ♦

Titans take 27-12 win over Saints in Nashville

By Teresa M. Walker
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Steve McNair joined some exclusive company Sunday, and the Tennessee Titans avoided repeating last season's stumbling start.

McNair threw for 252 yards and two touchdowns, becoming just the fifth quarterback in NFL history to notch 20,000 yards passing with 3,000 yards rushing as the Titans beat the New Orleans Saints 27-12.

The Titans, who started 1-4 last season, improved to 2-1 with a dominating performance that could have been even better if they had not stopped themselves.

They settled for two field goals by Gary Anderson, including once inside the New Orleans 10, and McNair fumbled on another possession near the goal line.

But Eddie George had 29 carries for 100 yards and ran for his first touchdown of the season to seal the victory. The Titans held the ball for more than 39 minutes, which was more than enough as the

defense had three sacks and held New Orleans (1-2) to 188 yards total offense.

The Titans came into the game with an NFL-best streak of 22 straight home games without allowing a 100-yard rusher, and they improved that to 23 by stopping Deuce McAllister, the NFC's leading rusher last season with 1,388 yards.

McAllister had only five carries in the first half for minus nine yards. He finished with 11 carries for eight yards.

Aaron Brooks had no better luck jumpstarting the Saints, who had the NFC's highest-scoring offense last year. Against the Titans, they could only outscore their special teams, which had a safety, through the three quarters.

McNair, who finished 22-of-33, needed only 171 yards passing to join Fran Tarkenton, John Elway, Randall Cunningham and Steve Young as the only quarterbacks with such numbers. But he came into the game questionable after dislocating his right ring finger last week.

He showed no signs of pain even with the finger on his

throwing hand heavily taped, and completed 10 of his first 11 passes against a defense missing five different starters because of injuries. He guided three different scoring drives using up more than seven minutes each.

The Titans started strong as they held New Orleans to just 20 yards in the first quarter, but they led 13-5 at halftime despite limiting the Saints to minus five yards rushing. New Orleans scored its first points following a miscue by Tennessee.

Keyuo Carver hit Justin McCareins as he caught a punt, and McCareins fumbled backward toward his own end zone. Tony Beckham picked up the ball and threw it forward to Lamont Thompson who was tackled, and the officials flagged the Titans for an illegal forward pass and a safety, which made it 3-2.

That was as close as the Saints would get because Melvin Williams fumbled the ball on the ensuing free kick, and Tyrone Calico recovered for the Titans. McNair drove the Titans 38 yards, which he capped with a two-yard TD toss to Justin McCareins. ♦

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Preview: Memphis heads to MT

Continued from 8

Tuesday's home match with the Tigers now becomes even more important for MT.

After the MSU match, Kisee admitted she had not yet looked over any game tape of the Tigers.

UM (14-1) is currently riding an 11-match winning streak during which the Tigers have lost only four games.

Senior Brittany Barnett, who recently notched her 1,000th-career kill, and junior Tiara Gilkey leads the Tigers'

offense with 412 combined kills. UM comes to Alumni Memorial Gym after a 3-0 (30-14, 30-25, 30-20) win over South Alabama on Saturday at the Birmingham-Southern Classic.

"Tuesday night, the big thing is [we're] going to have to be connecting offensively, so we're just in more of a rhythm and more of a flow," Kisee said.

"That's going to be a major issue going into Friday's game against North Texas." ♦



Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Freshman Megan Sumrell serves the ball against ASU Saturday.

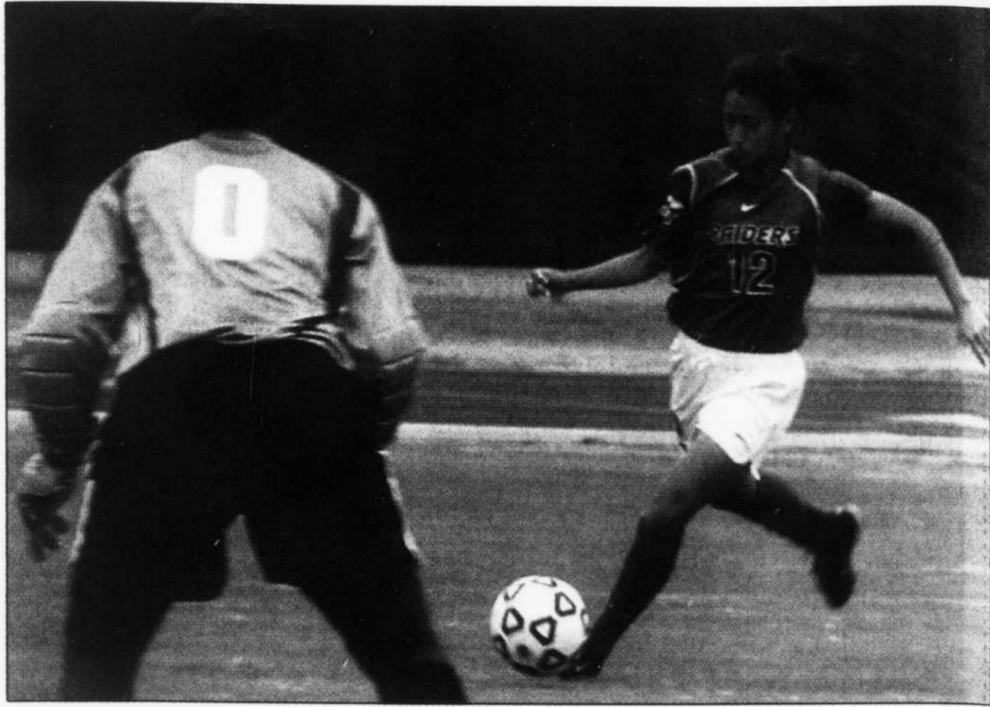


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Freshman Rebecca Rodriguez attempts to score a goal against Birmingham Southern Sunday.

Blue Raiders top BSU

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee soccer team split a pair of matches at home this weekend, losing 2-1 to Southwest Missouri State University on Friday before defeating Birmingham Southern College 6-1 on Sunday.

MT head coach Aston Rhoden was extremely unhappy with the Blue Raiders after Friday's loss, which dropped the team under .500 for the first time this season.

"It's the same old story," Rhoden said. "I'm very disappointed with the way we played."

Laura Miguez scored her first goal of the season in minute 32 to give MT a 1-0 lead, but SMS scored just five minutes later on a Kate DeCario shot that was set up by a mistake by MT keeper Danielle Perreault.

Stephanie Schultz sent a kick into the goal box that bounced over Perreault's head, leaving the net open for DeCario's score.

"We made one mistake and they got a goal out of it," Rhoden said. "We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

SMS (2-4-2) then took control in

the second half, scoring on Mary Litvan's shot from Caroline Rocker. That goal would be enough to snap the Blue Raiders' six-match winning streak at home, dating back to last season.

Sunday's game against BSC, conversely, resulted in a record-setting win for the Blue Raiders. Miguez scored the second hat trick of her career and also added two assists, resulting in eight points, an MT single-game record.

"I've gotten better balls from my teammates," Miguez said. "I think everyone played better and everyone elevated their play in that people were getting me balls to my feet and where I like them."

Miguez scored twice in the first half and Christina Mascaro added a corner kick goal to put MT up 3-0 at half-time.

The Golden Eagles were unable to score until Allie Thrasher's goal in minute 80, which cut the score to 3-1.

The Blue Raiders then responded with three goals in the last ten minutes of the match from Emily Carter, Brooke Ward and Miguez.

Freshman Rebecca Rodriguez had two assists, one each to Miguez and

Carter. Rodriguez also tallied an assist on Miguez's goal against SMS.

"I think both [Rebecca and I] combine well, and we see each other and find each other," Miguez said. "She's playing really well."

Rhoden was also pleased with his team's performance, which included 20 shots compared to two for BSC.

"We won the way we wanted to win, playing the way we like to play," Rhoden said. "Hopefully, our team has learned now that when they have that sense of confidence and that sense of playing the way they should play, they get the results they did today."

The Blue Raiders (4-4) now begin a two-game road trip against Southeastern Conference members Ole Miss and Mississippi State University.

Rhoden knows what his team needs to do in order to snap its winless road streak this year.

"We have to make sure we take care of the little things," Rhoden said. "We're going to have to go down to Mississippi and play with a sense of aggressiveness, assertiveness, confidence and a little bit of the passion we displayed today." ♦

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