

Monday



HI: 60°
LO: 49°

Tuesday



HI: 63°
LO: 49°

Seven homes,
seven families

page 5



Homecoming makes
big winners

page 8

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Monday, Nov. 6, 2006
Editorially independent

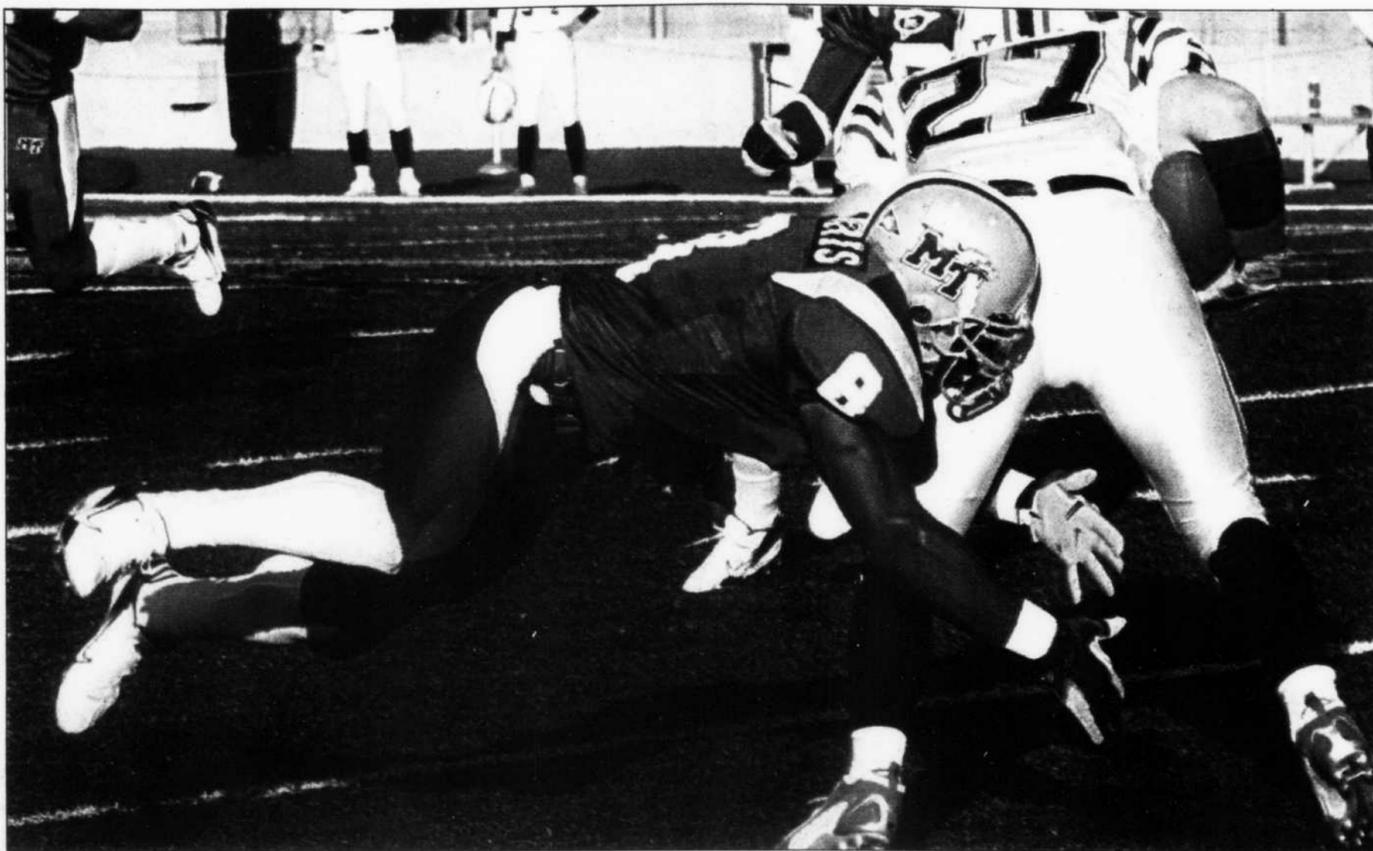


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Junior safety Jonathan Harris dives in order to tackle FAU's Kris Bartels on the Owls' punt return. Middle Tennessee beat FAU 35-14 on Saturday night at Homecoming at Floyd Stadium.

Homecoming victory Blue Raiders stomp FAU to remain undefeated in Sun Belt

By Rickey Brooksher
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (6-3, 5-0) defeated Florida Atlantic at Floyd Stadium in MT's Homecoming game Saturday.

The win secures the Blue Raiders' bowl eligibility and brings them to an unblemished conference record of 5-0 with just two Sun Belt foes remaining. MT started the day on defense. FAU drove the ball down the field, but was forced to attempt a field goal after Tavares Jones got a sack for the MT defense.

FAU missed the 35-yard field goal attempt wide left. On the Blue Raiders' first offensive play, Clint Marks' pass was deflected in the air by WR Bobby

Williams and picked off by the Owls. Then MT got it right back on an athletic interception by Bradley Robinson. Robinson returned it 52 yards to the FAU 38-yard line.

MT offense drove the ball down to the 23-yard line, but stalled and had to settle for a 40-yard field goal attempt. Colby Smith had the distance, but missed wide left and kept the score tied 0-0. The game stayed scoreless going into the second quarter.

At the beginning of the second quarter MT started their first drive at their own 15-yard line. From there they took the ball down to the 2-yard line and Eugene Gross ran it in for the first score of the game.

A few drives later MT forced an FAU fumble recovered by Sean Mosley and started their next drive

inside the 30-yard line. Three plays later, true freshman RB Desmond Gee ran it in from 10 yards out to put MT ahead by two touchdowns. FAU wasted no time in answering, driving the ball 74 yards to score with 16 seconds left on the clock before the half, leaving MT up 14-7 at the half.

Damon Nickson returned the second-half opening kick-off 93 yards to a touchdown. It was Nickson's second kickoff returned for a touchdown of the season. His first was against Louisville. It was only the second time in MT history a player had returned two kicks for touchdowns in the same season.

"That's the goal," Nickson said, "Every time they kick it to me I want to take it to the house."

"I told the kicking game [at halftime] we got to pick up the pace in the kicking game. We got to return a kick for a touchdown," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "We got to block a kick. We got to make something happen. Then Damon went out the first play and did it. So it was a huge play in the game."

When FAU got the ball later in the third quarter they drove down field and got it inside the five-yard line. On first and goal they got it inside to the one-yard line. From there, the MT defense got to work

See Blue Raiders, 6

Doctor: Get your flu shot if you're prone to illness

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Starting Tuesday, MTSU School of Nursing will be offering flu shots to students and faculty and their families for \$23 in preparation for the upcoming flu season.

Five to 20 percent of Americans get the flu every year, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Over 200,000 people are hospitalized, and around 36,000 die from the flu.

"There has already been two confirmed cases at Stonecrest Medical Center," said Rick Chapman, director of Student Health Services.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination every year, according to the CDC.

The School of Nursing will be giving the flu shot Nov. 7 through Nov. 9, Chapman said.

There will be a combination of student and faculty nurses giving the shots, said Mary Purnell, assistant nursing professor.

"Semesters two through five [nursing students] will be administering the injections under the direct supervision of faculty," Purnell said. First semester nursing students will be performing triage and assisting students with paperwork.

It takes between 10 and 14 days to build immunity to the flu after you have received the shot, Chapman said.

The nursing students have not been able to give the flu vaccination for the last two years due to the shortage of flu shots, Purnell said.

This year there are over 100 million available doses in the United States, Chapman said.

"The shot should not make a person sick," Chapman said. "The main side effect is redness at the injection site."

Some people could possibly feel achy or get a slight fever after the injection, Purnell said.

"The flu shot is a lot more convenient than being out of school," Chapman said. "It often takes people two weeks to get over the flu."

He cautioned that people allergic to eggs should not be given the flu shot due to the way the vaccine is produced.

People receiving the vaccine will be watched for five to 10 min-

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Appointments preferred
Walk-ins will be accepted

Graphic by Blake Arnold | Art Director

utes after receiving the shot to see if they will have a severe reaction, Purnell said.

People prone to getting sick should be vaccinated, Purnell said. When there are 23,000 students on campus, the high crowd volume makes a person more susceptible to the flu.

The flu shot will be given in room 109 of the Carson-Kennedy Nursing Building. To make a reservation, e-mail Linda Lawrence at lawrence@mtsu.edu. Appointments have priority but walk-ins will be accepted.

SGA senators resign; nine seats now open

By Josh Hudson
Staff Writer

Four Student Government Association senators have stepped down from their positions, bringing the total number of open Senate seats to nine.

Speaker of the House and Executive Vice-President Josh McKenzie said that the resignations are due to scheduling conflicts, as well as health and family problems, that have prevented senators from performing their obligations.

"I do not think some fully understand the extent of their job as a senator," McKenzie said.

Dustin McCormick, senator At-Large, and Megan Mahoney, senator for the College of Education and Behavioral Science, both resigned from their positions because of being overworked. "My workload on and off campus is too much for me to do my job as a senator effectively," McCormick said of his reasoning for stepping down as senator At-Large.

College of Education and Behavioral Science Senator Katie Stonecipher has resigned, citing health problems.

The fourth resignation was Matt Raccuglia, a senator for

the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, who was forced to step down due to a scheduling conflict that prevented him from attending meetings.

The SGA Senate has an attendance policy that states a senator may not miss two consecutive meetings. On the third absence, the senator faces impeachment process. Typically, however, instead of an impeachment hearing McKenzie asks the senators to resign first to save time and prevent any difficulties.

McKenzie said that given the circumstances, the senators could resign or face impeachment.

"If they were impeached, they would not be able to get involved with SGA again," McKenzie said. "We would hate to see that happen."

After serving as a senator for two years and taking the position as House Speaker in May, McKenzie said he has never seen a senator subject to the impeachment process.

Of the nine seats that are now open, two of the seats are for Undeclared senators, three are for Education and Behavioral Science and one seat each is open for At-Large senator, Graduate, Business

See Senators, 2

High turnout expected for young voters, poll finds

By Dana Owens
Community News Editor

Young voters are turning out for mid-term elections in higher than usual numbers, and they are supporting a Democratic-controlled Congress, a poll from Harvard University found.

The Harvard study found that nearly 32 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds will "definitely be voting." According to the study, this percentage will amount to the highest midterm election turnout for young voters in 20 years.

Young voters have historically had the lowest voter turnout, around 21 percent. This is compared to the 51 percent of those over 25 years and older who vote.

Here at MTSU, many students also plan on voting.

Kate Rosenthal, a junior studying digital animation, said amendment one and the heated race for U.S. Senate between Harold Ford Jr. and Bob Corker got her attention. Though Rosenthal has only been of age to vote for a short period of time, she said she was never very interested in elections.

"I'm more into these elections [than in the past]," Rosenthal said. "I'd like things to change."

Heather Davenport, a junior in animal science, also said she plans to vote. She said she feels like any typical college student in that she is not as informed as she should be, though amendment one has also made her more interested in these elections.

Among the 18-24 age group, recent college graduates are the most likely to vote, while those who have never attended college or are still in high school are the least likely.

Sophomore Nathan Lesnak, a psychology major, said he does not typically vote in non-presidential elections, but has been more interested in these midterm elections.

He said a main reason for not voting is that he is often too busy or simply forgets.

Another finding of the survey was that a majority of the likely voters have become disenchanted with the current government and support a change in party control. About 52 percent of those who will be voting favor Democratic control while only 29 percent support Republican.

The survey was conducted online by student researchers during October and polled a total of 2,546 18- to 24-year-olds.

Most likely to hit the polls:

Grad School Students 40%

College Graduates 45%

College Students 33%

Community College/Vocational Studnets 34%

High School Graduate 30%

High School Student 29%

Informational Graphic by Chris Carver | Graphic Designer

Green Party candidate pushes for peace

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer



Lugo

The Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate told MTSU students Thursday that he would vote for peace in Iraq if elected.

Chris Lugo, a former freelance journalist, said he decided to run for Senate because no other candidate wanted to see an end to the war. According to Lugo, this apathy includes Democratic nominee Harold Ford Jr., who spoke at a conference Lugo attended.

"[Ford] was in full support of the war and actually compared it to a baseball game that needed winning," Lugo said. "He also said he would actually like to send in more troops. I decided then that I needed to run so that I could represent peace."

As a member of the Peace Coalition based in Nashville, Lugo's main platform issue is the war in Iraq.

"Invading Afghanistan was a mistake and so was invading Iraq," the candidate said. "We have spent over \$400 million on

this war when half the people in this country don't even have the health care they need."

The Green Party supports other issues that Lugo wants to bring to the forefront of his campaign.

"I am the only candidate who is progressive on issues like pro-choice for women and homosexual rights," Lugo said. "These groups, along with illegal immigrants are under attack right now from politicians who use scare tactics to persuade the people for their votes."

Other issues Lugo addressed include protecting abortion rights, making higher education more accessible, maintaining gay rights and treating immigrants "as people, not things."

"Immigrants who come into

this country want to get ahead in life, but more than that, they are just trying to survive," Lugo said. "We should embrace immigrants. They improve this country every time they come in."

Jase Short, a junior sociology and philosophy major, was in attendance when Lugo spoke and said he agreed with his ideology.

"Immigrants are not self-conscious groups with political agendas. It's just not realistic. They are looking for jobs and food; that's all," said Short, who is also a member of Solidarity, the group that sponsored the event.

Along with the war in Iraq, another problem Lugo said he wants to address is the environment.

"Environment is the crisis of my generation, your generation, and your children's generation," Lugo said. "We've been burning fossil fuels for years. We have passed the peak oil that can be maintained and we find it less and less each year. We have to

stop using them; it's sending the climate into a tailspin."

Lugo also set aside his issues for a moment to address the realism of his campaign.

"I know I am a small-time candidate and don't have millions of dollars like the other parties, but I wanted to present my ideas and take another small step in helping people in this country realize the severity of these issues," Lugo said. "I'm not going to win. I got into this because these issues have to be a part of the political dialogue."

Senators: Four resign from SGA

Continued from 1

and Basic and Applied Sciences.

The Senate is currently discussing the appointment of five students, with four more appointments to fill the vacant seats.

At the SGA senate meeting Thursday, Nov. 2, SGA President Jay Cash presented the first five candidates.

Tiffany Gray who ran for the Freshman seat. Gray said she is "concerned with improving the student retention rate at MTSU," braedon Cash.

Braedon Kehoe (Basic and Applied Sciences) has a GPA of 3.5 and is an aerospace pilot major. Cash said that Kehoe's main concern is making sure the aerospace program is adequately represented.

Vogan Thompson applied for the Undeclared Senate seat, has a

3.5 GPA and "is the type [of] person who is not afraid to tackle tough ideas and see them through," Cash said.

Felisha Cook's experience includes four years on the student council at her high school, including two years serving as its president. She is applying for the Education and Behavioral Science Senate seat.

The Undeclared Senate position appointee is Tripp Arnold. According to Cash, Arnold garnered several honors when he was an undergraduate at MTSU.

After some deliberating, the SGA Senate decided to meet the candidates in the next meeting. Usually, candidates are voted on after their names and qualifications have been summated by the President.

Many senators were concerned that there could be more qualified senators. One of the primary reasons for the choices was their availability, Cash said.

SGA passes four new resolutions

By Wesley Murchison
Staff Writer

With only four sessions left, the SGA Senate passed legislation calling for a new bus shelter for Greek Row, more signage indicating parking lot hours, a locker system for meal plans and flex dollars and construction of a new sidewalk.

The sidewalk will be placed in front of the Health Services Building, which is prone to flooding, and will connect to the Jim Cummings Hall parking lot and the road in front of Cummings Hall.

"The sidewalk will eliminate the muddy walkway and create a dry pathway that is more accessible and more pleasing to the eye," said Senator Clarissa Blackwood, who sponsored the resolution with Senator Mega Todt.

The resolution stipulates that the sidewalk construction will be handled by the MTSU American Concrete Institute Chapter. If this cannot be done, MTSU Maintenance will be requested to construct the sidewalk, according to the resolution.

Rolling over meal plans and flex dollars was based on the argument that restaurants on campus are not open enough for students to redeem all their meals in a single semester.

"If meal plans were allowed to roll over each semester, students and their parents would be able to save money," said Senator Brandon McNary, who sponsored the bill.

According to the resolution, the meal plans or flex dollars would roll over from one semester to the

next, and students would not have to purchase the five semester that are required every semester, instead being allowed to buy only what they needed.

The last two resolutions moved to place another bus stop shelter on Greek Row and require all parking lot signs to display hours of operation.

Resolution number 9-06-F to display when a parking lot closes was the second resolution of its kind.

According to Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and associate vice president of Student Affairs, there had been another resolution that requested the same thing, but that Parking and Transportation Services had not responded to their letter.

Fitch said that SGA had two options. They could vote on the resolution and send it to Parking and Transportation Services again with modified letter, or they could inquire as to their decision for the first resolution.

Prior to voting, some of the old business that SGA addressed was a piece of legislation on Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association parking. President Jay Cash vetoed the bill because he was told that it wouldn't get much further than the SGA.

The resolution would make attendees of TSSAA basketball games park in the new Rutherford Boulevard lot and have a reserved Raider Express bus to shuttle them to the Murphy Center. Fitch said that the city of Murfreesboro gives MTSU money to use the center and that to have attendees bused to the other side of campus is not very hospitable.

No fire on campus for midterm elections

By Nathan Johnson
Contributing Writer

Political pundits are describing the upcoming midterm election as one of the most important in recent times, but MTSU students expecting the same amount of excitement on campus as there was in the 2004 election may be disappointed.

"I would think there would be more debate, especially with the marriage equality issue, since we're such a liberal college," said Calley Stroud, senior in mass communication.

Two years ago during the 2004 election, student interest in politics was high. Rival student political organizations, the Raider Democrats and the College Democrats, faced off in a debate on the knoll in front of Keathley University Center that drew

crowds of chanting partisans. Handouts, stickers and buttons circulated throughout the student population.

This year, however, the situation is much more sedate, as student political groups focus their attention to canvassing on behalf of their candidates.

On-campus activities have been limited to manning a table in the KUC, and for the College Democrats, showing films such as "Iraq for Sale" and "American Blackout."

Political science associate professor David Carleton said he is not surprised by the difference in activity.

"No midterm election ever garners as much attention, focus, or activity as a presidential election," he wrote in an e-mail. "Instead of two visible personalities in a single-horse race, we

have 500 or so candidates competing for 468 seats."

Carleton said the MTSU political activity at MTSU merely reflects national attitudes, but added that student-led registration drives, issue forums and candidate events can impact students' interest.

The Rutherford County branches of the Republican and Democratic Parties, when asked about events on campus, referred questions to the MTSU student political organizations, saying their respective student groups operated largely independently of the county parties.

Citing a need for volunteers, representatives did point out, however, that students interested in politics would be well-served by the College Democrats or Raider Republicans.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Professor: Urban earthquakes a threat

By Josh Hudson
Staff Writer

The threat of urban earthquakes in the Southeastern United States will be the focus of Monday's honors lecture. Mark Abolins, associate professor of geology and geography, will deliver the lecture, focusing mainly on the dangers faced by both Memphis and Knoxville as well as Charleston, S.C. "Memphis and Charleston are among the top American cities in danger of devastating earthquakes," Abolins said. "But Knoxville is also at risk for a substantial disaster."

Abolins will start his lecture by reviewing current knowledge about the threat based on conference presentations from leading experts in the field, as well as peer-reviewed publications and computer databases, most of which were presented at the 2006 Geological Society of America's annual meeting.

Abolins will then shift his focus to discussing the destruction caused by recent urban earthquakes. Abolins draws on his experiences witnessing both the 1989 World Series earthquake and the 1994 earthquake in Los Angeles.

The World Series Earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay area on Oct. 17,

1989 just before the World Series of that year. The quake killed 67 people and caused an estimated \$6 billion worth of damage.

"That night, I sat on my dorm's roof and watched distant fires burn in San Francisco's Marina District," Abolins said.

The 1994 earthquake struck a community northwest of Los Angeles called Northridge. 60 people died in the quake and damage was estimated at \$20 billion, making it the most costly earthquake in U.S. history.

Abolins will also discuss the 1995 Kobe, Japan Earthquake which killed

over 5,500 people, injured 26,000 people, and dwarfed the damage experienced in the Northridge Earthquake to the tune of \$200 billion.

After touching on these points, Abolins said he believes his talk will remind the audience of the need to prepare for urban earthquakes in the Southeast, much like work that is being invested in retrofitting the Hernando DeSoto Bridge in Memphis.

According to Memphis' newspaper, The Commercial Appeal, the "job will be one of longest-running and most expensive projects the Tennessee Department of Transportation has ever

handled," due to fluctuation in funding. "It should have been handled differently, and it would not have had to take that long," said Abolins.

Abolins received Bachelor's degrees in both geology and biology from the University of California Berkeley and his Doctorate in geology from the California Institute of Technology in 1998. He has studied active and inactive faults in southern Nevada and has witnessed some of the most financially costly disasters in U.S. history.

The lecture will be delivered Monday at 3 p.m. in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106.

Adult illiteracy may be result of technology, experts say

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

As adult literacy rates show little improvement over the past decade, local officials point to technology as a possible culprit.

According to a new study conducted by ProLiteracy Worldwide, 11 million adults, or 14 percent, are "below basic" literacy level in the United States. When compared to studies from 1992 and 2003, "there is little significant change in the number of adults scoring at each literacy level," the study reported.

"A lot of people don't want to take the time to learn what they need to know and just want instant access and instant success," said Larry Burriss, professor of Journalism. "It seems people aren't willing to take the time to learn what it is that they need to know out there."

Additionally, the study reported that the average adult in United States is exposed to more information daily than 50 years ago. Despite this fact, adults have made little improvement in their literacy skills in the past 11 years.

"I think we have gotten away from learning the basics," Burriss said. "Part of that is the effort that is required."

He cited a recent experience in which a student was not able to find a certain piece of information on the Internet. It took Burriss five minutes and a telephone call to obtain the required information.

"Television drama programs, where we have a situation and a resolution in 45 minutes, give [people a] psychological feeling that everything can be done real fast," Burriss said. "It can't. It takes a lot of time and effort and this is part of the adult literacy problem."

Adding to the problem is the idea that modern-

day technology is making people lazy and discouraging complex thought, said Karen Claud, program director for Read to Succeed, a nonprofit group that promotes reading in Rutherford County.

"Society is changing into a fast-paced and instant gratification [culture]," Claud said. "Reading is not always fast paced."

According to the study, low adult literacy rates threaten America's ability to hold its ground against rising economic competitors. An example of this can be seen when jobs that require minimal literacy skill are taken outside of the country for a cheaper rate.

This causes a problem for employers as well.

"Thirty-six percent of employers surveyed said that their employees have inadequate reading, writing and communication skills," the study stated. "This gap impedes their ability to meet customer production and satisfaction demands."

Claud said that a lot of manufacturing jobs are disappearing, which leaves people without the means to get a job, because they do not meet the literacy requirements.

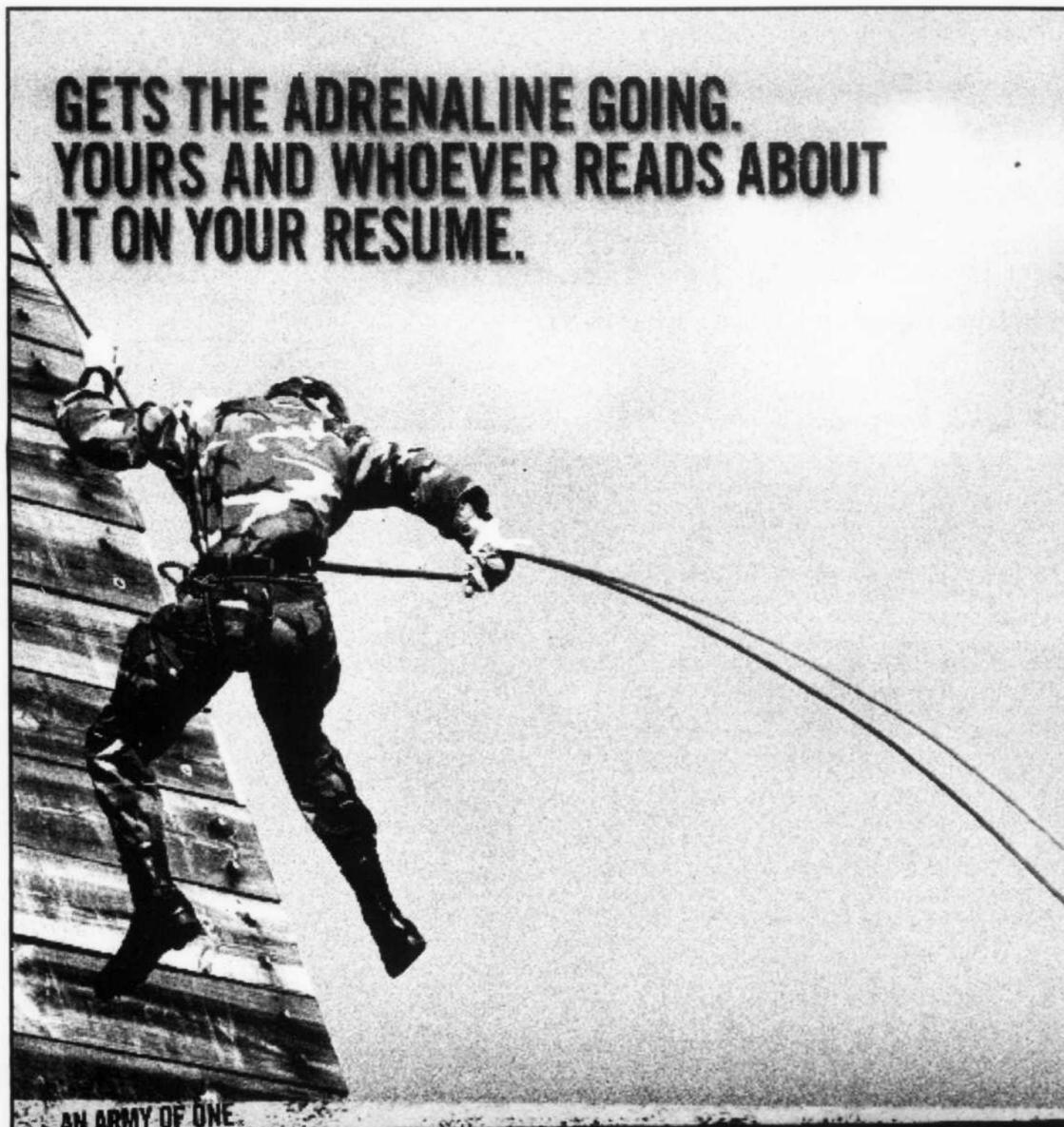
"People who are earning lower wages don't have reading skills to increase job opportunities," she said, which in turn affects the ability to support workers' families and causes them to rely on government assistance.

The study reported that it is "critically important" that all people should have basic literacy skills.

"Absence [of literacy skills] puts the U.S. and its citizens at an economic disadvantage in both individual earnings and firm productivity," the study stated.

Adult illiteracy cannot be attributed to just one particular cause, Claud said.

"Whatever the cause, [adults have not] gained the skills they need," she said.



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Harvard poll: Current election promises greater youth turnout

Dissatisfaction often equals change and, according to a recent survey by Harvard University, change is coming.

The survey of around 2,500 youths between the ages of 18 and 24 shows an estimated midterm voter turnout of 32 percent, a 10 percent increase from the last midterm elections.

People, especially youths in the above mentioned demographic, are dissatisfied with the state of political affairs.

President George W. Bush was graded by the poll, barely passing with "C-," his lowest point marks coming from the handling of the war in Iraq. However, the other typical issues were up for scrutiny too, including education, the environment and the economy.

We, the young and the restless of the 18 to 24 age persuasion, want troops to be withdrawn, do not trust elected officials and feel, in general, like the United States is heading downhill. All this, according to Harvard anyway.

Another interesting aspect the poll noted was that the highest amount of young adults involved with political engagements were students attending four-year universities, a statistic we can see clearly on our own campus.

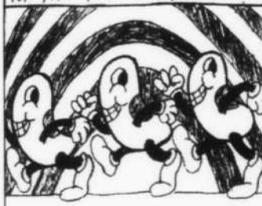
While these midterm elections have not spurred the amount of interest on our campus as has been seen in the past, there have been reports of longer-than-usual lines at the polls. Though we do not know if this turnout has anything to do with young voters, these elections are certainly inspiring some demographic to come out in record numbers.

Last month, *Sidelines* reported that young people are increasingly more apathetic towards politics, but perhaps these midterms will be evidence of greater participation and interest than in the past.

Or, maybe it just takes a flawed government and largely dissatisfied populace to actually make young people care. Either way, we are happy that students are living up to their civic duties and recognizing the importance of their vote.

A third of people polled said they would be voting in upcoming mid-term elections. And while that equates to only about 850 youths, it is clear they are dissatisfied enough to want to enact change.

You Can't live on minimum wages; Yet Congress has given itself three raises in the past ten years.

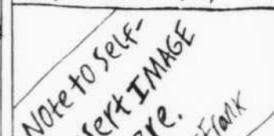


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Frank Hasenmueller

Issues for conservatives to consider

For weeks now, the media has continually reported the possibility of Republicans losing control of the House of Representatives – and maybe even the Senate – this year. Tomorrow, Conservatives and Liberals alike will go to the polls and cast votes for candidates running for various offices. It is important that both ends of the political spectrum realize what is at stake this year. That being said, here are some issues Conservatives must take into consideration when voting this year:

A popular conservative opinion columnist noted that the single most important issue facing conservative voters this year is that of appointments to the Supreme Court and other federal courts. If Republicans thought it was hard to get Samuel Alito confirmed with a Democrat minority in the Senate, just imagine how hard it will be to get other conservative judges confirmed to the hundreds of positions within the federal court system. Furthermore, activist judges are hijacking the Constitution by perverting the law in a way that would make the Founding Fathers roll over in their graves.

The second major issue is undoubtedly the war in Iraq. We now know how Democrats actually feel about the military thanks to Senator John Kerry, so why would conserva-



Hurt Pride

Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

tives want more politicians like him elected? Following Kerry's comments, several Minnesota National Guardsmen created a banner that read, "HALP US JON CARRY – WE R STUCK HEAR N IRAK."

Whether you agree with the war in Iraq or not, it should be terribly obvious by now which party has no interest in the issue. Electing conservatives will insure that the job gets done in Iraq.

Another important issue to conservatives is illegal immigration. While I personally feel that both parties are taking us to the same point, the Republicans are definitely going a lot slower than the Democrats. Democrats have repeatedly supported amnesty for illegal aliens, both in the House and the Senate. Popular liberal thought suggests that "no person can be illegal." It is evident that

Republicans have a stronger position on illegal immigration than the Democrats.

Other important issues that should bring conservatives to the polls are issues like stem-cell research in Missouri and gay marriage in Tennessee. Missouri's ballot initiative on stem-cell research actually allows for cloning up to a certain age. The high profile amendment has brought supporters like Michael J. Fox and opponents like Jim Caviezel. Tennessee conservatives ought to take the opportunity to ensure activist judges do not usurp their laws by voting "Yes" on amendment one.

Since President George W. Bush's comments on a new direction in Iraq and the distasteful comments of Sen. Kerry concerning our troops, Republicans might perform well this election season. While Republicans may lose some seats in the House of Representatives, they will most likely not lose control of either house. This will make it possible for Bush to finish up the last two years as president with relative ease. And with Bob Corker considerably ahead in the polls, Tennessee will do its part to ensure the United States stays on the right track.

Matthew Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Being married doesn't equate to trustworthy

Harold Ford Jr. is black, a bachelor and young. The man has three taboos against him – three taboos that, in the Republican-charged South, scream heathen. The South has never elected a black person into Congress or into a presidential ballot, and, in politics, unmarried has become synonymous with un-American. If announced a bachelor, then the title elicits all kinds of images of round, vibrating beds, of preying on wannabe Playboy-bunnies, of unhealthy interest in pornography. Because once you get married, you're safe – safe from all of the demons of singledom.

Just ask Rev. Ted Haggard and former President Bill Clinton.

Bob Corker has made all Tennesseans aware that he is a family man. In fact, anyone who regularly watches cable television knows that, after nearly 20 years, he still makes wife Lizzy laugh. Aw. He "just wanted to make sure we got to know his wife," he said in a campaign ad.

I'm all for marriage. I think it's a wonderful tradition that should be honored and, for most people, hoped for. The United States has only known one bachelor president. Being single carries almost as dangerous a stigma as being a recovering drug-addict in politics. I can't help but wonder what the appeal is in our leaders remaining a strange, cloned army of middle-aged white-men complete with Kroger-coiffed wives in hand. Does it really make them more trustworthy? Or is it simply a shield to protect them from the accusations Ford is suffering?

In a recent analysis by *USA Today*, Republicans were found to control congressional districts that have the highest marriage rates, while Democrats control those with the lowest. The most serious challenges Democrats face this election are in Republican-controlled House districts that have lower marriage rates. The researchers furthermore said that married citizens vote more than people in any other household or



Kvetch A Break

Sarah Lavery
Staff Columnist

living arrangement. Married people may account for only 58 percent of the adult population, but they constitute 65 percent of people who show up at the polls.

More than half of married moms sided with Republicans while only 35 percent voted with Democrats in the 2002 congressional elections. Two years later, soccer moms preferred President George W. Bush over Democratic Sen. John Kerry by 56 percent to 42 percent.

The unmarried and the eligible youth don't trail far behind the married masses. And yet, we consistently trail behind in the voting booth. Is it because, unlike those with spouses, children of their own, mortgage payments and 401ks, we feel that we don't have as much at stake?

And maybe we don't. The perils of college students and unmarried, childless adults may hardly compare with the perils of those struggling to be good parents. But that still doesn't mean they should be silenced. If the voices of the youth and the unmarried were heard, maybe political diversity would stand a shot at really being defined. Maybe electing politicians would cease to be a question of black and white, rich and poor, married and single.

Harold Ford Jr. may not be sporting a wife and kids in each political advertisement, but at least he spends the time saved by talking about actual issues. Having a wife who finds you funny does not equate to being a worthy political leader.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at scl2s@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Students should vote smart, or not at all

To the Editor:

Have any of you seen the AARP commercial on TV that says 'Don't Vote?' I tend to agree with this idea: Don't vote. If you do not understand a few basic concepts, please, do not vote.

First off, one must educate one's self beyond the personality marketing and the basic sound bites. One must study the policy positions of the candidates prior to voting. Have you done this yet? It's real easy to study – simply visit the Web sites of the candidates, look at the section titled 'issues' and read their statements. Sometimes, they make their policy and issues statements vague and ambiguous. If this is the case with a candidate that you are considering, then don't vote for that candidate because you don't know what you are getting.

Want to know all of the candidates who are running and what their Web sites are? You can check that at www.vote-smart.org/index.htm.

Next, look and see who is giving money to these people. You can do that very easily by going to opensecrets.org. This handy Web site lists every member of Congress, every candidate and shows all of the financial contributions for their campaign. This is a good way to see who has influence with the winner.

If you plan on voting for a Democrat or a Republican then you are part of the problem and I ask you to also not vote. The Republicans want to expand the government, take your children's money and erode your civil liberties. The Democrats want to expand the government, take your money and your children's money and also erode your civil liberties. They are practically the same part, with very little difference between the two.

Democrats pander to the poor and minorities; Republicans pander to the religious community. Both groups are being used by these two parties in order to gain political power. Do you think the Democrats really care about the poor? Not unless it buys votes. Do you think the Republicans really care about the religious conservatives? Not unless it buys votes.

Are you happy with the country as it is? Would you like to change direction? Polls have suggested that the majority of voting citizens are not happy with the state or direction of our nation, yet keep voting for Republicans and Democrats. Isn't a popular definition of insanity "repeating the same thing over and over again but expecting a different result"?

Personally, I will be voting for any candidate that is not a Democrat or a Republican. I realize that most third party or independent candidates do not have a chance to win – yet – but I also want to send a crystal-clear message to the current political cartel and oligopoly that they do not represent me and I will no longer support their stranglehold on the American democratic process.

Why don't others vote for third party or independents? In most races, there are plenty of third or independent candidates that are conservative or liberal and do not have a (R) or (D) next to their name. However many voters 'want to be on the winning side' and cast their ballots in that manner. Lots of people say they don't want to waste their vote on someone who will lose. I have a question to people who vote with the idea of 'voting for the candidate who is most likely to win' – since when did our democratic process become a sporting event? Voting for the person most likely to win is a self-fulfilling

prophecy. If you want change, think about changing the way you vote.

Finally, if you do not have a good understanding of history, if you have not educated yourself on our democratic process, if you do not understand the rule of law, if you have not read the Constitution and Declaration of Independence – which are written in plain English by the way – then please do not vote. The democratic process only works properly when carried out by a well-informed electorate. With rights come responsibilities, and if you vote without truly understanding what you are voting on, or who you are voting for, then you are acting irresponsibly. Please quit screwing it up for the rest of us.

Matt Collins
Alumnus, '05

Tuition spent on big projects, not needs

To the Editor:

I was just wondering where all our money goes. Forget about tuition – that seems to increase several times faster than inflation every year – that goes to pay instructors, etc. Food services is an issue all to itself, but, for starters, why can we eat much cheaper off campus than on?

My biggest concern is about all the other fees. While it was open, there was no one in the copy center in the library to assist me. What if I had a deadline to meet? There was supposed to be someone, yet there was no one. In addition, I am beginning to be annoyed by the lack of paper towels, and sometimes even soap in the restrooms. People preach constantly about washing hands to stay healthy, yet, I noticed as I walked up the stairs in the library to arrive at this computer, even they are in disrepair.

What are the stewards of our money doing with it? Sure, renovate the old dorms that were built way back when to accommodate the new generation, but damn – if you can't maintain the facilities that already exist, why build more? Just curious.

David M. Lyon
Junior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

McCain's joke has no relevance to election

To the Editor:

Shana Hammaker is pretty stupid for taking John McCain's joke about suicide out of context. ["Preparing a eulogy for John McCain," Nov. 1] She's just as bad as the Republicans taking John Kerry's statement, ["You know, education, if you make the most of it, if you study hard and you do your homework, and you make an effort to be smart, uh, you, you can do well. If you don't, you get stuck in Iraq."] out of context and spinning it to mean that he and the rest of the Democrats hate our troops, when it was obviously just a joke at the president.

Neither McCain nor Kerry are running in the upcoming elections, so I don't know what their jokes have to do with the elections anyway. I feel like I'm taking crazy pills here.

Jason McClenney
Junior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

Habitat welcomes single moms home



Photo by Stacy Carr | Contributing Photographer

Taluana Burney and her son Isiah, 6, cut the ribbon on their new home on East Sevier Street. Burney is one of seven single moms settling into a new home with her children after Habitat for Humanity took up their cause.

By Stacy Carr
Staff Writer

Seven single mothers in Rutherford County got the ultimate gift Oct. 28 when they received the keys to their new homes.

The Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity dedicated the homes on East Sevier Street last month in a special ceremony for the seven families.

"When I got the call that I had been selected as a partner family for Habitat, I was overcome with joy and couldn't wait to tell Harrison, my son," said Pam Percy, whose home was dedicated in the ceremony. "The excitement on his face knowing we would now have a permanent home made me feel blessed and thankful."

For the families, Saturday's celebration was the culmination of months of hard work. The project, however, has been years in the making.

"In the 1990s Habitat was given a donation of two lots on Sevier Street," Habitat for Humanity resource development manager Laura Bohling said. "The only problem is that at that time, the area was home to a high crime rate and was known as one of the worst neighborhoods in the area."

Habitat made the decision to try and improve the neighborhood before using the lots for building homes. In 2003, Habitat purchased six more lots with dilapidated homes that were later torn down. Sidewalks were put along the street, and over time the crime rate, loitering and drug trafficking decreased. Finally, construction began on April 29.

The next step was to find families to live in the homes, which aren't simply given away.

"The family must first have a credit check to determine their debt-to-income ratio," Bohling said, adding that approved families must earn between 25 and 50 percent of the median income of the area.

"The point of the check is to make sure the family will be able to maintain monthly mortgage payments. After that, they must complete a 26-week homebuyer financial education course."

The process may sound mind-numbing for some, but it turned into a good experience for many involved.

"My favorite memory in the program was going to the financial classes on Monday nights," new homeowner Danisha Smith explained. "It sounds boring, but the instructor made it very interesting. It was a good feeling being able to sit with other ladies that I really didn't know at first, but now we're all neighbors and we each have our own personal relationships with one another."

Potential recipients of houses must also complete 'sweat equity' requirements, which means they must help build their own house as well as other families' houses. Habitat partners, as the recipients of houses are called, must put in at least 400 hours of sweat equity as part of the approval process, but family and friends are allowed to donate their time towards someone's sweat equity hours.

"While I was working on my own home, I was surprised by a group of students from MTSU who came out and helped me with my sweat equity hours," Habitat partner Armenthia Mitchell said.

In the end, a lot of time and work went into the East Sevier Street projects, but that work made the dedication day that much more of a celebration. Several community leaders came out to show their support, including State Representative John Hood and Councilman Ron Washington. Reeves-Sain, Hobby Lobby and Stock the Pantry also donated various items to the families to help them begin their new lives.

"I would really have to say that my most memorable moment would have to be just being blessed to be part of it all," said Habitat partner Kimberly Baker, who received a new home for herself and her two daughters.

Students interested in getting involved with Habitat for Humanity can visit www.rutherfordcountyhabitat.org or call 890-5877.

"It's not necessary to have any special skills," Bohling said. "Any help of any skill level can be used."



Photo by Stacy Carr | Contributing Photographer

Beth Smith, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Rutherford Co. speaks to the crowd at the ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 28.

Strapped for cash? Visit ReStore for home needs

By Stacy Carr
Staff Writer

College students everywhere struggle with the same problem: Money. Now, however, there might be some help for those of us who have a few things to fix around the dorm or apartment.

The Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity has a special secret that not many people know about called the ReStore, which sells new and gently used materials at a 50 percent or more discounted price. Items sold include shelving, appliances, furniture, locks, paint, and just about anything else in home improvement and repair.

The best part about the ReStore, however, goes beyond fixing a leaky kitchen faucet.

"The ReStore profits cover administrative cost and pay the mortgage on the Habitat for Humanity facility, which holds the offices," Habitat for Humanity resource development manager Laura Bohling says. "This means that the money donated to Habitat for Humanity can go directly to building homes for families in need."

Those who don't have a need to shop may have something to donate. The ReStore relies on donations from people and businesses.

"People bring in brand new items, we research the current price they are being sold for, and then we mark that price down 50 percent to sell the item to ReStore customers," ReStore associate Lauren Stewart says. "When people bring in used items, we mark them down to a considerably low price and sell them, too."

The ReStore makes it easy to donate almost



**Habitat
for Humanity**

anything, including large pieces of furniture and other oversized items. If the item is too big to bring in, donors can call the ReStore and arrange a time for the items to be picked up.

Like most contributions to nonprofits, donations to the ReStore are tax-exempt.

"Just bring in the item you want to donate and you will receive a tax receipt so that you can deduct it at tax time," Stewart said.

The ReStore is located five minutes from campus at 850 Mercury Boulevard. For more information, call 849-5994 or check out <http://www.rutherfordhabitat.org/ReStore.htm>.

Families who received homes

Taluana Burney and son Isiah, 6

Michelle Riggs and children Joshua, 17, Brooke, 14 and Jordan, 7

Danisha Smith and daughter Miker, 9

Kathy Swader and children Tameca, 24 and Daniel, 12

Pam Percy and son Harrison, 14

Armenthia Mitchell and children Armente, 12, Armeshia, 11 and Taurus, 4

Kimberly Baker and children Shaketha, 22 and Yalencia, 19

Illustration by Erin Johnson

SPORTS

Post-Game Madness: MT celebrates being 5-0



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

I've seen this team celebrate more than a few victories this year but I've never seen a post-game fervor like the one that took place in Floyd Stadium Saturday night. Players were dancing and fans were screaming their heads off. Children wanted autographs and everyone wanted a high five. The Blue Raiders ran up and down the field congratulating the fans before they could congratulate them. And Damon Nickson, whose kick-off return TD sealed the win, smiled through the pain in his iced-up hip as he ripped off his gloves and gave them to a young fan.

They celebrated their win just as unselfishly as they achieved it.

As the players walk back to the locker room there is a cordoned off section where fans get to cheer for their team one last time. I've never heard anything that loud outside of a good metal show (see destroydestroy-destroy.com for examples), and a few players couldn't seem to get enough of the moment. One Blue Raider, who will go unnamed, eventually had to be corralled by a coach to "get his butt" into the locker room.

I wanted to yell out, "Let the boy dance!" but I knew better. It was a great moment and I wanted everyone to enjoy it. Still, I understood it was time to move on. As Coach Stockstill said in the post-game press conference "This was a big game but next week will be bigger. Each time you win next week [is always] bigger."

And Stock couldn't have been more right. Having now secured bowl eligibility MT is now playing for the right to play in the New Orleans bowl. If they lose the remainder of their games one of two things would happen, they would either have to play something like the North East Cleveland VFW Skating Rink Bowl or be passed over all together. Neither would satisfy these Blue Raiders.

"It's great to be 5-0," he admitted. "And we're so close to

reaching our goals. It's a wonderful feeling to be where we are right now."

Covered in Gatorade and grinning from ear to ear, Stock was clearly proud of his team after this victory. They didn't play that well in a lot of key areas. They were out-gained, out-passed, and out-defended for much of the game. But a few big plays gave the team a chance to put the game away.

What the Blue Raiders lacked in consistency they more than made up for in explosiveness. Four plays of over 50 yards killed the Owls' hopes of a come back. But Nickson's return touchdown, Rainey's 50-yard fumble recovery sprint, and several huge runs by Eugene Gross were more than the individual efforts they seemed. As Coach Stock said, "It's never one person...that does it by themselves."

While the player of the game was clearly Eugene Gross with just shy of 10 yards per carry, my MVP honors would have to go to the unselfish play of Clint Marks. FAU's talented defense is not an easy one to pass against and when the team switched to the run he unselfishly managed the game without a moment's hesitation.

In what had to have been the classiest moment of the night, Clint Marks was the first player to celebrate with Eugene Gross after his 56-yard touchdown run in the final minute of the game. Marks, a quarterback chasing several individual records, only threw for 71 yards and couldn't have been happier. He understood that his job was to win, having done that his night was a success.

All of Stock's hard work is starting to pay off in dividends for MT. For the first time ever, the MTSU box on my MYE-SPN.com page actually has an article in it.

It may have only been 167 words, but it was the biggest sign of change I've ever seen for this program. Here's hoping for 300 words next week.



Senior Eugene Gross runs for a 56-yard touchdown in the final minute of the game. Gross rushed for 208 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries as MT beat FAU 35-14.

Blue Raiders roll over FAU in homecoming

Continued from 1

and stuffed them on three consecutive plays. The last play turned the ball over to MT.

In the fourth quarter, FAU got possession of the ball after an MT punt, and had more problems on offense. After a fumble by the Owls, Blue Raiders linebacker Justin Rainey picked up the ball at midfield and ran it the rest of the way for six points. "I really knew it was when J.K. [Sabb] threw a big block for me," Rainey said. "I was like, 'Aw man I got a wide-open field. So I just tried to take it to the house for the defense.'"

Smith added the extra point and gave MT a 28-7 lead. FAU would answer back on their next drive and score a touchdown on a four-yard run to bring it back to a two-touchdown game. When the Owls got the ball again they tried to make it a one possession game, but Lonnie Clemons intercepted the Owls' pass and gave the Blue Raiders the ball with 2:11 left in the game. While trying to run out the clock, Eugene Gross took a hand off for another touchdown to bring the score to the final 35-14.

The win brought MT's overall record to 6-3, which makes them bowl-eligible and still undefeated in the conference with a 5-0 record. Total offense actually went to FAU with 370 yards, while MT gained 342 yards of total offense, but FAU failed to put the points on the board.

Gross managed to account for 208 of those yards on the ground. That marked a career-high for Gross, and he was the first MT player to go over 200 rushing yards all season. "It's a big game for me," Gross said. "It looks good on the stats, but most importantly it counts as a W."

The defense continued to show that they can stop teams when they drive inside the red zone and hold them to three or no points at all. Justin Rainey led the team with 11 tackles, two tackles for loss and the fumble recovery for the touchdown.

Sun Belt Standings

	W-L	All
Middle Tennessee	5-0	6-3
Troy	3-0	4-4
Arkansas State	3-1	5-4
Florida Atlantic	2-2	3-6
Louisiana-Lafayette	1-2	4-4
North Texas	1-3	2-7
Louisiana-Monroe	0-4	1-7
Florida International	0-3	0-8

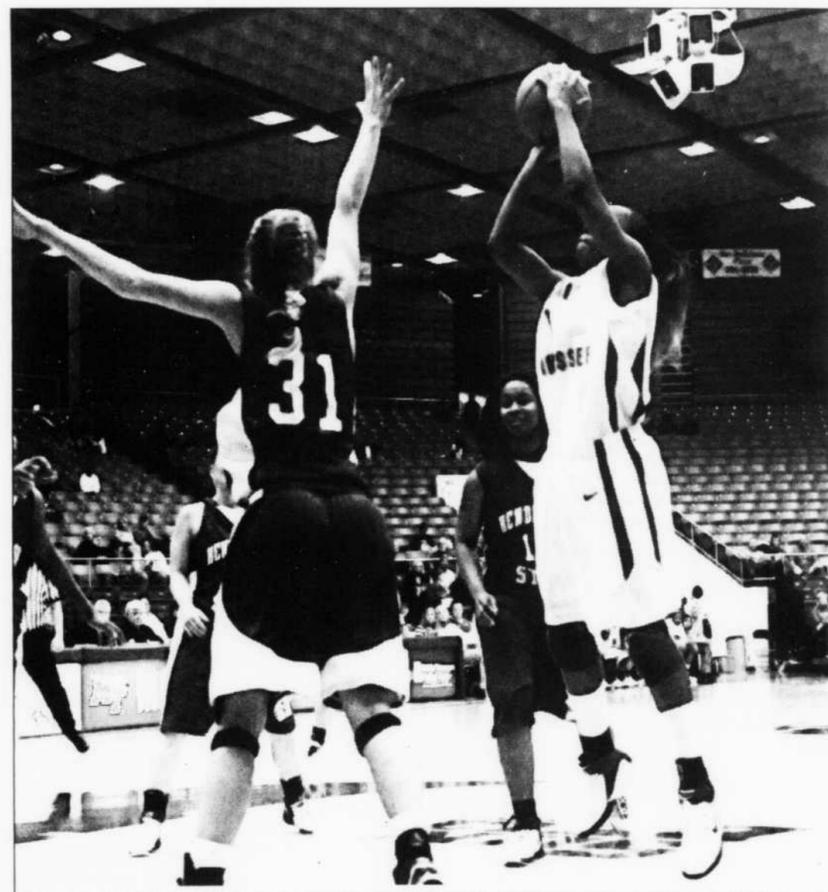


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Junior Amber Holt attempts a jump-shot as No. 31 tries to block her in MT's game against Henderson State Wednesday night. MT defeated Henderson 102-48 in the season-opening exhibition.

Exhibition game wrap

Wednesday, November 1
MT 102
Henderson State 48

Next Game vs Maryland,
November 10

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect, and on Wednesday night the Lady Raider's first exhibition game of the season was perfect. The Lady Raiders took an early first-half lead and never looked back, winning by the comfortable margin of 102-48 over Henderson State. The entire roster got a chance to play and head coach Rick Insell was very pleased with this fact. Insell stated that was the most important aspect of Wednesday night's game.

"Well, I think everybody got a chance to play," he said. "Most everybody scored. More than anything, we had a big crowd, and that was the biggest positive to me."

The leading scorer for the night was Brandi Brown who had 19 points in her first action as a Blue Raider. Chrissy Givens had 17 points and Lakira Boyd had 14 points. Givens commented about how this is her last opportunity as a Blue Raider to make an impact at this school. She says its something she is not going to take for granted and she is poised to have a strong senior season.

"It's kind of sad, since this is my last go around," she said. "I never know if this is my last go around. I don't what's going to happen after this season. Coming into tonight the effort I see from the newcomers, it is motivating. I think the season is looking good. I like the effort."

Middle Tennessee shot over fifty percent for the entire game, and won the rebounding battle 42-30. The Lady Raiders showed a good deal of hustle on the defensive end forcing 31 turnovers and only committing 10.

Overall, this was a very good performance for an exhibition game. However, next week the season tips off with a home game against defending champion Maryland. Coach Insell said that he has his team focused and ready to start the season. Yet, he is not specifically preparing for Maryland.

"What we are trying to do now is establish our philosophy and playing style for the season," he explained. "That is pressing, running, and shooting the three. That is what we were trying to do in this game. I don't even know how many points we scored in this game to tell you the truth. We were working on our press sets, and things like that."

The first game of the season will be a real test. One thing is for certain: Chrissy Givens and the Blue Raiders will be ready. Givens said that she has anticipated this game more than any other in her stellar Blue Raider career.

"There hasn't been a day that I haven't thought about opening night," Givens said. "I think about it. Maryland has been on my mind since they won the championship. This was a good practice for us. This was preparing us for Maryland, and that's my approach every time I go out on the court."

Dwight's Minimart

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MTSU ice hockey club faces new challenges this season

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee Ice Hockey Club has dropped the puck on another season. The Blue Raiders played their first home game Saturday against the University of Southern Indiana at Southern Ice Arena in Franklin, Tenn.

The Blue Raiders are playing in the American Collegiate Hockey Association in the South division with 34 other teams for the first time this year after being transferred out of the North division. Last year, MT missed the playoffs by one spot, finishing the season in fifth place. The top four teams earn a playoff berth.

With a new season comes new troubles, but the Blue Raiders are champions of adversity with a coaching change last year and missing the playoffs. They maybe 0-5 this season and short-handed on depth, but MT is doing their best to keep a positive spin on their season after losing to the top two teams in the nation at the beginning of the season.

Being in a new division can be challenging to any team. In Middle Tennessee's case they welcome the change since they play more Southern teams and travel a lot less. The Blue Raiders play at home this Saturday against the University of Southern Indiana. USI is a former division rival from the North division.

Middle Tennessee will have a chance to help themselves into the playoffs at the end of the season. The University of Kennesaw will be hosting a

hockey rankings tournament and the winners of the tournament can improve their chances of being in the playoffs with a higher ranking. This could be a great opportunity for the Blue Raiders, since even if they lose every game during the season, they can still earn a chance to be in the playoffs.

Cody Smith and Nick Vastano have been spending their time helping to bring the team together since last season. Smith has been doing whatever he can to raise money for the team.

"We had goals coming in we really wanted to work on, [like] keeping the program competitive as much as possible," Smith said. "We do not have a lot of players this time. Its not that we're doing bad. This is a totally different team from last year."

As for the team, they are doing their best considering all the changes they have endured. Their assistant coach was named the head coach and the possible addition of an extra goalie in Gregory Vansickle to complement freshman goalie Dustin Smith, who has been holding his own this season.

Tryouts for the team are open to anyone who has played ice hockey before. Checkout the team Web site at www.mtsuicehockey.com or contact Seth Lake mtsuihockey@yahoo.com for more information.

The results from last Saturday game will be posted in the Wednesday edition of *Sidelines*.

Kennesaw beat MT 10-3 on October 27.
Robert Morris beat MT 6-3 on October 28.

MTSU Ice Hockey Club Schedule

Nov. 10.	U. of Huntsville, Ala. 9:40 p.m.
Nov. 11.	U. of Huntsville, Ala. 9:40 p.m.
Nov. 17.	U. of Eastern Kentucky TBA
Nov. 18.	@ U. of Georgia TBA
Dec. 1-3	@ Holiday Tournament TBA
Dec. 8	@ U. of Northern Kentucky TBA
Dec. 9	@ U. of Northern Kentucky TBA
Jan. 19	@ Clemson 9:40 p.m.
Jan. 20	Clemson 10:40 p.m.
Jan. 26	U. of Tennessee TBA
Jan. 27	@ U. of Tennessee TBA
Feb. 2-4	Rankings Tournament in Kennesaw TBA
Feb. 10	U. of Kennesaw TBA
Feb. 16	@ U. of Cincinnati Bear Cats TBA
Feb. 17	@ U. of Cincinnati Bear Cats TBA
Feb. 23	U. Georgia Tech 9:40 p.m.
Feb. 24	Vanderbilt 9:40 p.m.
Mar. 3	U. of Northern Kentucky 10:10 p.m.
Sept. 9	U. of Northern Kentucky 10:10 p.m.



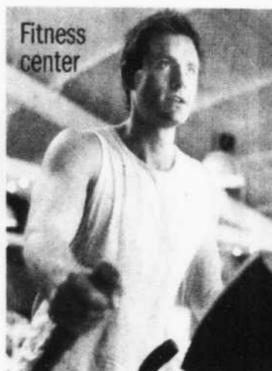
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HOMECOMING 2006



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Meagan Flippin (left) and Chassen Haynes (right) were crowned 2006 Homecoming Queen and King this past Saturday at the Homecoming football game.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
The MTSU Band of Blue marches in the Homecoming parade this Saturday.

The Big Show

Homecoming 2006 wraps with big crowns and bigger winners

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

Homecoming week on MTSU's campus started off well and ended even better with a Blue Raider win of 35 to 14 over the Florida-Atlantic Owls.

The game Saturday topped off the week of successful activities. During halftime of the football game, Chassen Haynes and Meagan Flippin were crowned MTSU Homecoming King and Queen.

Flippin, vice president for administration and public affairs for the SGA, is a senior majoring in public relations with a triple minor in Spanish, political science and leadership studies.

Haynes is a junior economics and finance major and is also the corporate sponsorship chair for Up 'Til Dawn, a fundraiser for the St. Jukes Children's Research Hospital.

Flippin and Haynes were crowned by the 2005 Homecoming King and Queen.

"From someone else's perspective, this year's Homecoming probably looks like every other Homecoming they've ever seen, but I know how much effort went into it and so far it has been a success and I know it will continue to be," said Gene Fitch, asso-

ciate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student life.

Before kick-off was the Raider Walk with food, school spirit and several different activities for students to participate in such as the indoor skydiving open on the knoll during Raider Walk.

Also on Saturday morning was the annual Homecoming Day Parade which included more than 50 different groups in the line-up. The parade included floats from the Homecoming court, and several different floats from various student and Greek organizations, Shriners, the National Guard, the Band of Blue and several local business's donations of vehicles of all sorts.

"This year we have had more float entries than ever and I hope that it continues to get bigger and bigger in the future," said Christy Stonecipher, intern design major and this year's parade director.

Stonecipher said the popularity of the parade has been steadily increasing since she first started helping with the project.

The winners of the float competition were Chi Omega, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Chi.

MTSU also had a banner competition which any organization could enter. Several groups entered painted banners, which hung outside of Floyd Stadium. The winners were Alpha Chi Omega, Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Pi and Alpha Phi Alpha.

On Friday night was the Step Show and the Chili Cook-Off. The Step Show winners for the competition were Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The winner for the Chili Cook-Off was the Chop House restaurant.

All week long all the winners from each competition had a chance to score spirit points that accumulate and win them the Lightening Cup. The winner of the Lightening Cup, which was awarded Saturday, was Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Kappa Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha.

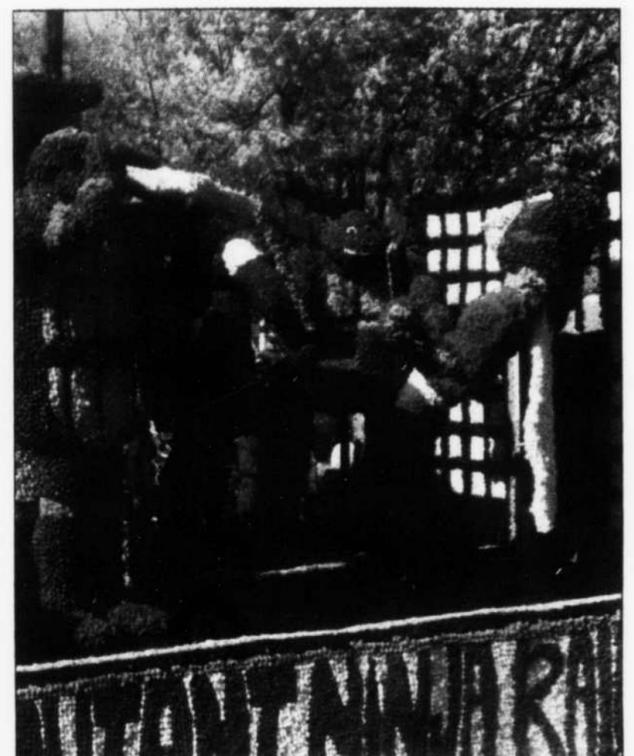


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Phi Beta Sigma (left) steps in the 2006 NPHC Step Show this past Friday. Chi Omega and group (above) chose a Ninja Turtles theme for their float.