

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2000

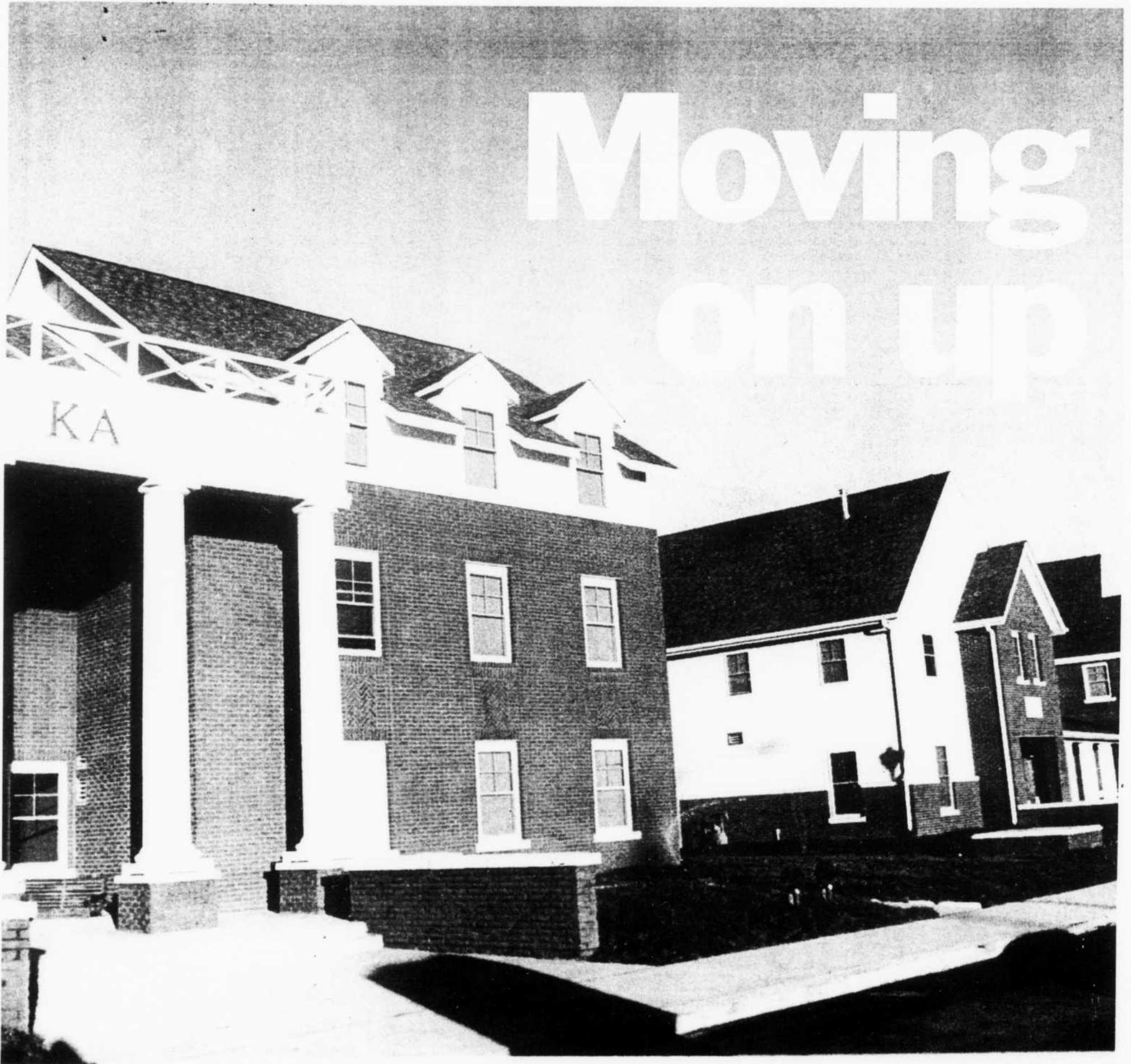
SIDELINES

Volume 75, No. 35

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Moving
on up



Greeks adjust to new lifestyle

Wesley R. Bush
Greek Life Reporter

The entering into a new millennium brought a new year and a lot more to the MTSU campus. With it came a multi-million dollar block of brothers.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma, Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Chi were allowed to move in their new homes which cost approximately \$1 million each Jan. 11. Beta Theta Pi and Sigma Nu are scheduled to move in today

due to delayed construction.

"Everything has been going pretty smoothly since the move in," said Vic Felts, director of Greek Life. "There have only been a few minor problems with keys getting lost and telephones working improperly."

According to Felts, some telephones in the houses are capable of making outgoing calls but are unable to receive them. The problem should be fixed in a few days.

One of the main concerns with the new homes is how well the fraternities will handle

MTSU's no-alcohol policy.

"I don't think that they will have much trouble adjusting," said Tom Cribbs, chapter advisor for Sigma Chi. "They're just in culture shock right now from moving into such incredible houses."

Some students, however, do not share Cribbs' optimism. James Witty, a freshman aerospace major not affiliated with a fraternity, feels that the new houses will lead to problems.

"They (school officials) have got to be kidding if they think the fraternities aren't going to have alcohol," said Witty. "The space used for the houses would have been better used if they put a parking lot there."

Greek Row will bring about 200 new residents to campus but may actually help improve the parking situation. According to parking services, permits purchased for Greek Row parking will not allow for parking in several other lots, reducing the number of vehicles present on high-demand lots.

The new buildings have caught the attention of students from nearby schools, as well.

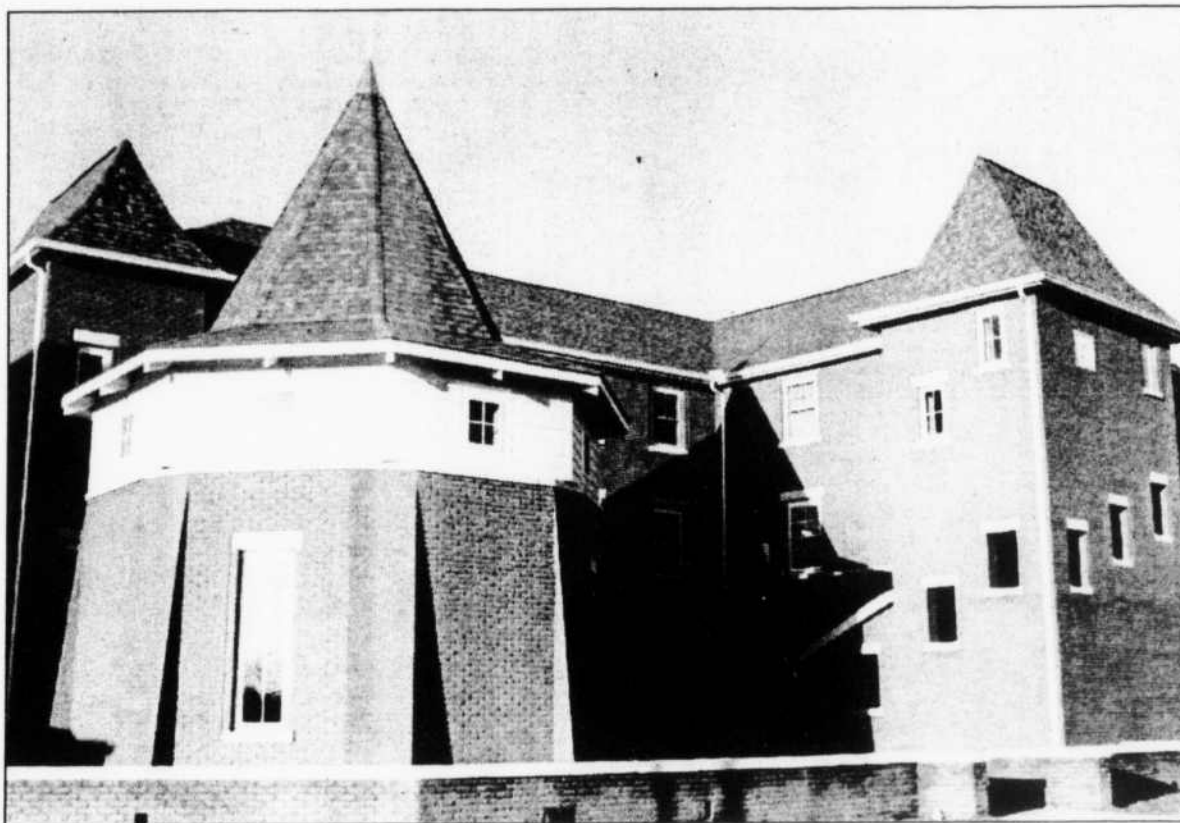


Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

"I heard that they were getting frat houses, but I didn't know they were going to be that

nice," said Jennifer Shirley, a senior at Tennessee Technological Institute, after

visiting the homes for the first

See GREEK, page 3

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Scarlett Commons and Greek Row residents affected by parking changes

Jamie Evans
Managing Editor

Residents who are forced to make the daily trek to the central part of campus may find relief in some recent changes in university parking policies.

Beginning this semester, Parking Services has initialized changes to certain parking policies for residents of Scarlett Commons, Womack Lane and the recently completed Greek Row, which will allow those residents to park in additional lots.

These changes in parking policies were made upon recommendations from the University Traffic Committee.

Last semester, Scarlett Commons residents had to buy a green permit for the normal cost of \$45. However, they were only allowed to use the parking lot within the on-campus apartment complex and the overflow parking areas at the Recreation Center. Womack Lane residents had a

similar agreement.

Upon returning for the spring semester, these residents were given a new decal to place on their parking permits making it legal for them to park in the specified lots.

The new lots include the green permit parking areas in the Greenland Drive lot, the green spaces on Faulkenberry Drive and the green parking lot directly east of the University Library.

The new lots include the green permit parking areas in the Greenland Drive lot, the green spaces on Faulkenberry Drive and the green parking lot directly east of the University Library. Signs have been erected at the entrances to these parking lots for clarification.

The parking areas at Scarlett Commons, Womack Lane and Greek Row will remain reserved for those residents.

Parking Services has also added a new Raider Xpress red shuttle route. The new shuttle route will access students who live in Scarlett Commons and Greek Row.

The route will run west on 2nd Street, turn right on B Street, left on Faulkenberry Drive and will let people off at the east end of Kirksey Old Main and all points in between. The shuttle stops at both residential sites and will be designated by signs, and the shuttle will display a red placard.

Another change which affects all parkers with green permits is the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building gravel lot.

Spaces in this lot have been redesignated for both white and green permit parking. The lot has been divided for both of the parking permit types and is marked with the appropriate signage. ■

Greek: Houses nicer than expected

Continued from page 2

time. "The fraternities at my school don't have houses anywhere near as nice as these."

Each fraternity's house is unique and some have improved on designs of their previous homes. Sigma Alpha Epsilon erected two towering lions on either side of the stairs entering their house, a concept seen at their former home, but on a much larger scale.

Kappa Sigma also adapted a trademark feature from their

house on Maple Street — a loft overlooking the social room floor complete with sofas, chairs and a bar. Kappa Sigma is the only fraternity keeping their original house.

The university is responsible for maintaining the area in front of the houses clean but the tenants are required to keep up the inside and backyard of the houses.

Financing for the houses have been made possible by state bonds that are to be paid back by the fraternities over the next 30 years. ■

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On Campus

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

Jan. 18-19
Campus Recreation will hold a clinic for intramural basketball officials from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Contact Chris, Mark or W.T. at 898-2104 for more information.

Jan. 19
Campus Recreation will hold a belay clinic from 7 to 10 p.m. at the

Rec Center climbing wall. Cost is \$10 for students and \$12 for guests. Space is limited to eight people. Contact Mitch or Sean at 898-2104 for more information.

Jan. 22
Campus Recreation will host a caving trip to Southport Cave. Participants will meet at the Rec

Center at 7:30 a.m. and will leave the Rec Center at 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 for students and \$12 for guests. Space is limited to 10 people. Contact Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104 for more information.

Jan. 25-26
Campus Recreation will host a kayak-roll clinic from 7 to 10 p.m.

Cost is \$12 for students and \$16 for guests. Space is limited to eight people. Contact Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104 for more information.

Jan. 26
The Placement and Student Employment Center will sponsor a Summer Jobs/Internships Fair from

noon to 3 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Participating employers will be hiring students of various majors for summer jobs and internships. The roster of participating employers can be viewed at www.mtsu.edu/~career.

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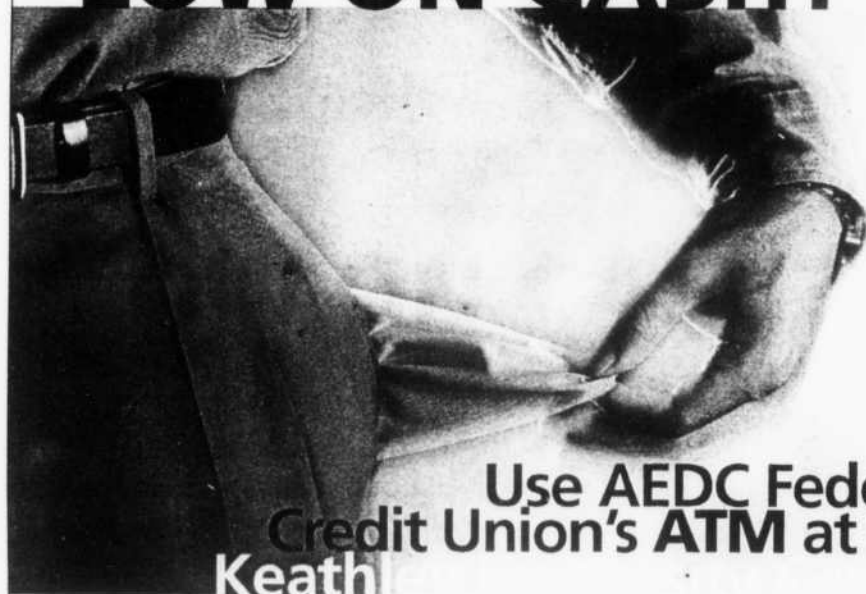
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9,000 students to receive blue and white discount cards

Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

This semester the Student Government Association will introduce a new incentive program to all full-time undergraduate and graduate students for achieving good grades.

Student discount cards called "blue and white cards" provide valuable discounts at local businesses.

"Approximately 9,000 students qualified for the blue and white cards based on their grades from last semester," Megan Smith, SGA speaker of the Senate said. "Hopefully, if SGA decides to issue the blue and white cards again next spring, even more students will qualify."

All students who achieved a 3.0-3.49 last semester will receive a white card and students receiving a 3.5 or higher last semester will receive

a blue card.

There are twice as many discounts available on the blue card as there are on the white card to further reward those students making the Dean's List. Both cards include discounts at places such as the Blue Raider Bookstore, Papa John's Pizza, Kinko's, Mr. Tire, Videoculture, and Reeves-Sain Drugstore.

The student government association came up with the idea to reward the student body.

"Yearly, students complain that the only recognition for good grades are the people who qualify for the Dean's List," Smith said.

"The blue and white cards reward those who may be making good grades, but GPA is just short of the Dean's List."

There is no cost for the cards. The blue and white cards will be delivered Friday to students through their campus mailboxes.

Students who do not have a

campus mailbox will be able to get their card from the SGA office in Keathley University Center, Room 208.

The benefits and discounts, unless stated otherwise on the card, will last until the completion of the 2000 spring semester.

"To me, it's like you are receiving a smart card without having to pay for it," Smith said. "That is more than enough incentive for me." ■

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Y2K not problem for MTSU

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

Now that the dreaded day has come and gone, MTSU Operations Manager and Y2K Team Leader John Schmidt can admit with relief that Y2K "was full of hype."

Schmidt said that his staff was not surprised that no Y2K-related problems were reported simply because of the tedious preparation allotted to the threat of Y2K. The Y2K teams began the process of searching for non-compliant computers in the fall of 1998. The process was completed in February of 1999.

"If we had felt there was any stone unturned, we would have fixed it," said Schmidt. "We

really felt like there was no reason to be surprised."

Timing also affected the Y2K team's expectations of a smooth day.

"We had plenty of time," said Schmidt. "We didn't drag our feet; we were ahead of the game."

The staff spent about 100 individual hours investigating the problem and reviewing strategies.

According to the Y2K Microcomputer Compliance Report, the software used would also "successfully negotiate the leap year on Feb. 29, 2000."

Schmidt also said that the Tennessee State Audit Board agreed that MTSU was in "good shape" for the turn-over.

Part of getting into good shape included purchasing "a

significant amount" of new computers to replace the older models not Y2K compliant.

"We did not discourage the buying of new computers and replacing computers that could not increment the century with Y2K-compliant computers," Schmidt said.

About 176 computers could not be made compliant and Schmidt said that these older PCs had Y2K issues "that could not be resolved hardware wise."

Some companies have donated computers such as these to Goodwill to be sold at prices as low as \$125. However, Schmidt said, "MTSU goes through strict property guidelines for property disposal" meaning that if MTSU can't use the items then they will be donated to other

campuses or entities in need.

"Speaking for many colleagues, we feel all this hard work was justified," said Schmidt.

In any case, Schmidt concluded that the Y2K issue "was an excellent opportunity for the nation's commerce and industries to unite in a common cause to identify a potential weak link in our business functions and to cure them."

"It was a very widespread effort to bring awareness to a potential problem and everybody did their part," he said.

Schmidt said that he is willing to answer any questions students or faculty may have. He can be reached at the Office of Information Technology at 898-5354. ■

Donor buys MTSU billboard

Due to the kindness of a university benefactor, a new billboard promoting MTSU has been installed on I-24. The billboard features MTSU students and the phrase "Expect the Best." Photographic work was done by MTSU's Photographic Services and artwork and layout by Publications and Graphics.

The billboard is on the northbound lanes of I-24 west of Sam Ridley Parkway, facing east. Due to the lights being temporarily out of order, it can only be read during the day. The value of this billboard is \$1,700.00 per month. ■

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Applications are now available in KUC 306; due by Friday, February 4th

Application deadline approaching for Japan field study 2000 of MTSU

How about a change of scenery for this upcoming inter-session?

Students will be given the opportunity to explore Japan for two weeks this summer.

From May 16-31, Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and finance, is inviting students to participate in a field study of Japanese culture and economy, while visiting Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, Tokyo, Fukushima, and Koriyama.

According to Kawahito, the trip will be action-packed everyday from early morning until late evening.

Students will be visiting seven cultural/historical sites, two to three performing arts centers, three financial institutions, three to four manufacturing plants, one major trading company, one major advertising firm, two economic and trade organizations, and one major newspaper.

There will also be a two-day home-stay with Japanese families and several parties with Japanese students, businessmen and MTSU alumni.

There will be pre-departure training and participants will write a report after the trip.

The trip will count as a three-hour credit for Econ 499/599 or Fin 499/599.

The pre-requisite for the course is Principles of Economics or equivalent background.

It can be counted as non-business and international by College of Business students.

The estimated cost is \$2,050. Financial aid will be available to qualified students.

The application deadline is Jan. 20 or enrollment of 12. For more information contact Kawahito at 898-5751 or BAS N340.■

Textbook trauma busts students' wallets

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Copy Editor

Buying textbooks continues to be university students' second highest expense, following tuition in overall college costs, reports the Student Monitor, a nationwide college-market research publication.

"I am sick of buying books and getting nothing back," said Rebekah Halliburton, a senior advertising major.

According to Phillips Bookstore Director Earl Harris, the book pricing and buy-back processes are established, nationwide systems.

"When a book is sold to a student, they use that book, then bring the book back to resell," he said. "Let's say the book was bought for \$40. If we continue to use (the book) on campus, we can pay \$20, or half the cost of the book. We then resell it at 75 percent the original price, used at \$30."

If the book is sold back to the bookstore again, the buy-back price remains at 50 percent the original selling cost. No matter how many times the book is resold to the bookstore, as long as it continues to be used in a class, the buy-back price remains the same. If the suggested retail

See BOOKS, page 10

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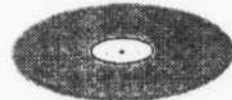
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Textbook: Online sellers not such a great deal

Continued from page 9

cost of the text increases, so does the buy-back price.

But, if a book is no longer required it will not be bought back, creating student frustration.

"Last semester I spent \$225 on books, and I got back around \$65," said Halliburton. "I also bought a book for a summer class that we never even used. It's ridiculous."

The cost of university books may seem staggering to financially strapped students, but the college bookstore is not the nemesis.

"The margin for most textbooks is 23 percent," said Harris. Meaning, bookstores buy books from publishers at the wholesale price, the bookstore then adds a percentage to the cost and sells the item to students for a profit. Selected texts might be listed at the publisher's suggested retail price as well.

In the real world, items purchased will be marked up from 50 to 300 percent the wholesale price, explained Teresa Robinson, professor of human sciences.

"The average markup in the apparel industry is 50 percent, typical of most department stores. Markup can be as low as 25 to 35 percent ... (to as high as) 300 percent (for speciality

items)."

If college bookstores priced goods as retail shops do, textbooks could easily double in price.

Both publishers and professors are to blame for students' book woes. Anyone can buy Michael Crichton's *The Andromeda Strain* in paperback for about \$6 to \$8. Random House, the book's publisher, refused to release the wholesale price of this novel, but it would be less than the lowest retail cost of \$6. In other words, a lot less than American Realities, a required paperback text for select sections of MTSU History 202, which costs students more than three times the Crichton classic, used.

American Realities' wholesale price from the publisher (Addison Wesley Longman) is \$27.60. MTSU's Phillips Bookstore offers the text for \$35.85 new and \$24.75 used. Phillips' local competitor, Blue Raider Book & Supply, Inc., priced the new book slightly lower than Phillips at \$35.25 and just higher at \$26.25 used. Amazon.com carries the book for \$39.20 and VarsityBooks.com, an online college bookstore claiming savings up to 40 percent on books, sells the text for \$31.70. Barnesandnoble.com had the worst deal pricing the book at

\$36.75 with much higher shipping costs than the other two online book brokers.

The best deal on this textbook is right here at home, if a used text is available.

The other problem bookstores face is the timeliness in which professors place book orders.

"About 50 percent (of professors) got their orders in on time (for spring 2000), which is better than usual. We got about 30 or 40 orders (last) week and the books probably won't be here for (the first day of the semester)," Harris said.

As of the first day of the semester, not all book orders were in.

Harris explained that some professors don't know they are teaching a class until the last minute, making timely book ordering impossible.

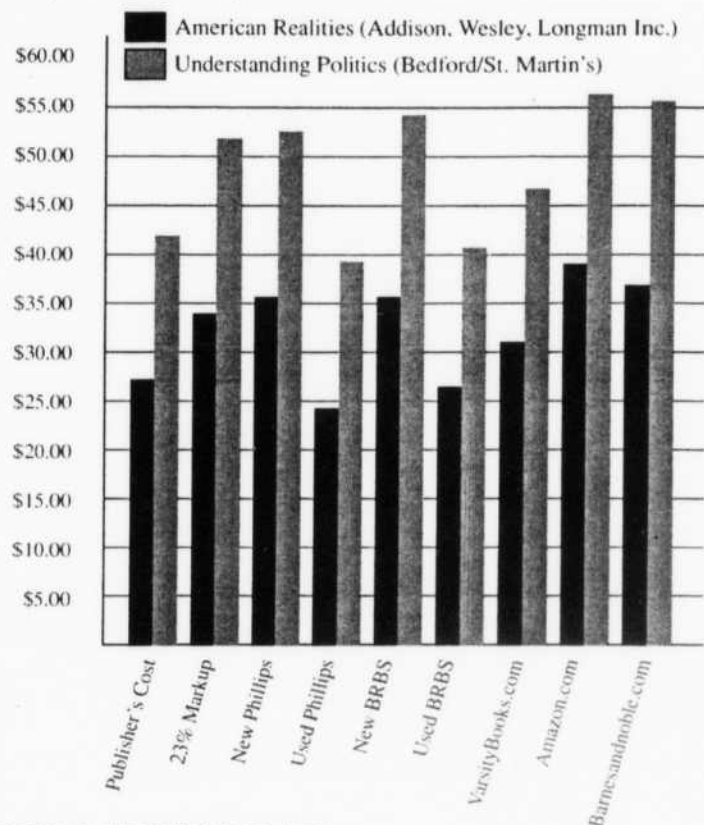
However, according to Harris, on average only 40 percent of professors meet the book-ordering deadline.

In an attempt to help students' wallets, Harris considered creating a system in which students would be informed when purchasing a text whether it would be used in future semesters and therefore eligible for buy-back, but the idea has not been implemented.

"We can not put out the information if we aren't sure,"

Getting the best deal

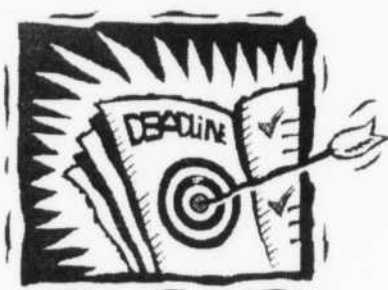
Compared below are the prices of two university textbooks, from the publisher to the campus bookstore to the Internet.



Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Designer

Harris said. Because the information professors provide concerning the future need of a textbook sometimes isn't decided until the week, or even day, before the next semester's classes begin, the system at this stage will not work. ■

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OPINIONS

11 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

From the Editor

Most of the millennium-end hype has subsided. Greek Row is up and running. Classes have begun again. January 2000 is here.

This is the time when we all make vows to be better for the coming year.

"I will drink less and study more."

"I will make it to my 8 a.m. class at least once a week."

"I will stick to my new exercise plan."

Let's be honest: These plans rarely last more than a week and a half.

This time of year is also when the "Sidelines" staff assembles and sets its

objectives for the coming months.

We want to bring you the best coverage we can of the events that matter to you.

We want "Sidelines" to be the voice of MTSU's students.

But for us to meet these goals, we need your help.

If you see news happen or know of an event you would like to see covered, give us a call.

If you know of someone special you think should be profiled in our features section, let us know about it.

You may or may not always agree with the views

You can help Sidelines build a better paper

presented on our opinions pages. Write a letter to the editor and let people know what's on your mind and how you feel.

Or drop us an e-mail just to let us know how you think we're doing.

Your staying in touch with us is the only way we can fulfill our goals for the new semester and work toward making the newspaper the best it can be.

But we'll probably still have trouble making it to those early classes.

Randall Ford
Editor in chief

Modern Dysfunction

by Rob Evans, Staff Writer

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

Schulz's comic will be missed

It wasn't the greatest comic strip. It didn't have the flashy drawing or the action or the detail of other comic strips. It was quite simple actually. It seemed to be more of a reminder of the better days past for those people called grown-ups.

But there was always something to gain from the Peanuts comic strip drawn by Charles Schulz. It made you feel good, and it WAS a simple comic strip, not forcing you to think about its content if you didn't want to. Peanuts didn't preach the Holy Gospel.

There were references to the divine, but they were often underlying, not brash.

No boring and senseless political satire of other strips could be found in Peanuts. Though when Schulz wanted to make a political statement, he did, like when he introduced the African-American character Franklin into the script at the height of the civil rights movement.

Schulz was a genius per-se.

Many days I would sit in class after reading the comics and laugh out loud as the overall meaning came out of the inner caverns of my sub-conscious. Of course, when asked what could be so funny who would believe me if I said it was Peanuts?

Schulz had a connection with the reader that many other cartoonist don't have. We could put ourselves in the characters shoes.

I can't remember when I started reading Schulz's comic, but it was probably about 17 years ago, or whenever I first learned to read, whichever came first. It was all right; it had Snoopy in it. You have to give it up, that dog is what turned kids into followers when we finally made the realization that we understood the strip.

Unfortunately for myself and others, this time comes when Schulz decided it was time to retire.

I am only saddened because I didn't make my connection with it sooner. There were so many things I learned and many more things I wish I

See SCHULZ, page 12

SIDELINES

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

Hate me or not, but I swing neither way

Chris Tatum
Staff Writer

I'm facing a quickly approaching deadline on what is, I hope, the first of many columns you'll see on this page from me. While I'm never short on something to say (and believe me, you'll think so, too), I can't think of a better time to introduce myself.

First and foremost, I'm a broadcast journalist. I possess a genuine love for words and the English language, and when the opportunity was presented that I might haphazardly spew my endless opinions and get paid for it, I couldn't refuse.

So here goes a somewhat biased biography of myself so that you'll know what page I'm on.

I'm composed of three distinct elements: the writer, the personality and the man. My deep-rooted love of words combined with my endless source of irreverent wit have, in my opinion, allowed me to establish a writing style that is saturated with intelligence.

With that style, I plan to use this column to present life as understandable, funny, sometimes raucous, yet always with a sophisticated edge. I'm a hard-luck-ace

who has managed to find the Demilitarized Zone between the forces of struggle and victory, where, when my words take you there, I hope you'll see the humor of your everyday circumstances.

Most columnists — maybe all of them — take a political position from which they throw bipartisan crap at each other. Certainly then, you must be wondering what my political position is.

It's my belief that I'm right. I don't mean that I'm a right-winger. Instead, I mean to say that Republicans lack compassion, Democrats lack morality and those of us right smack in the middle are the decent segment of society.

So Democrats and Republicans be warned; I take aim at both sides.

In short, I'm a born again, pro-life, anti-capital punishment, gun toting, on-again off-again tree-hugging, rebellious loudmouth with the cast-iron testicles to back up my position on most any topic of interest.

If you find yourself in any of these categories, you'll enjoy this column.

If you're a Republican, you'll think I'm a loose cannon and wish I'd shut-up. If you're a Democrat, that's your loss... and you'll absolutely hate me.

Nice meeting you. ■

Views from the Crowd

by R. Colin Fly, Staff Writer

Think you're safe in your hospital? You've gone in for a simple procedure, no problem, right?

Recent reports from the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine stated that at least 44,000 and up to 98,000 people a year die from hospital mistakes alone.

That makes hospital-related deaths the eighth most common way to die, just below diabetes and above suicide.

It raises staggering questions to say the least.

The worst part is that most of the time the hospital covers up the mistakes instead of reporting them.

Blaming the doctors was the

wrong answer, the report said.

In most cases, the problem was not recklessness from the healthcare provider, but errors in record keeping.

A University of Pennsylvania doctor cites that sloppy chart keeping is fueling this national scandal, and a better system of record keeping would keep mistakes from occurring at all.

Think these are just numbers? Medical mistakes happen.

A patient went to Summit Center in Nashville for a lung test to determine, among other things, if he had pneumonia. What ensued is horrifying.

The tube being placed down

At least 44,000 and up to 98,000 people a year die from hospital mistakes.

his trachea sliced through it and into an artery.

Now an emergency, his rib cage was cracked and open-

heart surgery ensued. After several hours, the artery was stitched and the long road to recovery began.

While the patient survived and recovered, a simple test set his life and his family's life back over a year.

Even now, he does not have medical clearance to compete in physical activities, such as a round of golf.

Simply put, "adverse events" should not kill patients. These mistakes can be as simple as the transfusion of the wrong type of blood.

In Pa., 598 patients have been victimized by hospital errors in the 1990s.

Needless to say, this isn't a

positive trend. Though the answers to why do not come easily, more doctors are needed.

Doctors need to work shorter shifts than the typical hospital hours.

Also, computers are not prominent in hospitals, as the technology movement seems to be slow moving for the healthcare industry.

If the best care available requires changes in recording healthcare treatments and procedures, thereby ending the use of "charts," then isn't it time to do it?

That's the view from the crowd. E-mail comments to MTSUViews@email.com.■

Schulz: Charlie Brown, Snoopy adventures come to an end

Continued from page 11

could have learned from the character of Charlie Brown, Schulz's main character. Charlie Brown never gave up the ship. How many times could he be seen out on the baseball mound while his team was down by tens of runs?

How many times would Charlie Brown attempt to kick the football held by Lucy, even though the outcome had been the same hundreds of times before?

Of course Charlie Brown was enormously trusting of all souls, even those whom he had no reason to trust (see Lucy

and the football).

Charlie Brown and I had the same issues with girls. We are perpetually chasing after the beautiful red-head but never having the guts to say anything to her, or chickening out when the chance arose.

Charlie Brown showed us how to be loyal.

He showed us that after wading through all the muck there was always something better waiting for us.

He showed us that there is something noble in trying but never succeeding, that we need to bounce back, and while not without sadness, move on from our pain.

Schulz was making a comment on society when he started Peanuts.

Society should be seen through children's eyes. Because no matter how many times you say "I got a rock," there is always another day.

"You're a good man, Charlie Brown."■



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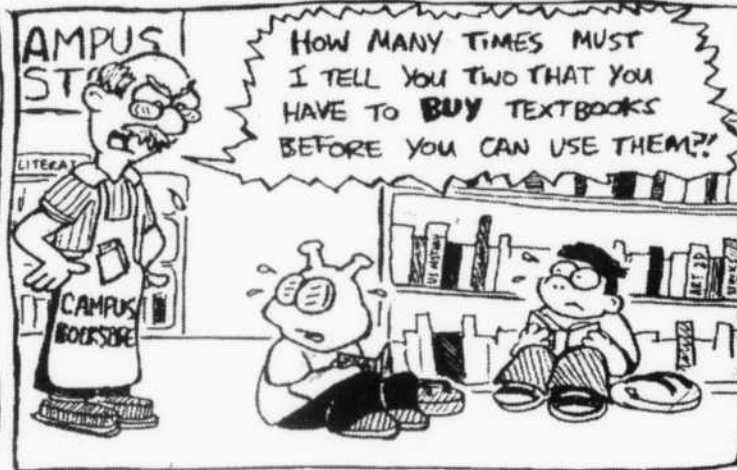
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Slacking off will catch up with you

Nathan Clark
Special to Sidelines

So you're off again, diving face-first into another semester.

Just like the past two semesters, you tell yourself that you will wake up and go to class everyday, and that no matter who calls, you are going to get all of your work done before heading out to that night's party.

You drag yourself to class every single day...for two weeks.

You somehow convince yourself that actually doing your homework just might be the right thing to do.

Whoosh!

You're out partying with your buds.

The only homework you're doing is in Slacker 101, and then all of a sudden the semester's screeching to a horrifying end.

Yes, I said horrifying.

You've got a few weeks to pull up your lovely next-to-failing grades. Your teachers tell you if you miss anymore classes you'll get the boot.

You revert back to the wise words of Chris Farley and think, "That's gonna leave a mark."

How are you going to explain this one to the 'rents?

Mr. Financial Aid is sure to love this one. Your 4...er...5-year plan has just picked up another wonderful semester.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, you are not alone.

We all have friends and siblings who

have suffered or are soon to experience an "out of control" semester.

I asked my friend Patrick Martin, a student at Tennessee Technical Institute, for any advice that he could offer to myself and my fellow struggling students. Patrick told me that he took the trophy for messing up in school.

However, now he's doing well and looking forward to graduating.

"Always go and talk to your teachers about any problems you're having," he said.

"They are not all evil monsters out to get you."

A couple of other tips he suggested were to simply make yourself go to class and budget your time. Patrick said that his day planner has become his best friend.

"Once you start to write everything you need to do, the times you need to do it, etc., you find out that you have more free time than before," offered Patrick.

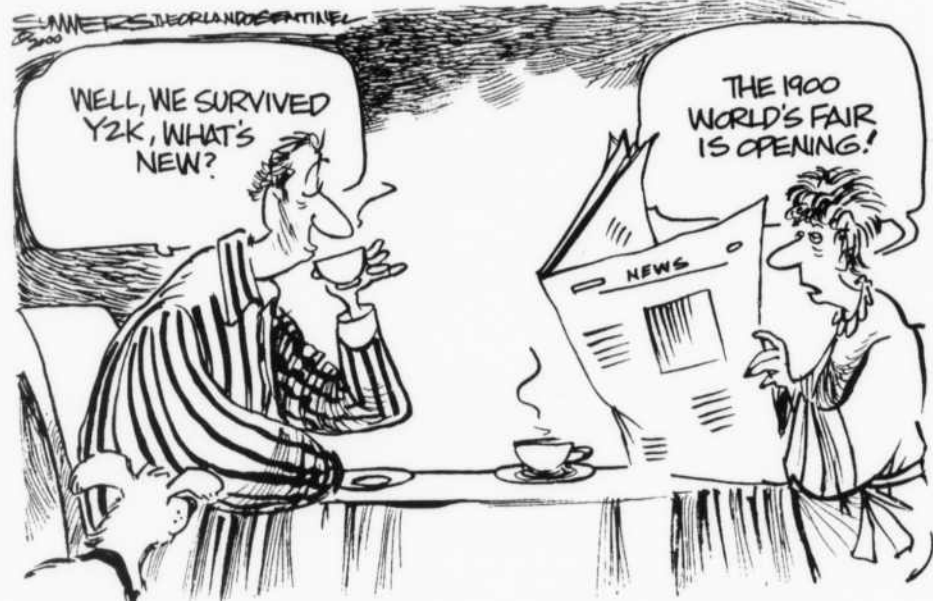
"And the best part about it, is that you're getting 10 times the amount of work done, and still having plenty of time to sit around and chill."

Now, it's up to you to put this advice to good use.

Put your pals on hold for a few days and try to get as much of this semester's work done as you possibly can.

And when the time comes, cram for those finals and beg your teachers for forgiveness.

Oh and please, for your own sake, buy a Day Planner. ■



PARKING CHANGES FOR SPRING 2000

A couple of changes will take place regarding campus parking beginning with the Spring Semester

- The University Traffic Committee made the recommendation that the "GRAVEL" parking lot located north of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building will have designated spaces for both "white" and "green" permit parking. **Please review the signage in this lot carefully, as some of the spaces will be designated for "white" permit parking and others will be designated for "green" permit parking.** It is very important that the campus community is aware that this lot is not entirely open for white and green permit parking, but has designated spaces for permits! Please call Parking Services at 898-2850 if you have any questions.

- Due to safety reasons, the University Traffic Committee made the recommendation that the residents of Womack Lane, Scarlett Commons and Greek Row will be allowed to park in certain areas on the campus 24 hours a day. Please read carefully the following information regarding this rule:

A. The residents will be allowed to park in the following areas 24 hours a day with a valid green parking permit:

Greenland Drive parking lot (green permit parking)

Green permit parking spaces located on Faulkinberry

Green permit parking lot located directly east of the Library (this does not include the lot located directly north of Ezell Hall)

Please note that residents may continue to park in the "overflow" parking areas located at BOTH the gravel and paved parking areas at the Recreation Center 24 hours a day.

B. The residents will be allowed to park **from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.** in any legal "white, green or black" permit parking area

C. The parking areas at Womack Lane, Scarlett Commons and Greek Row will remain "reserved" parking for residents only, 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. All residents must have the appropriate validation sticker attached to his/her green parking permit.

Other than these changes above, residents are not allowed to park in any other areas on campus, until 6:30 p.m. If a resident vehicle is found on the campus in a parking area other than those listed above before 6:30 p.m., then the vehicle will be issued a citation.

Additional information regarding these areas:

Any resident that holds a valid MTSU Blue Parking Permit may park in any legal blue, white, green or black permit parking area as well as the meters.

Any resident that holds a valid MTSU White Parking Permit may park in any legal white, green or black permit parking area.

Please contact Parking Services if you have any questions regarding this matter. We appreciate your calls, as we want you to be clear regarding this rule.

PARKING TIPS

- On Tennessee Boulevard, there is a sign posted stating "No Left Turn." This sign is located close to the Voorhies Industrial Studies complex and past Faulkinberry. Please read and follow this sign. The City of Murfreesboro Police Department will issue a ticket (with a large fine) for turning left at this location where the sign is posted. This is a City violation and will have to be handled through the City of Murfreesboro. Please look for this sign and do not turn left in this area.

- Please display your parking permit at all times and park in your designated area.

- Please remember that there are several violations in which a vehicle may be towed or booted. One of the rules is as follows:

Five or more traffic/parking citations in a semester. Please note that this rule is based on the "number" of traffic/parking violations in order for a vehicle to be towed or booted. The rule is NOT based on whether the tickets are "paid or unpaid."

If you have any questions regarding violations for booting or towing, please refer to Section 5 of the Traffic and Parking Regulations or call Parking Services at 898-2850.

- The operator of any disabled vehicle parked in violation of University regulations must report the vehicle immediately to Parking Services. Failure to report may result in traffic citations and/or towing. The vehicle must be called in for each day it is disabled and parked in violation of University regulations.

- Please remember that all legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, bumper blocks (does not include the yellow bumper blocks) or other marks.

- Please call Parking Services at 898-2850 with any comments or questions regarding campus parking.

PARKING SUGGESTIONS

The University Traffic Committee, which is composed of faculty, administration, staff and students, makes the recommendations regarding:

- Parking rules and regulations
- Parking permit fees
- Citation fines
- Parking permit designations (parking lot designations for white, green or black permit parking)
- Reserved parking
- Reviews appeals for faculty, staff, visitors, and students who hold a white parking permit
- Other general parking matters

Everyone is welcomed to make suggestions to the University Traffic Committee regarding campus parking. Please contact Parking Services at 898-2850 for the procedures for forwarding a suggestion to the University Traffic Committee.

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!!

FEATURES

15 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

If only we had known...

Upperclassmen offer advice to freshmen



Photo by Pam Hudgens | Photo Editor

Brian Gillespie, Charmaine Woods, Lakeesha Taylor, Leo A. Sieben and Dana Moore study in the tutoring center in Cummings Hall.

Melanie McWhorter
Contributer

Thinking back to the beginning of my college experience, I realize that there are many things that I wish I'd known. Many of my friends and acquaintances also share that sentiment.

Adjusting

Many students who are living away from home for the first time find college life to be fun, and at times overwhelming. There are several things that you should remember in order to make that transition more smoothly.

"Go to class!" senior Jay Plemons states emphatically. "Don't skip at first, especially, or you'll be screwed. Don't overload yourself. You'll have plenty of other stresses in your life trying to adjust to a new school."

Senior Julie Ferrell suggests that, above all, you should organize your time.

Get involved. It's a good idea to pick an organization that interests you and dive right in. It's an excellent way to meet people. There area wide variety of organizations on

campus: music groups, different campus publications, political groups, religious organizations, clubs for different interests and majors and don't forget about intramural sports!

Dorm Life

Ah, dorm sweet dorm. Chances are, your home away from home is less than spectacular. Hopefully, these bits of advice can help to ease your suffering.

The key to dorm living, according to senior Aaron Robinson is, "flip flops, Lysol, ear plugs and a stereo loud enough to drown out the others."

On the other hand, if you don't want your roommate(s) to hate you, it's a good idea to employ the Golden Rule. If you're nice to them, chances are they'll return the favor.

Junior Keith Childrey suggests that, from his experience, you should "get to know your roommate better."

It's not unusual for roommates to end up being life-long friends.

I've personally found that it's not a good idea to bring unnecessary items to school with you, for example, high school yearbooks, your entire stuffed animal collection, etc. You're bound to accumulate junk over the year anyway, and when you go to move all

of your stuff out, you're likely to need a U-Haul.

How does one define "unnecessary?" Ask yourself this: "Have I used this item (winter clothes don't count) in the last two or three weeks?" If not, then you probably don't need it.

I hear they say living in a dorm builds character...

Listen to your Mama

Your mother wasn't just nagging when she told you to eat your veggies and get a good night's rest.

Not eating right and not getting enough sleep have been proven to contribute to weakening the immune system, therefore making it easier to catch whatever's going around. There are some things you can do to combat this, though.

First of all, you should try to eat somewhat healthy food. Senior Lee Ellen Graves advises that students should "branch out from the 'normal' college food groups of pizza and other fast food, or you'll feel really awful, your complexion will go bad and you'll be tired all the time."

Even if you can't always eat right,

See **ADVICE**, page 20

Learn first aid firsthand

Emily Allen
Contributer

It's 12:10 in the afternoon and class is finally out. You sigh in relief as you walk to the Keathley University Center to eat.

Sitting down, you look up and notice a guy in the corner turning a not-so-pretty purple. Looking around you see other people are beginning to notice the unnatural hue surfacing on the fellow's face. He looks like a big grape.

Somebody needs to help him, but no one seems to care.

Luckily, someone rushes over and after a few minutes stabilizes the guy.

"If an emergency happens and you have the training, you can save a person's life."

- Kevin Parker, assistant athletic trainer

He had been choking on a chicken bone from his "boneless" herb chicken.

The paramedics arrive 20 minutes later and confirm the young man's condition is normal, thanks to the student who helped him.

But what would have happened had there not been someone trained in first aid and CPR?

MTSU, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, offers a class that deals with first aid measures and accident prevention. First Aid and Safety Education, a 3-credit course, offers a comprehensive look at precautions and emergency training people can utilize when an emergency arises.

Kevin Parker, MTSU assistant athletic trainer, is an instructor at the university and firmly believes in the course's practicality.

"It's a good skill to have because you never know when you're going to need it," Parker said.

"Walking across campus, or in the dining hall if an emergency happens and you have the

See **SAFETY**, page 20

New events, old favorites

Recreation Center makes plans for semester

Ruth Peltier
Staff Reporter

Did you promise yourself that this millennium things would be different? Are you planning to exercise more, lose weight or just get into shape? The MTSU Recreation Center is the place to start.

The Center offers beginning and advanced classes in yoga and aerobics, and a Martial Arts program. The weight room and the cardiovascular equipment are available to every recreation center member over 16, and individual instruction of the machines is available, according to Ed Woodall, graduate assistant for campus recreation.

One of the most popular parts of the center is the climbing wall just inside the entrance of the building. Climbing wall supervisors are responsible for the safety necessary for this sort of activity and only climbing wall supervisors can belay climbers.

The indoor swimming pool

offers lap lanes, water aerobics classes and swimming classes for all ages and levels. Classes will be offered this semester for water safety instructors, and scuba diving.

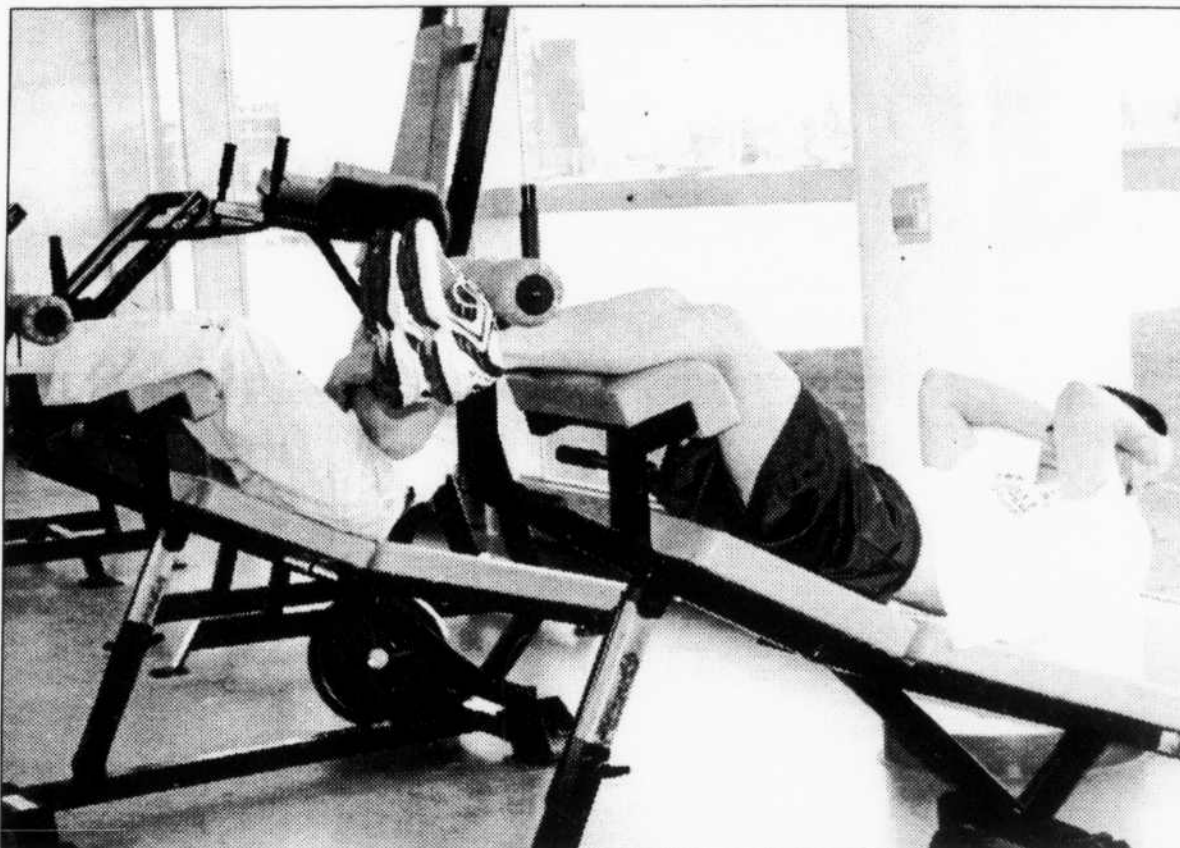
According to Woodall, the center will offer a free Discover Scuba class Jan. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. Interested students can return for the paid class the following week.

There are facilities at the center for volleyball, basketball, racquetball and pingpong.

The new indoor soccer facility, that was completed during last fall, will be converted at the end of the indoor soccer season into a rink for in-line hockey, Woodall said.

Another part of the new area at the rear of the center is the alpine challenge course. The high portion of the course is still awaiting testing and certification but the lower portion is already in use by student, community and corporate groups. Woodall

See **REC CENTER**, page 18



A student works on his abs in the weight room of the Rec. Center.

Photo by Erika Pryor | Staff Photographer

Still think catching the bus is a hassle?

Think about it. All that time you spend circling the parking lot, you could be reading. Having coffee with friends. Studying. Even sleeping! Ride the R&R, and say good-bye to parking lot headaches. Not to mention traffic jams, construction, and winter road conditions. R&R. Think of it as... a sign from above.

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Rec Center: Activities include sports clubs, trips

Continued from page 16

explained that the course is a way for groups to learn interaction, problem-solving skills and confidence in themselves and one another.

The groups attempt to meet a challenge. For example, they might need to all climb over a wall or to get one member of the group through a fragile spider web. It is a challenge that requires the group work together to solve the problem.

MTSU sports clubs compete in rugby, wrestling, volleyball, soccer and ultimate Frisbee. MTSU also has a masters swim team. In all there are 600 teams in the MTSU intramural program.

Campus recreation also offers trips on weekends and school breaks. These trips have included camping, hiking, backpacking, biking, mountain climbing, rappelling, canoeing, kayaking and rafting. Plans for this year include climbing Mt. Rainier and a spring break trip to Cuba.

Members can rent outdoor adventure equipment for individual trips by paying a nominal fee.

The Center also provides activities for students with disabilities. For example, they have offered board game nights, picnics and trips to attend Nashville Predators' games.

For students or faculty members with young children



Photo by Erika Pryor | Staff Photographer

A group of men play basketball on the court in the Rec. Center.

there is a playroom provided for children 5-12. The playroom is open from 5 to 10 p.m. In addition to providing a place for children to safely play while their parents exercise, the playroom also has occasional guest speakers such as a firefighter or a DARE police officer. The cost for this program is \$2.

A valid MTSU ID card is required to gain admission to the recreation center. While this may seem like a hassle, it is for the students' benefit.

Students who are currently registered at MTSU have paid the membership fee for the Center as part of their registration fees. MTSU faculty and staff members receive membership as part of their employee benefit program. Family members of students and employees, retired faculty and alumni of MTSU must pay a fee for membership and apply for an MTSU ID card to use at the Center.

Each member may bring two guests per day into the facility.



Photo by Erika Pryor | Staff Photographer

Two men try their hand at racquetball in the Rec. Center.

Children ages 5 to 15 must pay a \$1 guest fee and adult guests must pay a \$3 guest fee.

There are also small fees for use of some of the facilities at the center. ■

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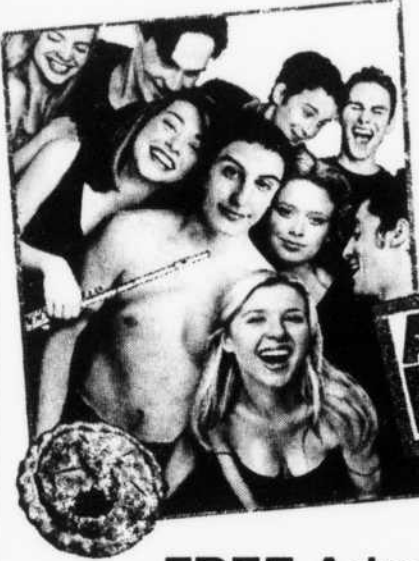


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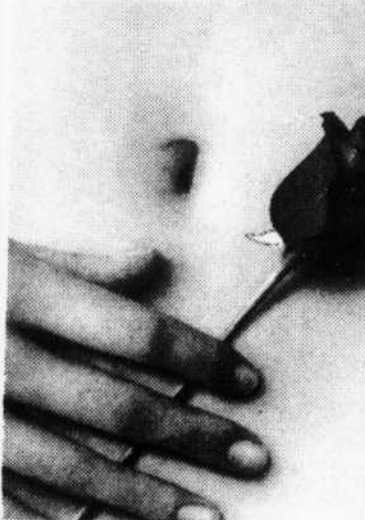
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Advice: sleep deprivation, grades among topics discussed

Continued from page 15

Graves suggests taking vitamins to aid in supplementing your diet of pizza and Ramen noodles.

Secondly, get a good night's sleep. According to Ferrell, "a good night's rest is important. If you don't get enough rest, you're more prone to get sick and miss classes."

So maybe partying all night on weeknights isn't such a good idea. In one of my morning classes, a guy behind me had some serious beer breath. I hate to jump to conclusions, but this could indicate a serious problem. Come on, people! Beer breath on a weekday morning is really unattractive, not to mention a possible sign of an alcohol problem. What else was it that mama used to say?

Oh yeah...separate your whites and darks in the laundry. This advice is invaluable. All it takes is one red sock to turn your whites to pinks.

Checking your pockets before you wash your clothes is also a good idea.

It stinks to have to pick little pieces of paper off all of your clothes because you left that parking ticket (oops) in your

"If you don't get enough rest, you're more prone to get sick and miss classes."

- Lee Ellen Graves, senior

jeans pocket.

Another laundry trick I've found to be tried and true...hang your clothes up after taking them out of the dryer.

I never have to iron my clothes because I hang them up right after I take them out of the dryer. This doesn't work as well when you fold your clothes.

One last word of laundry wisdom: (well, two, actually) liquid detergent.

If you're still fooling around with that messy powder, you don't know what you're missing!

Words of wit and wisdom

"Don't let one test, one grade or one teacher decide what you want to do with your life," said Graves. "If you love what you do, don't give up because you screw up once."

Senior Ben Evans claims that "originality is undetected plagiarism." But I wouldn't suggest trying to tell your English professor that.

"It's a good idea not to buy your books until you go to class first," senior Ben Garland says. "Sometimes, you'll find that you really don't need the books to make it in certain classes."

What really counts here is what percent of your tests, quizzes and assignments are coming from material in the book. If it's a low number, you may be able to get away with not buying the book.

Another way you can skip on book buying is if you have a class with a close friend or roommate. You can both chip in and share the book.

No matter what your situation may be, the freshman experience is like no other. All the rough or embarrassing times you face now may turn out to be life-long lessons. Hang in there; it only lasts a year! ■

Safety: class teaches how to save lives

Continued from page 15

training, you can save a person's life."

Parker recalls a story about his friend's mother who saved a man's life during a volleyball game after he had a heart attack.

The paramedics arrived and took the man, but admitted had it not been for her knowledge the outcome might have been different.

MTSU graduate Greg Walsh remembers the time he saved his friend from choking.

"I had taken First Aid and Safety the semester before and felt good about what I had learned," Walsh said.

"So, when he started choking one night during a football game, I knew exactly what to do."

The course is not only designed to train students in CPR, but also in recognizing the signs of heart attacks, life-threatening bleeding, shock, soft tissue and musculoskeletal injuries and poisoning, among other emergencies.

By completing the course the student qualifies for an American Red Cross standard certificate.

"I took the class basically to get an easy three hours," Walsh said. "I never dreamed how useful all the things I learned were going to be. It's so practical. More people should learn it."

Being prepared for any type of emergency is vital, and the Red Cross is synonymous with emergency preparation.

For the student who feels that learning first aid and safety is only the first step in properly educating themselves about health and medical topics, the Nashville Area chapter of the American Red Cross offers a variety of other courses.

Offered are Infant Child CPR, First Aid-When help is delayed, Preventing Disease Transmission and HIV/AIDS Education Presentations.

The courses are designed with the community in mind.

Then, the next time someone is choking, whether it's at the KUC, home or anywhere else, you won't be a helpless spectator again.

For more information on first aid and safety classes, contact the American Red Cross for class schedule and registration at 327-8247. ■

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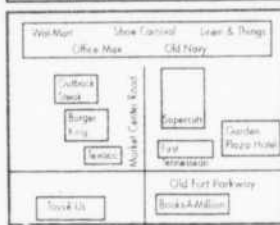
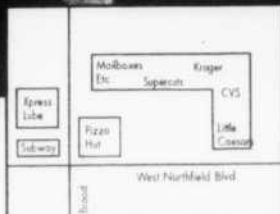
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SPORTS

21 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Indians scalp Raiders, 61-48

Michael Edwards
Men's Basketball Reporter

The Raider basketball future looked bright until MTSU hit a skid of four losses out of their last five games, including Monday's 61-48 loss to Southeast Missouri State University in the Murphy Center.

After losing to the University of Central Florida, Campbell University and Eastern Kentucky University, the Raiders got back on the winning track with a 77-73 win over Morehead State. However, more questions were raised following the Raiders' Monday night loss.

Potential problems with the team's effort has been an issue, and center Lee Nosse addressed the concern.

"I believe there is one, but if I knew what was going on I'd be the guy," Nosse said. "I try not to make excuses."

"I don't think we have problems if you want to make it an issue," forward Iiro Tennngren said. "We have a very good basketball team and we have to prove it."

The Raiders were led by Iiro Tennngren with 15 points and Nosse with 10. Nosse also added six blocks and six rebounds.

If the Raiders did have any problems, other than their 30 percent field goal shooting, they were magnified during the first three minutes of the game, as SEMO jumped out to a 7-0 lead before Cedric Wallace answered with a basket. MTSU trailed by as much as eight throughout the first eight minutes, but the Indians began a 9-0 run which lasted until the eight minute mark.

MTSU answered with a 8-0 run of their own cutting the lead to eight with 3:30 left on the first-half clock. However, following a SEMO timeout, the Indian lead was driven back out to 12 at 36-24 as the first

half ended.

The second half would not consist of the same dominance by SEMO, but the Raiders shot horrendously. MTSU shot only 23 percent in the second half, hitting only six field goals out of 26 attempts. MTSU scored only 24 points in each half.

"What frustrates you is that you prepare and you are kind of ready for everything they can throw at you or you get shots by your good players, but they don't go down," MTSU Head Coach Randy Wiel said. "I guess that's basketball."

SEMO pushed their lead to 17 shortly into the second half, thanks to a 5-0 run with a jumper and a three pointer from Antonio Short. After the short spurt by Short, Tennngren had a run of his own, hitting three straight free throws and a jumper cutting the Indian lead to 10 with 15 minutes left in regulation. That is as close as the Raiders would get for the rest of the game.

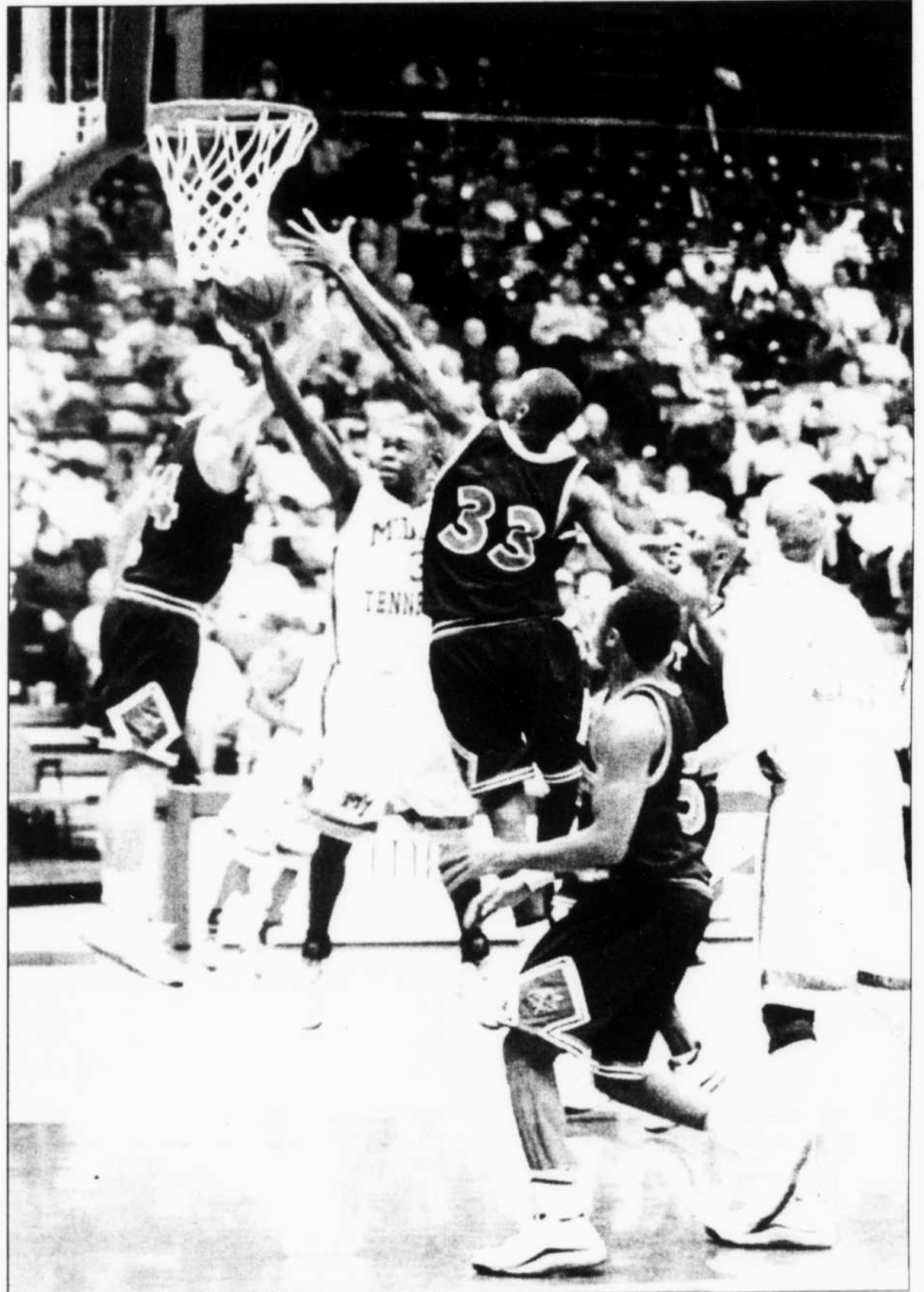
SEMO never trailed in the game and led by as much as 18 points. SEMO is on a roll winning 11 of their first 13 and three straight within the conference, while for MTSU it's back to the drawing board.

"It was a really bad performance by us today," Tennngren said. "Coming off a pretty good road trip at Eastern Kentucky. We expected to play better."

"I think the real time when we really knew the game was sealed was in the last minute, because this team is able to put up threes," SEMO forward Roderick Johnson said. "They could have come back anytime. It was a tough one."

SEMO was led by Michael Stokes with 15 and Roderick Johnson with 13. Johnson also finished with 17 rebounds.

With the loss, MTSU drops to 4-7 overall and 1-3 in the conference. ■



Cedrick Wallace takes it to the hole against SEMO.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

Transfer makes mark for Blue Raiders

Michael Edwards
Men's Basketball Reporter

After transferring from Vanderbilt University a year ago, Iiro Tengren has become a go-to-guy for the Blue Raiders this year while leading the Raiders in scoring.

In his first Raider game, Tengren put up 15 points and grabbed four rebounds while going 11 of 12 from the free throw line.

When he was six years old, Tengren began playing the game he loves in Finland under the watchful eye of his father Matti Tengren. Early in Tengren's life he was a soccer and hockey player. Tengren played goalie before his father changed his mind.

"I played soccer and hockey a lot on the streets, but my father was the one who put a basketball in my hands and said 'hey, you ought to do that,'" Tengren said. "I was better at soccer than basketball when I quit soccer to concentrate on basketball."



Still today, Tengren continues to work on his soccer abilities, but he says he has no aspirations of being a 6-foot-8 inch goalie for the MTSU team.

"I've got some skills," Tengren said.

Tengren lived in Finland until the age of 17 when came over to the United States and played for Virginia Episcopal High School in Lynchburg, Va. He averaged 23 points and nine rebounds his senior season which earned him all-state honors. Tengren then took his talents to the

International Select team which traveled through Europe and the United States.

The University of Utah's Finnish basketball star Hanno Mottola has been a mentor for Tengren. Observers can liken the inside-outside game of Mottola to that of Tengren. The two have remained friends to this day.

"[Mottola] was one that I looked up to, I still do," Tengren said. "I admire his game. I try to take away everything of what he has and put it in my game, because his game is awesome and he is going to be drafted very high in the [NBA] draft this year."

In his first eligible year, Tengren made the men's Finnish National team along with Mottola.

"Playing high school basketball, being recruited and all the hype was very memorable," Tengren said.

Iiro was recruited by many schools before choosing to go to Vanderbilt. Utah and Wake Forest University were two of the others. Tengren played

against the defending NBA Champion and last year's NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan the year that Duncan won the National Player of the Year in college basketball.

Tengren signed with Vanderbilt and played in six games but broke his hand before the season started. Tengren soon transferred to MTSU.

The key to Tengren's game is his size and agility. In Monday's game against Southeast Missouri State University in which he thought lacked luster, Tengren still managed to finish with 15 points and eight rebounds. Almost half of his 15 points came from seven free throws, which shows his ability to drive to the basket and draw fouls.

"I knew he liked to drive to the basket, because he averaged eight freethrows per game," forward Roderick Johnson of SEMO said. "He can score inside or outside."

In his first year at MTSU, the 6-foot-8 inch, 240 pound sophomore has averaged 15

points and 4.6 rebounds per game, both of which lead the Raiders. He would like to take his game to the NBA after graduating from MTSU.

"I would like to get to the highest level possible," Tengren said. "Your goals have to be set high, if you don't you'll never accomplish anything." ■

- Averages 14.8 points and 4.6 rebounds per game
- Averaged 23.7 points and 9.7 rebounds for Virginia Episcopal High School in Lynchburg, Va.
- Played for International Select; moved to the U.S. in February, 1997.
- He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matti Tengren.

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Holmes on her way

Megan Turngren
Contributing Writer

An away game for Joy Holmes-Harris used to mean going to the other side of Japan. Now it means going to Martin, Tenn.

Harris, the assistant coach hired last summer for the MTSU women's basketball team, played professional basketball in Japan, as well as taking part in the professional women's game in America. She played for the Nashville Noise ABL team before the league folded.

"I decided to take the (MTSU) position when I found out there was an opening," Harris said. "I thought that coaching would be a great way to stay involved with the game."

The position became available after Valecia Tedder resigned early in the summer following the birth of her first child. Harris will take over her duties working with the Lady Raider post players.

"I believe that women's basketball has come a long



way," Harris said. "I always tell little girls how fortunate they are now because they actually have female basketball player role models. They actually see professional and college basketball players on television on a regular basis."

"I can't even tell you how many of the last women Final Fours have been sold out."

She knows about college hoops. She knows all about what it takes to get to the NCAA Tournament.

So, when she says that the program at MTSU is going to have a good session this season, people take note.

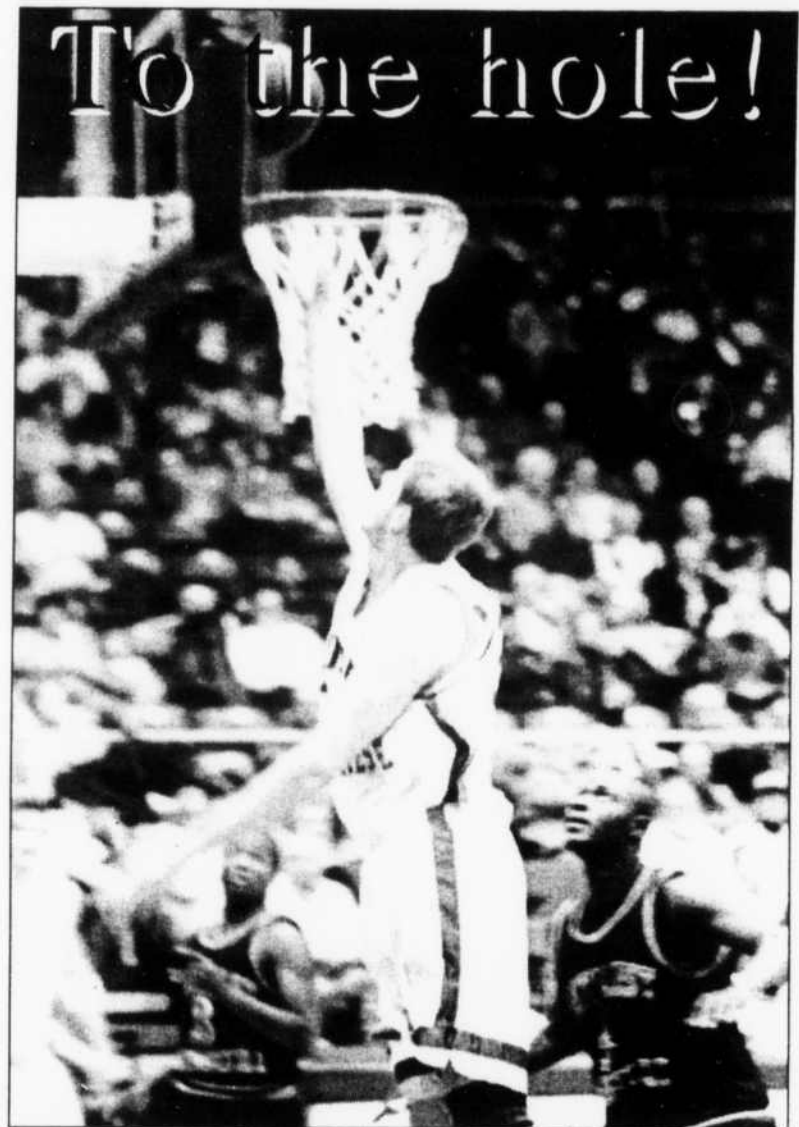
Harris' basketball career took off in college, and she took the school's women's basketball program with her. She worked to lead Purdue University to three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including the school's first-ever tournament play and the first ever "Sweet Sixteen" appearance.

As a senior for the Boilermakers, Harris was honored as Purdue's first Kodak All-American and was selected Big Ten Conference Player of the Year. Three times during her college career, she was voted first-team All-Big Ten.

Not only does she hold many school records (games played, points scored, field goals, free throws, free throw attempts and steals) at her alma mater, but she also was named Purdue's female Athlete of the Decade (1981-1991).

That isn't too bad for a 30-year-old from Mansfield, Ohio, who started out playing hoops just to even up a 2-on-2 game with her brothers.

See HOLMES, page 27



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WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

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OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

Track teams hope to make progress

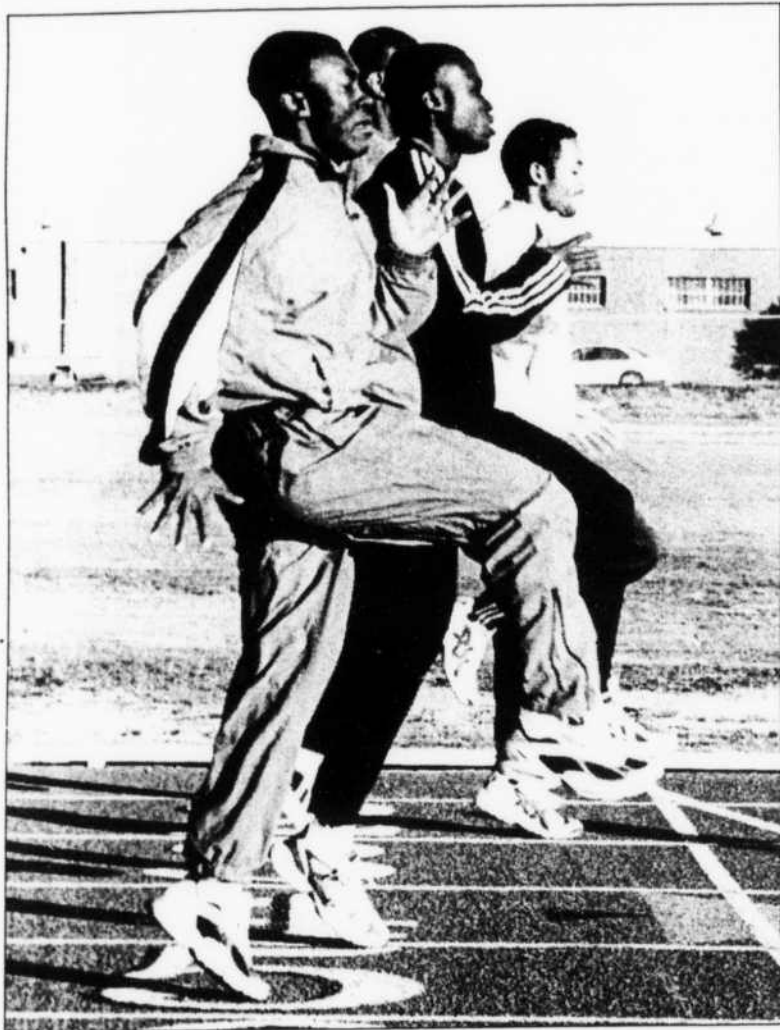


Photo by Grant Fletcher

Men's Track Team warms up with the B-skip drill.

Josh Ezell
Sports Editor

The men's and women's track teams have not participated in a meet since Dec. 4.

Despite the layoff, they are optimistic about Saturday's meet at the University of Kentucky.

"We should be able to win that meet," Boniface Amuzu said. "I worked out with my friends during the break, and as long as everybody else worked out we should be able to win the meet."

Both the men's and women's track teams won their season opener Dec. 4, outscoring Murray State University, Austin Peay State University, the University of Tennessee-Martin, Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University and Western Kentucky University.

Rob Jordan, Haneef Sharif, Tanko Braimah and the one-mile relay team all won their events. Jordan won the triple jump, Sharif won the 55-meter hurdles and Braimah won the 200-meter dash. The only team close to MTSU was Murray State. The Raiders outscored them 62-46.

"The team's doing real well right now," Sharif said. "Everybody's healthy and they are competing up to their potential, and everybody has great potential."

"We can do real well at the next meet as long as everybody went home and trained over Christmas break and did what they were supposed to do. There's no reason why we shouldn't win the next meet."

The women's team also did well in the opening meet, outscoring Austin Peay, Murray State, Vanderbilt, Tennessee State, Western Kentucky and Tennessee-Martin. Andreja Ribac, Willisa Heintz, Kapreia Kirk and Kelly Smith all won their events. Ribac won the triple jump. Heintz won the 55-and-200 meter dashes, Kirk won the 800-meter run, Smith won the 55-meter relay and the Lady Raiders won the one-mile relay.

"I think we have a strong team as far as sprints and jumps," Stephany Reid said. "In the other areas we don't have that many athletes, but the ones we have are working really hard and should do well this year. Everyone's really coming along in their events."

Coach Dean Hayes is also optimistic about the future.

"We really had a good fall," Hayes said. "Both the men and women are vastly improved from last year. We're pretty versatile; that's a big plus for us. They've really worked hard. They've been a really good group to work with. We have good team chemistry and that's always a big plus." ■

Track Schedule

January 15

Kentucky Invitational;
Lexington, KY

January 22

Blue Raider Invitational II;
Murphy Center

January 28 & 29

IKON Invitational;
Johnson City, Tennessee

February 4 & 5

Indiana Invitational;
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February 12

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It's a great time for Titans fans ...

View from the Top A sports commentary



Michael
Edwards

Columnist

For Tennesseans, this winter has been like none other, especially if you are a Titans fan.

Nashville's NFL team took to the field on Dec. 26 and obliterated the team that formerly held the league's best record, the Jacksonville Jaguars. Adelphia Coliseum was rocking and the Titans gave the fans something to rock about—a 41-14 win and a playoff berth.

On Saturday all sports fans, unless they were under a rock, know what happened when the Titans played the first

NFL playoff game in Tennessee and took on the Buffalo Bills. The Bills have been known for the last decade as national choke artists except for one day in the winter of 1993 when Steve Christie beat the Titans, who at the time were the Houston Oilers, with a field goal.

This year Tennessee returned the favor. Christie kicked a field goal with 20 seconds on the clock, making it seem that he had done it again. Thankfully for Titan fans, Frank Wycheck and Kevin Dyson had other plans in the form of a play called homerun throwback.

Dyson took the lateral from Wycheck and rambled 75 yards for the game winning touchdown. All of those people that continued to watch when the Titans' chances looked bleak I commend you, and yourselves who changed the channel or left the Adelphia Coliseum before the game ended, well, I hope you can live

with yourself.

The question of whether Tennessee has a future or they are just a fluke much like the Atlanta Falcons were last season, will be proven next week they go to Indianapolis to take on Peyton Manning and the Colts.

Those of you who are fans of the Titans, but not fans of Tennessee or Vanderbilt, you had multiple gifts this holiday season. Vanderbilt had yet another losing season. The Commodores choked like usual and put all the Vandy hype to bed. Do Vanderbilt and hype sound funny in the same sentence? Remember in the early '90s when college basketball teams would chant "We want Duke," well Vanderbilt is still chanting "We want the View." No not Barbara Walters, but the football juggernauts, Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical.

The Tennessee Volunteers had a good season, but the Vols

were supposed to have a better team than last year, yet they couldn't handle Arkansas or Nebraska. However, 9-3 is a good record. The only thing that could have made this holiday season better is if the Blue Raiders could have shocked the world and beaten the Vols in basketball. They lost by one point. I have said for the past year that the Vols National Championship season was scarred by a lack of national talent and great football teams. The 1997 Vols were better than the 1998 Vols. Manning is better than Tee Martin, and Jamal Lewis before his knee injury was better than Travis Henry.

Tennessee may have another problem if the NCAA finds evidence concerning allegations reported by ESPN. If these are false then the university should file suit against ESPN for libel, because Phil Fulmer and the university are a joke. The charges that ESPN reported

are, to me, serious. More than recruiting violations and everything else. If these are true, I hope the NCAA penalizes Tennessee to the fullest extent possible, which is the "death penalty."

For comments please feel e-mail Michael Edwards at SlSports@frank.mtsu.edu. ■

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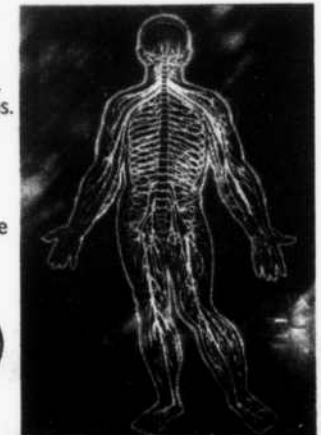
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Holmes: On her way

continued from page 23

"My best friend and I decided that we were going to be cheerleaders in high school," Holmes said. "But my dad talked me into playing my freshman year and we went 20-0 and that was the year I really fell in love with basketball.

"I was playing before just so I could play with my brothers, but after my freshman year, I was playing because I loved playing."

Not only is she part of women's basketball history in the books, but also on the screen. Harris played in the first-ever live televised women's basketball game in January 1991.

At Purdue, she picked up something that has impacted her life as much as her diploma. She snagged her husband, Gary Harris. The two have a 5-year old son, and live in Nashville, where the family moved immediately after

Harris was selected by the Noise in the ABL.

"Someone once asked me, 'What's harder, playing basketball or being a mom?' Being a mom is by far harder than basketball. Basketball is for a few hours a day, but being a mom is 24-hours-a-day for the rest of your life. But I have a wonderful son and he makes life a little easier for me."

Women's basketball may be a mainstay in her life, but, according to Harris, she comes from "a very sports-oriented family," so her lifestyle isn't surprising. Her brother, Ronnie, had a stint with the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL and her father, Joseph, played basketball at Kentucky State University.

"Ten years ago I could have never imagined that I'd be where I am today," Harris said. "Basketball has been extremely good to me. I must say that I am blessed to have the kind of life that I have lived."

In the ABL, the Seattle Reign tried to snag the Purdue graduate with the No. 8 pick in the inaugural ABL Draft, but Harris turned down the offer. Then she went to the Noise in the 1998 ABL expansion draft.

"I do miss playing professionally," Harris said. "My season ended so abruptly when the league folded last December. I had only planned to play one more year anyway, but I still do miss it."

"When the ABL folded, the first thing I did was go to the unemployment office," Holmes said, laughing. "But seriously, I didn't do anything for a while. I just took some time out for my family and myself. Then I retired from basketball, or so I thought."

In May, Harris got a call from the Washington Mystics, a WNBA team, to attend their training camp. She stayed with the team for a month and felt it was a great experience. ■

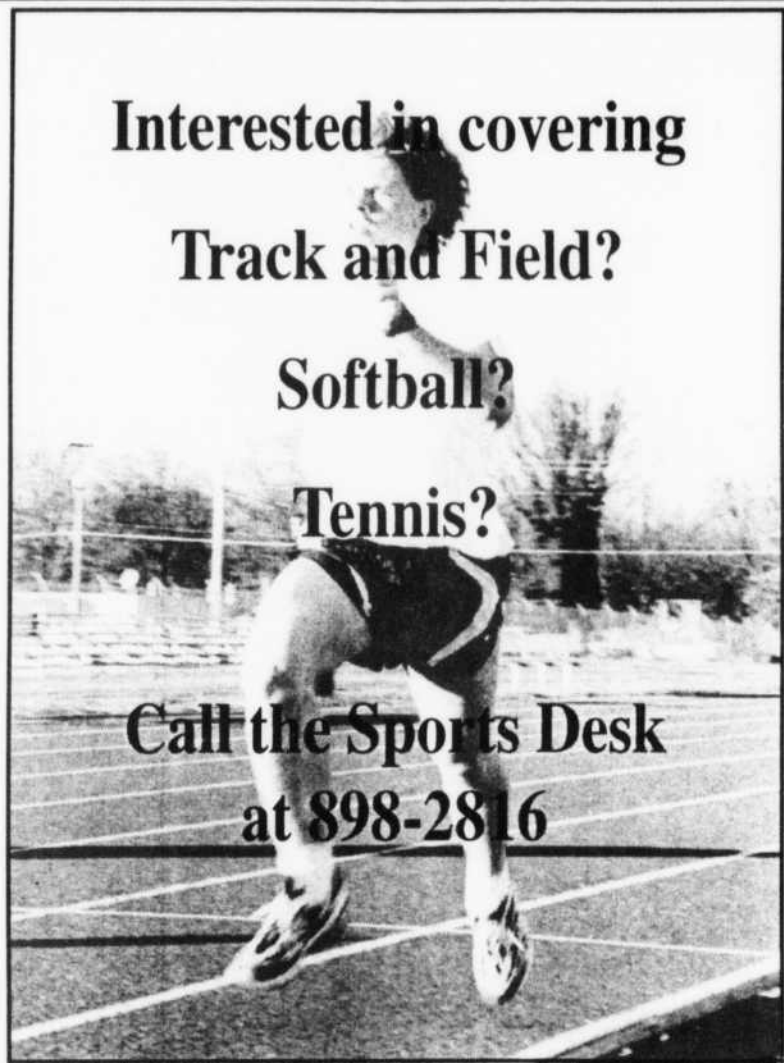
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Longtime friends finally meet

Hank Lowenkron
Associated Press

Edgerrin James and Jevon Kearse grew up about 25 miles apart, honing the skills that established them as two of the most dominant rookies to come into the NFL.

Sunday, James of the Indianapolis Colts and Kearse of the Tennessee Titans line up against each other for the first time.

Both are headed to the Pro Bowl, one as The Associated Press NFL offensive rookie of the year, the other as the AP's defensive rookie of the year.

"We talked about it a lot, particularly after we got drafted," said Kearse, who set an NFL rookie mark of 14 1/2 sacks in a season.

The two watched the draft together in James' hometown of Immokalee, a rural southern Florida farm community.

"I went over there and hung out with him in his little town. Then I went back to my town (Fort Myers) and hung out," Kearse said.

"It's going to be nice," James said of the meeting in the RCA Dome. "Finally, we get a chance to play against each other. All our lives, it was always something happened to prevent it."

Kearse was a year ahead of James in high school, and their two schools never played each other.

"Then he went to Florida, and I was at Miami. Last year, there was a chance that we would play against each other (in a bowl game), and we lost to

Syracuse. ... Every year there was something that bumped us away from playing," James said.

Kearse, a 6-foot-4, 265-pound defensive end who had 85 tackles, and the James, 6-0 and 216 pounds, are likely to collide frequently on Sunday. James, whose selection as the fourth-overall pick ahead of Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams was questioned by many during the draft, justified the Colts' decision with 1,553 yards rushing and 586 receiving while scoring a league-high 17 touchdowns.

"Ever since Pop Warner, Little League, I've seen this big running back running over guys," Kearse said of James, who became the first back in Miami history to rush for 1,000 yards two consecutive years.

"He did the same thing in

high school. In high school, I think he averaged 150-200 yards a game. To carry on and keep doing the same thing on each level is something pretty impressive.

James knows why Kearse also goes by the nickname "The Freak."

"In some ways he is like one because his abilities, skills and athleticism are so far ahead of most players," James said. "Wherever he has played, he's made headaches for his opponents and I'm sure he'll try to create some for us."

He will.

"We'll probably do a little bit of trash talking throughout the game but then again whoever wins it's good for our hometown," Kearse said.

"I hope it is real loud, and annoying for them," James said. "We need all the help that

we can."

James isn't the only member of the Colts whom Kearse knows well. Rookie linebacker Mike Peterson was a Florida teammate and Kearse played against Peyton Manning when the Colts quarterback was at Tennessee.

"He does a good job getting rid of the ball, but he hasn't played against the Titans yet," Kearse said. "A lot of teams played against him have played in zone pretty much scared of him. We're going to play a lot of man coverage hopefully, and try to get some sacks."

Manning was sacked a league-low 14 times in 1999, and Kearse topped that figure by himself on a team that recorded 54 sacks for losses of 305 yards. ■

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Titans show expanded passing game

Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - For the past two seasons, the Tennessee Titans have promised a better passing attack. If the first play of their exhibition home opener is any indication, they are ready to deliver.

Neil O'Donnell found Yancey Thigpen on the left sideline for a 48-yard pass play on the Titans' first play en route to a 17-3 victory Friday night. They also connected later on a 36-yarder.

Not bad for a team that completed only three passes for more than 40 yards all of last season.

"I agree with you guys when you say 'Where has the deep ball been?' I've heard about it," O'Donnell said. "When the opportunity arises, you have to take your chances

and push the ball down field, and we did do that."

The Titans have tried to throw the ball down the field this preseason but have had passes dropped. Coach Jeff Fisher said Saturday that the receivers, led by Thigpen, played much better against the Falcons.

"We got better running routes. We threw the ball better, caught the ball better, more efficiently, like we talked about," he said.

But he still saw room for improvement.

"We need to get better blocking out of our receivers. A couple of them are doing well, but by and large, we have to do a better job blocking downfield."

Ideally, the Titans wanted to see Steve McNair throwing those passes. They want to see McNair blossom into a quarterback known as much for his arm as his legs.

An injured back kept him

on the sidelines for a second straight exhibition game. He also has missed two weeks of practice - time needed for him to get in synch with his receivers.

McNair has been passing lightly since Wednesday, and Fisher said he should take part in some drills Sunday when the Titans hold their first practice at their new facility.

One disappointment Friday came when the offense started stalling against the Falcons. The defense forced five turnovers, and the Titans netted only an Al Del Greco field goal.

Even worse, Eddie George lost the ball inside the Atlanta 5 on the Titans' third drive - a big loss for the only NFL team in 1998 to score every time they got inside an opponent's 20-yard line.

"You've got to get more ...," Fisher said. "We're talking about not settling for field goals

down there, and we get no points out of that. We didn't do that at all last year, and that we have to learn from."

The offense likely will end up with more chances to score this season if the defense can build on its performance against Atlanta. Tennessee was next to last in the league last season with only 30 sacks, and the unit totaled four in the exhibition.

Fisher particularly enjoyed watching rookies Jevon Kearse and John Thornton hit Atlanta's quarterback just as he was releasing the ball.

"That's a combination I believe we're going to see many years to come," he said. ^Notes:@ Tight end Jackie Harris suffered a fractured rib in the game, while running back Rodney Harris fractured a finger. Defensive back Steve Jackson strained his hamstring in the game. ... But tight end Frank Wycheck is expected to

play in the Titans' final exhibition Thursday against New Orleans, and Fisher said defensive end Kenny Holmes (knee) also may be available.■

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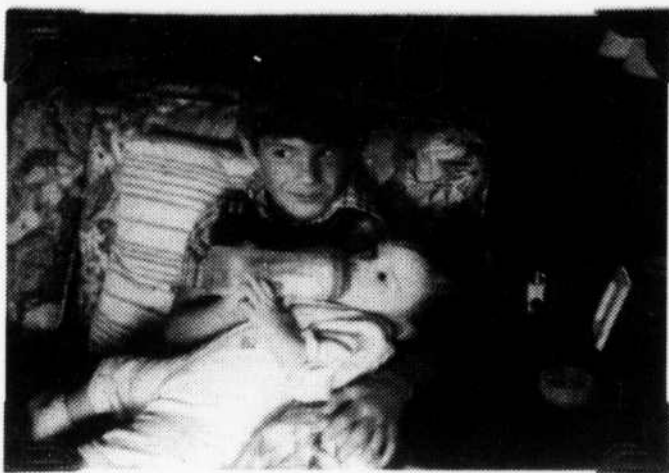
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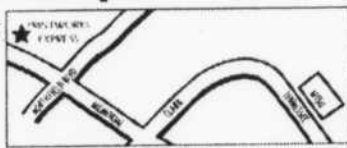
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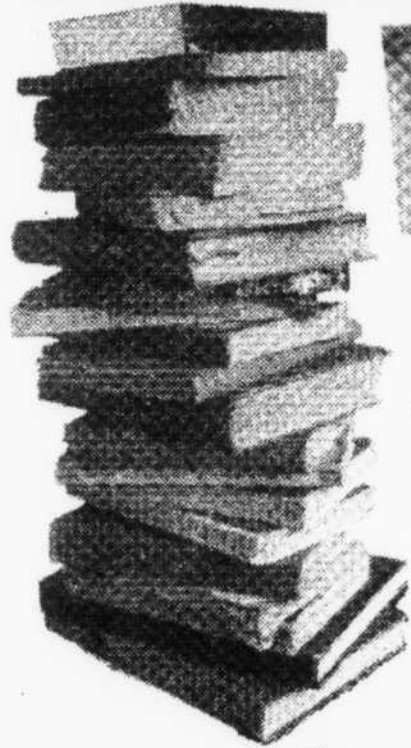
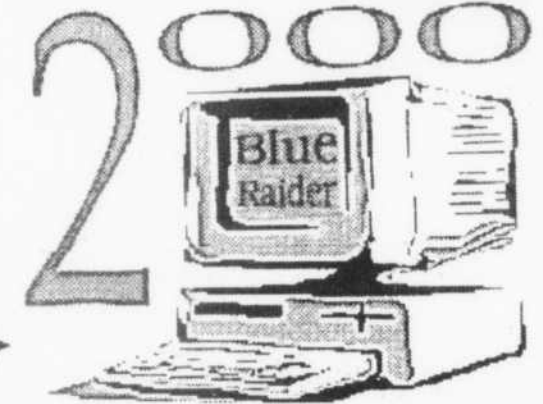
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