

Blue Raiders crash in home losses

page 6

Web site revamps text book buying, selling

page 5



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SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

2003 National Finalist
Best non-daily university newspaper
-Society of Professional Journalists

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

MTSU e-mail best way to reach faculty

MTSU e-mail accounts are the best way to correspond with professors, according to Information Technology.

E-mail from commercial e-mail accounts may be detected as spam and not reach its recipient.

Vigil commemorates Martin Luther King

The MTSU Annual Martin Luther King Day Candlelight Vigil will be held tonight at 6 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

The event will feature motivational speaker Milton Creagh of Atlanta.

The Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Office of Multicultural Affairs will host the event.

Student television plans general interest event

MTTV will be holding a general interest meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S102.

Topics covered will include: news audition sign-ups, new shows, production work and special events for spring 2005. All majors are welcome.

Deadline near for basketball registration

Students interested in intramural basketball have until Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. to register.

League play will begin Monday, Jan. 31. Students can register at the office of Campus Recreation.

Student group hosts pro-choice discussion

The student group VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood will be hosting a discussion Thursday, Jan. 27 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. to examine the relationship between a pro-choice philosophy and spirituality.

The event will be held in the BAS, Room S128 and will begin with a screening of the film, "In a Just World: Abortion, Contraception and World Religion."

A panel discussion and refreshments will follow.

Journalist group holds informative meeting

The Student Journalists Association will hold an informative meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27 at 3 p.m. in the John Bragg Mass Communications building, Room 270.

Plans for the upcoming semester will be discussed, along with SJA membership details.

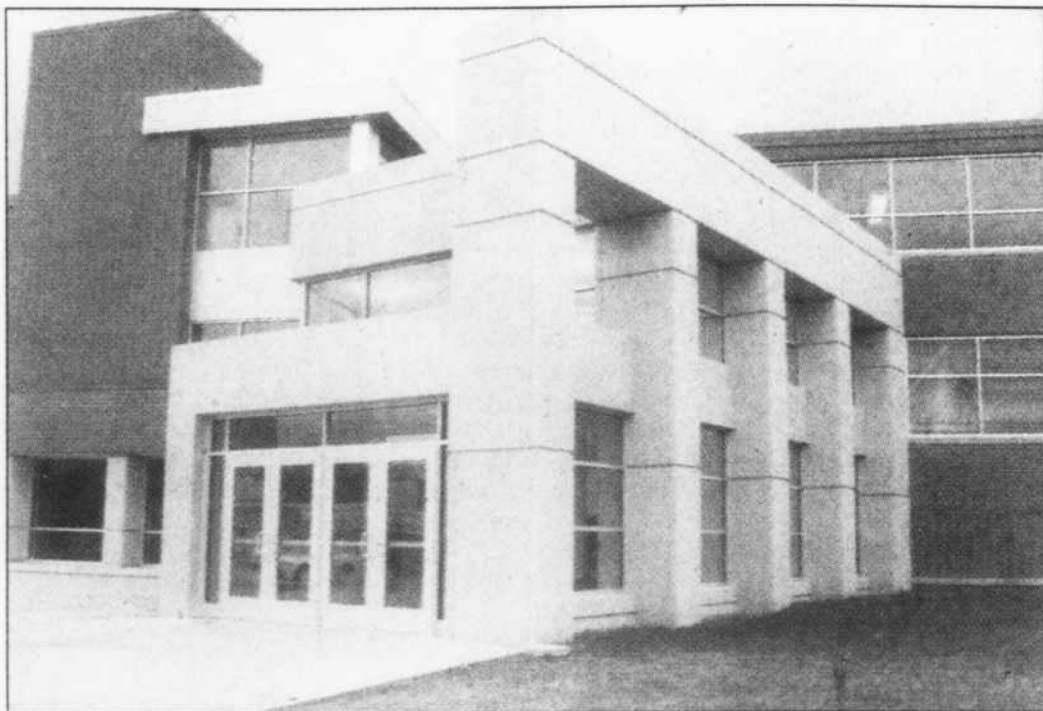
Blood drive planned for all day Thursday

The Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 27. To participate, come to the Keathley University Center third floor between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Sorority begins recruitment week

Phi Chi sorority will be hosting recruitment events this week, beginning with a meet and greet tonight in the KUC, Room 318 at 7:30 p.m.

A new look for Todd



Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

(Above) Art classes began Jan. 18 in newly renovated Todd building.

(Below) Art department student lounge features appropriate artistic decor.

Renovated Todd replaces Art Barn

By Kristin Hall
Editor in Chief

No one could be happier about the opening of the renovated Todd Building that now houses the art department than Judy Van Vorhis.

Van Vorhis was the spokesperson of the Todd Art Alliance that in 1998 started a letter-writing campaign urging university President James Walker to find the funding to move the department out of the Art Barn.

"It was the students that had the power to make a difference," Van Vorhis said about the campaign.

Students, Student Government Association members, parents and community members all wrote pleading letters explaining the horrible condition of the facilities.



It was, in fact, the Barn alone that kept the art department from receiving accreditation, a situation that interim department chair Jean Nagy hopes to reverse in March.

The history of the Art Barn is a long and controversial one. The department moved in during the 1960s, but the space was only supposed to be temporary.

Years passed and the department kept get-

See Todd, 2

No arrests made in dorm thefts

By Matt Anderson
News Editor

Freshman recording industry major Alex Williams had just returned to his dorm a friend from an exam when a friend down the hall had a computer problem.

Williams dropped his backpack in his room and went to help. He left his door unlocked. While he was gone, someone entered and stole \$25 cash and a \$78 textbook.

Two Cummings rooms, 625 and 627, were unlawfully entered Dec. 14. Between the two dorm rooms, three textbooks, cash and several video games were stolen. Williams lives in 625.

"I didn't really think somebody would have the audacity to walk in my room and take something, especially if I'm on the floor," Williams said.

No arrests have been made, and MTSU Crime Stoppers have offered a reward for information that could lead to an arrest.

Williams noted that many people on the floor that day were not Cummings residents. Now, he always locks his door.

"I didn't think I'd have that my issue," Williams said. "I pretty much know everybody up here. It kind of sucks to have to lock my door every time I make a move."

Cummings residents have to swipe their student IDs through a magnetic reader to ride the elevators and enter the stairwells. The magnetic reader for the western stairwell does not function properly, but the doors to individual floors are locked.

Cummings area coordinator Ray Owens declined to comment for this story. Two desk assistants declined to give their names, fearing they would lose their jobs.

Both desk assistants conceded that magnetic readers were not 100 percent effective. They said in the 2003-04 school year, students had to show their ID to

See Thefts, 2

New funding benefits health center's plans

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

The Center for Health and Human Services received a large increase in funding for new and continuing projects in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Martha Jo Edwards, who founded CHHS in 1994, sees annual growth as a sign of increased confidence in the center's capabilities.

Edwards is the current director and holder of the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services.

This year's increased funding is all the more impressive given the poor funding of the center during its early years.

"About eight years ago, [the center's funding] was at \$7,400," Edwards said. "People are beginning to recognize that we have faculty on this campus that are capable of doing this kind of work."

This year's grants provided a record \$544,000 for various programs, an increase of \$169,000 over the 2003-2004 academic year.

The funds will go towards continuing work on several

projects as well as starting new projects.

New programs set to benefit from the grants include developing a five-year plan for Tennessee and a three-year plan for activities with the Comprehensive Cancer Control office.

Funding continued for the eighth year of a project to address tobacco use in the Cumberland area and for the third year of a project researching unexplained infant death.

Edwards sees the increase in projects as useful in terms of improving both the educational benefits of the center as well as the image of MTSU.

"The more opportunities we get to provide services to agencies outside the university," Edwards said, "the better we improve the image of the university as well as increasing the role of students and giving them exposure to real-life examples of what they are learning in the classroom."

Edwards said she believes the growth of the last 10 years will

See Grant, 2

Brunch honors Martin Luther King

By Lauren Buckley
Staff Writer

African-Americans were encouraged to "seize our bold future" by an area pastor during the keynote address of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. brunch.

The Murfreesboro and the MTSU chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hosted the annual event on Jan. 15 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Reverend Dr. Chestina M. Archibald, pastor at Key United Methodist Church and director of the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University, told the audience that the time to claim the future is now.

"Now is the time we must seize our bold future. We need to stop singing 'We Shall Overcome Someday,'" Archibald said. "Instead, we need to sing 'We Shall Overcome Today!'"

Church leaders and members, government officials, and both members and non-members of the NAACP attended the brunch.

"It is not he that falls who fails, but he who falls and fails to rise again," Archibald said.

She added that the ancestors of African-Americans in Egypt were able to build the pyramids, and that these builders were a "regal" people.

"People could have called Abe Lincoln a loser," Archibald said. "He lost eight times, but we don't think about that. We

think about our freedom. Babe Ruth could have been called the 'Strikeout King.' He struck out more than any others at that time."

The theme was "Celebrating our Courageous Past While Claiming Our Bold Future."

"We've been planning this for about three months," said the MTSU chapter president Jonathan Morton, a junior sociology major from Arrington, Tenn. "Our chapter did most of the reserving of rooms and putting together the programs."

The brunch began with a presentation by Reverend Deborah Peppers, pastor of Suggs Chapel A.M.E. Church.

See Brunch, 2

Officials predict record enrollment for spring semester

By Michaela Jackson
Assistant News Editor

MTSU officials predict a record spring enrollment for 2005.

According to *The Record*, in the spring of 2004, enrollment peaked at 20,229 students. This spring, MTSU officials report that enrollment is up approximately 3.2 percent from that number.

"This is consistent with the university's enrollment management plan that focuses on controlling the growth in the student population," according to the president's newsletter.

Official numbers will be available after purges for nonpayment are complete.

MTSU has also heightened its criteria for admission, affecting the minimum required grade point average and college admission test score for incoming students, according to Sherian Huddleston,

assistant vice provost for enrollment management.

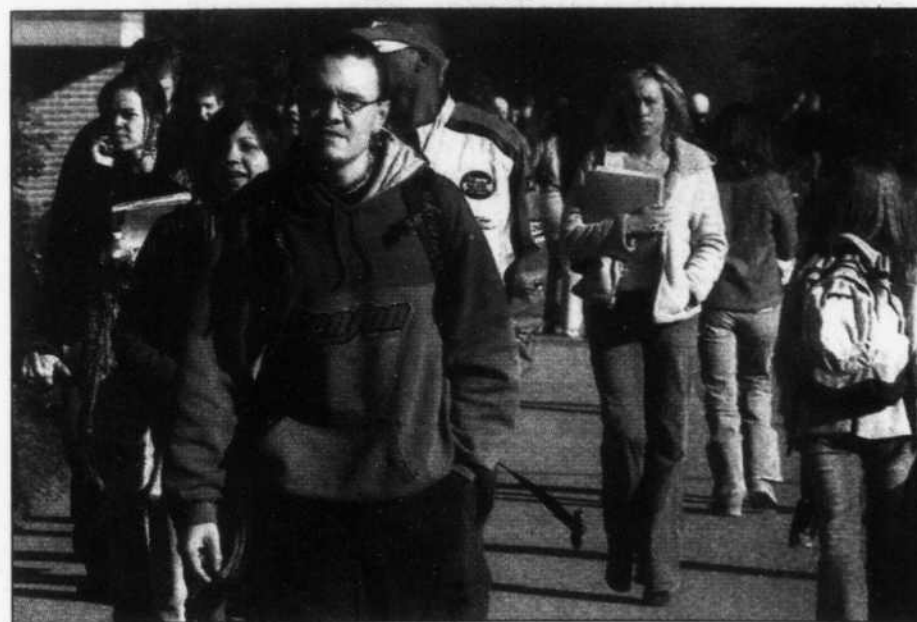
Previously, to gain guaranteed admission, high school students had to achieve either a 2.8 GPA or a 20 on their ACT.

Under the new requirements, students must graduate high school with either a 3.0 GPA or a 22 on their ACT to be guaranteed admission. Alternatively, if a student achieves both a 2.7 GPA and a 19 on their ACT, admission is guaranteed.

The increase in standards is designed to ensure "a better prepared student coming into college," according to Huddleston.

Huddleston said that due to the significant increase in the university's applicants in recent years, it has become necessary to "control enrollment growth."

See Spring, 2



Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Students returned to classes after a month-long holiday break.



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

Do you feel that ID readers are necessary to ensure campus security?

Todd: Art Barn site to be converted to gravel parking lot

Continued from 1

ing for a new facility.

Meanwhile, the department was outgrowing the facility and the Barn was beginning to show wear-and-tear.

In February of 1980, John McKay, a consultant from the National Association of Students of Art and Design, visited the campus and recommended that the facility be replaced within the decade.

"Considerable expense will continue to accrue during the next decade just to keep this 'barn' in a standing position," McKay wrote in his report.

Seventeen years after this initial warning of trouble, another consultant, Thomas Ferreira, pointed out significant health and safety problems with the building.

Ferreira wrote that in 22 years of consulting work at universities all over the country, he couldn't recall one facility that is "so egregiously inadequate in so many ways."

The Art Barn was "the worst facility over all that I have seen," he said.

Some of the major problems were termite, rodent and pigeon infestation, lack of eyewash and

pull-shower stations and no access for the disabled to the second floor.

Rick Rishaw, art gallery preparator, recalled having to help one disabled student climb up the stairs in order to attend class.

"The ventilation was crappy, the floors were rotting in some spots and the roof was leaking," Rishaw said.

After the 1997 report came out, Van Vorhis and fellow students were determined to "bring the Art Barn out from under a rock."

The Art Alliance passed out fliers, spoke with administrators and community leaders and held art fairs in order to get the word out about the condition of the building.

"There was building going on everywhere, beautiful places of study, and we had to walk into the Barn," Van Vorhis said. "It was our turn, our time."

The answer to the art department's prayers came from the 2000-2001 General Assembly, which appropriated \$8 million to renovate the former Todd Library Building.

Finally, the department is enjoying the fruits of their labor.

With eight master classrooms and a lecture hall that seats 94 students, the new building now has enough room for all of its 300-plus majors, as well as room for the new Albert Gore Sr. Research Center on the first floor.

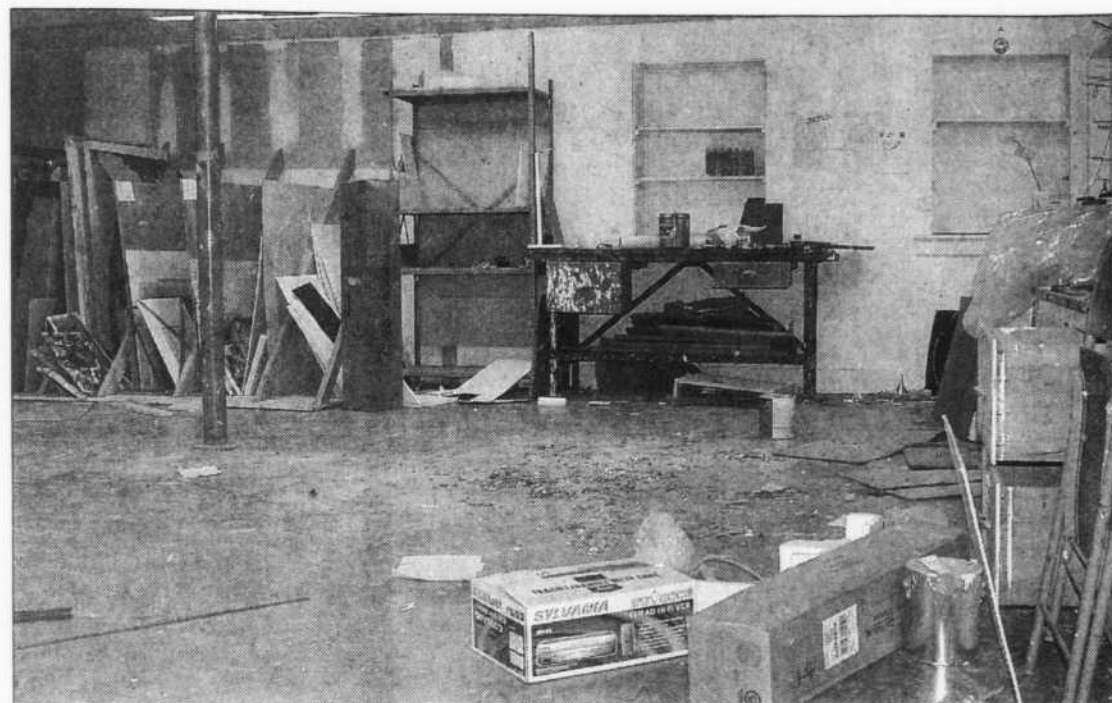
Senior painting major Wes Adamson said he is glad that he won't have to worry about securing studio space.

"I had to fight the last two semesters for any type of space and when I got a space it was really inappropriate for any field," Adamson said. "But today, in the first five minutes, I got to go and pick out my studio space."

Only the first two floors of the building are complete, while construction on the third floor is currently in the bidding process.

Graphic design, printmaking and book arts will occupy the third floor when construction is finished, along with more College of Liberal Arts faculty offices.

One of the main benefits of the new facility is that now the department, which was spread out all over campus in various buildings, will be consolidated into one building.



Photos by Rachele Morvant | Chief Photographer

After more than 30 years of use, the Art Barn is now empty. The building is set to be demolished. Artifacts from the Art Barn will be auctioned in February.

"The students were never really together to form a community," Adamson lamented. "With classes centralized, it's going to be so much easier for interaction."

Although alumna Van Vorhis won't have the pleasure of attending classes in the new

Todd Building, she is looking forward to the demolition of the Art Barn.

The Barn Bash, as it is called, is scheduled for February 25-26, when faculty, students and alumni are invited to watch the Barn be torn down.

The space will be turned into

a 60-car gravel parking lot, according to Patti Miller, director of Campus Planning.

And Van Vorhis doesn't plan on leaving empty-handed.

"I have to have a piece of it," she said. ♦

Thefts: ID readers allow unauthorized dorm entry

Continued from 1

a desk assistant before boarding the elevators.

One desk assistant said she checks IDs if a student doesn't look like they belong in Cummings, but she said not many desk assistants do.

A Sidelines reporter had no problem boarding an elevator without an ID.

"Anybody can walk in, and as long as they're getting on the right gendered elevator. All they

have to do is wait for it to come down and they can get on," one desk assistant said. "I really think they should increase security here. It would piss the residents off, but if they don't like being safe, they shouldn't live here."

Despite the break-in, Williams feels safe in Cummings.

A more precise ID checking system would help, he said, but it would also inconvenience residents. ♦

Grant: Programs expanded

Continued from 1

continue with the 2005-2006 academic year.

"At least four grants have opportunities to continue another year or so, and we will get new ones in on top of that," Edwards said. "We never know if there will be a further increase in the next year, but I suspect the funding will continue to grow."

If Edwards seems confident, she said it is only because her appreciation of her staff's capabilities is tremendous despite the size of many of these programs.

"Most of the projects are already in the works and we have faculty members currently working to fulfill the scope of these projects," Edwards said. "The center would not be suc-

cessful without their work."

Although the center is located on campus, Edwards said the projects in which it is involved extend far beyond the university.

Edwards said the stated mission goal for the center is "to engage the faculty and students of MTSU in projects to improve the health of the citizens of Tennessee."

"We do an awful lot of projects for the state," Edwards explained. "I think we are the only university [in Tennessee] that operates in both research and service."

The center partners with many different organizations including the Tennessee March of Dimes, Maternal and Child Health, and the Department of Health. ♦

Brunch: Humanitarian awards presented for local service

Continued from 1

Peppers led the attendees in singing "Let Us March On, Til the Victory is Won."

Marcus Lucas, a Murfreesboro resident and son of a MTSU faculty member, provided the entertainment.

"I performed two pantomime acts to the songs, 'Til You Believe' and 'Blood Song,'" Lucas said. "The second one I did was fitting to the event because Martin Luther King was

a minister and he honestly did believe it didn't matter what color you were."

Lucas also performed piano medleys of the songs "Total Praise," "Center of My Joy" and "We Shall Behold Him."

Several religious leaders offered prayers during the brunch and members of various churches from Tennessee performed vocal pieces.

Two Jerry Anderson Humanitarian awards were presented to Shawn Haney and

Anthony McAdoo.

Haney, a Murfreesboro police officer, blocked a bullet from hitting another officer after responding to a domestic disturbance call.

McAdoo was recognized for his volunteer work in the community. The Martin Luther King Brunch was a new event for Idava Beach of LaVergne, Tenn.

"I am not a member of the NAACP, but I was invited by a member of the Democratic Women," Beach said. "I wasn't

sure what to expect, but I found it very inspiring and enlightening. It's great to see people coming together to honor acts of kindness [and] heroism."

Murfreesboro chapter president Goldy Wade said that "membership is not just for minorities or blacks."

"The NAACP is for anyone who has a concern about the welfare of people. I am happy to say that we are a mixture of races. We are about people and helping people." ♦

Spring: University tightens admissions requirements

Continued from 1

"We strive to maintain a family, student-centered environment," Huddleston said, and achieving this goal means limiting enrollment.

"We pride ourselves on being able to give our students personal attention despite our large numbers," Huddleston said.

Huddleston explained that

the enrollment limitations are essentially an issue of resource allocation.

"We have to deal with decreasing funding and problems with space," she said.

In addition to raising standards for all prospective MTSU students, Huddleston said that the university is also seeking to increase its percentage of high-ability students.

Huddleston qualified her statement, though, by explaining that such recruitment of high-ability students is "not to the exclusion of other students."

"We want to remain accessible to other good students," she said.

Nevertheless, MTSU is taking steps to attract prize students. For instance, university president Sidney McPhee and

other university officials, including representatives from the admissions department, host a reception each fall for prospective students who are National Merit Scholarship finalists.

According to McPhee in his remarks at the reception last fall, the MTSU enrolled three National Merit Scholars in 2003 and six in 2004. ♦

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Bredesen initially offered less drastic TennCare cuts

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gov. Phil Bredesen initially wanted to make less drastic cuts to the TennCare program but could not come to an agreement with the leading advocate for program enrollees.

Earlier this month, Bredesen announced 323,000 people would be removed from the \$8 billion program and that benefits would decrease for another 396,000.

The *Tennessean* newspaper obtained two scenarios the governor offered to the Tennessee Justice Center and letters from center officials through an open records request. The documents reveal widely divergent viewpoints of what it would take to rein in the spiraling costs of the program.

In December, Bredesen's two plans included significant cuts, either in prescription availability or medical services and were rejected by Gordon Bonnyman, director of the Tennessee Justice Center.

In letters to the governor's office, Bonnyman believed that the cuts could lead to the deaths of some TennCare enrollees and that the state couldn't achieve the savings it sought.

Bredesen's first proposal and "preferred" plan would have ended coverage for 97,000 adults with high medical bills, but would have kept more than 1.2 million people in the program.

It would have eliminated prescription drug coverage for several hundred thousand adults, and set a four-per-month limit on everyone but children.

The second scenario would have ended health-care coverage for nearly 250,000 adults and required generic drugs in most cases for those left in the program. The governor's "TennCare Disenrollment Scenario" also would have ended the practice of rolling over many TennCare users from one category to another to keep them eligible.

Both scenarios included concessions and asked the Justice Center, which represents TennCare users in federal court, to step back from legal challenges the governor said had prevented the state from being able to cut costs of the program.

Bredesen presented the two plans at a Dec. 15 meeting and asked Bonnyman to pick one. Bonnyman said he could not choose because he felt neither

scenario would save Tennessee the \$650 million the governor sought, according to a letter Bonnyman wrote on Dec. 17.

Bonnyman wrote that neither scenario included cost-cutting suggestions made by the Justice Center that had nothing to do with cutting people or medical benefits from TennCare, the state's expanded Medicaid health insurance program for the poor, disabled and uninsured.

Bonnyman wrote in a Jan. 6 letter, "both scenarios involve serious risks for TennCare enrollees, including likely loss of life for some."

"I respectfully declined to endorse either scenario, but neither then nor now do I believe there is nothing further to discuss," he wrote the governor.

Four days later, Bredesen released his plan to overhaul TennCare, announcing enrollment cuts that went further than either of the proposals presented.

The publicly released plan does not include any of the state concessions the governor had suggested to Bonnyman, or the legal guarantees the governor had asked for from the Justice Center.

Bredesen spokesman Bob Corney said the two publicly released plan and the two other scenarios were designed to keep TennCare spending at 26 percent of the state budget.

Bonnyman, the governor said in his remarks to the media, had "never engaged in any negotiations and never put any alternatives on the table except to exhort us to go get additional money from the federal government."

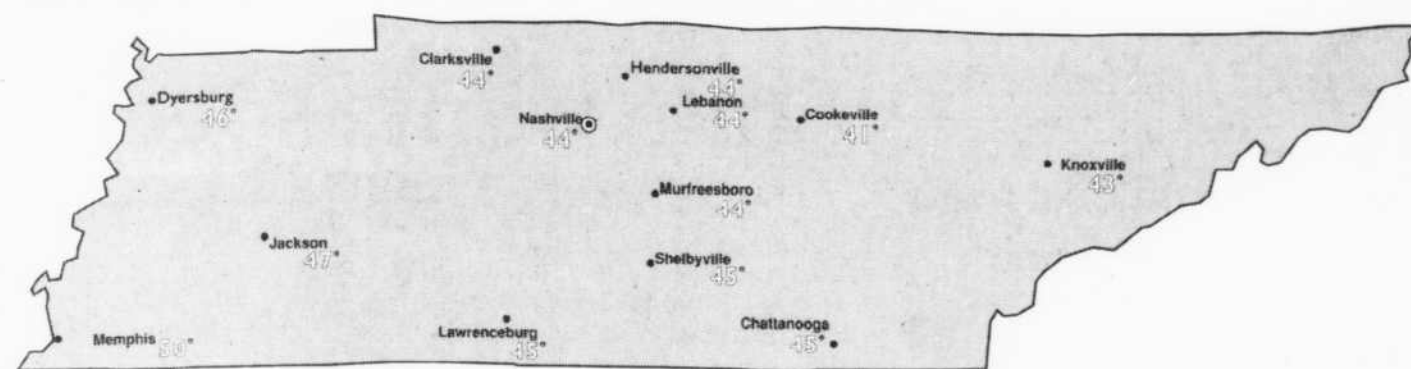
Both men expressed regret in the final situation.

"Gordon, it was a dream of mine a year ago that together we could blaze some new trails in providing health care to the underserved within the political and economic realities of the day. I am truly sorry that it was not to be," Bredesen wrote on Dec. 28.

"I, too, am disappointed that, in its search for a third way, the state and its consultants never seem to have seriously considered anything other than a set of policies that are variations of what was proposed originally," Bonnyman wrote back on Jan. 6. "Those proposals do not reform TennCare but only cut it to a point where it will be incapable of fulfilling its promise to many." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



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From the Editorial Board Sciences should take page from art students' book

The new semester brings a new and long-awaited change to the university: a new art building.

Art students set foot into the newly refurbished Todd Building for the first time last Tuesday, ending a more than 30-year wait for a new facility to replace the departments' unsafe "temporary" location in the Art Barn.

The new building will be a boon to the art department in many ways, the biggest of which is the fact that the newer, safer Todd Building will allow it to be considered for accreditation for the first time in years, a great victory for a department that had feared it might have been closed down.

In addition, the new building will help attract students to the university's art department through the Governor's School for the Arts program. Instead of a creaking barn full of narrow and confusing passages, high school students will be able to enjoy quality studio space that might encourage them to consider coming to the university after graduating.

Most noteworthy of all, however, is the fact that student involvement helped turn the creation of a new art facility from a forgotten project into a priority for the university. The university's art program watched for years as its request for a new home was turned down, all while a new library, mass communications building and business building were constructed at great expense.

The letter campaign mounted by art students in 1998 to ask for a new building is a testament to not only the power of a large group of voices, but also shows that the people attending this university do sincerely care about this school, and want to get the most from it that they can.

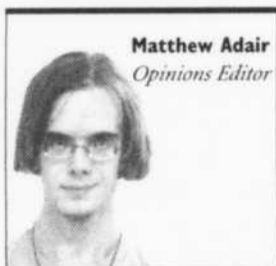
Science majors calling for much-needed renovations to the aging Davis Science Building would do well to take a page from the art department's book and press the university for what it needs.

The science departments will likely face an uphill battle to earn a renovated building as the art department faced in getting out of the Art Barn.

Luckily, the past has shown that persistence can pay off in the long run. If the science departments are willing to put in the effort to keep pushing for improvements until someone takes the time to listen, they will someday be able to share in the same quality of facilities that the arts are finally enjoying. ◆

From the Opinions Editor Upcoming election will show Iraqis' faith in democracy

Most of us may not even know who the candidates in the upcoming Iraqi national elections are. However, the identities of the forces that stand to win or lose are clear enough: faith and fear.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Right now, I'm hoping that the Iraqi people can have enough faith in democracy to fight their fears and cast their ballots on Jan. 30.

It's a little difficult, though, to maintain that faith right now. A new recording released yesterday, believed to be from terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has threatened "fierce war" on all involved in the election.

As if to emphasize al-Zarqawi's threat, insurgents blew up a polling station just south of Baghdad — one of a continuing series of attacks against facilities being used to conduct the election.

I can't help but feel that this is a bad time for an election. I hate to admit that, however. I don't think Iraqis should cave in to angry demagogues seeking to divide the nation against itself.

Democracy, however, cannot work as intended when people avoid the polls out of the fear of being killed while standing in line. I believe that now is the wrong time to cast votes, that the interim government should establish a safe and secure present before turning the eyes to the nation's future.

An unstable environment will continue to be a threat to any form of just government in Iraq until that threat can be contained and defeated. The Iraqi people will have little faith in a government that cannot protect their nation, even if that government is one they voted for themselves.

Regardless of what I think, I know that the elections will continue as planned. Knowing that, I will cross my fingers and hope that faith in democracy, in rule of the people, will outweigh the fear and suspicion generated by men like al-Zarqawi. The Iraqi people need something to have faith in, after bearing the trials of a long-term occupation and violent insurgency.

Let's hope the ballot box can provide just that. ◆

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

State wants speeders' fines for itself

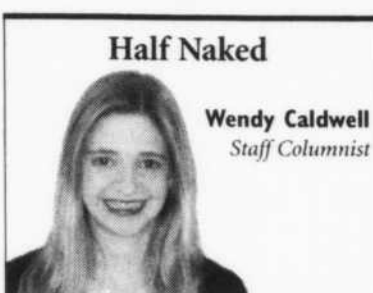
Just when you thought speeding through Georgia was a bad idea, guess again.

A bill in that state's General Assembly aims at keeping officers from setting those pesky speed traps we've all been caught in while going 82 mph at 3 a.m. on highway 840.

If the bill passes, the money collected from interstate high-pollution pull over on interstate highways would go straight to the treasury. Translation: A vast decrease in speeding revenue at state precincts.

Jason Harper, Henry County Commission Chairman, thinks the lack of revenue would discourage officers from patrolling interstates.

Wow. Tennessee officers are more than willing to pull me over and ask where I'm going so fast at this time of night! I think that's par for the course. No matter who gets the money, be it the local



Half Naked
Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

department or the state treasury, police are there to enforce laws.

"Across the state of Georgia, you would affect safety because across the state of Georgia, counties would stop patrolling the interstates," Harper said in an article on www.henryherald.com.

On an unrelated note, across the state of Georgia, county commission chairmen are overusing the phrase "across the state of Georgia."

Rep. Ben Bridges, who sponsored the bill, says it's merely set up to discourage speed traps used to generate quick revenue. The bill

would not affect all fines, as those collected by the state patrol would remain local.

As much as I'm a fan of a driver's right to go a reasonable speed (even if it does exceed the speed limit), I'm going to have to side against Bridges on this one. If the local police ticket speeders, the collected fines should stay in that area. That's their job. If someone is going 40 over on the interstate, that person should get a ticket.

Whether or not it's right is not the issue; local police have found a way to make money while keeping the streets less dangerous. Good for them.

If the state wants this money to go into its treasury, the state should earn it. Why not let the representatives set speed traps of their own, or walk around downtown taking a stand against jay-walking?

"I'm not doing this to make money for the state," Bridges said.

Well, that's a relief. Here I thought you just wanted a piece of the pie that you just sat around and watched everyone else bake.

"I just don't feel that public safety ought to be out there making money," Bridges added.

Whether or not it's a sincere effort, anyone who is at work is "out there making money."

It may not be direct, like sales, but all this effort to push this bill through is Bridge's way of being "out there making money."

And if anyone should be restricted from making money, representatives are at the top of the list. If you work a job where you have to carry a gun in case someone tries to shoot you or somebody else, you deserve the chance to make money. Especially by pulling over legislators. ◆

Wendy Caldwell is a journalism major and can be reached at wkc2d@mtsu.edu.

Inaugural speech sets nation's future course

When I witnessed President George W. Bush give his second inaugural address to the nation, it took me more than a day to figure out what he was trying to say.

Frustrated, I went online to read the president's first inaugural speech from January 20, 2001. It was only after I read it that I realized why freedom is so important to our president.

"Our democratic faith is more than the creed of our country," the president said breath then. "It is the inborn hope of our humanity, an ideal we carry but do not own, a trust we bear and pass along."

So it is fitting that in his second inaugural, Bush follows up on that by saying, "The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands."

In 2001, Bush and the rest of us faced an America that had been sitting on its butt when it came to the threat of international terrorism. "We will confront weapons of mass destruction in our world, so that a new century is spared new horrors," the president said.

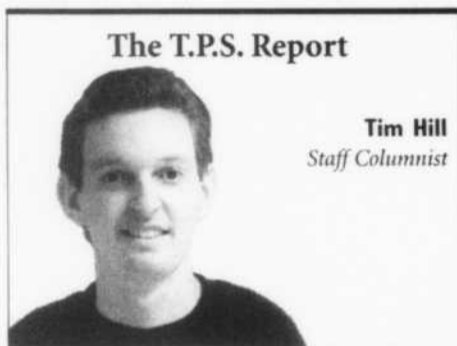
In regards to a strong national defense, Bush said, "We will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge."

Although ridiculed on *Saturday Night Live*, our president was showing us himself before we even knew who he was.

Bush had lofty goals in January 2001, some of which Democrats have mocked him for.

"We will reform Social Security and Medicare, sparing our children from the struggles we have the power to prevent," he said in his first address as president.

At Thursday's inaugural, Bush said, "We will reform these programs to meet



The T.P.S. Report
Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

the demands of today."

Now, Medicare's overhaul is beginning to take effect, and Social Security is back on target.

The president's agenda and vision for the country have their own opponents of sorts. While my sister and I were making our way to the official swearing-in ceremony, we saw some protesters.

Their painted signs ranged from "Jesus Hates Forks" to "Thank God for the Tsunami."

My sister had never seen protesters out like that before, and I reassured her that most of them were only doing it for shock value.

Both inaugural speeches had Bush mentioning and praising God.

"Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing," is the way Bush described our nation's efforts to seek and pursue the will of God.

"We will not falter. We will not waiver. We will not fail," are words of Bush's that will also guide our nation and world throughout the president's second term. ◆

Tim Hill is a junior journalism major and can be reached at tph2e@mtsu.edu.

Cosby calls blacks to set priorities on early education

By Damion Leenatali
Arizona Daily Wildcat

(U-WIRE) TUCSON, Ariz. — By denouncing a street culture that emphasizes bling over books, comedian Tim Cosby has drawn criticism from those who dismiss him as just another celebrity airing his social conscience. Unfortunately, what they fail to recognize is that he's right. Railing against promiscuous parents and their "knucklehead" children, Cosby's comments have struck a chord with parts of the black community and a raw nerve with others. By demanding change, the newly stern comedian has drawn the spotlight to the proverbial elephant in the room. After three decades of affirmative action, why do significant portions of black America still languish in crime-ridden poverty?

Of course, there are a host of answers to this controversial question, but Cosby's are probably the least savory. He blames the black street culture, one that glorifies crime while downplaying the benefits of education. He blames parents, or at least those who fail to instill values in their children. He blames black entertainers who openly promote the lifestyle of instant gratification. In a move that is almost heretical in politically correct America, he blames blacks for their own problems.

If it were not for the fact that Cosby is black himself, he would most likely be labeled as a racist. After all, many like-minded white critics have been unfairly painted with that brush. But to hear harsh condemnations coming from such a prominent member of the black community gives many would-be critics pause, affording all of us the opportunity to examine what might be wrong with modern black culture.

Having attended an inner-city high school, the problem being obvious to me. Without assessing blame for the origins of this development, it can be fairly said that a large segment of America's black population does not value education in a way that would be most beneficial to it. As Cosby would have it, this is due to the fact that black culture dismisses education, and to some extent, he is correct in thinking so.

Even a casual audit of mainstream black entertainment reveals some disturbing trends. Hip-hop artists are elevated to near-divine status, while the prerequisites to the American dream (civic virtue, hard work, and education) are noticeably absent. Some blacks even report feeling pressured to abstain from academic aspirations. "Your African identity has to be defined by ignorance," one high school junior recently told *Newsweek*.

"Caucasians don't have that pressure."

But while it might be instinctive to blame certain facets of black culture for the lackluster performance of black students, rectifying those problems will be impossible without some form of institutional change. Simply put, abandoning black street culture will require some sort of tangible motivation.

Affirmative action has been trumpeted as a way of leveling the playing field for black students and professionals, but in many ways, it ignores the fundamental problem: Many blacks do not receive the basic kind of training that is required in the world of higher education or professional work. Thus, by the time affirmative action can really be of any use, it's much too late.

To understand why blacks are at such a disadvantage, one need look no further than the public education system. High poverty school districts are chronically underfunded (one study recently found that they receive an average of \$868 less per student than their affluent counterparts). With black students entering college on such shaky educational footing, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to conclude that they will be ill-prepared for the road ahead of them.

University of California, Los Angeles law professor Richard Sander claims that blacks' lack of a solid educational foundation results in underperformance. Sander recently told National Public Radio, "About one-half of blacks end up in the bottom tenth of the class, and we find that ... it's explained by this huge credentials gap that students start law school with."

Hoping to close Sander's "credentials gap" by throwing more money at impoverished school districts smacks of naive, but it's certainly a start. Decrepit schools and underpaid teachers are hardly a beacon of light for black students, but they cannot be expected to shift their focus toward education if our own focus isn't there to begin with. But if black students are given a substantive education in their early years, maybe the days of street culture and affirmative action could be behind us. ◆

And Cosby could return to his day job. ◆

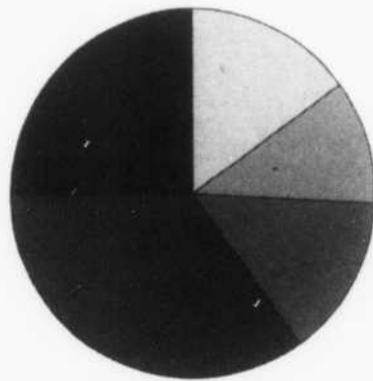
Correction:

In the story "Former editor works for county schools," (Jan. 18, p. 14), former editor James Evans was quoted as saying "[Leon] Alligood was such an awesome professor, and he is a great writer..." Evans later told *Sidelines* that he never had Alligood as a professor. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

Sidelines online poll results

What do you think of the decision to retain Coach Andy McCollum?

- Great! We just need to adjust to playing IA ball. (15 percent)
- I support giving the man another chance. (11 percent)
- I'm indifferent. (14 percent)
- Let's bring in someone else — anyone else. (35 percent)
- It's not the brightest move we've made, but ONE more season won't hurt. After that, it's time to shap. (25 percent)



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Do you feel that ID readers are necessary to ensure campus security?" 454 people voted. Results are not scientific.

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Web site REVAMPS textbook buying, selling

How many times do college students feel CHEATED and ROBBED for paying OUTRAGEOUS prices for textbooks?

By Mary Anne Dunavant
Staff Writer

The books may or may not be used, but they are required nonetheless.

Many students have taken at least one of what seem to be the only alternatives — either posting ads to sell used books to other students or purchasing and selling used books online.

Though purchasing and selling books online through various Web sites does save students money, there is always the possibility that the books may not arrive in time for classes to begin — not to mention the shipping cost that is added when purchasing books online.

It seems like a better way must exist for students to efficiently purchase and sell books. And one does.

A recent college graduate has created a Web site, www.collegecampusconnection.com, through which students can purchase and sell books from and to other students on the same campus, without the hassle of mailing bulky books.

Ken Williams, a 2004 graduate of Ohio Northern University, has developed what seems to be a potential breakthrough in helping college students to make and save money through the purchasing and selling of textbooks.

While the Web site is very new, it is a very practical way for students to purchase cheap books.

Once students contact each other through the information that they provide on the Web site, they can meet on campus to complete the exchange.

"The basic idea stresses inter-campus trading," Williams says. "For instance, you go to the bookstore and pay \$100, maybe more or less, for a book. The bookstore sometimes gives you as little as \$15 back for the book, puts a 'used' sticker on it and sells it again for \$80."

Williams' alternative is much more practical than purchasing from a bookstore or online.

He developed the idea for an inter-campus trading Web site during his junior year in college, and it has been operating for about a year and a half now.

The goal of the Web site is to help college students make and save money with as little hassle as possible.

Williams' Web site allows students to enter their campuses into a searchable database that allows them to post books for sale and to read lists of

books desired by other students.

This way, students can offer less than the bookstore prices, so that they make more money from the used books, and the purchasing students pay less than they would in the campus bookstore.

"It's a win/win situation," Williams says.

Williams' site has been modified to become more user-friendly.

Students can also post advertisements to sell items or offer services to fellow students, and it is much easier because no bulletin boards are involved. The process is added when purchasing books online.

Williams is confident that the Web site will be very successful.

"College students are lazy and try to find the cheapest and easiest ways to do everything, so [the Web site] works," Williams says.

Because the site was modified, it has only been promoted since Dec. 15, 2004. It currently houses users from many different schools, including the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Northern Ohio.

"When the Web site started," Williams says, "I charged a membership fee of \$5. Then I had to step back and think of the initial purpose of the Web site. I wanted to make it cheap and easy for students to use, so I made it completely free for students to post unlimited textbooks and classified ads."

In order to achieve some of profit from the site, Williams allows near-campus renters, such as apartment complexes or home-owners wishing to rent their homes, to post advertisements for a small charge.

"I see an opportunity to make money in the future," Williams says, "but I just want it to be available to students for free."

Since the Web site is new, Williams wants students to be aware of a particular aspect of it.

"The main thing that students should know is that they should not be discouraged because they do not find much on the Web site at first," Williams says, "because students [at MTSU] have not started using it yet. The more [that] people post books, the more [students] will benefit from it. It is quick and easy, but it is up to students to take advantage of it." ♦

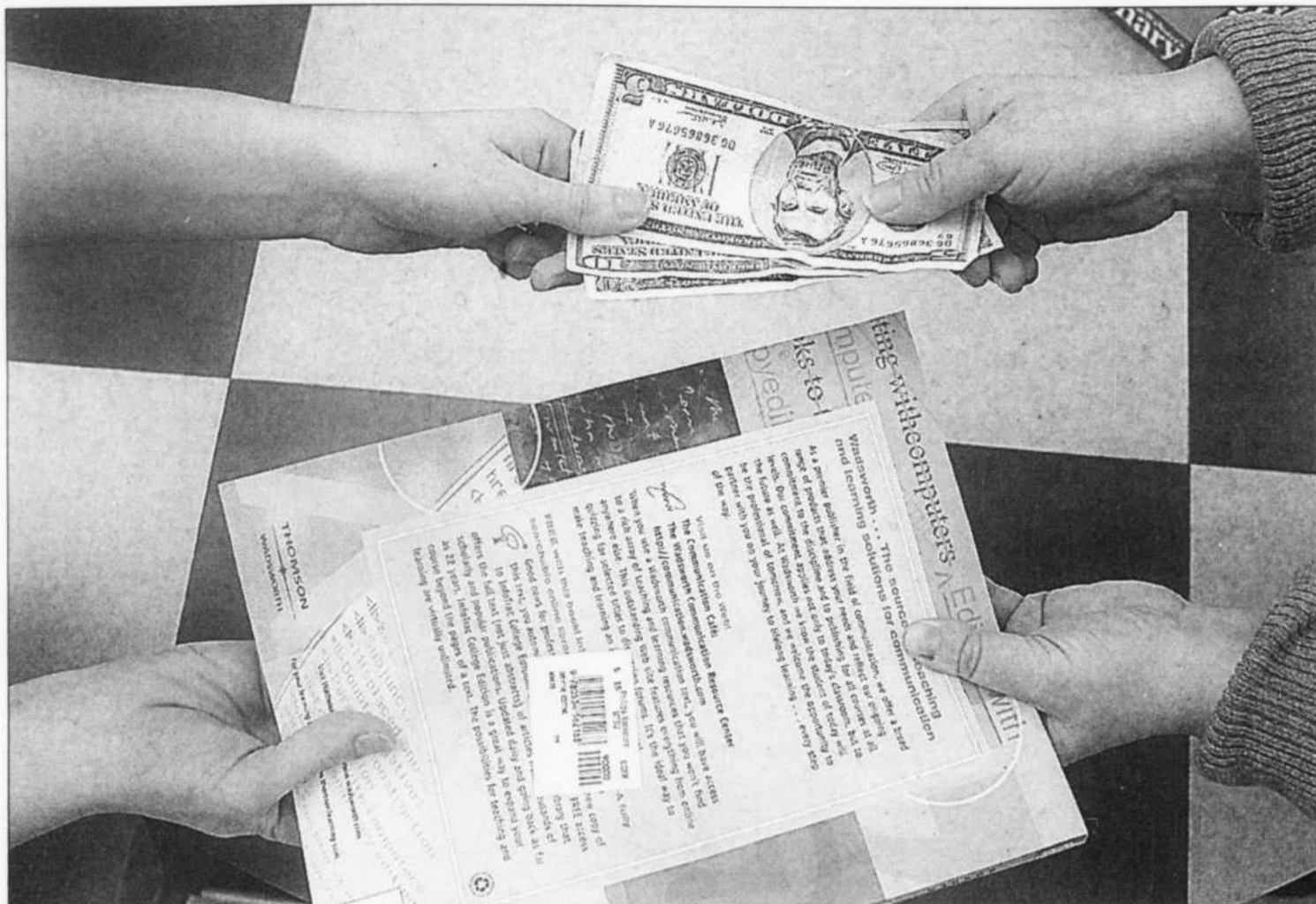


Photo Illustration by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Collegecampusconnection.com allows students to buy and sell books from and to other students on the same campus. The Web site can cut down on the hassle of bookstore buybacks and shipping costs.

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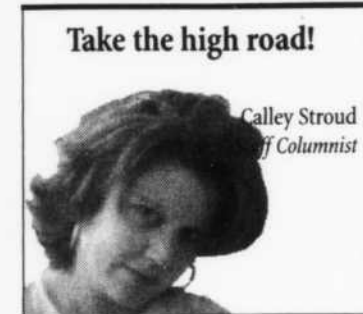
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Step out and take advantage of college life



Take the high road!

Calley Stroud
Staff Columnist

Until college, thinking outside the box wasn't a consideration.

The box was my home, and living inside was a dark, sort of soothing place. I knew what to expect there, day after day — nothing.

When I began attending MTSU in the fall of 2001, I was terrified.

Here I was, completely alone; no one knew me. I didn't have any concept of credit hours, general studies or college majors.

When I sat in class, the thought of asking my professor

for clarification of an assignment just made me feel like throwing up.

But sweating and nodding weren't working!

In one of my first classes, my professor said that she preferred we not use "colloquial language" in our essays.

As I looked around, I noticed all the heads turning to each other as if to say "huh?" So, I decided to ask what it meant.

Everyone in the room laughed, but as I felt my heart sink, I noticed the relief on the other students' faces that I had the guts to ask.

Of course, soon after this happened, I started carrying a pocket dictionary, and as I wrote my lecture notes, I would keep a list of the words that I didn't understand.

Oh, the frustration I felt from trying to differentiate between the buildings abbreviations on my schedule. COMM and KOM — they sounded the same, how can they be two different places?

Now, it's funny, but then — not so much.

One semester after another, my anxiety lessened.

I started to meet new people,

learned how to organize my schedule, research potential professors and master the art of sucking up.

Please note this doesn't always work, and if you find that it isn't working, drop the class immediately!

Now, I'm thinking about the timid girl I was when I started versus the person I am now, and who I will be when I leave.

My life and who I am are constantly evolving.

Where do I go from here?

What more can I do while I'm here, and what more can I learn?

Don't I know everything by now? I mean, it's been four years already!

It doesn't matter if you're just beginning your college career or about to finish up.

Ask questions, demand answers, and for extra fun, read books that aren't required.

Do you really have any idea how many opportunities are out there?

And if you feel passionate about something and someone tells you no, challenge them and/or seek out other avenues.

Your life depends on you. ♦

Blue Raiders crash in home losses

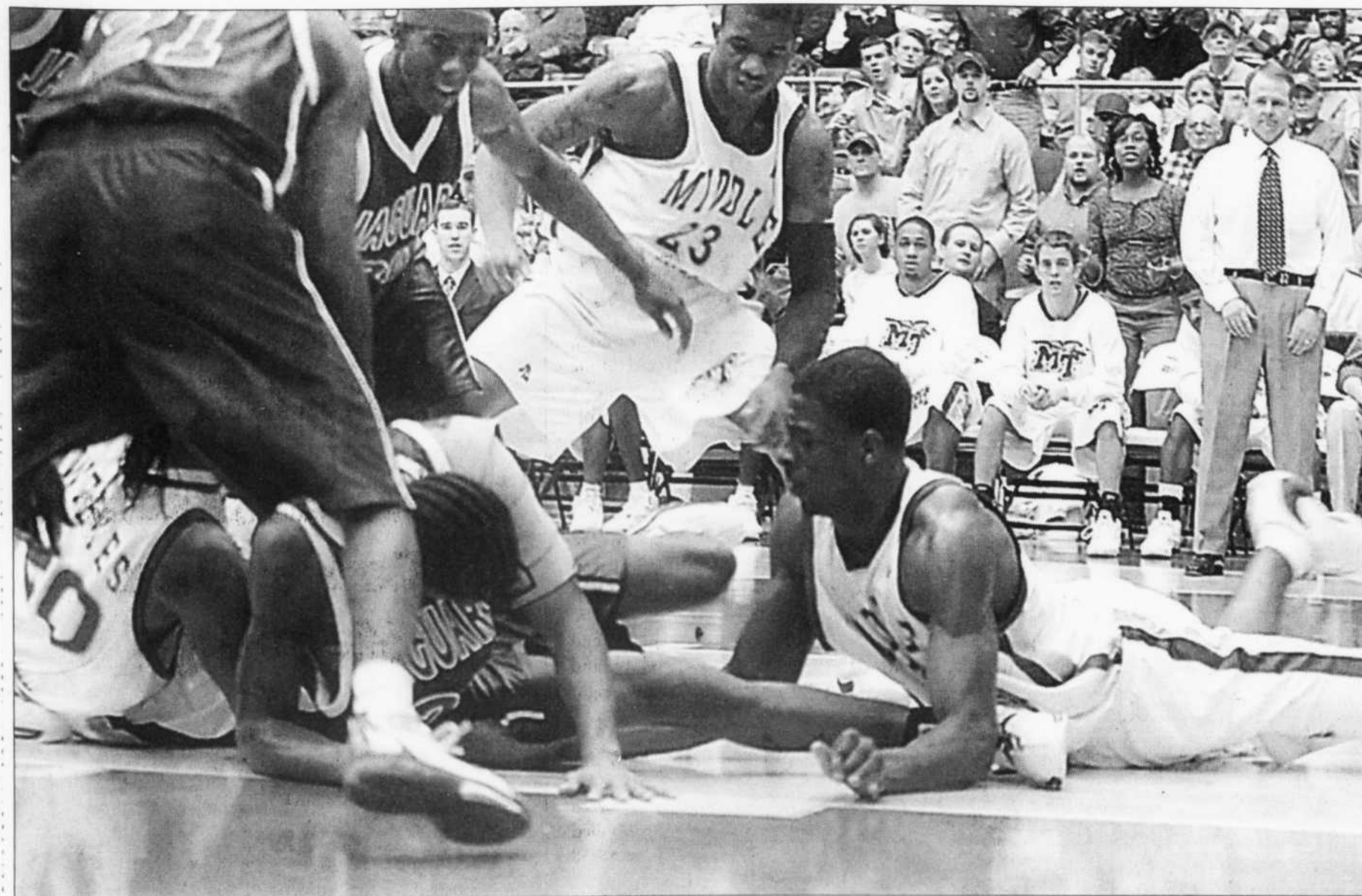


Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

MT's Steve Thomas, Alex Weekes and Michael Cuffee battle for a loose ball in the team's disappointing loss at home to South Alabama.

Dean's pain means MT must adapt

Sports commentary



Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

"Disappointed" is a word that Kermit Davis used to describe his team's performance Thursday night in a 59-56 loss to South Alabama.

Little did he know, the Blue Raiders would fare no better Saturday in a 66-60 loss to New Orleans. On a week where fans showed up in droves, they had little to cheer for in Middle Tennessee's two disappointing and embarrassing losses.

What once was a dream season has turned into a nightmare.

The Blue Raiders sit at a mediocre 2-3 in Sun Belt conference play. Their availability of star player Mike Dean is up in the air for the rest of the season. The air of confidence surrounding MT and its 10-game home winning streak are gone.

Instead, back-to-back home losses are the order of the day. Could it be that the Blue Raiders have already peaked? Or does Davis have some magic up his sleeve for a late-season run?

Saturday's game was considered a must-win game by most, and this makes Thursday's game against New Mexico State all the more important. MT is in for a tough road trip to Las Cruces, N.M., and then on Saturday to Lafayette, La.

This is hardly the performance most expected from a team picked to win the conference. Leadership is one of the elements that is most missing from the team. Tommy Gunn's presence in the locker room is sorely missed, and with Dean out, there is a large hole to fill.

Steve Thomas and Michael Cuffee must improve if the Blue Raiders are to have a chance. These two are the remaining seniors, and they are expected to lead. They don't have to be exactly the rah-rah type, but they just must exhibit strong play and composure.

Thomas was especially impressive offensively in Saturday night's loss. He finished with 16 points despite being in foul trouble for most of the second half.

There are still problems with defense and rebounding, however, which Davis has been adamant about all season.

But the big obstacle MT must overcome is preparing for life without Dean.

The loss of Dean hurts not only MT's scoring but also its depth. With only two true point guards on the roster, it's evident that MT will have problems at the guard position. Fats Cuyler will see a lot of action at shooting guard as well as point.

Yet, when foul trouble rears its ugly head, MT will be in trouble as shown Saturday. During the last three minutes of the game, the Blue Raiders had no one on the floor who had ever played point guard in their basketball lives.

The plan is easy to conceive, but the execution is difficult. The offense now should run through Thomas with Cuffee working off him to get his jumpers going.

Thomas should open up the outside for Cuyler and allow Morrison and Smithson to penetrate more easily. Also, Thomas' mere presence will open up things for Kyle Young and Alex Weekes.

Defensively, MT must pick up their effort and rebounding by making hustle plays.

See **Problems, 8**

Jaguars upset MT after quick start

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

It wasn't supposed to happen, but it did.

The Blue Raider men's basketball team fell 59-56 to South Alabama Thursday in front of a home crowd of 4,220.

In the process, the Jaguars picked up only their fifth win of the season as they ended Middle Tennessee's 10-game home winning streak.

"We feel very fortunate to have gotten a win tonight," USA head coach John Pelphrey said. "I think that they're the best team in the league. Never in my wildest imagination did I think we could hold them under 60 points, and I'm real proud of our kids."

After being down 46-30 with 16:24 left, the Blue Raiders battled back to pull to within three with 26 seconds left. The South Alabama defense didn't allow the Blue Raiders an open look, however, and Mike Dean's difficult three-point attempt was off as time ran out.

"I thought we tried a play, and then Bryan [Smithson] got kind of hung up," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "Dean got a look, but it wasn't a very good look. They did a good job of switching and pressing us in the last series."

MT's Steve Thomas connected on a jumper with 2:57 left to even the score at 56, but USA's Daniel Northern hit a

USA	59
MT	56

layup to give the Jags the lead with 2:22 to go. Stephen Cowherd added a free throw to finish the scoring with 1:38 remaining.

MT got off to a poor start as the Jags jumped out to a 14-2 lead in the first five minutes. The Blue Raiders closed the gap to 24-20 with 5:17 to go in the first half when Bryan Smithson hit two technical free throws and then nailed a three-pointer.

But then USA went on a 14-6 run to finish the half.

"I think that's as poorly as I've had a team compete here in two and a half years in the first 25 minutes," Davis said. "Take nothing away from South Alabama. I thought they were more physical and played with some toughness, but that was embarrassing, the way we started the game with no emotion and no energy. I thought the last 15 minutes of the game we competed hard."

Dean led all scorers with 19 points,

See **USA, 7**

Late rally falls short against UNO

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

After Thursday's loss to South Alabama, another slow start prevented the Blue Raiders from picking up a much-needed win.

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team dropped its third game in a row with a 66-60 loss to New Orleans on Saturday night in front of a season-high crowd of 4,422. The defeat was the second consecutive home loss for the Blue Raiders at Murphy Center.

"We've got to find a way to win these kinds of games," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "We got off to again a horrible start, and got ourselves in a hole and spent all second half like we did Thursday night getting the game back even. But in both situations, we can't get the lead late in the game."

MT's leading scorer, Mike Dean, who scored 19 points in Thursday's loss, was unable to go because of an injury to his toe and is out indefinitely.

Fats Cuyler tied the game at 56 with a couple of free throws with 4:07 to go. Then UNO's Jacob Manning connected on two of his own.

L.T. Lockett cut the lead to 58-57 with a free throw with 3:36 to go, but Manning added two more to push the lead to 60-57 with 2:51 left.

Bo McCaleb then proved why he is the preseason Sun Belt Player of the

UNO	66
MT	60
Next Game: Jan. 29 at Louisiana-Lafayette	

Year by scoring the final six points of the game for the Privateers. Marcus Morrison and Michael Cuffee each added a free throw to close the scoring.

As on Thursday, the Blue Raiders struggled mightily in the first half. The Blue Raiders hung in with UNO for the first 10 minutes, but with 12:31 to go in the opening half, the Privateers started to connect from long distance.

The remainder of the half was dominated by New Orleans, especially from behind the arc. At one point the Privateers connected on three consecutive threes, two by Chad Barnes and one by Bo McCaleb.

Thanks to those three-pointers, UNO was able to extend the lead to 22-11 with 9:54 to go in the half. The Privateers increased the lead all the way to 16 points with about seven minutes to go.

"We just have to come out with energy. You know we can't play comeback every night," MT's Steve Thomas said.

See **UNO, 8**

Givens, Holmes lead Lady Raiders to road wins

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders' offense took their SBC opponents to the basket as Chrissy Givens and Patrice Holmes lead Middle Tennessee to back-to-back road wins.

MT's Patrice Holmes netted a career-high six three-pointers en route to a season-high 28 points as they barely beat New Orleans 59-51 (0-15, 0-4) at Lakefront Arena on Thursday.

Holmes had 16 points and a buzzer-beater in the first half to give Middle Tennessee (11-5, 3-0 SBC) a 32-30 lead heading into the half. She later added two more three-pointers in the second half.

"I've been struggling lately offensively, but I just wanted to go out and do whatever I could for the team tonight," Holmes told MT Media Relations. "My three-point shot was on and the basket looked really big, so I kept on shooting. Once I hit the

first two [three-pointers], I knew it would be a good night."

"I don't think we played very well as a team, but I'm pleased to get the win because it's tough to get wins on the road," Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said. "We have to be mentally and physically ready to play every team in our league."

Middle Tennessee led 18-9 at the 11:43 in the first half, but did not score another point until 4:47, giving the Privateers a chance to go on a 14-2 run and keep it close in the first half.

Le'Della English also kept UNO in the game with 22 points.

In Saturday's contest Chrissy Givens posted a career-high 17 points. Givens scored 11 in the first half and also added four steals.

The Lady Raiders' defense was also highly effective as it held USA to 40 percent shooting for the contest. MT improved to 8-1 when holding an opponent to 40 percent or less from the floor.

South Alabama increased the tempo in the second half, but the Lady Raiders shot 63 percent from the field to escape with the win.

Holmes scored 14 of her 16 points in the second half, while Krystle Horton had 10 points and seven rebounds.

"We were tenacious on the defensive end of the floor tonight," Smith said. "That's where everything else came from."

Overall, the Lady Raiders registered 14 steals in the contest and held the Lady Jags to 40 percent shooting from the floor.

"Our defense took a lot of communication, and it was a big part of our win tonight," Givens said. "They were just putting [the ball] right there, so I took it and went. We were doing well on the defensive end and able to get out on the fast break."

The Lady Raiders return home to face Louisiana-Lafayette on Thursday. ♦



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Patrice Holmes hit six three-pointers in a win over UNO.

Slow starts result in two consecutive home losses



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

MT's Bryan Smithson had 11 points and seven assists in the team's two home losses.

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Two consecutive home losses for Middle Tennessee can be contributed to back-to-back starts from both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball.

In Thursday's game against South Alabama, the Blue Raiders trailed 9-0 after 90 seconds, and MT found themselves down 22-11 with 9:54 remaining on Saturday against New Orleans.

MT went in at the half down by 16 Thursday night and trailed by 14 against UNO.

"That's all we talked about was coming out strong the first five to seven minutes, and I can't figure it out," MT head coach Kermit Davis said after

Saturday's loss. "We've been a pretty good starting team, but in the last two games at home it just didn't unfold right."

Missed opportunities early have contributed to the Blue Raiders' slow starts. MT made only 28 percent of its three-pointers in the first half Saturday, while the Pioneers shot 54 percent from behind the arch.

"We didn't come out with very much energy," junior forward Marcus Morrison said after Saturday's loss. "They hit a lot of three-pointers, and we dug ourselves a hole. Give [New Orleans] all the credit in the world, but we dug ourselves a hole. We tried to fight back, but we fell short at the end."

Senior forward Steve Thomas also admitted the team lacked

intensity before and during the home losses.

"We just have to come out with energy. We can't play come back every night," Thomas said. "We just have to be better as a team. We have to find ways to win games."

To MT's credit, the team never gave up despite some calls that may have killed whatever momentum the Blue Raiders built.

But regardless of officiating, Davis said his team's outlook has changed.

"College basketball is funny," Davis said. "A week ago we felt great about our team, and a week later we've lost two at home and our best player [Mike Dean] is out with an injury. It can change just with the drop of a hat." ♦

UNO: Wins third SBC game

Continued from 6

Barnes nailed four three-pointers during the opening half, while the team shot 54 percent from downtown. UNO did not hit any in the second half.

With the win, UNO picked up their first victory on an opponents home court in almost a year.

"Any time you go on the road a get a win, in any conference, it's a great win," UNO head coach Monte Towe said.

Bo McCaleb scored a game-high 29 points, the most against an SBC team this season, while Barnes added 12 points in the win.

For the Blue Raiders, Cuyler

connected on five threes to finish with a team-high 17 points in the defeat.

Cuyler, who did not score in the previous game against South Alabama, fouled out with 3:50 to go, leaving Marcus Morrison to run the MT offense.

Steve Thomas scored 16 even though he missed the second half with foul trouble.

Cuffee, who played the entire game, finished with nine points and a team-high 10 rebounds.

MT drops to 12-7, 2-3 on the season, while UNO improves to 8-10, 3-2.

The next game for the Blue Raiders will be on Thursday night at New Mexico State. Tipoff is set for 8:05 p.m. ♦

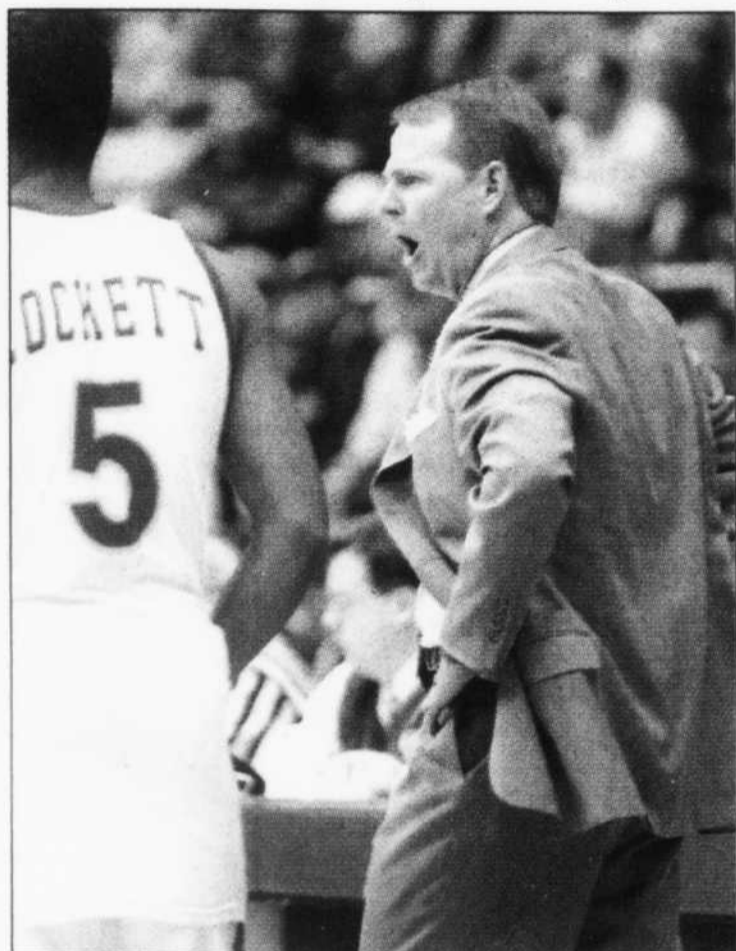


Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Kermit Davis scolds L.T. Lockett in MT's loss to UNO.

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Problems: History or humiliation?

Continued from 6

Simplifying the defensive schemes and focusing more on making plays could be a solution as well.

Of course, this will all be especially tough due to the lack of depth.

Losing Thomas or Cuffee would mean the end of the season. Right now, however, a turnaround is very possible, and certainly Davis is up to the task.

It's up for MT to decide: Do they want to continue to drag through the rest of the season en route to a disappointing early exit from the Sun Belt Tournament? Or will this team continue fighting toward a berth in the NCAA tournament?

In six short weeks, and this will be the answer, will this team will either make history or suffer humiliation. ♦

Cody Gibson is a sophomore mass communications major. He can be reached at cwg2g@mtsu.edu.

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