



**Holmes' shot  
sinks Wolfpack**  
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An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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Volume 80 No. 65

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### SGA to hear student complaints this week

Have a gripe? The Student Government Association wants to know.

SGA officers and senators will be wearing T-shirts this week with the phrase, "I hate..." on the front. Students are invited to write complaints on the back.

"It's a way for us to find out what students want," SGA president Jason Hooper said.

There will also be a wall on the Keathley University Center Knoll where students can write complaints.

### Patterson recognized for teaching, service

Pat Patterson, associate professor, chemistry will receive the 2005 John Pleas Award for outstanding teaching, research and public service at MTSU.

The John Pleas Faculty Award, first presented in 1996 to MTSU's John Pleas, professor of psychology, is awarded to a minority faculty member who has contributed in significant ways to the university and community.

### WKRN executive addresses ad club

MTSU's ad club will host Christy Aust, an account executive for WKRN, today at 6 p.m.

The lecture, aimed toward students interested in advertising careers, will be held in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 106.

### Diaspora to host 'Smooth Jazz' concert

There will be a Night of Smooth Jazz, as a part of the African Diaspora, tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in the James Union Building, Tennessee Room. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

### Self-defense class still taking registrants

Public Safety is still accepting registrants for its free, six-session Rape Aggression Defense class. The class began Wednesday, March 23, and continues for the following five consecutive Wednesdays through April 27.

The class is open to all MTSU students, faculty, staff and the general public. For more information, call instructor David Smith at 494-8855.

### Medical School to recruit on campus

A student recruiter from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, a nationally recognized medical college in Lewisburg, W.Va. will recruit on campus this week.

Anyone interested in finding out about WVSOM is encouraged to attend. Students with a background in science or an allied health field are especially encouraged to attend.

The visit will take place in the Davis Science Building, Room 100, from 10 a.m. - noon on Thursday, March 24. ♦

## Mooving the dairy farm

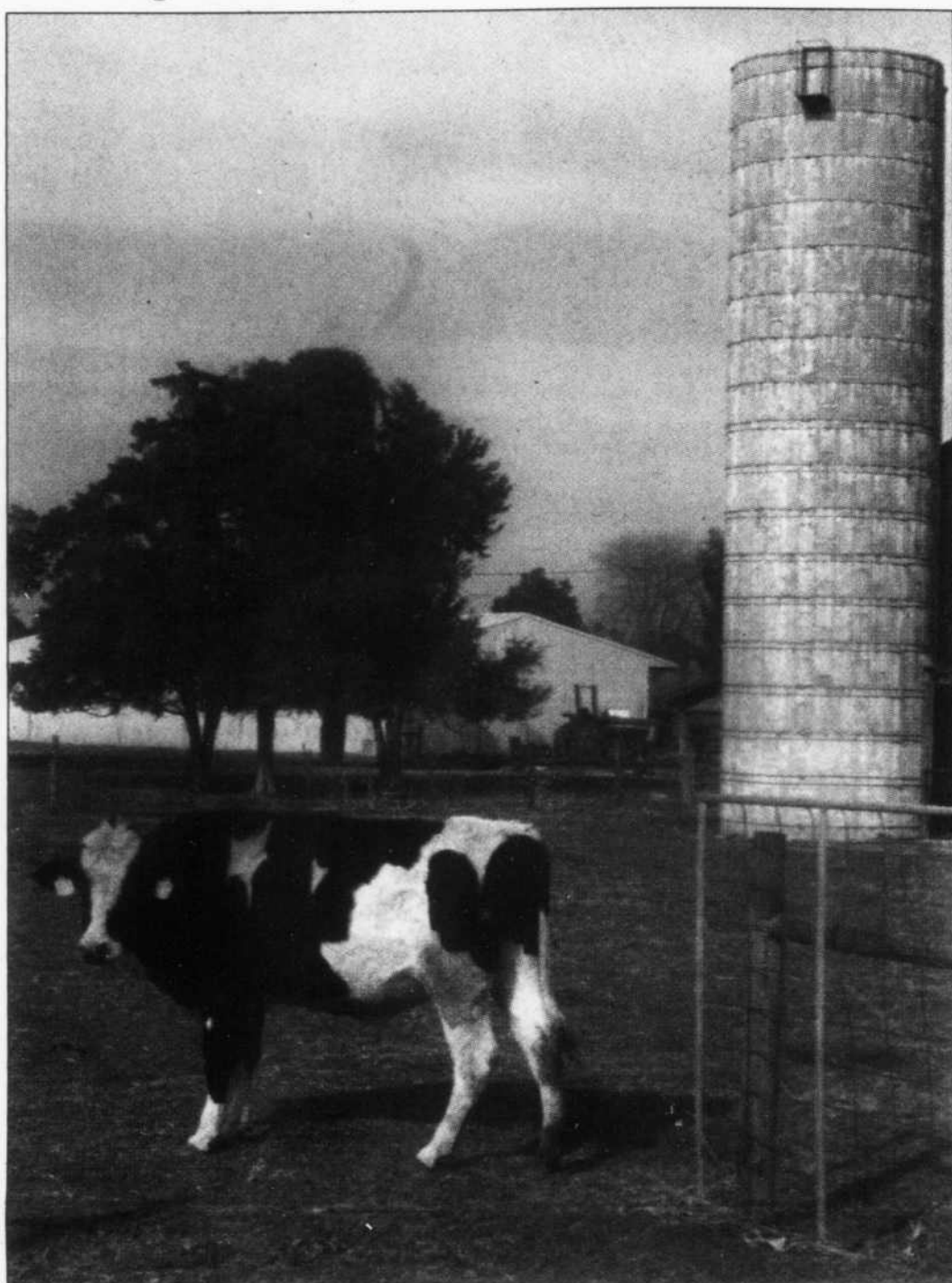


Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

The dairy farm, which is currently located on 300 acres on Manson Pike, will move to the Guy James property off Halls Hill Pike. The move is awaiting state approval.

## Dairy farm to relocate to four million dollar property

By DeAnn Currey  
Staff Writer

After months of rumors and speculations, it was announced on Thursday night the MTSU Dairy farm will move to a new location.

The MTSU Dairy is planning to buy the Guy James property, which is located off Halls Hill Pike for an estimated \$4 million dollars. This property may only be used for educational purposes after the purchase for a minimum of 30 years.

If at any point MTSU decides to sell the 446 acres of land, Rutherford County will be allowed to buy it back for market value.

Many people are supporting the move of the dairy, which is currently located off Manson Pike.

"Moving the location of the dairy is a good way to serve the community," said Joe Jack Dement, a former faculty member at MTSU.

"Selling the property to MTSU is a win-win

[situation] for everybody," said Commissioner Paul Johnson, also a supporter of the move.

By moving the dairy closer to campus, it will be more convenient for agriculture majors to do various assignments throughout the semester that may require going to the dairy.

The dairy's current location is on 300 acres on Manson Pike.

There are 65 cows, producing milk for the dairy, which currently provides all of the milk available on campus, including the Keathley University Center.

Not all people are supportive of the upcoming move.

Commissioner Tina Jones is concerned the property will eventually be needed as a landfill, especially if Rutherford County continues to grow as expected over the next several years.

The move must be approved by the state before it can take place. ♦

## Student apartment complexes swarm local real estate market

By Erica Rodefer  
Managing Editor

The addition of apartment complexes in Murfreesboro is likely to dramatically affect the real estate business.

Jean Meredith-Cline is the owner of Managing and Marketing Concepts, a local agency that develops and manages several properties in the Murfreesboro area, including Northfield Commons on Northfield Boulevard.

She has seen the market in Rutherford County change considerably since she began her business 16 years ago.

Northfield Commons was one of the first larger apartment complexes to open in Rutherford County,

according to Meredith-Cline, who opened MMC in 1988.

"What happens is the new product takes away from the old product," Meredith-Cline said.

When MTSU became the university with the highest undergraduate enrollment in Tennessee, developers saw it as promising business opportunity.

"[Student housing apartments are] a niche that has been identified, and more and more developers have gotten into the market," she said.

Meredith-Cline said she doesn't think that MTSU limiting its enrollment to 3 percent will stop other student housing developers from coming into Murfreesboro.

See Apartments, 3

## Faculty considers outsourcing custodial services

Request for bids to go out early next month

By Matt Anderson  
Campus News Editor

The Faculty Senate will hold a fact-finding meeting today to discuss the outsourcing of custodial services.

The meeting will be in the James Union Building, Room 100 at 4 p.m.

John Cothran, vice president for business and finance and a representative from the Tennessee Employees Association will make presentations. Aramark was asked to send a representative but would not commit to attend, according to Alfred Lutz, a senator from the English department.

Aramark currently cleans about 1.3 million square feet on campus. MTSU officials have said they may outsource more

buildings, including Murphy Center.

A request for bids should go out early next month, according to facilities services director David Gray. Officials expect several companies, including Aramark, to submit bids for custodial contracts.

Lutz, who organized the meeting, has expressed concerns about quality and custodians' pay.

"If the bottom line is most important in custodial services, what does that mean for faculty and students?" Lutz said.

Custodians employed by the university receive benefits, while Aramark employees do not receive benefits.

Lutz said he doesn't have a position on the issue, but he would like to find out more.

"My goal for this meeting is for the faculty senate to have a good discussion," Lutz said.

The meeting is open to the public. ♦

## Some faculty frustrated by shortened semester

By Dana Owens  
Staff Writer

While tuition increases have students paying more, they may be getting less instruction as a result of changes in the academic calendar.

Professors raised concerns about the recent class schedule changes in a Faculty Senate meeting last Monday.

The new schedule, implemented in fall 2004, cut the amount of class days and redistributed that time through longer class times. The schedule for each academic year is laid out two years in advance.

Several professors expressed concern that the new semester schedule reduces the amount of material taught in class.

"The semester length is dependent on credit hours which determine what the semester length is," Ann Reaves of the Scheduling Center said.

While the dates of the semester have changed, the minutes spent in class have not, she said.

The 150 minutes that were cut off the semester had to be picked up by classes throughout

the week, said chemistry professor Tammy Melton MTSU.

Melton said that the semester length has been shortened from 15 weeks to 13 and a half weeks. While the change may seem favorable, Melton said, it actually "shortchanged the students."

"Someone raised the question that the 13 and a half semester system is too short and too insufficient, especially for the sciences," said Charles Higgins, a physics and astronomy professor.

Higgins said that the semester, which is shortened by 10 days, causes many science courses to lose lab classes that meet once a week.

"What it effectively does is reduce the amount of material taught by two lab periods," Higgins said.

Melton said the shorter semester also cuts down on the total number of exams given in class, causing each test to carry more weight.

She also said the added length to her classes makes it difficult to administer exams.

See Semester, 2



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Housing units, such as Campus Pointe (above), have capitalized on MTSU attracting the most undergraduates in the state.



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

Are you getting shortchanged  
by the compressed semester?



# Social Security debated at forum, experts agree privatization not enough to save it

By Sandi Van Orden  
Staff Writer

Experts debated changes to Social Security Wednesday at a forum hosted by the College Democrats.

Speakers included professors William Ford and Steven Livingston and Megan Macaraeg of Tennessee Action.

Ford spoke in favor of partial privatization, but said it would take more to fix Social Security. "Privatization is only one part of the picture," Ford said.

He explained that the idea of privatization was first introduced in the 1980s by a bipartisan commission.

Ford said the other options to fix Social Security are to raise the retirement age, raise taxes or decrease benefits.

He said there is more that needs to be done to fix Social Security than just privatization. "Privatization should be part of the process," Ford said.

Tom Reed, a concerned citizen from Nashville, spoke against partial privatization.

"The program is viable," Reed said.

His argument is that Congress has historically passed amendments to keep the program solvent.

"The program responds to the needs that are at its atten-

tion," Reed said.

He said private accounts would be less secure.

"You don't have any protection with private accounts," Reed said.

Livingston took a neutral position in the debate.

"The plan proposed by President [George W.] Bush would not have that big of an impact," Livingston said.

His argument was that since there are very few options for people to consider that most Americans would be in the same funds, and everyone would get the same return.

Livingston also feels the Bush plan does not do enough to fix Social Security.

"It doesn't address the big problem," Livingston said.

Not only does it not address those problems, but Livingston said it would be costly to implement.

"The biggest single problem is the cost," Livingston said.

Livingston said if he had to choose a side he would not want to implement private accounts at this time due to the large amount of debt that the country is currently in.

Macaraeg spoke against partial privatization.

She said the side of the Social Security issue someone takes shows their values.

Macaraeg said she views

Social Security as a promise we keep to each other across generations.

She also said that the majority of Americans do not want this change.

"If you are on the side of privatization you are not in the mainstream," Macaraeg said.

She said there is no plan for people to review, and therefore there is no real plan.

"The private account scheme is not going to solve the solvency problem," Macaraeg said.

"My perspective isn't as a Democrat, but as a community

organizer," Macaraeg said. "When people have a feeling that something is wrong they should follow that."

Macaraeg said there is no provision to protect those who lose a spouse, and that part of Social Security is to take care of the disabled and widowed.

"I thought it went well," said Terrence Bell, a sophomore business administration major, after the discussion.

"I'm more for just tweaking Social Security not an overhaul," Bell said. ♦

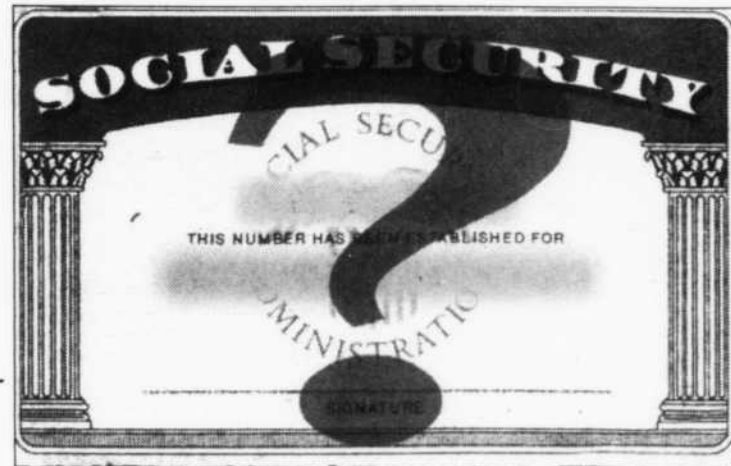


Illustration by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

## Semester: Students do more faster, Melton says

Continued from 1

Unless she writes longer exams, she often does missively cuts down on the total amount of class time, she said.

Melton said the longer class periods, especially on Tuesday and Thursday, stretches a student's attention span. She also said the shorter semester gives teachers less time to grade papers and assignments and students less time to complete them. The shorter semester is a "burden to students to do so much more faster," Melton said.

Higgins said while most students won't argue with shorter semesters and fewer exams, it is not to their benefit. They are still in class the same amount of time and the tuition is still the same, but their material is not covering as much material, he said.

The current schedule, which was decided upon in 2003, was changed by a Tennessee Board of Regents mandate that universities be on the same schedule,

said Melton. An identical schedule is currently being used at the University of Memphis and several other schools in Tennessee, she said.

Reaves said that research showed the new schedule to be more effective, though many professors would disagree.

"I think it is a shame. It's unfortunate. I don't like it and never agreed with it from the beginning," Higgins said.

In order to address the concerns of the professors, a subcommittee has been created to examine what changes could be made in the schedule.

"There is an Adhoc Scheduling Committee reviewing different standard meeting times. It is still very much in the discussion phase," said Cathy Kirchner, assistant director of the scheduling center.

Since the semester schedule is set over a year in advance, any changes to the current schedule will not be made until fall of 2006. The subcommittee does not meet again until the end of April, Higgins said. ♦

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# Rutherford County schools release budget

By David S.T. Driver  
Staff Writer

Rutherford County Schools released a 13-tier budget plan for the 2005-06 school year but were not ready to estimate budget costs at this time.

Officials are watching the budget over TennCare with interest. If the governor's cuts are approved, it would open up more state funds for Rutherford County.

This year's attendance at Rutherford County Schools grew 5.6 percent over last year's attendance, which also grew last year at 5.1 percent.

"The state uses the past year's attendance when estimating state funds," Jeff Sandvig, finance and budget director, said. "If you are growing, you are not funded for that growth."

The budget tiers or priorities of the budget cover costs of teacher salaries and bonuses. Gov. Phil Bredesen has proposed increases in teacher's salaries for 2005-06, but the federal government will stop funding four reading academy teachers. The Rutherford

County budget includes funding for these positions.

These tiers also include getting new math textbooks, \$100,000 added to the maintenance budget including adding new custodians and \$370,000 updating the computer technology.

Other parts of the proposal are adding more faculty and staff to cover the student growth rate, and the opening of three new schools.

The county is working on building 15 to 21 new schools over the next 10 years based on an estimated continued growth of 4.1 percent to 5.3 percent.

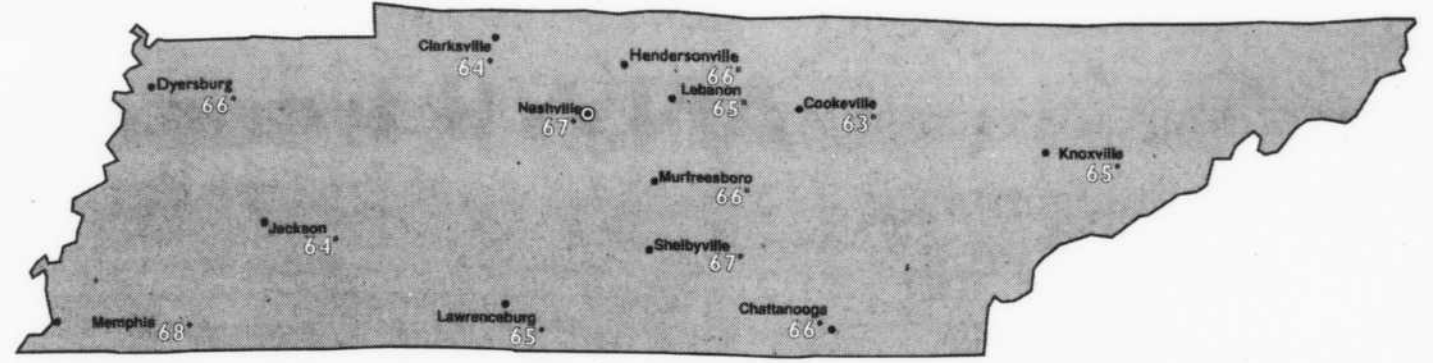
Sandvig estimates the new school buildings will cost \$510 million based on a 4.8 percent growth rate.

Rutherford County officials do not have any estimates on costs because changes will be affected by how much money will come out of the governor's TennCare cuts.

Currently, the operating budget is \$168 million which is \$6,132 per student. The state funded \$2,696 per student in 2004-05. ♦

## Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Day	High	Low
Tuesday	61°	43°
Wednesday	61°	38°
Thursday	69°	49°
Friday	73°	50°
Saturday	64°	41°

## Rutherford County cleans up voter roll

By Katie Garland  
Staff Writer

The Rutherford County Election Commission is in the process of purging inactive voters from its current roll.

"We go to our records and for those individuals that have already been put in the inactive file, if we haven't heard from them in the amount of time that we have established, then we just remove them from our rolls," said Hooper Penuel, Rutherford County's election administrator. "Then we file their name in our purged roll and keep that information on hand here for a couple of years."

The "purge process" is an ongoing process that gives inactive voters ample time to respond to being purged from the roll.

The election commission

first tries to contact inactive voters and then runs an ad in the newspaper listing the names that are going to be purged.

At this point, the election commission begins to purge inactive voters according guidelines set in Tennessee law.

Voters are purged if:

- They have failed to respond to a confirmation notice
- They have failed to appear at the voting place to vote.
- They have not updated their voter registration between the time the individual was sent notice and the second regular November election.

There are currently 3,500 names going through the purge process in Rutherford County.

The majority of the voters on the list are voters who no longer live in Rutherford County, Penuel said.

"They have either moved to

another county or another state and have failed to notify us or failed to re-register in the state or county in which they reside," he said.

It is important to purge inactive voters in order to keep the county's records as accurate as possible.

"It gives the public a more accurate account of how many registered voters we have in the county," Penuel said. "This information is provided upon request by candidates when they're running for office and they need to know how many registered voters there are."

As far as making a mistake and purging an active voter from the roll, Penuel said it is very unlikely.

"Out of the 3,500 [inactive voters] that we've identified, we've had three people that we've heard from. One said 'yes,

I have moved, I failed to notify you,' and they updated their records right then," Penuel said. "Our records are, as far as we know, as 100 percent accurate as we can get them."

The amount of time a voter can be inactive before being purged depends on state law.

Rutherford County purges inactive voters every other year.

As students finish school or move to new locations, the best way to avoid being placed on a purge list is to notify the election commission in the county to which you move.

"Wherever students go, they just need to go to the election commission office, re-register there, because in the state of Tennessee, they have to be registered in the county in which they reside in order to vote," Penuel said. ♦

## Apartments: Scholarships make city more enticing to builders

Continued from 1

"Three percent of 20,000 is still 600," she said. "They're thinking, 'That's still enough to fill our complex.'"

But how will that pan out in the future when the new apartment complexes are no longer new, and other developers come into the area to build yet another new complex?

"Murfreesboro is a new house market," Meredith-Cline added. "Most everybody wants brand new. They like the brand

new appliances. Murfreesboro has grown because of our starter homes and because our homes are less expensive than in Nashville."

Apart from the low interest rate, which is driving business and individuals to invest in real estate nationwide, the implementation of Tennessee's HOPE scholarships has probably made the Murfreesboro area even more enticing to companies developing student housing.

At MTSU, 60 percent of stu-

dents who received the HOPE scholarships last year are expected to retain those scholarships for next year.

This gives developers reason to expect MTSU to continue to grow.

"Our experience has also been that once the students have lived in that type of facilities, after their first lease term ... they want to be able to live in a house or a duplex or some place where it's not party-oriented where they can have quiet," Meredith-Cline said.

Meredith-Cline added that the first landlords to hurt, would be those that don't keep up their properties well.

Several property managers told *Sidelines* a lot of their business comes from return customers and referrals.

The student-marketed apartments also offer perks for par-

ents, who can become instrumental in the housing process because most young adults have to have a co-signer because they cannot afford housing on their own.

"The parents like the student-oriented rent by the bedroom because they're only responsible for their own child," Meredith-Cline said. "My experience in houses is that ... everybody is responsible if their child did the damage or if their friend did the damage. That's been one reason they've been popular is that a parent as a co-signer is only obligated to their one child."

"I do believe that that type of housing is certainly reaching the saturation point ... and some of them are beginning to hurt," she said. "Some of the ones that are the first that are now not new, their vacancy is higher." ♦

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# OPINIONS

4 ◆ SIDELINES

Monday, March 21, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## From the Editorial Board

### Professors, students must make most of class time

For those of us that actually want to get as much as we can out of the short time we have in class, it is beyond annoying when our classmates start rustling papers, zipping backpacks and slamming their textbooks shut 15 minutes before the end of class.

This happens so frequently that it is almost no help at all that the Tennessee Board of Regents extended class times by 15 minutes to make up for the week and a half of class they cut out of the schedule. We understand the frustration that professors are feeling over the change of effective the fall 2004 semester.

A few minutes tacked on to the end of a class is no substitute for a week and a half of class time. But since it's too late to change the scheduling at least for now, maybe we could all do a few things to make our time in class more productive.

If all of the material can't be explained in the given amount of time, these professors should probably make decisions about what information would be most useful to the students and focus on getting those points across in the most compelling ways possible – even if that means cutting something else out of the curriculum.

As students, we're a lot more likely to remember something that was introduced to us in a unique and creative way than when we have a lecture stuffed full of factual information. Even though there might be more information introduced in a complex lecture, it won't do any of us any good if we don't retain it.

Sometimes something as simple as allowing structured discussion in a class or organizing the material into sections can help break up the monotony of a long, involved lecture.

Of course, it would help matters a lot if students would acknowledge that that the job their professors are doing is not easy.

It's rude to professors and classmates when you start packing up your notebooks before the end of class. When we do that, we all get less for our money, and nobody really wants that. If you think you've had enough for one day, do us all a favor and sneak out quietly without disrupting the entire class and causing a domino effect of antsy, disruptive students.

Perhaps everyone will get better at this longer class period thing as we have more practice at it. Until then, let's be more considerate of each other. ◆

## From the Opinions Editor

### Dell does well in handling dispute over religion, work

If you speak clearly, they will come back.

At least, that's the logic of computer manufacturer Dell. The company is working to settle a dispute over sundown prayers that caused 31 Muslim employees to leave their jobs on Feb. 4.

Dell's management said that they have always worked to accommodate diversity within their workforce, so the sudden reversal in February that worked the dispute has raised a few eyebrows. No one seems to know why, according to the Center for American-Islamic Relations, the management barred workers from switching off from their posts in order to pray, nor is anyone coming forward to take responsibility for the mistake.

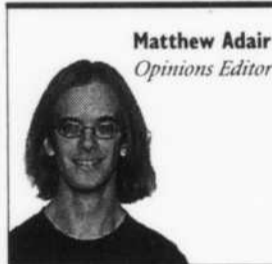
Regardless, Dell is more than willing to say how it intends to settle the dispute. After *The Tennessean* reported on the Muslim workers, Dell made haste to step forward and begin negotiations with CAIR and Metro Nashville's Human Relations Commission. Everyone kept a cool head and, soon, the workers were rehired back to their old jobs.

Religion is important to the personal well being of many people. While scientists continue to argue over whether or not prayer has a tangible effect on a person's mental health, the undeniable truth is that many people feel they draw inner strength and peace from practicing their faith. Saying a Hail Mary, reading the Torah or bowing towards Mecca might not cure the common cold, but it can give people the will to get up in the morning. Some days, that ability is valuable beyond measure.

There is no excuse for what happened. Regardless of the position held, workers should always have the opportunity to talk to their employers and work out a way to quietly practice their faiths while still doing their jobs.

As a society founded by those who wished to worship as they wanted, we should all be open to discussing spiritual needs as easily as we talk about any other needs; our souls are as important as our bodies, minds and jobs. ◆

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



Matthew Adair  
Opinions Editor

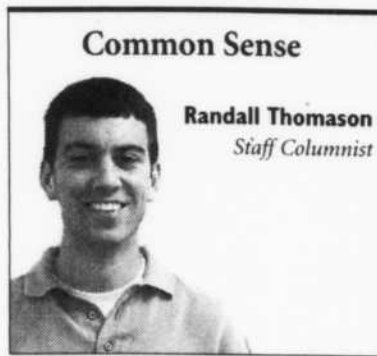
## ANWR frees nation from OPEC

How many times can you recall hearing a politician, friend or acquaintance make a statement about America needing to reduce its dependence on foreign oil? It's a statement I hear a lot, but I have often thought it's merely rhetoric that some people refuse to back up with substance.

Take the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for example. Proponents of oil exploration in ANWR scored a victory last Wednesday that increases the likelihood that part of the area will indeed be opened up to exploratory drilling.

According to ANWR.org, the U.S. Senate voted 51-49 to reject an amendment that would have removed ANWR provisions in a Senate budget resolution.

That means that pending Senate approval of the entire budget, which is very likely, that the drilling can begin. If in fact most people are in agreement that the United States needs to be less dependent on foreign oil, then one would expect most people to wel-



### Common Sense

Randall Thomason  
Staff Columnist

come this development with open arms.

However, many people are opposed to the drilling, claiming that it would forever ruin a habitat for caribou, or destroy a picturesque scene of pristine beauty. It looks to me that many people are attempting to have their cake and it eat too.

There are people on this campus who condemn the United States for importing so much oil yet also condemn America for attempting to produce a larger domestic supply. These are the same people who complain about high gas prices but refuse to sup-

port drilling that could increase the oil supply and help drive prices down.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have treated us like a puppet for too long. They know that we rely on them to supply the country's energy and use that leverage to their fullest capability.

If we show a greater commitment to increasing our efforts to meet our own oil needs, they will be forced to change their traditional operating strategy.

While it would take time to drill, find oil and add it to the domestic supply, the very idea that we would finally get serious about supplying more of our own oil needs could cause OPEC to rethink how much oil they release and at what price they sell it. It is not hard to imagine lower gas prices at the mere indication that supply could be soon increasing.

There are certainly some that have true environmental concerns about drilling in ANWR. While I think these concerns are misguid-

ed, I respect this group's feelings and admire their wishes to protect the planet.

But if one takes that position, they can't also simultaneously make statements about how we need to import less oil from the Middle East. If you oppose drilling in ANWR but support the idea of supplying more of our own oil, then what other area would you support for domestic oil exploration?

Becoming more self sufficient in producing our energy supply would not only improve our economic standing, but would also strengthen our national security by reducing dependence on Middle East sources.

So if you oppose drilling in ANWR, fine. But don't complain if you pay \$2.50 per gallon at the pump this summer, or if we have to continue to import a vast majority of our oil supply. ◆

Randall Thomason is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at rkt2c@mtsu.edu.

## Stars: think twice before acting like fools in public

It's about time public figures started acting like the role models they inevitably are. The most recent example that comes to mind involves our football team, the once unstoppable Tennessee Titans. Well, unstoppable by all but the Rams.

This offseason, however, there's been a noticeable rise in Titans being arrested. This has got to stop.

Granted, arrests and indiscretions are fairly common in the wide world of sports, but some are overlooked for a variety of reasons, the most common of which being talent.

Does anyone remember when quarterback Steve McNair was arrested in May 2003? Probably not, or at least not very well, because a few years ago, McNair was still going strong.

But now, the Titans are in a slump, and these offseason arrests sure aren't helping. To use a cliché, as is so rampant in sports media, it's time to shape up or ship out.

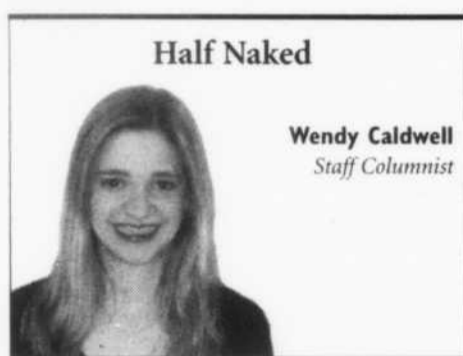
Public figures, be they sports figures, government officials or Michael Jackson, are usually role models to somebody. Therefore, these people should remember they don't get paid seven-figure salaries to beat their wives, launder money, sell illegal drugs, molest boys or do any of the other things they're allegedly doing all the time.

For instance, 10-year-old Jimmy just wants to be like Brad Hopkins. He wears his jersey, he throws the football with his dad and sometimes, he even catches a glimpse of Hopkins' mug shot on the six o'clock news.

Think of all the kids and, for that matter, teens and adults, who used to idolize Michael Jackson in the days of "Thriller." What a sight to see the fallen star, dazed and confused, walking into a courtroom in pajama pants.

I'm sure it's a terrible burden having complete strangers begging you to sign their T-shirts, but take some responsibility for your actions. If you're in the limelight, people will be watching, and some of those people aren't yet old enough to make good, informed decisions.

I know the argument is that famous people are people, too. Well, that's nice to know. They should act like it, then. Maybe it is a little unfair that famous faces plaster



### Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell  
Staff Columnist

the news across the country on a driving under the influence arrest when Joe Regular gets a brief mention in the crime section of the *Mayberry Chronicle*, but those are the breaks.

There's always a downside to making lots of money and having screaming fans follow you wherever you go. People watch you more closely, so it's important to keep that in mind before you go driving around after drinking a six-pack and doing two lines of cocaine. And if you do get arrested, you may get more media, but you'll most likely be able to afford some Johnny Cochran-like genius to let you off with a warning and community service, which, for you, means writing a big check to the Salvation Army and then writing it off on your taxes.

And, for all you people of good conscience indulging yourselves in my soapbox, do something about this. Don't buy the CD of the band who gets arrested for trying to sell marijuana to a 13-year-old boy, or at least, illegally download it. Don't see the movies starring the ones who get arrested for their third DUI and are still let off with a warning. Write angry letters to the men and women of Congress who profit from the bills they support.

Your voice may not be as loud, but it can still be heard, and a couple thousand small voices isn't exactly quiet. Let these so-called role models know they need to start behaving that way.

But if the Titans can't stop get arrested, they better at least make the playoffs next year. ◆

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

## Mixing religion with government requires openness

By Sowmya Krishnamurthy  
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - I have never been a particularly religious person. My inquisitive nature and general obstinacy have always made it difficult for me to follow rigid doctrine or trust in blind faith. Organized religion is often contradictory, archaic and divisive, and those who preach the loudest from the pulpit are often the most hypocritical and corrupt. So I've always adhered to a homemade dogma of being a good person and worshipping whatever God(s) exist, in my own personal way. I feel that others have the freedom to venerate or not to venerate, whatever the case may be, as they deem appropriate.

Because of our nation's longstanding tradition of separating the church from the state, Americans have been able to practice this "live and let live" mentality for over two centuries. But now, a pair of U.S. Supreme Court cases threaten to destroy that very sacred freedom.

In one case, two Kentucky executives posted the Ten Commandments on courthouse walls, while in the other case, Thomas Van Orden filed suit against the placement of a 6-foot-tall monument of the Ten Commandments on the grounds of the Texas state capitol building bearing a symbol representing Jesus Christ with the words "I am the Lord thy God."

The Bush administration and 26 state attorneys general have, to no surprise, filed a brief supporting the Texas and Kentucky Decalogue displays.

The ostensibly landmark cases could rewrite precedent on whether the commandments and similar religious symbols that dot public spheres are a federal endorsement of religion or simply a reflection of the Judeo-Christian influence in U.S. history. There is nothing explicit in our Constitution that demarks a separation between church and state, but pro-Separatists have long read the First Amendment's "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." as governmental *laissez-faire* over religion.

Despite federal regulations against overt religious pageantry, the majority of Americans are at least nominally Christian. Consequently, our country has always had a long-standing tradition of civic faith: The proverbial "In God We Trust" monetary seal, holiday songs performed in public schools during Christmas, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Supreme Court fresco of Moses. Furthermore, according to a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll, 76 percent of Americans support the displaying of the Ten Commandments in courthouses.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with intermingling devotion into public life, if such action can invoke the betterment of society through tolerance, personal discipline and sacrifice and kindness toward others. And given the present tenuous state of America's social fabric – malaises like violence and materialism abound – increased spirituality doesn't seem all that bad of an idea. If displaying the Ten Commandments could decrease the national divorce rate or mend broken homes, I would wholeheartedly support it. But realistically speaking, little will actually change – religious imagery is meaningless without societal reinforcement, and we are far too over the edge to be salvaged by a few slabs of stone.

What is more detrimental than propagation of the status quo is the invidious distinction that will undoubtedly result between the religious majority and minority. Permitting the Decalogue in public areas theoretically means that opposing devotional material can be publicly viewed too.

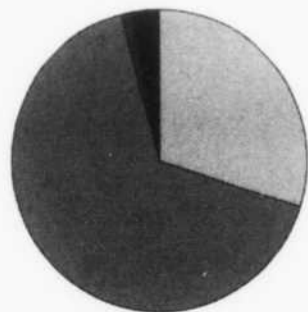
Yet given the fact that most religions are at odds with one another, what is the likelihood that alternative faiths will be accepted in an overwhelmingly Judeo-Christian country? Most people in this nation do not even acknowledge that anything exists outside the so-called "Big 3" religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam (Islam only because of the obsessive fear after Sept. 11, 2001). Ignorance is usually not conducive to liberalism, so I wonder how gung ho such individuals would be seeing a picture of Lord Krishna hanging in their post office or a 6-foot bronze statue of a laughing Buddha on the White House lawn.

I have a hunch they would not be too pleased. Only when, if ever, we get to that point of universal acceptance of every faith, is it feasible to conceive blurring the line between religion and the government. Until then, faith should be kept a personal matter away from the public sphere and out of the courts. ◆

## Sidelines online poll results

Have you been treated unfairly by a professor for political or religious reasons?

- Yes, the professor was after me. (30 percent)
- No, while I may not agree with everything said, my professors are fair to me. (66 percent)
- I completely agree with everything my professors say. (1 percent)
- To be treated unfairly would require me to attend class, so... (3 percent)



Visit [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com) to answer this week's poll question, "Do you feel shortchanged by the compressed semester?" 76 people voted. Results are not scientific.

## SIDELINES

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



## GETTING THRIFTY IN THE BORO

Photos by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

By Mary Anne Dunavant  
Staff Writer

Even though thrift stores can sometimes be hard to find, many college students choose thrift stores over highly priced brand-name stores.

Fortunately, Murfreesboro seems to be a local hub of thrift stores. Many carry similar items, but some stores have a better selection of certain items than others.



### Salvation Army

1014 Mercury Blvd.

Murfreesboro's Salvation Army store, located in Tennessee and Memorial carries a large amount of used clothing and furniture, much of which is still in good condition.

The furniture includes beds, recliners, couches, dressers,

desks and tables.

The store offers options other than buying brand-new furniture to furnish an apartment.

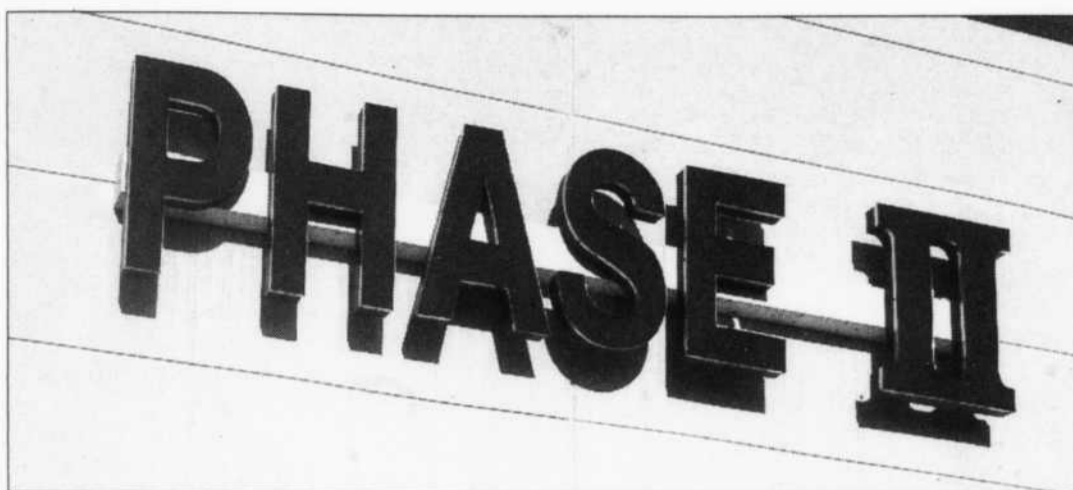
"We do not have a particular target, but we have lots of college students come in," Assistant Manager Mark Hanoum says.

"You can find unique, cheap clothing and accessories," says

Alice Frazier, a junior psychology major.

"As far as pricing, you probably get better prices [than at other thrift stores in Murfreesboro], lots of household items, furniture, clothing and appliances," Hanoum says.

Profits from the Murfreesboro store go toward a men's adult rehabilitation center in Nashville.



### Phase II

1218 NW Broad St.

Also located in the KMart shopping center on Broad Street is another used clothing store called Phase II.

It offers new and used discounted merchandise, including brand-name clothing, purses, dress shirts and ties.

"We offer really great name brands like Abercrombie, Hollister and American Eagle," says Mami Wright, a Phase II sales associate.

"The junior line is our main target, so we mainly get lots of high school and college stu-

dents in the store," manager Erin Christian says.

"The store opened August 1, 1988, but it really just got popular within the past 5 years," Christian says.

"We love college students," Wright says, "and we know that they don't have a lot of extra money, so we like to help out. We have items priced from a dollar up, and we actually included a coupon in the Coupon Mint."

"They have a lot of name-brand clothes that you might not be able to afford in other stores," says Jessica Zembeck, a sophomore nursing major. "Most of it is really cute stuff

that has been in style during the past five years."

Phase II also offers services through which those who bring their clothing to sell receive half of the selling cost.

"People can sell their clothes and get half of the selling price and use consignment checks toward purchases," Christian says.

"It's basically like trading off clothes. We also have a clearance center, where prices range from \$1.00 to \$3.99," Christian says.

"We mainly offer good-quality brand-name items at a great price," Christian says.



### Goodwill Superstore

1224 NW Broad St.

Murfreesboro's Goodwill Superstore is located on Broad Street in the Kmart shopping center.

Bargains can be found on clothing, shoes, dishes, books and miscellaneous items.

The Goodwill Superstore opened about eight years ago in August 1997.

"We don't target a specific

group," manager Maryann Verdi says. "We go across the board."

The most prized bargains are usually found on vintage clothing.

"They have some really cool, old shirts for really cheap prices, and the best thing is that nobody else has them," says Marianna Rucker, a senior public relations major. "I also go there during the holidays to donate clothing."

"We are not for profit," Verdi says. "We help people who have barriers to employment gain employment. For example, we help with resumes, job searches and help people obtain a GED."

"We offer better deals and sales [than other thrift stores]," Verdi says. "All thrift stores, if nonprofit, work on donations, so we rely heavily on donations."



### All Things Possible Bargain Center

352 W Northfield Blvd.

All Things Possible Bargain Center is located on Northfield Boulevard.

This store offers a variety of items, including potentially the largest selection of used clothing in Murfreesboro. Other items include shoes, exercise equipment, a moderate selection of used furniture and miscellaneous items.

"We just opened in July of last year," manager Jo Shewmaker says.

"We'll take any [cus-

tomers]. We do not target a certain group," Shewmaker says, "but we'd love to have more college students come in."

"We are the largest [thrift store] in the Murfreesboro area. You could probably fit 6 to 8 Goodwills in here," Shewmaker says. "We have more of everything: clothing, furniture, electronics, shoes and books."

"Lots of college students come in, especially for T-shirts," says Andrea Adams, a junior athletic training major and employee of the store. "A lot of guys come in for blazers, too. We are big-

ger and have a little more of everything."

The profits from the store benefit a Nashville program called Youth About Business.

It was founded by Sam Kirk as "a nonprofit educational organization that works with kids who are at risk," Shewmaker says. The program teaches students about different aspects of business, including leasing property.

"Most of [the kids] started out wanting to be the next Michael Jordan, but the organization teaches them other alternatives," Shewmaker says. ♦

## Facebook Me!

### Online student directory adds MT to member schools

By Audrey Scruton  
Staff Writer

There's a brand new way for students to meet and stay connected, thanks to the addition of MTSU to the nation's hottest college communication Web site, www.thefacebook.com.

Just a year old, The Facebook has quickly become one of the top ways for college students to stay in touch and meet new people.

According to its Web site, The Facebook is an online directory that connects people through social networks at colleges and universities nationwide.

A personal Facebook account is limited to one's own college or university, but it is possible to look up friends from other schools as well.

Students can use The Facebook to search for people at their school, find out who they share classes with and meet new people. To become a member, students complete the free registration process and set up a profile.

This profile covers everything from a student's favorite books and movies to their political views and what classes they're taking. After adding friends to their profile, they are then automatically sorted by their friends and their friends' friends, creating a huge connected circle of students.

"The Facebook is taking the college nation by storm," says sophomore nursing major Pete Finnegan. "It's addictive. You want to keep checking to see who's left you messages, and who's been added to your friends list, and what groups they're in."

Senior media design major Whitney Rogers already has over 30 friends and is connected to hundreds of others.

"I think this is a really neat idea and definitely helps kill time if you're taking a break from studying," Rogers says.

There are over 200 groups that MTSU students can participate in on The Facebook, such as "The MTSU Squirrels are Plotting Against Us," "I Hate MTSU" or "I Get A Paycheck from MTSU!"

There are groups for specific residence hall floors, a variety of campus clubs and organizations and even one for Honda drivers.

The site began as the brainchild of several Harvard University students, according to a press release. They were contemplating how the annually distributed facebook could be so much

better. The group first launched The Facebook at Harvard, and soon it was in demand at campuses nationwide.

Finnegan has some apprehensions about the site, however. "It's a little concerning, because anyone registered can basically find out anything they want to about any other member," he says. "That's kind of creepy."

But senior computer science major Brian McLaughlin points out that profile information is voluntary.

"You can put what you want to on your profile and nothing else," he says. "If you feel that giving out your [AOL Instant Messenger] screen name is a violation of your privacy, then you don't have to. It's not like they force information out of you."

And sophomore political science major Daniell Blair says that other

comparable sites still outdo The Facebook.

"It's not as addictive as MySpace.com," Blair says. "And other sites have been around longer, so a lot of people are already comfortable with those sites instead."

Overall, most Facebook users give the site a positive review and would recommend it to their friends.

"It's a great Web site, and a great way to keep up with your friends," McLaughlin says. "I know a lot of people that use it, and the numbers keep going up."

"It's like your own personalized version of six-degrees-of-Kevin-Bacon," Rogers says. "Everyone loves to be involved and connected with other people, and this site does that in a unique way." ♦



# SPORTS

6◆ SIDELINES

Monday, March 21, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

NO. 12 MIDDLE TENNESSEE 60,  
NO. 5 N.C. STATE 58

## Holmes' shot sinks Wolfpack

By Jori Rice and Colby Sledge  
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

Once again, the Lady Raiders will advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Patrice Holmes hit the game-winning shot with 1.6 seconds remaining as No. 12 seed Middle Tennessee upset No. 5 seed North Carolina State 60-58 in Dallas Saturday night.

"We came here trying to make it to the Sweet 16, and I think it's going to happen," senior Patrice Holmes told ESPN2 after the game.

This wasn't the first time Holmes saved the day for the Lady Raiders (24-8). During the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, Holmes made two game-winning shots aglint North Texas and Louisiana-Lafayette.

For the Lady Raiders, the win marked the second straight year the team scored a first-round upset. Last season MT was the No. 13 seed and knocked off No. 4 seed North Carolina 67-62.

"We know what Middle Tennessee was capable of," N.C. State head coach Kay Yow told The Associated Press. "This team beat North Carolina in the first round last year, so we had that knowledge, and it was an advantage to us. We knew it would be a tough game."

The game was the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

MT jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the first half and led 26-25 at halftime as N.C. State tried to regroup after losing leading scorer Billie McDowell. McDowell went down with a leg injury midway through the first half and did not return.

The Wolfpack (21-8) appeared to have taken command in the second half, however, when they opened a 10-point lead with 11:49 remaining in the game.

"Coach [Stephany Smith] let us know it wasn't over," Middle Tennessee center Tia Stovall told The Associated Press. "She's telling us to get our heads up. After giving us that pep talk, we picked up our defense and executed on the offensive end."

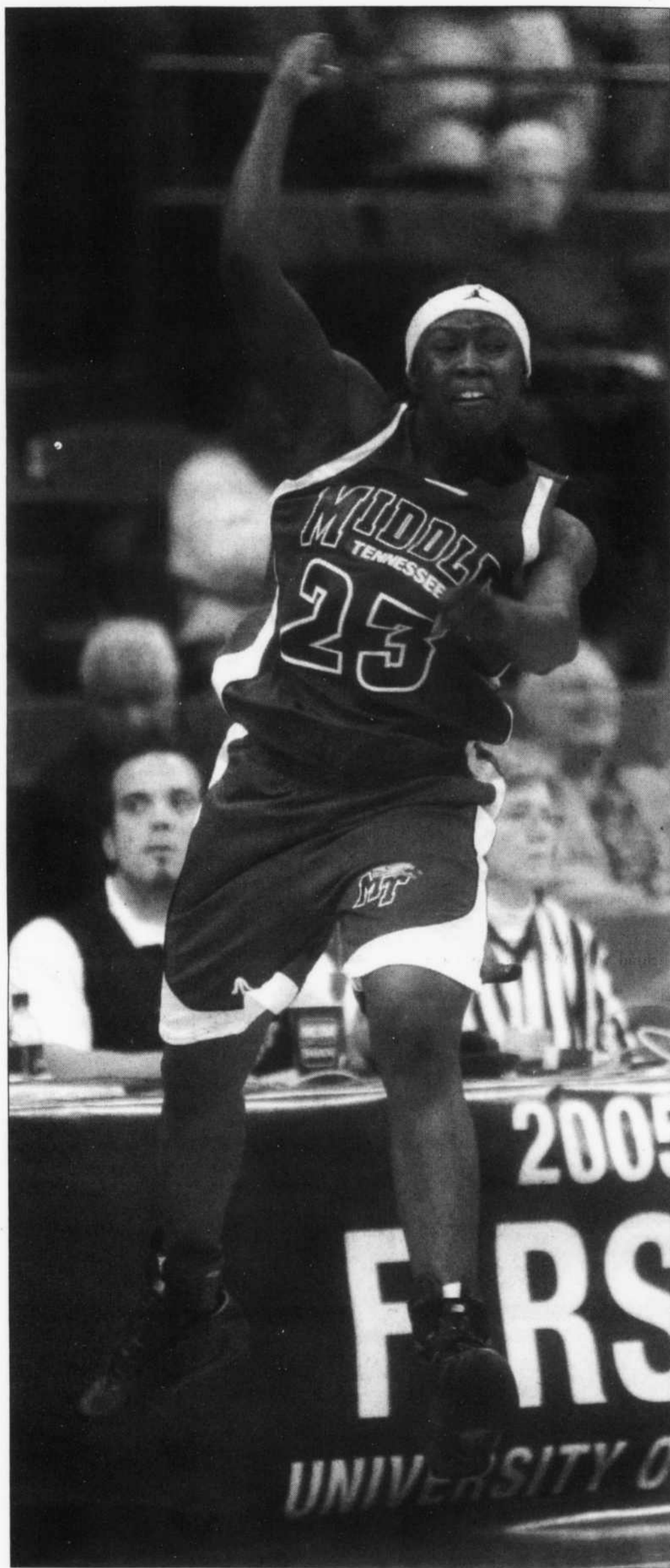
The Lady Raiders came back, hitting six straight baskets with 6:17 remaining. The game then went back and forth in the final minutes.

Holmes was at the top of the key at the free-throw line within the last seconds of the game when she pulled up for her game-winning jump shot.

"We try to run the ball down low, but time was running out, so I took the shot," Holmes told ESPN2. "I think we have a big heart and confidence."

Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 26 points and four steals. Krystle Horton and Stovall both finished with 11 points. Tiffany Stansbury led the Wolfpack with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Raiders will face No. 4 seed Texas Tech tonight at 8:30 p.m. The Red Raiders defeated Texas-Arlington 69-49 on Saturday in their first-round matchup. ◆



Patrice Holmes celebrates after her game-winning shot against N.C. State. The Lady Raiders won their first-round NCAA game for the second straight year.

## Bears outlast MT 3-2 in 14 innings for sweep

By Jonathan Hutton  
Staff Writer

SMS	3
MT	2
Next Game: Tuesday at Lipscomb	

The Blue Raiders' losing streak reached four games as the baseball squad suffered a sweep on the road at Southwest Missouri State.

Middle Tennessee dropped a 3-2 decision in 14 innings to SMS on Sunday to complete the sweep.

The Blue Raiders took a 2-1 lead in the top of the 13th, but the Bears answered in the bottom of the inning and then took the game on a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the 14th.

The heartbreaking loss dropped the Blue Raiders below .500 for the year (8-9).

MT starting pitcher Eric Blevins lasted a career-high 9 2/3 innings and allowed only one run.

The Bears got on the board first, scoring a run off Blevins in the second inning.

However, Nate Jagers' run-scoring single in the seventh brought Eric McNamee to the plate to tie the score at 1.

Jagers finished the contest with three hits, and Michael McKenry, who drove in MT's run in the 13th, finished with two.

MT's Jeff Kasser picked up the loss after surrendering the game-ending walk.

On Friday, Middle Tennessee had a hard time getting any offense going against SMS sophomore Brett Sinkbeil (2-4), who gave up no runs on three hits in six innings of work.

SMS (6-11) led 10-0 at the point of Sinkbeil's exit and ended up winning 12-4.

"The disappointing thing is we did not compete," Middle Tennessee head coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations on Friday.

MT outfielder Adam Warren was the only Blue Raider to

muster at least two hits in the game. Warren went 2-for-2 off the bench for MT.

MT starter Allen Woodward (0-1), who gave up three runs in the second inning, gave up four runs in the third inning before being taken out of the game.

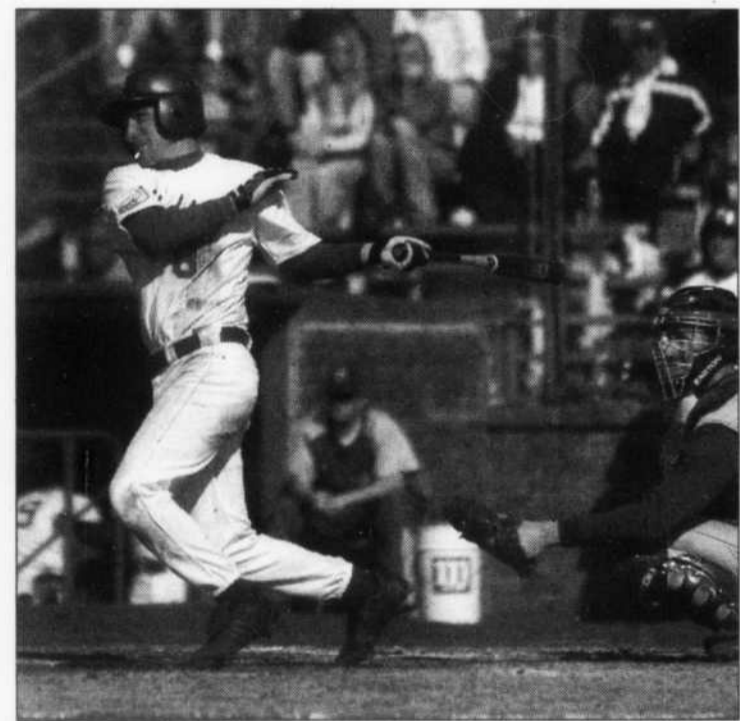
Saturday looked brighter for MT as they took a 3-0 lead into the bottom of the sixth. Blue Raider starter Matt Scott, who pitched a complete game in his last outing, only lasted six innings against SMS and left with the contest in a 3-3 tie after giving up a three-run home run to SMS's Jerrod White.

"Matt mowed them down in the fifth and was pitching well, but it fell apart in the sixth, and the game was tied before I could get the bullpen ready," MT coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations after the game Saturday. "It became a battle of the bullpens and their pen was better than ours today."

MT relief pitcher Matt Anderson (1-2) came on in the seventh to give up two runs, and SMS grabbed another run off of Chase Swing in the eighth to assure the 6-3 victory.

The Blue Raiders only managed four hits in the game and continued their offensive woes. Chase Eakes had the best showing for MT, going 2-for-4 with two runs batted in.

With the losses, the Blue Raiders dropped to 0-10 at SMS and 4-16 all-time against the Bears. ◆



MT's Eric McNamee went 1-for-5 in Sunday's 3-2 loss.

## MT splits two doubleheaders

By Jill Davis  
Staff Writer

MT	3
Dayton	2
Next Game: Wednesday at Birmingham Southern	

Middle Tennessee softball split two doubleheaders at home over the weekend to pick up their fourth and fifth victories of the season.

On Thursday, the Blue Raiders split with Mississippi State. Yesterday, the team earned a split against Dayton.

In the opening game yesterday, the teams were tied at 2 in the top of the fourth inning, but the Blue Raiders could not score again. The closest MT came was when Jennifer Grybash doubled up the middle in the bottom of the fourth.

Then, during the sixth, Dayton took control of the game. Catcher Anne Creelius hit a grounder to the shortstop to advance Kristen Pfirrmann to second. Cortney Schaffer sent a line ball straight to center to load the bases for the Flyers. MT freshman pitcher Ashley Katinas then walked Christine Eggers to bring Pfirrmann home.

This loaded the bases again and gave the Flyers the lead. Shannon St. Clair then smacked one over third baseman Melissa Weiland's head, sending Ellie Malchow home and giving the Flyers the 4-2 victory.

Jennifer Dorais started Game 2 on the mound and held the Flyers without a run

for two innings. In the bottom of the first, Trish White hit a line drive to right field for a double before Dorais knocked a grounder down the middle of the field to bring home White and put the Blue Raiders on the board first.

The Blue Raiders put Katinas back on the mound in the top of the third. Then, in the bottom of the third, Davis sent one to center to bring home White, and the Blue Raiders took the lead.

Katinas managed three strikeouts in a row in the top of the fourth. Cassie Gross then struck out to give MT its fifth win, 3-2.

Yesterday's doubleheader followed a dramatic win in Thursday's doubleheader against Mississippi State.

Katinas allowed eight runs in the first game of the series to give the Bulldogs the 8-0 win. The Blue Raiders kept the score close in the second game, however, and Christi Benton's RBI double in the bottom of the

seventh gave MT the comeback victory 6-5.

"The game was just a battle of wills," head coach Leigh Podlesny told MT Media Relations. "Beating a team like Mississippi State carries over to your next games. I think today was a real turn for the team." The Blue Raiders were trailing 5-2 at the start of the seventh inning and were left to two outs. Everything went MT's way, however, after Grybash hit a double to right field. Leah Grothouse followed with a single that advanced Grybash to third, and Melissa Weiland's RBI single sent Grybash home.

Mississippi State made a pitching change and brought in Melissa Massey, who pitched the first game. Massey walked Liz Davis to load the bases before White launched a ball to the outfield to send Michelle Wilkes and Grothouse home to tie the game at 5.

Benton then drove in the winning run to snap the team's 11-game losing streak and give Katinas her first victory as a Blue Raider.

"I am really happy with the win," Katinas told MT Media Relations. "First I was excited that we won, and then I realized it was my first win here as a pitcher, and that was great. But first and foremost, it was all about the win for the team."

MT next takes on Birmingham Southern on Wednesday in a doubleheader. ◆



Christi Benton (23) crosses home after Thursday's win.



# Blue Raiders take another step in long road back

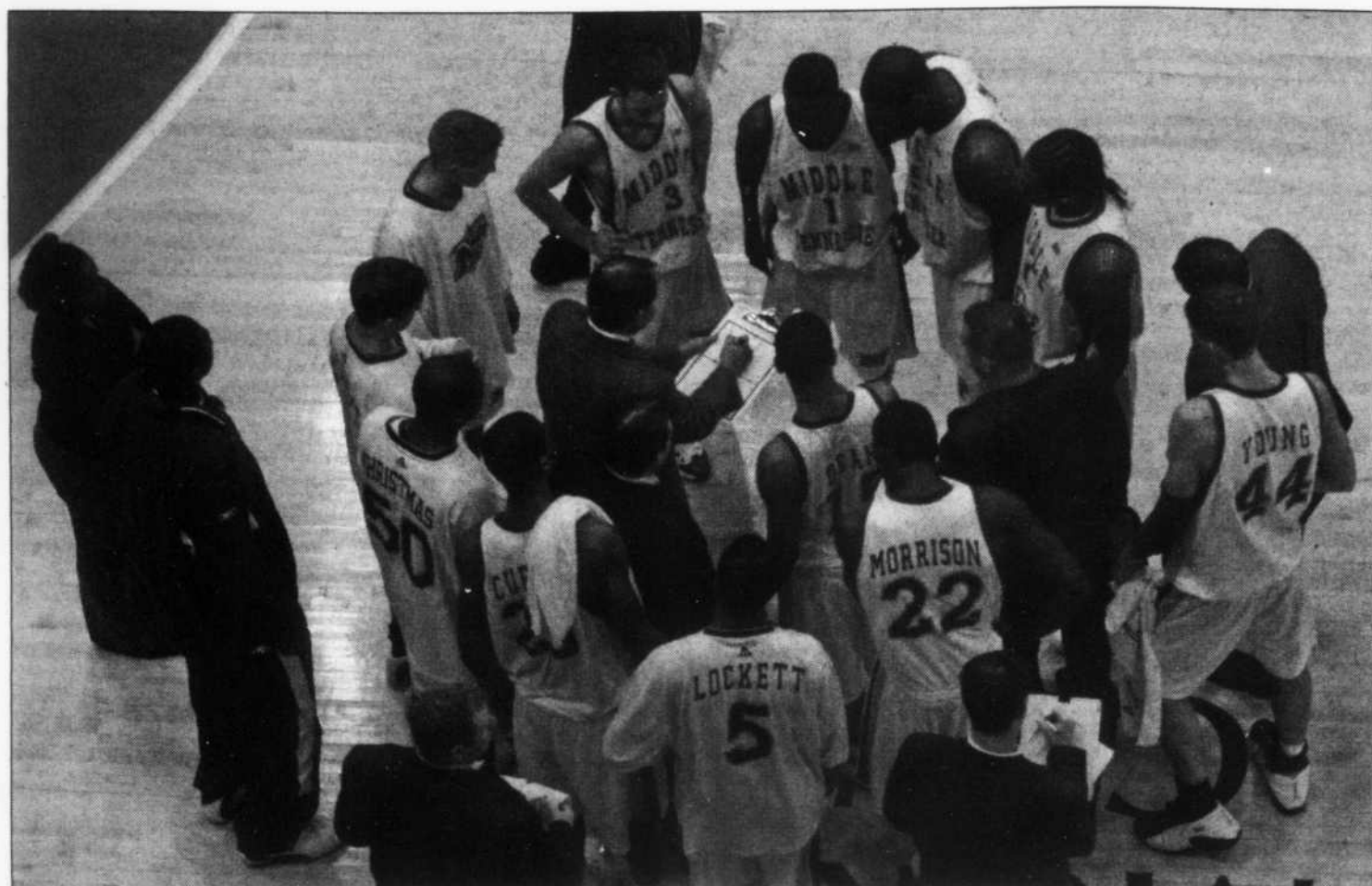


Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

The Blue Raiders finished the 2004-2005 season with a loss in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tourney.

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders keep improving, but there is still a lot of work to do.

For the third consecutive year, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team increased its win total to a record of (19-12, 8-8). MT won 16 and 17 games in the previous two seasons.

The team got off to a 13-4 start before leading scorer Mike Dean went out with an injury. The Blue Raiders then hit a tough stretch, losing five of seven games.

By the end of the season, however, Dean returned and the team turned it around to win five out of its eight games. The three losses came to teams that made postseason play.

"I think our team plays their best basketball at the end of the season, which is very important," MT head coach Kermit Davis said.

Some of those non-confer-

ence wins came against teams who didn't quite make it to the NCAA Tournament but play in very competitive conferences. Austin Peay made it to the finals of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Virginia Commonwealth lost in the Colonial Athletic Association national but earned a berth in the National Invitation Tournament. Portland State won the regular season title in the Big Sky but was upset in the conference tournament.

Belmont made it to the semi-finals of the Atlantic Sun Tournament. MT also defeated Toledo from the Mid-American Conference during its trip to Puerto Rico.

The Blue Raiders dropped a 67-62 decision to Rice, who made it to the NIT. Southeastern Conference member Auburn also defeated the Blue Raiders by five points.

Before the season started, the Blue Raiders were picked to finish first in the Eastern Division by Sun Belt head coaches. MT

finished third in the Division.

The SBC was able to send three teams into postseason play. Louisiana-Lafayette won the conference tournament to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament, losing 68-62 on Friday to Louisville.

SBC members Western Kentucky and Denver were knocked out in the opening round by Cal-State Fullerton, while WKU defeated Kent State but lost in the next round to Wichita State.

"I thought our league was much better than in previous years," Davis said. "The balance of our league is very good."

The Blue Raiders also wanted a chance to play in the NIT but were not selected by the committee.

The Blue Raiders said goodbye after the season to three of their top stars: Mike Dean, Michael Cuffee and Steve Thomas. Dean led the team in scoring with 14.4 points per game, while Cuffee was right behind with 14.3 ppg and 7.4

rebounds per game. Both players were named to the All-SBC third team.

Thomas, who transferred from the University of Georgia, was ineligible until the trip to Puerto Rico. In 24 games, Thomas averaged 10.5 ppg and led the team with 7.5 rebounds per game.

"All three are good people and good players," Davis said. "Those three guys will be dearly missed."

Looking to next season, the Blue Raiders will have Marcus Morrison, Kyle Young, Brian Smithson and Alex Weekes coming back along with Brian Lake, who will be returning from injury.

Now Davis is currently recruiting, trying to find the missing pieces for the Blue Raiders in their quest for their first Sun Belt title. ♦

David Hunter covers Blue Raider basketball for Sidelines. He can be reached at dah2e@mtsu.edu.

## 2004-2005 Blue Raider Basketball Results

Date	Opponent	Result
Nov 11	North Alabama (exhibition)	W 86-62
Nov 19	Lambuth University	W 95-54
Nov 23	@ Rice	L 62-67
Nov 27	@ Miss. Valley State	L 58-71
Nov 29	Belmont	W 61-47
Dec 2	Tennessee Wesleyan	W 86-46
Dec 5	Tennessee State	W 96-94
Dec 11	Miss. Valley State	W 79-54
Dec 20	Toledo (San Juan Shootout)	W 70-65
Dec 21	Auburn (San Juan Shootout)	L 74-79
Dec 22	Delaware (San Juan Shootout)	W 73-69
Dec 27	@ Villanova	L 62-81
Dec 30	@ Austin Peay	W 74-70
Jan 2	Virginia Commonwealth	W 59-55
Jan 5	@ IPFW	W 66-61
Jan 10	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB)	W 85-50
Jan 13	@ Arkansas State (SB)	W 70-68
Jan 15	@ Arkansas-Little Rock (SB)	L 62-69
Jan 20	South Alabama (SB)	L 56-59
Jan 22	New Orleans (SB)	L 60-66
Jan 27	@ New Mexico State (SB)	W 65-50
Jan 29	@ Louisiana-Lafayette (SB)	L 44-54
Feb 3	Western Kentucky (SB)	L 56-61
Feb 5	Florida International (SB)	W 82-69
Feb 10	North Texas (SB)	W 79-64
Feb 12	@ Denver (SB)	L 71-83
Feb 17	Arkansas State (SB)	W 80-60
Feb 19	Portland State	W 83-62
Feb 24	@ Western Kentucky (SB)	L 83-85
Feb 28	@ Florida International (SB)	W 91-81
Mar 4	New Mexico State	W 77-63
Mar 6	Sun Belt Championships -- First round	
	Louisiana-Lafayette	L 57-71
	Sun Belt Championships -- Second round	

Overall Record: 19-12 (8-8 Sun Belt)

Home games in bold



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Kermit Davis is 52-38 overall as Blue Raider head coach.

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1999 Dodge 4x4: Turbo Diesel. \$16,500 obo. Lists for \$18,465 in Kelly Blue Book. All pwr. New tires, am/fm/cd, automatic trans., tow pkg., excellent condition! Contact: mlb2e@mtsu.edu or 931-239-5613

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Childcare needed in my home for 1 toddler Sat & Sun only. Good Pay! Must have references. 615-867-4201.

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217-0265, jtd2r@mtsu or Dr. Catherine Stogner at 615-898-5522, cstogner@mtsu.

#### Opportunities

100% paid tuition to MTSU. Work only one weekend/month. \$6,000 & \$10,000 bonuses available. Call or stop by to schedule a no obligation appointment. SGT. Brian Stacy Forrest Hall Military Science Department. 494-7682 or [bstacy@mtsu.edu](mailto:bstacy@mtsu.edu).

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit [www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair](http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair) for qualifying criteria.

#### Pets

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Male or female needed. 2 bd 1 bath. 297/month +1/2 utl. Needed by April 30.275-9075.

Need 2 roommates ASAP for nice 3bdr/2 1/2 bath cottage style apt. Rent is \$366/month, includes everything. Please contact Thomas at 615-653-3328.

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1 Roommate needed to share 3bd/2ba house w/ 2 other people. 1.5 miles from campus. \$450/mo- all inclusive. Available 4/1/05. Jennifer 615-474-2399.

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Portable 7" DVD player w/ accessories, Initial IDM 1731, brand new, unopened box, \$150. [jrv2f@mtsu.edu](mailto:jrv2f@mtsu.edu) or 615-217-3883.

2004 Trek 4900 Alpha Aluminum Mtn. Bike. Bought in Jan and only ridden once. Excellent condition. Paid \$575 will settle for \$400. Adam 615-668-3822.

For Sale: Futon \$150, Full Mattress \$100, 13" TV \$50 [mjw2k@mtsu.edu](mailto:mjw2k@mtsu.edu) 7 ft. green checkered couch. good condition,

very comfortable. We just got a new couch and have no room. \$75 obo. Tim or Joe 615-893-1293.

512 MB (2x256MB) Crucial DDR266/PC2100 desktop computer memory; lifetime warranty; \$60; email [ccm2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:ccm2b@mtsu.edu).

ATI Radeon 9700 Pro (built by ATI); HDTV adapter included; 128 MB; AGP 8x; still under warranty; windows only; \$150; email [ccm2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:ccm2b@mtsu.edu).

Guitars, Amps and drums for sale. Peavey, Yamaha, Schecter, B.C. Rich, m Traben, Zildjian, Sabian, Sonor, ...etc. Music World & Drummers Den 893-4242, 2762 S. Church St. (located across from Indian Hills).

House for sale, walk to MTSU, hardwood floors, move-in condition, rented attic apartment pays \$350/month. \$114,500. 614-571-2291 or [oliverkleban@hotmail.com](mailto:oliverkleban@hotmail.com).

The North Face Summit Series Jacket, new w/ tags, Men's \$125 (L,XI), Women's \$115 (M). 3 in 1 system with Gore-tex outershell and zip in fleece inner shell. grey, navy, royal, light blue, red and green. obo call 217-9569 or email [ras2g@mtsu.edu](mailto:ras2g@mtsu.edu).

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: [deb\\_mtsu@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_mtsu@yahoo.com). Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

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#### Sublease

Female, non-smoker needed to sublease apt at Campus Crossing ASAP. Nice, clean 3 bd, private bath. Utilities, cable, internet included. \$430 monthly. Jessica 351-4935, [jla2i@mtsu.edu](mailto:jla2i@mtsu.edu).

Female, non-smoker needed to sublease apt at Campus Crossing ASAP. Nice, clean 3 bd, private bath. Utilities, cable, internet included. \$430 monthly. Jessica 351-4935, [jla2i@mtsu.edu](mailto:jla2i@mtsu.edu).

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with cable and high speed internet. Please call 407-375-4994 for more info.

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Female subleser needed for a 1BD in a 4BD/4BA at Campus Crossings Apartments. LR, DR, Kitchen, Wash/Dryer, utilities and cable, high speed internet, pool, workout. \$400/mo includes all of the above. 3 other roommates periodically gone for the summer. Mid May until Fall Semester. Call Carrie: 865-740-9133 or Fax: 865-405-4833

#### Travel

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## Blue Raiders take two in Texas

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

Only the tough survive in the Wild West. Middle Tennessee was up to the challenge on Saturday as the Blue Raiders corralled 51st-ranked Louisiana-Lafayette 5-2 at Jake Hess Stadium in Houston.

The No. 42 Blue Raiders opened up decisively out of the gate and never looked back, sweeping all three doubles matches and claiming the first four completed singles matches for the win.

At No. 1 doubles, 41st-ranked Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn defeated Amanjot Singh and Kerei Abakar 8-3, while Anant Sitaram and Greg Pollack were victorious over Shaun Ellison and Ryan Hess by the same score at No. 3.

Playing at the No. 2 position, the team of Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born, ranked 18th, took care of Evghenii Corduneanu and Dusan Tabak 8-6.

The Ragin' Cajuns had no answer in singles as MT won the first four contests to put the fate of

the match out of the question.

Born picked up a 6-4, 6-2 win over Singh at No. 2, while Sitaram disposed of Ellison 6-3, 6-3 at No. 4.

The lower third of the lineup held strong as well for the Blue Raiders. Pollack claimed a three-set victory 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 over Abakar in the five slot, and Allan claimed a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Hess at No. 6.

With the win already secured, MT dropped two close matches. Corduneanu defeated No. 55 Siljestrom 3-6, 7-6(5), 10-5, and Tabak won a 7-6(5), 7-6(3) decision over Schledorn.

"I am very happy with the win against a quality team," head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations. "We played well in doubles and in singles throughout the lineup."

The Blue Raiders followed their victory on Saturday with a 4-3 win over No. 26 Rice yesterday to move to 12-3 on the season. The team will be back at Buck Boldin Tennis Center on Saturday to face Georgia State at noon. ♦

## Horned Frogs blank Lady Raiders

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

Texas was the destination of choice for Middle Tennessee tennis last weekend, and for the Lady Raiders, the Lone Star State was anything but home away from home.

The Lady Raiders ran into a tough TCU team on Saturday as the No. 21 Horned Frogs triumphed 7-0 in Fort Worth, Texas.

TCU improved to 12-1 on the season, while MT fell to 5-10.

Things looked dismal from the beginning as MT dropped all three doubles matches relatively quickly.

In the only matchup of ranked opponents, the No. 52 team of Ana Cetnik and Story Tweedie-Yates upset MT's No. 39 duo of Jennifer Klaschka and Ann-Kristin Siljestrom 8-2.

The Lady Raiders fared no better down the line, as Helena Besovic and Andrea Morgado defeated Ana Maria Cibils and Emily Vest 8-4, and Paige Brown and Karla Mancinas handled Claudia

Szabo and Jacqui Williams 8-3 at Nos. 2 and 3, respectively.

The Horned Frogs finished the match in convincing fashion, sweeping all six singles matches in straight sets.

At No. 1, No. 17 Tweedie-Yates defeated Klaschka 6-1, 6-0. At No. 2, No. 52 Besovic disposed of Cibils 6-1, 6-3.

Cetnik defeated Siljestrom 6-1, 6-1 at No. 4. Mrgado clinched the win for TCU with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Williams at No. 6.

The Blue Raiders put up a fight in the other two matches, but could not claim a victory.

Szabo managed to claw out several games before succumbing 6-4, 6-4 to Kewa Nichols at No. 3, while Gloriann Lopez held off a battling Vest 6-4, 6-3.

"I was really impressed with the way that we competed today," Horned Frog head coach Dave Borelli told TCU Media Relations. "This was one of the best matches that we've had all season."

The Lady Raiders will try to rebound when they face Alabama-Birmingham on April 3. ♦

## Let 'er rip

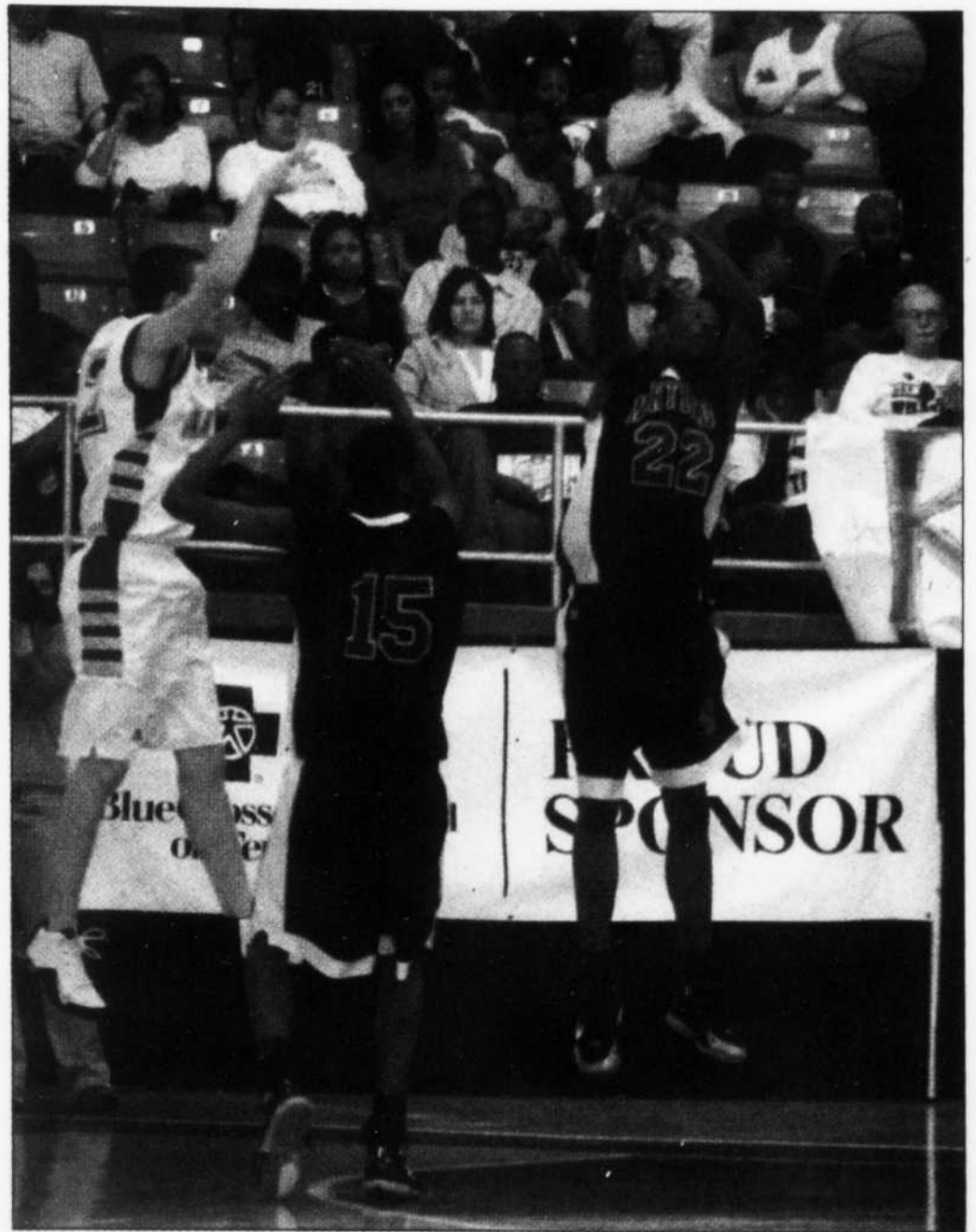


Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

Oak Ridge's Jared Stephens (left) calls for a pass as Jackson North Side's Richard Delk (15) and Reginald Delk (22) try to defend in the first round of the TSSAA boys' state tournament. Jackson North Side won 58-49.

## Football team starts spring with intensity

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

The football season has unofficially begun for the Blue Raiders, as spring practice kicked off last Monday.

Middle Tennessee returns 54 lettermen from last year's squad and is looking to improve on last year's 5-6 season. To achieve their first winning record in four seasons, however, the Blue Raiders will make some key improvements on offense.

The key loss going into spring practice is leading receiver Kerry Wright, who led the Sun Belt in receiving yards last season. Chris Henry, Cleannord Santill and Pierre Ingram will likely be the key contributors looking to replace Wright.

Henry is the team's leading returning senior and figures to continue the strong Blue Raider tradition at wide receiver.

During Saturday's scrimmage, the leading receivers were Ingram and Luke Paschall with two catches each.

At quarterback, the Blue Raiders return the Sun Belt's leading passer in Clint Marks and backup Josh Harris, who also expects to see time.

Marks was less than impressive on Saturday, going 3-for-6 for 39 yards, whereas Harris finished 5-of-7 for 91 yards and a touchdown.

MT's running came under fire last year, but with all their

backfield players returning, the Blue Raiders look to gain momentum in an area where they placed next-to-last in the Sun Belt.

Eugene Gross figures to shoulder the load along with Demarco McNair and Terry Jackson. Gross scored three touchdowns near the goal line, while McNair scored twice.

Senior Nick McAfee solidified the fullback position with his strong play and senior leadership. McAfee also appears to have a role in the passing attack, catching a touchdown on Saturday's scrimmage.

The offensive line must again adjust to losing starters. Three returning starters are along the Blue Raider line, but there is plenty of playing experience up front. Willie Hall, Brandon Nix, Marcus Gates, Brian Smith and Germayle Franklin were the starters going into spring, and all impressed the MT coaching staff.

"What I liked today was the hitting and physicalness of our practice," MT head coach Andy McCollum told MT Media Relations. "We went three hours out there today, and it was just as intense the last play as it was the first. We seem to be playing with a little more nastiness on both sides of the ball, and that is what we want to see every day."

Spring practice continues for the Blue Raiders today, Tuesday and Thursday. ♦

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