



# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

## Interest rates may sink for student loans

By Dana Owens  
 Community News Editor

As Democrats seize control of the House and Senate, the next Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-California), has announced the majority's agenda for the nation, including lowering the interest rates on student loans.

This is of particular interest to college students since over half of all undergraduates nationwide use federal student loans to pay for their education, according to the U.S. Department of Education's 1999-2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey.

If the interest rate were lowered, it would make students' monthly payments on their loans smaller, as well as reduce the amount of interest that builds up over time, said David Chambers, associate director of the Student Aid Office at MTSU.

Congress has set the current interest rates at 6.8 percent, though in previous semesters they have been variable. When rates are variable, they are adjusted yearly according to the overall interest rates based on the economy and inflation, Chambers said.

Over the past two years, the interest rates on federal student loans have risen by 2 percent. The rate has been capped at 8.5 percent, but the intention is to keep it less than that, Chambers said.

"There's no way to know what [Congress] is going to do," he said, adding that interest groups and banks have a great deal of influence on the rates.

According to Chambers, Congress can revise the interest rates every six years when they look at the Higher Education Amendment.

Many MTSU students have taken out student loans, though not all are overly concerned with paying them back.

John Glasscock, a sophomore in architecture, took out a need-based loan to pay his full tuition for four or five years.

"It was that or not go to school," Glasscock said.

Though his payments are being deferred, Glasscock said he is not worried about interest rates because he will try to pay the loan off as soon as possible. Though lowering the interest rates would be beneficial, Glasscock said he is not optimistic about the potential changes.

"I'll believe it when I see it," he said. "I don't trust Democrats."

Other students, such as public relations sophomore Tim Grace, feel a cut in the interest rates is likely with the new Democratic Congress.

"I think it'd be awesome if it happened," he said.

Though Grace said he has a good job lined up after school, he will still try to pay off the loans as soon as possible to avoid the higher interest rates.

"I basically live off student loans," Grace said.

Even if a student is not responsible for paying off their loans, lower rates could bring relief to parents.

John Cade, a junior in accounting, said he is one of three siblings, all of whom are having their loans paid by their parents. Though he does not have to worry about the loans himself, he said his parents would be relieved if interest was lowered.

The most popular loan for undergrads is the Stafford loan program, which offers subsidized and unsubsidized loans. Though most borrowers were awarded the subsidized loan, many took out a combination of the two, meaning at least a portion of their loans would gather interest while they were still in college.

The amount of the General Stafford Loan depends on grade level and cannot exceed the amount of tuition. The eligibility and amount of a Stafford Subsidized Loan is determined by financial need and allows students to defer payment until they graduate.

With the unsubsidized Loan, students are responsible for accumulated interest until the loan is paid off in full. Payments may be deferred, but the interest rate will accumulate and payments will be higher in the long run.

According to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey, the average amount students borrowed in federal loans was about \$4,600.

The center also reports that more undergraduate students take out federal loans than state, private or commercial loans.

The survey was conducted using information gathered from more than 900 postsecondary institutions and over 50,000 undergraduate students nationwide.

Aside from lowering interest rates, Pelosi mentioned a long-term goal of making tuition permanently tax-deductible, which could also help ease tuition payments for students.



Larry Burriss (left), journalism professor, and Cindy Rehm (right), assistant art professor

By Christin Pepple  
 Staff Writer

MTSU tenured male professors outnumber their female counterparts 66 to 34 percent, a figure not out of the ordinary for colleges across the United States.

The American Association of University Professors recently issued a report on gender equality in university facilities nationwide.

The report, which includes ratios of female-to-male professors at more than 1,400 universities, is the latest in a series of studies AAUP has conducted to improve the inclusion of females on university faculties.

"There are several factors contributing to the lack of representation of women among tenured and tenure-track faculty," said John Curtis, AAUP director of research and public

policy. "Although most forms of overt discrimination have been removed, women still face a series of barriers in obtaining tenure-track positions, gaining tenure and full professor rank and achieving salary equity."

The AAUP does not protect women within the profession, but tries to understand the reasons women are not a greater part of the university workforce.

"Some academic disciplines still are not fully open to women, and the disciplines in which women are more strongly represented tend to pay lower salaries," Curtis said.

At MTSU, the ratio of full-time male professors to full-time female professors is 57 to 42 percent, respectively. However, the university is very active towards recruiting female professors, said Kaylene Gebert, university executive vice president and provost.

"We try as an institution to hire the very best people," Gebert said. "We try and have a broad pool of faculty. For example, we will send to Women's Studies programs and send out special mailings that offer women the chance to apply here at MTSU."

MTSU holds the highest full-time female professor retention rate in the state, compared with surrounding area universities such as Lipscomb University, with 24 percent, Tennessee Tech University, with 34 percent, and Freed-Harman University, with 29 percent.

Still, women are not as prominent as men. In 2004, over half of MTSU graduate degrees were awarded to women but only 24 percent of professors were women.

See Gender Gap, 4

## MTSU's faculty gender gap



Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director



Photo by Wesley Murchison | Campus Admin. News Editor  
 Lee Martin speaks to honor students about how technology and the competitive edge will define the future of business in a changing economy.

## Technology plus economics equal techonomics, says Martin

By Wesley Murchison  
 Campus Admin. News Editor

The next significant innovation in technology could redefine in the market place ... again.

The introduction of the assembly line changed the market and brought about mass production. The advent of the personal computer and the Internet gave us the comfort of home shopping. And Wal-mart, with the most advanced distribution system ever advised, has become the first global retail story.

And to help anticipate the

next innovative change is the new concept of techonomics.

"Technological advancement is driving change, that's the first part," H. Lee Martin said to an audience of honor students and distinguished guests. "The economics part, economics determines the long term survivors."

More simply, techonomics combines the study of economics and industry, and shows how these two areas are and have been influenced by the development of new technologies, Martin said.

Martin is a Murfreesboro native whose father was honored by having the University

Center Honors Building named after.

He came to MTSU to speak about techonomics, which he just finished a book about titled "Techonomics: Understanding the Sources of Global Change."

"You just cram the two words together and you've got techonomics," Martin said. "It is the study of how technology effects fundamentals of economic trends of organizations. It's the framework for understanding what is going on and predicting what it means for where we are going."

Martin drew from the theory of Charles Darwin's natural

selection that determines winners and losers through a system of competition and compared that to the modern economy.

"You can see the exact same relation with organizational change. The mutation is the technology; the playing field is the economy and the filter competition. Those that play by rules succeed and grow, those that don't go bankrupted," Martin said.

How this translates to the business world is by realizing

See Techonomics, 3



# MT goes techie with Cingular honors classroom

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration News Editor

Techies are the next generation of MTSU students.

At least, that's what it looks like, considering the state of the art technology used in Room 218 of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building to improve and supercharge the learning process for college students.

"[It's a room] that will challenge our faculty as well as our students to be involved in the newest finds of technology, that will enable students to be more involved and more engaged in their learning," said Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, who oversaw the construction of the room.

In response to the donation of \$100,000 that went toward financing the room, it was renamed the Cingular Wireless Advanced Classroom Technology Lab during a short ceremony Monday.

In attendance was Jim Thorpe, vice president and general manager of the Tennessee and Kentucky region for Cingular, who first met with President Sidney McPhee several years ago.

"Dr. McPhee, I would say without your vision for this university I don't think we would have been all that interested," Thorpe said. "You sold us on the vision and now it has actually become true, and we are very pleased to have been able to take part with you in creating this and we appreciate this opportunity."

Also in attendance were H. Lee Martin and Paul W. Martin Jr. The Martin family contributed over a million dollars to the construction of the University Honors Building, which was named after their father, Paul W. Martin Sr.

The ACT lab places MTSU on the path toward the future of education by implementing the most up-to-date technology.

Part of the future of higher education is not just the expansive use of technology in classrooms, but the ability for stu-

dents and faculty to use that technology in small, collaborative groups.

"What we are looking for is not necessarily the technology, but how you can use the technology and how you can integrate it into learning activities," said Barbara Draude, director for Information Technology Administration, during a presentation of the room.

The room features four plasma screen televisions, all connected to the main computer. Four Liquid Crystal Display projectors and a Thunder Flip Chart System - an elaborate touch screen interface meant to replace a blackboard - hang from the ceiling.

The room is also equipped with 18 tablet computers that can be linked to the plasma televisions or operated independently via wireless connections in the room.

Lee Hicks, vice president of Thunder for Polyvision, explained that all the computers have wireless video capabilities, but that the technology for wireless video transfer is not that advanced yet, resulting in lag time.

"We've been having a series of seminars about how to educate the net generation," Draude said. "And so much of what we've been talking about is how today's learner doesn't want to be a passive recipient of information. They want to get in there, they want to interact with it."

The room can be utilized in various ways. Instructors can present their material in a more traditional lecture style with the chairs in a row facing the front, or the students can break up into groups around individual plasma televisions. Students are also offered individual tablet computers that can be connected to the LCD projectors or the plasma television.

"I think the only thing that limits the faculty on how they are going to use this room is going to be their imagination," Draude said.



Photo by Erica Hines | Design Editor  
Sandy Kay Griffin, freshman mass communication major, participates in a game as part of Sigma Chi's Derby Days to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. The benefit has raised about \$5,000 so far, and participants say they hope to raise \$2,000 or \$3,000 more before the events conclude at the end of the week.

## Derby Days raises \$5K

By Christin Pepple

Staff Writer

Sigma Chi fraternity began its Derby Days earlier this week to raise money and support for their philanthropy, the Children's Miracle Network.

"We have our sights set on whatever we can get," said Sean Stewart, best coordinator of Derby Days. "But now we have raised about \$5,000 and we are hoping for another two or three thousand by the end of the week."

The fundraiser is in its 36th year and all proceeds of the event will go to the CMN. Along with the brothers of the fraternity, several sororities are also participating in the event.

These sororities include the Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Chi Omega, Kappa Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta chapters.

"We are really excited about this year's Derby Days," says Braeden Kehoc, chairman of the event. "We have planned many new events and are encouraging all campus

organizations to participate."

The week of fundraising began last Sunday with a BBQ featuring food donated by Slick Pig BBQ. The tickets were \$5 each, and the event lasted from 1 to 4 p.m. in Walnut Grove. The fundraiser also had music and entertainment along with guest speakers from CMN and the American Red Cross.

"The thing that inspired me to want to push harder for this cause is when the speaker from the CMN came and spoke to us on Sunday and informed us that a child is diagnosed with a terminal illness every three days at Vanderbilt," Stewart said. "That is unreal and it made us all want to go out and raise as much as we could to help this amazing cause."

Several other events, spread out over the week, will be taking place. Events include The Derby Chase, the Derby Darling Pageant, the Derby Olympics, the campus blood drive, penny wars, the banner competition, Brother auction and a closing party at Mellow Mushroom.

"The whole event is really separated into two parts," Stewart said. "The first part is



Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer  
Braeden Kehoc, holding ball, Elizabeth Pittenger (left), Katie Poirn (right).



Photo by Erica Hines | Design Editor  
Katharine Daniels, freshman undeclared, pulls Greg German, sophomore entrepreneurship major, in a relay race for Derby Days.

raising money for the CMN and the second part is a competition that several of the sororities compete in. They gain community service hours and they are given awards."

The closing party at Mellow Mushroom will recognize all the winners of the competitions such as Chi Omega member Jen Martin, the winner of the Derby Darling Pageant.

The first and second-place winners of the banner competition, which took place during Homecoming, will also be announced. The banners can be seen displayed outside of Floyd Stadium.

Awards will be given also to the winners of the Derby Olympics, which is a series of relay races held at the intramural field on campus.

Derby Days has taken place since 1934, and the brothers are hoping that in continuing the tradition, they can raise more money for the CMN.

"Not many organizations focus on kids in America and the CMN is in our backyard," Stewart said. "It has been one of the main philanthropic benefactors of Sigma Chi for eight or nine years now."

## Students may not realize it, but they shell out big bucks to park

By Chalekan Lucas

Contributing Writer

Some MTSU undergraduate students are unaware of the cost of parking on campus or that they are charged at all.

A yearly fee of \$105 is built into tuition to provide students with permission to park on campus.

"I didn't even know there was a parking fee," said Jonathan Mitchell, a junior business major who walks or rides his bike to school. "I thought the permits were free if you are a student."

The parking authority generates about \$2.4 million in revenue from 23,000 undergraduate students who pay this fee.

Tyler Housch, a worker for the MTSU parking authority, said 17,074 of these permits have been issued this year.

Two Tennessee universities with about the same undergraduate student population charge similar fees.

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, charges a \$240 general parking fee per year, which is not built into the students' tuition, according to the school's parking services Web site.

Unlike MTSU, UTK's parking fee is optional and refundable if a student withdraws from classes in the first week of school.

The University of Memphis offers general parking free to students. A permanent parking pass is issued to students when their registration fees have been paid, according to the school's Web site.

Memphis does have priority gate parking which students can buy for \$72 a semester. This fee is optional and is for students who want the convenience of parking closer to their classes.

"I think the parking fee should be optional," Mitchell said, after hearing the other universities' parking options. "I could have used the money to buy books or pay rent."

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# Women's Center offers monthly free legal clinic

By Josh Daughtery  
Staff Writer

Citizens in need of legal advice usually shell out top dollar for just a slice of time in a lawyer's office. Thursday, though, students will have the chance to take advantage free legal counseling offered by the June Anderson Women's Center.

"You can speak about any legal issues you have ranging from divorce to work related issues, anything that you need legal help with," said Amy Lynn Larwig senior child development and family studies major and intern at the June Anderson Women's Center.

The Women's Center has been conducting a free legal clinic for over seven years, said Mary Ann Guiliano, secretary for the June Anderson Women's Center. The clinics are offered the last Thursday of each month

from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Women's Center, and Thursday's clinic is the last until February.

The clinic is a free advocacy program for MTSU students and faculty that may have legal questions said Jennifer Butch, senior nursing major and legal clinic coordinator.

"It's a great opportunity for people to come and get legal advice," Johnson said. "I don't think people realize this opportunity is here for them."

Gary Beasley will be the attorney at the Nov. 16 legal clinic, Guiliano said.

Beasley is a Murfreesboro attorney whose areas of practice includes child support, divorce and workers compensation law, according to information from the firm Kidwell, South, & Beasley's Web site.

Though the legal clinic is free of charge, a person must have an appointment, said Guiliano. If people who have an appointment are not able to attend, they need to contact the Women's Center and cancel

because spots are limited.

There will only be eight spots available for the Nov. 16 clinic, Butch said, though there are anywhere from eight to sixteen spots open throughout the semester.

There are usually two attorneys for the clinic, Butch said.

"Since this is around Thanksgiving things usually die down so there is only one [this Thursday]," she said.

If the type of attorney, a person needs is not at the clinic then the person will be advised on where to go, Butch said.

"[The attorneys] legally advise you and give you options as to what actions you should take, if any," Johnson said.

This is a good opportunity for people who cannot afford to go to an attorney for advice, Larwig said.

The clinics are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the last Thursday of every month at the June Anderson Women's Center, Butch said.

## June Anderson Women's Center Legal Clinic

Where: June Anderson Women's Center, James Union Building, Room 206

When: Thursday, Nov. 16 7-9 p.m.

Cost: Free

Appointments required – Contact the Center at 898-2193

## Techonomics: combines the study of economics and industry

Continued from 1

that all organizations-or nothing more than the grouping of individuals. And for individuals to succeed they must keep balance in their lives.

Martin then took concepts by William Danforth's book "I Dare You" about personal balance in mind, spiritual and social life and applied it to an organization.

The mental side of the organization is the computational ability to develop strategy. The social side is the ability to communicate "the ideas of the activity of the organization."

And the spiritual side of the organization is this "unity of purpose that we call community."

Martin then traced innovation throughout history. The first chart was 6,000 years of history that mapped out the different developments of technological advances.

Some of the innovations that he focused on were cultivation, an alphabet and the printing press. Martin pointed out that during this time there was little development in use of energy.

Among some of the guest attending with the honor students was President Sydney McPhee, Chairperson William Ford and Lee's brother Paul W. Martin, Jr.

# American Legacy Foundation on crusade to make smokers quit

By Angelle Barbazon  
The Daily Reveille(LSU)

(U-WIRE) BATON ROUGE, La. - A cloud of cigarette smoke hovers around the entrance to LSU's Middleton Library. Students sit on the benches, taking slow drags from their cigarettes. Some students glare at the smokers as they walk, while others simply ask to borrow a lighter.

Since February 2000, the American Legacy Foundation's Truth Campaign has attempted to overshadow the tobacco industry with anti-smoking messages in print and on the Internet, television and radio. Some on campus say the ads are effective, while others say they do not encourage smokers to stop.

The campaign is the nation's largest anti-smoking movement not sponsored by the tobacco industry. It aims to prevent and stop tobacco use among teens and young adults with its "controversial" advertising.

Some of the campaign's ads represent confrontations from tobacco companies and 1,200 body bags indicating the amount of people who die from tobacco use each year.

According to the Truth Campaign's fact sheet, the ads are "in-your-face and hard-hitting because teens respond to up-front and powerful messages that display courage and honesty in a forceful way."

Judith Sylvester, mass communication designated professor at Louisiana State University and SmokingWords coordinator, said the Truth Campaign's approach to anti-smoking advertising sets it apart from other public service announcements.

"That shocking aspect is kind of what they need to get the message across," she said.

SmokingWords, a partner of the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living, is a localized anti-smoking campaign that promotes education about the health risks involving tobacco use at LSU and Southern University. Sylvester said SmokingWords resembles the Truth Campaign because of their similar target audiences.

Sylvester said SmokingWords' original research found that 27 percent of the University's undergraduate population smoked cigarettes. She said the campaign has helped non-smokers become more vocal about second-hand smoke on campus.

"We've spent the last six years trying to educate students about the ramifications of smoking," she said. "We've tried to focus on the cosmetic aspects of it, and more recently, the effects of second-hand smoke."

According to research by the American Legacy Foundation, 27 percent of teens and young adults live in a household with at least one smoker, and 16 percent are exposed to secondhand smoke in their home.

Kade Thibodeaux, history junior, said his mother smokes cigarettes, but he is not bothered by second-hand smoke.

Like many political and social campaigns, the Truth Campaign uses the Internet as an advertising tool. The campaign's Web site, [truth.campaign.com](http://truth.campaign.com), features interactive elements that allow visitors to access facts about tobacco use and provide feedback about the campaign.

By giving their audience a way of interacting and commenting on the campaign, the American Legacy Foundation can learn what things they are doing right and how to improve the campaign to make it more appealing or effective. According to the Truth Campaign's fact sheet, teens are used in testing all of the campaign's advertising concepts to make sure the campaign's anti-smoking message is on target and relevant to its audience.

Ryan McCaffery, political science and history sophomore, said he likes the activist approach to the campaign, but the commercials would not make most people quit smoking cigarettes.

Although research in the March 2005 issue of the American Journal of Public Health attributes a 22 percent decline in youth smoking between 2000 and 2002 to the Truth Campaign, perspectives about the campaign's effectiveness vary.

Jessica Lassalle, business marketing sophomore, said the Truth Campaign may prevent some people from smoking cigarettes, but it probably would not cause someone to quit altogether.

"If you're a smoker, you're addicted," said Lassalle, who has smoked Marlboro Lights for six years. "A commercial isn't going to make me quit. You have to want to quit."

Renee LaCoste, fashion design freshman, said she has never smoked cigarettes, but she likes the campaign's commercials.

"I know a lot of people will smoke regardless," she said. "To me, it makes me appreciate more that I don't."

LaCoste said her grandfather smoked cigarettes from the time he was in high school until the late 1980s and died from emphysema. She said witnessing the health effects smoking had on her grandfather affected her decision not to smoke.

Research by the American Legacy Foundation states that "daily smoking is highly associated with addiction," so quitting can be difficult for some people.

Lassalle said she smokes about a half to a whole pack of cigarettes a day. She said she quit smoking for two months because it was affecting her health, and she was not able to exercise without tiring easily. But she began smoking again because cigarettes provided relief from stress.

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# Faces in the Crowd

Valaria Davis, junior social work major and member of the MTSU chapter of the National Association for Black Social Workers, was collecting donations Tuesday for a local charity that helps families in need.



## 4. How do you think this family's situation affects you?

Their situation touches me so much. Although I have never been that disadvantaged, I feel that it is a great opportunity to help other people and give back what I have received.

## 5. How have you been collecting and how long will you collect?

We started yesterday and will collect until Thursday. Next week we will e-mail out a wish list that will contain certain items the family needs, we will also be taking up more donations for a Christmas food basket.

Compiled By: Faith Franklin

## 1. What are you raising funds for?

The Giving Back to America outreach program that helps families in the local Murfreesboro and Nashville areas.

## 2. What type of family are you collecting funds for today?

The family consists of a grandmother, age 69, unemployed. Due to her disabilities and [insurance] cuts, she can't receive certain services.

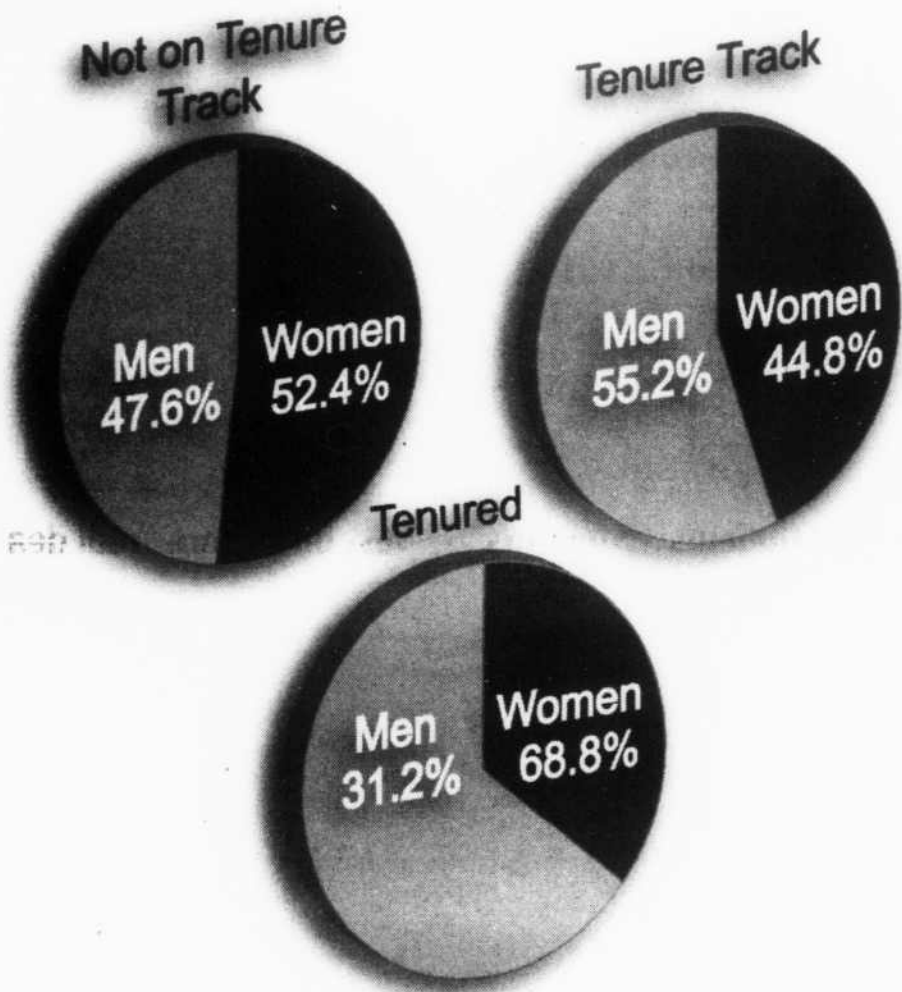
She is also raising three children ages 6, 7 and 10.

## 3. How long have you been a part of the National Association for Black Social Workers, and why did you join?

I have been a member for a year and I joined because I love to give back to the community, especially those of African decent.

## News: "Gender Gap"

Continued from 1



Graphic by Chris Carver | Designer

The percentages of male and female faculty who are tenured, on track to become tenured and not on track to be tenured in private and public universities in the United States according to the American Association of University Professors.

However, MTSU has made a lot of progress in equalizing the women-to-men ratio among faculty, as seen with the tenure-track percentile rather than the actual tenured staff records.

The tenure-track record shows more of a balance with gender, with tenure-track women at 51 percent and men at 49.

"The tenure-track shows how much progress we have made," Gebert said. "We have a very stable faculty at MTSU. We probably have more male faculty that have been with the university for longer, but that is a result of women getting more and more doctorates in only about the past 20 years or so."

The process of getting tenure is referred to as promotion and tenure, and requires that faculty be employed for at least five years. However, some professors are able

to move through the process more quickly with their annual reviews. The reviews cover areas such as progress, meeting teaching scholarships and public service requirements.

MTSU addresses the issue in various ways including sending professors to discipline conventions, which are conferences that entail recruitment of freshly graduated students looking for positions at universities.

"These conferences are extremely important because we are looking for the best, regardless of gender," Gebert said. "We are very proactive in our attempts to recruit women, but we don't just recruit someone because they happen to be a female. We want to recruit the best faculty we can."

The university's percentage of equality in the work place is rising more and more each year and

according to the data released by the AAUP, is among some of the highest percentile of equity listed.

The AAUP wants to improve equity, Curtis said. The faculty and administrators need to work together to examine the situation on the campus and see if any more can be done to remove the barriers that block equity among the faculty.

The AAUP was founded in 1915 and is a teaching association for college professors to aid and promote higher education. It is a nonprofit, charitable organization with about 45,000 members at colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The information from their recent survey dates back to the 1918 formation of "Committee W" and AAUP committee on the status of women in college and university faculties.

# Government targeting unmarried adults in abstinence-only campaign

By Leah Square

The Daily Reveille (LSU)

(U-WIRE) BATON ROUGE, La. - Unmarried women ages 19 to 29 mothered 998,262 children in 2004, according to recently released federal government statistics.

The government embarked on a new campaign targeting unmarried adults, preaching sexual abstinence only — a message generally slated for teens. But government officials said the new campaign merely clarifies pre-existing guidelines.

The government allotted a budget of about \$50 million for programs and education materials for the upcoming year. And under revised federal grant guidelines, the government urged states to direct abstinence-only education toward adults.

States seeking grants are "to identify groups most likely to bear children out of wedlock, targeting adolescents and/or adults within the 12- through 29-year-old age range."

Abstinence-only programs teach that refraining from sexual intercourse constitutes the only acceptable method for preventing pregnancy and disease. The programs make no accommodation for talks of safe-sex

practices or birth control.

The National Center for Health Statistics said more than 90 percent of adults have engaged in sex or sex-related acts by the time they are 29.

Campus Crusade for Christ President and Louisiana State University grad student Melissa Brown said she thinks federally funded abstinence programs will make a difference.

"Abstinence education is not going to hurt. Education is a good thing," Brown said.

Brown is part of the 10 percent pool of virgins ages 20 to 29 and said her beliefs about sex are fueled by religion.

"[Sex is] something that should be done after marriage and not before," Brown said. "But ultimately it's up to the individual person to make that choice."

VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood President Racheal Hebert, sociology and women's and gender studies senior, disagreed with Brown.

"Abstinence education doesn't work," Hebert said. "Adults need a chance to understand their bodies and their sexuality and not just be told 'sex is bad.'"

Other students agreed with Hebert.

"I haven't even heard that word in a long time," creative

writing graduate student Chris Shipman said in reference to "abstinence." Shipman said promoting abstinence in adults is "a waste of money."

Kristen Foster, creative writing graduate student, said abstinence is not a practical idea for today's society.

"I think [the government] should put the money toward promoting safe sex instead," Foster said.

Hebert said condoms and birth control pills remain the best methods for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases — not abstinence.

"We should focus on preventative methods instead of telling people what they can and cannot do with their bodies," Hebert said.

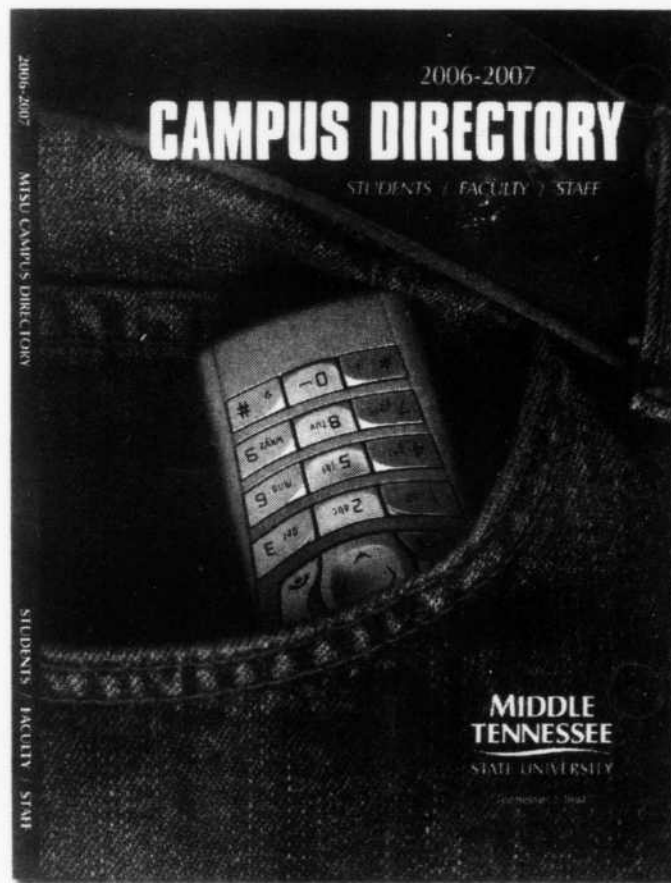
Even history junior Joey Resweber, president of the Christian organization Believers, expressed his skepticism about program. He said teens should "wait until marriage."

"I think the programs will be effective for those who support abstinence, but I don't think it will change anybody's mind — maybe one or two people," Resweber said.

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# OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

## Working women making progress: "Glass ceiling" becoming thinner

According to the recent survey from the American Association of University Professors, the removal of the proverbial glass ceiling for female, full-time, tenured professors is fast approaching, with the speed of a tortoise.

Slowly, but surely, gender equality, at least for female professors, is approaching. Unfortunately, feminists and equal-opportunity supporters are far from waving the victory flag. The survey findings only amount to a small pat-on-the-back for society.

Remember the glass ceiling? Thirty-four percent versus 66 percent hardly makes a hairline crack in an already massive barrier thick with years of oppression. Still, it is a start to a progressing movement.

Now, the tricky part: Why does an institution, like AAUP, have to conduct studies on women in the college workplace? College is the evolution of the educational mind. It is a place for anyone, regardless of gender, to academically advance. Right?

How are we, as a society, not just with college professors, but women in general, supposed to promote female equality in the workplace when even the leader of our country makes anti-feminist jokes?

Somehow, remarking that the first outreach of bipartisan unity to the first female speaker of the House is by recommending Republican interior decorators for drapery selection does nothing in promoting a respect for the professional advancement of women.

This, in turn, brings up the argument of the roles of women in society. Is the only pressing matter for Nancy Pelosi to accomplish picking out curtains in her new office? Should women be taken seriously in all disciplines of professional society or is the only real place for a woman at home with the kids and cooking?

A good and neutral answer to the above-proposed question would be both and neither.

Both, because women should be given every single opportunity, pay rate and potential promotion that men enjoy. If women choose to hold down the home and raise their children, it should not be looked down on as degrading or anti-progressive because, like holding a career, the desire to have a homelife is a choice.

The reason for neither is because a biological difference is no excuse for a person to get hired over a more qualified candidate, male or female. Kaylene Gebert makes an excellent point by saying that MTSU searches for only the most qualified individuals in order to shape the minds of its students.

All in all, women seem to be progressing, at least a little.

The glass ceiling preventing women from entering into the equal realm of men is slowly growing thinner. The only thing anyone can hope for is that the professors of MTSU, both male and female, continue to strive for equality.

## Technology creates new dependencies

The technology of today has created an on-the-go kind of lifestyle. We are able to carry around gadgets that include music, the Internet and also have a phone line. Technology allows us to travel with ease and not to worry about anything.

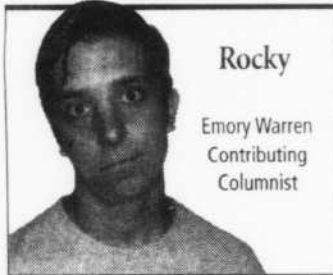
These devices aren't necessarily old, either – it was only six or seven years ago that the Internet really came out, and at that point cell phones weren't universal like they are today.

The Internet and cell phones alike are two devices that are very important in our current lifestyles. The Internet makes it easier for us to keep in touch with the world when we choose to. Activities can include things such as looking at online newspapers, and, for sports fans, looking at the news of certain teams and game spreads for their upcoming week.

Cell phones are just as important to our lifestyles as the Internet. Although e-mail makes it faster to send a message, cell phones makes it possible to be out and still talk to someone. For emergency reasons, the cell phone proves to be a major help.

These two devices aren't even that new. They have only just begun to become a major part of our lives, and they only have for just a short while. Some rely so much on their cell phone or the Internet, they aren't the same without them. It wasn't long ago when we didn't even have the same opportunities we have with cell phones, or even the Internet, like we do today. However, it seems impossible to even try to go back to that way of life.

What if cell phones didn't exist anymore? Is it possible to go out



Rocky

Emory Warren  
Contributing  
Columnist

without our cell phones, or to even go through an entire day and not check our e-mail? It is pretty hard to answer that question, even though that is the position we were in not so long ago.

It is really embarrassing to think how hard it would be to go through life without a cell phone, or the Internet, when we were doing it seven years ago easily with no worry.

Today, life is so easy with those two things, but, then again, life would be hard without them. When did that happen? When did we begin to rely so much on certain things, that most of our day is based upon them?

Sure, the Internet brings many opportunities to us, but it takes up much of our time that we rely on. Even cell phones come with so much more than just a phone; some come with cameras and some with Internet capability. With so much to do on a cell phone, what happens when you lose it?

With so much of our life relying on such few things, we can easily be lost without them. Pay attention the next time your Internet goes out and notice how things change.

Emory Warren is a freshman business administration major and can be reached at [efw2f@mtsu.edu](mailto:efw2f@mtsu.edu).



## Don't let breakups hurt your health

Last Tuesday was devastating to me in so many ways. I am searching for words to describe the bewilderment I felt, but I am so baffled that I can barely articulate it.

I am sure you heard the news – it was a major loss for hopefuls all around the country: Britney Spears and Kevin Federline broke up.

The days of Speaderline are no more. Although it was cursed from the beginning, their relationship is merely a reflection of a current trend in the United States today: Breaking up.

Relationships today just do not have the lasting power of relationships of the past.

According to KeepMedia, half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce, a statistic that has remained constant for the last two decades. A modest increase, however, is occurring in the instability of first unions, including cohabitation, which is becoming more and more popular.

According to one newlywed here at MTSU, "It is becoming more and more common not to be married. Icons such as Oprah and Cameron Diaz promote selfishness. Both public figures brag about not wanting to get married. Most people are just looking for a second childhood."

There are different reasons why people choose not to get married, but my question is much broader. Why is there such an increase in breakups, and what is the proper way to handle this rejection?

According to Articles3000.com, most rela-



My 'Keep It Real' Policy

Shannon Mitchell  
Staff Columnist

tionships break up because of infidelities.

People just get bored with one another.

According to their breakup guide, trust, respect and love are all needed to sustain a healthy relationship and without these fundamentals, a union is doomed.

The causes of breakups can range from abuse to loss of interest, all of which are valid reasons to stop seeing someone.

A lot of people fear being alone, so they use relationships to provide comfort. Humans need love. A Duke University study, known as the "General Social Survey," found that people who lacked close companionship were at serious health risk. They found that of those patients studied who had heart disease, 50 percent of those who did not have a spouse or a close friend died within five years, compared to only 18 percent who had someone close to confide in. It is very important to have some sort of companion.

Many people feel that their life is unfulfilled without someone special to share it with.

There are several instances where elderly people who lose their spouse die shortly after, of what some may call a broken heart.

There are a lot of internal things that happen once a breakup occurs.

Marie Claire magazine did a spread on how breakups hurt your health. It explains that the end of a relationship can take a toll on your physical condition, bringing stomachaches, incessant colds and brain fog.

According to Dr. Naomi Eisenberg, the reason why a person may feel a sting in their gut post-breakup is that rejection activates the same area of the brain as physical pain. The more activity in the anterior cingulate, the area where the brain registers distress or physical pain, the more you feel it.

Dr. Eisenberg suggested telling your friends how difficult it is. According to her research, spending time with people you feel close to help the brain release opioids – the same painkillers found in opium and heroin. That means there is definitely some truth to the saying that people need each other to get through traumatic emotional experiences. Who knew they could have the same effects as illegal substances?

Always remember that one man's trash is another man's treasure. How do you think the Salvation Army stays in business?

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at [srm3i@mtsu.edu](mailto:srm3i@mtsu.edu).

## Letters to the Editor

### Higher minimum wage may hurt students

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in regards to the article, "Higher minimum wage equals happy students," which ran in the Nov. 13 edition of *Sidelines*. With the future of Congress this January being controlled by Democrats, it does not surprise me that they feel a need for an increase in minimum wage. This comes from a party which believes in universal health care and social welfare. We should all work less and make more right?

As the wages increase, so does the cost of living. In reality this really helps no one. Employers will end up cutting jobs due to the fact they have to pay an increase to non-productive employees.

However the point I would like to make is the fairness factor.

For example, take an individual who has worked his tail off at an established business for a little under a year making minimum wage. His employers have recognized his hard work and decide to give him a raise up to \$6.15. A few months later the company receives a new hire. This new hire is far less productive than the one year veteran.

The minimum wage increase is passed and now the one-month, non-productive employee is making the same amount as the productive employee. This may not be a huge argument but it is one that points out the make-more, work-less initiative.

Brian Petraitis  
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

### Students: Newest bookstore "real deal"

To the Editor:

"There's a new bookstore in town."

All students know when it comes to buying textbooks, there is not much of a bargain out there.

However, I have some good news, from some past knowledge I would like to share:

My first couple of semesters of college began at the University of Knoxville. All the students on campus would tell me to go to a local store, named Beat The Bookstore, to get the best price for textbooks, when buying or selling.

This store really stuck out to me because of their customer service. They actually have a manual that they use to show you the value of your book, and how much it will be worth in the future.

No other book store I have ever bought from has made me feel like I was not getting taken down the river.

In short, this store is the real deal.

Anyways, I just wanted to give my fellow classmates the heads up because I recently noticed that one is opening Dec. 1, right behind The Boro Bar and Grill and the Smoothie King.

Maybe this little letter will help us broke college students save a little for Christmas.

Ryan Blake  
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

## The end is near.

Give us your opinions at:

# slopinio@mtsu.edu

## SIDELINES

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# FEATURES

## Speaking in tongues

By Alan Laidlaw

Staff Writer

**W**e are already masters of our own language. When words come to us so naturally, why should we study language?

When people hear about linguistics, they assume it has something to do with grammar or needing through foreign languages. It's jargon for word lovers and scrabble freaks. Academically, linguistics spells out "dead end." The word "linguistics" even sounds like something shriveled and lifeless, a field best left for the hooded druids of academia. Outside of feeding a fetish, why would someone minor in Linguistic Studies? Moreover, why is there a Linguistics Club on campus?

"Language is one of the activities that most sharply defines us as human beings. By studying language we get an inside view on how humans think," said Richard Morris, MTSU's Linguistics Studies Minor Advisor.

"When we first started the club we got questions for help with German or Spanish. That's not actually what this club is," said Ryan Parsons, the President of the Linguistics Club. One of the problems with linguistics, Parsons said, is that the field is so broad and pervasive that no one knows where to begin with it.

There is an instant we have all experienced when we come across a word that just doesn't fit. It could come from a friend, teacher or politician. When the radio announcer says "This is the best bed I've ever slept on, guaranteed," we pause, wondering why he would need to guarantee his personal observation. Whether we sense we are being duped, or feel that the other person is deep, this hiccup in our language transaction gives us a glimpse of what an awkward fragile construction language is.

The Linguistics Club started this fall to tackle those issues. It began with two guest lectures in linguistics by Dr. Valerie Fridland and by Dr. Connie Eble covering dialectal trends and college slang.

## Linguistics Club, multiple professors extol growing field

"The students decided to invite local speakers, as well, and we have had about Thursday evenings by Drs. Ric Morris, Mohammed Albakry, John Minichillo and others," Aleka Blackwell said. Blackwell, who recently received the Outstanding Teacher Award, formed the club and lends a jubilant air to the meetings.

Blackwell has felt the pull of linguistics since she was a little girl in Greece. "I argued with my parents to let me start learning English with a private teacher at the age of 4," Blackwell said. "I then took up French at the age of 8 and Russian at 18. If someone would pay me just to learn languages, I would gladly take the job. Since that was not an option, I went into linguistics. [It's] the closest thing to being paid to learn languages."

William Langston, who teaches psycholinguistics, feels the value of studying language comes from focus on details so precisely. He cited the movie 'A Beautiful Mind,' in which John Nash sees patterns appear in the larger world.

According to the Wall Street Journal, linguists were used to getting looked over by the larger money-making world. Almost a fourth of linguistics PhDs were unemployed, according to a 1997 survey by the Modern Languages Association.

Now the field is in high demand, often drawing a starting yearly salary of a \$100,000 in the private sector, says the Wall Street Journal. Their skills are being used to hone e-commerce into a more efficient machine. Other advancements in cognitive science have brought linguistics into greater focus and given new life to a field that was slouching toward academic frivolity.

Parsons' personal interest is in Neurolinguistics: "That [field] is really starting to blossom." The field explores "how our brains handle the language — the physical more than the psychological aspects."

But he is excited about the advancements in computational linguistics too. Linguistics and the

web seem made for each other.

"There is a new project, the semantic web," Parsons says, that harkens back to hermetic attempts at universal language where everything had a value. Instead of the words, you'd use the value. This is what we're seeing with the semantic Web site, and why we may see a rapid evolution of language.

"It's a little scary," Parsons says. Perhaps linguists are droids.

"The big hot topic is laboratory phonology and language acquisition," Morris said. He admits that he thinks his own field, Hispanic Linguistics, is pretty hot too. There are so many cubbyholes to exploring language, everybody thinks they are on to something.

Then there is Albakry, whose focus is in corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics and media discourse. He spoke at a recent Linguistics Club meeting about a recent study.

"I looked at this incident called 'friendly fire,' which is an interesting name — in which two American pilots killed a number of Canadian soldiers," Albakry said. "By mistake, they thought they were Taliban soldiers. This was in 2003. This caused a huge uproar. This was a very 'face threatening' act. Two investigations came out of this, the American investigation and the Canadian investigation. I wanted to look at the language of these two reports."

He discovered several distinctions. The Canadians preferred to use the term "fratricide" rather than "friendly fire." The American report relied on the passive voice, which has a long standing political technique to pass the buck.

But linguists aren't just limited to verbal language.

Linguists are also attuned to the overall semiotic system of communication, so they pay attention to the spatial distancing between people — the use of facial expressions," Albakry said.

Langston, Albakry and Morris all come from

different universities but come together under the rubric of the Linguistic Studies Minor.

"It was actually my idea," Morris said. "In about 2002 I realized that there were a lot of linguistics faculty on campus teaching linguistics in different guises and different departments. I did some exploring and got in touch with some people, and before we knew it we had six interested departments."

Morris added, "I wanted there to be a way for students to learn about linguistics using the available materials. The benefit is that MTSU has turned out to be very pro-interdisciplinary."

"I think its one of the coolest things that is going on at MTSU," Langston said. "Interdisciplinary is the new buzz word but it hasn't been put into practice yet. I think one the things students might recognize is that the world is interdisciplinary, but a lot of your education is not."

During its initial years the Linguistics Studies Minor was slow to gain recognition, but lately the minor has been doubling in size every semester. Mostly foreign language majors and English students are diving up the minor, but there are also majors as diverse as forensic studies and chemistry represented.

"This generation of MTSU students is very interested in linguistics," Morris said. "The linguistics club has emerged on its own," and the faculty is excited about it, he added.

Albakry brings up the philosopher Wittgenstein, who felt all philosophical problems stem from a fractured language. We can't get the words right to frame the question accurately; the terms "pro-choice" and "pro-life," for example, offer an example of words that can distort issues.

Perhaps the resurgence in linguistics comes from the Internet. Immersed in media saturation that fuels the same old issues, maybe through taking time to look at the language that makes the case, we can finally find common ground.

## Student sheds light on Kurdish history

By Andrew Johnson

Staff Writer

When someone mentions the word "Kurdistan," many people often respond with a puzzled look or ask, "Is that a country?"

Kurdistan is actually a geographical and cultural region located in the Middle East and includes parts of Syria, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

"I am from Kurdistan, but I think of myself as from Kurdistan," said MTSU student Shenah Abdullah, a double major in English and anthropology. "In the 1920s, after World War I, the Kurdish people were divided among Syria, Turkey, Iran and Iraq."

Only the Iraqi part of the former Kurdistan is officially recognized as part of Kurdistan today. Abdullah explained that Kurds are Muslims while those who lived in Iran were thought of as Persians.

The official language in Iraq is called Kurdish, but there are different dialects spoken among Kurds. Two include Surnai, which is spoken among Iraqi Kurds, and Kurmanji, which is spoken among Turkish Kurds and by the majority of Kurds. The Kurdish language is banned in Syria and Turkey.

Kurdistan still maintains its own culture that includes the Kurdish New Year, which begins on March 21, the first day of spring. This day is referred to as Newroz, which translates to "new day of the first day." While most Kurds are Muslims as a result of Islamic invaders, there are Kurdish Jews and Kurdish Christians as well.

While living in Northern Iraq, Abdullah experienced war and fighting firsthand.

Abdullah explained how during the Iran-Iraq War, about 1 million soldiers were killed and there was a lot of bombing. In the Gulf War, Saddam invaded Kuwait but the Kurds rose up against him. Saddam gassed the Kurds as a result.

"90 percent of the population fled the country," Abdullah said. "My family fled to Iran, while those who lived closer to Turkey had to walk for seven days and eight nights to reach Iran. It was very cold and I constantly saw people starving and dying around me. I was nine years old and it was quite a traumatic experience."

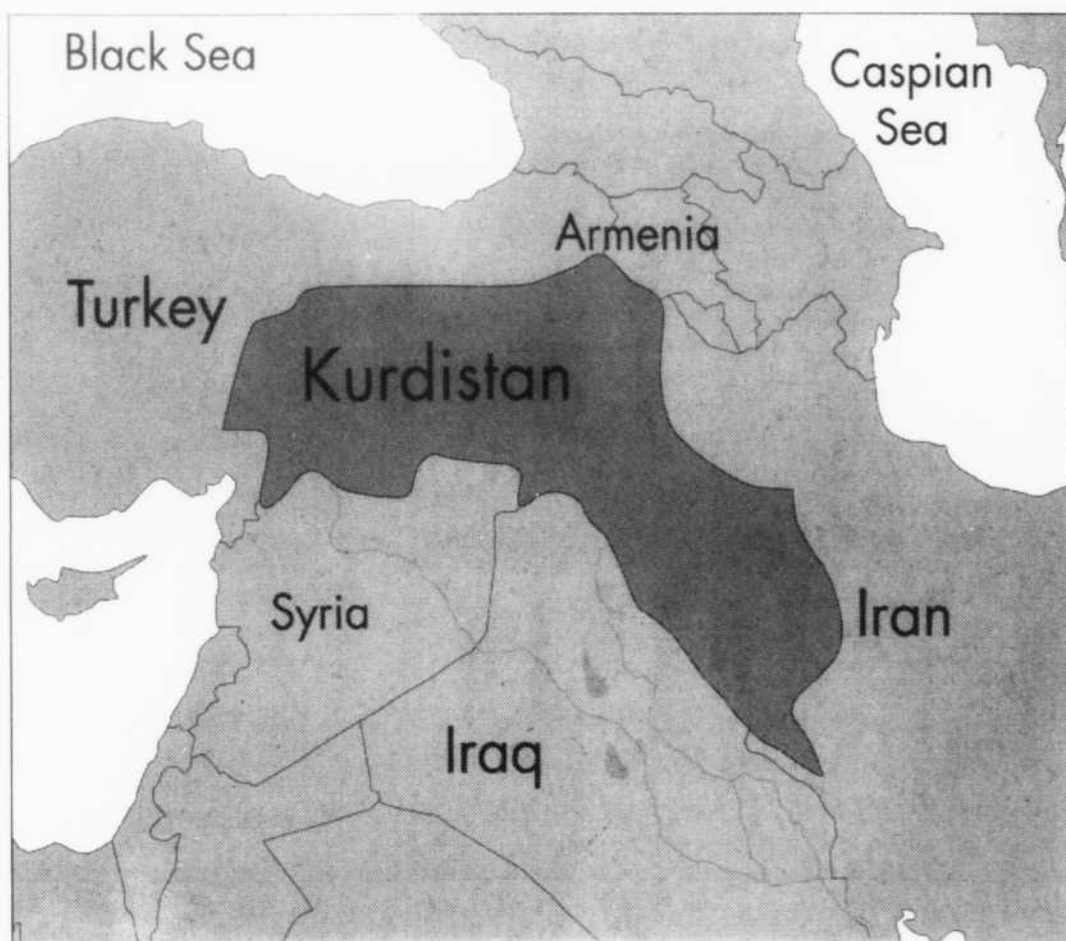
After staying in Iran for a month, Abdullah and her family moved back to Northern Iraq. She eventually moved to the United States on December 25, 2000, with her two brothers. Her sister was already living in the U.S. at the time and had moved to Dalton, Ga. Abdullah flew directly to Atlanta and lived with her sister for two weeks in Dalton before getting her own apartment there.

But after researching colleges, she said she eventually chose to go to MTSU because the people of Dalton were not very accepting of her Kurdish background. In addition, 8,000 Kurds live in Nashville and MTSU was a quick commute from Nashville.

"Nashville is sometimes referred to as 'Little Kurdistan,'" Abdullah said. Abdullah explained that in the 1970s, 20,000 Kurds left Iraq and came to the United States because they had been freedom fighters and had been excommunicated by Saddam Hussein. 30 Kurds decided to start a new life in Nashville.

When 20,000 Kurds came to the U.S. in 1996 as a result of efforts by the U.S. government, they were dispersed among the states. However, many of these Kurds chose to go to Nashville, where other Kurds were already setting up a community. Thus, the city's Kurdish population grew tremendously.

While many students don't know who the Kurds are, Abdullah says that most people are willing to listen to the Kurdish story. She will be speaking about the Kurdish culture at the Social Science Symposium on Thursday morning at 9:40 a.m. in the James Union Building.



Graphic by Chris Carver | Graphic Designer

## Approximate area of modern-day Kurdistan



# SPORTS

## Men's basketball edges Cumberland

Monday, Nov. 13

MT 60

Cumberland 47

Next Game at Paradise Jam,  
Friday, Nov. 17

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

If the first two games of the year are any indication, Middle Tennessee could be in for a tough season.

In their opening days of play, they

barely held off Cumberland University 60-47 at the Murphy Center as they attempted to upset the Blue Raiders at home, but MT fell to Tennessee 83-52.

MT only led Cumberland by two at the half Monday before a solid third quarter gave the home team a bit of breathing room.

Sophomore Calvin O'Neil paced the Blue Raiders with 14 points, while Theryn Hudson and Kyle Young came off the bench to combine for 22 points and 11 rebounds. Cumberland's Thomas Douglas led all scorers with 18 points, but committed seven turnovers.

"I don't think our team played the way they needed to play, but I do think this game did make us better," head

coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations.

After cruising to an easy exhibition win against York University, MT found the road much rougher against Tennessee Friday in Knoxville.

Tennessee shot 48 percent from the field and outrebounded the Blue Raiders 44-33.

MT made only 17 of 49 field goals for a disappointing 34 percent clip. The Blue Raiders were even colder from beyond the arc, only connecting on two of 11 attempts.

The visitors were also plagued by turnovers as MT held up well against the vaunted Vol press, only surrendering the ball four times when UT applied full-court pressure. Instead,

difficulty in setting up a halfcourt offense doomed the Blue Raiders.

After the game, Davis commented that the Vols did an excellent job of disrupting his team's offense.

"A lot of SEC teams are going to come in here and struggle against them this season," Davis said. "They made it difficult for us to get into any type of offensive rhythm."

Still, Davis was disappointed in MT's inside play, and said he felt that the team didn't compete at a level near its full potential.

The guard positions offered reason for optimism, as O'Neil and fellow sophomore Kevin Kanaskie turned in solid performances.

Kanaskie led the Blue Raiders with

13 points and six assists, and provided a steady hand at point guard. O'Neil added 11 points and, along with Theryn Hudson, pulled down eight rebounds.

Davis also praised the play of sophomore Nigel Johnson, who saw 19 quality minutes of action before fouling out.

Jajuan Smith led UT with 16 points. Dane Bradshaw added 12 points and seven rebounds for the home team, while highly touted freshman Wayne Chism chipped in 11 points in just 10 minutes of action.

The Blue Raiders will travel to the Virgin Islands for the Paradise Jam this weekend to take on No. 10 Alabama at 12 p.m.

## Nickson up for award, MT accepts new signees



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Junior Damon Nickson, seen here playing against FAU two weeks ago, is a semifinalist for the inaugural Randy Moss Return Man Award. Nickson returned a kickoff for 94 yards and a touchdown to contribute to the 35-14 win over FAU two weeks ago.

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

### Football news:

Junior Damon Nickson has been named as a semifinalist for the inaugural Randy Moss Return Man Award, which was announced by the Game Day Consultants and Gulf Coast Events. The return specialist award is given to the I-A athlete who shows exceptional talent and skill on punt and kickoff returns. The award is voted on by NCAA Sports Information Directors and will be presented for the first time at the 2007 North South All-Star Classic in Houston. Nickson is one of 18 players who made the nationwide list.

The finalist selections will be named on Dec. 13, and the winner will be announced and presented the award on Jan. 13, 2007.

Junior Bradley Robinson and senior Colby Smith were named Sun Belt Conference Players of the Week, marking the third time Middle Tennessee has won the defensive and special teams awards. Robinson was named Defensive Player of the Week for his 88-yard touchdown interception off Arkansas State's quarterback Corey Leonard.

The return was the fourth-longest in MT history. Smith was named for the special teams award after kicking a 51-yard punt and two more that were inside the 20-yard line. He also nailed a 29-yard field goal and finished the game with eight points.

Middle Tennessee has won 11 Player of the Week awards, equaling the same number the team received during the 2001 co-championship year.

Next season the Sun Belt Conference will welcome newcomer Western Kentucky from the Gateway Football Conference to I-A football. The Hilltoppers won the NCAA Division I-AA national championship in 2002 and now hope to compete with the other schools within the SBC. The Hilltoppers are currently 4-3 GFC and 4-4 overall,

and if they win this weekend over Austin Peay, they will have their 11th straight winning season. The Board of Regents voted 7-2 to move WKU into Division I-A status as of Nov. 2, 2006. WKU will be able to participate in the SBC championship, but the team will not be bowl eligible until the 2009 season. The transition for WKU will include a schedule in which the Hilltoppers will face six NCAA Division I-A programs in 2007 and then eight in the 2008 season. The 2009 season will see WKU playing against a full Division I-A team schedule.

### Baseball news:

The Blue Raider baseball team has six national letters-of-intent signees for the fall: Tyler Burnett, Justin Miller, PJ Franceson, Tyler Acker, Michael Adamson and Bryce Brentz. Adamson and Brentz can play dual roles in the outfield and as pitchers.

Burnett comes to MT from Oakland High School. He is an All-District shortstop who hit .391 in his junior year and hit .452 this summer. Burnett has been a multi-sport athlete at Oakland, playing at quarterback and punter this fall. He had All-Region honors as a punter last year.

Miller has been an All-State player while at Bearden High School in Knoxville, averaging .430 with 13 doubles and seven home runs last year.

Brentz of Doyle High School in Knoxville was second in doubles and third on RBIs as a junior. Brentz is a three-year letter-winner for his team and was voted Most Outstanding Pitcher at Project Exposure. He was named a Preseason All-American for this coming season by the Baseball Factory and Team One.

Adamson will graduate from Freeburg Community High School in Freeburg, Ill. after this season. Adamson boasts strong numbers at the plate (career .434 average, 110 RBIs and 14 home runs) and on the mound (20-5 record with 166 strikeouts in 128 innings). He also is a two-sport

player and earned Second Team All-Conference honors in basketball after getting his 1000th career point in his junior year.

Franceson is a right-handed pitcher from Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, Tenn. As a pitcher, he has 95 strikeouts in 66 innings with a 1.60 ERA. He joins former teammate Drew Robinson, who is currently a freshman at MT.

Acker, a catcher from Donelson Christian Academy in Nashville, was an All-District selection in his sophomore and junior year and also earned All-Region accolades in his junior year. He batted .468 with three homers and 29 RBIs last season and set a school record with 51 hits. Acker is a three-letter winner in football and earned All-Region Honorable Mention honors.

### Tennis news:

Middle Tennessee continues its signing class with the addition of Kyle Wishing this week. Wishing is a native of Murfreesboro and won the 2004 Class AAA state singles title for Siegel High School. Wishing's title in his sophomore year was the first state championship for Siegel High in any sport, but he wasn't done there, leading the Stars to a Class AAA team title last season.

Early this month Richard Cowden signed on with the men's tennis program. Cowden is a native of Durban, South Africa, and is currently attending Westville Boys High School and intends to graduate in December. For his last four years at Westville, Cowden has been a First Team All-Area selection. He was the captain for two of the four seasons and was ranked sixth in singles and first in doubles in the U-18 division. He is second in singles and fifth in doubles in the Under-23 age group.

Cowden has competed in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Junior Tennis program for the last four years and was voted to the All-South Africa High School Team in 2005. He also received honors in tennis in

2005 and 2006 and received the Award for Sporting Excellence earlier this year.

### Golf news:

Jason Millard from Riverdale High School has signed a national letter-of-intent with Middle Tennessee. Millard was named Golfer of the Year as a junior by the Daily News Journal and earned a place on the All-Area Golf Team. The American Junior Golf Association has him ranked No. 75 nationally, and he completed his high school career with a fourth-place finish in the TSSAA Class AAA State Golf Tournament, receiving a low medalist award in the Region 4-AAA Tournament last month. Millard had two Top 100 finishes in the state tournament and was a three-time All-State selection.

Sophomore Chas Narramore was named Sun Belt Conference Male Golfer of the Month this week after finishing his fall season. He finished 15th, third and ninth over the fall season and posted career-best rounds. This is Narramore's first conference honor and the second for Middle Tennessee since teammate Rick Cochran won the honor earlier this September.

### Softball news:

The Middle Tennessee softball team will be welcoming two additions to the club. Brittney Banania has signed with the team for the 2008 season. Banania is a dual position player who can play any position in the infield, but her main position is shortstop. She batted .398 with San Pedro High School in San Pedro, Calif., and scored 32 runs while collecting 41 hits and nine RBIs.

Amy Candioto signed to play with the Blue Raiders in the 2007 season. Candioto is a transfer student from Central Michigan University. She is a right-handed pitcher who pitched for 14.1 innings in 2006. Candioto played in 11 games and had a record of 2-3.



MEN'S A LEAGUE PLAYOFFS		
Team 1 (Winner) (Forfeit)	VS.	Bootleggers
FBI 19	VS.	Team 615 12
OSC 34	VS.	Tha Team 0
BTA's 12	VS.	Dream Team 6
Make it Rain 21	VS.	Speed Kills 13
Sirs Cheef A lot 25	VS.	Fun Boyz 6
Dem Whyte Boyz 21	VS.	Sucks 4 U 0
Showtime at Apollo 21	VS.	BTA's 0
Team 1 13	VS.	FBI 6
Dem Whyte Boyz 16	VS.	OSC 9

MEN'S B LEAGUE PLAYOFFS		
Hammered Bullets 28	VS.	Tha Show 20
Kappa Sigma 6	VS.	Effin All-Stars 0
Team Soul Train 21	VS.	RUF (#2) 12
H.C. Tigers 14	VS.	Outlaws 12
Shake n Bake 26	VS.	BTS 12
UnderWater Basket Weavers 19	VS.	Flying Purple Cobra 13
Warrior Face 19	VS.	Da Bears 6
Prime Time 13	VS.	Team Ramrod 0
Kappa Sigma 28	VS.	Hammered Bullets 14
Team Soul Train 20	VS.	H.C. Tigers 0
Shake n Bake 12	VS.	Warrior Face 6
Prime Time 6	VS.	Underwater Basket Weavers 0



### I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

# Trevor Jenkins: Bad source extraordinaire

Earlier this morning, at the weekly press luncheon, defensive tackle Trevor Jenkins did his best to try and create some drama for my column. First, he told me that he's retiring to attend seminary school. Then he said he's tired of a locker room so filled with contention. He said the coaching staff is obsessed with this week's Homecoming for head coach Rick Stockstill and athletic director Chris Massaro (who both migrated to MT from South Carolina's athletic department).

He told me a lot of really juicy stuff and he almost kept a straight face doing it, but we all know the truth about MT. We don't need Trevor Jenkins to give us the scoop.

The truth is, the Blue Raiders ... are boring. Don't get me wrong: On the field they are one of the most exciting teams I've ever watched. But off the field? Let's just say Jeff Fisher should get these guys to do his press releases. They actually are as clean as he swears his players will be any day now.

Locker room drama? Nada. Selfish stars? Good luck getting that quote. Player/coach competitions? No way, this team is thankfully devoid of Terrell Owens or Chad Johnson types.

At his weekly conference, Stockstill was asked if he was worried about playing such a large game on the tail end of their schedule. While he admitted that he wished they could go ahead and play the Troy game this week, he didn't seem at all concerned of any fallout following a loss.

I see three good reasons for this rationale:

First of all, contrary to popular belief, losing a non-conference game doesn't affect MT's bowl eligibility, and it doesn't mean that they would be distracted against Troy. Two of MT's biggest conference wins this year have been after non-conference losses.

The second big reason is, as Stockstill himself admitted, several of his players are banged up, and one more week to heal before the biggest game of MT's season couldn't hurt.

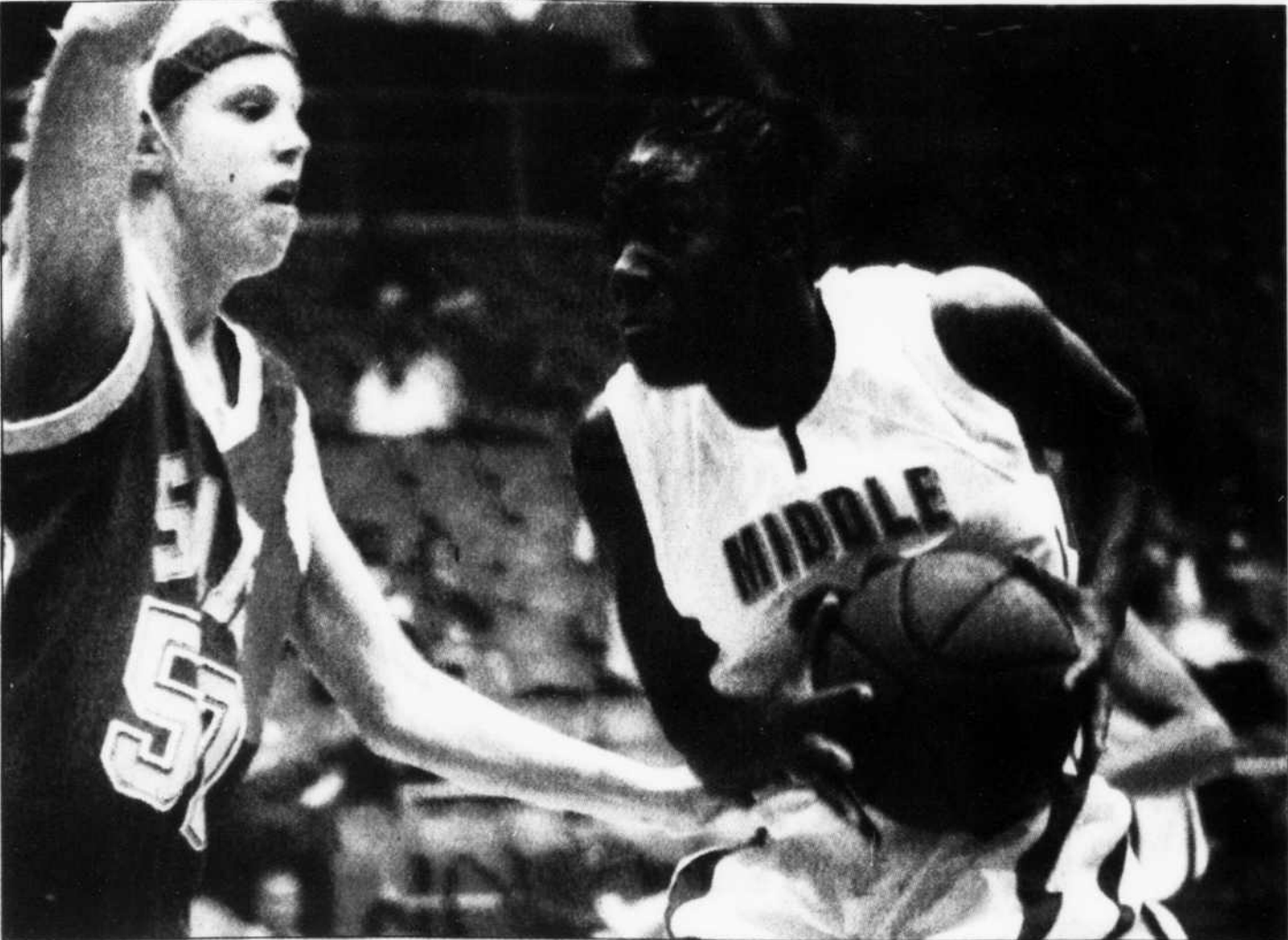
This isn't to say MT isn't practicing hard or gunning for Steve Spurrier's South Carolina team (I couldn't bring myself to type gunning for Spurrier's Gamecocks outside of a parenthetical), but the Blue Raiders aren't the Indianapolis Colts and they aren't a lock for the playoffs, so don't expect to see any players sitting out because this game doesn't matter. They all matter.

My third reason, and the biggest reason MT will still come out and play hard, is that the Blue Raiders could actually win. Riding a four-game winning streak and following a strong game against Louisville, MT has more momentum than the Gamecocks. In fact, after disappointing losses to Auburn, Tennessee and Spurrier's alma mater in the Swamp, South Carolina has proven it doesn't have a killer instinct. Since they need this game to have a shot at a bowl game, don't expect the Gamecocks to come out flat, but a good punch in the mouth early could knock them down a few pegs.

MT is a team without drama and with a shared goal to play beyond their "small school" status. A win against such a talent-filled team could help solidify MT as an up-and-coming program.

Win, lose, or draw against South Carolina, the game next week is definitely the biggest of the year.

A win over Troy would earn the Blue Raiders a conference championship, a bowl game and a new record for most conference wins in a single season. And the way they are playing right now (in the last three weeks, MT has had eight of the nine Sun Belt Players of the Week), it's their title to lose.



Senior guard Chrissy Givens gets ready to force her way past South Dakota State defensive player during the game. Middle Tennessee lost to South Dakota State 72-61.

# Lady Raiders fall to So. Dakota

Monday, Nov. 13  
MT 61  
So. Dakota 72

Next Game at  
Minn. Tournament,  
Saturday, Nov. 18

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders may have expected a bit of a letdown against South Dakota State after narrowly falling to the defending national champion Maryland Terrapins, but suffice it to say they didn't expect this.

Middle Tennessee shot 30 percent from the floor and fell 72-61

to the Jackrabbits, who picked up their second win in three years at the Murphy Center. SDSU shot a blistering 56 percent, and the Lady Raiders simply could not respond.

"This was their first game and they came out and stuck us," MT head coach Rick Insell told MT Media Relations.

"They executed their offensive and shot 55 percent from the floor," Insell said. "The shots they were getting had a lot to do with our poor job getting to the offensive and defensive boards."

The battle of the boards became a huge key in the game, as the Lady Raiders were out-rebounded, 37-29.

Amber Holt recorded her first double-double as a Blue Raider, but along with the other Blue Raiders, Holt had a rough day shooting the basketball. Chrissy Givens also had another sub-par

night, as Givens was held under 50 percent shooting as well for the entire game.

The defense of the Lady Raiders was stingy, however, as SDSU senior forward Megan Vogel attested.

"Middle Tennessee is a great team," Vogel told MT Media Relations. "They are really athletic and they have good post and perimeter players. Their defense was all up in our grill all night."

"That's one thing we prepared for with our practice guys. Give credit to them, all night they played hard and right down to the wire."

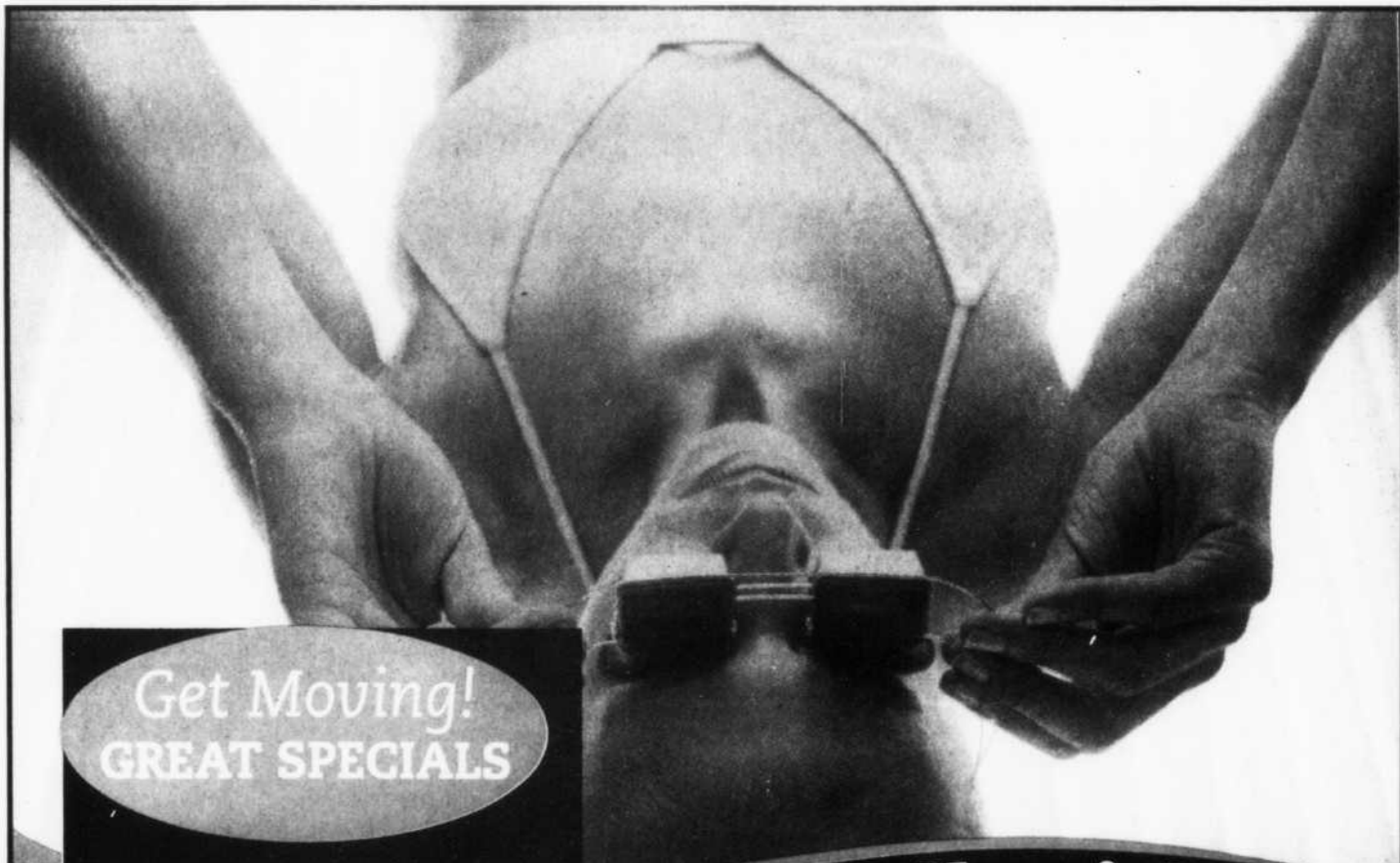
The Lady Raiders had another strong performance from freshman Chelsia Lymon, who had 10 points off the bench for MT. Lymon and the other newcomers did not fare as well, as Jackie Pickel was the only other freshman to score with three points. The fresh-

men and newcomers will be watched closely in the coming weeks as the team heads into the tail end of their non-conference schedule.

Lymon remained upbeat after the game, explaining that the team just needed to work harder and put the pieces back together.

"We have got to go to work," Lymon told MT Media Relations. "The team is struggling on defense and rebounding. Once we get our rebounding down and denying the wings, we will be alright. It's early and later on this season, I think everything will start working out."

The road does not get any easier for the Lady Raiders, as they travel to Minnesota for the Subway Classic along with Maine, Minnesota and Princeton. Maine opens the tournament for the Lady Raiders Saturday.



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