



Mostly Cloudy



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

News regarding the sexual harassment complaint against
university President Sidney McPhee will be available
online during the winter break as it is available.

Dancers prepare to leap into action

In Living, 6



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 48

Campus Briefs

Linebaugh partners with writing program

Linebaugh Public Library will host a public reading from MTSU's creative writing program, The Writer's Loft. The Writer's Loft is an 18-month program consisting of workshops, one-on-one mentoring, public readings and panel discussions offered by MTSU's Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service. The reading will be Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

In conjunction, best-selling novelist and National Public Radio commentator Silas House will also be at Linebaugh Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. to read from and sign copies of his books *A Parchment of Leaves* and *Clay's Quilt*.

House will discuss both books, talk about the writing process and then take questions. Copies of his books will be available for sale.

For more information on The Writer's Loft, contact Roy Burkhead at 898-5033.

AIDS awareness topic of forum tonight

The MTSU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will present an AIDS awareness forum.

It will be presented in the Keathley University Center theater at 7 p.m. tonight and is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Kendra Bell at 898-3133.

[flash] showcase at Boro Bar and Grill

The final [flash] showcase of the semester will be tomorrow at the Boro Bar and Grill at 9:30 p.m. The three bands will be Glossary, The Loft and Don't Trust the Radio. The cover is \$5.

For more information call [flash] editor Lindsey Turner at 898-2917.

Local orchestra plays Christmas concert

Next Monday, the Murfreesboro Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform "A Celtic Christmas." The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at Tucker Theatre. Tickets for students are \$10.

For more information contact the Philharmonic office at 898-1862.

High schoolers play for championship

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association will hold the Blue Cross Bowl on campus Friday and Saturday.

The games will be held at Floyd Stadium at 3:30 and 7 p.m., respectively, on Friday. Games on Saturday will be at noon, 3:30 and 7 p.m.

For more information contact 889-6740. ♦

Dorms deemed safe after fire

By Erica Rodefer
Staff Writer

MTSU buildings and dormitories measure up to required city and state fire safety codes, according to officials.

An electrical fire, which occurred Oct. 8, caused Residential Life to evacuate 387 students from their dorm rooms in Reynolds Hall for almost a week.

"The issue that happened at Reynolds was a total fluke of the system," said Sarah Sudak, director of housing and residential life. "It had nothing to do with the building infrastructure at all."

The fire, which originated with electrical structures outside of the dorm, was an uncommon occurrence that officials do not expect to be duplicated in other buildings on campus.

"I'm not going to say it couldn't happen again," said Murfreesboro Fire Inspector Carl Peas. "But it's the first time I ever saw it happen."

"It wasn't something that could've been foreseen or predicted," Peas added.

The buildings are regularly maintained and checked for possible safety issues, said Sudak, and must be brought up to date each time they are modified.

"When we do renovations in buildings we're required to

upgrade the fire system," she said, "and all of our buildings have been renovated."

All the engineers that were on site at the fire, the Murfreesboro Electric Department and the electrical contractors that replaced the wiring do not believe the fire in Reynolds is cause for an additional investigation into the safety of other dormitories, Sudak said.

"They're looking at the way the wiring is done, but they don't believe we have an issue," Sudak said.

Though all the buildings are within the acceptable fire code for their particular structure, Sudak admitted that they are not in accordance with the most current 2003 codes.

"They may be [up to] 2003 standards. We don't have sprinklers in every room, and they're not all connected to the central system, but they're all upgraded in their particular areas," Sudak explained.

MTSU has a master plan to have sprinklers installed in every room in every building on campus in the next five to 10 years, Peas said.

He applauded the school's efforts at fire safety and prevention.

"MTSU takes a very aggressive approach to ensure the safety of students," he said. "Any deficiencies, they jump right on and get them fixed." ♦

Regents arrive for quarterly meeting

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Board of Regents will meet on campus from Wednesday to Friday to conduct its quarterly meeting.

According to Mary Morgan, director of communications for the TBR, about 150 people will be attending the meeting.

"We think it's important for our board members to get on the campuses," Morgan said.

The first afternoon will be spent in an academic meeting to discuss the nursing schools at Roane State Community College and Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

Thursday and Friday will be days of regularly scheduled meetings and discussions. Thursday will consist of com-

mittee meetings. The actual board meeting will take place Friday morning.

The TBR will discuss the reduction of credit hours, among other things, during the meeting. They will also review plans on how to allocate the 5 percent reduction that Gov. Phil Bredesen has asked from the TBR, and the possible impacts the reduction will have on admission to higher education and tuition prices.

The 5 percent cut from state funding will mean a \$54.4 million loss from the two higher education systems, TBR and University of Tennessee.

A new code of ethics policy is also on the agenda. At the moment, there is no way to

See Regents, 2

MTPoll tracks Tennesseans' opinions on variety of issues

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

The Survey Group of MTSU has recently published their new MTPoll results.

The MTPoll fulfills the research part of one of MTSU's three missions: teaching, service and research.

The poll gives students first-hand experience in public relations work.

"The poll gives Tennessee a chance to have a conversation with itself about important issues," said associate director Ken Blake.

"We ask questions about important issues and ask Tennessee, 'Is this how you want to look?'" Blake said. "This year we asked about gay and lesbian rights, which will

be a huge issue in the upcoming presidential election. We asked about the death penalty, support for a state income tax and opinions on how the governor and president are doing."

To decide who is going to be polled, the Survey Group uses a company in Pennsylvania to compose a random digit-dialing sample of all phone numbers in Tennessee. A little more than a thousand individuals were polled this year.

A group of 600 people were asked one set of questions and had an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Another group of 400 people was asked a different set of questions with an error margin of plus or minus 5 percentage

points.

Blake points out that "this is a very professional procedure. These are the error margins most professionals use."

The poll is conducted by faculty and students who are enrolled in the free expression course or an introduction to public relations course. The students make phone calls and ask questions while the faculty programs the computers, set up the results, and publicize them.

"The poll could not be done without the students, but it also takes the faculty," Blake said. "We would not be able to get the results on our own."

Some of the major issues

See Poll, 2

Is it safe?

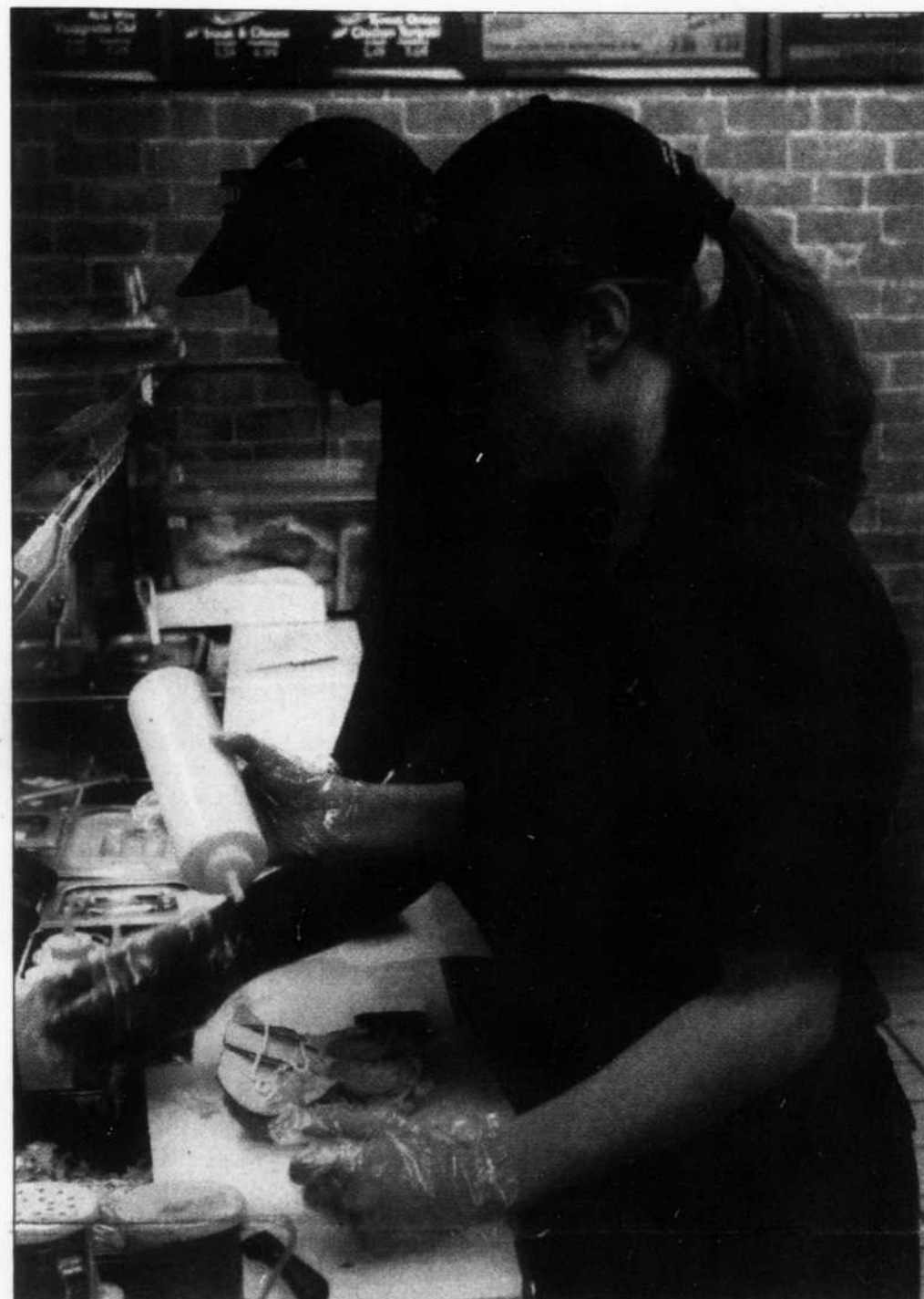


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Jennifer Cradduk and Robert Wade prepare sandwiches at the Subway in the Woodmore Cyber Café. The eatery scored a 77 on their health inspection.

Cafeterias clean up following inspections

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Four dining facilities at MTSU received health department inspection scores below 80, largely due to the age of the facilities and the equipment, university and health department officials said.

Dining services manager Paul Stuart said that the size and the condition of the older buildings make getting a high score very difficult.

"Our goal is to try to keep the scores above 80, but we are in desperate need of a new student union and new dining facilities," Stuart said.

He said that this was one of the most thorough inspections he has seen at MTSU. All the facilities where food is prepared were inspected by the Rutherford County Health

Department Nov. 6.

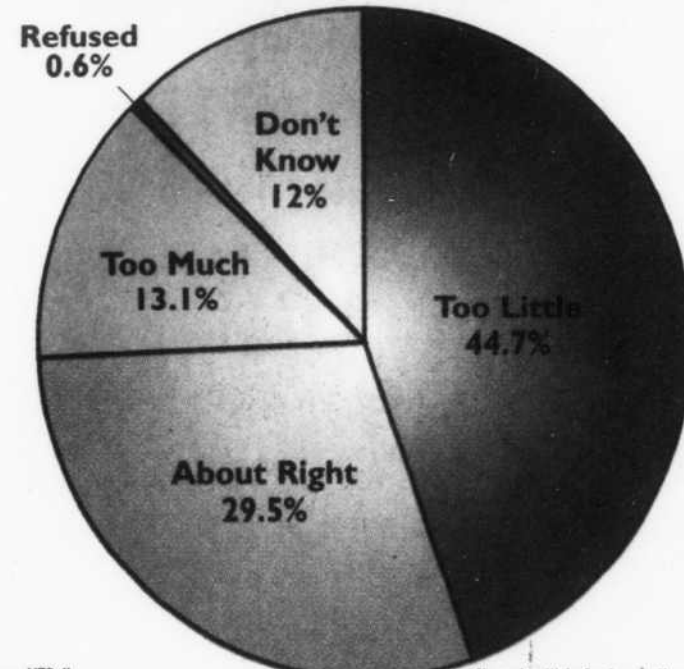
The four dining areas are located in older buildings, and Stuart said that things like decaying ceilings and floor tiles would be marked as violations. Most of the violations were related to the condition of the buildings and resulted in several one and two point deductions for each facility.

The Grill at the Keathley University Center scored the lowest at 68. The James Union Building cafeteria received a 74, as did McCallie Dining. The Cyber Café at Woodmore scored a 77.

Violations at the KUC Grill included toxic items being stored in the food prep area, employees not following proper hygiene practices and food not kept at the proper temperature.

See Clean, 2

University Spending Levels



Source: MTPoll

Chart by Nick Fowler | News Editor

Clean: Roaches found on floor in McCallie Dining area

Continued from 1

Stuart explained that the "toxic item" was a protein powder that was previously used in the smoothies made at Freshens.

"The label warned that it may be not be safe for pregnant and nursing mothers, so we stopped using it over a year ago. The health inspector classified it as a chemical," Stuart said. He did not know why it had not been disposed of since its use was discontinued.

The improper hygiene violation resulted from the sushi chef not wearing gloves over a bandage on his hand. The food temperature violation was noted at the omelet bar.

"We don't have cold wells, so we keep the ingredients on ice while we are using them," Stuart said. "We had a managers' meeting the next day and decided to keep offering the omelets, so we will have to keep checking the

ice continually."

The JUB violations also included improper hygiene and improperly stored chemicals.

"An employee used a cloth towel instead of a paper towel after washing his hands and someone used a towel as an oven mitt," Stuart explained. He said that the facility was cited for keeping cleaning supplies in the same closet as the paper towels and aprons.

"We have stored them (the towels and aprons) that way for years, but now it is perceived as a violation," Stuart said. The towels and aprons have since been moved.

The re-inspection of the JUB resulted in an adjusted score of 84, according to dining manager Patrick Marshall.

The Subway at the Cyber Café at Woodmore was cited for having the microwave on a counter next to a hand sink without a splashguard.

"We have to have a specific splash guard for the sink and

the part is on order," dining manager Danny Deguira said. "Subway designed this without a splash guard, but in Tennessee you have to have one."

Deguira said that the part is on order and until it can be installed the microwave has been moved. The re-inspection score for the Cyber Café was 86.

Dead roaches were found on the floor in the McCallie Dining area. Other violations included not having a heater on a portable paper-washing unit and toilet paper stored in the same area as cleaning supplies.

Manager Jerry Ewen refused to disclose the facility's re-inspection score.

"They were inspected the morning after they had been sprayed," Stuart explained. "The problem is that there are people and food on the floors above the dining area, and they don't spray nearly as often as we do, so we can never really get ahead of it."

Stuart said that Ecolab sprays

all the dining areas monthly.

Stacy Finks, an environmental specialist with the state of Tennessee, said that the scores were lower than usual, but she agreed that scores would be lower in buildings as old as the ones at MTSU.

"They do get marked a lot due to the age of the facilities, but these scores are not that bad," Finks said. "I wouldn't have a problem eating there."

Director of student services Robert Glenn said that there were no immediate plans for renovations at any of the dining halls.

"In the budget environment we are in, expensive repairs are delayed," Glenn said. "We would have to increase the cost of food at the grills and increase the cost of the meal plans to pay for renovations, so we attempt to control unnecessary repairs. We have to be sure to fix things that can't wait another year." ♦

Crime Log

Compiled By L.P. Anderson

A partial listing of incidents filed by the MTSU Police Department between Nov. 19 and Nov. 30 included:

Wednesday, Nov. 19 – 5:43 p.m.
Kirksey Old Main

A lamp inside a professor's office caught on fire.

Thursday, Nov. 20 – 12:43 p.m.
Greenhouse Parking Lot

A light blue Daewoo Lagonda hit another vehicle and then left the scene of the crime.

Saturday, Nov. 22 – 1:52 a.m.
Scarlett Commons

A red bicycle was stolen.

Saturday, Nov. 22 – 7:10 p.m.
Schardt Hall

Gary S. Wade, of Franklin, Tenn., was charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage.

Saturday, Nov. 22 – 10:04 p.m.
Family Apartment G

A resident reported that the tires on his vehicle were slashed.

Monday, Nov. 24 – 12:36 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Gymnasium

Someone broke into the gymnasium, stealing goods valued at under \$500.

Monday, Nov. 24 – 3:24 p.m.
Murphy Center

A student reported that his bicycle had been stolen from the area.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 – 4:16 p.m.
Beasley Hall

A male student reported harassing phone calls that he has received for several months.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 – 5:49 p.m.
Kappa Alpha fraternity house

A grease fire contained within a barrel occurred.

Wednesday, Nov. 26 – 8:42 p.m.
Gracy Hall

Two female students received repeated telephone calls from a man describing their room.

Sunday, Nov. 30 – 12:01 a.m.
Gore Hall

An unidentified male pounded on the door of a girl's dorm room. The male then unsuccessfully tried to enter the room. ♦

Poll: State should spend more on education according to poll

Continued from 1

from the poll this year were the lottery, state finances and civil rights issues.

According to the poll, the majority of Tennesseans support the lottery, but only one-third of the people plan on playing.

Some critics of the lottery say these poll results indicate that the program will be a failure, but Blake sees some positive aspects to the results.

"This is still a lot of tickets though. There are about 4.5

million people 18 and older in Tennessee and if only a third play that are still about 1.3 million people playing," Blake said.

When asked about state finances, three-fourths of residents think the state is not spending enough money on elementary and secondary education. In the past few years, when people were asked what Tennessee's main problem is, education was always at the top of the list or close to it.

Forty-five percent of those polled think that too little is spent on state universities.

"When asked where the extra money should come from for education, 40 percent said from taxes, 35 percent said from a raise in tuition and one-fourth did not know," Blake said.

On one of the main issues concerning the civil rights of gays and lesbians, the poll asked if homosexual couples should have equal rights in housing and employment.

Eighty percent said homosexuals should have equal rights in employment and 81 percent said they should have equal rights in housing.

However, when asked if homosexuals should have equal marital rights 53 percent of people claiming to be liberals, 26 percent of independents and 7 percent of conservatives said yes.

The Office of Communication Research, the College of Mass Communication, the John Seigenthaler Chair and the School of Journalism funded the poll. To find out more about the results from the poll go to www.mtsusurveygroup.org. ♦

Regents: Parking spaces reserved for visiting board members

Continued from 1

make sure Tennessee's higher education would be offering the state the kinds of education and educated people that will be needed in terms of financial and technological changes.

The Vision of Excellence

report is the first item on the Board's agenda.

Morgan said that the TBR recognizes that parking is tight and something of a problem on campus, so buses will be available to shuttle people from hotels to campus.

Many other attendees will

find it easier to drive from their homes in Nashville directly to the campus instead of staying overnight in a hotel.

"We do try to minimize the impact of parking," Morgan said.

To accommodate them, the parking lot next to the Smith

baseball field, across from Wright Music Hall, will be reserved for attendees. Approximately 100 spaces will be reserved as well as space for buses. Students and faculty that usually park in that area will need to park elsewhere during the three-day event.

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flash

on stands thursday

More jobs expected in spring, new study says

By Nicole Bilbrew
Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES – Graduating seniors of the class of 2004 may find more employment opportunities than last year's graduates, according to a study by Michigan State University.

In the spring of 2004, the percent of students who will be hired straight out of college is predicted to increase from 3 percent to 8 percent, according to a report conducted by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute, a sector of MSU's Career Services and Placement center.

Released last month, the report, titled "Recruiting Trends," is based on a national survey of 450 employers who projected their probability for employing students with bachelor degrees.

According to this year's survey, 60 percent will hire more students out of college than last year.

Phil Gardner, director of the institute and principal investigator of the survey, found the number predicted in last year's report was fairly close to what actually happened in the various job markets.

"They (the surveys) tell a picture, they tell a story, and we try to make students prepared for what the story says," he said.

Gardner, who has headed the research institute for 19 years and conducted the survey for the past six years, said certain sectors such as retail, bank-

ing and constructing management tend to be the strongest sections of the economy.

But these sectors have not been hiring very much over the past years because of the failing economy.

Usually, students with majors in technical and health fields tend to have the most opportunities due to the direct connection with the actual labor fields, Gardner said.

According to this year's survey, students with majors in business, biological or physical sciences will see the largest increase in opportunities.

The figures, however, do not account for all majors, Gardner said.

Fields such as communications are still highly competitive and jobs in engineering and information technology are still hard to come by.

Gardner listed health care costs, in addition to productivity gains, as factors that have contributed to the change.

The main distinction, he noted, is the current shift in the design of the economy that requires different types of labor.

"We're restructuring the economy from a manufacturing economy to a knowledge economy. As we make this shift, we're seeing a lot of changes," he said.

Though the survey is particularly designed to assist graduating seniors, college freshmen may also be able to benefit.

Freshmen should look at this survey and try to assess the type of skills they should develop above and beyond their particular majors, Gardner said. In addition, they should develop a plan for next four years.

"A freshman should think about just getting involved and the certain activities that are available," he said.

Freshmen should initially try to participate in community service projects as well as student-based organizations to make themselves better candidates for future employers, Gardner said.

This way, they will develop communication skills while learning how to work in a group environment.

In their sophomore year, students should try to gain experience in their field of interest and they should consider study abroad programs.

In their junior year, students should focus on attaining an academic-based internship, Gardner said.

For the senior who may not have been active in college or never landed an internship, the best route to take would be to focus on what skills he or she possesses and what fields or companies might have a need for them, Gardner said.

For example, Gardner said he was aware of a student who had developed a project proposal and funding request while working in student employment. She did not have an internship

when she applied for a job, but she also overlooked the skills she got while working on the project.

"It's harder, but if they take the time, they can get a job," he said.

Not all graduating seniors view this survey as a glimpse of hope, however.

Laura Nuñez, a University of South California senior majoring in cinema-television critical studies, said she does not pay attention to these types of reports.

"I feel that those studies focus more on white-collar jobs. They don't really include other industries," she said.

Nuñez, who wants to pursue a career in art direction, said she is still worried about the number of opportunities that will be available in the entertainment field, particularly in Los Angeles.

There are more jobs in Toronto and Vancouver now than ever before because of the cheaper cost of production and lack of labor unions, she said.

"I literally just have to depend on the kindness of strangers, people I know, people who I have worked with before," she said. Another reason Nuñez said she does not feel the results of the survey are predictions she should consider is the time of her actual entrance into the workforce.

"I graduate in two weeks, so it's kind of scary," she said. "I don't have the luxury of waiting until the spring. I have to find a job now." ♦

New breast cancer detection method might prevent biopsies

By Geoffrey Ziezulewicz
Minnesota Daily

(U-WIRE) MINNEAPOLIS – University of Minnesota Cancer Center researchers hope a technique they are developing will prevent unnecessary surgeries for people with potentially cancerous breast lumps.

Their findings were published in the Nov. 21 issue of the journal *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine*.

Currently, X-rays and surgeries are used to diagnose a potential breast cancer tumor. But these methods are not perfect.

A biopsy, a surgery in which doctors extract tissue from a breast tumor to determine if the tumor is cancerous, has its own side effects, said Caryl Range of the American Cancer Society.

"Even having a biopsy can disfigure the breast," Range said.

The technique being studied involves detecting lumps and then measuring levels of a chemical compound called choline, all without taking a tissue sample from the breast lump.

University researchers have found that choline levels are higher in cancerous tumors, said Dr. Doug Yee, one of

the study's authors.

The long-term goal of the ongoing study, Yee said, will be to try to understand which women can avoid having a biopsy by detecting the higher choline levels in cancerous breast lumps without surgery. Doctors first detect lumps using magnetic resonance imaging.

During the process, a patient is slid into a tube-like chamber where magnetic pulses indicate to researchers if a troublesome lump exists.

"That's been our biggest limitation: Women who don't want to go into the tube," Yee said of the tight confines inside the MRI machine.

After a lump is identified, a newer technique called spectroscopy identifies the choline levels in the lump, and whether it is cancerous.

Previous research methods did not attempt to detect the level of choline in lumps, he said.

"What we're trying to do is not just see the lump, but figure out what the lump is doing," Yee said. "We're trying to develop a test to say 'you have this much choline.'"

Range said the study is an advance, but it is still too early to determine if such a technique will alleviate the need for some biopsies.

Biopsies are an expensive medical process, she said, and getting a sample of the possibly cancerous tissue can be difficult.

"Unless the spot is big enough, you may not even get the actual tumor itself on the first try," she said.

A biopsy can also take an emotional toll on a woman, Range said.

Pulling out part of a lump's tissue through a needle, or actually cutting into the breast, can leave scars on both the body and mind, she said.

"Any technique that can eliminate biopsies is something we would be supportive of," Range said. ♦

AIDS vaccine a distant goal for Brown University researchers

By Justin Elliott
Brown Daily Herald

(U-WIRE) PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In 1982, U.S. Secretary of Health Margaret Heckler said she expected an AIDS vaccine to be ready in two years.

That obviously didn't happen, said Brown University professor of medicine Dr. Charles Carpenter in a Monday afternoon panel on World AIDS Day.

Since then researchers have opened many fronts in the fight against HIV and AIDS, he said.

Carpenter moderated the panel on HIV research and prevention initiatives, which featured four doctors from the Brown University AIDS Program.

The forum presented a broad look at current areas of HIV/AIDS research from strategies for better adherence to drug regimens to the worldwide search for a vaccine.

Dr. Kenneth Mayer, professor of medicine and director of BRUNAP, said AIDS has already killed 28 million people, and another 42 million are living with the disease.

In the former Soviet Union, where HIV had been a relatively small problem, the infection rate has increased by 1,300 percent in the last few years, Mayer said.

"The numbers are just staggering," he said.

Research into microbicides-gels and creams used to prevent sexual transmission of HIV-1

not currently available, but there are many ongoing trials investigating the safety and efficacy of these compounds, including two in Providence, R.I., Mayer said.

Carpenter stressed the importance of these "chemical condoms" because "women get infected earlier and in greater numbers than men" and cannot always ensure use of condoms.

"The real beauty of these is that they're female controlled," he said.

Dr. Michelle Lally, an assistant professor of medicine and a faculty associate in BRUNAP, discussed new rapid HIV testing techniques—one of which requires only a finger prick and 20 minutes—and the state of vaccine research.

The new rapid tests, she said, are important because people who take conventional blood tests often fail to come in for their results several weeks later, Lally said.

"We talk about HIV and AIDS prevention at the same time, but if we can't prevent HIV," then we need to learn to prevent AIDS, she said.

"If we can find a way to implement this rapid testing," she said, people could get linked to care before they develop AIDS.

An estimated 200,000 Americans are unknowingly HIV-positive, Lally said. Most of the potential vaccines for HIV are in Phase One trials that test for drug safety in humans, she said. If proved safe, the vaccines

go on to larger and larger efficacy trials.

Lally said she hoped a vaccine would be available in seven to 10 years.

"We've got the best minds in the country and world," Carpenter said, "but it's an elusive goal."

Patients with unstable lives, such as the homeless and substance abusers, often have trouble adhering to their anti-HIV drug regimens, but Dr. Timothy Flanigan, associate director of BRUNAP, said, "We feel very strongly that there is no such thing as a patient that doesn't deserve to be treated."

To target these patients, Flanigan, also associate professor of medicine, said outreach workers are using Directly

Observed Therapy in which they go out, sometimes every day, to deliver the medication and watch patients take it.

"One outreach worker met [the patient] at the corner of the liquor store," he said. "Some people might not approve, but if it works, it works."

Adherence to drug regimens is particularly important, Flanigan said, because drug-resistant strains of the disease can develop.

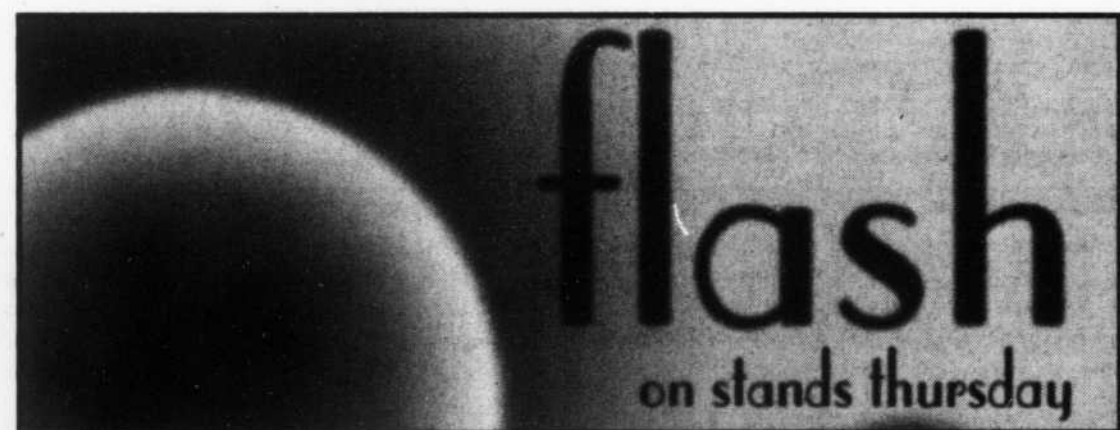
Dr. Karen Tashima, assistant professor of medicine and a faculty associate of BRUNAP, talked about studies available in the area for drug-resistant patients. She said the studies include one exploring complaints of memory loss in AIDS patients. ♦

Thank the Lord
for rock 'n' roll.

don't miss
the final
[flash] showcase
tomorrow

✧ Glossary ✧
✧ The Loft ✧
✧ Don't Trust
the Radio ✧

The Boro, 9:30 p.m. \$5



FINALS ARE UPON US.
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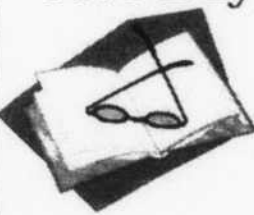
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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Hold the bandage, please

Sidelines was saddened and disheartened to learn that four dining facilities on our beloved campus received health department inspection scores lower than 80.

Unlike students on the edge of academic demise, an 80 does not equal another semester to improve on last-minute cramming and creative term paper topics. Anything below an 80 for dining facilities typically means an immediate overhaul of storage areas, food preparation surfaces and dining areas.

The Grill in the Keathley University Center received the lowest score of all four facilities with a pathetic 68. The James Union and McCallie cafeterias received 74s, and the Cyber Café at Woodmore received a 77 – all well below the average score of 80.

Dining Services manager Paul Stuart blames aging buildings for the cafeterias' low scores, citing decaying ceilings and floor tiles as one or two-point deductions. Obviously, math must not have been his strong suit. It is not possible that one and two point deductions caused by aging ceilings and floors could have equaled a score anywhere between 80 and 60.

One of the most audacious violations occurred in the KUC Grill when the sushi chef failed to wear gloves to cover a bandage on his hand. Can we say "lawsuit?" Other violations included toxic items being stored in the food preparation areas, employees not following proper hygiene practices and food not being stored at proper temperatures. These are all violations that could potentially cause serious illnesses.

We know that these scores may not come as a surprise to students who eat at these cafeterias regularly. Our staffers have witnessed cockroaches making their journeys across the McCallie and JUB cafeteria floors in search of discarded morsels of food.

An easy solution to this problem would be to bump up cleaning practices and take pride in properly sanitized eating facilities. Then again, that would be too easy. ♦

Correction

On page 10 of the Nov. 26 edition under the headline "Lady Raiders defeat SIU Salukis," senior guard Keisha McClintic was misidentified in the accompanying photo. *Sidelines* apologizes for the error.

SIDELINES

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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and a phone number for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

'Surprise' visit no need for media attention

Four Shots of Espresso



Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

Did anyone miss the President on the news or radio visiting troops in Baghdad?

In case you didn't see it or hear about it, President Bush made a top secret trip to Iraq to serve Thanksgiving dinner to some of the American troops overseas.

I commend President Bush for actually spending Thanksgiving with the people he placed over there for the holidays, but what I don't understand is

how the media viewed it.

For some reason, the ability to get the President overseas without anyone knowing has left many baffled. Why?

Our country has some of the most elaborate secret intelligence agencies in the world, and we're surprised that we can sneak a man out of our borders without tipping off some newspaper?

We're a little naive to think the U.S. government has been a little sneakier than this for far less noble ventures.

A group like the Taliban did it with Osama bin Laden. The previous state of Iraq did it with Saddam Hussein. I refuse to think that those institutions are more advanced than one

of the wealthiest countries in the world.

Don't you think we're in trouble if we can't sneak the President to safety if there were to be another attack on the United States? President Bush should have mentioned this in his "I'm thankful for ..." speech.

It's not like the United States of America hasn't hid anything before, much less a man.

Do we really believe there was no cover-up for Watergate, Whitewater or Roswell?

If our country can cover up alien beings falling from outer space and the source of millions of dollars, then surely George W. Bush can catch a plane.

It's not like the media just mentioned it once and moved on. They talked about it for at least a day, posted it on most of the newsgroups on the Internet, and yet people still talked about it like some novelty.

The oddest part still isn't that we're so amazed that Bush was able to do this; it's that we felt the need to tell everyone in the world we did it.

Somewhere Saddam Hussein is sitting back, drinking a margarita (or the Iraqi equivalent) and laughing at a television screen, thinking, "I can do that, too, but I don't have to tell people where I am to get a kick out of it."

I almost expected a class of six-year-olds to

jump out from behind the nearest sand dune, yelling, "I found you! I found you! My turn to hide!"

Movie stars must go through this need to be discrete on a daily basis. Why doesn't the *Washington Post* run a story on them when they can go out incognito successfully?

It seems to me that Julia Roberts being in the office supplies section at Wal-Mart is much more earth-shattering than George W. Bush serving turkey for five minutes in a country that he took over. ♦

Alan Coulter is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

Just say drug education

Human, All Too Human



Eric Blevins
Staff Columnist

The hypocrisy and immorality of the U.S. government's drug policy never ceases to amaze me. The degree to which the American people have been brainwashed to just accept this situation is almost beyond belief.

Tobacco and alcohol kill hundreds of thousands of people every year. Marijuana has not killed one person ever. How can people just accept this hand that their government has dealt them? The government is obviously not interested in the lives of its people.

They are, however, interested in destroying the lives of other people. They spray harmful chemicals on farms in Colombia, keeping third-world peasants from earning a living. These people are doing nothing but trying to meet a demand for a crop. What right does our government have to force our policies on them?

What right do they have to force their policies on us? It is immoral to force punishment on someone for something as private as a nonviolent drug offense. Nonviolent drug offenders

are clogging our prisons and costing hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes. The Federal Bureau of Prisons needed \$316 million this year alone for drug-related prison construction. Why do U.S. citizens stand for their money to be spent on keeping people from putting certain substances, which might as well have been arbitrarily chosen by the government, into their bodies?

Non-addictive, non-lethal substances are forbidden by the government, while highly-addictive, lethal substances are allowed. This is the policy of a government that preaches equality for all people. But as we all know, the practice of the government favors those who like tobacco and alcohol and attacks those who like weed, cocaine, heroin, LSD or whatever else you might look to for consciousness expansion. Is a casual pot smoker really worse for society than an alcoholic as our government seems to think?

Of course, the consequences of the legalization of all drugs scares most people. The only good reason for this fear is that our society has not been properly educated on the dangers of drugs.

People were given false information in school about drugs by the Drug and Alcohol Resistance

Education program and ended up looking at authority figures as being completely full of crap, which is true for the most part. What we need is proper education of children on the physical and psychological effects of drugs, not cops telling them, "Just say no." As long as you know the risks you are taking, who has the right to stop you?

Remember, citizens that believe in true democracy should fight for the rights of all people to express themselves freely and as equals, even if they may disagree with some people's views. Just because you may be disgusted by junkies or even occasional marijuana users, you have no right to try to eliminate them from society by force.

Check out www.drug-warfacts.com for the dismal consequences of the drug war. For a real education on drugs, see *Buzzed: The Straight Facts About the Most Used and Abused Drugs From Alcohol to Ecstasy* by Cynthia Kuhn, Ph.D., Scott Swartzwelder, Ph.D., and Wilkie Wilson, Ph.D. ♦

Eric Blevins is a senior mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at ericblev@hotmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Give thanks for all you have

To the Editor:

Is it any wonder why the season of Thanksgiving directly precedes the season of giving? That just struck me this weekend, and how it may be that way on the Gregorian calendar, but it is also that way with human nature.

When a person truly takes hold of what they have and is sincerely thankful for it, that person cannot help but give something away. Whether it be material goods, actions of good deeds, or simply, but often most importantly, words of encouragement. I am usually not a national news watcher, but my parents told me a story that made national news this time last year. I will do my best to relay it accurately.

Two high school football teams were playing in the state playoffs. One team was winning by a good margin, so it was inevitably the final game for the losing team. On that losing team was a senior who had been on the team all four years and dressed for every game though he had never played a single play. I believe that he practiced very passively because he could not participate in anything that would lead to rough physical contact. The player was particularly fragile because of a health reason. Although being on the football team was his dream, it would be severely damaging to him if he were to participate in the actual game. But the coach had a soft spot in his heart for the kid and let him stay on the team.

The coach had arranged it with the opposing team's coach that no matter what the outcome, he was going to let this kid play the last play of the game and asked him to remind his players to be very careful not to hit him. As the players lined up for the final play, the opposing coach called timeout. He sent word to the coach saying, "Give him the ball." He then instructed his players on what to do. Once again they lined up for the final play of the game.

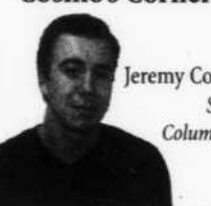
The quarterback received the snap and handed it to their physically challenged player. Confused, he took the ball and looked at the quarterback. "Run!" the quarterback said. As the player turned to run upfield, all the other players on the field moved out of his way, and applauded as he ran downfield. There wasn't a dry eye in the stadium. The one who doctors said could never play sports, much less football, ran through the alley of players all the way for a touchdown. That player began and ended his football career with one play, a 35-yard touchdown run.

As we are in the holiday season, between the season of Thanks and the season of Giving, don't forget to take an inventory of yourself and express your true gratitude by "giving the ball" to someone else. And to the one who gave me the ball and cheered me on, thank you.

Brandon Deal
Senior
College of Liberal Arts

Partisan politics cause prejudice

Cosmo's Corner



Jeremy Coseo
Staff Columnist

They say you should never discuss politics or religion because people will always disagree. For the most part, this is true. It even seems that most of the time politicians can't agree on anything, except for those

times when the word comes down from party headquarters that it's time to play partisan politics.

When partisan politics is being played out, it amounts to little more than two groups of children arguing on the playground over a ball. It's clan and team mentality that hurt the causes of creative independent political thought or action.

Having politicians act in this way not only makes them look like they're incapable of thinking on their own, but it also harms whatever issues they should be looking at. The issue can be decided for them before they even get a chance to examine it for themselves, because the party has decided so.

The problem with this is the issues in question affect all of us. While we complain, campaign or sustain for and against whatever social call we feel is most important to us, it all either can be made into law or squashed into oblivion by someone who may not be familiar with all the issues. He or she will just do it because that's what their political party wants.

Let's face it: there are not a lot of successful independent politicians out there. If they want to be elected to office, they need to belong to one of the two established parties. By belonging to one of these parties, they consign themselves somewhat to a certain type of belief, usually the one that is mostly followed by the rest of the party. Individuality within the party can be seen as a bad thing. The price for power is high.

So at the end of the day, when all the dust has settled and bills, amendments and laws are passed, there will be some that have passed because of pressure from the political party on its members.

As long as this political squabbling goes on, it isn't possible for one or two politicians to make that much of a difference. It kills the innovators. Any politician who sets out to change anything, for better or worse, doesn't have to get the approval of the people; instead they have to get the approval of their fellow politicians in their party.

I can understand the importance of having party structures in politics, but the presence of blind obedience to any political party undermines every politician that is a part of it. We elect the official, not the party, and if you practice electing on party qualifications alone, you are doing just as much disservice yourself.

Instead, the ideas must be examined and weighed by each politician when they're making decisions. They need to do what they feel is right and what their people want, not what their party is telling them to do.

Also, we the voters should examine and weigh the politicians we elect on the grounds that they will best carry out our wishes. We shouldn't blindly elect them based on the fact that they're Republican or Democrat.

Take the time and study up about the issues and each candidate's stance on them. Look for the stand-out as well, not just some cookie cutter regurgitating the same lines as always. When I go into that voting booth, I want to elect a leader, not a follower. ♦

Jeremy Coseo is a sophomore mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at jdc3g@mtsu.edu.

Hope you all
got your eat on.
Now put this down
and get back
to work.
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Teachers, students leave lasting impressions

On The Rocks

Klara Nizki
Staff Columnist



Since Christmas is around the corner and final exams are up on us, I thought it proper to give thanks to all the teachers and professors I've ever had.

Just think about it: We hate exams and kill ourselves studying for them (at least most of us do), but teachers have to cram in grading all of them and post grades by their deadline.

Let's take a look at these mentors. They are important no matter what your views on education. Ah, don't be in denial; everyone can remember most of their grade teachers' names.

Some teachers, especially in college, have a slightly twisted view on the reality that they have an impact on people's lives. I'm sure I'll get a few nodding heads when I mention instances of pessimism on students' performances or the constant sighs and unattractive looks shot at students for no reason.

For example, this past semester I had to drop a class because I had taken too many to keep up with. When I had e-mailed the teacher, the teacher's response included an "Oh, I understand that you have a social life."

First of all, if that particular person were to really know me, the first thing the teacher would see is that I'm quite the hermit. I never go out.

The last time I was in a club just for fun was more than two years ago. I can't help it that I

took too much and wanted to sacrifice the class that I felt most uncomfortable with. But face it, these professors exist; maybe it's because they were burned by a student in the past, but now they're missing out on all the good things they could be experiencing.

I shouldn't let all of the bad apples spoil the entire basket. The professors I'm writing about are the ones that captivate the class and keep that class's attention constant.

There is a local high school history teacher out there that acts out famous historical events. He jumps on and off of his desk and uses a walking stick to act as President Abraham Lincoln's assassin or one of the Confederate soldiers taking aim. It's quite entertaining; once a giant lint ball was stuck to the stick around the area where the

trigger of a gun would be. His response was an amused face and the comment, "Oh, look, a hair-trigger."

Not every teacher teaches outside the carbon copy textbook. It's nice to learn about behind the scenes events that books don't cover. No one expects that, and I thank that person for being awesome.

Another example is an English teacher I had in high school. She would always look at me when passing out graded papers and say something to the likes of, "This isn't a paper; it's a rough draft."

Usually with other teachers, I was able to get away with writing just anything and making great grades. She really made me work hard, and I improved my skills. I thank her for that.

I never really liked English, especially poetry. Maybe I've

been lucky, but I've had the coolest English professors in college. They've changed my whole outlook on the over-stereotyped cheesiness of poetry. It helps when you have someone explain what an author is trying to convey instead of leaving you in the dark without any literary "art" experience at all. I love all the understated meanings hidden between the lines now, and I thank all of those professors for that.

People like these are rare treasures. Many students know what I'm referring to. These are the teachers that have regularly high class attendance because most students in their class actually feel bad for skipping or even being a few seconds late. These are the mentors that actually receive questions to answer after class. These are the

professors that have students praying to be in their classes, and not because they're easy. You still have to study, but this time you actually enjoy it.

I just wanted to end this semester on a high note by thanking those professors who aren't afraid to interact with their students. It's nice to know that some teachers keep watch over their students and thus develop healthy relationships.

College is not a graduation factory. It's a place of learning. Having professors who openly show their pride in their students is a big esteem boost.

Funny how both the students and professors can benefit from relationships like this. ♦

Klara Nizki is a sophomore business administration major and can be reached via e-mail at knizki@aol.com.

Don't just drink bottled water

By Kim Cox
Guest Columnist

The bottled water trend has lured many Americans into a huge, multi-dimensional market with its vast variety and corner convenience. We have arrived to a fresh, pure water utopia – or have we?

Can we be confident as consumers that the spring, distilled and purified bottled waters that pioneered their way into the industry with the health and fitness awareness move is really healthier than ordinary tap water? Even though bottling the water made a convenient and socially accepted statement as people were seen carrying their pure, spring waters everywhere, are we misled that this particular water is better for us?

Recently, the bottled water market exploded with different flavors and brands such as ginkgo biloba and ginseng, the new and improved smart, vitamin and energy waters. One store that has taken the market by storm is The Bottled Water

Boutique. The company's Web site features more than 30 different brands of water, all claiming to be pure, crisp and have natural minerals. The extra minerals and vitamins are supposed to be necessary to provide special nourishment, but could it be a marketing tool that could become hazardous to our health?

Bottled water's popularity is fueled in part by suspicions about the quality of tap water. However, an independent study commissioned by the World Wild indicates that bottled water is often no healthier or safer to drink than tap water. Some reasons may include that bottled water conforms to standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, while tap water has to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Another may be bottled water is required to be tested less frequently for bacteria and chemical contaminants than tap water.

There are a few things to consider while reading the label

for bottled water, in case you wanted know just what you are drinking. Spring water comes from one or more underground formations and must flow naturally to the earth's surface. However, according to an article in the *Health House*, the FDA allows the bottlers to call their product spring water even though they may have used a pumped well. Purified drinking water has gone through the de-ionization process, which is distillation to remove contaminants. The source doesn't have to be named, but it's often just tap water.

Overall, be wary of words like pure, pristine, glacial, premium, natural or healthy. They just used to embellish and emphasize the alleged purity of bottled water over tap water, and is often misleading.

California state Sen. Byron Sher is fighting for tougher manufacturing regulations with the bottlers through Senate Bill 50. Sher is proposing that bottling plants and water vending machines would be subject to

annual inspections and that labels include an 1-800 number or Web site so consumers can get more information.

This would help consumers arm themselves with information so that they can make an informed decision on their purchase, with bottle water labeling improvement. However, at this point it will require some research and understanding.

While the bottlers are required to provide the nutrition facts panel, which includes the amount of fat, carbohydrates and proteins, they don't include an analysis of what is in the actual water.

You can contact the bottling company and request additional information, or you can research the brand on the Internet. At least you can have some options and feel secure and confident if you have to purchase bottled water. ♦

Kim Cox is a sophomore mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at kmc3k@mtsu.edu.

Got news? Call the News Desk at 898-2336 or e-mail slnews@mtsu.edu

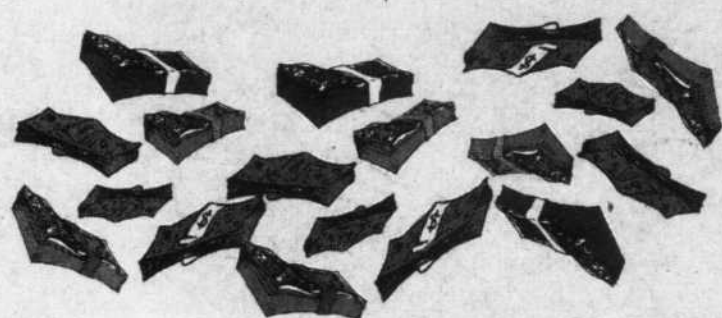


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Dancers prepare to LEAP into action



Carone Tharp and Brandon Nnadi practice the dance titled "Matrix."

Photos by Samantha Meeks | Staff Photographer

By Abby Sliger
Contributor

The MTSU Performing Arts Company, also known as the dance club, will celebrate 35 years of existence as they perform their annual winter recital this week.

"I think this will be our best show ever," Laura Filtness, vice president of MPAC, said.

The performance will be made up of a variety of dance styles, including hip hop, ballet, lyrical and modern. Even break dancing is included in the show.

"If you love ballet, you get your ballet fix, and you get the opportunity to see different types of dance," Katie Haile, a member of the senior dance company, said.

While most of the pieces are student choreographed, the show will also include professional choreography from Allyne Gartrell of Milwaukee. Gartrell's own company of dancers, along with chosen MPAC dancers, will perform in

his pieces.

The MTSU Performing Arts Company began in 1967 when Anne Holland Cole came to MTSU.

Originally, MPAC incorporated a number of visual arts such as theater, poets and mime as well as dance. However, since MPAC was predominantly dance, eventually the others faded out.

The year 1997 brought graduate teaching assistant Angela Armstrong to the university.

Armstrong took over MPAC and expanded its mostly modern dance style to include jazz and hip hop.

According to Filtness, MPAC has grown from just a few people in the beginning to now having to audition for parts in the winter performance.

Besides a show in the winter, MPAC also has a spring performance and performs at halftime during basketball games, during the Miss MTSU pageant and at the Youth Tobacco Summit.

Members in the company audition for the Senior Dance Company, which

can be used as a springboard for a future career, according to Filtness.

To be a part of the Senior Dance Company, a person must be a member of MPAC for two semesters. Senior Dance Company members dance in two special pieces in the performance.

MPAC also participates in dance intensives, where they dance until they drop, according to Filtness. The intensives include the Black College Dance Exchange - where MPAC is the only Caucasian troupe invited to the historically black Tougaloo College Dance Intensive - where dancers participate in yoga and African classes on the beach. MPAC also holds a summer intensive, which is open to anyone at MTSU.

The MTSU Summer Dance Intensive has more professional guest artists and is less expensive than others, according to Armstrong. Armstrong said it was the best intensive she had ever attended.

Any student interested in dance is encouraged to join MTSU Performing Arts Company.

To join, attend a meeting on any Tuesday when school is in session at 6:30 p.m. at the Murphy Center in Dance Studio B.

Knowing how to dance is not important since MPAC begins each meeting with a warm-up and across the floor, which helps improve technique. According to Filtness, there is a wide variety of skill levels in the club.

The winter performance event takes place Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. at Tucker Theater. Admission is \$3 for students with ID, \$5 for general admission and \$8 for reserved seating.

Those interested in reserved seating should contact Angela Armstrong at 898-5857.

All admission proceeds go to reimburse dancers for costumes.

By putting money in designated jars, attendees can support the Boys and Girls Club and vote for their favorite dance pieces. ◆



Jonathan
Hicks

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. Except for my mom telling me that she needs grandkids, mine went pretty well. By the way ladies, I'm 24, a Virgo and a vegetarian.

So while I was home and working on my family's computers, I realized that I haven't done any articles explaining the parts of a computer and how they work.

I'll go over some of the basic parts of a computer and the terms associated with them.

Processor

This is the number cruncher of your computer. Its only purpose is to take a stream of data and manipulate it (add, multiply, etc.). The data is then sent on its way to wherever it needs to go. Processors are now being measured in gigahertz. The more gigahertz the faster your computer can process data.

Hard Drive

This is the long-term, slow memory of your computer. This holds your files and programs. Hard drives are now measured in gigabytes. The more gigabytes you have, the more data your computer can hold.

Random Access Memory

This is the short-term, fast memory of your computer. Data flows from your hard drive to your RAM and then to your processor. RAM is usually measured in megabytes - but has been going up to gigabytes. If you have more RAM, your processor can access more data faster.

Video Card

This is what supplies the video for your computer. All the cool 3-D video games need high-end video cards to properly run them. Video cards can really only be judged by running them on graphics programs. So, the best way to get a feel for a video card is to read a lot of reviews.

Sound card

The sound card processes the sound for your computer. Most sound cards will do things like Dolby 5.1 surround sound and THX sound.

Motherboard

The motherboard is what all your parts plug into. This board controls the flow of data through your computer. The problem with motherboards is that only certain parts will plug into certain motherboards. So it is best to first figure out what things you would like to go in your computer and then find a motherboard that supports them.

This is a good beginning for everyone who really doesn't know anything about computers. Also, if you are thinking of buying or upgrading your computer this Christmas, this is a good list to go by. ◆

Send computer questions to jh2@mtsu.edu.

F-I-N-A-L-S spells stress



By Stacie Wacaster
Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

Almost.

It does seem a bit cruel and unusual that sandwiched between two of the

biggest holidays of the year comes one of the most stressful times of the year for college students.

Final exams.

Though probably one of the mall's busiest times, these last couple of weeks of school aren't necessarily so positive for many students.

But it doesn't have to be that painful. Before you start pulling your hairs out one by one and inhaling caffeine every waking minute, try some of these tips to help your finals go smoother than ever.

- Start early. I know it seems obvious, but stress could be significantly reduced if students actually felt prepared ahead of time. As soon as your teacher hands out a study guide, start answering the questions whenever you have some spare time. Don't let it all sneak up on you the night before the test.

- On a similar note, cramming, while allowing you to procrastinate to the last minute, is not a very healthy method of absorbing information. Try to study over time; it actually will help you retain more information. Repetition really is a good way to learn, and that way you only have to review what you already know for the final, rather than trying to learn everything all at once.

- Make a list of each of your classes,

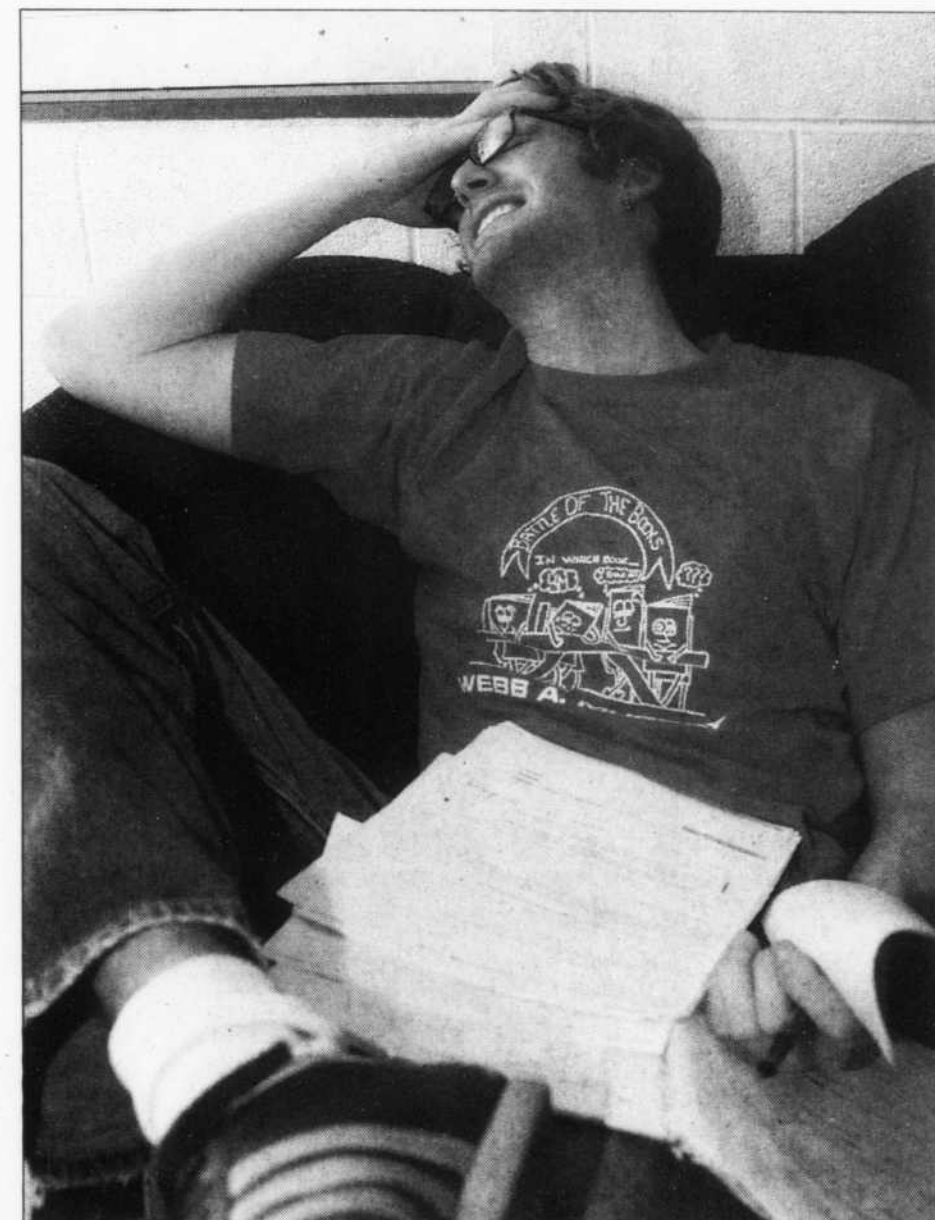


Photo Illustration by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

then go through your syllabus and notes for each class, and make sure you have every assignment, paper, exam and project

written down, with all the correct deadlines. Having all this information in one place will reduce the chances of you

forgetting an assignment. Also, being able to see everything at a glance will help you prioritize more effectively, because you'll have a better idea of what you're getting into and what exactly is required of you.

- On that note, prioritize. Get more important things done first to ensure you do a good job on them. But don't forget the small assignments. Sometimes they can add much needed points and boost your grade.

- Get plenty of sleep. I know what you're thinking: "Yeah, right." But seriously, sometimes a good night's rest can be more helpful than that extra hour of late-night studying. Sleep deprivation will leave you fuzzy-headed and frazzled in the morning rather than thinking clearly for a test. Not to mention that students are most susceptible to sickness at this time of year and lack of sleep weakens your body and heightens the chances that you'll get sick.

- Hang out with your friends. No, really. All work and no play is not healthy for anyone. Set aside times to get together with friends, just as you'd set time aside for studying. Everyone needs a break from school work; you'll go crazy if you don't take one. Besides, the semester's about over and there are few remaining days to make memories before everyone spreads out into different parts of the country. The key is to find a balance between studying and hanging out.

- Work together. Plan a study time at the library with a friend, so you can encourage each other. Set a time to go eat

See Stress, 7

Struggling with obesity

Still no easy answers

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

The number of people struggling with obesity is on the rise in America, especially in the adolescents and young adult demographic.

In light of this trend, health care officials disagree on the real underlying cause and the best form of treatment. Likewise, there are few resources on campus to help deal with the problem.

According to statistics from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, Americans spend more than \$33 billion annually on weight-loss products. Yet statistics from a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association published in January indicate that the population is getting heavier, with obesity cases climbing from 19.8 percent of the American population in 2000 to 20.9 percent in 2001.

Adolescent obesity is one of the most serious public health problems in the United States, according to a Nashville surgeon who specializes in bariatric surgery for the morbidly obese.

"If we have an adolescent population that is not just overweight but morbidly obese, that's a real problem because that's the time in their life when it's easiest to keep the pounds off," Dr. John Husted of the Cumberland Center for Obesity Surgery says.

According to Husted, obesity is linked to serious health problems, including Type II diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep disorders and arthritis. He also says for many people, obesity may be predetermined.

"It's a genetic potential that you are born with," Husted says, "and it's influenced by your environment."

Other health care providers point to depression and eating disorders as a contributing cause of obesity.

"There is a difference between overweight and obese," says Dr. Charles Ihrig, the managing partner of Athena Consulting, a general psychiatric practice that deals with eating disorders.

"When you see people struggling with obesity, you start to see extremely high rates of certain illnesses, especially depression," Ihrig says.

Ihrig also says young adults need to be aware of binge eating disorder, which can lead to obesity.

"Binge eating disorder in particular is a form of bulimia where you binge, overeat and purge afterwards," Ihrig says. "This is the same thing, only it's much more common, people don't purge it out afterwards."

According to Ihrig, emotional and dysfunctional eating patterns can develop in the college years, when stress and a change in environment can cause students to reach for snacks and comfort foods.

He also says that fast foods in campus dining halls can lead college students into unhealthy eating habits.

"High-fat and high-carbohydrate foods are so accessible," Ihrig says, "and with time constraints, and when people need to cut money in their budget, especially college students, they tend to

cut food."

Jane Tipps, director of MTSU Guidance Services, says that students dealing with weight issues can seek counseling through Health Services on campus. She also says there are currently no support groups on campus for eating disorders or other addictions.

"We don't have enough staff to offer it," she says.

Tipps says that the state recommends a ratio of one counselor for every 1,500 students at a university. MTSU has three full-time counselors for an enrollment of just over 21,000.

She says that when a student faces a crisis with an eating disorder, including binge eating disorder, that student can be referred to the Vanderbilt Inpatient Eating Disorder Unit.

For the morbidly obese – those who are more than 100 pounds over ideal body weight – Husted does not see many alternatives.

"Diet and exercise will work for, at best, five percent of patients. For 95 percent of patients who are truly morbidly obese, you are really looking at surgery as the only option," he adds.

There are a variety of bariatric surgery options, including banding the stomach, section-

ing off a portion of both the stomach and intestines or just the intestines, Husted says.

He adds that surgery is not ruled out for a patient in their late teens or early 20s, but obtaining insurance approval for a

procedure that costs between \$25,000 and \$35,000 can be difficult without a long history of failed diets.

Ihrig agrees that surgery may be the only option for some obese patients, but for younger patients he would recommend counseling and working within a structured diet program.

"Even though there is the high failure rate [with dieting]," Ihrig says, "I wouldn't carte blanche say, no, don't try, go ahead and have the surgery."

Ihrig says some of the weight loss programs, such as Weight Watchers, are very effective.

There is no Weight Watchers group on campus, but there is a weekly meeting held in Murfreesboro.

Linda Clayton, director of Weight Watchers for the greater Nashville area, says that students can attend regular meetings at the Murfreesboro center at 306 S. Church St. offer a discounted price of \$10.

Clayton says that the group has had many success stories with people losing more than 100 pounds, but cautions that Weight Watchers does not employ health care professionals and does not provide counseling for eating disorders.

Ihrig acknowledges there are many self-help books on the market – like the recent bestseller by talk show host Phil McGraw – intended to motivate lifestyle changes for the overweight. However, she is leery of such books and insists there is no easy answer.

Ihrig believes counseling is necessary to help patients understand why they overeat.

"If you are depressed or sad or anxious, food is an easy, temporary fix," Ihrig says. "Just like some college students go out to bars and binge on beer, it's a quick fix for emotional issues sometimes." ♦

"If you are depressed or sad or anxious, food is an easy, temporary fix. Just like some college students go out to bars and binge on beer, it's a quick fix for emotional issues sometimes."

– Dr. Charles Ihrig
Managing partner, Athena Consulting

All aglow



Photo by Brandon Morrison | Photo Editor

An 18 foot Christmas tree graces the lobby of the Rutherford County Courthouse. The tradition of decorating fir trees at Christmastime in the 16th century in Germany. The German word for Christmas tree is Tannenbaum. Early tree decorations consisted of candles, which were said to represent light triumphing over darkness. Prince Albert set up the first holiday tree in England in 1841. The tradition reached America's shores in the early 1800s. German immigrants set up Christmas trees in Pennsylvania.



Stress: How to survive exams

Continued from 6

dinner or take a break together, so you have something to work toward. Everything is more endurable if there is a definite ending in sight, and everything is easier to handle if there's some way to make it more pleasant.

- On that note, remind yourself that it will be over soon enough and you can relax. Go out with a bang; you'll have time to recuperate afterwards. Usually the most heavily-weighted grades come at the end of the semester, so don't drift off quite yet. Try singing "I Will Survive" to yourself.

- But remember, nothing is worth running yourself completely ragged over. Do your best and let it go, and I promise, no matter what happens in your class, it won't be the end of the world. Life will go on whether

you make an "A" or a "C" in advanced chemical nucleoe-engineering. Really. In five years, it probably won't matter that you beat your brother out studying for a test. Do the best that you can; just don't give yourself a heart attack.

- Communicate with your teachers. Professors are usually only too happy to help students who seek their advice. Ask questions. Make sure you understand exactly what is expected of you and find out as much as you can about what will be on the test. If you don't understand something, let your teacher know. That's what they're there for, after all.

- Try to savor the good times and make memories with your friends. Make the most of these last few days of the semester. Some of these opportunities will never happen again, so make it count. ♦

Happy Holidays

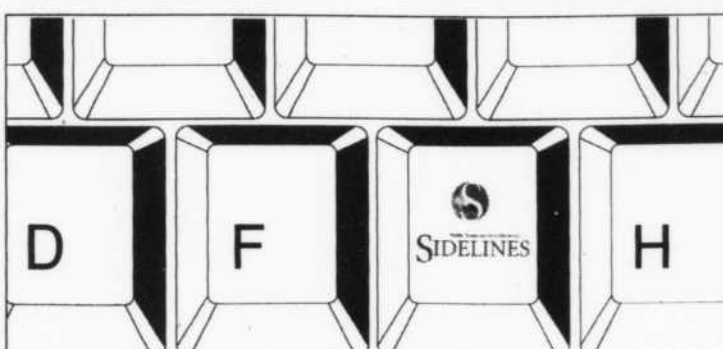
from the *Sidelines* Living section

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The Student Publications Committee

is accepting applications for 2004-05 Midlander editor. Applicants must be available for employment during the Spring, Summer and Fall 2004 semesters.

Qualified candidates must:

- be full-time graduate or undergraduate students currently enrolled;
- have a 2.5 cumulative GPA

Applications must be accompanied by:

- an official copy of your transcript;
- letters of recommendation from a professional, a faculty member and one of choice.

Applications are available in the James Union Building, Room 306, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Deadline for applications is 4 p.m., Nov. 26, 2003. For more information, call 898-2815

Dear Emily,

To send a letter to Dear Emily,
email
mtsudearemi@hotmai.com.

SPORTS

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Lady Raiders split two in FAU tournament

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The MT women's basketball team is 3-1 after a 70-65 loss to Manhattan College (4-0) in the Florida Atlantic University Tournament and a win against Norfolk State University (0-3).

MT traveled to Boca Raton, Fla., during the Thanksgiving weekend and played two games in the FAU Tournament. The Lady Raiders started with the Manhattan Jaspers.

Manhattan took a 12-point lead midway through the first half. Then, MT came back on a 23-9 run in the final eight minutes to lead 35-32 going into halftime.

The Lady Raiders went into the second half leading. Soon after, Nikoletta Deutsch from Manhattan made her third three-pointer of the game, which gave the Lady Jaspers a 53-51 lead.

Deutsch added another three to extend the Lady Jaspers lead. Nevertheless, MT did not give up. Chrissy Givens' layup under the bas-

ket and Ciara Gray's free throws broke the five-minute dry spell and pulled the Lady Raiders within five with three minutes to go, 56-61.

Danielle Cooper went to the foul line and made two free throws that gave Manhattan a seven-point lead. However, Tia Stovall's offensive rebound with a putback and Keisha McClinic's bucket under the basket decreased the Jaspers' lead to three.

Indeed, MT struggled to keep up with the Lady Jaspers, but the turnovers allowed Manhattan to take over the game in the final seconds.

"Turning the ball over 27 times is not going to win you a basketball game," MT head coach Stephany Smith said.

Junior guard Patrice Holmes recorded her second double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds along with six steals. Two other MT players reached double figures: Krystle Horton scored 16 points, and Givens added 10.

The loss meant the Lady Raiders had to play NSU in the consolation game.

MT led Norfolk State 49-28 at the half. Horton scored 29 points to lead the Lady Raiders.

She recorded the second double-double of her career and also grabbed 10 rebounds. McClinic also had a career high with 20 points and four of five from the three-point line.

The Lady Raiders shot 56.4 percent from the field and 46.7 percent from the three-point line.

MT will travel to Cincinnati to take on Xavier tomorrow. Tipoff begins at 6 p.m. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT forward Tia Stovall looks to get the rebound in an exhibition against Georgia College and State University Nov. 11. MT won 69-46.

"Turning the ball over 27 times is not going to win you a basketball game."

— Stephany Smith
Head Coach

MT men have tough break ahead

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Christmas break is almost here and a majority of the students will be looking forward to going home and spending time with their families. While sugarpilms are dancing through their heads, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will have other things on their mind.

After a minor setback with a loss at Wyoming 84-63, the Blue Raiders look to bounce back in their game against Alabama State on Dec. 4. After that game, the Blue Raiders will continue a tough stretch of nine games in a one-month span.

On Dec. 6, the Blue Raiders will travel to Tennessee Tech to face a tough 2-1 team. Tennessee Tech's one loss came at now No. 3 Kentucky 108-81. TTU who finished third in the Ohio Valley Conference last season are led by junior forward, Willie Jenkins who is averaging 21 points per game.

On Dec. 13, the Blue Raiders will play a home game against NAIA opponent Tennessee Wesleyan, who has started the season 1-4. After that game, they will play four out of their next five games on the road beginning with a rematch against Alabama State Dec. 17.

The Blue Raiders will follow-up with a trip to Cincinnati to face a Bearcat team who is currently ranked 19th in the coaches poll. Senior guard, Tony Bobbit who is averaging 17 points per game, has led the Bearcats to a 3-0 start. The Bearcats have 10 players who are averaging over 12 minutes per game.

The Blue Raiders will play a home Dec. 23 against another OVC opponent, Austin Peay who has started the season 2-2. The Blue Raiders will then play their next two games on the road.

The first of the road games is at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Tournament where they will play the host team Dec. 29. UTC has gotten off to a strong 4-1 start with their one loss coming at now

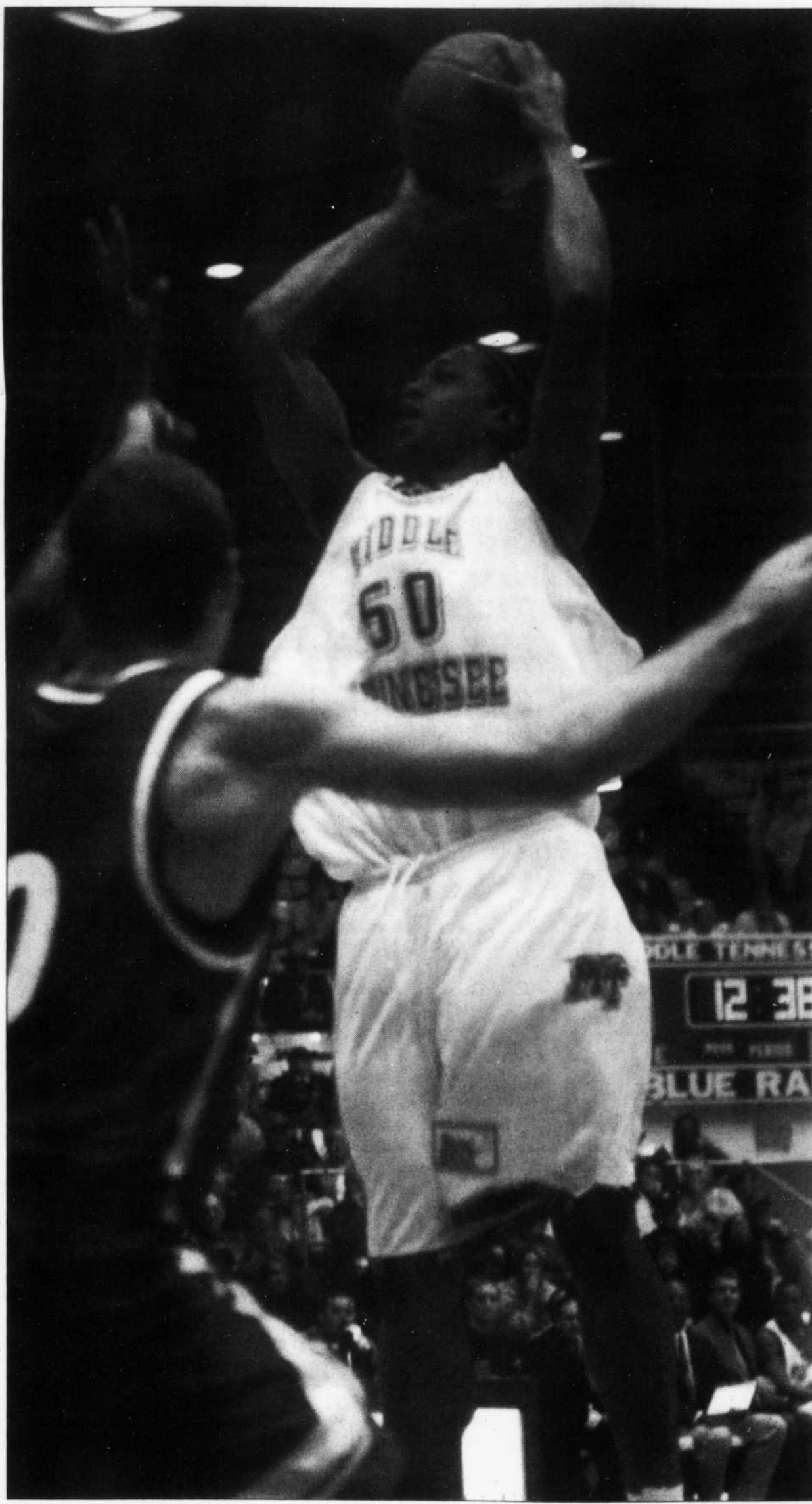


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT forward Keith Christmas pulls up against a Covenant College defender Nov. 24.

No. 1 Kansas. Senior forward, Ashley Champion has led the Moccasins with 21 points and 6 rebounds per game.

After the tournament, the Blue Raiders will travel to Virginia to take on Virginia Commonwealth who has started 3-0.

Western Kentucky who was picked in the preseason to win the Sun Belt Conference traveled

to Virginia and were beaten by the Rams 72-67. Senior guard, Domonic Jones has led the Rams with 22 points per game.

After the stretch of four out five games on the road, the Blue Raiders will come home for the last two before the end of Christmas break.

On Jan. 6 they will face an Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne (0-3) team that has yet to win a

game this year. Then will come another tough challenge in a rematch with Wyoming (2-1) Jan. 8.

The Blue Raiders will play a total of 10 games over the next month. The games will be split with five on the road and five at home. A majority of the more difficult games will be on the road. ♦

Young athletes hurt by political correctness

Sports commentary



Jon Leffew
Staff Columnist

Picture this: Little Johnny comes in at quarterback with less than two minutes left on the clock, drives his fellow pee-wee football players the length of the field and throws a touchdown strike as time expires.

Better yet, with five seconds remaining, Suzy comes up with an amazing steal, drives the length of the court and gets fouled. She calmly struts to the foul line and sinks both free throws with no time showing on the clock.

Or Brad steps to the plate in the bottom of the ninth with two outs and the bases loaded. He calmly rips a double down the line to bring in two runs.

What's missing here? The single most important thing to most coaches, the one question anyone who missed the game will ask: Who won?

All across America, little leagues are completely destroying one of the main reasons that sports are played by not keeping score.

Sure, every kid should have fun. Every kid should get to play in every game. Heck, every kid should even get a trophy.

All of this can be done, however, while keeping score.

This wonderful country in which we live is founded, albeit loosely, on the principles of competition.

Most states seem to have trouble counting votes, but if they weren't counted, every person who wanted to could

become a senator.

The children of today are becoming more and more useless, mostly because they grow up thinking they can do no wrong. This attitude of perfection is just one of the travesties that contributes to children's apathy.

Another one of these is the ruling concerning dodgeball.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that no game could be played in schools in which a student is a target.

This ruling also contributes to the decline of today's generation while taking away an American tradition.

Everyone remembers being drilled in the face during dodgeball or tripping and falling on your face while running from that big guy in your class.

In short, the American government and most of the other authority figures are supposedly doing wonderful things by trying to curb aggressiveness in children and cut down on the number of crazed parents who attack other parents, coaches and players at little league games.

In doing this, however, they are often compromising some of the things that have become sacred in American sports, including the score.

I hope that these legislators see the error of their ways and crack down on parents, not children.

Everyone should experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat sometime in life. Here's hoping that children continue to experience both, that enraged parents are defeated and that little Johnny, Suzy and Brad are given the credit they deserve. ♦

Titans still control path to division title

By Chris Glasser
Staff Writer

Down 21-0 early with your starting quarterback and best defensive lineman out with injuries spells trouble for most teams, but not the Tennessee Titans.

Rallying for a 38-31 win behind the arm of Billy Volek and the legs of Justin McCarreins, the Titans proved their resiliency and kept pace for first place in the AFC South division with the Indianapolis Colts, a first round bye, and possible home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Titans (9-2) still control their path, with their biggest game coming Dec. 7 at home against the Colts (9-2). The game will also mark Colts' quarterback Peyton Manning's homecoming to the state where he played in college at the University of Tennessee.

It will be up to the quarterbacks, Steve McNair and

Manning, to determine who wins the AFC South. However, it's unsure how long McNair will be sidelined after straining his calf muscle last weekend.

Here's a look at the rest of the AFC.

AFC West:

Wasn't the race out west supposed between defending AFC champion Oakland and the resurgent Denver Broncos? Instead it's been the emergence of the offensively potent Kansas City Chiefs that has all but erased any doubt that the Chiefs are for real.

Oakland (3-8) imploded from the beginning and Denver (6-5) all but killed its own chances by losing four of their last five games, including last week's disappointing 19-10 loss at home to Chicago.

That has opened things wide open for the Chiefs (10-1). Behind all-purpose running

See AFC, 9

AFC: Chiefs in control of conference, Bengals in hunt for playoff berth

Continued from 8

back Priest Holmes, quarterback Trent Green, and "The X-Factor" returner Dante Hall, the Chiefs look to continue winning and gain home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

With their only tough game coming at Minnesota in week 16, it looks like they have a good chance at doing so.

AFC East

This conference gets thrown around every year it seems.

The preseason injury to quarterback Chad Pennington knocked the Jets out of the playoff race early and the no-show of the Buffalo Bills offense for the past two months has left the Bills at 4-7 and all but done. That leaves the Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots in the playoff hunt.

The Patriots (9-2) are probably the hottest team in the AFC right now, having won seven straight since starting the season 1-2.

Head coach Bill Belichick has his defense making opposing offenses go in circles and the team has overcome numerous injuries to achieve their current status.

While everyone is paying attention to Tennessee and Kansas City, the Patriots could be the team that slips under the radar.

The Dolphins (7-4), meanwhile, all but saved their playoff chances by rallying from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Redskins last week.

Quarterback Jay Fiedler returned in the final quarter to lead the rally, so expect him to take back his starting job from Brian Griese.

The Dolphins also hope running back

Ricky Williams will continue his recent success after two straight 100-yard games.

AFC North

Mostly known as the "Bungles," head coach Marvin Lewis has brought the Cincinnati Bengals (6-5) back to life and has them in first place in the AFC North.

The main reason for their success has been the productivity of quarterback Jon Kitna, who had a habit of making poor choices in the pocket.

This year, however, Kitna has cut down on his mistakes, throwing 19 touchdowns with only 9 interceptions, and has helped restore life to a city where losing has become a normality over the past decade.

Their next two games will be more important, with games at division opponents Pittsburgh and Baltimore, who are both vying for division title hopes as well

in the most distorted conference in the division. Currently, all four teams are within at least two games of each other.

Baltimore (6-5) is tied with Cincinnati, but will need their offense to become more consistent. They can only hope that last weekend's 44-41 overtime victory over Seattle will jumpstart the offense.

Playoff Predictions:

East - New England Patriots
West - Kansas City Chiefs*
South - Tennessee Titans*
North - Baltimore Ravens
Wild Card - Indianapolis Colts
Wild Card - Miami Dolphins

*- First round bye

** - First round bye & home-field advantage. ♦

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For sale: GT Trick Bike; computer desk; Bass Guitar with amp; college textbooks for gen-ed courses. Call 319-3072.

1966 Ford Mustang. Lots of new parts. Runs good. Good body. Great for around town or as a hobby car. \$5000 negotiable. Call Tim @ 615-397-6303 for more info.

Verizon Wireless Phone for Sale. Kyocera 2135. Great condition. \$20 Call 330-9868.

Kurtzweill SP76 Digital Stage Piano. \$450 obo. 615-403-7002.

Nice King size waterbed with Fluffo waterbed replacement mattress (no water). Also has 6 drawers of storage under bed. \$150. Call 615-300-3935.

Microphone. AKG C1000S with hardshell case. \$130. Call 556-0275.

4 900 watt Audiobahn 12's and a 2000 watt Pyle amp. \$320. 731-499-1257.

Airline voucher for sale. Worth \$250 towards Delta. Must be used before Jan. 12th. Will sale for \$175 obo. Call 904-7554 or email elh2m@mtsu.edu.

IBM Handheld Exc. condition! All parts included. \$90. Call 615-867-3363. Mon.-Fri.

Dining Room Set-8 piece country dining room set for sale. Table, 6 chairs and matching hutch. Green with Walnut top and trim. Great for kitchen or apartment. \$175. Call 615-494-3476.

For sale Mountain Bike: Rocky Mountain Vapor, in good condition. \$350 obo. Call 867-7341. If not there, leave a message.

95 Chevy Berreta. V6 good dependable Car new brakes, power steering. \$1500. Call 848-5238.

L-shaped oak computer desk with filing drawer. \$30. (615) 506-6478.

Wedding Dress sz 4, never altered, could fit sizes 4-8, white, strapless, lots of beads and lace. Beautiful \$150.00 call 931-607-9077.

Formal Dresses - 3 available blue satin, silver spaghetti strap and black sequenced & beads, sizes 6-8 \$25-50 call 931-607-9077.

Selmer Signet Tenor Saxophone, early 1970s model, new pads, excellent condition. Will consider all offers. Call (615) 904-2293.

Couch excellent condition, older pattern. Entertainment center -

solid wood (Black). Recliner excellent condition blue. Set of curtains to match all \$150.00 obo (will sell separately) Call April North 494-1783.

Washer/Dryer - make offer HP Deskjet 3320 printer, new in box \$20.00 (615) 631-2989.

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Career

Are you interested in earning your PhD? Would you like to have your own personal research mentor? Would you like to receive funding while conducting research? Are you interested in preparation for graduate studies? If you answered yes to the above questions, please contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program**. The McNair Program is staffed with Midgett 103. Our staff would like to tell you more about our distinguished program. Information may also be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair/>

Internships

Do you need to prepare for graduate school? To qualify, student has to be a low-income/first generation or underrepresented student with a desire to achieve earning a PhD. Have a 2.8 GPA and 60 earned credit hours by May 2004. For more information, contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program** located in Midgett 103 or call 904-8462 for more information.

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Earn \$10-\$125 for Surveys. Earn \$25-\$250 for Focus Groups. Visit www.cash4students.com/tmntsu

Gary Force Acura has job opening for part-time receptionists to work at Cool Springs dealership. Applicant must be positive and able to operate a 15 line telephone system with voice-mail. Fridays 9AM to 7 PM and Saturday 8AM to 6 PM. Contact Neal Jennings at 615-377-0500.

Business opportunity: Independent Representatives needed to market local phone service, a \$400 billion dollar industry, set your own hours, decide how much you want to make, be your own boss. Call Justin @ 904-2498.

Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305

Looking for Full-part time night job. Super 8 in La Vergne. I-24 Exit 64 25 mins. from MTSU is now hiring for front desk associate. Hours are 11pm - 7 am. Great pay and excellent benefits. Please

apply in person!! Now hiring immediately!!

Help Wanted

Need extra cash or Christmas money?? Daily pay, Co. vehicle. \$75-\$150 per day. Start ASAP 355-4003.

Law Office needs part-time help. Send resume to: jef2f@mtsu.edu

Opportunities

LOCAL BANDS Murfreesboro Official Music Website is seeking jazz bands. All other bands are welcome to post their calendars for free advertisement of shows. Contact: Shane Leach. Email boronightlife@bellsouth.net <http://clik.to/bnl>

Finish your holiday gift shopping! Mary Kay Clearance sale. Nov. 19,20,21. Call 319-3072

Fraternities-Sororities-Clubs-Student groups. Earn \$1000-\$2000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our free programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

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Roommate

Need 2 Roommates. \$325 by house, 4 BR. 907-0767.

ROOMS FOR RENT! Three 14 x14 bedrooms in a 2600 sq. ft. house, 1 mile from campus. Needs good occupants. Month to month based lease. \$325 deposit (refundable) Please call 308-9735 for details.

ROOMMATES WANTED in a large house 1 mile from campus. \$325 rent & 1/4 utilities. Month to month contract. No lawn maintenance involved. More info call 308-9735.

Need 2 female roommates to share 4 bedroom home 5 miles from Sam's. Non-smokers \$350/mo., call 849-8277.

Roommates wanted. Total house rent is \$900. Four bedroom. Must reply before December 1st. Great House! Call 907-0767.

Female nursing student seeks quiet, female roommate ASAP for affordable 2 BA., 1 BA duplex with spacious living room and kitchen. Nice neighborhood. Yard work is involved during the spring and summer months (mowing

and hedge trimming) so \$100 was taken off the total monthly rent. Rent is \$175 plus part of the utilities. If interested in this great opportunity, call Amanda 542-9028. Please leave a message.

One BR available in 2 BR 1 1/2 BA townhouse on Bell St. Utilities and rent is \$360. Lots of space, clean, W/D included. Christian female wanted. Need by 12/1/03! Please call Jessica 615-668-8598.

1 female roommate needed, non-smoker preferred, to share 4 Br 2 BA spacious house across from Murphy center. Available ASAP! \$0 deposit, \$225/month includes electricity and water. If interested, call mariza @ 390-8693.

Roommate needed by end of October for large brick 2 BR house. Central heat/air, close to MTSU, only one neighbor- muslims welcome. \$325/mo. \$325 deposit+ 1/2 utilities. Call Jacob 849-3219.

Room for rent in Murfreesboro. \$330/month + 1/3 utilities. Avail. 11/1/03. Call 653-3982.

1 Female Roommate needed for a 4-bedroom house. Currently there are 3 girls. Close to campus. \$275/month + 1/4 utilities. \$300 security deposit. Call Amy (423) 504-4090, alw2w@mtsu.edu.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

Pets

Beautiful green and yellow parakeet for sale. Paid \$20 at Pet Smart. Will sale for \$15 obo. Call 904-7554 or email elh2m@mtsu.edu.

Ball Python-year and half old. Tank and lights included. \$200 obo. Call 556-0407.

Free kittens to good home. One male, one female. Six months old. Beautiful and super sweet. Dewormed, female spayed. Call 867-9409.

For Rent

Duplex-Historic area-Beautiful 1 BR, CH/A, Hardwood floors, high ceilings, \$450 per month and deposit. Utilities and appliances included. No Pets. 895-0075.

Woodbury duplex 15 min. to MTSU-Downtown-Quiet neighborhood-Lovely 2 BR, CH/A, utility room, hardwood floor, deck. \$500 per month and deposit, appliances included. No Pets 895-0075.

For rent- Brand new duplex 120-B Fairfax Drive. \$850 per mo. 3 BR 2 BA available immediately. Call 335-2869 and leave message.

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2 BR 1.5 BA duplex. Near I-24. All appl., vaulted ceilings, garage, lawn care, garden tub, laundry room. Pets okay. \$880/month. Call 907-8060, 423-6272.

1 BR apt. for rent, \$450 per month, \$450 deposit. Call Jim 202-3050.

3 BD 1BA for rent; washer/dryer hookup. \$700 per month., \$700 deposit. 745 E. Vine Street. Call Jim 202-3050.

Subleasing

Roommate needed to take over lease by Dec. Four bed two bath @ University Courtyard. Will pay 1st months rent, if move in by Dec. \$355 a month. Includes washer, dryer, water, cable and electric. Call Jill 202-3888 or jmm3q@mtsu.edu.

First month rent free! Female Subleser needed for a 4 BR 2 BA apt. at University Courtyard. One great roommate. Rent is \$345/ month, includes utilities. I will pay your 1st month's rent. Call Cassandra at 708-1190.

Furnished apartment at Sterling Gables. \$500 Cash to take over 9 month lease. \$425/ month-including all utilities paid. Female only. Located close to MTSU. Free internet-shuttle-other amenities. Available immediately. Call 931-212-0987 or 615-653-3133.

3 Roommates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/ month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Three people wanted to sublease 4 BR/2BA apartment. Only \$330 a month, utilities included. Sterling Gables, located across from the new Walmart. 24/7 workout room, computer lab and hot tub. Free tanning booth and shuttle bus to and from MTSU. CALL 931-260-7076.

3 Roommates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

Female needed to take over lease in Sterling University Gables. ASAP! 4br/2ba \$330/mo. Utilities included. Great clean roommates - no deposit! call (865) 384-5030 for more info.

Female subleser needed for an apt. at The Woods of Greenland ASAP!! You can move in whenever you want. There is one bedroom available in a 3 bd/3ba apt. I will offer a reduced rate of \$400/mo instead of \$425. The Woods offer a pool, hot tub, tan-

ning bed & a game room. Please call Jenna at 351-8863 for into.

FREE BEER and 1st months rent to immediate subleser!! Washer/dryer, all utilities included, pool, gym, 1/2 mile from campus. Own bedroom - \$365/mo. Female please. Contact Kate 337-3749.

Wanted

Cash loans on valuables. Buy gold jewelry, weapons, coins. Come in 896-7167. 1803 N.W. Broad St. Murfreesboro. GOLD-N-PAWN.

General Chemistry tutor needed Sunday nights. \$10/hr. Usually 1-2 hrs. a week, sometimes more. Call 703-753-0248 or email arc3a@mtsu.edu.

Lost and Found

Lost Ring. Lost 1968 class ring from David Lipscomb College in or near KOM on Tuesday, November 4. Return ring to Carl Conway for reward. Call 898-5708 or email crconway@mtsu.edu.

Musicians Wanted

ATTENTION BANDS! What to play Betastock 2003? Beta Theta Pi is hosting this rock concert charity event to benefit the MTSU Day Care. We are looking for 4-5 bands to play this event on October 30, 2003. For more information, contact Paul at: 494-8663, musician4life68@yahoo.com

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TSSAA championships feature new faces, usual prep suspects

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

MTSU will host football in one of its purest forms this weekend, as the TSSAA state football championships will be held at Floyd Stadium Friday and Saturday.

Friday, the class 1A and 2A championships will be held at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m., respectively. The 3A, 4A and 5A championships will be held at 12:00, 3:30, and 7:00 p.m., respectively.

In the class 1A championship, the Boyd Buchanan High School Buccaneers from Chattanooga will square off against the Donelson Christian Academy Wildcats from Nashville.

DCA comes into the weekend with a 13-1 overall record, with their one loss coming in the last week of the season to Christ Presbyterian Academy. The Wildcats entered the playoffs as a No. 1 seed from region five, and won a close game last week over Fayette Academy, 35-32.

Boyd Buchanan enters the game with an 11-2 record, having blown out every opponent in the playoffs.

The Buccaneers defeated the Knox-Catholic Fighting Irish last week by the score of 37-6, and look to capture a state title

after losing a heartbreaker to CPA last season (26-20).

Class 2A's championship will be between Huntingdon High School from Huntingdon and David Lipscomb from Nashville.

David Lipscomb enters the game as the defending state champions.

The Mustangs have outscored opponents 165-19, and look to keep their perfect 14-0 record intact.

The Mustangs from Huntingdon are averaging 44 points per game in the playoffs. Their only loss came in week seven of the regular season to Milan High School.

In 3A, Fulton High School from Knoxville returns to the state championship after losing last year's title game. The Falcons are 13-1, with their only loss coming to then No. 1 ranked Austin-East early in the season. The Falcons avenged the loss two weeks ago by defeating the Roadrunners, 12-6.

Fulton will square off against Covington High School from Covington. The Chargers come into this weekend with an 11-3 record, having won close playoff games against Raleigh-Egypt (14-13) and Ripley (17-14).

Morristown West High School and Hillsboro High will play in the 4A title game.

The Trojans from

Morristown are 11-3 on the season, having defeated the favored Maryville Rebels by the score of 17-14 last week.

The Trojans are looking to capture the school's first state title.

Hillsboro is another team from Nashville that is also looking to win their first state championship. The Burros are looking to improve on last year's runner-up finish to Maryville High School.

In class 5A, the hometown Riverdale Warriors will travel just minutes to Floyd Stadium to face the Germantown Red Devils.

The Warriors escaped last week with a close win at Oak Ridge (17-13), and are looking to finish off their season with a state title. After losing 10-7 in last year's final, this hometown team brings a 12-2 record into this year's title game.

Germantown makes its first trip to the state final since 1994, and the Red Devils (13-1) are looking to cap off a playoff run that includes wins against Franklin and Millington.

All in all, this weekend looks to be an exciting two days of high school football. Each team has a legitimate shot at their respective titles in what should be five close games. ♦

Men's hoops team branded by 'Boys

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

For one half, the Blue Raiders hung with the University of Wyoming.

Then the Cowboys galloped away.

Wyoming used a 19-8 run in the second half to defeat Middle Tennessee 84-63 Saturday night in Laramie, Wyo.

Joe Ries led the Cowboys' charge with 16 of his career-high 29 points in the second half. Ries dominated the Blue Raider defense from the opening tip-off as he scored the first seven points of the contest.

"They were the more determined, more physical team tonight," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "They guarded our posts with one player and shut us down and we doubled theirs and he [Ries] scored all night."

Ries finished 9-for-12 from the floor and made 10 of 11 free throws.

After Wyoming's early start, the Blue Raiders settled in and began trading baskets with the Cowboys and tied the score at 33-33 on a Tommy Gunn three-pointer with 2:34 left in the half.

Fouls marred the last two minutes of the half as MT took its final lead of the game with 40 seconds to go off two Gunn free throws.

Jay Straight then knocked down a three-pointer with 20 seconds left to give the Cowboys a 39-

37 halftime lead.

After Gunn pulled MT to within one at 43-42 early in the second half, Wyoming used the next ten minutes to put the game out of reach, including a 12-0 streak that kept the Blue Raiders scoreless for five minutes.

"We just couldn't do anything in the second half," Davis said. "We came out and started shooting it too quick and couldn't get anything going."

MT shot just 33 percent from the field in the second half after shooting 58 percent in the first half.

Gunn finished with 18 points and Steven Jackson added a career-high 16 points for the Blue Raiders (1-1), who lost their seventh consecutive road opener.

MT, however, did keep its streak of games with at least one three-pointer intact when Gunn knocked one down early in the first half. The Blue Raiders have hit a three in their last 213 consecutive games.

Straight and Mikel Watson each had 14 points for Wyoming (2-1), which has won its last two games by a combined margin of 168-105 after a season-opening loss to Southern Illinois University.

The teams will meet again this season when the Cowboys travel to Murfreesboro Jan. 8 in the final non-conference game for both squads. ♦

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