

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University
SIDELINES
Tuesday, July 9, 2002

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

NEW STUDENT EDITION



DRAFTING *a detailed plan*

What's inside

NEW STUDENT EDITION

News

- 3 • MTSU enrollment on the rise
- 4 • Dining halls to offer new cuisines
 - Welcome Week to feature comedian, convocation
- 5 • Welcome Week schedule
 - Greek Week schedule

Opinions

- 7 • TTU sucks and other musings
 - Tidbits of wisdom for newcomers

Features

- 8 • Getting busy at MTSU
- 9 • College by numbers: a guide to helpful MTSU extensions and Web sites
- 10, 11 • Campus map
- 14 • What students say

Sports

- 15 • Several 2001-02 moments stand out
 - MT to battle 4 SEC teams
 - Heisman possibility for MT running back
- 19 • MT varsity sports fall 2002 schedules



File photos

For a new student, college life can be a blur. There are so many new things to do, it's easy to leave something out. See page 9 for a list of things to do at MTSU.



SIDELINES

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Sidelines is a free publication.

MTSU enrollment on the rise

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

Despite a partial government shutdown last week and continuing state financial woes, MTSU's enrollment numbers continue to climb.

"Enrollment increases are always a double-edged sword," said Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Bob Glenn.

Already, Glenn said, the university is facing a 12 percent increase in returning students pre-registered for the fall semester.

According to Sherian Huddleston, Enrollment Management, fall enrollment is up 7 percent from this time last year.

Gina Poff, a coordinator for Customs, said the first three sessions of Customs are already booked at 400 students each. There are seven Customs sessions total, and each one averages about 380 students.

"We are expecting a big

increase," Poff said. Poff told *The Record* that 87 percent of freshmen planning to attend MTSU in August come to Customs first.

Lynn Palmer, assistant director of admissions, cited a 15 percent increase in the number of freshman applicants at the end of May. Palmer said that number would be inflated with a summer rush of applicants.

Glenn said that, although enrollment increases have positive qualities, they can put a strain on the university's resources.

"We're running out of space and faculty and we're still growing," he said.

There has been no significant increase in the number of courses to be offered for the fall, he said. The same is true for the number of professors.

"Many faculty would say we're way behind," he added.

In response to the state's lack of financial support for higher education, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission recently

Fall enrollment 1991 to 2001

1991 - 15,673

1992 - 16,787

1993 - 17,383

1994 - 17,120

1995 - 17,424

1996 - 17,924

1997 - 18,366

1998 - 18,432

1999 - 18,993

2000 - 19,121

2001 - 20,073

developed a plan of action designed to help institutions operate on the assumption that no new dollars will be provided by the state in the coming year.

The plan calls for a 3 percent enrollment cap to be put in effect

for five years. Any enrollment growth over 3 percent won't be included in THEC's funding formula calculations, meaning that MTSU could lose a substantial amount of money despite gaining tuition dollars from those extra students.

University officials met recently to discuss what measures to take regarding enrollment, but no final decisions have been made yet.

Glenn said a number of factors influence enrollment growth. One of the largest factors this year is that there has been a projected 16 to 30 percent increase in Tennessee high school graduates.

Six of the top 10 or 15 feeder counties - counties that supply a large number of MTSU enrollees - have undergone major population growth over the past few years, Glenn said.

Rutherford County is no exception. It has grown by more than 50 percent in the past 10 years, Glenn said.

Adding to the population

growth factor is a post-Sept. 11 mentality that causes students to be less likely to want to move out-of or across state to attend college, Glenn said.

"Students tend to want to stay closer to home," he said.

Among the measures being debated, he said, are stricter admission deadlines and higher admission standards.

MTSU, Glenn said, has tended to be lenient on application and admission deadlines and standards.

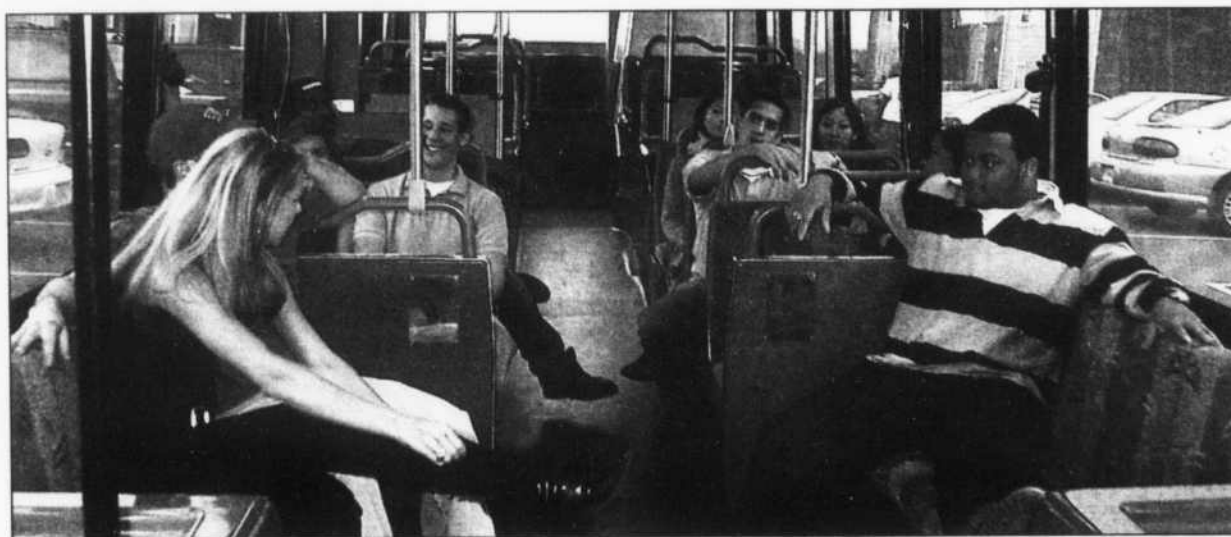
"We have always been an extremely user-friendly institution," he said.

Enrollment has grown steadily since 1995.

Admission standards were raised in 1994, he said, and the university experienced no enrollment growth that year.

"Growth is going to be something we have to deal with in different ways," Glenn said. "It's going to be a wrestling match all summer long." ♦

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Dining halls to offer new cuisines

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

Late-night pizza delivery, all-day breakfast and a major cafeteria renovation are some of the big changes in store for food services over the summer.

McCallie Dining Hall, located on the first floor of freshman dorm Corlew Hall, will undergo a complete renovation this summer, said Paul Stuart, director of Food Services. The facility will get a new ceiling, new floors, equipment, lighting and more, he said.

"I've been here a long time and this is probably the most industrious change we've made," Stuart added.

Stuart said the content as well as the appearance of the facility would be completely overhauled. Food Services will stress freshness – both in looks and taste.

"It'll be light and airy and colorful," he said, adding that the cafeteria – which he refers to as a "residential restaurant" – will use more

fresh vegetables and foods, and do display cooking so students can fully customize their meals and watch as they are prepared.

"No more mystery meat," Stuart said. "Those days are gone."

The cafeteria's more streamlined look will eliminate the overhead signage that currently says "drinks" or "desserts," he said.

The new facility will have multiple stations for a variety of foods and drinks, and most stations will be mobile.

"About the only thing that won't be mobile is the pizza area and grill" which require overhead vent hoods, he said.

The cafeteria will offer Asian, Russian and Latin cuisine among others, he said.

In addition, McCallie will be expanding its meal-plan hours to all day – from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. In the past, the facility was open for these hours, but meal plans – which are mandatory for all freshmen living on campus – were accepted only during specific hours

of the day. Now students can utilize their meal plans at McCallie during all business hours.

"Now, they'll be able to eat their meal whenever they want to," Stuart said.

Students who opt to purchase the unlimited meal plan with 85 flex dollars will be able to eat at McCallie as many times per day as they want, Stuart said. He expects a 20 percent increase this fall in the number of meals that will be served at McCallie.

Changes are in store for the Woodmore Cyber Café, as well. Stuart said the café will become MTSU's late-night venue when it expands its operating hours from the current 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. most nights.

The café will begin delivering pizza to campus residents, as well. Students will be able to have Bene Pizza delivered to their dorm rooms or apartments and, with their student ID, have the costs deducted from their flex dollars or Raider Funds, Stuart said.

Dining hall hours – fall 2002

• **McCallie Dining Hall**
Monday through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday – Closed
Sunday – 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

• **Woodmore Cyber Café**
Monday through Thursday – 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Friday – 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday – Closed
Sunday – 2 p.m. to 2 a.m.

• **Keathley University Center Grill**
Monday through Thursday – 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Pizza Hut open until 8:30)
Friday – 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday – 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday – Closed

• **James Union Building Cafeteria**
Monday through Thursday – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday – 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday – Closed

For students with a late-night craving for breakfast, the Cyber Café soon will offer the first meal of the day all day. Stuart said the café will serve a breakfast comparable to the Waffle House or International House of Pancakes.

Undergoing minor changes are the Keathley University Center Grill and the James Union Building Cafeteria, which underwent renovation last year.

The Grill's grill-works area will get a facelift, with all new counters and some new equipment including a new char grill, a smoker and a quesadilla station, Stuart said. The JUB cafeteria's grill-works area will be improved as well, he said.

All the changes are slated to be completed by the first day of fall classes, Aug. 19. ♦

Welcome Week to feature comedian, convocation

New events will spotlight athletes, author of novel

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

The university is hoping to wow returning and incoming students during Week of Welcome 2002, to be held Aug. 16 through Aug. 28.

WOW 2002 will include some new events in addition to events that are held every year.

Meet, Greet and Eat, a new event to be held Aug. 19, will allow students to meet the student athletes in Floyd Stadium.

Another new event, the university convocation, will provide students with an official "welcome back" from the university, said Becca Wilson, coordinator of WOW 2002.

President Sidney McPhee, the vice presidents, college deans and other faculty and staff

will attend. James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, the summer reading book, will be the keynote speaker for the evening.

The convocation will be held in Murphy Center August 18 at 2 p.m.

"All of the events during Welcome Week are designed to welcome not just new students, but all students back to campus," Wilson said.

The week is designed to show students the university is glad they're back, she said, and that there are fun things to do on campus.

Events that will be returning for WOW 2002 are the President's Picnic, the dinner and street fair, Greek-Fest, Student Organization Fair and the second-annual Meet Murfreesboro.

Other events during the week include a stand-up comedy performance by Bill Bellamy, the outdoor movie, *Meet the Parents*, the Honors Challenge and the Volunteer Fair.

All events are free for students. ♦

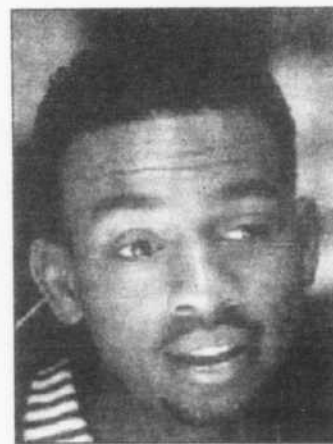


Photo provided

(Above) Comedian Bill Bellamy will perform during this year's Welcome Week at 8 p.m. Aug. 24 in Murphy Center.



Photo provided

(Right) Daryl Hammond, a comedian of *Saturday Night Live* fame, performed during last year's Welcome Week. See page 5 for a schedule.

Week of Welcome schedule

Friday, August 16
Residence Halls Open – noon
Dinner and Music – 6 p.m. behind Corlew Hall
Meet the Parents – Outdoor Movie – 8:30 p.m. in KUC Courtyard

Saturday, August 17
Residence Halls Open – 8 a.m.
Dinner and Street Fair – 6 p.m. behind Corlew Hall

Sunday, August 18
University Convocation – 2 p.m. in Murphy Center
President's Picnic – 4:30 p.m. – between Peck and Cope

Monday, August 19
Meet, Greet, and Eat – 4 p.m. in Floyd Stadium

Tuesday, August 20
Volunteer Fair – 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in KUC Courtyard

Wednesday, August 21
GreekFest – 7 p.m. in Campus Recreation Center

Thursday, August 22
Student Organization Fair – 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in KUC Courtyard

Saturday, August 24
Comedian Bill Bellamy – 8 p.m. in Murphy Center
Honors Challenge

Sunday, August 25
Honors Convocation

Monday, August 26
Open Mic Night at Cyber Café – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 27
Meet Murfreesboro – 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in KUC Courtyard

Wednesday, August 28
Meet Murfreesboro – 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in KUC Courtyard

Greek Week 2002 – tentative schedule

The Office of Greek Life in Keathley University Center, Room 310, will be collecting money for Greek God/Goddess contest all week.

Friday, Aug. 16
• Picnic behind Corlew Hall at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 17
• Dinner and Street Fair behind Corlew Hall at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 18
• 2 p.m. convocation at Murphy Center.
• President's Picnic at 4:30 p.m. followed by concert featuring the Nation-als between Cope Administration Building and Peck Hall. There will also be a gelatin-eating contest.

Monday, Aug. 19
• Two individuals are needed to volunteer for community service day event.

Those interested should meet at 3 p.m. at Womack Lane Day Care Center.

Tuesday, Aug. 20
• Faculty Appreciation Day

Wednesday, Aug. 21
• GreekFest at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center will offer free pizza to students interested in joining a Greek organization.

Thursday, Aug. 22
• Philanthropy Day and Student Organization Fair in KUC Courtyard

Friday, Aug. 23
• Mud volleyball will be held at the Sigma Phi Epsilon house at 2 p.m. The winner of the Greek God/Goddess contest will be announced.

To get an update on the Greek Week schedule, contact Greek Life at 898-5996.

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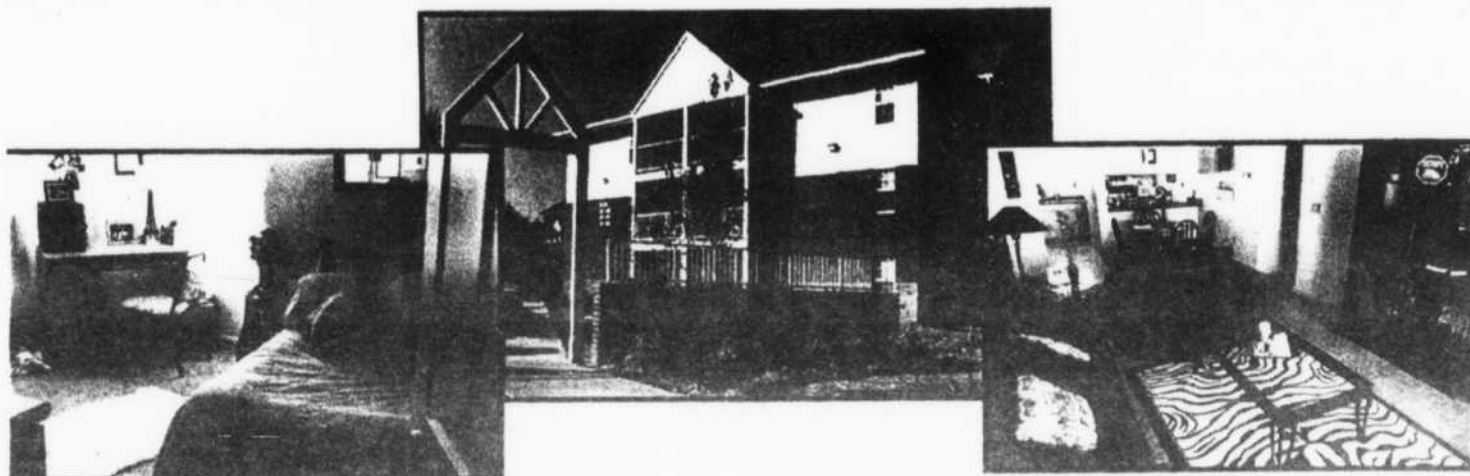
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OPINIONS

7 ♦ SIDELINES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

TTU sucks and other musings

Canadian Bacon



Patrick Chinnery
Staff Columnist

Customs isn't only for freshmen. If you're in session one, just ask my friend Andrew Coleman, who finally came to his senses and transferred to MTSU from the industrial waste zone that is Tennessee Technological University.

Sure, that university gets thousands more dollars per student in funding than MTSU (was that little fact included on the campus orientation tour?), but has it gotten Tech

any farther along?

I say no. Look at the facts – they're just now getting Ethernet in their dorms, the newest building on their campus was erected heaven knows how long ago and *US News and World Report* classifies them merely as a "regional university." MTSU is classified as a national university. Their newspaper, *The Oracle*, is horrible. That's according to some of Tech's own students.

Having said that, here's a lesson for new Blue Raiders: no one ever criticizes *Sidelines*. We are journalistic gods and therefore without flaws. If anything is ever wrong with the paper, it is the printer's fault.

I digress. Both transfer and first-time students share many of the

same initial experiences. There's the award-winning campus tour, the delectable delights available at the club fair and the first chance to meet/stalk tantalizing members of the opposite sex (sorry to disappoint you ladies, but I'm taken).

Those of you in session one get to register for classes first, a stroke of brilliant luck on your part. Don't expect the registration goodness to continue past this semester, however; until you're a senior, not one of your schedules will come out as planned.

For those of you in the last session, it's good that you can learn a valuable lesson early. That lesson is the registration process is never fair or just. Unless you're an athlete, then you get to register before everyone. Athletes are, after all, the

most important people here. Forget about the transfer students with 4.0 GPAs since coming to MTSU (and 3.86 overall) who have no scholarships, no one pays \$5 to watch them be smart. They don't deserve to register early, because they can't play football or didn't make MTSU their first choice school.

Which brings me back to the point. Transferring to MTSU can be difficult, but attending Customs can make it a lot easier. You've already learned the basic dos and don'ts of college, so you can focus on MTSU-specific information, like the seemingly endless list of building name acronyms and where the students hang out between classes and after hours. While the incoming freshmen will

be dealing with such life-threatening issues as how to wash one's own laundry, you can be memorizing the shortest routes to class, so you can have that extra five minutes of sleep each morning.

So, welcome to MTSU, your collegiate home for the next two, three, four, seven years. There's no need to rush – as of Dec. 2003, you'll only need 120 hours to graduate. Enjoy your time here. That's the real message of Customs: How to meet people and have fun. No one likes a wet blanket. Unless you're at Tech. ♦

Patrick Chinnery is a junior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

Tidbits of wisdom for newcomers

What the Smack?



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

Because I was deprived of unconventional information during Customs, I'm here to offer it to those recently plucked from the safe haven of high school and tossed headfirst into the harsh reality of college. OK, not really.

First of all, if you fear large crowds or catching a communicable disease, stay a good 50 yards from the Keathley University Center during the first week of school. Thousands of students accumulate in the lobby and on the Knoll, to plot my demise, no doubt. I suggest frolicking around the pseudo-forest outside Peck Hall, where you can throw walnuts at the genitalia of your new fellow

college students. Now there's a way to make friends.

Second, everyone under the sun will tell you a million times to get involved in positive social activities. They forget that there are those of us, myself included, that don't really belong anywhere and dislike human contact. We reject usually end up at *Sidelines* anyway, so come and fill out an application. The people we meet don't usually like us, but we don't care.

Next, you should get used to being broke. Between tuition, books and crap you need to remain a hygienic part of society, you will not have money to lavish yourself with pom-pom socks from Phillips Bookstore. Unless you have a wealthy beneficiary, you will join the rest of us who beg passersby for a dollar so we can get a treat from the nifty ice cream machine in the Mass Communication building.

Do not depend on selling your books back for cash. If you get any, it will only be enough to buy yourself a valium so you can temporari-

ly forget your financial misery. I'm convinced that the bookstore staff purposely sells books they will have no use for next semester, then gather around a sacrificial fire and cackle at our ignorance.

If you live in Murfreesboro year-round, enroll in summer school. Some say the curriculum is harder than in a normal semester, I say hush up, you sissies. It's four months of absolute boredom packed into one month of absolute boredom. There are tons of parking spaces, it's relatively warm and sunny and you'll graduate earlier than you would having neglected the wonderful land of summer school.

Remember that procrastination is a low-reward, high-risk practice, but boy, is it better than being a slave to responsibility. It's possible to make it through college with a decent grade point average without lifting a finger, but the Force that is Life will eventually catch up and bite you. The business world runs on things getting done on time and

efficiently. Don't like it? Become a writer.

One of the most important lessons I have learned in college is that authority should be questioned at all times. Just because an instructor or leader of some sort is wearing the head honcho helmet doesn't mean he or she isn't an idiot, a liar, a thief or a knife-wielding maniac. If the person in question rejects you, suspect them even more. I am not giving you permission to torture your professors, pastors and the like, but the knowledge that you have the freedom to know as much truth as is humanly possible.

Lastly, for the love of God, buy a Harbrace Handbook. I bought one, sold it, bought it again, then sold it back. Now it seems that every class I take, English or not, the instructor recommends that magical little book.

Bottom line, you'll pick up your own random lessons along the way, assuming you make it through the first semester. Try not to hog them.

Even I still need some insight every now and again. ♦

Amber Bryant is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers.



Please 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.

NEW STUDENT EDITION FEATURES

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, July 9, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Getting busy at MTSU



File Photos

(Above) No. 29 – Students play human foosball at last year's President's Picnic held each August during Welcome Week. This year's Welcome Week is slated to feature an outdoor movie, a Student Organization Fair and many other free events.
(Left) No. 22 – This student leafs through the various volumes in the James E. Walker Library.



By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

For new college students, getting out of the house and coming to a university of 20,000 people can be a tad overwhelming.

There are so many things to do, so many people to meet and so many experiences to, well, experience, it's easy to miss something.

Below is a checklist of things to do at MTSU. Cut it out, tack it on your wall and start working through the numbers to ensure that you make the most of your time at MTSU. By no means is this list complete. Feel free to add on to it yourself.

With a little creativity, boredom should never be an issue.

1. Get your own radio show on 88.3 WMTS.
2. Become a night patrol person with Public Safety.
3. Challenge your friends to a game of racquetball at the Recreation Center.
4. Join the *Sidelines* staff.
5. Create your own high-drama TV show for MTV.
6. Go to Open Mic Night at the Cyber Café.
7. Perform at Open Mic Night.
8. Support all the MT athletics teams by attending every game.
9. Have a late-night, cross-campus, outdoor wrestling match with a friend.
10. Start your own fan club for a local band and hand out and post fliers.
11. Star Gaze while reclining in the new Courtyard.
12. Attend the Highland Games in the fall – wearing a kilt.
13. Have your picture taken for the yearbook.
14. Watch a student-produced play at Tucker Theatre.
15. Join the Rowdy Raiders and party hard before, during and after Blue Raider football games.
16. Frolic with the squirrels in the grassy area next to Peck Hall.
17. Take advantage of free laundry days during Homecoming.
18. Run for a Student Government Association

office.

19. Attend the Honors Lecture Series.
20. Take an Alternative Spring Break and do some philanthropy.
21. Help build a Homecoming float.
22. Read a book at the library.
23. Brush up on your writing skills at the university's writing lab.
24. Submit your poetry or artwork to *Collage* or *Scribbling Mob*.
25. Check out the photos in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery.
26. See a movie at the Keathley University Center Theater – it's only \$2.
27. Look for jobs or internships at the Placement Office.
28. Drop by the Student Organization Fair this fall to check out the campus clubs.
29. March in the Take Back the Night rally held each spring.
30. Grab some free grub and play games at the President's Picnic in August.
31. Do your homework for once.

See To do, 14



File photo

No. 12 – The annual Highland Games bring Scottish Culture to campus.

College by numbers

a guide to helpful MTSU extensions and Web sites

Academic Affairs: 898-2880	~records/exam.html	Library: 898-2772	Student Affairs: 898-2440	Telecommunications: 898-2991
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Admissions: 898-2111	Fee payment: www.mtsu.edu/~bursarmt	Multicultural Affairs: 898-2987	Student ID: www.mtsu.edu/~support/campusid.html	Undergraduate catalog: www.mtsu.edu/ucat
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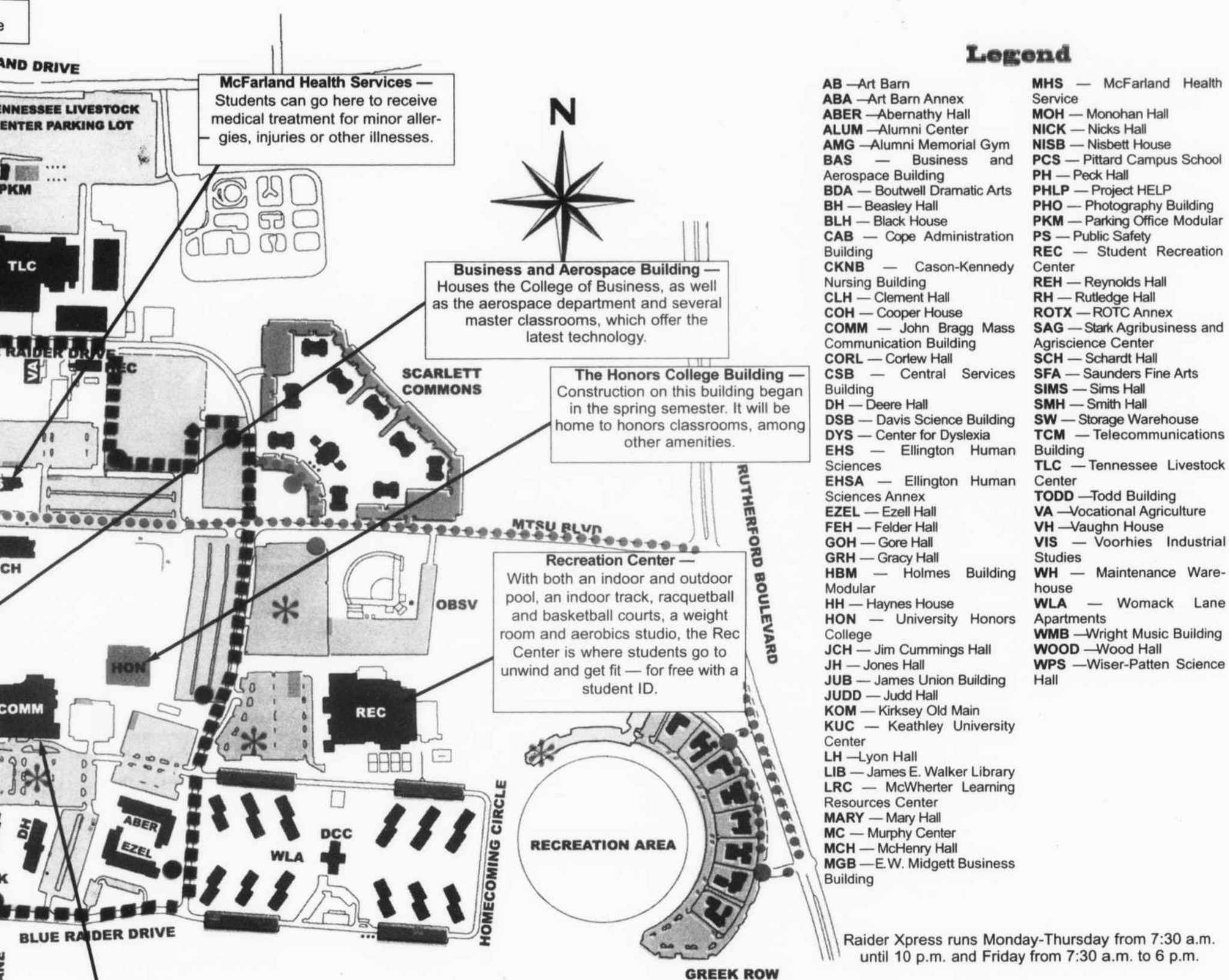
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McCallie Dining Hall — Meal plans accepted here

McWherter Learning Resources Center — Here you can check out videos to watch for class, or brows through the Baldwin Photographic Gallery.

Woodmore Cyber Cafe — Log on to the Internet and grab some lunch with your Flex dollars.

Walker Library — Multiple computers and study areas make the library a study haven.



Raider Xpress runs Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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CIRCLE K international MTSU CHAPTER

Informational meeting, Monday, August 26 in
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for more information,
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File photo

No. 33 – The experienced artist or the everyday amateur can find hours of enjoyment scrawling chalk messages on the walk.

List: Chalk murals beautify the campus

Continued from 8

31. Do your homework for once.

32. Put notes to your friends under their car's windshield wipers in those yellow parking ticket envelopes and watch the drama unfold.

33. Draw murals in chalk on the sidewalks of campus.

34. Serenade the residents of one of the outside-entrance dorms

(during the day to avoid arrest).

35. Attend the student film festival in the spring.

36. Whistle at the construction workers who seem to be everywhere on campus.

37. Decorate your favorite vehicle in MT Blue and tailgate 'til the sun comes up.

38. Sing your favorite tune everywhere you walk and relish the ruckus you'll cause. ♦

Features e-mail
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

What the students say

Sidelines writer Chad Ackerman asked several current MTSU students what the biggest difference is between high school and MTSU, as well as the biggest similarity.



Difference: You learn something about life.

Similarity: Tests are almost the same.

Jimmy Stephens, junior



Differences: In high school, there were a whole bunch of classes that you had to take.

Similarity: The level of respect people get in terms of their classification. Whether you are a freshman or senior does matter.

Justin Broddrick, senior



Differences: You can go outside whenever you want to and you try to fit lunch in whenever you can.

Similarity: You go to classes.

Sara Plott, senior

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 15

Several 2001-02 moments stand out

By Amy Jones
Sports Editor

After its fourth year in Division I-A and third year as a Sun Belt Conference university, Middle Tennessee is slowly beginning to dominate and make a name for itself in its 13 scholarship varsity sports.

From the Blue Raider football team's 2001 Co-SBC Championship to the 2000 appearance in the NCAA regional tournament from the baseball team, MT has become a dreaded opponent among many of the university-level teams across the United States.

MT began dominating from day one last fall when football head coach Andy McCollum and the Blue Raiders traveled to take on Southeastern Conference member Vanderbilt University Aug. 31. The Raiders commanded a 37-28 upset in front of a sold-out crowd, which was made-up of mostly blue that night.

Signs, shirts and other apparel came out the next day proclaiming, "Little Middle no more." *SportsCenter* even had a small segment about the victory. And, as most MT athletes know, that just

doesn't happen very often.

The Blue Raider soccer team ended the fall season with a winning record of 10-9. Danielle LaDuke took Freshman of the Year honors. LaDuke scored 13 goals this season, which ties the school record of most goals scored in one season.

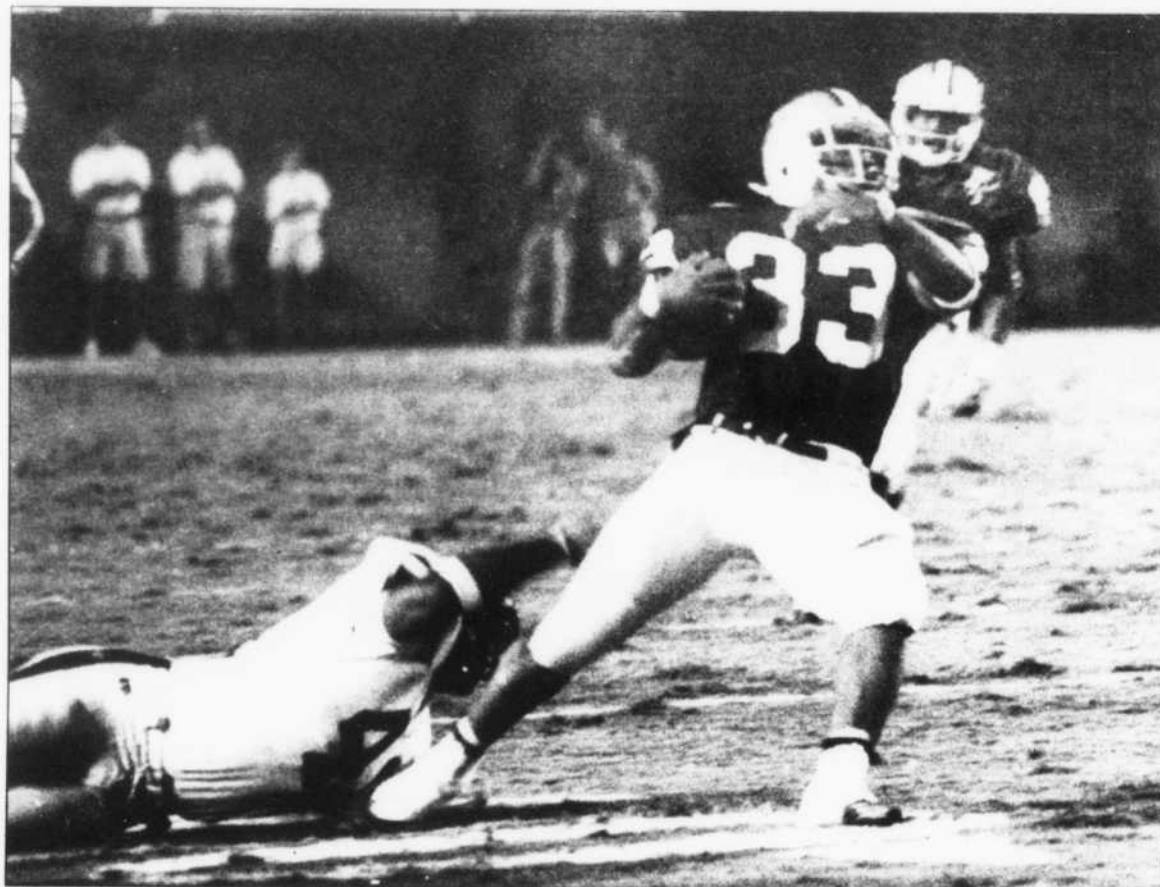
Another remarkable victory against an SEC team came in basketball. Coach Stephany Smith and the Lady Raider basketball team rallied to a late lead over the Lady Rebels of University of Mississippi, better known as Ole Miss.

Senior Jamie Thomatis and the Lady Raiders pulled off a 74-64 win in Murphy Center over the Lady Rebels Dec. 1. Thomatis led the season for the squad with an average of 18.2 points per game.

The Lady Raiders round ball team also came close to beating the University of Georgia during the season. Georgia took a 77-72 overtime win from MT. The Lady Bulldogs were ranked in the top 10 when they faced the Lady Raiders and finished their season ranked No. 16.

Men's hoops faced controversy this season after the resignation of

See Highlights, 17



File photo

MT Running back Dwone Hicks drags one of Vanderbilt University's own during last year's game in which MT took the victory, 37-28. MT and Vandy will meet up once again in October.

MT to battle 4 SEC teams

By Kevin Jones
Staff Writer

Beginning their third season as a member of the Sun Belt Conference, football head coach Andy McCollum and the defending 2001 SBC co-champion squad face an impressive change in scheduling for the 2002 season.

The Blue Raiders will face four dominant football powers from the Southeastern Conference. These include the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the

University of Kentucky and Vanderbilt University.

Middle Tennessee vs. Alabama - Aug. 31

MT will begin its 2002 campaign on the road with three straight



games against three superior SEC teams - the first of which is Alabama. Although the university is located in Tuscaloosa, Blue

Raider fans will only have to travel to the city of Birmingham to see the two go head-to-head this fall.

Alabama finished the 2001 season with a record of 7-5. At the end of the regular season, Bama played Iowa State in the Independence Bowl Dec. 26. Due to Iowa's missed field goal, the Crimson Tide was able to muster a late 14-13 win over the Cyclones.

The Tide holds the NCAA bowl record with 51 appearances and 28 wins. Tuscaloosa is also the home

See SEC, 18

Heisman possibility for MT running back

Analysis by Colleen Cox
Contributor

The "big" schools aren't the only ones with Heisman Trophy candidates.

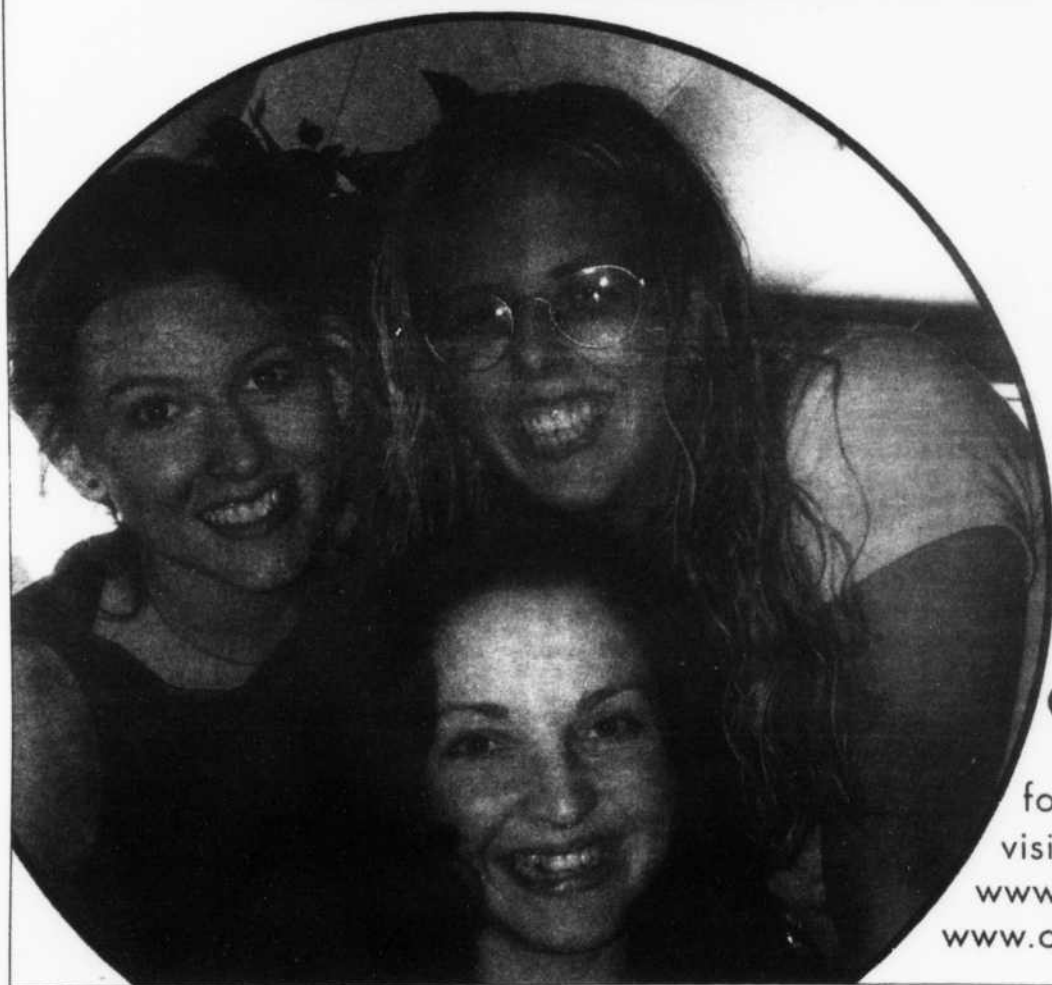
Middle Tennessee gained one of its own when Dwone Hicks chose to stay at Middle Tennessee last semester instead of entering the NFL Draft.

Hicks was projected as a fourth round pick in the recent draft. He returns to MT as one of the top

running backs in the nation and one of only five senior runners in college football. Hicks was mentioned in *Sports Illustrated* as a darkhorse candidate for the Heisman Trophy last season.

Athletic Media Relations Director Mark Owens announced the Hicks 4 Heisman campaign in April, making Hicks a contender for the award. Hicks will have stiff competition for the trophy,

See Heisman, 18



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Highlights: Three Blue Raiders picked in major league draft

Continued from 15

head coach Randy Weil. Weil resigned soon after the SBC tournament and was replaced soon after with Kermit Davis Jr. Davis comes from Louisiana State University, another dominant SEC school.

After the cold weather subsided, the men's tennis team headed outside to begin an impressive 12-0 start on the season. The Blue Raiders finished the year at 16-7 and a second place finish in the SBC.

Daniel Klemetz, the Blue Raiders' No. 1 netter, finished his season with an appearance in the NCAA tournament.

Klemetz ended his season at 29-9 and was named the *Tennis Magazine*/Arthur Ashe Jr. Sportsmanship and Leadership winner during the tournament.

Also taking a trip to the NCAA tennis tournament this season was junior Stacy Varnell and sophomore Manon Kruse.

The Lady Raider doubles team finished the season with a record of 28-8.

Varnell and Kruse were defeated in the second round of the tournament by Stanford's Lauren Barnikow and Jessica Lehnoff.

Kruse also made the NCAA tournament in singles action but was soon eliminated after the first round.

Kruse takes over first place in the MT record books for most doubles wins in a season with 30.

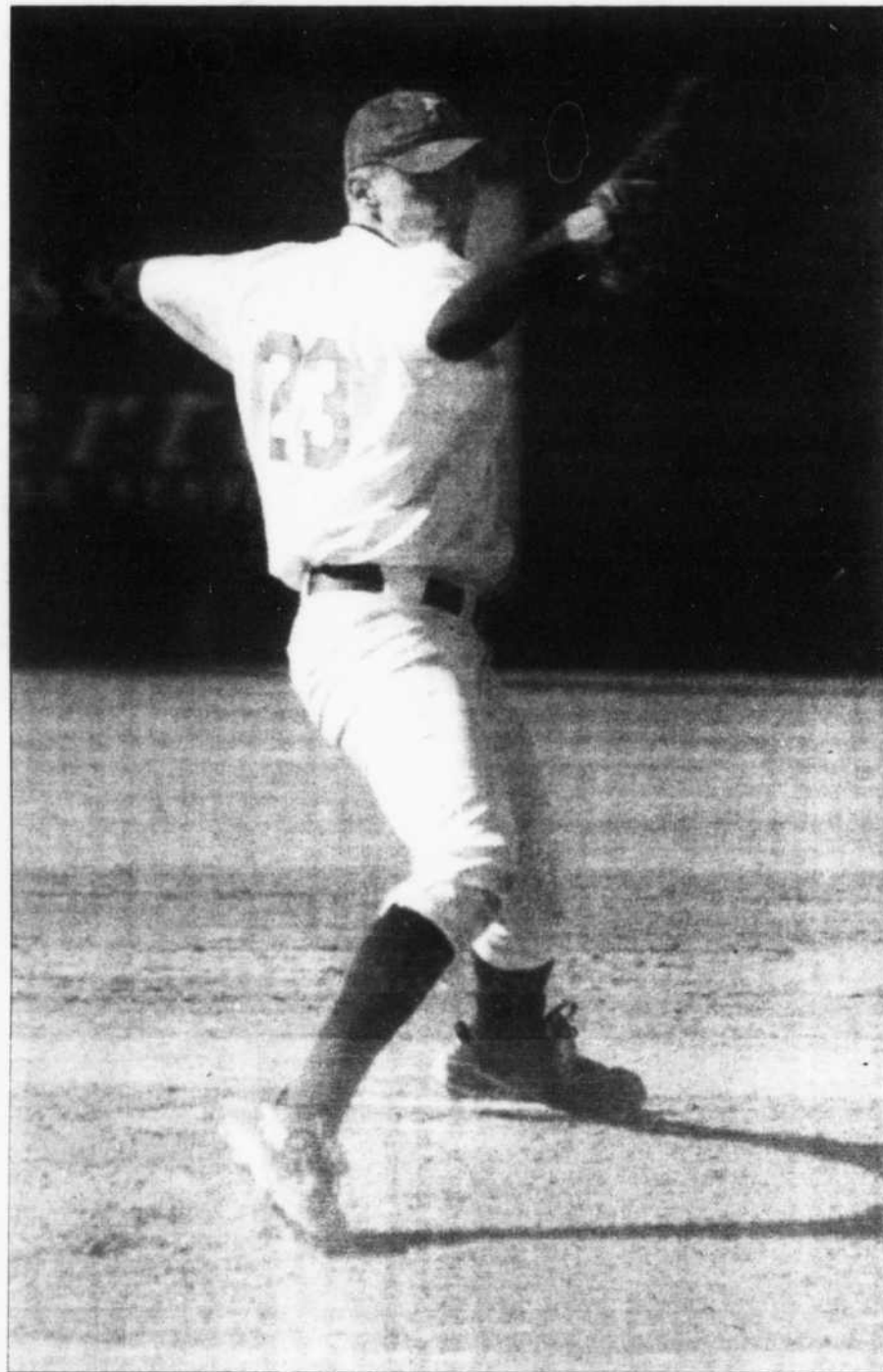
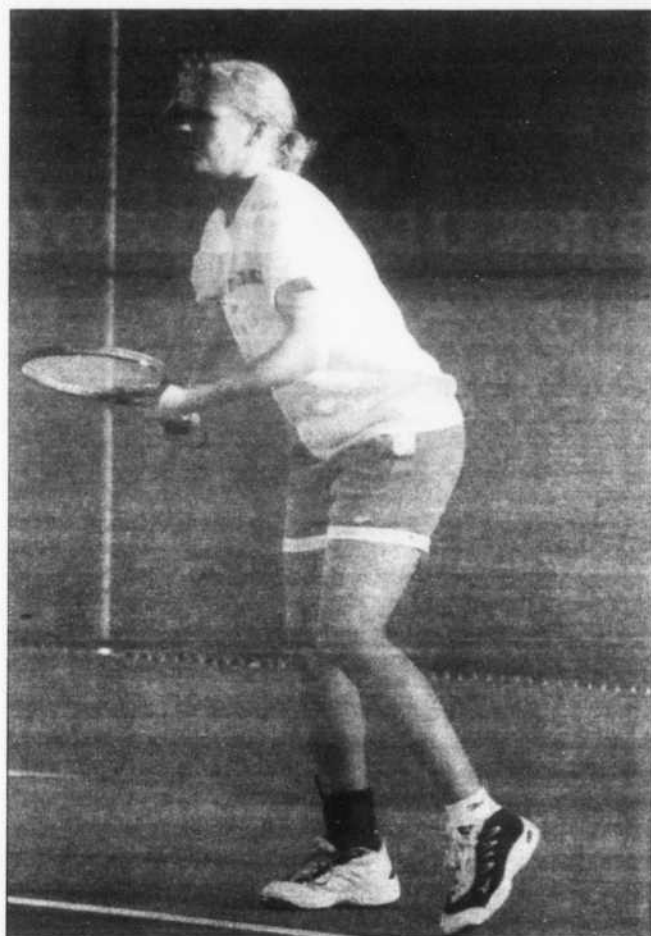
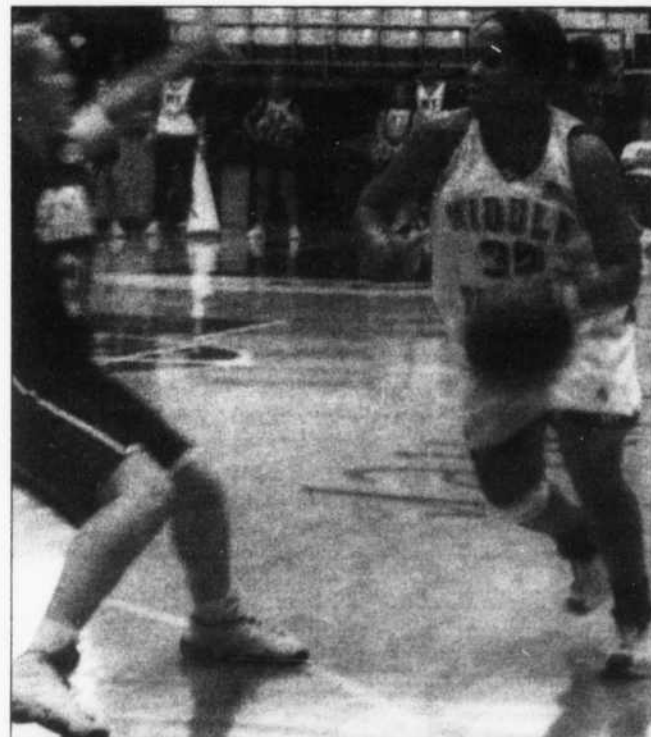
On the diamond, both the Raiders and Lady Raiders seemed to have had an off-season this spring.

After ex-Raider Dwone Brazelton was signed last season by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, MT was left sifting through the ashes. Brazelton led the Raiders to a 2001 NCAA Regional appearance, were they were defeated by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

After No. 1 pitcher John Williams punched a water cooler and broke his wrist halfway through the season, the Raiders struggled and didn't make it past the Sun Belt tournament.

Even with a down season, three Raiders are headed to the majors. Freshman Josh Archer and junior Justin Sims will leave the university early to pursue a career in the majors.

Senior Jason Howarth also



File photo

(Top left) Lady Raider senior Jamie Thomatis, right, led the women's basketball squad last season with an average of 18.2 points per game.

(Left) Sophomore Manon Kruse, with doubles teammate Stacy Varnell, made it to the NCAA tournament this past season. Kruse holds a place in MT's record books for most doubles wins in a season - 30.

(Above) Blue Raider pitcher John Williams' season ended early when he punched a water cooler during a game and broke his wrist.

signed as a free agent in early June.

With the resignation of ex-Lady Raider softball head coach Karen Green, MT spent last July searching for a new head coach who could lead the squad and its nine seniors to another winning season.

Cindy Connelly was named the new head coach. Connelly, formerly head coach at Tennessee State University, didn't quite lead the Lady Raiders to a storybook season as expected, but the Lady Raiders came alive in May and took run-

ner-up status at the SBC tournament.

While participating in the tournament, senior Jennifer Martinez threw the first perfect game in Sun Belt tournament history.

The Lady Raiders ended the sea-

son with a bang and will look for new pitching next season from the underclassmen.

With all sports stepping up their scheduling, MT will have even more memorable events during the 2002-03 school year. ♦

SEC: MT will battle Volunteers, Clausen Sept. 7 in first-time match-up

Continued from 15

of the famous football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Middle Tennessee vs. Tennessee - Sept. 7

The second game will be a short drive to Knoxville, Tenn., where MT



will take on No. 7 preseason-ranked Tennessee. With a No. 6 finish, UT ended its 2001 season at 11-2 with a 42-17 victory over the University of Michigan in the Florida Citrus Bowl.

UT quarterback Casey Clausen will be an adversary to MT's running back Dwone Hicks for the Heisman Trophy this fall. Clausen passed for 22 touchdowns, 2,969 yards and 244.4 yards per game.

The University of Miami will fly into Knoxville for the Volunteers' Homecoming - a testament to the strength of Tennessee's scheduling.

The Hurricanes are the defending national champions after defeating the University of Nebraska Jan. 3 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Middle Tennessee vs. Kentucky - Sept. 21

After a difficult beginning, MT will head to Lexington to take on the



University of Kentucky in the third game of the season.

The Blue Raiders are one of four non-SEC teams the Wildcats will face this fall.

Kentucky will end their season with eight straight SEC games and will wrap up the 2002 season at Tennessee.

The Wildcats played a disappointing season in 2001 with a record of 2-9. The two wins came over Ball State University, 28-20, and Vanderbilt, 56-30. However, the Cats came close to defeating the Vols, 38-35. The Vols were able to rally in the 4th quarter to defeat the Cats.

Middle Tennessee vs. Vanderbilt - Oct. 12

The final SEC game will be against the Commodores. MT de-



feated Vandy 37-28 for the first win of the 2001 season and the first-ever SEC win in school football history.

In 2001, the Blue Raiders dominated offensively throughout the Vanderbilt game. The Raiders had 37 first downs while the Vols only had 17. Middle Tennessee gained an impressive 608 total net yards against Vandy's 477.

The Commodores finished the season with a humbling 2-9 record. Vanderbilt defeated the University of Richmond and Duke University.

The Vols suffered a 38-0 loss to the Tide of Alabama.

Besides the four SEC teams, MT will have a chance to redeem their pride with a home rematch against the Mean Green of North Texas.

The Blue Raiders lost to the Green last season and also crushed any chance of a trip to New Orleans for a bowl game, even with a finishing record of 8-3.

North Texas wrapped up the season in New Orleans with a huge loss to Colorado State University and a 5-7 record. ♦

Heisman: Emphasis placed on team

Continued from 15

including last season's runner-up Rex Grossman.

The Florida quarterback threw for 3,896 yards and 34 touchdowns in his sophomore season. Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey also has a legitimate shot at the award. He has thrown for 5,448 yards and 49 touchdowns in three years with the Hurricanes.

MT's tough schedule could pose a problem for Hicks in his march for the Heisman. The Blue Raiders play their first three games on the road against Southeastern Conference opponents.

Hicks needs to excel in these games to have a legitimate shot at the Heisman. The Blue Raiders' showdown with Tennessee will pit Hicks against Casey Clausen, another Heisman candidate.

Hicks has performed well against SEC opponents. Last season, he racked up 203 yards and scored 4 touchdowns in MT's win over Vanderbilt.

Hicks also rushed for 134 yards against Louisiana State University.

Hicks realizes the importance of the first games, but is more focused on his team and their performance.

"Certainly, those first few games are important, but I'm only going to do as well as my team does," Hicks told Murfreesboro's *Daily News Journal* in April.

"It's not about me. It's about our team. People will look at how I do, but I'm more concerned about what we do as a team. That's No. 1."

The team performance is equally as important as Hicks' performance this season. Heisman candidates have typically not won when their team has lost more than two games in a season.

Therefore, the Blue Raiders' record will play into Hicks' chances as much as his total rushing yards.

"I think that the first thing that helps is team," said head coach Andy McCollum.

"I think that the more success that the team has, the better oppor-

tunity it would be for Dwone, and the better our team is, the better it is for Dwone to have a great year."

Hicks holds five MT rushing records, was named Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Year in 2001, was a Doak Walker Award candidate last season, posted back-to-back, 1,000-yard rushing seasons and rushed for 1,143 yards and scored 20 touchdowns last season.

The offensive line has opened the holes for Hicks to rush through while racking up these accomplishments. The line must continue to create openings for Hicks to stand a chance at winning the Heisman. McCollum says the entire offensive line from last season will return for 2002 and younger guys have been added for depth.

Hicks saw limited action in MT's Blue-White Spring Scrimmage. He only received 2 carries and rushed for 8 yards.

The Blue Raiders begin the regular season Aug. 31 against the University of Alabama. ♦

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MT varsity sports – fall 2002 schedules

Volleyball

Aug. 30-31	Lady Raider Tournament – Home
Sept. 4	UT-Chattanooga – Home, 6 p.m.
Sept. 6-7	Memphis Tournament – Memphis, Tenn.
Sept. 10	Mississippi State – Home, 6 p.m.
Sept. 14-15	Auburn Tournament – Auburn, Ala.
Sept. 18	Austin Peay – Clarksville, Tenn., 7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Alumni Game (EX) – Home, 2 p.m.
Sept. 25	Western Kentucky (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27	North Texas (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Arkansas State (SB) – Home, 1 p.m.
Oct. 8	UAB – 7 p.m.
Oct. 11	Florida International (SB) – Miami, Fla., 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	Tennessee – Knoxville, Tenn., 6 p.m.

Oct. 18	Denver (SB) – Denver, Colo., 8 p.m.
Oct. 20	New Mexico State (SB) – Las Cruces, NM, 1 p.m.
Oct. 26	New Orleans (SB) – Home, 4 p.m.
Oct. 27	South Alabama (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Oct. 30	Belmont – Nashville, Tenn., 7 p.m.
Nov. 2	Florida International (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Nov. 6	Arkansas State (SB) – Jonesboro, Ark., 7 p.m.
Nov. 8	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB) – Little Rock, 7 p.m.
Nov. 12	Western Kentucky (SB) – Bowling Green, Ky., 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB) – Lafayette, Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Nov. 20-23	Sun Belt Conference Tournament (N) – Miami, Fla.

(SB) – Sun Belt Conference Game

(N) – Neutral Site

(EX) – Exhibition Game

Soccer

Aug. 30	Southwest Missouri – Springfield, Mo., 7 p.m.
Sept. 1	Eastern Illinois – Charleston, Ill., 1 p.m.
Sept. 3	Lipscomb – Nashville, Tenn., 7 p.m.
Sept. 6	Southern Miss – Home, 4 p.m.
Sept. 8	Drury – Home, 1 p.m.
Sept. 13	Auburn – Auburn, Ala., 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Alabama – Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1 p.m.
Sept. 20	Alabama A&M – Home, 3 p.m.
Sept. 22	Murray State – Murray, Ky., 1 p.m.
Sept. 27	Florida International (SB) – Miami, Fla., 5 p.m.
Sept. 29	Stetson – Deland, Fla., 11 a.m.
Oct. 4	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB) – Home, 4 p.m.
Oct. 6	Arkansas State (SB) – Home, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11	Denver (SB) – Denver, Colo., 5 p.m.
Oct. 13	North Texas (SB) – Denton, Texas, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18	Western Kentucky (SB) – Home, 4 p.m.
Oct. 20	Austin Peay – Home, 1 p.m.
Oct. 22	Georgia State – Atlanta, Ga., 2 p.m.
Oct. 25	South Alabama (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Oct. 27	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB) – Home, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6-9	Sun Belt Conference Tournament – Mobile, Ala.

(SB) – Sun Belt Conference Game

Women's basketball

Nov. 12	Georgia College and State Univ (EX) – Home, 7 p.m.
Nov. 17	Carson Newman College (EX) – Home, 2 p.m.
Nov. 22	East Tennessee (DH) – Home, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Tennessee Tech – Cookeville, Tenn., 7 p.m.
Nov. 30	Cincinnati – Cincinnati, Ohio
Dec. 6-7	Kansas State Tournament (N) – Manhattan, Kan.
Dec. 14	South Carolina State – Orangeburg, S.C., 7 p.m.
Dec. 16	South Carolina – Columbia, SC
Dec. 19	Memphis – Home, 7 p.m.
Dec. 22	Lipscomb – Home, 2 p.m.
Dec. 28	Tennessee State – Home, 2 p.m.
Dec. 30	Georgia – Home, 7 p.m.
Jan. 4	Western Kentucky (SB) – Bowling Green, Ky.
Jan. 6	Austin Peay – Home, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9	Arkansas State (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Jan. 11	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Jan. 16	South Alabama (SB) – Mobile, Ala.
Jan. 18	New Orleans (SB) – New Orleans, La.
Jan. 23	New Mexico State (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Jan. 25	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Feb. 1	Florida International (SB) – Miami, Fla.
Feb. 6	North Texas (SB) – Denton, Texas
Feb. 8	Denver (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Arkansas State (SB) – Jonesboro, Ark.
Feb. 15	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB) – Little Rock, Ark.
Feb. 22	Florida International (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Feb. 27	Western Kentucky (SB) – Home, 7 p.m.

(SB) – Sun Belt Conference Game

(DH) – Doubleheader

(N) – Neutral Site

(EX) – Exhibition Game

Football

Aug. 31	Alabama – Birmingham, Ala.
Sept. 7	Tennessee – Knoxville, Tenn.
Sept. 21	Kentucky – Lexington, Ky., 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	Southeast Missouri – Home, 6 p.m.
Oct. 5	Arkansas State (SB) – Jonesboro, Ark., 4 p.m.
Oct. 12	Vanderbilt – Nashville, Tenn.
Oct. 19	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Oct. 26	Idaho (SB) – Moscow, Idaho, 4 p.m.
Nov. 2	New Mexico State (SB) – Las Cruces, NM, 5 p.m.
Nov. 16	Louisiana-Monroe (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Nov. 23	North Texas (SB) – Home, 2 p.m.
Nov. 30	Utah State – Home, 2 p.m.
(SB)	- Sun Belt Conference Game

The men's
basketball schedule
was not available
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