


 HI: 69°
LO: 46°

 HI: 65°
LO: 46°

 HI: 72°
LO: 48°

 Student, alumna
travel to Japan
page 5

 Lady Raiders fly
through NCAA
page 6

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Editorially independent

MT staff, students improve soldiers' helmets

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee now has the chance to aid the Marines being deployed to Iraq with the purchase of inserts for the helmets they wear.

Hilary Stallings manager, recruitment and resources at MTSU presented Operation Helmet to the Faculty Senate last month.

The presentation was about raising awareness for the public to purchase the upgrade inserts that fit into the helmets that the United States Marines wear.

Stallings talked about how terrorist use improvised explosive devices and how a soldier can sustain injuries from the blast of this weapon.

"Because of the reliance upon IEDs, the brain hits the skull and that's the problem with these IEDs

soldiers can receive a traumatic brain injury or TBI and this is the hallmark of this war," Stallings said. "That is how people are being injured and people are dying."

The helmet insert acts like a shock absorber removing the possibility of a head injury to a soldier's head, but if a soldier does not have this in their helmet then this is the scenario that follows. More soldiers are killed by IEDs

and the head injuries or shock from this than by bullet wounds alone.

"If you're on a roller coaster you can get a brain injury by having your brain move around in your head," Stallings said. "They are first being thrown back by the bomb against their truck, or the ground and their hitting this bump. Then their brain is being thrown inside of their head and then it is hitting that helmet."

Operation Helmet was founded by retired professor Robert Meaders in 2004, when his grandson who is a marine fighting in the Iraq.

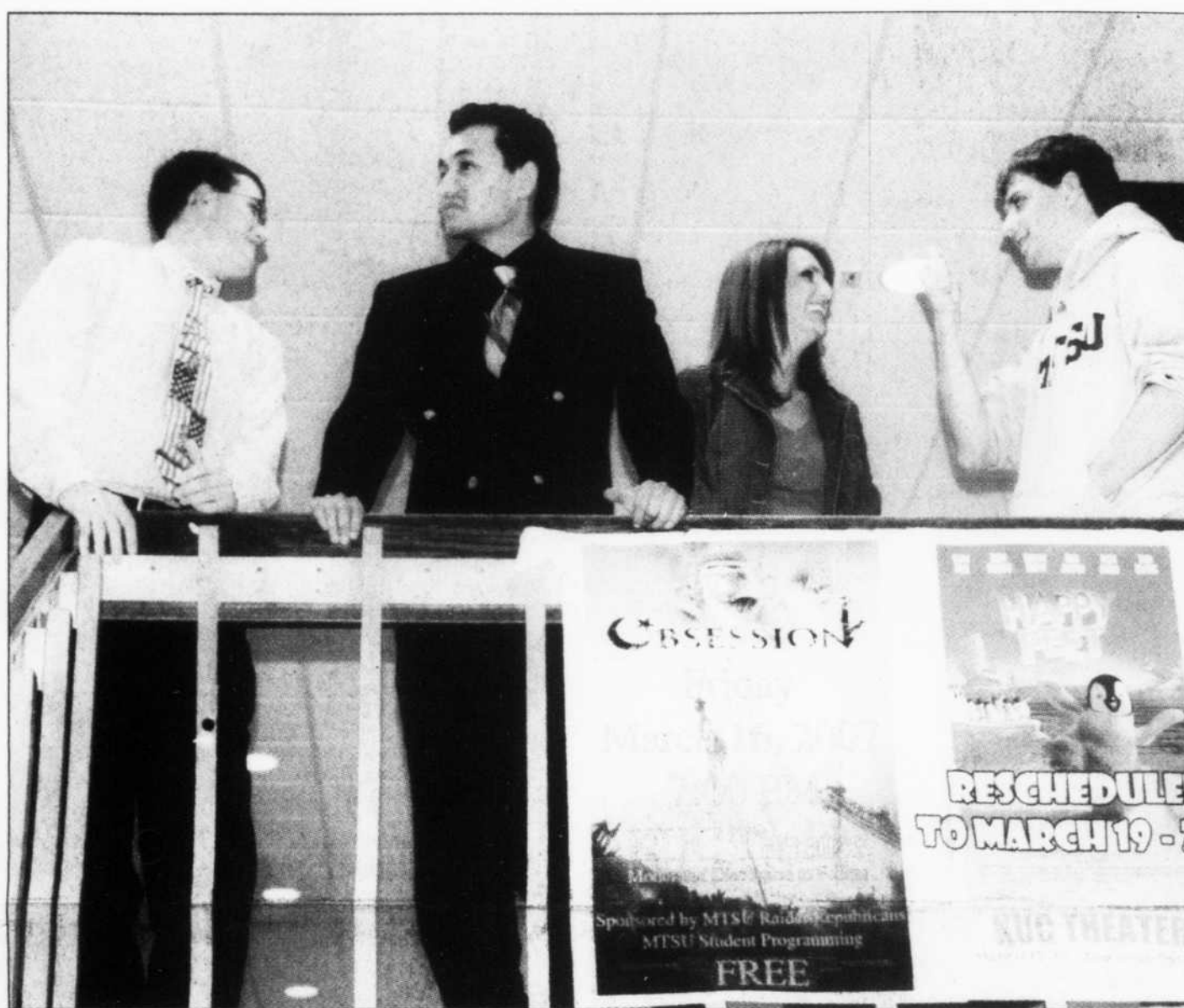
Another soldier, who was returning from Iraq showed Meaders grandson the insert in his helmet and how effective it was in keeping him from being injured in combat.

"He was about to deploy and some of the soldiers were coming

back," Stallings said. "One of them said, 'man you got to get one of these it will save your life.' He took a look at it and he thought I want one of these for all of my guys I am going with."

The insert that goes into the helmet is almost like the insert in a Kevlar helmet, but the difference is the soldier helmet insert has a ring of gel around the insert.

See Helmet, 2



(From left) Raider Republican members Edward Phillips, Anthony Davis, Lora Hortert and Brian Lawrence discuss the film before showtime. "Obsession" is a film that examines radical Islam's war on the west.

Film reviews terror, Islamic war

Raider Republicans host film which compares radical Islam to Nazis

By Ashley Brase

Staff Writer

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the subject and controversy around the faith of Islam and the "War on Terror" have become central focuses for various films, such as the one presented Friday at the Keathly University Center.

The film, "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West," directed by Raphael Shore, makes the argument that, while the Muslim religion itself is nonviolent, Islamic radicals in all corners of the world are committing acts of terror.

Listed are incidents in Madrid, Morocco, Russia, Israel, Turkey and London. However, the focus of the film is on the West, primarily the United States.

"The film is against the actions of the radicals, not the religion itself," said Greg Feiling, coordinator of MTSU Student Programming.

The opening of the film shows footage of New York City the morning of Sept. 11, fol-

lowed by footage of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"When I saw the second airplane hit, I knew Jihad has come to America," said Nonie Darwish, noted as the daughter of a Shahid [martyr], in the film.

The film shows footage of Islamic television stations, which are not shown in most western nations. The footage includes news programs and interviews voicing threats to the West and demanding Jihad, a holy war undertaken by Muslims against non-believers.

"They wish to strike down the West," said Robert Wistrich, chair of the Sassoon Center for Anti-Semitism, in the film.

Clips of Islamic music videos, such as one referring to President George W. Bush as Satan, are also shown.

The film makes comparisons between the Nazi movement of the 1930's and 1940's to the current trends in Islamic radicalism.

Scenes are shown about similarities between Nazi propaganda and radical

Islamic propaganda.

Speakers in the film compare the meaning of Jihad, "self-struggle," and the meaning of Mien Kampf, "my struggle," implying similar implications.

The film was brought to MTSU by Anthony Davis of the Raider Republicans and was sponsored by the Raider Republicans and MTSU Student programming.

"Fox News ran a summary of clips from the film in October [2006]," Davis said. "When I saw them, I thought it would be an interesting film to bring to campus."

Davis has been working with the film's campus coordinator, and has been involved in the screening of the film at over two dozen colleges around the country, since October.

Screenings of the film were shown at several college campuses last fall including New York University and the University of California at Los Angeles. The screening at

See Obsession, 2

Dining services omits harmful trans-fatty acids



Though Aramark is no longer using oil containing trans fat to deep fry foods such as french fries, fried foods still pose a threat to health.

By Dana Owens

Editor in Chief

Aramark is following a nationwide trend by eliminating the use of trans fat oils in MTSU's Campus Dining.

In February, Aramark announced that it had converted to zero grams of trans fat fryer oil in all campus dining locations. Non-hydrogenated corn and sunflower oil will now be used at nearly 400 Aramark higher education locations across the country.

According to Russell Doyle, MT Dining food service director, the move was made to eliminate trans fat after Aramark research revealed that consumers were becoming more health-conscious. By the end of March, all 4,000 Aramark locations will eliminate trans fat, he said.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, trans fat is created when hydrogen is added to vegetable oil to increase shelf life of foods. It can be found in foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, though a small amount can be found naturally.

The switch in fryer oil should not affect the taste of foods such as french fries, fish fillets, or chick-

en nuggets, Doyle said.

"Personally, I've not noticed any taste difference at all," Doyle said. "I think it tastes better."

Though the new oil is more expensive, consumer prices have not changed.

After the FDA began requiring that food labels list the substance in January 2006, many companies and even cities began eliminating the ingredient from their products.

Last December, New York City's Board of Health voted to completely ban the artificial trans fats in restaurants by July 2008.

Even Girl Scouts, who have been making appearance around campus over the past month, have followed suit. According to Associate Press reports, the Scouts have eliminated the majority of trans fat in all of their cookies.

The FDA reports that trans fat, along with saturated fat and dietary cholesterol, increase cholesterol levels, thereby raising the risk of heart disease.

Though heart disease is one of the largest killers of Americans, it is estimated the average person eats 4.7 pounds of trans fats a year.

See Trans Fat, 2

Campus recycling cuts down community waste

By Ashley Brase

Staff Writer

The average Tennessean accumulates 2 tons of trash a year, 2.5 times the national average, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. For more than 25 years MTSU has been helping break this cycle through an extensive recycling program.

With 98 aluminum cans recycling bins on campus and paper recycling areas in 58 campus buildings, students are being taught that recycling is simple, and part of their everyday lives.

"I recycle the papers I don't use

in the library, and if I have a can I always throw it in the right container," said Linda Mayfield, senior psychology major. "I don't live on campus, but when I'm here it's easy."

The recycling program, currently run through the Center for Energy Efficiency, is active in recycling many of the everyday items students use but may not consider recyclables.

The on-campus recycle bins for mixed paper and aluminum cans keep visibility high for such recyclable items. Other items are also recycled on campus.

"We had a computer change-

out for some of the administration at one point and recycled those," said Linda Hardyman, recycling program manager.

There are over 1 billion personal computers in existence worldwide today. According to the EPA, computers contain typically recyclable materials such as glass, plastic and metal. Environmental and health hazards such as lead, nickel and cadmium are also found in computers, which makes it vital to properly dispose of and recycle these machines.

Ink cartridges, maintenance

See Recycling, 3



Students utilize the recycling area on campus, located on Greenland Drive. Currently, there are 98 recycling bins for cans and there are 58 buildings with paper recycling areas.

Homeless receive money, medication

By Josh Hudson
Staff Writer

The Murfreesboro Housing Authority has received two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants totaling over \$260,000 to help house the homeless in Rutherford County.

The money will be used through the Murfreesboro program People Assisting the Homeless, also known as PATH, to help qualifying individuals find shelter and pay rent.

The PATH program, managed by Brandon Anderson in Rutherford County, helps homeless individuals who are mentally disabled or have addictions find homes through a program called Section 8, which provides vouchers for the homeless to pay rent.

"A lot of the homeless [in the

Murfreesboro area] are people who have just been put out on the streets," said Anderson. "They generally have a mental disorder that has resulted in them losing their homes."

Anderson explained that a homeless individual in the area is generally a victim of a recent psychotic episode, stemmed by the loss of a loved one or any other life-changing and traumatic event.

"There is a misconception [about] the homeless in Rutherford County," said Debbie Fox, Section 8 administrator. "You do not tend to see them wandering the streets like you would in Nashville. They are primarily out in the rural areas of the county."

"Quite a few homeless people are situated in camps around the area, and have established what appears to be a community," Anderson said. "They split up and

ration supplies, and tend to take care of their own."

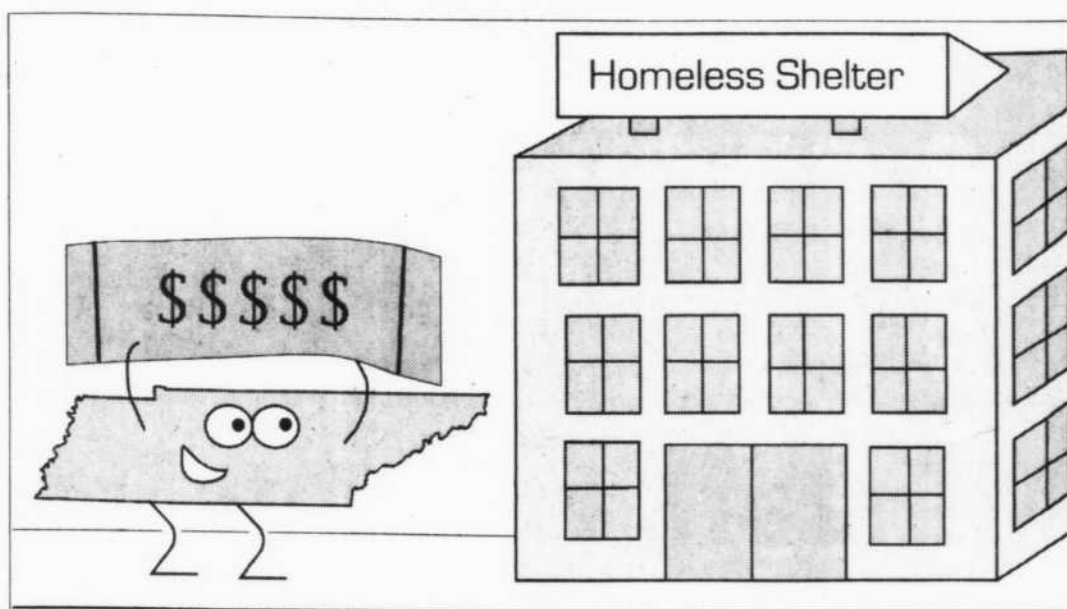
People who are newly homeless may find a cheap hotel room for the night before turning to life on the street. "They might have asked the owner if it was alright if they spent a night there on the floor since it was vacant," Anderson said.

Others may enter a home that has recently been vacated and set up a warm living environment. "[They] pretty much squat until they know somebody else is going to move in," Anderson said.

In January, Anderson counted roughly 93 homeless individuals in Murfreesboro, and estimates that there are over 300 in the entire county.

The vouchers from these grants will help only those who qualify, he said.

"There are some requirements for individuals who want to enter



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development gave Rutherford County over \$260,000 in grants to help homeless.

the PATH program," Anderson said. The 90-day program will only accept those who have a diagnosed mental disability or addiction who are willing to seek treatment, and none of the individuals can have a major criminal record.

The program essentially helps those who qualify find shelter and provides them with free treatment for their mental disorders as well

as medication and the Section 8 vouchers for shelter.

"All we ask is that the person continue to seek treatment and take their medication, which is provided for them, and we continue to help them with rent," Anderson said, adding that the process is very competitive.

Anderson said the program is for those people who are serious about changing their situations.

"If they don't seem serious about changing, then I just ask them to come see me when they are seriously dedicated to getting off the streets."

One grant, worth \$119,328, was renewed for the second time in seven years, while another grant, worth \$144,720, is new to the Murfreesboro Housing Authority and is good for five years. ♦

Trans fat: Health threats persist

Continued from 1

The majority of the substance comes from high-fat, high-sugar products such as cookies, cakes and bread.

Lisa Sheehan-Smith, assistant professor of nutrition and food sciences, said trans fat is a popular fat used in the food service industry as well as in processed foods. Since people have become more reliant on such food in the past 20 years, the amount of trans fat consumed has increased.

Trans fat mimics the harmful effects of natural saturated fat by raising cholesterol. Saturated fats are derived primarily from animal products such as meat, butter and dairy and should be kept to a minimum.

Though vegetable oil—used to fry foods on campus—is a healthier type of fat, it is still a fat and can cause serious health problems.

Sheehan-Smith said many people are forgetting that replacing trans fat with other types of fat does not reduce the amount of calories. Regardless of the type of fat, there are still nine calories per gram of fat and no more than 30 percent of calories consumed in one day should be from fat.

Using different types of fats in cooking affect more than just the shelf life, Sheehan-Smith said. Some fats break down into liquid form at higher temperatures while others have a tendency to burn. By eliminating trans fat, cooking methods may have to be revised.

According to Doyle, the switch for MT Dining was relatively easy since trans fat was strictly eliminated from the deep-frying oil. But other industries have had to change their cooking methods or equipment.

"It's not as easy to switch as the average consumer thinks," Sheehan-Smith said. "It's a cumbersome process."

Another point producers consider when eliminating trans fat is the "mouth-feel" of a product, or the texture and taste. Sheehan-Smith said modifying recipes could affect the mouth-feel.

In order to reduce the amount of fat consumed in a diet, Sheehan-Smith suggests eating lean meat, low-fat dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, and eliminating as much processed food as possible.

"Fat should just be that little extra we add to our diet, just like sugar," Sheehan-Smith said. ♦

Helmets: Funds for protection

Continued from 1

"Our military has made sure that these guys have the best helmets," Stallings said. "They have improved their Kevlar helmets. They're heavy and when there on these guys' heads in a 120-degree temperature. So that is why we are doing. We are putting a cushion around it. It is just a series of straps and it fits inside the helmet and it feels very similar to something like this that is used to stop carpal tunnel syndrome."

Stallings feels it will protect the soldiers from further injury

because of this extra padding.

"We raised the money for my brother's platoon and they wrote back," Stallings said. "That this helmet that once weighed six pounds or maybe heavier is so much comfortable and this thing sits on their head. They are out in the heat not to mention and it is stable, while it wicks away the heat from the soldiers' head. Most important of all it is providing safety to avoid traumatic brain injury."

As of now over 34,000 kits have been sent to the troops in the field. The pad system are available to the public for \$70-\$100 dollars. ♦

More information on Operation Helmet available at www.operation-helmet.org and www.gentex.com

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Obsession: Movie discussed

Continued from 1

UCLA received several protesters.

"I am certain this is going to be controversial," Dr. Rami Shapiro, professor of religion studies, said prior to the screening.

While one organization planned protests of the film, the organizers of the film were able to prevent its occurrence.

Opinions on campus prior to the screening differed about the ideas discussed in the film and the portrayal of the Islamic religion.

"These people are not following Islam radically," said Shubeker Beru, president of the Muslim Student Association, who did not attend the film. "From the simplest to the most complicated teachings

of the religion, everything is about peace and peacefulness. People who do these [terrorist acts] do not understand the religion. They may think they are being rewarded, but they are not."

A discussion following the film featured opinions on what the western world and United States can do to aid in the fight against Islamic radicalism, as well as if the west should cease to take action.

Students and guests from outside campus voiced their opinions on the film and the MTSU showing.

A trailer of the film, as well as a "Timeline of Terror," discussing past and present global acts of radical Islamic terrorism, are offered on the film's Web site. ♦

CORRECTION

The March 15 article "Herculean house debts provide stress for students of Greek Life" contained an error in reference to Sigma Nu. The fraternity is not a colony, but is in negotiations with their national headquarters to recolonize at MTSU. The former chapter will remain on Greek Row during the spring semester. *Sidelines* regrets this error.



Taco Bell on South Rutherford now has wireless internet access.



Where Girls Grow Strong! The Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley is recruiting for seasonal resident camp positions at Camp Sycamore Hills near Ashland City, TN, and Camp Holloway, near White House, TN. We are looking for highly motivated people to join our team. Salary includes room/board with training. Must love working in the out-of-doors and with children. For more information visit our website www.girlscoutsofcv.org, email ljohnson@girlscoutsofcv.org or call 800-395-5318.

SGA ELECTIONS

RUN-OFF

March 27 - 29

Via PipelineMT

College of Basic and Applied Science Senator

Aaron Pirani

Lekeisha Hudson

College of Liberal Arts Senator

Jameel Bradock

Shayna Taylor

Campus Briefs

Priority Registration begins today

Summer 2007 priority registration begins today and continues through March 23. Students planning to take summer classes must register on WebMT during this time to avoid prerequisite problems when registering for Fall 2007.

Priority registration for fall begins April 9 on RaiderNet, a new option available on PipelineMT. A change in MTSU's student computer systems requires a separate registration for summer and fall to allow for the proper conversion of student data.

To view a schedule of fall 2007 courses, log onto PipelineMT and click the RaiderNet tab.

For more information or questions about registration contact the Scheduling Center at 898-5800.

Women who make strides celebrated

The President's Commission on the Status of Women and Student Issues Sub-Committee is sponsoring the "Women Make the Difference" organization fair on March 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Tom Jackson Hall, located in the Old Alumni Center. Refreshments will be provided.

The purpose of the fair is to celebrate the positive changes women are making in the community, to learn about the various student organizations and how they are making a difference as well as a way to recruit new members for organizations.

For more information please contact Michelle McDaniel at mmcdanie@mtsu.edu.

Tennessee Guitar Festival continues through Wednesday

The 2007 Tennessee Guitar Festival, which consists of five consecutive nights of guitar concerts by top guitar virtuosos, continues through March 21. Evening performances begin at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

"We like to have something different every year in the Tennessee Guitar Festival. Michael is definitely unique," Yelverton said. "He will play a program with both steel string and classical guitar that will include his own works as well as arrange-

ments of pop and rock standards."

Opening night of the festival featured MTSU faculty member William Yelverton performing on both lute and guitar, along with duos with flutist Deanna Hahn. Roger Hudson and percussionist David Pruett rounded out the evening with a performance on guitar and oud, a Middle Eastern instrument.

The festival, the largest of its kind in the state, features three master classes, which will conclude on March 21.

All concerts and master classes are free and open to the public.

For more information on the Tennessee Guitar Festival as well as a schedule of events call 898-2493 or visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~yelverto/guitfest.html>.

Sobriety checkpoint on campus March 23

A field-sobriety checkpoint will be set up Friday. This is the second sobriety checkpoint that has been implemented this academic year.

MTSU Police are joining local and state law enforcement, in conjunction with Governor's Highway Safety Office, to help make Tennessee streets and highway safer for everyone. The goal is to reduce alcohol and drug-related fatalities.

A grant awarded to MTSU's Public Safety department, financed with funds administered through the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Governor's Highway Safety Office assisted in providing the necessary personnel and time to make the checkpoint possible.

"Our goal is to reduce the number of impaired drivers by being proactive," said MTSU's Associate Police Chief Roy Brewer.

"We have been fortunate that with the university's growth, we have not had a fatality crash on campus as of yet," Brewer added. "We are not aware of numerous fatality crashes off campus involving MTSU students. If being more visible on campus can save just one life, our efforts will be worth it."

According to a 2004 report from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, Tennessee ranks eleventh for overall alcohol related fatalities on the highway. With increasing enrollment at MTSU, Public Safety records indicate there has also been a steady rise in the number of alcohol-related incidents and arrests on campus.

Clavierfest to be held on March 24

The 11th annual clavierfest competition will take place this Saturday in the Wright Music Building. Student pianists from throughout the region and places as far as Japan will compete.

The competition will culminate with the finalists' competition and concert in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Three finalists will be selected from each of the four categories.

"The competition has always been very inspiring and impressive and represents some of the best young talent in the area," said Jerry Perkins, coordinator of keyboard studies at MTSU.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the public to hear these talented young pianists," Perkins added.

In conjunction with the Clavierfest, two guest artists will perform and give master classes in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall. David Northington will give a master class at 11 a.m. and a performance at 8 p.m. on Friday. Douglas Humphrey will also give a recital Sunday at 2 p.m., as well as a master class on March 26 at 11 a.m.

Northington is first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition and the East/West Artists Competition. He is chairman of the piano department at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Humphrey was a gold medalist at the inaugural Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. He is co-chairman of the piano department at the Easternman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

The Clavierfest is sponsored by the MTSU McLean School of Music and is free and open to the public.

For more information regarding the Clavierfest or other School of Music events contact the McLean School of Music at 898-2493.

Campus mailboxes no longer mandatory

Beginning fall 2007, campus mailboxes are not mandatory for students living on campus. Students who live off campus who would like a mailbox on campus can rent one. All boxes not paid for will have their mail returned unless a forwarding address is given.

For more information contact Libby Patty at 898-2459.

Students encouraged to complete dining survey

The Aramark dining styles survey for the spring semester is ready for students to complete. These surveys allow for students and faculty to provide feedback on the quality of food available to students on campus as well as provide suggestions on how to improve the food on campus.

The survey is estimated to take 10 to 12 minutes and all responses are kept confidential.

Students who respond to the survey will be entered to win one of six \$50 gift cards from Amazon.com.

To complete the survey, go to www.collegediningsurvey.com/mtsu.

Michael Bradley to speak at Oakland

Michael Bradley, one of Tennessee's leading novelists, will be the guest speaker at the Oaklands Historic House museum Thursday.

Bradley will be discussing his latest historical novel, Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort and Staff.

The book recounts the wartime exploits of the fighting men most closely associated with Forrest and continues their story through the years of peace until most of the group had died.

Bradley will conduct a question and answer session and will be available for a book signing at the event. Books will also be available for purchase.

The lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in Maney Hall located at 901 North Maney Avenue in Murfreesboro. The event is free but reservations are requested.

Recycling: At Tucker Theater

Continued from 1

metals, magazines, batteries, electronics and newspapers are all recycled on campus. The center also recycles used motor oil from campus vehicles.

Though the program does not yet offer recycling for plastics, they are currently investigating opportunities to add this material to the program.

"We are looking to expand the recycling program with money granted from the Clean Energy Initiative," Hardyman said. "The expansion should happen this fiscal year and we may add plastics at that time."

Of the recyclables, ink cartridges are the newest addition. Hardyman explains that the addition of ink cartridges was

initiated as a mode of convenience for those who do not already give cartridges to churches or recycle them in another way.

All materials are available for drop off by students as well as members of the community, free of charge.

"We serve the campus first and then the community, but we do have a lot of people from the community bring their recyclables and we try to listen to their concerns," Hardyman said.

Recyclables are collected from more than 75 on-campus and off-campus sites in the area, including city and county offices as well as local businesses.

Though the program does extend recycling to some university related events and meet-

ings, they do not offer recycling during athletic events.

"We have offered aluminum recycling at events in the past but were unable to use the recyclables because of the food and trash in the containers," Hardyman said.

The recycling program has taken in a total of 3,628 lbs of aluminum, 197,640 lbs of mixed paper, 204,647 lbs of newspaper and 561 ink cartridges so far this fiscal year.

In about five and a half weeks alone, between Jan. 11 and Feb. 20, the center has taken in 530 lbs of aluminum cans.

The recycling center, located off Greenland Drive behind the Holmes building, is open to the public seven days a week. ♦

For more information, contact Oaklands Historic House at 893-0022 or info@oaklandsmuseum.org.

Royal philharmonic flutist to visit MTSU

Susan Milan, principal flutist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, will perform with pianist Lillian Pearson on Wednesday, March 21 at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

Milan will also present a lecture on historical recordings at 10 a.m. and give a master class in 11:15 a.m. earlier in the day in the Saunders Fine Arts Building room 301. In addition there will be a second master class on March 22 at 10:30 a.m. in SFA room 117.

Dr. Deanna Little, associate professor of flute at MTSU, said Milan's lecture will be from the lecture series titled "Master Classics Flute Archive Series."

"She restores old recordings of famous flute players such as Marcel Moyse, Rene LeRoy and Philippe Gaubert, among others," Little said.

In the master classes, MTSU students will play for Milan, and she will in turn work with them individually.

Milan was the first woman to be appointed a member and principal of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, beginning a broad career as an orchestral principal, chamber musician, soloist, teacher and lecturer. She is a professor and fellow of the Royal College of Music, where she was a scholar at the age of 16. She has been invited to give master class courses in the United Kingdom, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Italy and Switzerland as well as the United States.

The March 21 through 22 events, including the master classes, are free and open to the public.

For more information on this and other events in the McLean School of Music, contact 898-2493 or visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Towel service suspended at Rec Center

The Campus Rec Center's towel service has been suspended temporarily due to the construction on the expansion of the Rec Center.

Vonda Scott, facility coordinator for the Campus Rec Center, said that the towel service had to be suspended due to the expansion construction.

"The towel service is down because of construction," Scott said. "The gas lines were taken off line and the dryers used for laundry service run off the gas."

The service was actually suspended earlier than the March 16 date issued by the Rec Center, a decision that was out of the Rec Center's hands, according to their website.

Scott assured students not to worry that the towel service would resume eventually.

"The towel service will resume, but we are not sure when it will happen," Scott said. "We will inform students when the towel service comes back online."

Signs have been posted since January about the towel service being suspended.

Concerns have also risen over the Rec Center not having hot water due to the impending construction.

Scott said that the Rec Center would have water, but that the hot water may have to be cut off for a few days.

Construction started on the Campus Rec Center expansion during Spring Break and will continue over the next 18 months.

The Rec Center will expand the weight room by 4,000 square feet, add 4,000 square feet to the cardiovascular room, add another dance aerobic room and expand other aspects of the facility as well.

The expansion will add 50,000 total square feet to the Rec Center and will be the new home of Student Health Services. The Rec. Center expansion costs approximately \$17 million.

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

'Obsession' promotes intolerance of Islam

Just what MTSU needs—another excuse to unite students in hate. The screening of the film "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West" on campus surely doesn't present any new viewpoints or any inspiration for tolerance.

On any given moment on any given night, every American television set is bombarded with the message that Islam is evil and the United States is virtuous. The situation isn't so black and white, though, and presenting students with propaganda that defines terrorism in such limited terms cannot promote anything resembling true understanding.

Even more, the comparison of trends in Islamic radicalism and Nazi fascism is ludicrous. Labeling someone a "Nazi" or declaring a society on the verge of another Holocaust belittles the severity of one of the cruelest, most devastating events in our world's history. If this continues, the Republicans who cried Nazi will be incapable of distinguishing fundamentalism that just seems borderline fascist from a group that is actually capable—and purposefully striving to—commit genocide. Jihad has committed horrible acts, but are they truly hoping to wipe out an entire population? Hardly. The actions of fundamentalist Muslims may be despicable, but it's barely the tip of the iceberg of the Nazi's true goal. The actions of terrorists are a result of an underlying fear of being underrepresented; terrorism is an extreme measure to convey a message.

While the film does make an effort to point out that the true nature of Islam is nonviolent, it's hard to believe that the combination of Raider Republican sponsorship, Fox News promotion and fragmented clips of Islamic television stations threatening the United States do much to promote a well-rounded perspective on the situation.

Greg Feiling, the coordinator of MTSU Student Programming, claimed the film is against the actions of radicals, not the religion itself, but it's hard to see any shred of hope buried beneath layers of hate.

Pro-war counter-protest fails to prove a point

It feels as though this weekend's demonstration against the Iraq war in Washington, D.C. was less about the people actually protesting the war, and more about the people protesting the protesters, and what their actions say about our country.

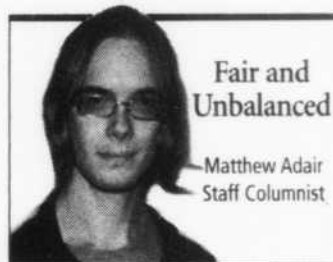
In fact, the peace demonstration itself was far smaller than the one that happened in January, drawing only a fifth of the 100,000 that attended that rally. Attempts to march on the Pentagon in a recreation of the famous Vietnam-era protest where hippies sat in at the headquarters and put flowers into the gun barrels of the soldiers sent to force them away, fell flat as this younger generation, armed with homemade shields and gas masks, were kept away by police in riot gear.

The counter-protesters, however, made quite a show of themselves. Soccer moms and NASCAR dads lined up around the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and, in a profound show of maturity in conducting civil discourse, cursed and degraded the anti-war crowd, declaring them "terrorists" that should "go to hell" as they sought to defend the memorial against what turned out to be empty rumors that protesters would try to deface the Wall with spray paint and urine.

What sort of message are these people trying to send, anyway? That attempts to employ a constitutional right to vocally dissent with public policy will be met with sophomoric insults? I'm not sure which is sadder: that the counter-protesters thought their counterparts would be as childish as they were and wreck a poignant tribute to tens of thousands of soldiers who died in vain, or that someone could think that a "Peace Sucks" sign is a sensible way to defend a war.

This is not to say that left-leaning people can't act stupidly—the chaos that erupted during the 1999 WTO meeting in Seattle is a dramatic example of how idiotic behavior knows no ideological bounds. Memories of the "Battle of Seattle" are probably fresh enough in anyone's mind that any suspicion that anti-war protesters might be up to no good would be perfectly reasonable in the minds of more conservative Americans.

However, the mixed band that came to the capital this weekend was a far-cry from the black bloc that began smashing in windows in downtown Seattle eight years ago. The protesters were a fair



Fair and Unbalanced
—Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

cross-section of the country, consisting of everyone from college students to veterans and every age, sex and occupation in between. They were calm, collected, organized and—most importantly—civil. They exemplified the very reasons the First Amendment contains protections for speech, writing and public protest.

The counter-protesters, of course, also had the right to demonstrate, and should be encouraged to do so. However, if they wish to be seen as more than just a pitiful attempt to shore up the failing facade of leadership of a president who's viewed as incompetent by a growing part of the country, they need to do more than just wave their middle fingers in the air while singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

War has always been, and still is now, a sensitive topic, especially when the causes for starting are as muddled and abstract as the reasoning for the invasion and occupation of Iraq has been. Regardless of the reason, there will always be people who are opposed to the conflict, or to all armed conflict in general. There will also be those who feel that military action is needed, sometimes, to maintain a necessary status quo and provide a stable world for nations to grow peacefully in. Disagreement and debate are essential parts of this country—after all, the founders spent over a decade just arguing over how government was going to work.

However, good debate requires that both sides behave maturely, that everyone is able to act and speak rationally and not just shout nonsense into the air. Jingoism and slurs do not win wars, nor do they change peoples' minds. If supporters of the Iraq war insist that we are in battle for all the right reasons, they might want to start making their case, before Congress pulls the rug out from under them.

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



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

The demystified feminine mystique

The F-word is shrouded in misunderstanding as well as heronistic feats towards social equality. I use the F-word to honor and celebrate the many women that have sacrificed, provided and established opportunities I have as a woman today.

I am a feminist and I practice feminism. Feminist is to Christian as Feminism is to Christianity. We are a diverse group of women united to promote the political perspective that one shall not be oppressed based on the social constructs of gender or physical anatomy. Due to our historical legal system, the political is personal. To simply state, feminism is about choices and having the liberty to become the woman citizen she desires to be.

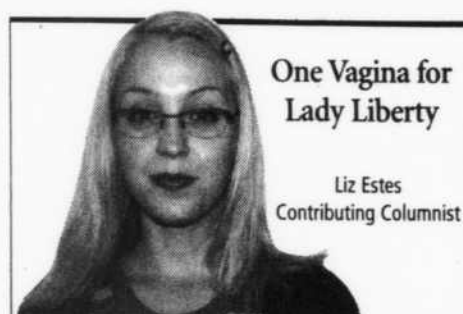
The biggest misnomer about feminism is that we are man-hating-lesbians also ignorantly called femme-Nazis. Politically minded women can not all be lesbians. Lesbians are in fact the minority in feminist groups. Are men who are interested in politics all gay?

These claims were created and are used to devalue the political advocacy of women and the political legitimacy of women centered politics.

When I am told that feminist only interest is hating men, it begs me to ask the following questions: Does the NAACP get together to solely hate white people? Are all Christian's followers of Fred Phelps Sr. and are members of his Westboro Baptist Church?

The media projects this myth about feminism as radical politics to delegitimize our efforts. Women adopt this misconception of feminism to assimilate to the status quo's perception of how a woman should act in our society. The most brilliantly destructive form of social oppression is when a member of a marginalized group devalues the political advocacy for their own group.

Women who are afraid of feminist or understanding the feminist perspective are simply complying and subscribing to the myths that the patriarchal systems create for them.



One Vagina for Lady Liberty

Liz Estes
Contributing Columnist

Women citizens are considered bodies first and then minds second.

Our government has permanent residency inside a woman's vagina. The government deserves a place inside a woman's uterus according to those advocates that are anti-choice and anti-feminist. If a woman chooses to alter her breasts, which sustains life equally as a uterus does; she can purchase the alteration on her own free will. If a woman chooses not to sustain alterations to her uterus by a pregnancy, she must comply with state regulations first and then her own free will secondly.

Personal liberty aside, she must check with the government first before regulating her own vagina and her own life. There are not equal laws which regulate a male body to the extent that a woman's body is politically regulated.

So in the eyes of our legal systems I am a vagina first, a white citizen second and then lastly I am an eligible voter and consumer. I hold these truths to be self evident and I am simply one vagina seeking liberty and justice for all.

Can one vagina explain all that is womanhood or discuss what it means to be a woman citizen? I can not possible speak for all women as one woman. Feminist are just as diverse in the practice of feminism as Christians who worship the life of Christ. Feminist are a diverse political group who are interested in freeing women from the

political barriers placed on our bodies.

As a member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women, we focus on an issue that directly affects female students. This counsel is a politically-minded commission comprised of faculty and student members, who directly reports to the university president about the statuses of women students. The PCSW focuses on topics of sexism in the curriculum and class rooms, racial diversity, public safety, health-care, child care services for parent students, to celebrating the accomplishments of women student organizations at MTSU.

The President's Commission on the Status of Women is holding a Women Making a Difference Fair on March 20, 2007 in Tom Jackson Hall, (10:00 am to 2:00 pm), to honor women's student organizations at MTSU. This fair is an excellent opportunity to understand the many forms of feminism and the issues we advocate.

Please come out to celebrate and support the women who make a difference on our campus and our community. March is National Women's History month which honors our foremothers and the accomplishments of feminism. I encourage all students to participate in these events to challenge and further their understandings about feminism.

Feminism is alive, relevant and currently trying to improve the lives of all especially here at MTSU. We are trying to make a difference towards equality for all and want to celebrate our own diverse forms of feminism. Help us honor all the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters that have made a difference, improved and pursued all the virtues held by our beloved lady liberty.

Liz Estes is a senior English major and has a B.A. in philosophy. She can be reached at eae2b@mtsu.edu.

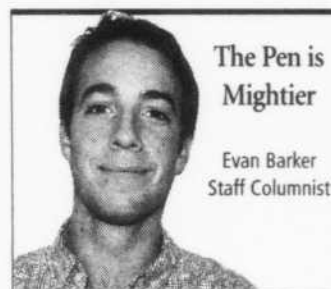
New surveillance means end of trust

Lately, news has been streaming out of Washington, and it hasn't been good. Civil libertarians and old-guard conservatives alike are getting scared. Scandals are popping up left and right, such as the questionable firing of several Republican U.S. Attorneys, and the FBI's rampant use of surveillance with little or no oversight.

This is, sadly, the fulfillment of the prophecy of a few years back; that the George W. Bush administration would be dangerously incompetent, or worse, that it would operate with complete disregard of the civil liberties of ordinary Americans. Both have proven true.

The FBI problem is the most damning, in my opinion. For those who haven't heard, a non-partisan government audit of the FBI's newly gained national security muscle has turned up some embarrassing statistics.

In short, with the Patriot Act, the FBI gained the power to use something called a "National Security Letter." These letters can request nearly any kind of confidential information, from credit history to phone records and beyond. The recipient of a letter, such as the hapless AT&T phone company, is forced to turn over the requested information, and is barred from informing the person about whom the information has been requested. The only reason anyone knows about these letters is because a courageous few have turned them over to the media,



The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

that they may be published.

Bush-bashing aside, I'm inclined to remind everyone of the arguments that we heard in favor of using this tactic. We were reminded of the al-Qaeda threat, and the possibilities of sleeper cells operating within our borders, and the necessity of hunting them down at any cost, with "any cost" being the operative phrase.

The aforementioned audit exposed the fact that the FBI has issued a staggering 52,000+ National Security Letters in the past year. Over half of these were aimed at American citizens. This proportion has increased over the time that the FBI has been allowed to use these letters.

I believe this last figure deserves the most attention. If half of the national security letters have been used to investigate US citizens, then Big Brother has reason, or not, to believe that there are 26,000 homegrown terrorists that need investigating. That's a pretty large number; large enough to call "shenanigans." The audit also provided damning evidence that there was little or no knowl-

edge of proper procedure for the use of these letters, and scant oversight. The federal police are on a surveillance rampage, and nobody is supervising them. 1984, anyone?

It's been barely 50 years since Senator Joseph McCarthy went on his infamous communist witch-hunt, and history is repeating itself. The Bush Administration is using the same fear-mongering tactics to spread the fear of "Communism, oh no!" that we heard during the 1950's, except the current phrase is "Terrorism, oh no!" Any reasonable person should look skeptically on the use of 26,000 National Security Letters within our own borders. If this number is real, and there is a veritable army of terrorists already within our borders, then our security has already gone to hell in a handbasket, and the government is resorting to overly aggressive tactics in response.

26,000 citizens spied on, and none of them even knows it. Who are these letters being used on, your eccentric libertarian neighbor, or perhaps newspaper columnists who write critically of the Bush administration, like me? Perhaps these letters are used to spy on members of the so-called "evil liberal media," or high-profile Hollywood types, as was the case in the days of Joe McCarthy. The point is, we don't know.

The line is getting very blurry between the two sides. For 6 years since Sept. 11th, 2001, we

have been told that the terrorists are hiding and watching, just like the communists from the 1950's. As in the fifties, there is a grain of truth in this. Innocent blood continues to be shed by terrorism across the globe. However, the real terrorist threat is large enough as it is. We don't need to be additionally fearful of the government.

"Those who would give up essential liberties for security deserve neither," said Benjamin Franklin. The Sept. 11, 2001 attacks galvanized public solidarity and reminded us that we stand as a nation, and face, united, whatever the threat may be.

This is still true. However, the Bush administration's tactics of Orwellian surveillance, slanted rhetoric, and silencing its internal opposition no longer curry favor among Joe Averages. Sure, they tell you that you have nothing to worry about if you're not a terrorist, but why are we not convinced?

We're not convinced because any government that spies on its citizens is no longer a friendly government. The days when Uncle Sam was there to watch your back are long-gone. Instead, Uncle Sam is watching over your back, reading your mail, and listening to your phone calls.

Who's the real enemy? These days, it's hard to tell.

Evan Barker is a senior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

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FEATURES

Japan-U.S. Program bridges cultural gap

MTSU program promotes student exchange, knowledge and understanding of world

By Mary Rose Fox
News Editor

A few years ago, Kiyoshi Kawahito was approached by a Murfreesboro resident with an old, withered photo album. The individual explained that he retrieved the album while in a cave in Okinawa during World War II. He asked Kawahito if he could locate the original owner of the album.

Kawahito carefully went through the album, searching for a clue of the owner. By looking through the album, "we established a few possibilities," he says, thinking back. "I spoke with the Japanese consul in New Orleans." The owner, who by that time was deceased, was identified and the album returned to a relative in Okinawa.

Kawahito is a professor of economics and the director of the Japan-U.S. Program at MTSU. The program was started in 1996 as a "bridge between Japan and the United States," Kawahito said.

Kawahito has been at MTSU since 1971 and says the organization promotes the exchange program with countries in Asia. "We have exchange students from three Japanese universities, a university in South Korea and from the Philippines," Kawahito explains. He expects to get a student from Thailand in the fall.

"I may be asked to speak at a Japanese university or high schools while I'm in Japan," he says.

"It's rewarding when these students go abroad and come back very much grown up," Kawahito reminisces. "It took as much as two years preparation," he says, for the exchange agreements with the other countries.

One MTSU student is in

second time. "The first time I studied at Kansai Gaidai in Osaka, which was awesome," says Corey Perkins, senior international relations major. "I stayed at a Zen temple and meditated all day out in the snowy mountains of Kyoto," he says.

Perkins expresses his delight with the many wonderful experiences he has had in Japan. When his girlfriend came to visit him in Okinawa last month, they hitchhiked with a Japanese couple to the top of a mountain on the island Ishigaki. "From the top, we had a panoramic view around the other mountains on the island and the beautiful light blue coral brushing against the tiny beach down below us," he says. "Being up there and taking in the air is something I'll never forget."

Kawahito says that ordinarily, loans and grants that students have at MTSU are applicable when they go to a university overseas. Also, if students have financial aid, it is extended. "MTSU typically offers some scholarships to study abroad," Kawahito adds.

The Japan-U.S. Program is also involved with Eigo to Nihongo no Kai, or NEK, which is an informal Japanese-American friendship society. Founded in 1993, NEK is a "grassroots organization developed to do outreach service to the community and to bridge the perceptual gap between American and Japanese people," Kawahito says.

Akiko Shimizu, a junior education major, is part of the program, and has been at MTSU for two semesters. She says there are some interesting differences in the cultures that she did not expect when she arrived. "At a restaurant or shop in Japan, customers would expect to be treat-

ed with respect, but here, clerks and customers can be equal. I like the idea, but I needed a little time to get used to it," she explains.

In 2002, NEK was merged into an outreach service program that has monthly activities, such as speeches and slideshows. "When we started, we wanted to indicate that this was

a service unit organization," Kawahito said. The purpose is to gear faculty and staff toward community and public

service. The program promotes knowledge and understanding of Pacific Asia. Last

year, volunteers visited Rutherford County schools and other educational organizations to teach students simple parts of Asian culture during their presentations, such as origami and how to count to 10 in Japanese.



Corey Perkins (left), a senior international relations major, hitchhiked with a Japanese couple to the top of a mountain on the island Ishigaki in Japan. "Being up there and taking in the air is something I'll never forget," he says.

Photo by Emily Anderson | Contributing Photographer

MTSU graduate teaches in Japan, enriches lives

By Becca Cook
Staff Writer

Halfway across the world from Middle Tennessee State University is a Japanese city called Tono-shi where graduate Teresa Pickering is an assistant language teacher.

Pickering is not your average MTSU graduate. After graduating in the fall of 2006 with a degree in English, she was given the opportunity to go to Japan. Dr. Kiyoshi Kawahito, Professor of Economics, recommended her to the Tono City Board of Education.

"They were looking for a new assistant language teacher because Tono City just merged with Miyamori Village (at the end of last year) to form one bigger Tono City," Pickering says.

Pickering left in April of 2006 on a one-year teaching stint.

It takes a lot of motivation to give a small town girl like Pickering the courage to pack up and move to Japan. Her family and friends think it is just a natural part of her personality.

Pickering's brother Tim, a junior history major, grew up watching her succeed.

"[A] way of looking at [it] would be, did Teresa ever not excel?" he says. "Academically, she never made a B until the first semester of her senior year in college."

One of Tim's earliest memories of his sister's academic success are from the early elementary years.

"One time, in either the third or fourth grade, her teacher gave her a B on her report card. Teresa cried that whole night!" he says. "My mom talked to the teacher, and they found out that [the teacher] messed up on the averaging."

Tim's earliest memories of his sister are all positive.

"What I remember of Teresa is



MTSU graduate Teresa Pickering teaches a class of Japanese children hoping to master the English language. Pickering spent a year in Japan in 2006 as an assistant language teacher and plans to extend her stay after falling in love with Japanese culture.

Photo courtesy of Teresa Pickering

she used to dance around like a princess," he says. "My mom had these audio cassettes that we all would listen to, Jungle Jam, Christian songs for kids. We would go to Teresa's room and jump on the bed singing them. It's funny to look back at it."

Teresa's parents were always there.

"When my mom would video tape us on her home videos, Teresa would always want to be in front of it, reading out of a book or twirling around," Tim recalls. "That is ironic now that I think about it, because growing up, she

was a shy girl socially."

Whatever shyness Pickering had disappeared in college. A new girl, full of life and energy, emerged, much like the little princess who was hungry for the camera.

At college, many influential people entered Pickering's life, two of them being Shannon Aplin-Lee, her resident assistant, and Jenny Rone, her bible study leader. These two women formed a foundation for Pickering that would support her in years to come. The impact they made on her life led her to change the lives

of others.

It was with encouragement from Lee that Pickering decided to apply to be a resident assistant, a choice that would lead to a legacy in her name.

Pickering's residents all remember one thing about her.

"The first time I met Teresa [was when] she knocked on my dorm room door and invited me to come to the field fair," Shannon Beels, a senior social work major, says. "The first thought that ran through my head was, 'Wow, she's happy!'"

Her residents came up with the

nickname "Mother Teresa" to describe her.

Pickering impacted a number of lives in her four and a half years here. She took her contagious joy and smile with her, but the memory of her remains to those who came to know her.

Now a whole new group of people get the chance to experience her joy as she teaches English in Japanese schools. Her happiness comes out when one of her students excels.

"I guess one of the most important parts of my job overall is simply motivating students,"

Pickering tells me. "I try to think of ways my kids can enjoy English and what I can do to encourage them to think outside of their every day life in Japan. Maybe they'll start thinking, 'Oh, not everyone lives like this. I want to know more. Who are other people around the world and how do they live?' I want them to realize that although learning a foreign language is difficult, it is worth it and can be a window to a whole different world."

Pickering plans to stay in Japan for another year.

"I feel I am learning and growing so much from this experience, and my heart is completely here with these kids," she says. "I do absolutely love Japanese culture. I think it is wonderful to experience the festivals, wear a kimono, eat real Japanese food (which I totally love by the way!), really begin to live life with the people (Japanese people are SO kind!), and to begin learning their language. I think Japan has an absolutely beautiful culture. But my favorite part is still working with my students. I love them with all my heart."

No matter where she is in the world, the people she touches will always remember the girl who smiled all the time. Though she's half a world away, the small town girl from Woodbury, Tenn. is making headlines in a big way. While the Japanese may find Pickering's happy attitude compelling, for her friends and family at home, it's what they miss the most.

Still, if you ask anyone, Pickering will always be remembered because she cared and has passion in her life.

"I think the Japanese have a good word for describing Teresa," Tim says with a smile. "Genki! Which is kind of like, 'full of energy, ready to go.'"

SPORTS

Lady Raiders roll through first round of NCAA

**Saturday, March 17,
MT 85
Gonzaga 46**

**Next Game at Marist,
March 19,**

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

In the first round of the NCAA tournament, it wasn't supposed to be this easy.

Middle Tennessee dispatched the Lady Bulldogs of Gonzaga by a score of 85-46.

Chrissy Givens led the way with 24 points and Amber Holt had 23.

To put in perspective how dominant Middle Tennessee was, Givens had 18 points in the first half, and Gonzaga as a team had 20.

At halftime the scoreboard read, 44-20. From then on Middle Tennessee was able to coast to the victory.

"I was really satisfied with the way we got out to such a good start," MT head coach Rick Insell told the Daily News Journal. "We were able to trap, move the ball around and that allowed us to have a lot of success. I was really

happy with the way we attacked the goal and got after them defensively."

The Lady Raiders forced 37 turnovers against 13 of their own allowing for the comfortable lead.

Middle Tennessee continued their winning streak with their up tempo style, and the Lady Bulldogs couldn't compete.

Chrissy Givens attributed the victory to the team's ability to play their game and keep the speed of play up.

"The biggest thing we were harping on is it doesn't matter what the other team does," Givens told ESPN. "If we execute the way we're capable, we're going to come out victorious." "Defense plays a big part of us jumping into our offense."

Head Coach Rick Insell was pleased with the start his team got off to. Insell said the quick start allowed the team to get comfortable with both the tournament and their opponent.

Starr Orr hit a pair of 3-pointers and scored 10 points and six rebounds. Horton finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, with three assists and four steals.

The Lady Raiders forced 21 turnovers and scoring 23 points off the turnovers.

The Lady Raiders also received

a stroke of luck this weekend as Ohio State was upset by the No. 13 seeded Marist Lady Red Foxes. They definitely have a better match up against the weaker seed.

Marist is led by sophomore Julianne Viani, who scored 24 points, in their victory over Ohio State.

Rachele Fitz, a freshman, had a solid effort as well with 15 points.

The Lady Red Foxes use a combination of defensive looks to create problems and mismatches for opponents.

Marist has a strong perimeter defense as well, and did a nice job on perennial All-American holding her to only 13 points on the game.

This allowed for Marist to concentrate on their perimeter defense and essentially win the game.

Marist forced 23 turnovers against Ohio State, and hold the normally good shooting Ohio State to 42 percent on the game including under 35 percent in the second half.

Middle Tennessee is looking to advance to the sweet 16 for the first time in school history, and are looking for their 31st win.

The game will be played tonight at 7 pm on ESPN2. ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Lakira Boyd was 2-for-2 against the Louisiana-Lafayette earlier in the year. Boyd was on the court during the Gonzaga game but went 1-for-4 from the field. MT beat Gonzaga 85-46 on Saturday.

Martial Arts Club hosts fundraiser for Project Help

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Martial Arts club fundraiser for Project Help is coming up March 20. The club starts selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts until they run out or taking donates.

A table will be setup near the Grill in the Keathley University Center between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., all the funds that they raise goes to Project Help.

The President of the martial arts club Gilberto (Beto) Mendoza and the members jumped at the chance to take on the responsibility of raising money for Project Help.

"Project Help was one organization that we all agreed upon to help support," Mendoza said. "The members took it beyond that. They really enjoy helping [the children]. We are one of few clubs that are involved with organizations like this."

Project Help is a day care for mentally challenged children located here on campus. The martial arts club got involved with this organization about nine years ago.

Before a club can be established on campus it has to be involved with the community and they choose Project Help because it helps children and it is located on campus.

For their involvement with Project Help and other groups like Habitat for Humanity, Saint Jude's and helping the local police and fire departments in collecting teddy bears for children.

"Last semester were involved in a teddy bear drive for the police and fire departments," Mendoza said. "Whenever they respond to a call and there are children involved because it a traumatic experience. The officers will give the child a teddy bear to make the situation easier."

For all the good work they have done the MTSU recreation center recognized them with an award. The martial arts club received the Most Outstanding Community Service Award.

This award is given to those who serve the community through their organization or club. They competed with 25 to 30 different

clubs that participate as volunteers in the community for the award.

Recently the martial arts club started going to Nursing Homes and serving the elderly.

"We go to Nursing Homes to help out anyway that we can. We do anything whether it is reading to them or playing games," Mendoza said. "I play poker with a gentleman that is there. It gives the club members great pride that they have been involved in something."

For all they do for the community on and off campus the martial arts club also teaches self-defense classes for women.

Every semester they have free women's self-defense classes at the Rec. Center and they never turn anyone away even if men want to take these self-defense classes.

"We actually have some people that enjoyed the self-defense classes that they want to get involved in martial arts," Mendoza said.

The martial arts club Krispy Kreme Fundraiser is set to go for Tuesday March 20 in the KUC near the Grill from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until they run out. ♦



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Lady Raiders tame Bulldogs, prepare for Red Foxes game

For the first time in my brief writing career I tried to write a live-blog of a game as it happened.

Saturday night's match up between MT and Gonzaga had me nervous. I expected it to be difficult to type that much, that fast, and still be entertaining and relevant.

Luckily, the game was a blowout of epic proportions. Somewhere around the second minute of play, I typed what could have been my last sentence of the night: 18:05 in the first.

It looks like it's going to be hard to write too many original notes on this game. So far every play looks like this: MT steals... and a fast break. Zags miss, MT rebounds, and a fast break.

I wrote another 900 or so words during the next two hours but I really should have left it at that.

It was one of the most one-sided games I've ever watched. The Lady Raiders used their speed, tenacity, and time-tested game plan to perfection and never trailed once.

They led by as much as 48 and survived a few solid runs by the Zags without letting the lead drop to less than 19.

I wanted to watch the game at the Boro for a few reasons. The beer special aside, I wanted to see the reactions of the packed bar when they saw the Lady Raiders for the first time.

I've been talking about them all year but I can only convey so much. It was priceless. Jaws hung open for the better part of an hour and a half before a discussion was started over whether or not ESPN2 was being disrespectful to the families of the Gonzaga players by not cutting away to a different game.

They eventually did cut away to another game after I finally thought of a nice thing to say about Gonzaga's effort: In an attempt to be non-biased and to avoid repeating myself, I have some good news to report for the Bulldogs: at some point in the second half Gonzaga actually found a way to outscore Chrissy Givens.

If the game were a one-on-five

street match the Zags would be on their way to their second ever appearance in an NCAA tournament game.

The win was the sort of validation that MT could possibly ride all the way to the final four. Now that 13 seed Marist has upset Ohio State, MT's path just got smoother.

If they can win on Monday, MT will have 31 wins. 27 of those W's coming from a streak of consecutive victories that stretches all the way back to MT's probable third round opponent, the Lady Vols: The only team to ever appear in all 26 years of the tournament history.

They have been a top seed 18 of those 26 years, and have won more games (92 of 111) than any other program.

That MT's winning streak started after a huge loss against UT is important to note, however, because that loss was a turning point for a tough minded team with a fiery head coach.

Coming home from that game, Insell talked to his team about their future and he said he didn't see why anyone ever had to beat them again. As a team they made the Final Four their goal.

They've come pretty far, flattening everything that has stood in their way but now they have to earn a chance to prove they can beat the Vols. All they have to do is take down a No. 13 seed squad of Red Foxes from... where ever Marist is from.

And to all you Vols fans that talk about Candace Parker like she's Air Jesus, just remember that Chrissy Givens was the offensive, defensive, and conference player of the year and the Academic All-American of the year.

She may not have Parker's air, but she is tough, smart, and aggressive. She can shoot, she can steal, and she loves to pass. Just so long as she does all of that against Marist we may all get to watch the rematch of the year.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at myspace.com/lamsportsacus.

Baseball Team win two games from ULL

**Sunday, March 18
ULL 1
MTSU 3**

**Next Game at Memphis,
March 20**

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee beat Louisiana-Lafayette 3-1 on Sunday at Reese Field. The Blue Raiders took the deciding game of a three game series from ULL.

MT went to the wire as they did the week before beating out Troy in the final game of the series given the Blue Raiders a 4-2 Sun Belt Conference record.

Brett Smalley started for the MT and got a little help from the bullpen. Tyler Copeland and Brett Reiley added some relief as the defense and offense started clicking for the Raiders.

Smalley did not receive a win because he did not pitch five innings and left the Blue Raiders in the fourth with bases loaded.

Copeland was brought in for one inning before giving way to Reiley who retired the next ten batters.

Rawley Bishop hit a one out double and later scored on a triple by Zach Barrett in the bottom of the fourth.

Designated hitter Matt Campbell doubled to give the Raiders 2-0 lead heading into the top of the

fifth.

The Cajuns got a run in the fifth and Smalley was pulled out of the game. ULL loaded the bases with a single, two walks and just twos.

Copeland walked the Cajuns to force in a run and then got ULL's Devery Van De Keere to fly out.

Copeland ran into trouble in the sixth with runs on the corners and two outs. Reiley got the call to get ULL's Nolen Gisclair to ground out.

Drew Robertson reached on an error in the seventh and moved to second on a sacrifice play. The final run of the game crossed the plate on the Cajuns second fielding error of the game.

Reiley improves to 3-0 on the season. He worked 3-1/3 innings striking out five batters and walking one.

Tyler Dennis and Barrett went 2-for-4 in the series against ULL. Middle Tennessee has won four out of six games.

Saturday the Blue Raiders beat the Cajuns 12-6 as Brad Robinson goes 2-0 as a starter this season.

MT scored five runs in the first two innings to give them a solid cushion before giving Robinson a sure win. He held the ULL scoreless for five innings.

Wayne Kendrick went 3-for-4 scoring four runs. Barrett went 2-for-4, with one run scored and 1 RBI.

Drew Robertson went 2-for-4. Bishop and Adam Warren scored four runs in the game.

Friday the Blue Raiders fell to ULL 6-3.

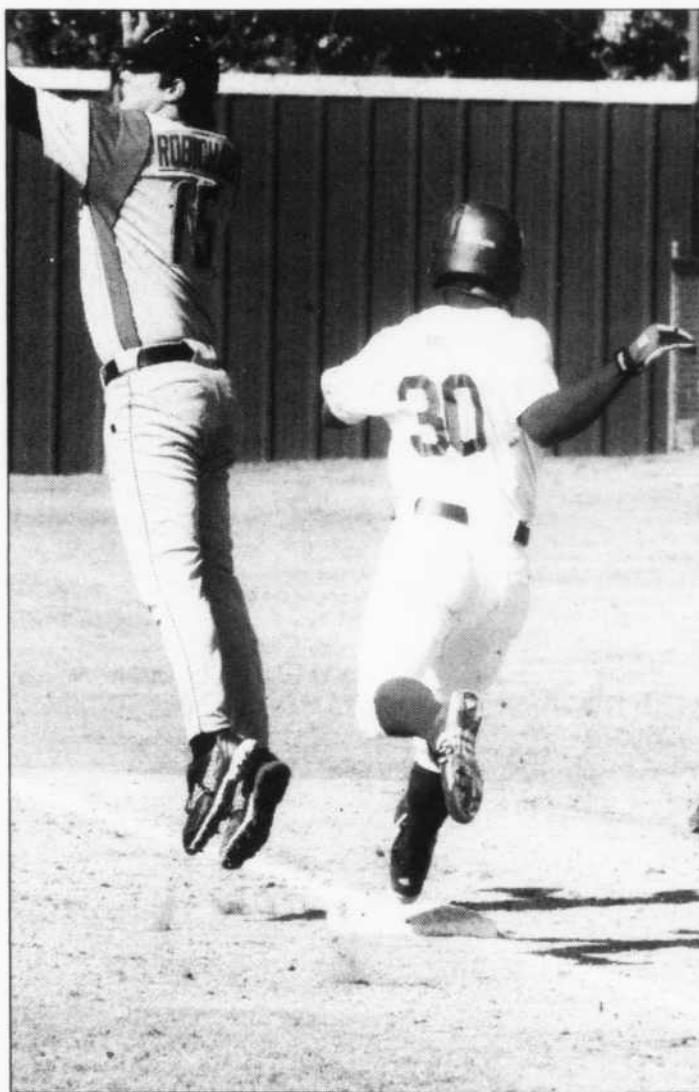


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer
Senior Adam Warren beats out the throw to first as the Blue Raiders beat ULL 3-1 on Sunday. MT is tied with ULL 4-2 in the standings.

Campbell and Myles Ervin went 2-for-3 and Campbell scored two runs in the game.

Matt Scott got the loss and goes to 1-2 on the season.

Campbell double in the third scored MT's first run and Ervin

singled to left. Wayne Kendrick led off with a single, stole second and moved to third on a line drive.

Middle Tennessee travels to Memphis for a two game series on March 20-21. ♦

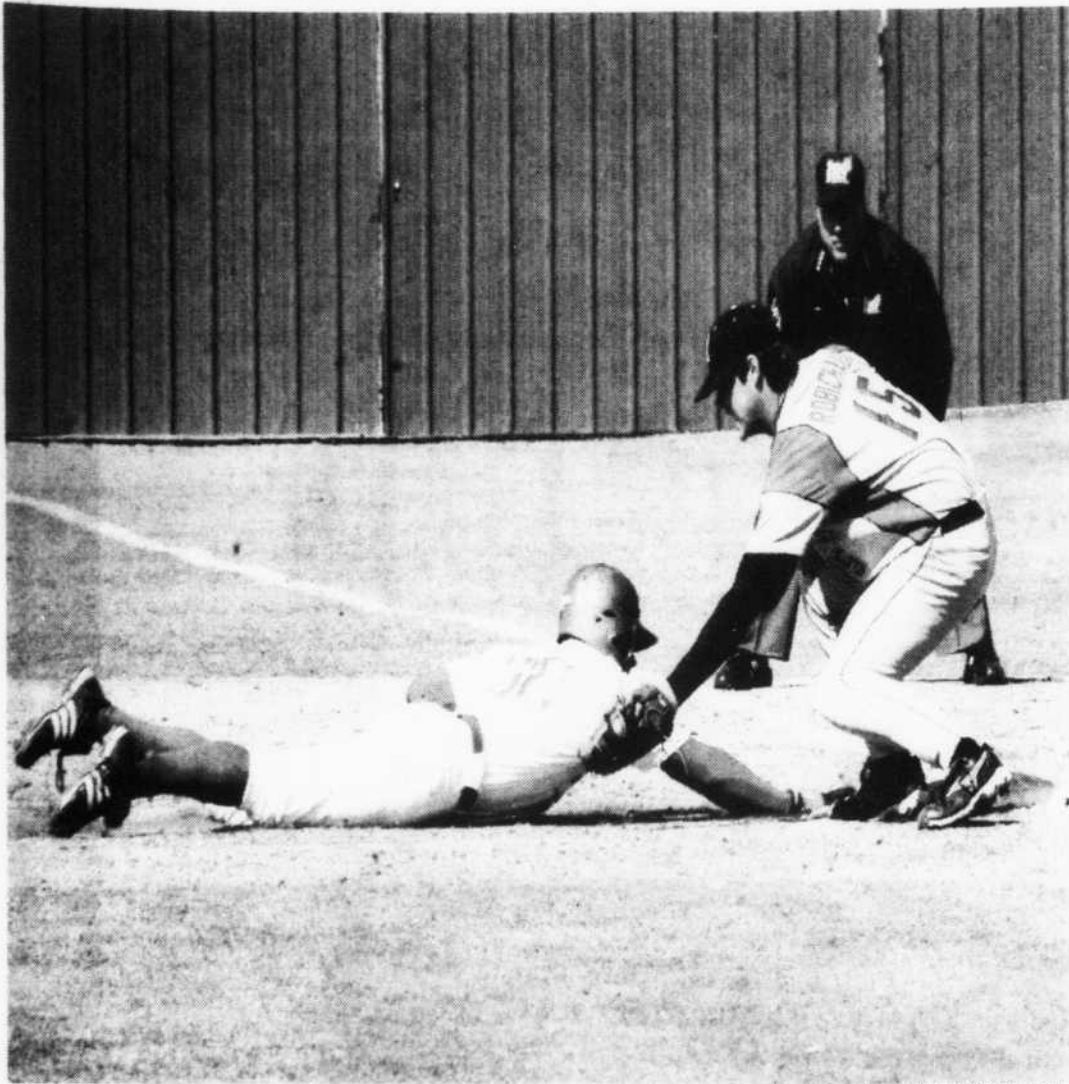


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer
Senior Adam Warren slides into first base trying to avoid being picked off by the Louisiana-Lafayette's pitcher. MT won two games out of three against ULL this weekend. Look for the story on page 6.

NCAA Tournament Dayton Regional Update

Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh, PA

1 Tennessee	76	1 Tennessee 3/20
16 Drake	37	
8 Pittsburgh	3/18	Pitt/JMU winner
9 JMU	9 p.m.	

Maples Pavilion, Stanford, CA

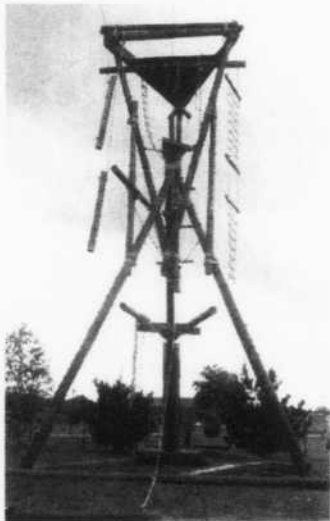
5 Mid Tenn.	85	5 Mid Tenn 3/19
12 Gonzaga	46	
4 Ohio St.	63	13 Marist 8 p.m.
13 Marist	67	

Frank Erwin Center, Austin, TX

6 Marquette	87	6 Marquette 3/19
11 UL Lafayette	58	
3 Oklahoma	74	3 Oklahoma 7 p.m.
14 SE Mo St	60	

Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, CT

7 Ole Miss	88	7 Ole Miss 3/20
10 TCU	74	
2 Maryland	89	2 Maryland TBD
15 Harvard	65	



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Classifieds

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Stewarts Special Delivery is now hiring for delivery and set-up positions. Part time and full time positions available. Applicants must possess a valid drivers license and have an excellent work ethic. Applications available at 939 N Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro.

Home City Ice is hiring delivery drivers in LaVergne, TN. Up to 12.50/hr! Flexible scheduling! PERFECT for students! Apply at www.homecityice.com or call (615)833-3345

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Miscellaneous

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Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

There was a break in the action this weekend in sports.
Finally a weekend of rest for the weary.

We move back into the swing of things this weekend with Men and Women's tennis and Men and Women's Golf.
The baseball team is playing in Memphis and the softball team starts a five-game home stand this weekend.

The volleyball team is hosting a tournament and the basketball team advanced to the second round in the NCAA
Tournament.

That only a few of the sports-related events going on campus this weekend.
Want to be a writer?

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I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Men's basketball, Sun Belt champs, falls to Memphis

I'm sitting at the Boro bar and grill, once again, staring at the wrong kind of screen.

I came to drink some coffee and work on some short fiction. But while ordering my first of too many cups of coffee.

I noticed that North Texas (yes, the Sun Belt team from Denton) was beating Memphis. So much for writing any fiction. I was hooked.

Ok, let me just assume you're as much of a college basketball novice as I was before this year. Why is this so bizarre? ESPN.com's front page story this morning was an article about Memphis.

I don't believe North Texas has ever had an article to themselves.

The Tigers have won 22 straight games. And their coach thinks this No. 2 seed squad is even better than last year's No. 1 seed team.

And North Texas? They're from the Sun Belt. That's really all I have to say.

Don't listen to the Sun Belt Conference hype that this a conference to be reckoned with.

No matter what they say its still a conference that gets spell checked more often than acclaimed.

So here is a Memphis team, that hasn't lost since Britney Spears still had a stylist on her payroll and one that ESPN thinks may be able to run the table, battling it out against a school whose campus is only slightly larger than a new Wal-Mart.

North Texas held the lead on and off for the first 17 minutes but a 14-2 run to close the half made it look like Memphis would run away with it.

Poor NTU, right? Well, I'm watching them claw their way through a 6-point deficit with 12:34 remaining and whether they win or lose I know one thing for sure: College Basketball @.%.Sing rocks.

To see an underdog team like this play on a national scale

against a powerhouse and not be intimidated is inspiring.

It's like watching a made for adults Disney movie LIVE! and in HD.

North Texas just fell down a few more points and Memphis' lead looks more comfortable now, but I could care less about the score.

What has me excited is that I know, the 17,000 people in the stands know, the 350,000 people watching the game on CBS, and probably every player on North Texas' team knows that Memphis will win.

The Mean Green will be out raced, out hustled, and out shot. But they won't be out classed.

Win or lose, this is their chance to be seen.

No-name kids with no shot at the NBA living in a no-where town in Texas (been there, trust me) are standing up to big-city squad with a single digit seed because they will never get this chance again.

What separates this moment from, say, Disney's The Mighty Ducks is that no amount of slow motion or cheesy writing could slow down the Memphis Tigers.

I'm okay with that. It's a fact of life. But every single time that Memphis races down the court like they own it only to get shut down by a perfectly executed trap/zone I feel a little better about the world.

Watching a beleaguered Mean Green PG drain a floating three, or get his own offensive rebound is better to me than all the upset wins in the world. It offers a more realistic kind of hope.

Am the only one who sees this many real-world parallels in sports? I hope not. It certainly makes my world easier to live in.

Checkout Sportacus' live blog his myspace account.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at myspace.com/lamsportacus.

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Applications will be due to KUC 208 by 4:30 p.m. on March 27. Applicants will be able to sign up for an interview time upon submitting an application. For questions, please call 898-2870.

MTSU Student Affairs announces the 2007 Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award

The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of Campus Life:

- × Social sorority or fraternity
- × Cheerleading squad
- × Student Programming / Special Events
- × Student Government Association (executive, legislation or judicial branch)
- × CUSTOMS (new student orientation)

The student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative minimum 3.0 grade point average.

*Due to the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible.

Application Deadline: March 23, 2007

Applications available in Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 212. For questions, contact Susan Thornton in Student Life at 898-2750.

March 19, 2007

Housing Guide

Pg. 2 – Students move out, grow up, get stressed

Sidelines

Pg. 4 – Consider location, price in apartment hunt

Pg. 4 – Adapting to life filled with roommates



**Don't get stuck on your
best friend's couch next semester.**

Students move out, grow up, get stressed

Living alone guarantees freedom, responsibility

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Freedom and college go hand-in-hand.

Sleeping until noon without parents shaking their heads in disapproval, eating a well-rounded dinner of Chinese takeout and Twizzlers, having friends over any time of the night, putting off that research paper until the last moment without someone barking the dangers of procrastination through a locked door—it sounds like a college student's dream.

But when you throw in a sink-full of molding dishes, piles of unwashed laundry and hefty bills, the idea of crawling into your childhood bed and accepting a lovingly-made sandwich on your way out the door starts to sound a bit more appealing.

Sophomore art history major Amanda Newton has lived in a house with two roommates for three years.

"The best part of living on my own is the freedom I have and the fact I know I can make it on my own completely," Newton says. "The worst part is that if I make a bad decision, I am the only one who can fix it. I can no longer run to my parents as much as I was able to."

If personal maturation is just as important as intellectual growth during college, branching off on one's own seems an important step. The twenty-something adult living with his or her parents has become a guaranteed joke, inspiring movies starring Mathew McConaughey and clichéd assumptions. No one wants to be a "mama's boy" or a "daddy's girl" until they receive their degree.

And still, the actual reality of living alone versus living with parents is never easy. Amanda

Clelland, a senior English major, lives hundreds of miles away from her family. Although she relishes her freedom, there are times when the independence seems overwhelming.

"I still want to revert back to being a kid sometimes when things go wrong," Clelland says. "I'll immediately call my parents and ask them how to fix this or how I should handle that, hoping they'll somehow be able to make it all better. But ultimately, you still have to deal with it on your own."

There are inarguable benefits to escaping parental control, of course. For students like Rachael Charlton, a junior political science major, "even just going to Wal-Mart at 2 a.m." seems exhilarating when it's being done with no repercussions. Under a parent's roof, such an excursion would certainly elicit tons of questions, panic and disapproval. Sometimes, parents just cannot understand a college student's need to go to Wal-Mart during the wee hours of the night.

But even with all of the obvious downsides of living at home, several students do so without a second thought. At home, there's not much of a chance you'll be forced to share a bathroom with 60 gorillas (well, it depends on who your family is) and you're almost guaranteed to have more money saved up than your independence-praising peers.

Besides, misadventures and mistakes are a given while getting used to college, not to mention the struggles of coping with all the other life adjustments. As long as you balance priorities, do well academically and develop your social life, shacking up with mom and dad could be a better option.

Charlton balances three jobs



Photo courtesy of YotoPhoto

Living alone sounds like a college student's dream-come-true. But when you add piles of dirty dishes and unpaid bills, staying at home might not sound too bad.

with her classes to afford living alone. It sounds disheartening, but Charlton loves the sense of accomplishment and the confidence she has gained knowing that she can take care of herself. "I'm proud to be able to say that I completely pay for and take care of my own apartment," she says.

Whether or not students choose to move out or stay at home, it's inevitable that eventually, they will have to grow up. Even if your parental land-

lords do ask for rent, or your far-off family helps you out with your bills, eventually, the help will probably stop.

"To me, the best part is the growing you do—and at times, you're forced to do," Clelland says. "You have to take responsibility for yourself to a degree you never imagined you'd have to take on as a kid. The grown up world is daunting, but when you take those steps, it's really satisfying to know how it all pays off." ♦

Make living at home bearable

Set ground rules

Let mom and dad know that, even though you're still at home, you're an adult now. Promise to keep them up-to-date of your whereabouts in return for no panicked calling when you come home late. They were young once too, you know.

Do your part

Nothing has the potential to make you feel more like a kid than letting your parents treat you like one. As tempting as home-made breakfasts, perfectly done laundry and perpetually clean dishes may seem, make sure to pitch in. You know that nonexistent curfew you're vying for? Prove yourself as an adult and maybe you'll be treated like one.

Get dates with their own pad

There is no larger damper on a blossoming relationship than the image of parents sitting a few feet away. Not that it's impossible to date when you both live at home, but it will kind of suck. Either make sure your parents are very understanding, or pick dates that live alone.

Use time wisely

Yes, living with your parents isn't the most ideal situation. But as long as you're whining, do something useful with your time. By default, living at home means you'll have a lot less expenses, so why not use this time to save?

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Consider location, price in apartment hunt

By Mary Rose Fox

Community News Editor

For a student, sometimes the closer one lives to campus, the better. Students may already be looking for an apartment for the upcoming school year, and there are many choices to pick from. However, money and location are a factor to be carefully considered.

College campuses across the country have changed dramatically in the last few decades. More and more students are non-traditional, and more are living off

campus and out of the dormitories.

MTSU has made efforts geared toward off-campus living, by creating apartment-style quarters on the university grounds. Scarlett Commons, for example, is on campus and the apartments come furnished. The utilities are included in the rent, and for a four bedroom, four bathroom, the semester cost is \$2,496, for a yearly rate of \$4,992. The rent also includes cable and Internet access.

Many student off-campus housing complexes now come

fully furnished as well, making the burden of moving easier on the student. Three in particular, Campus Crossings, University Gables and College Grove Apartments are within a two-mile radius of campus.

Sophomore concrete industry management major Blake Tyler said that proximity to campus was very important when he chose to live at Raiders' Ridge.

"Murfreesboro traffic is so bad, if I lived across town I'd be late for even more classes," he said.

Cost of living can be vital when deciding to sign a lease.

"I'm a broke college student like everybody else," Tyler said.

But students are also attracted to complexes that provide amenities such as 24-hour access to a clubhouse and gym, cable television, Internet, a pool, and utilities. Crossings, Gables and Grove provide all these features.

Campus Crossings, located at 285 N Rutherford Blvd., lists a four bedroom/ four bathroom apartment as the least costly per person at \$399 per month, making the yearly total \$4,788.

The least expensive lease at University Gables is a four bed-

room/ two bathroom apartment that costs \$327 per month per person, equaling \$3,924 per year. University Gables is located at 2827 S Rutherford Blvd.

"[Cost of living] is the most important thing," said Gwendolyn Tarpley, freshman journalism major who lives at College Grove.

College Grove, located at 1540 Lascassas Pike, offers a 4 bedroom/ 2 bathroom apartment for \$315 per month per person. This is the least expensive lease offered, making the yearly total \$3,780. ♦

Adapting to life filled with roommates

Helpful hints for students conforming to, surviving stereotypical roommates, woes

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Whether you are moving out on your own or staying at home with the parents, most college students will inadvertently find themselves in the presence of roommates.

Exploring the world of cohabitation with others, one will find many different species of creatures to exist with and will learn the different adaptation skills needed to survive. Below is a list of the types of roommates encountered on the journey of college living along with some helpful hints to surviving with a happy and healthy relationship.

My house, my rules

For the college students who cannot afford to live outside their family's domain or feel better about staying at home, parents can and will become much like roommates. The major difference, however, is you are living in their house, under their rules, no matter what your age – especially if your stay is rent free.

Sneaking in at 3 a.m. is still as deplorable at 22 as it was at 16. Unless a garage apartment or pool

house is the primary sleeping grounds for a student, stomping in at all hours of the night is enough to upset any house owner.

Just because a student lives with family does not equate them to the rank of child either. The best way to form a working adult relationship between the college student and parental landlords is to establish the fact that you are an adult and, while not completely independent, should hold some respect as an adult.

Work out a standard set of rules. While it may seem juvenile, a curfew is not about restriction but respect. Families do not want students clamoring around the house at all hours of the night. In exchange, the student could volunteer to help around the house or maybe even pay rent. If you act like an adult, you will be treated as such.

Silence is golden and noise is platinum

When moving out into an apartment with friends, acquaintances or the occasional stranger, two of the extremes one will find are the loud partiers and the meek bookworms.

The partiers are the late to bed

or the early to rise, always bringing with them a vibrating aura of music, laughing, talking or rustling of kitchen pans. The meek bookworm keeps a lower profile, wanting quiet-time to study or relax and never needing an obscene amount of clutter.

Since these are extremes, most find a common middle ground between the two. Have the loud keep their music down and make sleeping habits of all apartment or housemates clearly known. Remind the meek that they do not live alone and a little noise is expected, but include them in the festivities. No one, even the quiet, wants to be by themselves.

Who ate the last slice of cake?

A mooch is one of the worst roommates one will encounter. They eat the last piece of bread, use the last clean dish, never replace the laundry detergent or toilet paper and never share. Talking is always the first step to solving a problem, but if a problem persists, as it might, a few extra steps can be taken to make both the mooch and the mooched coexist peacefully.

Sharpies are extremely useful



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus News Editor

for marking territory and letting roommates know what does and does not belong to you. Of course, a thin layer of ink will not create a mysterious and powerful force field to ward off any mooching, but it will help clearly define boundaries of what is and is not public property.

If marking fails and a student still finds the feeble remnants of food and cleaning supplies, alternative storage space should be found. Some apartments come with individual storage closets but, for those that do not, block off a corner in your bedroom for food and laundry detergent.

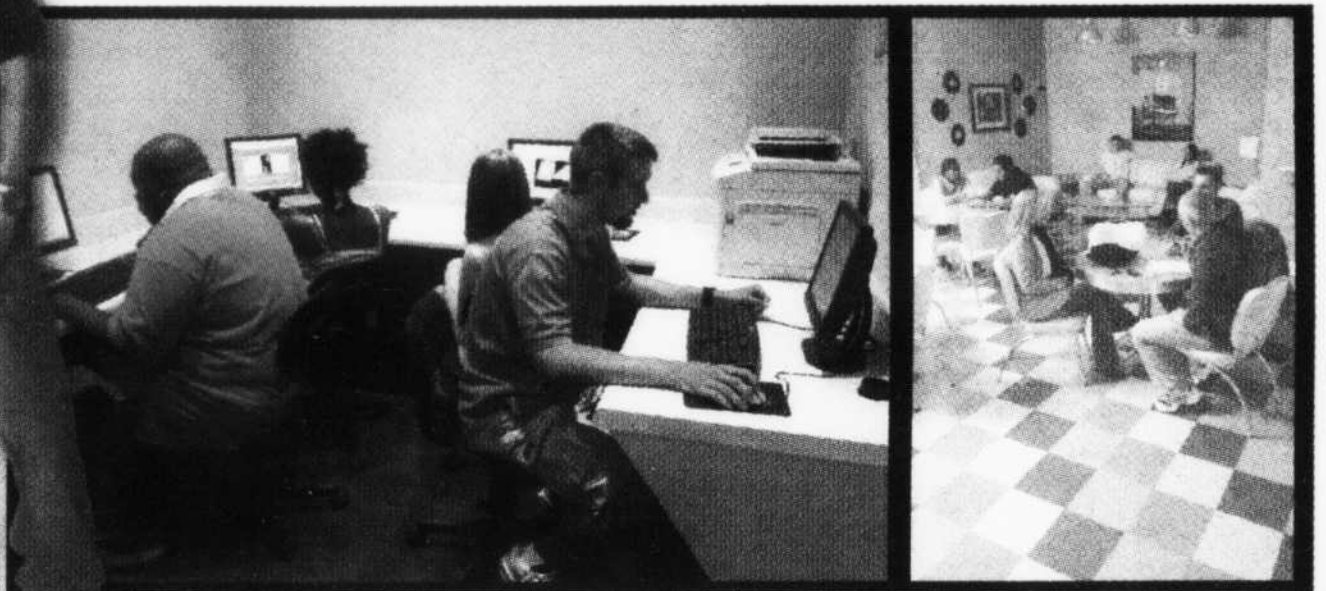
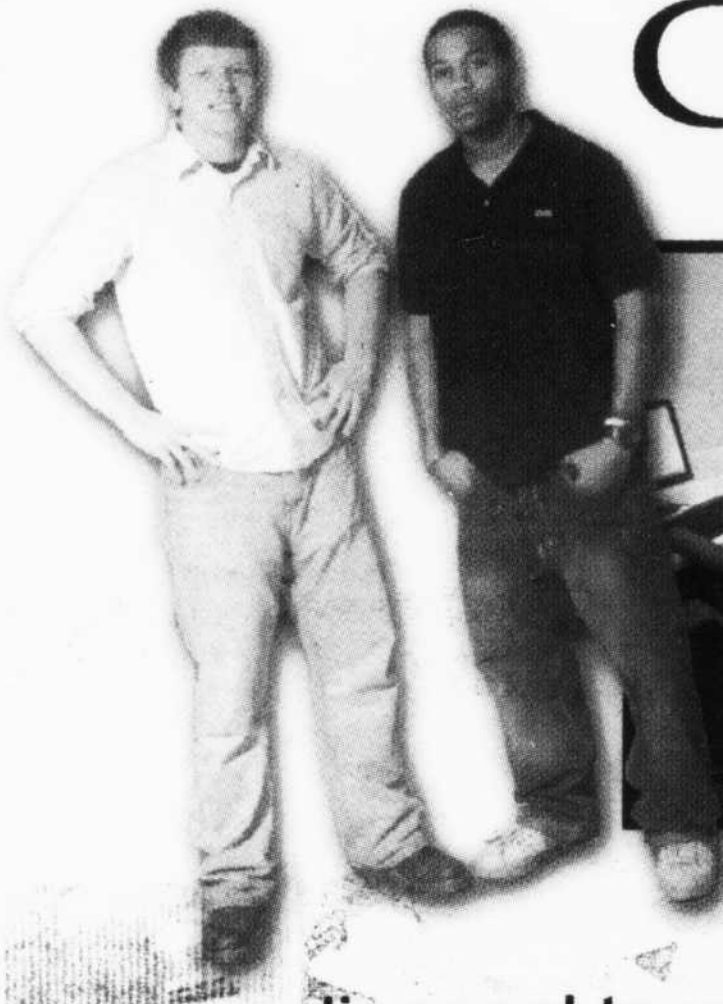
Miniature refrigerators are usually on sale at most major retailers

around the start of school and plastic shelving can be inexpensive at places like Target, Wal-Mart and K-mart. Another solution is to provide the smooch with their share, not paying for it but splitting the cost. Buy necessity items like toilet paper, detergent, bread or condiments in bulk and split the cost equally, which keeps them from taking your items and leaves you feeling fully supplied.

Whatever the living situation, either with parents or fellow students, a peaceful existence can be found. Set boundaries, keep to rules, talk out problems like adults and remember sleeping in a bed is much more comfy than sleeping on the street. ♦

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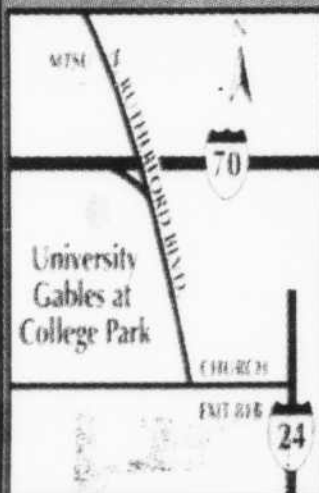
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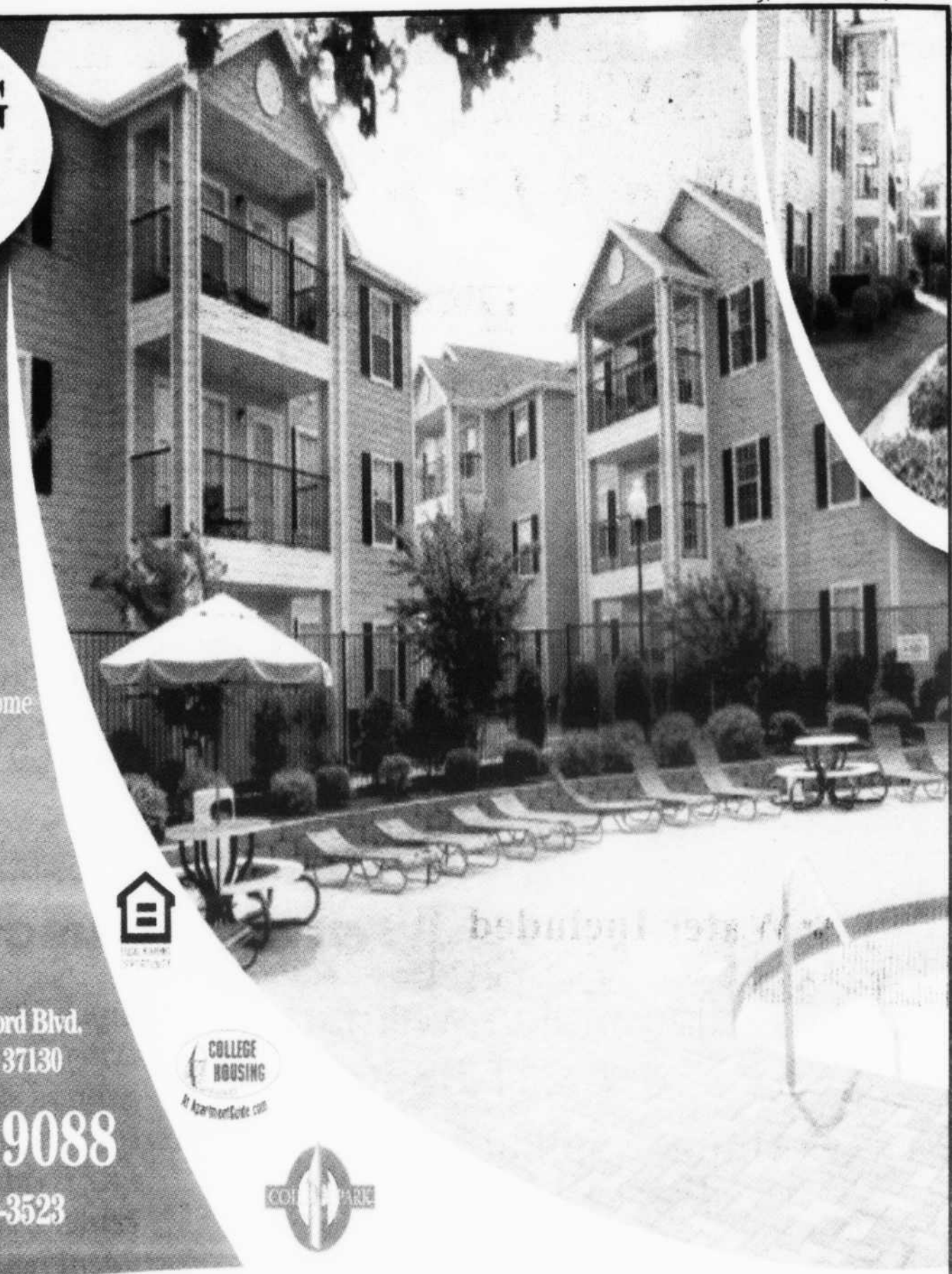
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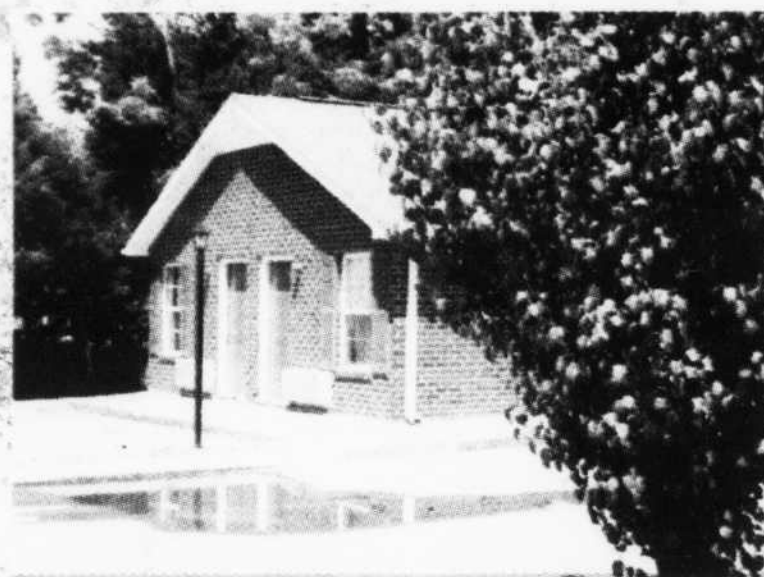
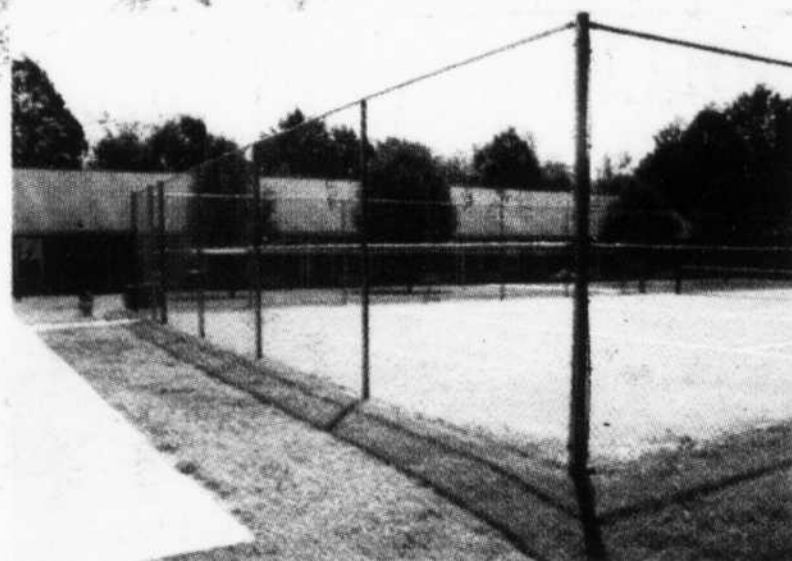
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