

Dwight's Mini Mart should be a moral concern for MT  
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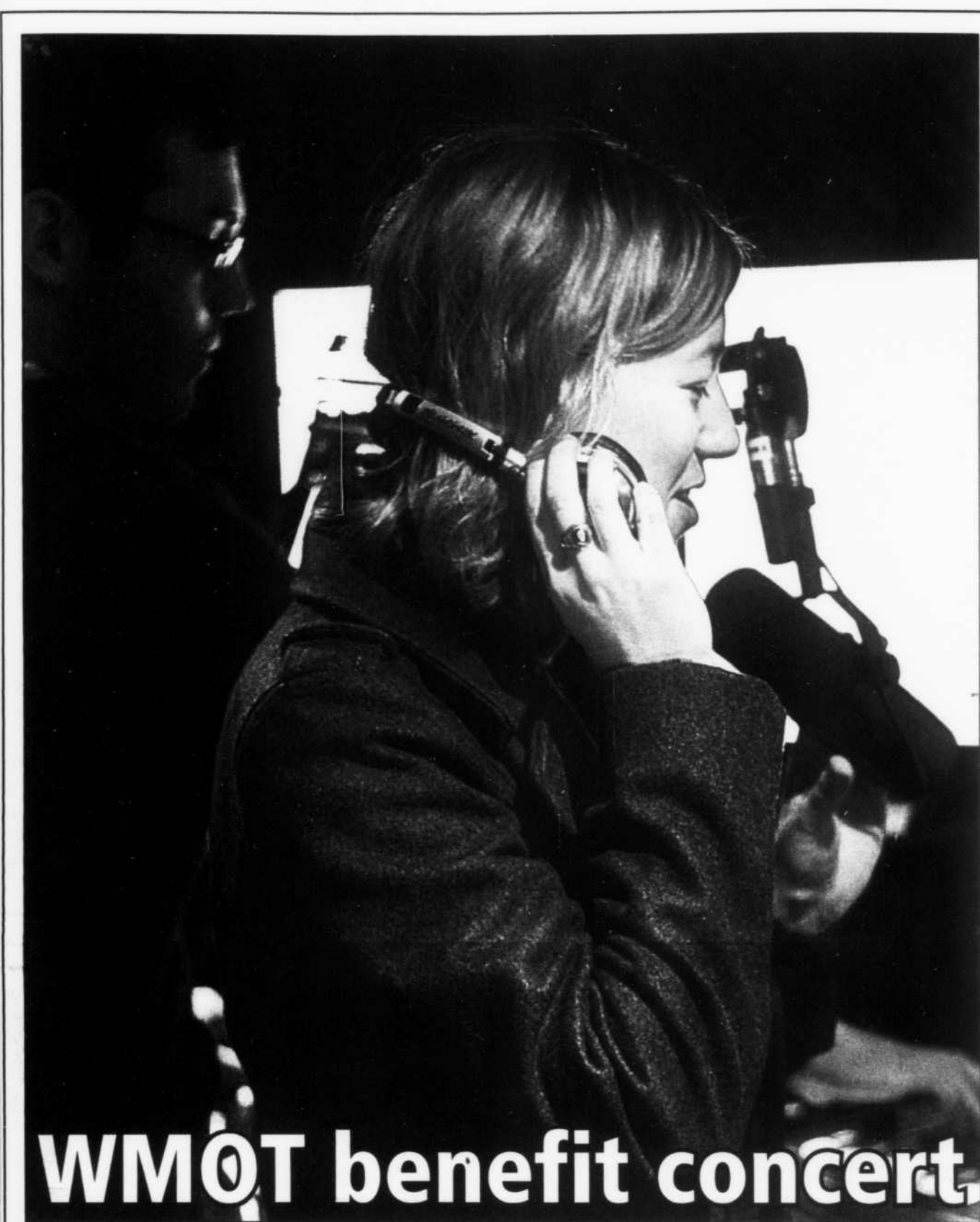
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# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009 | EDITORIALY INDEPENDENT |

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## WMOT benefit concert

Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Elaine Pearce, promotions director, broadcasts her show Bumper 2 Bumper at WMTS. WMOT radio could be closed due to the severe budget cuts the university is facing. WMTS will help host a benefit concert to try and raise funds to keep WMOT radio station alive. "I hope that from this benefit the president along with the budget cut committees and TBR are able to see the value of the station," said Alli Scott, WMTS station manager.

WMOT, PAGE 3

## Tobacco ban upsets students

MT students are filling out a petition, working to save Dwight's Mini Mart

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

Some MTSU students are outraged by the possibility that Dwight's Mini Mart in the Keathley University Center will no longer be allowed to sell tobacco products, even though it is not a school policy.

The Tennessee Board of Regents contacted MTSU in last December as part of a statewide survey to try and find out how many universities in the state were allowing tobacco products on campus. MTSU was the only university in Tennessee said Joe Hugh, assistant vice president of Procurement Services.

Cothorn said the decision to ban tobacco sales was not a policy change for TBR or MTSU, just a suggestion to the Tennessee Business Enterprises, the company who owns the equipment in Dwight's Mini Mart.

TBE is a public/private partnership that provides independent blind busi-

ness people with vending and other food services to customers across the state.

Hugh said he had received the request from TBR and was simply seeing if TBE would be interested in not selling tobacco products.

"We asked TBE before Christmas if they would be interested in taking them out of the store and they said yes," Hugh said. "I think they might have thought it was a change in MTSU policy, so there was probably a little confusion going on."

Dwight Johnson, owner of Dwight's Mini Mart, said that he was told that it was a change in MTSU policy.

"Joe Hugh came in told me that a new policy said that I couldn't sell tobacco anymore, so that's what I had to do," Johnson said.

Students have started a petition on campus and are trying to get it passed in the Student Government Senate to stop the ban of tobacco

TOBACCO, PAGE 2

## Debra Sells appointed new vice provost

By JESSICA HASTON  
Copy Editor

President Sidney McPhee announced the appointment of Debra Sells as vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services Monday.

Sells had held the posi-

tion on an interim basis since August 2008, after Bob Glenn left the position to become president of Athens State University in Athens, Ala.

Sells served as a director of Housing and Residential Life at MTSU from 1996 to 2002 before moving to her

former position as associate vice provost for Academic Support Services.

"[McPhee] and I worked together for six months as interim," Sells said. "We had several discussions along the way about what he was looking for and what direction he wanted to go

in, what vision he had for the university and how my vision for Student Affairs fit in that."

McPhee said he thinks



Sells

that Sells will do an "excellent job" as the vice president of Student Affairs.

"I think Dr. Sells brings significant experience to the position of the vice president," McPhee said. "She knows our campus, has worked with our students and really under-

stands the culture we have here at MTSU in terms of putting our students first."

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

## Washington Post columnist speaks on diversity in society

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Staff Writer

Eugene Robinson of *The Washington Post* and MSNBC spoke to an audience of students at the Keathley University Center about racial diversity in modern America on Feb. 4.

Robinson spoke of the recent election, which he covered with such notables as Chris Matthews and Keith Olbermann, and how the events of that evening are shaping the new history of black America.

"I was on the MSNBC set in Rockefeller Center in New York, and at 10:45 p.m. was when we heard through our earpieces that NBC was going to call the election for Barack Obama at 11:00 p.m.," Robinson said. "We had 15 minutes notice, so I took out my cell phone and dialed my parent's number and I got to tell my father that in his lifetime, a black man had been elected president of the United States."

Robinson discussed how that moment differed from

the early part of his life in the Jim Crow era. Robinson said that when he was young, growing up in Orangeburg, S.C., a man that lived down the street from him, Cleveland Sellers, was nearly arrested by the police simply because he was a student non-violent organizer.

Robinson said that three innocent students were gunned down on their college campus due to complications in segregation and protesting. This incident is known as the Orangeburg Massacre.

"Diversity is a process, we have to remain resolute," Robinson said. "We have really made progress in our difficult, gnarly terrain."

Robinson said this country has come through a major change and that black Americans have gotten to a point where they don't have to see themselves as outsiders anywhere.

"I have two sons, and when they were growing up I would always tell them, 'you could be anything you want to be,' and if I tell them that now, I'm

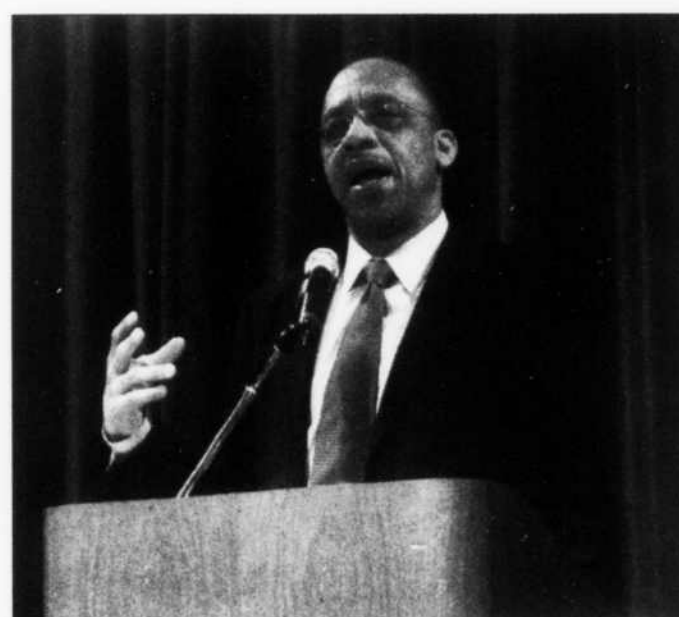


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer  
Eugene Robinson speaks to students about racial issues.

telling the truth," Robinson said.

Robinson said that there is a potential need to get rid of Black History Month,

because we may be getting to the point where black

ROBINSON, PAGE 3



## TOBACCO FROM PAGE 1

sales. Skyler Crews, a sophomore computer information systems major, started the petition because he said it was the least students could do for everything Dwight had done for them.

"I wanted to do this because it's important not to let someone run over people," Crews said. "Sometimes people need help standing up for themselves so that's what I'm doing."

Crews said that he would be fine with the tobacco ban after Johnson retired.

"I don't see how [MTSU officials] could do something like that to Dwight," Crew said. "I don't smoke but we can't let this happen."

"MTSU doesn't stand for the mistreatment of others so MTSU shouldn't now either," Crew said.

Crews said he took the petition to the Senate this week, but was turned away because it wasn't uniformed enough. The



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Dwight's Mini Mart will allegedly lose 40 percent of its sales soon due its inability to sell tobacco products on campus in the KUC.

petition was sent out to be redrafted and it will return in the next meeting.

"The senators expressed they would like the resolution to be cleaned up, and they were going to talk to Crews and see if he wanted to do that," said Gene Fitch,

associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean

of Student Life. "It came to the senate in the form of a petition, so there was not a senator who originally drafted the legislation."

Hugh said that Johnson told him that tobacco products made up about 40 percent of his overall sales. If tobacco products make up that percentage of his sales, then they would try to find

alternate forms of revenue for the market.

Matthew Hurtt, senior liberal arts major, said he is working on the bureaucratic side of the petition.

"I'm trying to figure out how to reverse this decision," Hurtt said. "I am on the pragmatic end trying to get it done through the state channels."

Hurtt said tobacco products are big sales for Dwight, smoking has not been banned on campus so he thinks there's is no reason to stop selling it.

"To me, this looks like an arbitrary decision," Hurtt said. "I can't get my brain around the reasoning. I don't know why this is being pursued."

## Bonnaroo announces new lineup

By KATY COIL,  
ALEX MOORMAN  
Features Editor, Campus News  
Editor

The line-up for the seventh annual Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn. was announced Monday.

Artists headlining the festival include Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Phish, Beastie Boys, Nine Inch Nails, Wilco, Al Green, Snoop Dogg, Elvis Costello, Erykah Badu, Ben Harper, The Mars Volta, TV on the Radio, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Gov't Mule, Merle Haggard, MGMT, the Decemberists, Of Montreal, Coheed & Cambria, Lucinda Williams, Jenny Lewis, Neko, Santogold, the Ting Tings and Elvis Perkins.

The four-day music festival that takes place on a 700-acre farm had an attendance around 80,000 last year and won the 2008 award for Outstanding Greener Festival.

Students said they are looking forward to the festival this year, but their opinions on the lineup are somewhat mixed.

"I am going this year," said Joe Weller a senior environmental science major. "I like how they're mixing the genres this year, because it allows a lot of different people getting together to enjoy music."

To read more, visit us online.

**online**  
www.mtsusidelines.com

## CRIME BRIEFS

Jan. 30, 10:56 a.m.

### Vandalism

Greek Row  
Maintenance reported that an exterior light fixture had been vandalized behind one of the houses.

Jan. 30, 12:16 p.m.

### Traffic

Cope Administration Building  
Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked at the administration building. Officers completed a state crash

report.

Jan. 31, 12:20 a.m.

### Reckless Driving

Greek Row  
Miranda Fowler was issued a state citation for reckless driving and open container law violations. Kayla Jewell was issued a state citation for underage consumption.

Jan. 31, 2:07 a.m.

### Drug Possession

Baird Lane lot

Matthew Busman was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana and underage consumption of alcohol.

Jan. 31, 12:55 p.m.

### Theft

Greek Row  
Victim reported that her cell phone had been stolen.

Jan. 31, 1:11 p.m.

### Theft

Recreation Center  
Victim reported that his wallet

and other belongings were stolen from an unsecured locker.

Jan. 31, 12:55 p.m.

### Theft

Business Aerospace Building  
Victim reported that her wallet had been stolen.

Feb. 2, 6:19 p.m.

### Vandalism

McFarland Health Services lot  
Complainant wished to file a report of vandalism to his vehicle.

Feb. 3, 3:55 a.m.

### Trespassing

Saunders Fine Arts  
The ARA supervisor called advising there was someone asleep in one of the classrooms in the building.

Feb. 3, 11:30 a.m.

### Traffic

Baird Lane lot  
Subject called and complained that someone had hit her car.

# Go Greek



## MTSU Fraternity Recruitment

### February 9th – 14th

Contact Brandon McNary at  
[bfm2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:bfm2b@mtsu.edu) with questions.

[www.mtsu.edu/~greeks](http://www.mtsu.edu/~greeks)

## Eat at

## Dairy Queen

### on Monday Feb. 9!

Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, located on 2910 S. Rutherford Blvd., will give Up 'til Dawn 10% of all the money they earn. This money will help St. Jude Research Hospital help kids fighting cancer.

All you have to do is eat there!

*You'll be glad you did!*



Don't forget to join the  
Up 'til Dawn Party:  
Facebook: Up 'Til Dawn  
2008

[www.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn](http://www.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn)  
615.904.8270



Grand Finale  
Event:  
Feb. 20-21  
7 pm - 3 am







Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
Alex Skid, disc jockey at WMOT radio station, changes records.

**From page 1:** WMOT Radio is having a benefit concert to keep station despite severe budget cuts threatening to silence it

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

WMOT, MTSU's student-run radio station, and the School of Music are co-hosting a benefit concert tonight for WMOT, MTSU's National Public Radio affiliate and jazz station. The concert is being held in support of WMOT, which may be shut down due to budget cuts, said Alli Scott, WMOT station manager. "The way I see it is that unless we step it up and make it known how important the station is, it is pretty definite that it will be going," Scott said. "The Tennessee Board of Regents and President McPhee will have to realize how important WMOT is to the campus, students and community."

Scott said that many College of Mass Communication students, especially those who are majoring in electronic media commu-

nication, get involved with the station and gain experience that cannot be taught in classrooms. "About 20 students work at WMOT each semester, either for practicum credits, scholarship fulfillment or hourly pay," Scott said. "The students learn everything from newswriting, editing, producing and song announcing, as well as learn to work in a professional environment."

The event, which is being held at Club 527, is free, though donations will be accepted. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and end at 2 a.m.

The concert will feature performances by MTSU students, graduates and faculty. Some of the performers include the MTSU Jazz Ensemble, MTSU Commercial Music Ensemble, Tony and the Great Barrier Reefs, Lalo Davila, Tom Giampetrio, Moe Denham, Duffy Jackson and the

MTSU Salsa Band. Scott said it wasn't hard to find performers for the concert. "Most of the people pretty much offered before I even really had a chance to ask," Scott said.

WMOT, which has been at MTSU for more than 20 years, and WMOT have collaborated for a long time, Scott said.

"WMOT was not where it is today without the ongoing help of the WMOT staff," Scott said. "If WMOT does get shut down, WMOT will struggle."

Scott said that if WMOT is cut from MTSU's budget, it will never be started again.

"I hope that from this benefit, the president, along with the budget-cut committees and TBR, are able to see the value of the station and how much it is necessary to this school," Scott said.

**ROBINSON  
FROM PAGE 1**

history is American history. "The idea that we need a special month to recognize all [black] history was a necessary idea at some point because it wasn't being taught," Robinson said. "In the next few years, I hope that we will be able to incorporate and include the rich tapestry of African-American history into the even richer tapestry of American history."

Robinson said that black America should be viewed as two different groups of social classes in this modern day and age. He said that there are the majority of blacks who have had enormous success and rapid growth and progress in income and education; and

the contrasting minorities of blacks are culturally left behind.

Jennifer Woodard, a professor in electronic media communication, said she liked what Robinson had to say. "I think that all the students could have benefited in terms of really under-

standing the racial dynamic in the United States at this point in time," Woodard said. "The way he talked about the gap between the middle class black America and the working poor, and how that was the new disparity."

Robinson said that the gap in between the two

**“ Diversity is a process we have to remain resolute.”**

EUGENE ROBINSON  
COLUMNIST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ence. "Whether that means a class divide, a cultural divide in African-American community, [or] whether that means the emergence of immigrants in the larger African-American experience."

Also in attendance at the event was President Sydney McPhee.

**Prize-winning writer revisits to MT**

**Beth Ann Fennelly visits Honors College to recite poetry, sign her best-selling book for students, faculty**

By GARETT FRANKLYN  
Staff Writer

A prize-winning writer will be reciting poetry and signing books on Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. in room 106 of the Paul W. Martin Honors Building.

Beth Ann Fennelly is an assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi.

"I'm thrilled to be here and honored that those students have chosen to spend their time with me learning more about poetry," Fennelly said.

Fennelly is also the visiting professor for MTSU's Visiting Artist's Seminar. Visiting Artist's Semi-

nar is a week-long one-credit-hour course with a curriculum that covers the basics of writing in verse: techniques of sound, metaphor, line breaks, the poem on the page, syntax and diction, Fennelly said.

"It's a great way to focus on something intensely," Fennelly said. "We can do more in five days of deeply involved class discussion than we can normally do in six weeks of regular classes."



Fennelly said that she is impressed with the quality of work the students have exemplified. "They are hardworking, creative and fun," Fennelly said. "They are brave, too, which helps."

The readings are scheduled to last an hour. Students will read their poetry for 30 minutes followed by Fennelly, who will read poetry from her new book, Unmentionables.

The recital will conclude with a book-signing and reception. The event is free and open to the public.

**Nashville Interior designer to visit MTSU**

**Shirley Horowitz to be keynote speaker at Fourth Annual Interior Showcase in James Union Building Friday**

By CHAD HOWSE  
Contributing Writer

Designer Shirley Horowitz will be the keynote speaker at MTSU's Fourth Annual Interior Design Showcase on Friday at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Her lecture will include her experiences as an interior designer, as well as a display of some of her portfolio and work.

Horowitz is known for establishing Davshire Interiors in Nashville and was recently commissioned to redesign the interior of the Tennessee

Residence, where the governor of the state resides. "We are thrilled and excited to be having our fourth annual interior design showcase," said Deborah Belcher, an associate professor for human sciences. "We are expecting the evening to be filled with great education opportunity."

The title of Horowitz lecture is "An Interior Design Journey: The Interior Renovation of Far Hills, Tennessee Governor's Residence."

"The speaker will provide a fabulous presentation," Belcher said.

Students from MTSU's Interior Design Program will present their own designs, as well as models and project boards that include various designs.

"The showcase will feature many of the students and teachers creative projects and designs," said Whitney Carter, Treasurer of MTSU's student chapter of American Society of Interior Design.

Dana Gwinn, a junior education and behavioral

**To read more, visit us online.**



**Corey Smith comes to MT**

STAFF REPORT

Corey Smith, a country-folk recording artist from Athens, Ga., is scheduled to perform live at the Murphy Center on April 27.

The event, which is being organized by Sigma Phi Epsilon, was confirmed by the fraternity on Tuesday. A percentage of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the American Heart Association, said Brad Perling, vice president of pro-

gramming for Sigma Phi Epsilon. "This is our second event this year to raise money for the American Heart Association," Perling said. "We raised \$2,000 in the fall when we did the American Heart Association Walk."

Perling said that the fraternity is working on



getting an opening act for Smith. Tickets will be sold today and tomorrow in the Business and Aerospace Building lobby from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., as well as other dates before the event. Tickets are also available at coreysmith.com.

The price for a single ticket is \$20. Tickets for a group of 50 or more are being sold at \$15 each. Tickets will be \$25 at the event. Doors open at 7 p.m.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer  
Eugene Robinson talks to member of the crowd about his speech

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# OPINIONS

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### Farewell to gossip Web site Juicy Campus

Juicy Campus, a college gossip Web site, will be shut down completely today as a result of decreasing online advertising.

As the site encounters more visitors and posts, it is unable to continue running because of the hard economic times.

As students ourselves, we are quite aware of Juicy Campus' existence and some of the gossip posted on the site. After questioning to run a story on the site during the pinnacle of its popularity, the Sidelines staff decided not to do a story on it in an attempt to keep viewers away from the site.

However, it's no surprise that the Web site is being shut down, considering most businesses don't exactly grasp the concept of online advertising. Plus, there's always the fact that the Web site caters to "hearsay" and lists of slutty girls and most contracted sexually transmitted diseases. What advertiser could refuse promoting their product on a site like that?

The site has expanded to more than 500 campuses across the United States, and allows users to post anything anonymously.

While this site may have started out as a public message board for information and campus news, the name "Juicy Campus" implies that juicy gossip should also be posted.

Some of the posts seen on Juicy Campus are extremely cruel and may have had life-altering effects on the people enduring the crude and obnoxious comments.

There are also tags outing gays and lesbians on college campuses. Along side of each post, people can vote on whether they think the gossip is true or not.

Then there is the fraternity and sorority bashing—who is dealing what drugs in which house and which girl is sporting silicone implants.

If Juicy Campus didn't allow people to publish their thoughts anonymously then over half of their visitors would return or even post in the first place.

We are glad that this site, which has caused much distraught to students, will finally be removed. It has tarnished people's outlook of others, and is basically rumor central.

Whether or not people choose to believe the gossip is up to the individual, but it still doesn't help that false information about people, fraternities and sororities is floating around for anyone on the Internet to explore.

It is baffling that people would rather write a post for this site anonymously than create a blog of their own to deal with important world related issues. People would rather read comments on this Web site than read about what is happening with the economy. Well get over it, because Juicy Campus is no more.

## Tobacco sales, moral issue

I know that cigarettes kill people.

Honestly, I don't care. If I want a cigarette, I'm going to light up and enjoy every puff. And there's nothing you can do about it; it's the American way.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth."

Recently one of MTSU's greatest patrons was subject to punishment for something that we as a people choose to do. We all know that our economy is in the crapper, and the people who have jobs have never been more thankful.

Dwight Johnson's store, Dwight's Mini-Mart, has



**For Serious**

Charles S. Crews

not been subject to the plummeting housing market or even inflation; it has been targeted by bureau-

business of a grateful and wonderful man.

We as Americans have an obligation to stand up for what's right, and sometimes the right thing is not always the most popular. MTSU is wonderful; the students are so diverse and the character of the college is second to none.

If the students let this continue, we are conforming to what society wants of us, not what we want for ourselves.

We are tomorrow's future; we have stand up for ourselves and do what's right.

Crews is a sophomore in computer science and can be reached at [cscrows@gmail.com](mailto:cscrows@gmail.com).

**"We as Americans have an obligation to stand up for what's right, and sometimes the right thing is not always the most popular."**

cratic manipulation.

Yes, smoking is bad, and there are people who hate smokers. But this is not about the smokers; this is about saving the

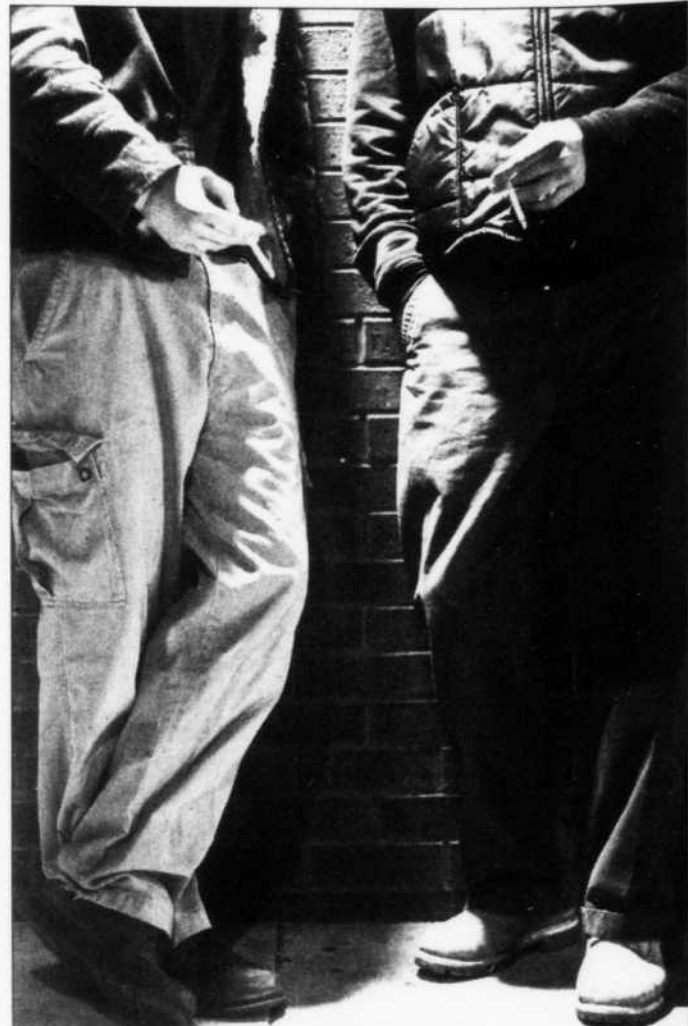


Photo illustration by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Dwight's store makes much of its profits from tobacco sales.

## Women under the societal knife

So I feel like I've been slapped in the face today. I've killed my afternoon watching E! and VH1 and happened to catch one of those "100 Greatest Reality TV Clips" shows (basically a good way to waste away a couple hours). Well, as I'm being mindlessly entertained, they happened to show a clip of this show called "Extreme Makeover."

Now, I really don't know where I've been over the past couple of years but I had never seen it. Based on the concept of the show alone, it sounded horrid. But after actually watching a clip of it, I was in shock.

For those of you that don't know, "Extreme Makeover" basically takes women who have little to no self-confidence and cuts their bodies up, clips their hair and teaches them



**Tales from a Feminist**

MacKenzie Fox

to dress like hookers for about two to six months before sending them back home to friends and families with their newfound "confidence..." and freshly ripped apart and sewn back together bodies.

You would think that a show like this (and I am hoping) would only come around once in a lifetime.

But no, we have not only "Extreme Makeover" but also "The Swan." So I looked up some things

about this show and let me tell you, they've painted quite a pretty picture.

"The Swan" offers ugly ducklings [the chance] to transform themselves into a beautiful swan. It offers women the incredible opportunity to undergo physical, mental and emotional transformations and follows them through the process. This groundbreaking idea culminates in a pageant in which one woman will be crowned "The Ultimate Swan."

Ugly ducklings, eh? Why is it that someone who has natural breasts, is a size bigger than six and isn't on a crash diet an ugly duckling?

America has had this unnatural obsession with plastic surgery for some time now; no one is going to deny that.

One of the fastest growing plastic surgeries out there right now is called labiaplasty. Yes, ladies, that's a surgery to make your lady parts look...pretty?

But what's more disgusting than these plastic surgeries alone is the reasons behind why women are getting them done. These women are submitting themselves to dangerous plastic surgeries, but why? So someone will call them

pretty? So someone will compare them to Nichole Richie or Paris Hilton?

Women are subjecting themselves to dangerous anesthesia during their visit to the doctors who take knives to their bodies to change everything with which they were born all while subject-

The media tries to feed us the nonsense that it's boy-cotting the whole "super-skinny model idea," but plastering Nichole Ritchie all over magazines and talking about how disgustingly underweight she is, only puts money in her pocket and, therefore, doesn't do anything to change the

**"These women are submitting themselves to dangerous plastic surgeries, but why? So someone will call them pretty?"**

ing themselves to horrible (and bothersome) after-effects. 25 to 40 percent of the people who have breast implants are forced to have consequent surgeries to correct things that went wrong the first time.

And those women who are slicing up their vaginas... they are losing sensations that make sex enjoyable to begin with. And I don't know about you, but is that a chance you really want to take?

I'd like to have some call to action. Something to get people motivated to go out and do something about this disgusting obsession that's taking over our country...but what can you do, really?

public's perceptions. Remember, no news is bad news for celebrities.

So what else is there to do? Aside from taking every teenage girl and shaking her, telling her that her body is fine the way it is, maybe we as women should start being less judgmental about one another and be more supportive.

Because let me tell you, you are beautiful. I don't care who you are; you look fine being the size that you are, having the nose that you do and the boobs that your momma gave you.

Fox is a sophomore in liberal arts and can be reached at [mackenziehollywood2007@gmail.com](mailto:mackenziehollywood2007@gmail.com).

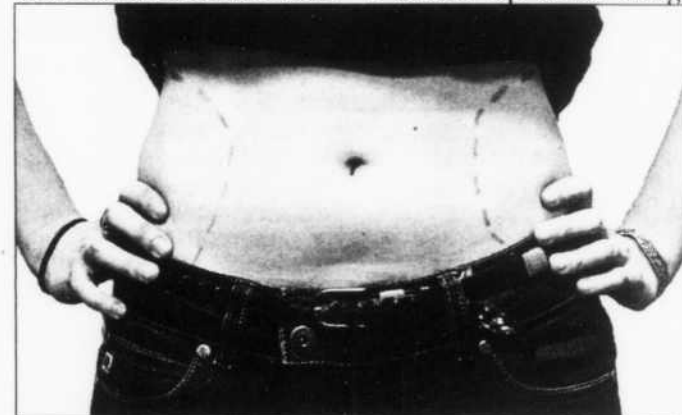


Photo illustration by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
The American Society of Plastic Surgeons claims plastic surgery spending in 2007 increased nine percent in the U.S.

## COMICS



"And Friends"

[frankhasenmueller@gmail.com](mailto:frankhasenmueller@gmail.com)

Frank Hasenmueller



# Mudd dragged through mud

The popular show American Idol failed to be very tolerant of Southern culture in their Louisville, Ky. auditions, which aired on Jan. 21.

When contestant Mark Mudd, 25, from Coxs Creek, Ky., was finished with his audition and got a 'no to Hollywood' from the judges for not being "American Idol" material, he politely told the judges to "take care and be careful."

Judge Paula Abdul immediately questioned Mudd's comment, asking him what he meant by the phrase. The confused Mudd answered, "Be careful in whatever you do."

Mudd attempted to explain that he did not mean the phrase in any threatening way, but Abdul and fellow judge Simon Cowell



## The C-Word

Courtney Watson

were not convinced and both accused Mudd, on-air, of making a threat toward them.

"You don't say that to people, 'be careful.' That's just not a normal thing to say," Abdul said, further confusing and embarrassing Mudd.

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# Republicans refuse vote of confidence in Obama

Wow. I am absolutely shocked that not one Republican in the House of Representatives voted for President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan.

It's amazing how opposite the two parties are on issues like these when many of the politicians are of the same economic standing. What should normal people like you and me make of such de-



## Contention

Kelvin Freeman

cisions that we see? We're looking at somewhat of

a controlled experiment, and the only conclusion that I can see is that many Republicans are, for lack of a better word, heartless.

Now I don't want to throw a blanket statement over the Republican Party as a whole, because that wouldn't be fair. It's funny how I mention fairness in the heat of this statement, because there simply does not seem to be any form

of equality in the minds of our high-horsed Republican leaders.

House Republicans continue to argue that the plan is too heavily geared toward new spending instead of tax cuts. Well, I don't see any of them

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# FACES IN THE CROWD

Have you heard of the Web site Juicy Campus? How do you feel about the site's decision to shut down in a few days due to its inability to operate effectively?



Paul

"It's a fun Web site, but it's mean. It kind of stinks that they are closing it."

Chelsea Paul, freshman pre-nursing



Ford

"If [the gossip]'s mean or untrue, it shouldn't be spread around."

Adam Ford, sophomore RIM



Loftin

"I'm glad it's going away because it causes unnecessary drama."

Madelyne Loftin, freshman pre-nursing



Fugate

"I don't really know anything about it, but if it's spreading rumors it should be taken down."

Johnny Fugate, freshman chemistry

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## Road not so revolutionary

Film review

Second collaboration of DiCaprio, Winslet leaves much to be desired

By MALARIE WOODS  
Assistant Features Editor

Fans of Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet may be disappointed with their first leading performance together in more than a decade.

*Revolutionary Road*, directed by Sam Mendes, is tragic but no *Titanic*.

Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet) Wheeler see themselves as anything but the ordinary couple. She longs to be an actress, and he wishes to move to Paris. But with marriage and children, though, comes responsibility.

April urges her husband to move away with her, but April becomes pregnant with her third child and Frank is offered a promotion. This derails their plans. April then goes to great lengths to gain back the freedom she thinks she deserves.

Every other actor on the screen outshines DiCaprio. His portrayal of a man trying to do right by his family is overdone and cliché.

In the beginning he declares, "You know, April, I want to feel things. Really feel them. How's that for an ambition?"

Yet this statement is far from believable as he eventually tries to sit back and gain passivity in the life he has chosen.

While DiCaprio's performance is stilted and awkward, Winslet's is the opposite. She truly depicts the slow mental breakdown of a woman trapped.

By the end of the film, Frank may be the only one with his head on straight. April makes the viewer want to reach through the screen, hug her and tell her to keep running.

The editing of the film is weird. Tariq Anwar does a

number on Justin Haythe's screenplay, which is based off of the novel by Richard Yates.

When the film opens, Frank and April are at a party where they first meet and fall in love.

The film cuts immediately to a scene years later, where the two are fighting. This continues throughout the film. The only time the viewer sees the couple happy and in love is through flashbacks to the past.

Not to mention when new characters are introduced to the audience, the film does not provide any additional information about them. Often, viewers are left wondering who that person is and why we should care about them.

But that's sort of the way the film works. It's bleak. It's dreary. And it lets you decide for yourself who the protagonist is and why.

One extremely annoying aspect of the film is that after the middle of the movie, the couple's kids are never seen again. It's hard to imagine Frank loving his children enough to want to keep a third child and postpone his move to Paris if he is never shown with the children he already has.

The ending is unbearably troubling but not in a thought-provoking way. Instead, it's gruesome to the extent that the viewer

will want to turn his or her head. This just adds to the not-so-happy tone of the film.

Ultimately, *Revolutionary Road* is a character sketch. It's not a feel-good movie and it won't leave you walking out of the theater with a good feeling. The acting, however, is brilliant and the color palette of pale grays and pastels is calming and beautiful. Still, it is a tragedy that will stay with you long after watching it and for that, I give it two and a half stars.



Leonardo DiCaprio Kate Winslet



Revolutionary Road



Photos courtesy of Dreamworks Pictures  
Frank (Leonardo DiCaprio) and April (Kate Winslet) Wheeler gaze at each other over a bottle of wine.

**Director:** Sam Mendes**Starring:** Leonard DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Kathy Bates**Rating:** R for language and some sexual content/nudity.**Run Time:** 119 minutes

## Seabees release third album

All We Seabees has unique name, blend of sound

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

Though there are frequent misconceptions about their name, All We Seabees' approach to music is straightforward and plain.

"[Our band's name is] hard to say to someone in a loud bar at one in the

morning," jokes guitarist/banjoist David Swartout.

Naming their band after the Navy's Construction Battalions (CBs) has provided All We Seabees with some unusual and unexpected opportunities to perform.

Backstage before their

show at the Exit/In, bassist Zach Powers says the band was once asked to play in California for Vietnam veterans.

Though they may not construct military bases or pave airstrips, the Seabees have paved their way as indie-folk rockers with the release of their third album

*MK Ultra* last fall on Cephalopod Records.

*MK Ultra* was an experience involving a multitude of firsts because it was the band's first album released on a record label and recorded in a studio.

Zachary Gresham from the indie trio Umbrella Tree recorded the album at Scoliosis the Studio in Kingston Springs, Tenn. It was then mastered at Nashville's recording studio Battle Tapes in 2008.

The members of All We Seabees agree that of all their previous recordings, the LP *MK Ultra* is the "most full" because of the addition of studio effects. With a proper studio recording, keyboardist and percussionist Aaron Irons says the band had access to "more gadgets," which created a more polished and intricate sound compared to their last two endeavors.

Their first album, *Anne the Snake*, was released in 2007. It has a rustic folk element that reflects part of the Nashville sound yet does not attempt to sever their ties to Michigan.

Guitarist and lead vocalist Bryan Fox says he

did not move to Tennessee to try and write country music like so many others but rather to question "fake southern roots" like in the band's song "Bruin Hunt."

*Anne the Snake* is mostly distinguished by variety. Fox goes Sufjan Stevens with "All Beds Quiet," with the banjo laying the base beneath soft vocals, but picks up the pace with songs like "Ferrah Flame" and "Cork County." The melodies are innovative enough for a first album with no studio enhancement. By March of the following year, All We Seabees had one-upped their first endeavor with early 2008's EP *Lady Alaska*.

Like the band's the previous album, the EP was a DIY product recorded in their homes in East Nashville over the course of a few days. It was mixed and then released in Murfreesboro, slowing down the revved-up folk of *Anne the Snake* and toying with a sound that sometimes borders on country without losing the quirkiness that

distinguished the first album.

*MK Ultra* is All We Seabees' strongest and most experimental effort with the aid of studio effects, which the Seabees claim have made the greatest difference between *MK Ultra* and their other albums.

Though lyrically it is reminiscent of *Anne the Snake* and *Lady Alaska*, *MK Ultra* shies away from folk sounds. It embraces the availability of keys and pedals in the studio on songs with a faint electronic edge, like in the songs "Animarch" and "Hoi Polloi."

Probably among the best songs on the album are the lullaby "Bankers on Coke" with its melodic guitar riff and the high energy "Alt. Country" in which Fox again addresses moving to the South with a new aggressiveness.

Right now, All We Seabees is enjoying performing songs from a fresh album and on Feb. 27, the band will make another appearance at Wall Street to bring some of *MK Ultra* to Murfreesboro.



Photo by Jessica Pace, staff photographer  
All We Seabees performs at the Exit/In in Nashville. They will be performing at Wall Street in Murfreesboro on Feb. 27.



# SPORTS

## 2009 NCAA Football Signing Day

New MT recruits become part of Blue Raider nation, Stockstill pleased with new freshmen

By CHRIS WELCH and JAY BAILEY  
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

The Kennon Sports Hall of Fame was host to the signing of 23 new high school football players to scholarship for the Blue Raider football team.

"We met our needs at just about every position with this class," said Rick Stockstill, head football coach. Included in the 23 signees were three "Mr. Football" winners.

All 23 of the signees are upcoming freshmen from the high school ranks. The Raiders reigned in two players from Alabama, four from Florida, six from Tennessee and 11 from the state of Georgia.

"We only had 26 scholarship players on defense so we needed to go heavier on that side of the ball to create depth and competition," Stockstill said. To balance out the loss of four starters the Raiders signed 13 of the scholarships to defense. This fall the Raiders will be bringing in five defensive linemen, four linebackers and four defensive backs.

By gaining four linebackers the Raiders hope to compensate for the expected loss of two more linebackers this coming season, as they will graduate.

"With the loss of four starters and the potential loss of two in another year

some of the upcoming freshmen may see a little more game time then they expect," Stockstill said.

The Blue Raiders also added four running backs, three linemen, two wide receivers, and a quarterback on the offensive side. With three of the running backs being recipients of the "Mr. Football" award the Raiders hope to gain depth in the front of their game play.

"We needed to sign running backs because we were thin at the position," Stockstill said.

The addition of a new quarterback will offset the loss of the graduating quarterback Joe Craddock. Craddock will be the only offensive starter to not return for the 2009-2010 football season.

There will be 17 starters and 47 lettermen returning this spring for the Blue-White spring game that is set for Apr. 18. Spring practice is currently set to



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
The MT football team celebrates a win over Louisiana-Monroe for a homecoming victory in November.

The current team has just started winter workouts. A new fitness regimen has been implemented to give the team as a whole

their agility and continued weight training to power down the field.

"Typically in the winter we have been more concerned about getting bigger and stronger and letting guys recover from the season from a conditioning standpoint," football strength coach Russell Patterson told goblueraiders.com. "This year we are building a stronger conditioning base by cutting out a day of lifting so we can focus more on speed and conditioning. The thought is that our players will have a better base when summer

workouts begin."

The second annual Recruiting Roundup will be held Feb. 10. This is an event in which Stockstill will introduce the new coaching staff, give a highlight video of the new recruits and will offer to answer questions about the upcoming season.

"This is a great chance for our staff to interact with the fans and fill them in on the latest members to the Blue Raider football program," Stockstill said.

Overall, the recruiting went heavily towards the defense. With barely

two-deep in the defensive positions, the coaching staff thinks that the 2009 season will be a very successful one for Blue Raider football.

"The backs we signed are very good and versatile," Stockstill said. "They can play multi-positions on both sides of the ball so I like what we did there. I think our two receivers are both big physical guys that can run. Then our quarterback is what we are looking for as a dual-threat who can run and pass. I am very excited about that."

**"We only had 26 scholarship players on defense, so we needed to go heavier on that side of the ball to create depth and competition."**

RICK STOCKSTILL  
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE FOOTBALL

begin on Mar. 23 with the upcoming freshmen starting in the summer.

a broader depth. The returnees are working on speed workouts to heighten



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, staff photographer  
An MT runner breaks through some defenders to score against Louisiana-Monroe.

## 2009 Blue Raider Football Signees

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. WILLIAM PRATCHER, 5'7", 195, RB; Decatur, GA/Cedar Grove HS          | 9. JESSE GRISHAM, 6'3", 255, OL; Pelham, AL/Spain Park HS             | 17. JAMAL RAMSEY, 6'1", 185, QB; Smyrna, TN/Battle Ground Academy    |
| 2. DEARCO NOLAN, 6'2", 235, DE; Atlanta, GA/Westlake HS                 | 10. KENNETH GILSTRAP, 5'10", 170, DB; Lithonia, GA/Miller Grove HS    | 18. STEPHEN ROBERTS, 6'3", 215, LB; Rex, GA/Starr's Mill HS          |
| 3. OMAR MCLENDON, 6'4", 220, DE; Temple, GA/Villa Rica HS               | 11. RICHARD DRAKE, 6'2", 190, WR; Atlanta, GA/Stephenson HS           | 19. SAMMY SEAMSTER, 6'2", 190, DB; Ooltewah, TN/Ooltewah HS          |
| 4. JUSTIN JONES, 5'11", 200, LB; Tallahassee, FL/Godby HS               | 12. MARQUISE DIXON, 5'10", 165, DB; Cocoa, FL/Cocoa HS                | 20. JIMMY STATEN, 6'4", 240, DE; Waycross, GA/Ware County HS         |
| 5. DAVID JONES, 5'11", 190, RB; Memphis, TN/South Pittsburg             | 13. BENJAMIN CUNNINGHAM, 5'10", 195, RB; Nashville, TN/Goodpasture HS | 21. DERREK UPSHAW, 6'3", 260, DT; Darien, GA/McIntosh County Academy |
| 6. JORDAN JOHNSON, 6'4", 265, OL; Buford, GA/Mill Creek                 | 14. RODERIC BLUNT, 6'1", 205, LB; Miramar, FL/Everglades HS           | 22. JOSH WALKER, 6'4", 295, OL; Spring City, TN/Rhea County HS       |
| 7. TAVARRES JEFFERSON, 5'9", 195, RB; Nashville, TN/The Ensworth School | 15. CRAIG ALLEN, 6'2", 205, LB; Carrollton, VA/Villa Rica HS          | 23. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, 6'2", 185, WR; Seale, AL/Glenwood HS            |
| 8. JADAREIUS HAMLIN, 6'2", 255, DL; Forsyth, GA/Mary Persons HS         | 16. JUNO PRUDHOMM, 6'0", 205, DB; Naples, FL/Naples HS                |  |

## Mr. Football comes to Raider Nation

Three new MT signees credited with prestigious accolades, bring nationwide acclaim

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

The Mr. Football award has been given out since 1987. It is given to the state's top backs, linemen, and occasionally a kicker or two. A board of Tennessee sports writers compiles it. As of 2007 the Tennessee Titans have endorsed it.

"[This award] recognizes more than the ability of these young men to play our great game of football," Titans owner K.S. "Bud" Adams, Jr., told titansonline.com. "The young men were here because of their outstanding character and academic achievements, traits which will pave their way through life long after their football days have passed."

The Mr. Football award was given based on achievements both on and off the field, taking into account athletic prowess, academic accomplishments and strength of character.

Now three of the finalists are coming to MT.

**BENJAMIN CUNNINGHAM**  
5'10", 195 lbs., RB,  
Nashville, TN  
Goodpasture HS

Cunningham was named TSWA All-State and Region Player of the Year. He was voted to the All-Southern Football Team by the Orlando Sentinel. Cunningham rushed for a school record 1,744 yards and 2,357 all-purpose yards to go along with 29 touchdowns during his senior year. He also owns the record for career touchdowns at 60, touchdowns in a game at five, touchdowns in a season at 29, and all-purpose yards in a season (2,357) and career (4,611).

**TAVARRES JEFFERSON**  
5'9", 195 lbs., RB,  
Nashville, TN  
The Ensworth School

Jefferson was rated the 22nd best player in Tennessee by Rivals.com. He was named to the

All-Midstate team as a two-star recruit, had an 8.17 yard-per-carry average, and had 200 rushing yards in a win over Bell Academy. He rushed for 3,227 career yards in high school. Jefferson also owned the school record for rushing touchdowns in a game at four, passing touchdowns in a game at four, longest punt return at 81 yards, rushing touchdowns in a season at 25 and interceptions in a season at five.

**DAVID JONES**  
5'11", 190 lbs., RB,  
Memphis, TN  
South Pittsburg HS

Jones was named TSWA All-State as a junior and a senior. He was voted into the Preseason Top 25 in Tennessee and the All-Southern Football Team by the Orlando Sentinel. He was a two-star recruit according to Rivals.com. He rushed for 1,349 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior. He was voted 1A Defensive MVP of the State Championship game and runs a 4.5 40.



# Men's basketball looks for three in a row

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders will try to keep pace in the Sun Belt Conference by attempting to win their third-straight tonight at as they travel to west to face the Denver Pioneers.

The men's team is coming off a successful two-game home stand with an 83-76 win over Louisiana-Lafayette and a 77-54 victory against Louisiana-Monroe.

However, MT will no longer have the friendly confines of the Murphy Center to back them up, as the game tonight is the start of a tough three-game road trip.

The Blue Raiders have not

been as successful in away games having lost their last three road games in the Sun Belt Conference.

Head coach Kermit Davis and his team have averaged only 69 points on the road this season and if the Blue Raiders hope to win the Sun Belt Conference, they will need to increase that number.

Despite the location of the game, the men in blue are coming into the game red-hot with senior guards Kevin Kanaskie and Demetrius Green playing some of their best basketball. In the last game against Louisiana-Monroe, Kanaskie became MT's all-time leader in assists with 434, and Green recorded his first career double-double.

With the guards playing well, high-scoring junior forward Desmond Yates will stand to benefit as he will look to improve upon his team-high 17.6 points per game. Off the bench, junior guard Montarrio Haddock has been a spark plug for the Blue Raiders, providing a team-high 5.5 rebounds per game.

Davis needs only one more win to propel him into a tie for sixth place for the SBC's All-Time Coaching Wins List with 60 victories.

The Blue Raiders are currently tied for second place with Troy in the Sun Belt Conference with an 8-3 record and a 14-8 record overall. Conference-leading Western Kentucky (9-2) only has a single-game

lead over MT.

In the way of the Blue Raider's 15th win of the season stands the Pioneers of Denver. The Pioneers come into the contest with a 9-12 record overall and a 4-6 record in the conference. The Pioneers are coming off a close 76-72 overtime loss on the road at Troy.

Denver boasts a pair of young forwards in junior Nate Rohnert and Sophomore Rob Lewis. Rohnert leads the team in points (15.4), rebounds (5.3) and assists (4.6) per game.

Following the game against Denver, the Blue Raiders will take a detour from Sun Belt play with a game against Houston Baptist on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

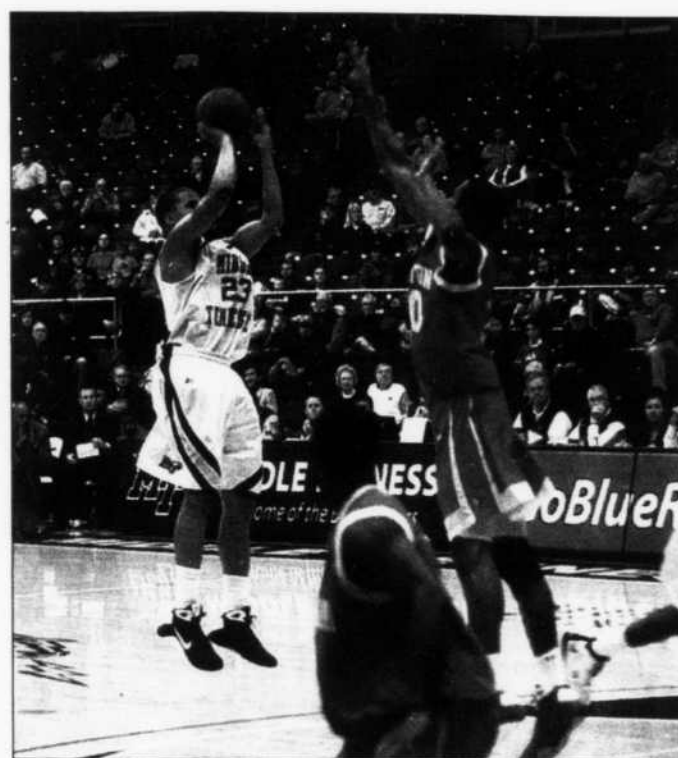


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
Senior guard Demetrius Green takes a jump shot in the Murphy Center. Green recorded his first double-double Saturday.



Photo contributed by goblueraiders.com  
Senior Marlene Chemin returns a shot during a tennis match. The women earned their second victory Sunday.

## Women's tennis earns 5-2 win over Tenn. Tech

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

The MT women's tennis team powers on with their most recent win, a 5-2 decision over Tennessee Tech on Sunday.

This is the second win of the season for the women's tennis team.

The Golden Eagles traveled to Nashville having won their season opener and with a clear chance to come out on top. Almost half of the MT team are freshman and the Golden Eagles may have underestimated their ability to own the court.

TN Tech and first-year coach Dan Silverstein came back from a 3-0 deficit but failed to rally enough for the final win.

The Lady Raiders started out the match with a domi-

nance of the doubles play. The Ladies won all three doubles matches with an 8-2 score.

Singles play began with freshman Taylor Coffey. She put MT up by a 2-0 match score with her win over Tatiana Denzhkina. Junior Natalie Araya followed suit with a 6-3, 6-3 win over TN Tech's Laura Porras.

The Golden Eagles closed the gap in the fifth singles match with Alena Krutkina's 6-2 win over MT freshman Marietta Bigus. However, it was too little too late, and the final singles match ended and senior Marlene Chimin bested TN Tech's Diana Woodcock.

The Lady Raiders will head to Nashville today to play Vanderbilt. The matches begin at 2:30 p.m.

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## TENNIS Top Performers



**Marlene Chemin**  
(SR-3L)



**Taylor Coffey**  
(FR-HS)



**Natalie Araya**  
(JR-TR)



**Andrea Herrera**  
(SR-1L)