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Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

# SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 77 No. 42

## Several academic changes part of plan

By Jessica Kent  
Staff Writer

A plan of action to help Tennessee higher education improve without more funding includes several items that would begin limiting access to education, and some administrators think some of those ideas may not be good ones.

An enrollment cap, tougher admissions standards and the elimination of remedial and developmental education are part of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's proposed revision of its five-year Master Plan.

That plan got preliminary approval three weeks ago and will be up for final approval in July after comment has been considered from campus officials across the state and the higher education system staffs.

The 11-point THEC Plan of Action proposal also would freeze the number of Ph.D. programs, essentially nixing MTSU's request to upgrade its D.A. programs. It would eliminate two-year programs at four-year schools and do a review of engineering/engineering technology, agriculture and human ecology programs for possible duplication and reduction.

Campus enrollment would also be de-emphasized in a revised funding formula for higher education, meaning MTSU — the fastest growing campus in the state — would not receive increased funding to keep up with increased enrollment.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee has criticized some aspects of the plan and Charles Manning, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, which oversees MTSU, complained specifically about the remedial/developmental pro-

posal at the THEC spring quarterly meeting April 18.

According to the THEC plan, universities would only be allowed a 3 percent growth over last fall's enrollment. Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Sherian Huddleston said MTSU can expect more than that this fall.

In a memo responding to the THEC proposal, Manning noted that TBR schools are "currently in the process of establishing the right size for each of our universities, determining the enrollment each can manage within existing financial constraints."

Huddleston said she would like to see THEC limit enrollment by program rather than by overall campus enrollment. She said MTSU already practices enrollment management in departments that require students to qualify for candidacy before enrolling in upper-division courses.

In addition, MTSU is looking at an admissions deadline to keep enrollment down slightly.

Huddleston said research is being done on that at this time. She also said an admissions deadline would aid in limiting enrollment as well as gauging how many students will be in classes before the start of the semester, helping to determine how many professors would need to be hired.

The Tennessee Board of Regents fully supports the revision of admissions requirements, which haven't changed at MTSU in seven years, Huddleston said.

"I would rather see retention standards rather than admission standards," Huddleston said.

According to the THEC pro-

See THEC, 2

## Former MTSU professor Luther Boutwell dies at 90

Staff Reports

Former MTSU professor Luther Lane Boutwell died Thursday at the age of 90 at Central Vermont Hospital in Heaton Woods, Vt.

Born April 4, 1912, Boutwell, along with his wife Margie, moved to Murfreesboro in 1947.


He taught speech in the English department before playing an important role in the creation of the speech and theater department.

In 1971, Boutwell was a MTSU Outstanding Teacher,

and later in 1992, he became a Professor Emeritus. The Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building was named after Boutwell in appreciation of his hard work.

He is survived by his son Richard Miller Boutwell of Melrose, Mass.; his daughter Gillette Boutwell Powell of Montpelier, Vt.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to Doane College, 1014 Boswell Ave., Crete, Neb. 68333, Attention: Advancement Office.



**GRADUATION  
GOT YOU  
DOWN?**

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end of the year  
graduation special

— page 8

## Popular authors speak at MT



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Alice Randall (left) wrote *The Wind Done Gone*, a parody of *Gone with the Wind* that came under fire last year for copyright issues. John Seigenthaler (right) was the focus of the event that also featured David Halberstam, author of *War in a Time of Peace*; Bill Kovach, former editor of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and Walter Groom, author of *Forrest Gump*. The special taping titled *A Word on Words* was held in order to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Seigenthaler's Nashville Public Television show.

## Summit encourages teen non-smokers

By Patrick Chinnery and  
Amber Bryant  
Opinions Editor and Staff  
Writer

"Tobacco use kills" was the message given to a group of middle and high school students this past weekend at the second annual Tennessee Tobacco Summit, held on MTSU's campus.

Friday night's agenda consisted of four 55-minute information sessions for the students, a picnic dinner in the Keathley University Center courtyard, musical entertainment and a special appearance by the Tennessee Titans cheerleaders. A follow-up session on how to effectively use leadership was held Saturday.

According to Joan Sartin, director of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program for the Tennessee Department of Health, the summit is not designed to discourage participants from smoking. The young

adults partaking in the conference already have made the decision to not smoke, so the program emphasizes how students can convince their peers to make the same choice, she said.

The lectures offered information on current state tobacco laws, addiction and media literacy.

The opening session, "Tobacco 101," provided students with national and state statistics relating the number of children and adults whose health is affected by tobacco use and what smoking costs taxpayers.

Every pack of cigarettes sold in the United States is estimated to cost Americans \$7.18 in medical care costs and lost productivity, a total of more than \$80 billion a year.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, that amount "is well below the total cost to society because it does not include burn care from

smoking-related fires, prenatal care for low-birth-weight infants of mothers who smoke and medical care costs associated with disease caused by second-hand smoke."

A conference for adults encouraged audience members to actively support youth efforts to combat teen-age tobacco addiction. A fact sheet distributed at the summit suggests that 110,000 kids under 18 will die from smoking in Tennessee if current trends continue.

Our goal is to learn how to assess the community and get civic groups, schools and the law involved in preventing tobacco use, Sartin said.

"Youth empowerment is one of those tools proven to be very effective," she added.

Shannon Brewer, National Youth Advocate of the Year and keynote speaker at the conference, expressed similar sentiments. "It is absolutely essential to talk to [young students] at a young age," she said, adding that

the session gives them the power to effectively teach their peers about the dangers of using tobacco.

Several young attendees expressed differing sentiments, noting that there was little they felt they could do to change the habits of their classmates.

"I think I'll have only a minimal impact, but I feel the need to tell [my classmates] anyway," Chris Childress, a student in Blount County, said.

"I had [anti-smoking lessons] preached to me for years, but I only stopped because it was ruining my sports career," Shannon Millsaps, a junior at Soddy-Daisy High School, said.

Twenty-five counties, including Rutherford, Davidson and Wilson, were represented at the conference, an increase from the number involved last year. The 235 student participants and their respective chaperones represented all three geographic regions of Tennessee. ♦

## Sexual harassment seminar required for some

By Lindsey Turner  
Managing Editor

The spring quarterly meeting for Development and University Relations will involve an issue that has come to the forefront on campus lately — sexual harassment.

Leslie Bridges, senior counsel in the State Attorney General's Office, will conduct the May 29 seminar that all administrators in the division must attend. Though complaints of sexual harassment were filed against an MTSU fraternity less than a month ago, Bridges said the seminar's topic is completely

coincidental.

"All good institutions include regular training with regards to discrimination and sexual harassment," she said.

According to a memo issued April 22 by Linda Hare, former vice president for Development and University Relations, Bridges' presentation will be "humorous and entertaining," but on a "serious subject, one about which we could all be better informed." Hare was out of town over the weekend and could not be reached for comment.

Bridges said her seminar will cover what sexual harassment is

under the law, procedural things to do when in a discriminatory situation and how managers can prevent sexual harassment from occurring.

Complaints of gender discrimination have been made within MTSU's Office of News and Public Affairs in the past few months, but Bridges did not say how much of her seminar will focus on discrimination.

Several women who worked in the office and one who works there now filed complaints to the university's Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action office that the director of News and Public Affairs had discriminated

against them based on their gender, and in at least one case, age and ethnicity. As of press time, the women have yet to hear from EO/AA regarding the status of their complaints.

Prior to this month's complaints of sexual harassment filed against a fraternity, the last time sexual harassment at MTSU made the news was when a former student sued the university for failing to properly punish a criminal justice professor who she alleged sexually harassed her.

She sued the university and

See Seminar, 2



# MPACT officers prevent DUIs

By Shana Brogden  
Staff Writer

The police officer jerked his patrol car around after hearing a call for a possible drunk driver.

"Here we go," he said, as he accelerated to almost 70 miles per hour. The description of the DUI suspect was the car that he had just passed.

In less than a minute, the blue lights of the car had stopped the swerving vehicle. In less than 10 minutes, the suspect was stumbling out of his car and attempting to walk nine paces in a straight line.

This is a routine event for Murfreesboro Police Alcohol Counter-Measures Team member, Officer Jason Higgins.

From 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Higgins is on the mission of stopping the consumption of alcohol of those under 21 and getting drunk drivers off the roads before they cause injury to themselves or someone else. As a MPACT officer, he almost exclusively answers call for DUI's, or injury accidents, which during his shift carries a high chance of alcohol involvement.

In 1992, MPACT was created through a three-year federal grant that funded salaries for

three police officers and three fully equipped patrol cars. After the initial year, the percentage of federal money was reduced until the city adopted the cost of the team.

The MPACT team has proven to be a vital force in the enforcement of drinking and driving laws in Murfreesboro. In 2001, the Murfreesboro Police Department arrested 1,302 people for DUI/DWI offenses and 2,417 for alcohol violations, such as under age consumption. MPACT accounted for approximately 43% of the total number of DUI/DWI arrests and 63% of alcohol violations of the entire Murfreesboro Police Department.

In the pursuit of stopping underage drinking, the members of MPACT, Ed Gorham, Jason Higgins and David Harrison, check bars and restaurants that sell liquor for fire code violations, such as capacity restrictions, for underage drinkers and the ABC cards of alcohol servers.

Higgins and Harrison both made stops at Stampedes' Saturday night to check the ages of intoxicated patrons, while also stopping intoxicated patrons from driving. "I know you aren't about to drive this

car," Higgins said to one obviously intoxicated man who was working his way into the driver's side of a vehicle.

"We (MPACT members) try to help the other officers if they need assistance because we are free roaming, and our help leaves other patrol cars in their assigned zones," Higgins said. The MPACT officers cover more ground than most zoned officers because of this.

By 12:45 a.m. Sunday, Higgins received a call regarding a report made by a concerned motorist of a possible drunk driver on Compton Road.

"Someone calling in and reporting a DUI is not enough to pull someone over," Higgins said. "I have to watch them and obtain probable cause for myself, such as crossing the line more than twice or riding one of the lines."

When Higgins saw the car swerving from one side of the road to the another, he said, "That's enough for me," and stopped the truck. From there, he asked the driver several questions regarding what he was doing and what he had been doing. The suspect admitted, "I've had about six beers tonight and smoked some pot."

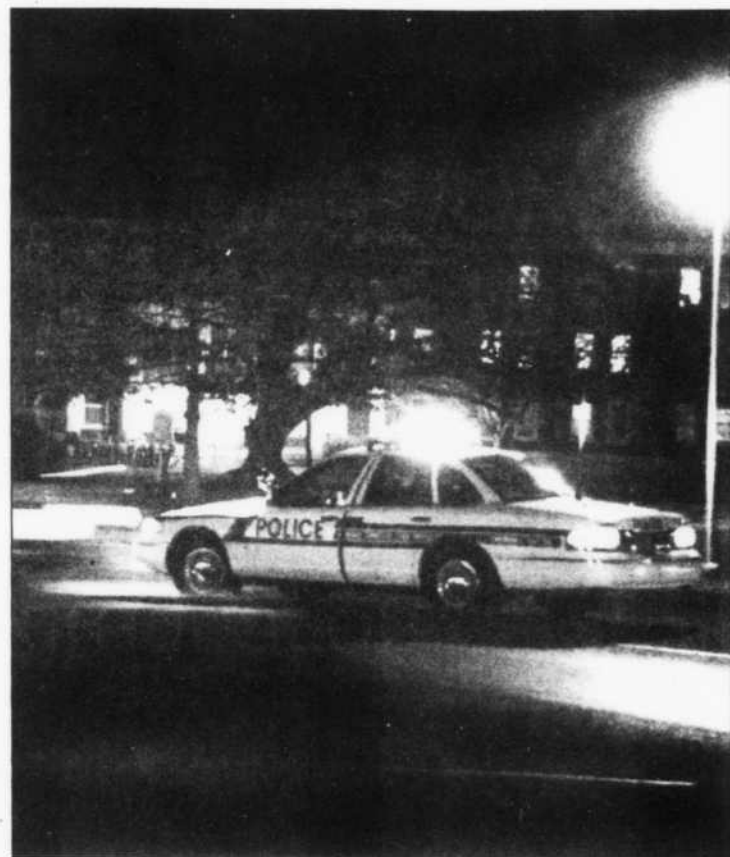
The 26-year-old man was

given chances to pass the five "divided attention tests," as described by Higgins, which included watching the officer's finger go from left to right without moving his head, in which the man either didn't move his eyes at all or moved his entire head. Taking nine paces toe-to-heel proved too much for the man's balance because the man attempted it more than 10 times and never got past the first step. The man then had to hold his leg up about 6 inches for a few seconds, which also took him more than three tries, and he never did it without stumbling.

The officer then asked the man to "place his hands on the car and take a step back," but the man did not realize what was happening until he was being handcuffed and asked, "Am I being arrested for a DUI?" Officer Higgins replied, "Yes you are," and put him into the patrol car.

The next step for the officer was to read him the "Implied Consent Report Form," which asks the arrestee for consent to take him to the hospital to have two tubes of blood drawn and tested to determine blood alcohol content.

According to Higgins and Gorham, if he signs the form and he is over the legal limit of



File photo

**MPACT officers travel around Murfreesboro from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. arresting suspected intoxicated drivers.**

.10 percent, he is guilty of DUI. If he is under the limit, they will test the blood for other intoxicants.

Although, if the person's BAC is not over the legal limit, the testimony of the arresting officer and the tape of the failed tests performed prior to the arrest can be enough evidence

to convict the person of DUI.

The \$500 fine of refusing the BAC test accompanied with a standard \$70 towing fee for the car and also a bail bond for first-time offenders brings the grand total expense of that night to \$3,070. This number does not include court costs, fines or lawyer fees. ♦

## THEC: Higher education remedial courses under scrutiny

Continued from 1

posal. "Remedial education will be phased out immediately for both universities and community colleges. ... State support for developmental education will be phased out at university sector over a two-year period."

Universities that still want to provide developmental studies courses will rely on fees from students who take the courses to run the program. THEC's plan contrasts sharply with the TBR's report to the General Assembly last December.

That plan, "Defining Our

Future," was a study of inefficiency in the TBR system and how it could make higher education more efficient. Its suggestions for remedial and developmental education included moving all remedial classes to community colleges and reducing funds for developmental classes at universities.

In Manning's response to the recent THEC Plan of Action, he noted the importance of remedial and developmental courses.

The average age of students at community colleges is 27, many of whom have been out of school for a while and require

remedial and developmental classes. Manning said this population is vital for the state to serve.

Carol Bader, chair of MTSU's developmental studies program, voiced her concern in January with the TBR suggestion to remove remedial classes from universities and reduce funding for developmental studies.

Bader said there would be a huge economic impact resulting from a reduced budget for remedial and developmental studies. She said if these programs faced reduced funding,

students wouldn't be prepared to graduate, and the workforce wouldn't be as educated. She was unable to be reached for comment for this article.

TBR schools provide all remedial instruction in Tennessee higher education, with UT campuses accounting for only a very small portion of developmental instruction.

MTSU has the highest budget for remedial/developmental courses of any school in Tennessee. Two in five MTSU students take at least one developmental course before graduation. ♦

## Seminar: Campus examined

Continued from 1

the professor for compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$2.5 million for negligent supervision, assault and battery and outrageous conduct.

An internal investigation into the student's original complaints had found that the professor had sexually harassed her. The university mandated that the professor abstain from teaching a 1999 summer session course and urged that he apologize to the student in writing.

The university filed a motion to be dismissed from the lawsuit on the grounds of sovereign immunity and lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

"Middle Tennessee State University is committed to establishing an atmosphere

where your work, education and participation in university activities and programs will be free from intimidation or offensive behaviors," according to the Web site of MTSU's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office.

More than 40 percent of women in the United States have been victims of some form of sexual harassment on the job, and almost two-thirds of those complaints were brought against a woman's immediate supervisor or another person with greater power, according to Working Woman.

An estimated 8 percent of companies with sexual harassment training programs were sued compared to 12 percent of those without such programs. ♦

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## Editorial

### Our suggestions for MTSU's future

As the weather heats up and cars become sparse in the parking lots on campus, a tumultuous academic year is coming to a close.

In order to prep ourselves and our readers for next fall (and the summer, for those ultra-ambitious students out there), *Sidelines* wants to express what we do and don't want to see in the coming year, keeping in mind some of the more prominent news stories of the past year.

- We do want to see more ATM machines on campus. Having to use the Keathley University Center to get cash – either via those ATMs or the bookstore – is a little annoying considering Aramark doesn't accept credit cards or checks.

- We don't want to see any more personnel with bad records hired. One physician with a bad record was enough, and newly hired basketball coach Kermit Davi Jr.'s second chance will be tested soon enough.

- We do want to see some more real openness during "Open Line with MTSU President Sidney McPhee." After seeing McPhee answer some tough questions during this month's "Open Line," we'd like to see some more candor.

- We don't want to see tuition rise again. Sigh.

- We do want to see the university finish wiring all the dorms for ethernet connections, at least sometime before we are able to download information directly into the microchips implanted in our skulls.

- We don't want to see any more dorm dilapidation. Lyon Hall's columns are looking pretty shabby, and Rutledge is in bad shape as well. Of course, there's always Ezell and Abernathy to fall back on.

- We do want to see an Office of Information Technology with the resources to cover the campus' technology like it deserves. Installing answering machines that actually take messages in the OIT office would be a good first step, but employing people who return phone calls and work orders on a timely basis would be even nicer.

- We don't want to see enrollment rise once again. Parking lots and classrooms are crowded enough as it is.

- We do want to see higher admission standards. Let's weed out the weak.

- We don't want to see yet another projector disappear from our high-tech classrooms. Someone (we) paid a lot of money for those things, and overhead projectors don't make good replacements.

- We do want to see a football clinic that is tailored to football fans of all genders, not just women. ♦

## Honesty is the way to achieve happiness

### What the Smack?



Amber Bryant  
Staff Columnist

After spending the first two years of my college career sublimely oblivious to the way the world works, I can proudly say that this academic year has better prepared me to face the rest of my days as a participant in a society that operates on dishonesty, myself, unfortunately, included.

I can give plenty of the credit for my newfound wisdom to this university, but not the kind that McPhee and his Ph.D.-holding posse would be proud to own up to.

Since I have begun writing news for *Sidelines*, I have learned that every time anything remotely controversial happens at this university, a sudden plague of hostile amnesia falls over the minds of campus officials.

Sadly, it often seems MTSU has

forsaken the pursuit of knowledge and truth for impressing prospective students and financial supporters. The cost of such a practice is great, as our college experience, along with obvious personal morals, is said to provide some foundation for our professional lives. If this university represents the norm, I can only conclude that I will survive using blatant dishonesty and effectively evading all questions.

I also have learned that most people who lie to others spend a vast amount of time lying to themselves. This is a proficient way to avoid guilt because convincing yourself something is true automatically makes it so in your own mind.

If there is a more damaging practice, I don't know what it is. If you are constantly in a state of fooling yourself, you will eventually become mentally and emotionally lost, disabling the decision-making process and inducing complete and utter misery.

For example, I used to be involved with a campus religious organization that will go unnamed since I don't feel like being drawn

and quartered this week. Every week I would attend these meetings because I wanted to convince my peers and myself that I was consumed by blind faith and spirituality because that's what I thought was expected of me.

After two years of attempting to build my reputation among these people who oozed an aura of close-mindedness and discontent, I decided to ask myself what was really going on.

Honestly, I hated going to these meetings and pretending to be an overly pious socialite when I'm really a religiously reluctant loner. Now I have plenty of room to think and, more importantly, practice being truthful with myself about what I believe at this point in my life.

Because I know numerous people from said organization read my columns, I imagine a few of them will think to approach me with some form of pity after deciding I am just another stray who needs to be lassoed back into the herd. Before you make that decision, take a perfectly unobstructed look into yourself and decide why you really care. Trust

me, it's scary.

From this experience and others gathered over the last year, I have learned that doing what one is "supposed to" is often the key to unhappiness. This doesn't mean everyone should go run amuck doing the disgusting things we humans long to do, but it does mean we should be truthful about what we think is best for us. Women, you don't have to get married and kick out dozens of snot-nosed kids to be whole. Men, you don't have to have a high-profile job and a wife with a giant rack to be successful. Whoever decided this was the only way to complete one's life was a very unhappy person.

The truth, which is subject to interpretation as I grow older, is that happiness is coming home at the end of the day and being genuinely happy and thankful for your life. In order to achieve this blissful state, honesty with yourself and others must be given the front seat. ♦

Amber Bryant is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at alb2x@mtsu.edu.

## Joe applies for fall editorship of Sidelines

"I will be the charismatic dictator surrounded by my elite henchmen," claims Big Brother wannabe



Nick Fowler  
Staff Columnist

Being the well-connected student journalist I am, I've obtained a copy of Joe's application for editor in chief of *Sidelines*.

Here are a few excerpts from Joe's applications.

*Describe other related experiences:*

During World War II, I wrote propaganda for the Nazi's. As a senior level propagandist, I learned to work on deadline lest I be killed. I learned to write news for the masses which inspired them to kill millions of innocents. This not only shows my ability to appeal to the masses, such as the students and

faculty of MTSU, but also my leadership skills. I also have television media experience; I worked as a videographer for al-Qaida. I taped Osama bin Laden's propaganda videos, and I sent them to the major media outlets with accompanying press releases. I was also editor of my high school newspaper.

*Give a brief explanation of why you are applying for this position:*

I have an insatiable desire for power. I care not for the public's right to know, only for my own ambition and private goals. I am doing this only to add another line to my resume.

In the meantime, I hope to use *Sidelines* as a platform for my own political position.

*Describe your concept of the rights and responsibilities*

*of the position for which you are applying:*

I have a right to do as I please. Everyone else has a responsibility to kiss my ass.

*Explain what you believe to be the appropriate relationship between your publication and the university administration, faculty and students:*

*Sidelines'* key role with the university should be adversarial. Any time they foul up, the newspaper should point it out, mock it and say we told you so. I know the university is trying to screw us out of a good education just to save money, and I'm willing to say so.

The faculty had better get behind us or we'll destroy them, too. And why shouldn't they join us? The university is trying to screw them into teaching

more students for less money.

*Give us a general plan of how you would operate your department if selected for this position:*

I intend to run *Sidelines* as if it were a totalitarian regime. I will be the charismatic leader surrounded by my elite henchmen.

Through the power of propaganda we will become the dominant social and political force on campus. The student body will listen to the music we say is cool; they'll dress in what way we say is fashionable. When they speak, they will use *Sidelines* slang.

All decisions about the future of this university must go through *Sidelines*. If we don't like it, it doesn't happen.

No longer will we just bitch about parking. We will build a parking garage.

We will have no more fiscal problems. We will support the university with advertising sales.

Copies of *Sidelines* will replace all textbooks. They will be free. Screw the bookstore.

We will build cars that do not use gasoline and fly because I think that would be cool.

Through enlightened opinion writers, we will point out how to bring peace to the Middle East, fight terrorism, establish a fair taxation system, solve the parking problem, establish true equal opportunity, have the final say about abortion rights, solve the parking problem, build better dorms, capture bin Laden, prove that Bush is stupid and solve the parking problem. ♦

Nick Fowler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at nrf2b@mtsu.edu.

## SIDELINES

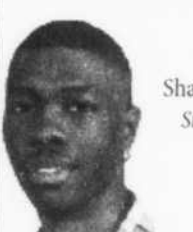
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## Don't lose your hustle in the shuffle

### On the Real



Shawn Whitsell  
Staff Columnist

On Saturday, I attended the Minority Development Conference sponsored by the African American Organizations United. There were workshops about nutrition, credit, money management, time management and scholarships.

Adonijah Bakari, of the African American Studies department, facilitated the time management workshop.

Instead of telling us things such as writing our schedules down on a calendar, Bakari explained the concept of time in both Eastern and Western points-of-view. Instead of teaching us the art of cramming 50 million things into one day, he urged us to take our time and enjoy life. He also stressed the importance of making a daily spiritual connection with the Most High through prayer.

So many of us have "get-up-and-go" mentalities, which is

great. There's nothing wrong with being active and motivated. However, we shouldn't allow things such as school, work and extracurricular activities consume too much of us.

Like I said, there's nothing wrong with staying busy and being ambitious about school and your career, just don't forget to take care of yourself and to stay connected.

At several points in my life, I got so busy that I would just pass out on the bed with the lights and television on, books on my bed, etc.

I was so tired that I wouldn't even think to pray before closing my eyes. One time I fell asleep in the middle of a prayer (haha – funny, but sad). Then, when I'd wake up the next morning, I'd jump out of the bed and rush to do something.

A friend recently pointed out that all he sees me eat is "greasy stuff."

He made me realize that all I eat is fast food. Not only that, but I only sleep a few hours each night, and I seem to be addicted to sodas.

When you're rushing through life every single day, it's hard to notice when your lifestyle becomes unhealthy. So, after realizing all of this, I decided to regain control of my life.

I'm laying off pork, which may be a bit challenging, considering I was raised by the pork chop queen. I'm going to drink more water and fewer sodas and stay committed to my exercise regimen.

I'm also going to make sure I look out for my spiritual well-being. Instead of working like crazy, I'm going to make more time for writing in my journal, honing my craft on my acoustic guitar and going home to Kentucky to spend time with family.

More importantly, I've started reading the Bible every day again, and I'm going to take more time out to pray, whether it be before I go to bed at night or while I'm walking to class.

From now on, instead of just jumping out of bed, I'm going to take a few minutes to get my head straight and focus.

I've refocused my energy so that I can live well. It's very important that we take care of ourselves, enjoy the simple things in life and not be in such a rush to get old.

There's nothing wrong with living a fast-paced life, just know when to slow down. ♦

Shawn Whitsell is a senior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at lionist99@hotmail.com.

## Letter to the Editor

### Don't post God's 10 laws

To the Editor:

While I agree with your staff editorial from this past Thursday regarding the Ten Commandments in one way, I feel I must point out something that you are misrepresenting.

The County Commission should not have voted to hang the Commandments, but not for any "violation" of the First Amendment. The legal battle they knew would ensue will end up hurting our county financially more than anything else.

But the Ten Commandments have as much right to hang in the courthouse in Murfreesboro as they do to be painted in Moses' hands in a display in the U.S. Supreme Court chambers. Yes, so do the historical documents of any other religion.

The reason that the Supreme Court was so willing to outlaw display of the Commandments in public schools, and yet will not even hear any of the more than 20 cases currently waiting concerning the Commandments in courthouses, is that schools are for education alone. To hang religious documents implies to children that they need to learn them. Courthouses are full of "historical documents" that are no easier to validate than the Commandments. They are historical documents, not rulebooks or anything else.

Until such time as the U.S. Supreme Court decides that displaying the Ten Commandments is a violation of the First Amendment, you should avoid stating such things as facts. Clearly the issue isn't cut-and-dry.

But I agree that the timing and the inconsiderate nature of the event was tasteless and unfortunate. They have the right to post the Ten Commandments. I don't necessarily think they should have.

Ben Frey

**Joe's last message for the universe:  
"Sorry for the inconvenience."  
How about that? slopinio@mtsu.edu**



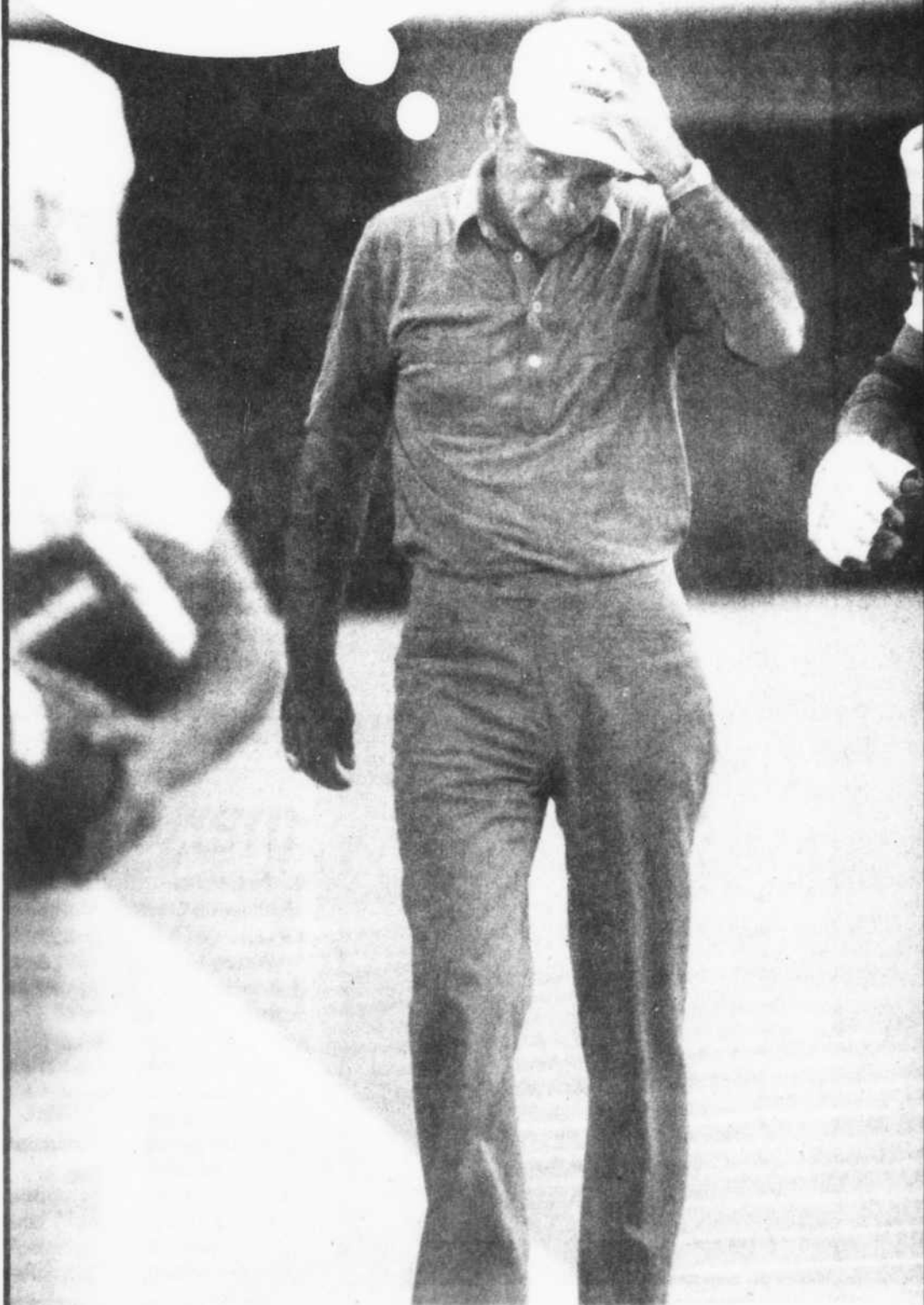
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## WMTS makes new changes for the future

By Eric Cook  
Contributor

Things change. It is this commonly known fact that WMTS is hoping to capture and turn into its creed. MTSU's campus radio is undergoing several changes over the course of the summer and the upcoming fall semester.

These changes are designed to increase excitement around WMTS as well as establish its importance.

The first in a series of changes is the election of new officers who will be taking over duties effective this summer. One of these officers is Program Director Lance McDonald. In talking with McDonald, it becomes apparent that WMTS is not only changing its name and logo, but also its attitude toward how radio is done. As energy exudes off of the man known as the "Adjective Guy," his view of WMTS's future becomes very clear.

"The station has great potential, and the new officers are looking to take the ball and run with it," McDonald said. "Our DJs are fantastic, and our equip-

ment is really top of the line," confides McDonald. "With that, we can really make a difference in the face of MTSU, as well as the music and creative scene in town. We will be more high profile, with more live remotes from campus to help involve more students in what we do, and help bring more steady listeners to our frequency."

"With bigger, better, and more frequent benefits, we can also help bring the local music scene a shot in the arm, and help get everyone off the couch and going to live shows, art galleries — anything that relies on student involvement," he said.

Such benefits are the main support of WMTS and are therefore essential to its existence. Because of this, it is important for the station to put on great benefit concerts in order to raise enough money to stay on the air.

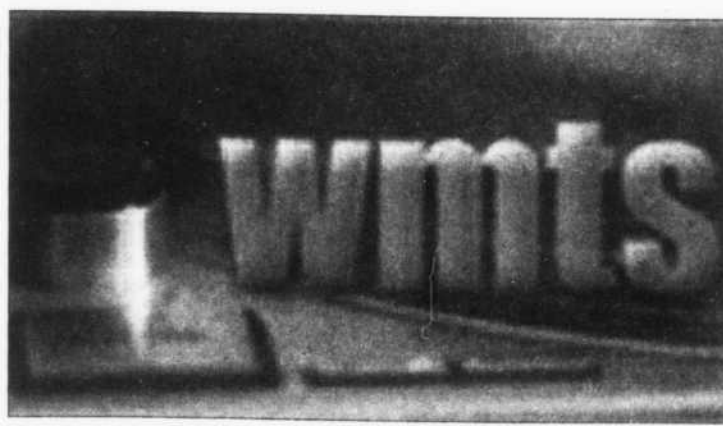
"As for benefits for the next year, we will be having some really great shows both semesters, such as our end of the year bash at The Boro on May 4th. So far, we are looking at bringing in big-name acts to Murfreesboro, and help re-

affirm this town as a music city in its own right," McDonald said. "Also, we will be involving more student organizations into our shows, such as the Student Art Alliance and Students for Environmental Action to help bring exposure to the great things happening on campus that not many people know about. Keep posted for more benefit info. And just look around campus for show times and venues."

Promoting student organizations, electing new officers, and providing excellent benefit shows electrify what is to be the new atmosphere around WMTS. However, moving from Studio A in the LRC to Studio B is hoped to exemplify these changes.

"The reasons for the move are three-fold: to provide our on-air DJs with more space for themselves as well as more CDs and Vinyl, to provide more permanent space for guests and a more comfortable live-radio feel, and to become more handicap accessible for our DJs and guests," McDonald said.

Displaying an upbeat and positive attitude, McDonald



"In the next year, I hope to move 88.3 into the forefront of student activities, and make us an invaluable part of this campus. We can do so much for the school in general, as well as do our own thing, that we just can't pass up this opportunity to make this school more cool."

— Program Director Lance McDonald

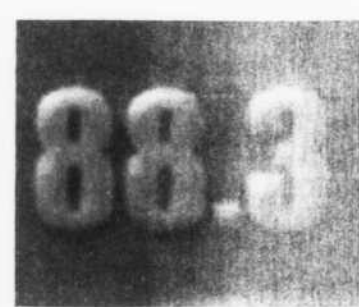
said he believes that all who are involved are definitely up for the challenge.

He attributes this optimism to the new attitude that he and the other officers are trying to pour into WMTS.

"The feelings within the station itself are of great energy and excitement for the future.

We all do our shows every week in the same old dark concrete room, and it's great to finally have more space and windows," he said. "Hell, we could all use some more sunlight ... I think most of us are studio sausages at this point anyway."

McDonald said the entire station is behind the new



changes.

"Plus, we're moving to a new lounge, just outside of Studio A, which will be a more laid-out, chill place for DJs and their guests," he said.

With several large changes taking place, one might ask what is the basic goal for the future of WMTS at this point.

"In the next year, I hope to move 88.3 into the forefront of student activities, and make us an invaluable part of this campus," McDonald said. "We can do so much for the school in general, as well as do our own thing, that we just can't pass up this opportunity to make this school more cool."

For more information on how to get involved with WMTS, call 898-2666 or email at [www.wmtsradio.com](mailto:www.wmtsradio.com). All students are eligible to be DJs. ♦

## Designer discusses new Mojiza Wear clothing line

By Phoenix Taylor  
Staff Writer

Mojiza Wear, the first solo collection from Atlanta-based designer Fadia Abdelkader, proves that, with some imagination, sweat and tears, "miracles" can happen to design sassy urban-contemporary fashions.

Abdelkader, a business marketing major, turned her hobby of designing into a business.

At the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. fashion show earlier this month, Abdelkader premiered her first ready-to-wear collection of lace tops, denim-look slacks and shorts, '80s inspired fringe T-shirts, sexy thigh-high side slits in pant legs, and other urban contemporary styles.

At the age of 19, this Palestinian designer hopes that her successes in business will someday allow her to contribute to the relief funds in her community of Jenin. It is her desire "to donate a percentage of

Mojiza's profits to Palestine based-organizations that help Palestinian causes in providing food, shelter, clothes and much more" to her people.

In addition to balancing her classes, Abdelkader also has an online business that carries her line of accessories and features other fashion designers' signature styles.

In several conversations via phone calls and e-mails, Abdelkader had this to say about her new line:

*What is Mojiza all about?*

Abdelkader: Mojiza means miracle in Arabic, the way it started was my friend, Bassma Fathy and me (my business partner in the beginning before I became sole creator) came up with the name in July of 2000. We decided to pursue a clothing line, but we ended up moving in different directions because of creative differences and marketing strategies. The only thing that remained was the name. This may sound funny, but I felt

a certain bond to it.

*Have you premiered anywhere else besides the Kappa's fashion show? How excited or nervous were you to have your line premiered?*

Abdelkader: I was approached to design clothes for the Kappas, after the Alpha Kappa Alpha fashion show. (another show held earlier, during Greek week) which gave me three weeks to make my outfits, so I decided to have my own scene instead of having them use my clothing, throughout the whole show. I basically did not make anything until April 5, a week before the event. I was more excited than nervous, I knew that people's reaction would be of some disbelief, because most college fashion shows are not flamboyant or risqué.

*Reflecting back to your showing, the intro piece was a sheer pink wrap skirt adorned with gold coins. It seemed very ethnic, and so was the music, Addiction*

*by Truth Hurts, very Middle Eastern feel. Where did that inspiration come from and what was the meaning behind it?*

Abdelkader: I'm from Palestine and the music was a big factor to me in the show. The intro piece was definitely my ethnic mark. Having the model belly dance was my way of intertwining my culture into this fashion show. I wanted the audience to experience the music and the clothes and get a feel of my style. I wanted to make sure that no emcees were there commenting on the pieces, so the audience can judge and use their imagination for themselves to go with the musical and visual aspects of the show.

*What do you want people to get from your clothing?*

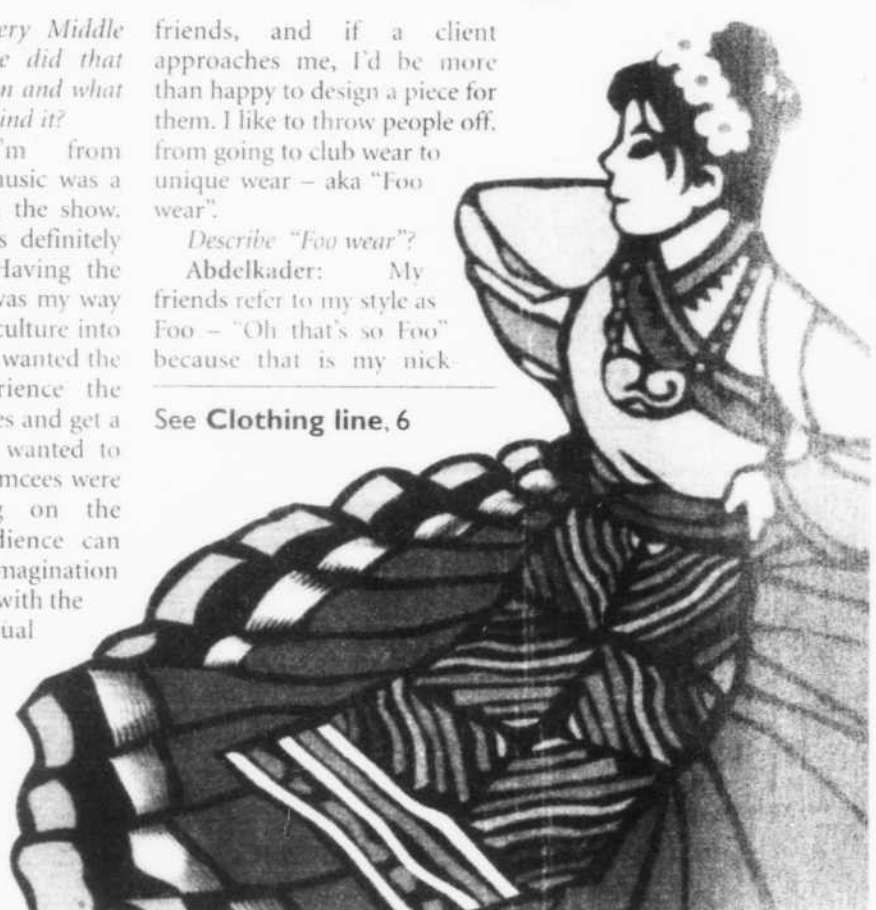
Abdelkader: Right now it's just a hobby — something I love to do for myself and

friends, and if a client approaches me, I'd be more than happy to design a piece for them. I like to throw people off from going to club wear to unique wear — aka "Foo wear".

*Describe "Foo wear"?*

Abdelkader: My friends refer to my style as Foo — "Oh that's so Foo" because that is my nick-

See Clothing line, 6



## Graduates search longer, harder for jobs

By Danielle Ritchie  
The Oracle

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. — You've spent four — OK, six, but who's counting — years listening to the daily drone of professors. You've managed to raise your grade point average high enough to brag about it on your resumé. You've spent your last night studying, completed your last teacher evaluation, taken your last exam. It's only a matter of days before you're sporting the cap and gown, walking down the aisle at the Sun Dome.

And you're still looking for a job.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the job market for college graduates is tougher than it's been in more than three years. The association publishes the results from its annual Job Outlook survey, and this year's is rough — but not dismal.

"We hear from both employers and students that there are just not as many opportunities for students to get jobs," said Drema Howard, director for the University of South Florida Career Center. "The labor market, unlike past years, is filled with seasoned, experienced workers also looking for entry-level positions."

Employers see the seasoned workers as a means to get exceptional work for little money, she said. One employer told her that the company is then "getting well-beyond what (it's) paying

for."

According to the Job Outlook 2002 survey, job opportunities will be available, but they will be fewer in number than previous years.

In addition, the job market is forcing many companies to adapt to a hiring freeze — and in many cases, layoffs. Hiring cuts are reportedly biggest among employers who hired large numbers of new college graduates last year.

### Industry Outlook

While the job market is bumpy all around, there are certain industries that are being forced to tighten their belts a few notches more than others. For example, the Job Outlook 2002 survey reports that communications companies and financial services firms expect their hiring will be "fair" to "poor."

Hiring plans among service employers are expected to be down more than 24 percent. The outlook is worst for manufacturers, who expect their hiring to include at least 30 percent fewer college graduates.

On the other hand, the poor economy's hit on the high-tech industry has not affected its jobs. Computer science and various forms of engineering remain at the top of the list of jobs that are still in demand.

Government and nonprofit organizations also project more

See Jobs, 7

## Dear Annie

### Do the right thing

Dear Annie,

We have a problem, and it may sound kind of weird and stupid, but it's important to us. We are going on a trip this summer to see some friends who are in a touring show. However, there is another girl who is going to be there who will ruin our fun. We know her from meeting her and hanging out with her in other cities from this tour. We've always been very nice to her, and we've let her tag along with us before, but the truth is, she's annoying. She's all about hanging out with "the cast", and tags along with us in hopes of getting to as well, since she idolizes them.

We're pretty sure our friends in the show aren't too crazy about her either. So, how can we keep her away from us without being mean to her? She doesn't know yet that we're going to be there this summer, but when she sees us there, she's going to want to stay with us and hang out with us all week, especially since she will be there all by herself. It would be really mean of us to leave her alone in a strange city when we're supposed to be her friends (especially since she's younger than we are).

Also, our friends won't want to hang out with us if she's constantly with us. But the whole reason we're going is to hang out with our friends, so we don't want to miss out on that because of her, and this is the only city we'll be able to make it to.

What should we do? We are torn between what we want to do and what we feel like we need to do to be nice people.

— Sleepless in Seattle

Dear Sleepless in Seattle,

You've got me a little confused. In the beginning of your question, this girl just sounds like an annoying acquaintance. Then you say that you are "supposed" to be her friends. Which one is it?

You've left out some valuable information. What is it that's so annoying about this girl? Is she annoyingly cute? And which one of us hasn't been annoying at some point in our lives?

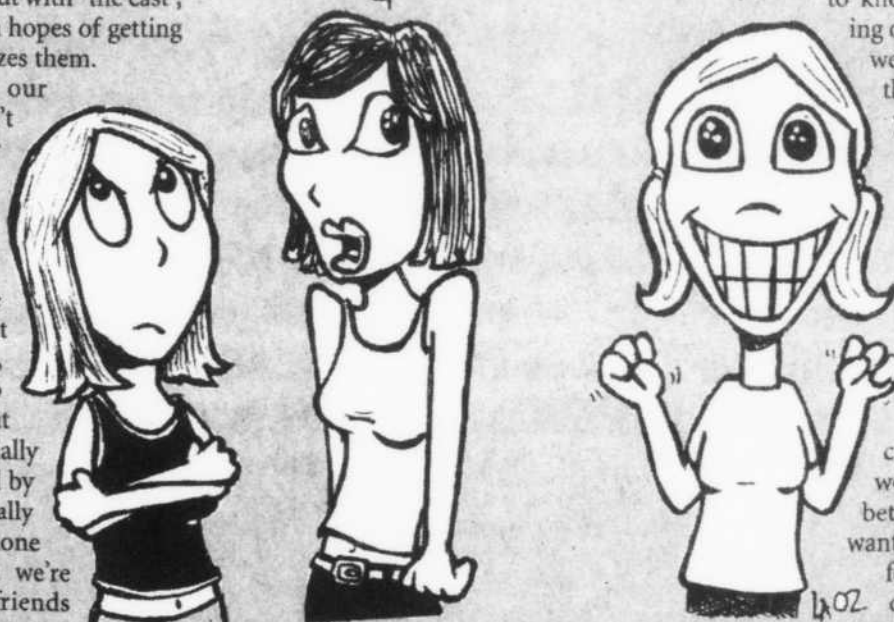
My point — and this statement goes out to all girls — stop the passive aggressive behavior! We should be each others support. If something is bothering you about one of your friends, tell her. Don't just talk about it with other people, or pout or just hope she or the problem will go away. Talk to your friends. Give them a chance

to know that they're annoying or that the outfit they're wearing really does make them look fat. Wouldn't you want to know?

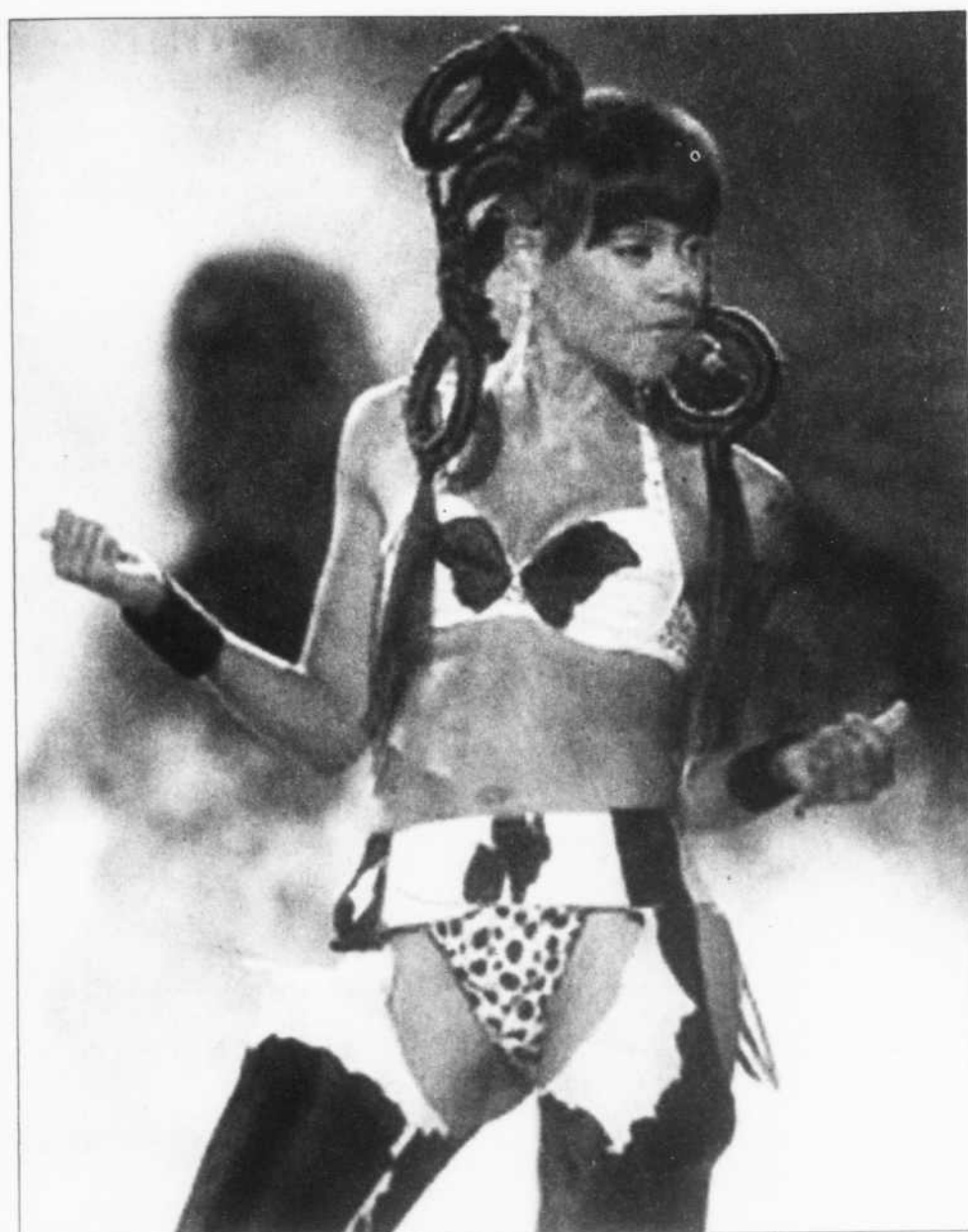
If this girl is truly your friend, you should do her a favor and inform her in the most polite way that she's annoying and why. I think you already know what you should do.

Obviously, you have a conscience or you wouldn't be torn between what you really want to do and what you feel is the right thing to do. You'll never go wrong by doing what's right and being nice to people. Take the high road. One day your kind attitude will be rewarded.

Please e-mail your questions to [DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com](mailto:DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com)







(Above) Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes performs "U Know What's Up" at the Soul Train Music Awards in 2000. (Right) Left Eye with groupmates Chili and T-Boz during the *CrazySexyCool* era in 1994.

Photo Provided

## TLC's Left Eye should be remembered for good things in her life

By Shawn Whitsell  
Features Editor

Just eight short months ago, I had written a column in dedication to singer/actress Aaliyah Haughton and now I'm here doing the same thing for Lisa Lopes, more famously known as Left Eye, one-third of the biggest-selling girl group ever — TLC (the "crazy" to Chili and T-Boz's "sexycool").

After all the things that have happened the past year, Left Eye's death didn't come as a shock. It's terrible that people die so tragically, but I guess, I'm just making my peace with the fact that people die. It's a reality. Death is probably life's only guarantee.

Just as Aaliyah was on the brink of a whole new level of success, one has to wonder what would have become of Left Eye. She cleaned up her life — becoming a vegetarian, excising regularly and undergoing spiritual advising in Honduras, where she was killed. She had rekindled her love with longtime boyfriend Andre Rison, signed a deal with Tha Row Records for a solo album and was preparing new material for TLC's fourth album. Not to mention the fact that she had recently adopted a little girl.

It's extremely weird how a person could have so much going for them, living life to the fullest one second, then be dead the next and none of that stuff even matters anymore. But as I mentioned before, I guess that's just the way it is.

It's a bit disturbing that much of the media, with maybe the exception of BET, has focused so much on the negative events that had occurred in Left Eye's life instead of just reporting what's relevant. We all know that she burned down Rison's mansion. I mean, it was all over the news, and VH1 only aired TLC's *Behind the Music* episode a million times. So, why is it necessary for certain media programs to continuously show footage from the fire? Left Eye and Rison had moved on, why can't we? I'm not saying that it shouldn't be shown, but

it definitely shouldn't be dwelled upon. How does that help her grieving love ones and fans? It doesn't.

I'd read a few articles on Left Eye prior to her fatal death and I learned a lot about the recent transformation she had made. It's just a shame that many people didn't get the opportunity to see it for themselves. Many people see her as a troublemaker, which she may have well been in some point in her life. I don't know because I didn't know her. But what I do know is that she was an incredibly artistic person, not only was she singer/rapper, but she was a creative force to be reckoned with. She named all three TLC albums; designed clothes, furniture and crafts, played instruments, developed up and coming talent and was a tremendous cook, according to those who knew her well.

Regardless of her bad-girl image, I truly believe that Left Eye had a big heart that most of us will never get to see.

Yeah, she died at an early age but when your work is complete on this side, God calls you home. May she rest in peace. ♦



## Clothing line: Designer hopes to make a difference in the fashion industry, Palestine

Continued from 5

name. But it basically means interesting, sassy, urban contemporary and it definitely shows in my clothes and designs.

Where can we find your line and what is the price range? The commentator at the fashion show mentioned Atlanta. Is there some place closer?

Abdelkader: Well, I live in Atlanta when I'm not in school so I am planing to sell my stuff to boutiques in Little 5 Points in Atlanta to stores such as Envy and Tease. In the Nashville area, you will probably find my accessories — jewelry, purses, et cetera in boutiques like Jazzy

Belle. I have been approached by other shops to feature my work, which includes peacock feather earrings and necklaces, and purses made out of jeans. As an artist, it is hard for me to let go of my creations. To me, each one is an art piece that is special. So I am gradually beginning to sell my clothing items. The price range varies, everything is hand stitched or glued. I am just now learning how to use a sewing machine, so it takes a lot of effort, time, sweat, blood and tears. I get extremely frustrated because I cannot draw. So I make, cut and stitch the items out of my imagination.

I understand that you are a

budding online entrepreneur.

Abdelkader: Well I'm in the process of opening an online boutique. I plan on selling my hand-made purses, jewelry and clothes. I have a couple of individual stylists, makeup artists and designers who want to feature their accessories or items, but they have no time to create and design a Web site, so I have provided a place for entrepreneurs like Christine Ngyuen, who owns Dork-a-licious, the crystal tattoo creator that caters to Mariah Carey, Jennifer Lopez, Pink and many other stars. I feel that I have to keep my hands in everything from fashion, entertainment, business and much more ... it's so

important for me to make connections, because I'm a strong believer of the quote "don't burn bridges 'cause you never know when you're going to cross them again."

A lot of your collection features lace, sheer materials, fringe "I Luv U" shirts and denim. What influences made you decide to choose those materials?

Abdelkader: My influence comes from being a child of the '80s where lace, fringes and bright colors were a must. I used to be ashamed of the '80s but now I'm proud (laughing). As for the lace, I have always been fond of lace because it shows the feminine side, and when you combine it with jeans it

makes it casual, sexy and sassy as well. My personal style is very ethnic ... flowy.

I love accessorizing with tribal jewelry. I feel as long as you have the right belt, hat or jewelry, you can "just rock" a pair of black pants and black shirt and look like a million bucks. It's simple if you accessorize fine, you get the right look for your lifestyle.

What can we expect from Mojiza in the future?

Abdelkader: Well, The Kappa show was definitely an interesting experience. Maybe I will do more shows on campus, and maybe I won't. I really don't know. I have a hectic life with school, family and friends, so

this is a hobby and not a job. My dream is to be successful and make my loved ones proud of me. School comes first, so it's really not an issue. I have all the time in the world, after I get my degree, to see if Mojiza is worth taking to the next level. If and when I start making a profit, since the name Mojiza means "miracle," I would like to donate a percentage of Mojiza's profit to organizations that help the Palestinian causes in providing food, shelter, clothing and much more. It's the least I can do for the people back at home who are deprived of making a income, and living how they should live — in peace, blessings and justice. ♦





## Jobs: Grads struggle in search

Continued from 5

music or religious studies major? According to Howard, it only means that the job search must be more persistent.

"Search longer. That's made all the difference for many of the students who visit us," she said. "And it's important not to be discouraged."

Students often make the assumption, she said, that the only positions available are the ones advertised. In reality, companies often have more openings.

Another mistake she said students make is that they assume sending a resume is enough.

"Sending a resume is not enough. It's also important for students to look at all their options and not just target one or two areas," she said. "They need to have a number of sites in different industries they can target."

The results of the Job Outlook 2002 survey concur with Howard's suggestion. When employers were asked what qualities are important in new college graduates, flexibility and adaptability were among the top 10.

### Where to Start - Again

For the student deciding to take a new approach to the after-college job search, Howard makes a few sugges-

tions.

"Graduates can still use the services at the USF Career Center at no cost for up to six months after graduation," she said.

The recent graduates can continue working with career representatives who specialize in their major, as well as take advantage of the department's resume referral service, which supplies students' resumes to prospective employers, she said. In addition to the university career specialists, the Job Outlook 2002 also suggests a few ways that employers find their new hires. Organization internships are at the top of the list, followed closely by employee referrals.

"Students really should let people know they're looking for positions," Howard said. "It can be family members, friends, even places where they do business. Anything that can give them a lead."

It's also important, Howard said, to attend career and job fairs. A good opportunity is at the Statewide Job Fair, to be held May 9 at the University of Central Florida Arena in Orlando.

The fair is a collaborative effort between all the state universities and presents an opportunity for recent college graduates to talk with employers looking for full-time professionals. ♦

## College campuses find backpack theft common

By Brad Schmidt  
Oregon Daily Emerald

(U-WIRE) EUGENE, Ore. — While studying at the Knight Library at the University of Oregon, many students get up to go to the bathroom, stretch or grab nearby reading material while leaving behind books, backpacks and laptop computers.

It's a common mistake, said a University Bookstore employee who specializes in theft prevention.

Leaving backpacks unattended is the optimal situation for thieves, said the bookstore employee, who requested anonymity.

Of the 291 reported thefts from buildings and vehicles last year, about 15 percent were thefts of backpacks, Department of Public Safety Lt. Herb Horner said.

"Books these days are really expensive. ... If you provide the opportunity, you're more than

likely going to become a victim," said Eugene Police Department spokeswoman Pam Alejandre.

Inevitably, she said, "it's that one lapse of judgment" that causes students to lose property.

Backpack theft is most common at the Knight Library.

Two weeks ago, University student Gabriel Bayley had his backpack, calculator and books stolen from the Knight Library after he left his possessions unattended.

Police arrested a 23-year-old man April 7 at Smith Family Bookstore for trying to sell back Bayley's property. The case is pending investigation, and Deputy District Attorney Paul Graebner said he does "anticipate that an indictment will be returned."

Associate University Librarian Andrew Bonamici said book and backpack theft is "definitely a problem." Bonamici said he believes some of the thieves who target stu-

dents at the library are professionals. In response to theft reports, DPS has placed more patrols in the library, Bonamici said.

Noting the size of the library, Bonamici compared leaving possessions unguarded at the Knight Library to leaving them unattended outdoors. Ten to 15 theft reports have been filed at the Knight Library since November 2001, he said.

"Part of the problem is that students are easy marks," said Nancy Smith, manager of the Smith Family Bookstore. "Students have a casual way of life and don't think anything is going to happen to them."

Smith said her store gets reports every day from students who have fallen victim to theft. Theft reports are most common on Mondays, Smith said, because students often leave backpacks — complete with books — in cars during the weekend, which makes for optimal theft conditions.

Another loss-prevention agent at the University Bookstore, who also requested not to be identified, said students need to file theft reports in books and to help bookstore employees recover stolen items.

"If students don't file a report, we don't know if it's stolen," the agent said.

Students should file a theft report, including details of what was stolen, with the EPD, DPS and all local bookstores, the agent added.

While filing a report at one bookstore may prevent a thief from selling back books at that location, not all stores communicate collectively.

Attempting to curb the resale of stolen books, the University Bookstore videotapes all book buybacks, creates a paper trail to record all transactions and requires a potential returnee to display a student identification card. ♦

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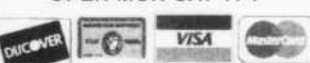
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# GRADUATION SPECIAL



8 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Speaking my mind on my way out

### Final Words



Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

I came to Middle Tennessee as a scared little freshman who lived in Cummings Hall as part of the First Year Experience.

Oh boy, what an experience that turned out to be.

Freshmen can be really immature and extremely rude. I can understand that not all people go to sleep at the same time, but blaring your music and screaming down the hall at midnight is a bit ridiculous.

Not only did I have to put up with rude freshmen, but I had a

roommate I disliked greatly. She slept all day, never went to class and turned up the television as I tried to go to sleep. Luckily, she moved out. Unfortunately, she couldn't move out over Christmas Break so she roomed with me for a couple weeks after the break and then moved.

Now, Housing really managed to mess me up with this situation.

For three to four weeks I lived by myself. As a person who enjoys being alone and sometimes loses it when not given my space, I loved this situation. But that ended quickly. One night around midnight, a resident assistant from another floor knocked on my door and told me to prepare the room for a new roommate. Needless to say, I wasn't happy, so I called

Housing. Of course, there is nothing they can do for you. They just randomly select names and put two people in a dorm room.

So, I prepare the room and the other person doesn't show up. About a week later, my RA comes to the door and informs me a new roommate will definitely be coming the next day. This cheery, annoying person shows up and stays maybe a day a week.

You're probably thinking, "Why are you upset? You like being alone." That's true, but she would leave and not tell me where she went and then her mom would call wanting to know if she was alive. These lovely roommates really made me hate Housing.

Luckily, they redeemed

themselves when they put me with my sophomore roommate. We had lived on the same floor in Cummings and knew of each other at least. We both had feared the dreaded Housing pool but were relieved when we saw each other.

So my sophomore year, the roommate thing is cleared up and I'm having a pretty good year. That is until I took a particular speech class where you had to write papers about yourself and take a lashing from the professor.

I wrote one particular paper about a very personal, tough subject because that's what I thought the professor wanted for the paper. Lesson No.1: Never, ever write about anything personal in class. This professor took this as a chance

to psychoanalyze me and give me her words of advice as to how I should have handled the situation. Perhaps I wouldn't have been so upset had the situation not happened relatively recently, but no professor has the right to degrade me for my decisions. I have never despised a professor so much in my life. To this day, when I see that professor I cringe.

My junior year, I began working at *Sidelines* and had my first experiences with Athletics Media Relations. Anyone who has read a "Call from the Press Box" or the editorial knows how much I love those people. But I must admit at first my experience wasn't all that bad. I had to interview a football player for a profile so I was told to contact Media Relations. I did as

instructed and received my interview.

The problem came in that I always contacted the coach for sports like volleyball, tennis and softball because I was never told to talk to Media Relations first for those sports. Besides, having to go through another person makes the process all the more complicated and drawn out.

Anyway, when I took over as sports editor, I proceeded to do things the way I had as a writer. Evidently, some people resented that and became quite hateful. As soon as we obeyed their rules though, Media Relations was nice to us again. But they did leak a few stories.

Well, I think I've complained enough for one day. Good luck in your remaining years. As for me, I'm leaving this place. ♦

## What's the point: Seniors have to do it anyway



### Last Bit of Advice

Charlene Callier  
Flash! Editor

Two weeks before graduation and my heart is pounding with the anticipation of walking across the stage and stepping into the adult world. No more student discounts, easy credit card applications or the ability to use the excuse, "I have to study," to get off from work.

The four-plus years of hard work, sweat, pain and tears have finally paid off. It will finally be over: the five-page essays analyzing something you have no interest in, along with the multiple choice questions designed to make you use critical thinking skills. It's time to venture into the luxury of working a job from 8 to 5, getting off and focusing on nothing more than working out, eating, taking trips and enjoying life. Although this is part of my fantasy world, some may choose to attend graduate school, travel around the country or just go back home to live with the folks. The great thing is that the decision is yours.

Your senior year in college could be an easy, carefree ride to graduation day if you prepare to avoid hearing those horrible words, "I'm sorry, you won't be able to graduate." I decided to pass some words of wisdom to

anyone who "thinks" they will graduate in the next year.

The upper-division form: this really serves a purpose. It assures you that all of the requirements for graduation are fulfilled. I know a couple of people who decided to glance at their upper-division form at the beginning of the semester to discover they were lacking 20 or more hours of course work before graduation.

Fill out your intent-to-graduate form your junior year: If you do not complete this form by the beginning of your senior year, you will receive a nice reminder later in your student mailbox stating that you may want to apply for the following semester if you missed the deadline.

Finish general requirements before your senior year: Yeah, everyone hates those general electives that are supposed to make you an all-around student, but you will hate it more being one of two seniors in a class full of freshmen or sophomores.

Academic profile and major field tests: these tests supply the university with what they will need to work on to satisfy student needs. It doesn't matter if you pass or fail – only that you show up and complete the tests.

Financial aid exit interview: this is the long speech about how you will begin to repay your student loans six months after graduation. It may sound boring, but if you don't complete the exit interview, you will not walk.

Complete all incompletes before your senior year: This is to make sure that you have received the grades for the courses needed to graduate. Once again, I know people whose professors moved to another state and sort of forgot to turn in their grades. Save yourself the long distance phone calls trying to track down these professors.

Resumes: yeah, but resumes are the way to communicate with the workforce. The easiest way to complete this task is to register with the Career and Placement Center on campus. They will provide you with an intense outline of how to create your resume, cover letter and reference sheet.

References: kiss up to the professors in your field of study so that you can have nice references. Some of MTSU's professors can just be mentioned as a reference and land you the job.

Internship: I recommend this experience to everyone. This will be the only chance you can work in an environment of your profession without any obligation to stay beyond the semester.

I know you are probably saying that the majority of the things on the list are boring and useless, all of them can prevent you from graduating. These are only a couple of suggestions to those wanting a stress-free senior year. Some people may enjoy buying graduation announcements to discover they won't graduate until next semester. ♦

## Suiting up for the real world

By Megan Stier  
Tufts Daily

(U-WIRE) – The worst part about graduation is not the fact you are becoming an adult, but the fact that you must now pretend you are an adult. Even though you still prefer Cocoa Krispies to caviar and Britney to Beethoven, the trick is now fooling the rest of the world into believing you are a pensive, responsible, highly educated adult so you can get hired. And if "first impressions count" and "appearance is everything," then you had better be dressing for success. Which means only one thing: you need a suit.

Before I ever had to think about getting a real job – back when job-hunting was a choice between camp counseling and babysitting – I couldn't wait for the day when I would wear a suit. With razor sharp lines and precision tailoring, this garment would transform me into an intimidating yet extremely sexy executive-cum-rock star. Alas, when you're 21 and about to graduate, life looks a lot less like a magazine spread than it did when you were 15 and scooping ice cream cones.

I know this because I went shopping for a suit last weekend. I have a job interview coming up for a PR firm, and I need to look professional, experienced, and above all, not like a 21-year-old college graduate.

The day looked promising as I began my expedition: the sun was out, the sky was blue, and there were a minimum of screaming children along Newbury Street. The first stop was Emporio Armani, a logical choice for something corporate, classic, and understatedly elegant. Ascending the stairs to the women's floor, I felt confident this would be a one-stop trip. But as I reached the top of the stairs, instead of seeing rack upon rack of sober-colored separates, I see only white, gauzy, and obscenely sheer sundresses. The dark gray jacket and dress coordinates that had lingered barely weeks ago were now nowhere to be seen and in their place hang millions of sheer pants in ridiculous shades of cream, sand, and ecru. Disenchanted, I try on the only two suits in the store, and I emerge from the dressing room feeling even worse, my reflection in the mirror resembling Cruella De Vil's corporate kid sister.

Deciding to play the numbers game, I head to Saks. With so many designers under one roof, I'm bound to hit pay dirt within the hour. I soon realize I would have hit pay dirt only if my interview was for the circus. These suits have so many tricks to them, I'm surprised they don't come with assembly instructions. The best fitting suit I found had puffed sleeves

on the jacket and the simplest one could only be described as vaguely resembling a tulip. I'm just glad I came alone.

The rest of the day was not much better. After hitting every (and I mean every) possible store in the Greater Boston area, the few suits I come across fall into two categories. One: those that transform me into an airline check-in attendant. As in, the person who checks your bags. I can't even pass for a stewardess in these getups. Two: those that age me a good 30-plus years. Box-cut and droopy, they practically scream "post-menopausal," and I get hot flashes just from glancing at them. I look like I'm heading to a costume ball as a latter-day Liz Taylor. Evidently, being a sexy corporate rock star is just too much to ask for.

Disenchanted and demoralized, I make my way back home, a little older, a little wiser, and a little less *Vogue*. There are many things that I dread shopping for: socks, funeral attire, and textbooks being some examples. I can now add to the top of that list. My advice for my fellow graduates is to put those magazines away and deal with the situation rationally. Though it may seem otherwise, ultimately, as I realized, you are in control of the situation: when life throws you lemons, the smart ones find a really good tailor. ♦

## Nationwide push begins for service careers

By Nikki Rohrbaugh  
Cavalier Daily

(U-WIRE) – To encourage students to consider federal jobs when they graduate, 351 university and college presidents launched a new program Monday entitled "A Call to Serve: Leaders in Education Allied for Public Service."

The program is designed to attract more skilled, young people to government positions.

At a time when 53 percent of the federal workforce will qualify for retirement within the next two years and 71 percent of the government's senior managers will be eligible to retire within the next four years, there seems to be a demand for this kind of program.

While the University of Virginia has not officially signed on to the program, Ladd Flock, director of University Career Services, said that the University has numerous

resources available to help students find government jobs.

"We've gotten lots of resource information" on government jobs, said Ellen Tucker, career resource manager at University Career Services.

Flock pointed out that government jobs are available even to people with no political background.

"You don't have to be a political science, government or foreign affairs major," Flock said. "Government jobs are not just political, you do a little of everything. They just want to hire a bright person they can train."

According to Flock, University students have performed successfully within the federal government.

"There are a lot of U.Va. alumni in government jobs," Flock said. "They want to make those jobs available to alumni."

Government positions also appeal to University students because many students "are tar-

getting Northern Virginia for living, and the government wants students who want to live in Northern Virginia," Flock added.

Federal officials announced Monday they will try to make the application process for jobs in the U.S. government more efficient and less confusing so that the paperwork involved does not deter potential applicants.

Although the University is not involved in "A Call to Serve," University President John T. Casteen III said, "We were a founding member of the organization called Campus Compact, and I served on its board for about a decade."

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 750 college and university presidents committed to the civic purposes of higher education.

Casteen said that University students have been active in the political realm. ♦

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journalism major  
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from Selmer, TN

**Colleen Cox**  
sports editor  
electronic media journalism  
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**Charlene Callier**  
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letter and resume to [mjdavis877@myexcel.com](mailto:mjdavis877@myexcel.com)

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Computer for Sale. \$200/best offer. Call 893-0815.

Washer & Dryer for sale. \$375. Only 7 months old. Call Jimmy, (h) 867-9012 or (c) 631-5802

TI-83 Plus calculator \$60. Call Jenny at 898-3637.

Computer speakers w/ sub \$40. Western jewelry-- great for equestrian team. Stock seat: match necklace & earrings \$50. Cuff bracelet \$25. Barrel racer earrings \$25. all pieces for \$80. Call 397-4056 to call or make offer.

Pageant/prom dresses for sale-like new! Blue w/sequins, black w/gold & pearls, and black w/silver sparkles. All size(M). \$100 each. 2 pr. of shoes-\$25 each. Call Jackie at (931) 455-8868 or cell (931) 273-0624

Slightly used Fender CG-7 Classical Guitar w/Gig Bag. \$125/obo Call Adam@896-9290

Mountain bike, barely used. Mongoose with Anza Grips and Barends, Shimano hardware. Comes with extra set of rims, tires, good seat, and bike rack for car. In excellent shape, \$200 obo. Call 898-3125 and ask for Eric.

1992 Huntergreen Chevy S-10 Extended Cab. Runs excellent, very dependable, great a/c and heat, 127K miles, \$2,600-neg. Call (615) 828-6229.

Dorm refrigerator. General Electric, has freezer section, works well. Cost me \$90 new, its yours for \$40 now, or best offer. Call 898-3125 and ask for Eric.

TI-83 calculator. New, barely used. \$80. Needed for College Algebra. Call Christi at 898-0997.

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Large sectional sofa with queen size sleeper \$350. Call Beth at 867-0217 or 631-2968.

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Female roommate needed to share 2 BR/1BA apt. 2 blocks from campus. Must be clean, friendly, outgoing, animal friendly, have reliable income. Needed ASAP. Rent \$242.50(incl. water), \$200 dep. plus 1/2 cable, elec., + phone. Call Tessa at home 904-0375(lv. msg) or cell 504-4233(lv. msg).

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Roommate wanted. Great location, close to campus. All utilities paid.! phone # 907-2116.

Christian male roommate needed for Fall 2002!! Both will choose the apartment. Call Alan ASAP at 898-3785, 545-5201(cell), or email at [ajc2h@mtsu.edu](mailto:ajc2h@mtsu.edu) for more info.

Male and Female seeking third roommate to share huge 4 br home. Central heat/air, quiet, full kitchen, fireplace, room for storage, 15-20 min. from MTSU. 7563 Franklin Rd. Call Todd and Mandy at 867-7530. \$333/mo +utilities

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ROOMMATE WANTED all utilities included. Write 1 check each month. close to campus. 893-0815

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Roommate needed for four bed-

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Available now; a unit in a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment in University Courtyard. No deposit or application fee, fully furnished with all utilities, cable, and internet. Fitness room, pool, hot tub, activity room, and computer room in clubhouse. Great roommates-for summer months-paid through May. \$299 per month-CHEAP! 931-249-3022/615-494-3533.

Need subleaser for 2 bedroom apartment at Sterling University Gables. Moving to Knoxville April 30. Please call Christi at 898-0997 for more information.

For Rent-Downtown Woodbury-15 minutes to campus, 2 BR house-\$450+deposit-895-0075

Shared dining room, living room, kitchen and bath. Only \$350 a month to live in a house with character. Off-street parking and no utility bills. Available immediately. Call 896-0123

1 tenant needed-fully furnished 4 bedroom, 2 bath-all utilities included. Sub-lease for summer \$380. Call Anna 596-3844. (1st month's rent possibly free)

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**ROOM FOR RENT.** Two rooms available. Completely furnished including cable TV, HBO, W/D, off street parking. One block from campus. \$350/month. 896-0123

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Sidelines

# SPORTS **MT** WRAP

Monday, April 29, 2002



A look at the past year in Middle Tennessee sports



MT  
Basketball

# Men finish season 14-15, lose coach of six years

By Justin Ward  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider basketball team finished the 2001-2002 season with a 14-15 overall record and a 6-8 record in the Sun Belt Conference, a nine-game improvement over last season.

The team started the season with two exhibition wins and three more consecutive wins before losing to Belmont 59-65. The opening game of the season was a blowout against Bryan College 115-59.

The Blue Raiders started their conference play Dec. 28 against South Alabama, losing 51-59.

In the first round of the Sun Belt Tournament, they defeated South Alabama 48-47. The game marked their first-ever conference tournament win after losing in the first round last season.

The game following the regular season South Alabama game, the Blue Raiders gained their first conference win of the season, defeating the University of New Orleans 69-64.

In late January and early February, MT went on another five-game winning streak that began with Arkansas State, 83-64, and ended with a loss to Arkansas State, 83-51.

The final game of the regular season was a loss to Western Kentucky, 61-65. The Blue Raiders

were defeated in the second round of the SBC Tournament by New Mexico State 48-63. MT had a triple-overtime loss earlier in the season against NMSU 88-94.

Senior Lee Nosse led the way for the Blue Raiders in his final season. Nosse became the first Blue Raider to earn All-Sun Belt Honors, and he became the school's 26th 1,000-point scorer. He ended his career with 1,056 points to rank him 22nd at MT.

Nosse had a very prolific season with 366 total points, averaging 12.6 points a game. He led the team in blocks with 45 and rebounds with 218, averaging 7.5 boards per game.

Nosse was a threat at the free-throw line with a .855 free-throw percentage, making 71-83 free-throw shots this season. He had a .531 field goal percentage for the season and went 25-65 from behind the three-point arc to round out his full court attack.

Sophomore Tommy Gunn was also a strong player for the Blue Raiders this season. He received an All-Sun Belt Honorable Mention in the SBC Tournament.

Gunn backed Nosse up with 338 points for the season, averaging 12.5 points a game. He had a .447 field goal shooting percentage and pulled down 107 rebounds. He led the team in three-point shooting with a .383 percentage, going 44-

115.

William Pippen, nephew of NBA star Scottie Pippen, was third on the points total list with 241 points, averaging 8.3 points a game. He was second in rebounding behind Nosse with 120. Pippen had a .377 field goal percentage and a .286 three-point percentage.

Junior John Humphrey was a big player for the Blue Raiders late in the season. He equaled the school record in three pointers for the final game of the season against WKU by making 8 three pointers for a season high 26 points. His 8 three pointers rank second all time in Diddle Arena. Humphrey had 212 points for the season, averaging 7.3 points a game. He had the second-highest free-throw percentage behind Nosse with .800, making 20-25 free throws. He had a .410 field goal percentage and had the second most threes, making 42-of-119 with a .353 percentage.

Point guard Eric Parham led the team atop the assist category with 114.

The only two seniors leaving are Nosse and D'Marius Wilkes. Senior Demario Watson redshirted this season and will leave the Blue Raiders with an experienced center for next season. He will be a strong player along with Humphrey and Gunn, who still have two more years with the Blue Raiders.

Head coach for the 2001-2002

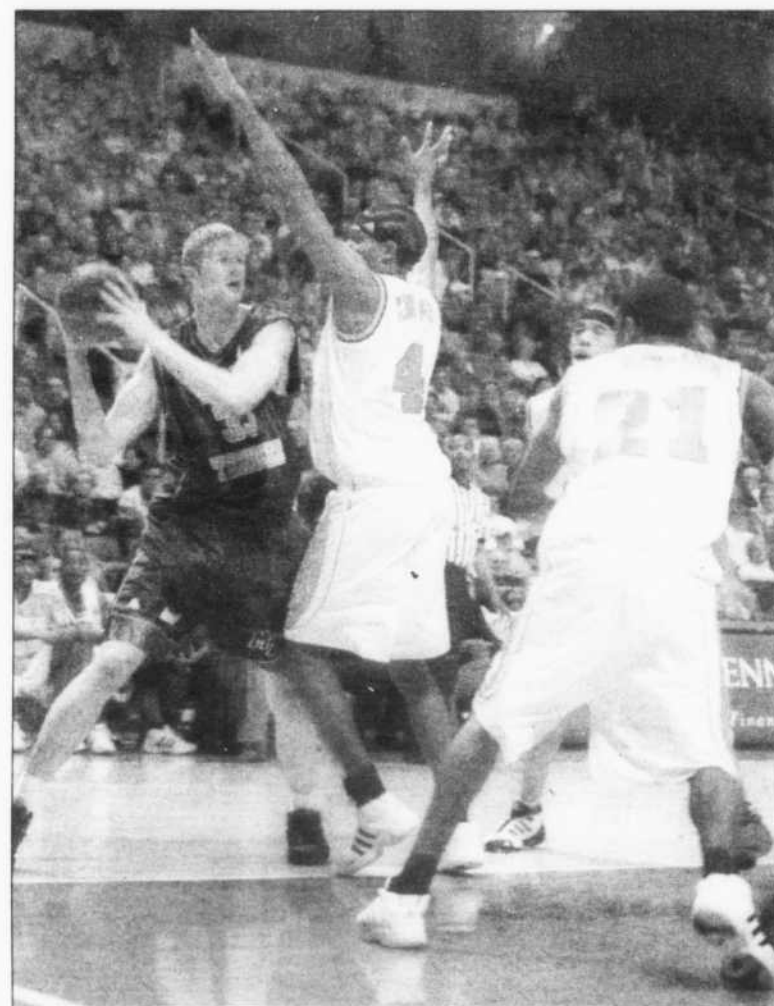


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Lee Nosse scored 1,056 points in his career as a Blue Raider.

season Randy Wiel resigned soon after the SBC Tournament in March. Wiel's career at MTSU spanned six years with a record of 84-90.

"There are some who feel a change is needed, and the program needs to go in another direction,"

Wiel said. "I just hope they give the next coach time to turn it around."

Kermit Davis Jr. was hired to replace Wiel as the head coach of the Blue Raider basketball team. Davis comes from LSU where he spent five years as the associate head coach. ♦

# Lady Raiders close season 16-3, 7-7 in SBC

By Justin Ward  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider basketball team finished the season with a 16-13 record and a 7-7 record in the Sun Belt Conference.

They opened up the season with a win against Tennessee State 77-57. The second game of the season was a very close loss to No. 16 Georgia 72-77. Their first conference game was a win against the University of New Orleans 77-54.

Their wins and losses went back and forth for most of the season. They finished up the regular season with two conference losses. They lost to Denver 66-75 and to Western Kentucky 62-66.

They won in the first round of the SBC Tournament against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette 90-59, but they lost again to Denver in the second round to put them out of the tournament with a score of 63-78.

Senior Jamie Thomatis led the

team, averaging 18.2 points a game. She averaged 6.1 rebounds a game and had a .844 free-throw shooting percentage.

Thomatis also had a .531 field goal shooting percentage and a .345 three-point shooting percentage. She also was named to the Sun Belt All-Tournament Team.

Freshman Patrice Holmes was second highest on the team, averaging 12.6 points per game with a team high tying 6.1 rebounds per game. She shot with a .488 field

goal shooting percentage on the season with a .271 three-point shooting percentage.

Sophomore Jennifer Justice was third-highest on the team, averaging 8.9 points a game and 4.4 rebounds. She had a .487 field goal shooting percentage and shot .725 percent from the free throw line.

The Lady Raiders have a lot of young talent on the team with seven freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors leaving. ♦





MT

## Tennis

## Raiders finish 2nd in SBC

By Rebecca Pickering  
Assistant Sports Editor

After tying a school record with 12 consecutive wins, the MT men's tennis team finishes its season 16-7, the same record it closed its 2001 campaign with.

Led by head coach Dale Short and starting the season ranked 37th nationally, the Blue Raiders kicked off their spring season in Hawaii with a 6-0 victory as a sign for things to come.

They continued their success, winning the following 11 matches, six of which were against ranked opponents.

The Blue Raiders were ranked as high as 20th in mid-March but began a descent after their first season loss against No. 31 South Alabama March 14 in the HEB Invitational. MT then fell to five of the next six ranked opponents they faced, including two more meetings with USA.

In the Sun Belt Championship, the Blue Raiders placed second behind USA. Senior Robert Gustafsson, junior Daniel Klemetz

and sophomore Michael Staniak were named to the SBC All-Conference team in singles. The duo of Gustafsson and Oliver Foreman and the team of Klemetz and Kirk Jackson were honored for their doubles work.

Klemetz was ranked 17th in the preseason and climbed as high as No. 12 in the fall. Never ranked lower than 17, Klemetz closes out his season with a ranking of 14 and a record spring record of 15-2.

The first loss came in his first outdoor match at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center Feb. 24 against Georgia Tech. Roger Anderson pulled out a 4-6, 4-6 win. The other loss came in mid-April when Vanderbilt's Bobby Reynolds used his home court advantage to wipe Klemetz 5-7, 4-6.

Gustafsson was ranked No. 50 in preseason polls. However, he fell in the rankings as he finished the season 11-6 and is not ranked in the most recent ITA poll. Gustafsson hit a lull as he dropped 3 2-set matches in a row to Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Miami and

Mississippi State.

Staniak, only in his second season with the Blue Raiders, played a vital role in the team's success this year. Generally playing in the No. 4 position, Staniak added 15 singles wins for MT this spring. With only five spring losses, he improves on his fall record of 7-5.

In doubles, Foreman and Gustafsson were ranked No. 7 in the preseason. They held it together through the fall and were ranked as high as No. 5 in the Feb. 20 poll. Prior to this poll in the spring season, the duo captured wins in their first five matches. Following the poll, the team was met with two losses against GT and Memphis. Foreman and Gustafsson finish the season ranked No. 34 with a record of 15-6.

Klemetz and Jackson were not ranked in the preseason but quickly drew national attention with a 3-1 record in the fall and wins in their first five matches on their spring campaign.

With 34 as their highest ranking in the fall, the duo finishes the spring season ranked No. 44. ♦



File photo

Junior Daniel Klemetz finished the season with a 15-2 record and a No. 15 ranking. He and Kirk Jackson are No. 44 in doubles.

## Lady Raiders end spring season with 14-10 record

By Justin Ward  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider tennis team finished the season 14-10.

The team was not ranked in the preseason but climbed closer to the top in February. They were at No. 70 Feb. 13 and slowly climbed up through the ranks to No. 63 before losing their position again at the end of March. They regained their ranking in April and finished the season No. 61.

The team started off the season with four losses, all to ranked opponents. They played No. 4 Vanderbilt, No. 23 Kentucky, No. 20 Baylor and No. 22 TCU.

The closest match was a 3-4 loss to Baylor.

Their first win was against Rice Jan. 27, 6-1. They defeated No. 71 Clemson 4-3 for their second win of the season and then went on a four-game winning streak.

They only had two losses the rest

of the regular season.

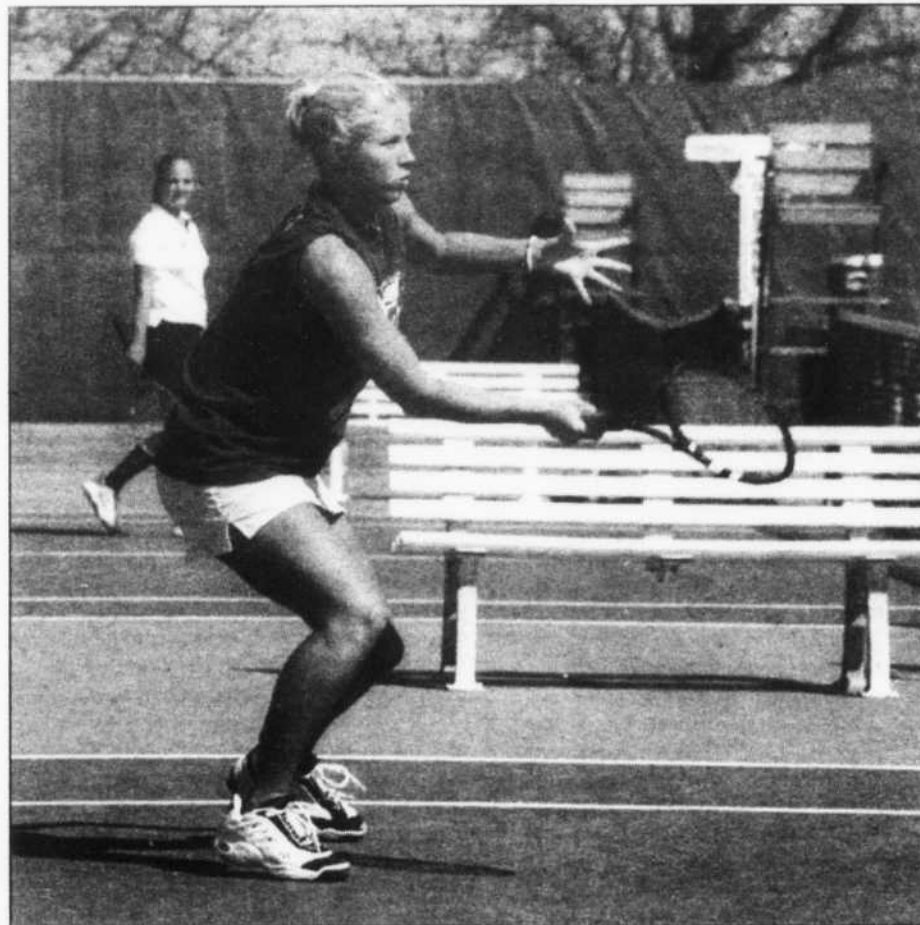
They entered the Sun Belt Tournament off of a five-game winning streak.

They lost the first match of the tournament to Arkansas State 6-0 and went on to play consolation matches for fifth place.

MT defeated Arkansas-Little Rock in their second tournament match 4-3 but lost to New Mexico State University in their final game of the year to get sixth place in the SBC.

Manon Kruse led the Lady Raiders in the 2001-2002 season. She was unranked in the preseason but received a No. 33 ranking in the fall tournaments. She finished the season with a No. 33 ranking.

The doubles team of Kruse and Stacey Varnell also was not nationally recognized in the preseason but became ranked in the fall with a No. 32 rating. Their highest ranking the whole season was at No. 11, and they finished the season ranked No. 12. ♦



File Photo

Georgian Stacy Varnell returns the ball in a spring match. Varnell finished 9-7 in singles for her spring campaign. Teamed with Manon Kruse, the duo remained ranked throughout the season. Starting at No. 32 in the fall, the duo rose to a No. 11 ranking April 3 and finished the season with a ranking of 12 in the final April 17 ITA poll.



Lady Raider

Softball

# Lady Raiders poised for tourney

Analysis by Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

After winning 41 games last season and being picked No. 2 in the Sun Belt Conference, the Lady Raider softball team has struggled this season, posting a 20-28 overall record and a 3-9 record in the Sun Belt.

Middle Tennessee ended last season just short of a Sun Belt championship. The Lady Raiders were eliminated in the Sun Belt Tournament by arch-nemesis University of Louisiana-Lafayette. MT finished the season 0-6 against the Ragin Cajuns.

During the offseason and part way through recruiting, head coach Karen Green resigned and was replaced by former Tennessee State University coach Cindy Connelley.

"There is a talented team in place and a strong administrative infrastructure, both with lofty goals," Connelley said upon receiving the job. "It will be a strong and successful partnership, and I'm anxious to start."

Connelley made some changes, wiping the slate clean as pitcher Stacy Preator told *Sidelines* in a Feb. 18 article.

This season the Lady Raider offense has been hot and cold. The

offense averages 2.8 runs per game. In 27 games, the offense has scored no more than 2 runs. As a team, the Lady Raiders are batting just .238 with a .303 on-base percentage and a .299 slugging percentage.

In the last game against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, the offense scored 1 and 0 runs, respectively. MT dropped both of those games.

Connelley doesn't have a running team or a power team. The team manufactures runs by getting base hit after base hit. A low batting average and on-base percentage leaves the offense without the opportunity to score runs.

On the other side, the MT pitching staff also has given up more than 2 runs in 23 games this season. In the first game against UTC, Jennifer Martinez gave up 2 runs, and Amanda Kendall allowed 1 as the Lady Raiders lost 3-1.

The pitching staff has an impressive ERA but has been victimized by the long ball and doubles.

Martinez boasts a 1.89 ERA with a .199 opponent batting average, but she has given up 14 home runs and 22 doubles this season. Preator posts a 1.93 ERA and .263 opponent batting average, surrendering 11 homers and 22 doubles.



File photo

Kip Phillips sweep slides into second base, reaching the bag with her hand for a stolen base.

The Lady Raiders are not completely out of the Sun Belt race. If MT can sweep last place New Mexico State University May 4-5, they would have a chance at third place.

The Lady Raiders will need Western Kentucky to lose four games, however. The Hilltoppers still have to play NMSU and second place Florida International University.

A third-place finish would equal what the Lady Raiders did last season.

Still, the regular season standings only determine seedings for the tournament.

The tournament allows a team to regroup and make a run much like the Lady Raiders did last season.

MT only has the series with NMSU left before the Sun Belt Tournament.

The Lady Raiders will have to use that series to get the offense going if they want to be successful in the postseason. ♦



File photo

Stacy Preator goes through her windup to deliver the pitch.

## Sun Belt Standings



Team	W	L	Pct.
Louisiana-Lafayette	11	1	.917
Florida International	6	1	.750
Western Kentucky	3	5	.375
Middle Tennessee	3	9	.250
New Mexico State	1	7	.125



## Blue Raider Baseball



File photo

Marshall Nisbett slides into second base as the infielder waits for the throw from the outfield.

# Raiders could miss tourney

Analysis by Kevin Rose  
Staff Writer

The 2002 Middle Tennessee baseball season may have been one of the most anticipated seasons in school history. The Blue Raiders entered the season as the reigning Sun Belt Conference champions and had a talented freshman class ready to step in and make a difference.

Blue Raider fans were excited about another run at the Sun Belt title. Early on, they had a good reason to be excited. The Blue Raiders started the season by going 17-6. Anybody who took in an MT game had to be impressed by freshmen Nate Jagers, Brett Carroll and Josh Archer.

Jagers and Carroll started the season by hitting above .400, and Archer showed signs of making adjustments at the plate.

However, scouting reports came out, and all three saw their average dip. Freshmen pitcher Chris Mobley also shined early. He found himself pitching in key situations, and for a freshman, handled himself very well. Mobley possesses a good arm and with time should be a dominating pitcher for the Blue

Raiders.

As expected, veterans Justin Sims and John Williams picked up where they left off in 2001. Sims started the season hovering around the .500 mark, an unbelievable batting average for any level. However, the recent struggles of the MT offense have forced Sims to see many teams pitch around him.

Williams quickly established himself as the leader of the staff by getting off to a 5-0 start. He was dominating against Southwest Missouri State and Austin Peay, striking out a combined 26 hitters in 17 2/3 innings of work.

Williams' season would end after a start against Western Kentucky when he punched a water cooler, breaking his hand, after having been pulled from the game. After this incident the Blue Raiders' season has gone in a downward spiral. As strong as the Blue Raiders started, they took a U-turn just as quickly. The Blue Raiders have gone on to lose 16 of the last 20 games.

In the second half of the season, the Blue Raiders have been marred by inconsistency. If the Blue Raiders hit, they don't pitch. If they pitch, they don't hit. Adam Larson

has assumed the role of the No. 1 starter for the Blue Raiders but has failed to reach expectations. Larson was given the opportunity to be a starter after spending most of his career as a reliever but has failed to win Sun Belt Conference game.

Steven Kines has been the bright spot of the pitching staff. After a career filled with injury, Kines has bounced back with a 4-0 record on the mound. But once again, a ill-fated pulled rib cage muscle may force him to miss the rest of the season.

The bullpen also has been a weak spot for the Blue Raiders, as Mobley has been the only consistent reliever.

Offensively, the Blue Raiders have been led by Sims all season. He is hitting .401 with 11 home runs and gets limited pitches to hit. Marshall Nisbett has been a double threat for the Blue Raiders on the mound and at the plate.

If the Blue Raiders are going to be successful in the Sun Belt Tournament, they are going to have to put together a complete game — pitching, defense and hitting. But there is a very good chance the Blue Raiders will not make the tourney. ♦

## Baseball team loses to Cajuns

By Kevin Rose and Jonathan Chakales  
Staff Writer and Contributor

The Middle Tennessee baseball team is on a season-long seven-game losing streak after a 5-0 loss Friday and a 15-6 pounding Saturday from the Rajun Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette.

MT falls to 21-22, 3-11 and is in last place in league play.

The Rajun Cajuns improve to 29-15, 11-3 and are in the thick of the Sun Belt race.

Friday night the Blue Raiders bats were tamed by left-hander Justin Gabriel. Gabriel (8-2) threw a complete game shutout, surrendering 5 hits and striking out 8.

MT got a strong start from Adam Larson, but home runs from Brad Saloom and Corey Coles in the top of the second gave the Rajun Cajuns all they would need. Larson (3-5) threw a complete game, giving up 5 runs, 2 earned on 7 hits and striking out 9.

The final blow for the Cajuns came on a 3-run home run by Chase Lambin. With 2 outs, short-stop Jason Howarth made a costly error to allow the inning to extend. Lambin made the Blue Raiders pay with a 3-run home run for the final of 5-0.

The Blue Raiders threatened in the fifth when Gabriel hit three batters to load the bases but worked out of the jam, allowing no runs. The Blue Raiders stranded 10

base runners on the night.

Troy Harp led the Blue Raider offense with 3 hits.

Saturday, Cajun starter Andy Gros and MT starter Travis Horschel were locked into a pitcher's duel until the fifth when ULL put up 6 runs.

The 6-run fifth was highlighted with a grand slam by Coles. The Cajuns put up 4 more in the sixth, two of which were on a 2-run home run by Doug Vicknair, chasing Horschel from the contest. After adding 2 more in the seventh for a 12-0 lead, the Blue Raiders scored twice in the bottom of the seventh on a RBI double from Chad Cooper and a RBI single from Marshall Nisbett. The runs were the first for the Blue Raiders in 19 innings.

The Rajun Cajuns put up a 3-spot in the top of the eighth, and the Blue Raiders added 2 runs in the eighth and the ninth for the final of 15-6. The 2 runs in the ninth came on a Justin Sims 2-run homer. Sims leads the team with 11 home runs.

Gros improves to 6-3 on the season, while Horschel drops to 4-2.

The Rajun Cajuns' hitting attack was led by Vicknair with 4 hits and Coles with 3. The Blue Raiders were led by 2 hits apiece by Chuck Akers, Howarth and Sims.

The Blue Raiders play host to Arkansas State this weekend in a three-game series. ♦

### Game 1

#### Score by Innings

R H E

UL-Lafayette	011 300 000	5 7 1
Middle Tennessee	000 000 000	0 5 2

### Game 2

#### Score by Innings

R H E

UL-Lafayette	000 064 230	15 14 1
Middle Tennessee	000 000 222	6 11 3



MT

## Track &amp; Field

# Raiders' track and field season hits final stride

By Angelica Journagin  
News Editor

It was a very successful season for the Blue and Lady Raider track and field teams, and they need to maintain their momentum as they come to the last month of their outdoor season.

The Middle Tennessee track and field teams started their season in early December at the Murphy Center at the MT Christmas Invitational. The men's team started off the season strong with the team win at the invitational.

The women's team was not as successful, coming in third place overall, but they did make history when freshman Jennifer Howard became the first female pole vaulter in MT history.

After the semester break, the teams traveled to Lexington, Ky., before hosting two more invitationals in the Murphy Center. At the MT Invitational, sophomore Mardy Scales tied the school record in the 55-meters with a time of 6.20 seconds.

In his last eligible season, Jasper Demps provisionally qualified early in the season for the NCAA's with his time of 7.38 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles. For the Lady Raiders, this was the start of their domination in the long and triple jumps. In the long jump, MT placed five of its members in the top six.

Leading the crowd was Kim Freeman with a distance of 19 feet even to finish second place. Third place was Rolanda Howard, fourth

was Letitia Eady, fifth was Stephany Reid and finishing up the run in sixth place was Kiki Deckard.

In the triple jump, Reid took the win with her distance of 40 feet, 4.00 inches. Eady was second place with her distance of 39 feet, 1.50 inches, Howard took fourth and Deckard closed up the top jumpers with a fifth place distance.

The Blue and Lady Raiders had two more meets before they reached the height of their Indoor Season at the Sun Belt Indoor Championships. The track teams went to the meet with high expectations after they were voted most likely to win the 2002 SBC Indoor Championships by the SBC coaches and because they took home the wins last season.

The track and field teams did not disappoint. The Lady Raiders took the team lead early and stayed strong without to finish the meet in first place with 138 points. Their closest competitor was North Texas with 81 points.

Leading the way early in the meet for the Lady Raiders was the jumpers again. Eady, Freeman and Reid took the top three positions in both the triple and long jump. The long jump was a nail-biter, as Freeman did not pull ahead of third place Clarissa Johnson of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette until her third and final jump. Eady and Reid already had clinched first and second place, respectively.

"I hadn't been jumping well in the long jump," Freeman said following the meet. "I was nervous, but I knew I had to get a 5.93 for us to get all three."

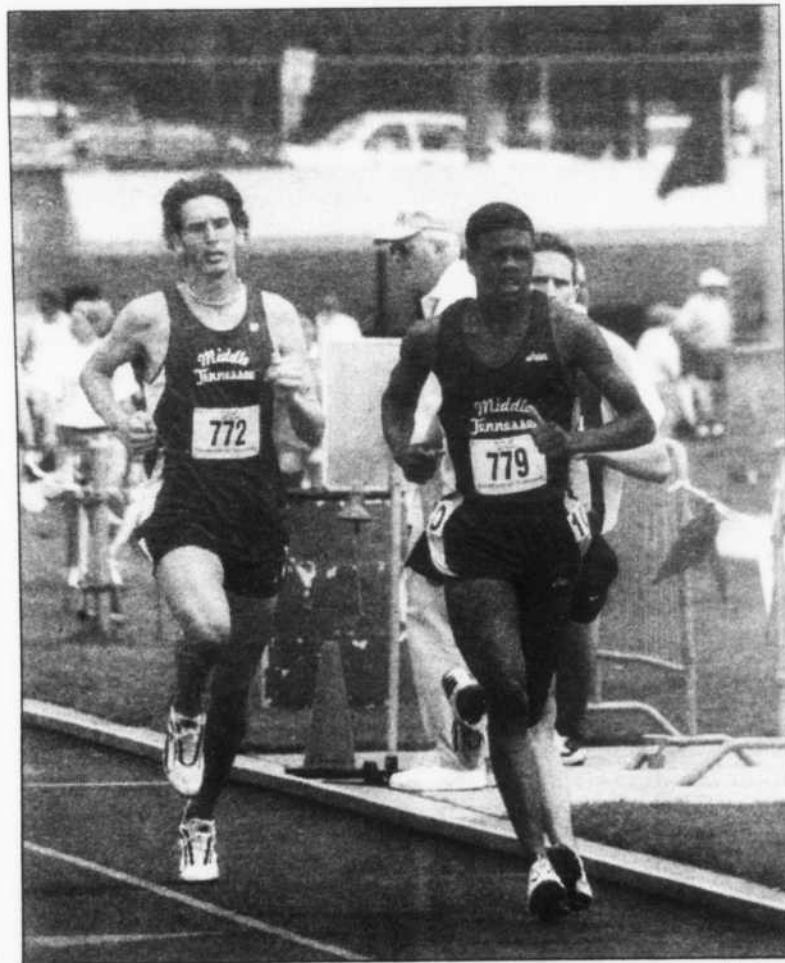
Things were easier for Freeman that Sunday of the meet when she took first place in the triple jump. Freeman led the way to MT history as the Lady Raider jumpers took the top six positions in the event. Eady was second and Reid took third place. "I was so excited when we swept they had to hold me back," Eady said. "We all are very good jumpers, and the team is very talented."

After Reid was Collins, Deckard



File photo

Kim Freeman soars in the long jump at a track and field meet.



File photo

Anthony McGrary and Josh Carroll race in the 3,000-meter.

and Howard clinching the sweep in sixth.

The Blue Raiders did not have such an easy time. They followed Western Kentucky University and Arkansas State University after the first day. With a stronger showing on Sunday, the Blue Raiders managed to pull ahead and take the first place spot.

The NCAA Indoor Championships was not as successful for the Blue Raiders, who sent Godfrey Herring and Scales to the finals in their events. Both members earned All-American honors but finished toward the bottom of their final heats.

The outdoor season has been more turbulent for the teams. The highlights so far have included the dominating run in the men's high jump made by Chris Koger. Koger has already provisionally qualified

for the NCAA Championships.

Herring also has provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 400-meter dash and is working on taking the men's 4-by-400 meter to the NCAA's by running anchor. The 4-by-400 team already has overtaken the record in the event. Omar Ali, Fred Williams, Brad Orr and Herring ran 3:10.27 for third place this past weekend in the Penn Relays.

The women's 4-by-400 meter relay team also has met with success this season when they broke the school record at the Alabama Relays.

The teams start the rest of their season next weekend at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. Their season will finish June 1 at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Baton Rouge, La. ♦



## MT Volleyball/Football

# Volleyball team to host more games

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Lady Raider volleyball team will travel smaller distances next season.

Head coach Lisa Kisee announced a 2002 schedule Friday that provides more regional and home matches.

"I tried to schedule opponents in our region for next season because our schedule really hurt us last year," Kisee said.

"We were gone way too much last year, and it really put a strain on our athletes academically."

Middle Tennessee looks for a fresh start after finishing a disappointing 10-23 in 2001. The Lady Raiders struggled to find the winning touch all season long and fell in the first round of the Sun Belt Tournament.

A bright spot for MT was the emergence of Shakeithia Deckard, who was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year. Deckard finished the season with 448 kills to put her in fifth place in the MT history books for kills in a season.

The Lady Raiders will look for leadership from five seniors in 2002 as well. Katie Thiesen and Kelly Quinn served as co-captains last season.

"We have five seniors for next season and that is the most we have

had in a while," Kisee said.

"So I am looking for strong leadership from this group."

After leading the team in kills per game with 3.56 in 2000, Thiesen played more of a supporting role for the Lady Raiders in 2001.

Instead, it was Deckard who ranked fourth in the Sun Belt with 4.05 kills per game.

Goldie Bilyeu took the main setters position away from Quinn as well. Bilyeu finished the season 10th in the SBC in assists per game with 7.32.

Karissee Baker became the key blocker in 2001 with 1.03 blocks per game. She ranked ninth in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady Raiders open their season at home by hosting the Lady Raider Tournament Aug. 30-31. Chicago State, Purdue, Western Carolina and Evansville will participate in the round-robin tournament.

The Lady Raiders will compete in the Memphis Tournament Sept. 6-7 and the Auburn Tournament Sept. 14-15 in preparation for conference play.

"I really believe this schedule will help us prepare for conference," Kisee said.

Conference games have added importance in 2002 as not every team gets into the Sun Belt Volleyball Championships this sea-

son.

Previously, all 11 teams got into the tournament and the regular season mattered only for seeding. Now, only the top two teams from the East and West Division and the next four teams with the best records will make the tournament.

"It will make things a little more interesting," Kisee said.

"We won't just be playing for seed when we play conference opponents."

The Lady Raiders will host seven Sun Belt contests in 2002. Dispersed throughout conference play are three regional non-conference match-ups.

MT hosts the University of Alabama-Birmingham Oct. 8, plays at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Oct. 15 and plays Belmont Oct. 30.

"I think it is good to play non-conference teams after we start playing conference because they are all such different teams," Kisee said.

"UAB is very quick, UT is a bigger team that runs higher contact and Belmont is a smaller team but plays great defense."

The Lady Raiders return all six starters and have added to signees.

The team will begin preparation for the season in August with pre-season workouts. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Katie Thiesen goes up for the kill during a 2001 game.

# Football team looks for success

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider football team put together an 8-3 season but was left sitting home during bowl season.

The main reason Middle Tennessee was sitting home was a 24-21 loss to the University of North Texas.

This loss served as the low point of the season, and the Blue Raiders just couldn't do enough to garner a bowl invitation.

The high point of the season of course was MT's first win over a Southeastern Conference opponent at Vanderbilt University. The

Blue Raiders started the season right and were rolling along before the loss to the Mean Green.

Next season should be a different story. MT faces off with four SEC teams and hosts NT in a rematch for the Sun Belt championship.

This season, though, the New Orleans Bowl officials have implemented a rule allowing the bowl committee to choose which team plays in the bowl game.

The Blue Raiders underwent several coaching changes in the off-season and received a huge boost when Dwone Hicks announced he would remain a Blue Raider.

Now, MT has the Hicks-4-

Heisman campaign and key games with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Kentucky, University of Alabama and Vandy.

The Blue Raiders must get off to a fast start to be successful in 2002. A fast start will require MT to beat three SEC teams in their first three games.

Still, the Blue Raiders have to take care of business in conference to be guaranteed a bowl game next season.

The Sun Belt is one of the weakest conferences in football, so the Blue Raiders should at least be dancing in New Orleans next bowl season.

The season starts Aug. 31. ♦

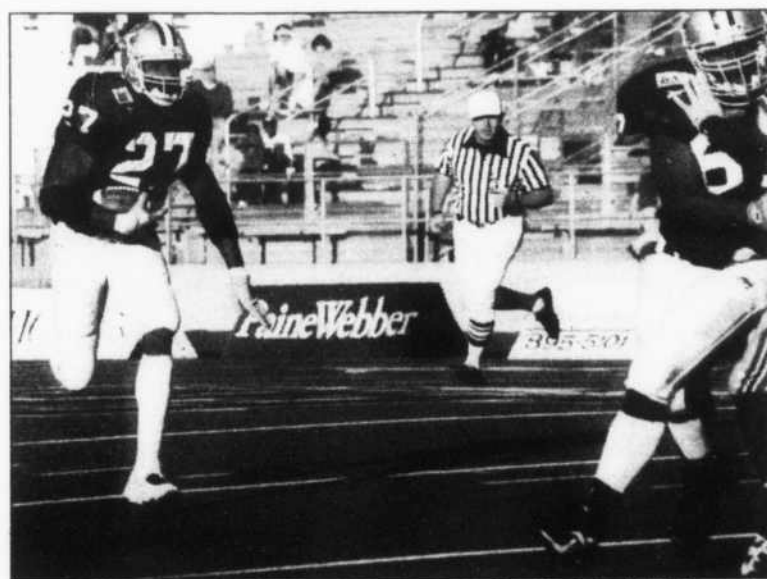


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Tyrone Calico follows his blocker toward the end zone.



Blue Raider

Soccer

# Soccer team anticipates new season

By Colleen Cox  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider soccer team finished the 2001 season 10-9 and now looks for success under a new coach in 2002.

Middle Tennessee had the 15th best scoring offense in the country last season, scoring 47 goals in 19 games. The 2.47 goals per game average ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Blue Raiders set school records for goals, assists and points

in 2001 but struggled with a 3-5 conference record. MT ended the 2001 season losing in the first round of the Sun Belt Tournament.

Still, MT placed three players on the Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference team. Senior Sherri Robbins landed on the team for her defensive efforts.

Danielle LaDuke received Freshman 'of the Year' honors. LaDuke scored 13 goals and 27 points for the Blue Raiders, tying the single-season goals record and posting five game-winning scores.

The forward finished 11th in the nation and third in the Sun Belt in goals per game.

Lisa Langrish was the last MT player to receive All-Sun Belt honors. She scored 18 points, knocking in 9 goals in her freshman season.

Emily Carter ranked second on the team with 21 points.

After the 2001 season, head coach Scott Ginn resigned, leaving Athletics Director Boots Donnelly searching for a coach.

"I am leaving Middle Tennessee to pursue other coaching opportunities," Ginn said upon his resignation. "I had a good experience working here and enjoyed the team. I thought we improved the program and left it better than it was when we got here. I wish everyone the best."

While Donnelly was searching for a coach, the Blue Raiders worked on improving ball handling, passing skills and weight and speed training with assistant coaches in off-season workouts.

In February, Aston Rhoden became the third head soccer coach in MT history. Rhoden came to MT from the University of North Alabama, where he served as the head coach for five seasons and compiled 39 wins.

Rhoden went to work quickly, signing four players to National Letters of Intent. Melissa Wellman of Guntersville, Ala., Lindsey Estes of Memphis, Tenn., J'Keta Wilford of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Caroline McHugh of Medina, Ohio, will play for the Blue Raiders in 2002.

Wellman led her high school



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Lindsey Bopp wraps her leg around a defender to kick the ball.

team to the state Final Four as a sophomore and junior and was named Defensive MVP twice.

Estes was the second leading scorer in the Memphis area with 36 goals and 16 assists, earning All-Metro honors and Best of Preps Recognition from the Memphis *Commercial-Appeal*.

Wilford earned All-Metro Honors in Colorado Springs for four straight years and was voted

the Most Inspirational Player as a freshman.

McHugh led her squad to four straight Pioneer Conference Championships and a state Final Four appearances in 1999.

The Blue Raiders have enjoyed success during a few spring matches and hosted their own tournament. The team begins their 2002 season against Southwest Missouri Aug. 30. ♦

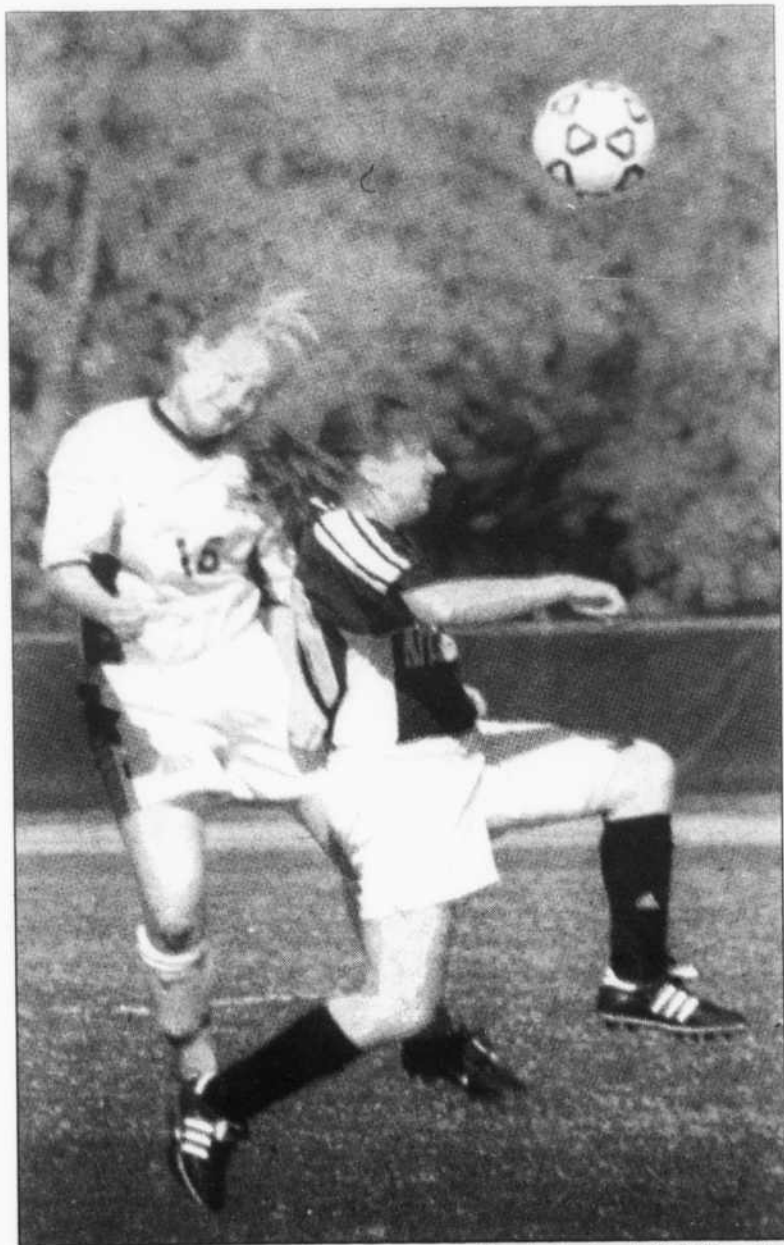


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Midfielder Emily Carter jumps up to head the ball downfield.

## 2002 Middle Tennessee Sun Belt Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 27	Florida International (SB)	Miami, Fla.	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	Arkansas-Little Rock (SB)	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 6	Arkansas State (SB)	Home	1 p.m.
Oct. 11	Denver (SB)	Denver, Colo.	5 p.m.
Oct. 13	North Texas (SB)	Denton, Texas	1 p.m.
Oct. 18	Western Kentucky (SB)	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	South Alabama (SB)	Home	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	Louisiana-Lafayette (SB)	Home	1 p.m.