

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2005

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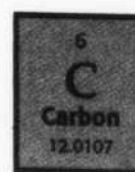
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Rainy

## Leader of the Racket Pack

In Sports, page 6

In :Flash,  
inside



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carbon leaf: the formula for granola-rock musicality

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# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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Volume 80 No. 54

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Uniform grading system proposed

Five different  
grading systems  
now in use

By Michaela Jackson  
Associate News Editor

Beginning next fall, high school students may have to work harder to maintain honor roll status. A task force commissioned by the Tennessee State Board of Education recently issued a report recommending that the Tennessee schools standardize the percentage range of letter grades.

According to the report, in the state of Tennessee, "There are currently five different percentage scale ranges used in the determination of an 'A' letter grade and 16 different percentage scale ranges used in the determination of a 'B' letter grade."

The new standards will require students to achieve a 93 percent to earn an 'A,' and 85 percent to earn a 'B,' a 75 percent to earn a 'C,' and a 70 percent to earn a 'D.'

The reasoning behind the standardization stems from the requirements of the HOPE scholarships. According to the report, "HOPE code specifies that HOPE scholarship eligibility shall consist of a final overall unweighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0."

Since a 3.0 is a 'B' average, standardizing what percent average constitutes a 'B' puts all Tennessee high school students on an equal footing. Additionally, the entire state will now operate using an unweighted grade point average.

In order to reward students for taking more difficult courses, a modified weighting system will allow for the addition of three points to the semester average of honors and national industry certification courses, and five points to the semester average of advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses, according to the report.

"I think it's nice in general," said Jeri Birkhofer, a Rutherford county school teacher, speaking of the new system. "It will level the playing field."

Despite the benefits, Birkhofer is concerned about the effectiveness of the new guidelines.

"You feel like someone is coming in and just mandating something else. There are already so many regulations, like standardized tests. Is this just one more thing?" she said.

"It's always something," she said. "People will weasel around the regulations anyway."

Birkhofer does recognize the need for the standards regarding HOPE scholarship regulation.

"In a way, it's positive because of the HOPE scholarships. Right now, it's very hard to determine who should get them," she said.

As far as how the new stan-

See Grades, 3

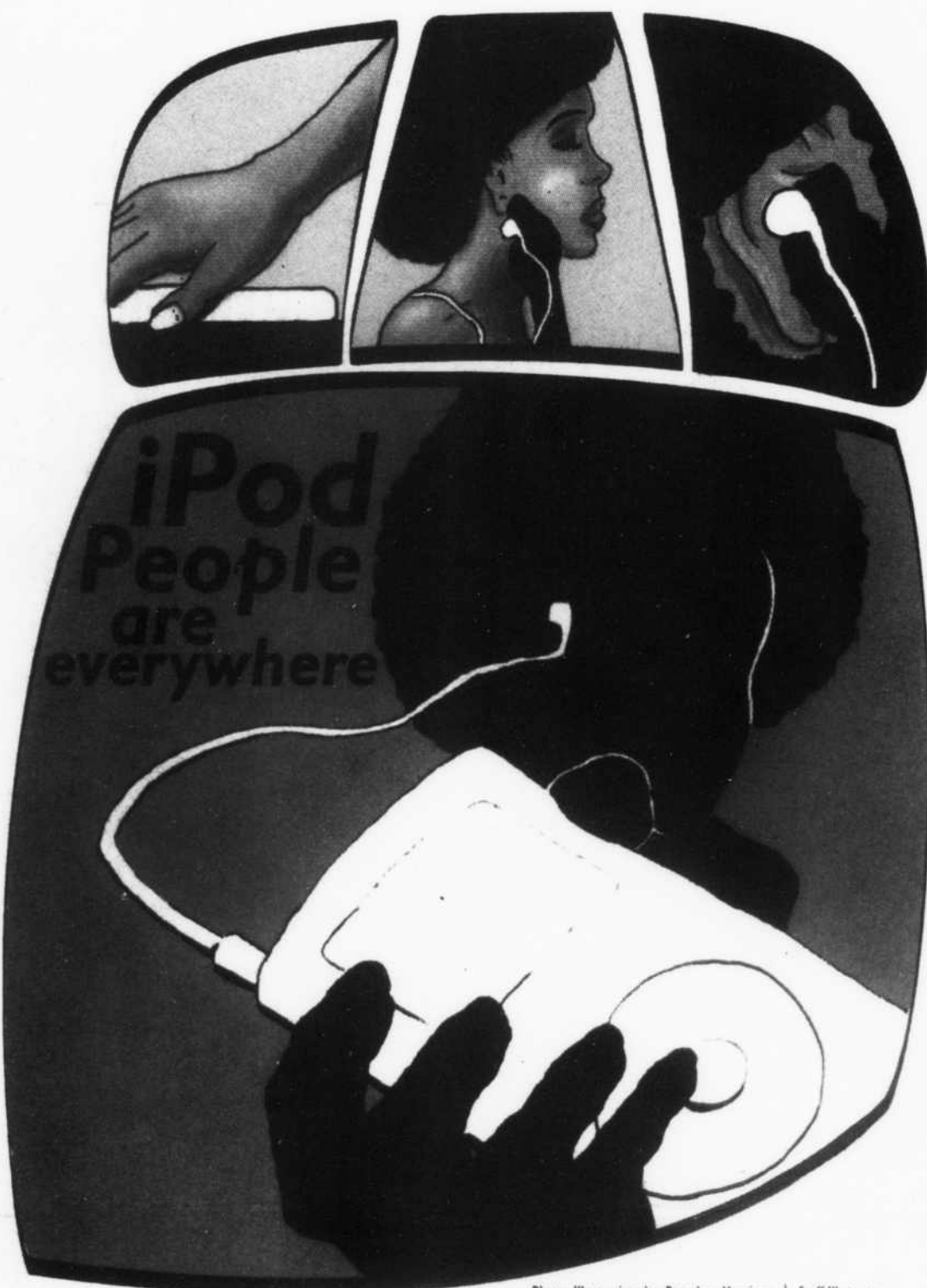


Photo Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

By DeAnn Currey  
Staff Writer

U2's Bono said it would change music more than any invention since the electric guitar.

A full-length album will include around 15 songs, but an iPod can hold up to 10,000. Users can import their own CDs, purchase songs through iTunes or download songs through other means.

The shuffle feature randomizes play, regardless of genre, whether a song is country, hip-hop or Scandinavian electro-boogie.

The iPod has certainly arrived at MTSU. Students can be seen walking to and from class with white headphones flowing out from their pockets, and at Blue Raider Bookstore miniature iPods run between \$250-\$300.

Recording industry professor John Hill's iPod holds a wide variety of music, from Bach's "B minor mass" to K.D. Lang to Dr. Music, an out-of-print jazz-rock band from Canada.

"It's a pretty wide mix," Hill said. "I'm certainly enjoying mine."

Junior computer information systems major Bryan Young's iPod collection is more conventional. While walking to work on campus, Young listened to Dave Matthews Band's "Sugar Will," an unreleased song he downloaded.

Young doesn't listen to his iPod while he studies, but some think it can be an educational tool.

According to Research Machines, a supplier of education software, iPods can be used not only to download music, but they can also be used as a learning tool. A student can record notes, practice oral presentations and store various files.

Also according to Research Machines, by allowing students to be able to record their notes and store various files, the iPods can help students learn foreign languages by allowing them to hear themselves saying the words or phrases over. This is also helpful for students who may be new to a country.

iPods also allow teachers to be creative in their teachings. Using an iPod allows a teacher to

See iPod, 2

## Linebaugh provides résumé software

### Staff Reports

The Linebaugh Library System has installed résumé-building software in the Murfreesboro and Smyrna Libraries. Use of the software is free, and users can access the program on all library computers.

"It gives people a place they can come, at no charge to them, to create a professional résumé to use in their search for employment," said Pete Wood, a clerk at the Murfreesboro branch.

The user-friendly software includes such features as sample resumes in many professional fields and free résumé pointers, according to a press release issued by the Linebaugh Library System.

Additionally, according to the press release, the program

offers job listings, letter-writing advice, general writing help, federal employment information and a guided external interview process. Other features include a salary-finding option, with which users can find jobs in specific pay ranges.

The service has been popular, according to Wood. "I usually help several people a day [with the résumé software]."

The service is receiving positive feedback as well. "We have a number of comments from people who appreciate our service," Wood said.

The service appears to be working. Patrons have been successful in finding jobs using the software.

"I've had a couple of people come back and tell me that they got a job. It makes you feel great knowing that you helped someone," Wood said. ♦

## Student claims Health Services mistreated him

By Dana Owens  
Staff Writer

An MTSU student filed a complaint with the university and the Better Business Bureau against Health Services for unnecessary fees.

Josh Holliday, a non-traditional student, claims he was misinformed about fees while visiting MTSU Health Services in a letter to the Better Business Bureau. Holliday said he went to Health Services for a prescription for an antibiotic, Keflex, to heal a pimple under his arm. During the visit, he said he believes he was unjustly charged \$61 for six blood tests that were performed without his consent.

Holliday said he had received a prescription for the same drug last semester he only paid \$11. However, it is unclear whether Holliday had been tested when he received the medication previously.

"She was carrying on like a used car salesman, repeatedly trying to sell me a bigger and

more expensive model," Holliday of the nurse in a letter. "It was unbelievable!"

Describing himself as a "very low-income" person, Holliday said he was shocked when he was told not only would he be charged a fee for the tests, but the doctor also wanted to perform several more tests.

According to Holliday's letter, the doctor came across problems in his blood work that warranted further tests, which would mean extra fees.

Holliday sent a letter of complaint to Robert Glenn, vice president of student affairs, on Jan. 29. Though Holliday did not respond to e-mails and phone calls for comment, he wrote in the letter that the doctor "told me - never asked my permission - she was going to run a couple of blood tests on me. She never stated they were going to cost me any."

According to Rick Chapman,

See Health, 2

## Performance benefits rape recovery center

By Esparonda Waller  
Staff Writer

MTSU's theater department will perform *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness about violence against women and to support the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center in Murfreesboro.

There will be two performances on Feb. 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tucker Theatre.

According to the V-Day Web site, the organization stages large-scale benefits, films, and campaigns to educate and change attitudes toward violence against women. The films include the documentary "Until the Violence Stops."

V-Day was founded in 1998 as an outgrowth of playwright Eve Ensler's Obie-Award winning play "The Vagina

Monologues."

Ensler said that hundreds of women told her their stories of rape, domestic battery and other violent acts.

"*The Vagina Monologues* is about feeling comfortable with yourself," said speech and theater professor Deborah Anderson. "It's saying this is who we are, we have to like it, and appreciate it."

"V-Day is an awareness campaign that helps women become more aware of the possibilities of rape and it helps men see the violence that women experience," Anderson said.

Valentine's Day is proclaimed as V-Day until the violence stops. The 'V' stands for

See Show, 2

## A jazztastic evening



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MTSU's Jazz Ensemble and the Middle Tennessee Jazz Orchestra perform Wednesday night with jazz composer, arranger and pianist Jim McNeely.



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

Should single people feel left out on  
Valentine's Day?

Opinions 4 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7 • Flash, Inside



## Show: Women will read 'Vagina Monologues'

Continued from 1

victory, Valentine and vagina.

The organization hosts campaigns worldwide by inviting members of colleges, universities and communities around the world to raise money and awareness.

"We are a college campaign because we're not doing the event professionally. Ensler gives MTSU the script without making us pay for anything," Anderson said. "Participants can perform the monologues for three nights, but we're performing two nights because we only had two openings."

Thirty-eight women auditioned for the event, and 26 were selected. When the monologues are performed on a college campus, only women can be in the performance. Men cannot participate in acting, but they may help out in other areas if needed.

Each woman reads the monologues from the script. Choral members will perform a dialogue. Monologues are based on true stories of rape victims.

"There are several monologues that will be performed ... 'Under the Burka' is about the burkas that Afghan women have to wear," Anderson said. "The woman talks about how she isn't allowed to touch her daughter, and how she is repeatedly beaten. 'The Girl Out of My Boy' is about a boy who struggles to find his gender."

In 2004, volunteer activists in the world presented over 2000

V-Day benefit events. Events have been held in Iraq, but they have been shut down.

"There are two organizations that benefit from the event," Anderson said. "MTSU donates 10 percent to 'The Iraqi Women's Fund, Ensler's beneficiary, and we were able to choose our own beneficiary, The Rape Recovery and Prevention Center in Murfreesboro, which will receive 80 percent of proceeds."

Anderson noted that she chose the prevention center because she wanted to do an organization that involved women and represented this year's theme, "Until the Violence Stops."

"V-Day is an awareness campaign that helps people realize that using the word 'vagina' is not bad language," she said. "It encourages victims of rape and other violent acts to speak up and tell what happened to them."

According to Anderson, 1 out of 3 women have been sexually abused or raped. In fall 2004 in Cairo, V-Day began to work in depth to build networks for women and girls.

In seven years V-Day has raised over \$25 million. Advance tickets can be purchased at the theatre and dance ticket office in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for MTSU students. They may also be purchased at the door on the nights of the events. ♦

## Learn to love the latex



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Kirk Armstrong, with the MTSU health, physical education, recreation and safety department, demonstrates effective condom usage to Caroline Chambers and Amy Nance at Tunnel of Love, an event to increase student awareness of sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence education and consequences of unprotected sex.

## iPod: Shuffling could break niches

Continued from 1

record lesson plans, record meetings and organize to-do lists.

Some students just like their iPod for the convenience.

"I have an iPod because it is very convenient for me," sophomore accounting major Tiffany Osborne said. "It is smaller than a Walkman, and you do not have to carry around a bunch of CDs."

"I like my iPod because it gives me something to do on my very long walks around campus," said Neil McKenzie, a sophomore majoring in journalism.

The first iPod was released in 2001, but Hill thinks its roots date back to the 1970s.

Glenn Gould, a Canadian classical pianist, advocated consumers having their own electronic equipment to have more control over the music they consume.

"A lot of his ideas about interaction and about technology in general have come about because the iPod is sort of an outgrowth of what he was talking about," Hill said. "Average consumers would be able to pick and choose things that they wanted to consume musically."

Electronic media professor Roger Heinrich welcomes the new technology and was pleased that iPods have "taken over college campuses." ♦

"I think that iPods will affect the artist the most in a negative way because they will have to work harder to put better cuts on their CDs instead of having just a couple of 'hit' songs on an album," Heinrich said.

CD sales are on the decline, but Hill said it's too early to say whether this could lead artists back to more album-oriented music.

"Popular music has become more disposable and more niched," Hill said.

Hill attributed declining sales to illegal downloading and diminishing quality, but said lack of music education is a factor too.

"We have a whole generation coming up that in many cases has had no music education at all," Hill said. "You have listeners who in many cases [are] not as intelligent and informed as people may have been earlier."

"MTV pushes things toward people, and MTV is about marketing."

The shuffle feature could change the way people listen to

music, depending on how people use it, Hill said. If an iPod shuffles artists like Metallica, Johnny Cash and Public Enemy, niches could be less concrete. But if users shuffle Metallica, Pantera and Norwegian death metal, the niches will remain, Hill said.

"You're just shuffling between variations in the niche," Hill said.

"I think [shuffling] represents young people wanting to make their own choice," Hill said. "[Instead of] 'here's a CD you've got to listen to it in this order.'"

Bono's love for the iPod may be over the top, but Hill thinks Bono might be onto something.

"It is a real change in terms of personal stereo and what the consumer is able to listen to and organize," Hill said. "I don't know if it's going to be as monumental as the electric guitar, which sort of drove all of pop music for the last 40 or 50 years." ♦

## Health: Doctors required to inform patients of additional procedures

Continued from 1

the director of health services, there is no charge for MTSU students to see a doctor or to get a prescription. The charges apply only when additional testing or medication is needed.

Due to patient confidentiality, Chapman could not comment on Holliday's procedure.

General practice calls for the doctor to inform the patient if there will be fees for additional tests, though the procedures differs on a case by case basis.

There have been instances, Chapman said, when students have been refunded due to misinformation of fees or services.

When visiting Health Services, students are required to sign in before they see a doctor. There is a notice in the patient check-in area which clearly warns students to be prepared for unexpected medical expenses.

A list of patient's rights is listed on the MTSU Health Services Web site. These rights include "information regarding fees for services," and "to be

informed of any research aspect of... care and the right to refuse."

After investigating the matter, Robert Glenn said he concluded that Holliday should have been aware that fees always apply when visiting a doctor's office.

He said that he does "not believe the situation warrants any action on part of [the student life] office."

Holliday still hopes to have the fees removed from his school account as he feels the doctor deceived him. ♦



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## Grades: Legislature must approve new rules

Continued from 1

dards will directly affect students, Birkhofer said, "They're just gonna have to adjust. They will need to focus, and know the guidelines. My concern is how grades are given to kids and if they are equitable."

Scott Hurt, an assistant director in the MTSU admissions department, views the guidelines in terms of evaluating prospective students.

"I think anything that is uniform is a whole lot easier. It's a

lot more simple when things are uniform," Hurt said.

"I think this will help universities state-wide – not just us, but every other university in Tennessee," he said.

Hurt expressed concern about cementing a completely unweighted grade point average system across the state.

"It would affect people who are in high school now. We would probably hear from a lot of parents." ♦

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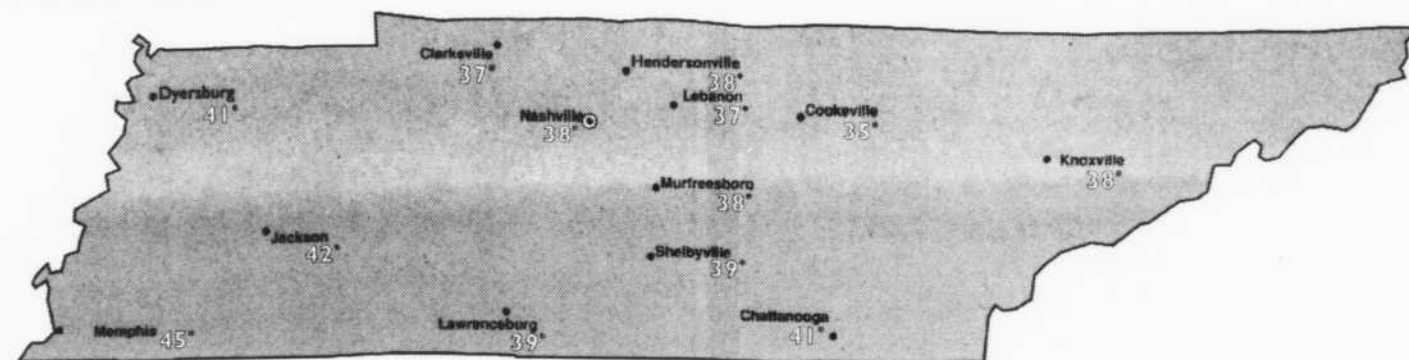
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## Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



### Friday



### Saturday



### Sunday



### Monday



### Tuesday



## CRIME LOG

Compiled By

Michaela Jackson – Associate News Editor

Thursday, Feb. 3 - 4:35 a.m.

Wood Felder Parking Lot  
Harassing/threatening phone calls

Subject reported harassing phone call from a male who threatened to rape her roommate "just like the other two girls on campus."

Thursday, Feb. 3 - 7:30 p.m.

Nicks Hall  
Theft under \$500

Complainant stated that someone entered his room during Christmas break, stole two CD's and unplugged his refrigerator.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 12:13 a.m.

Scarlett Commons  
Underage Alcohol Consumption

Area Coordinator advised that he received a noise complaint regarding a party with possibly both alcohol and drugs present. Citations issued to Tim Blue of Womack Lane G-21 and to Keith Christmas of Scarlett Commons 623.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 2:13 a.m.

Nicks Hall  
Theft under \$500

Fire extinguishers were discharged and vandalized. Two fire extinguishers were reported missing from the second floor.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 2:16 p.m.

Family Apartment D  
Vagrancy/Trespass warning

Subject called to advise that a black

male was banging on her door and window.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 2:41 p.m.

Greek Row  
Vandalism under \$500

Subject advised that someone vandalized his red Camaro.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 3:02 p.m.

Business and Aerospace Building  
Theft under \$500

Student filled out report in reference to stolen wallet.

Friday, Feb. 4 - 9:30 p.m.

McHenry Hall  
Suicide threat

Student threatened to commit suicide by overdose and was transported to the emergency room.

Saturday, Feb. 5 - 1:59 a.m.

Corlew Hall  
Underage Alcohol Consumption

Subject issued state citation for underage alcohol consumption.

Saturday, Feb. 5 - 11:41 p.m.

Scarlett Commons  
Assault

Officer went to Scarlett Commons to look for fight suspects.

Monday, Feb. 7 - 12:19 a.m.

Reynolds Hall  
Theft under \$500

Report for stolen clothes in

Reynolds laundry room.

Monday, Feb. 7 - 12:58 a.m.

Drug Abuse/Possession/Sale/Delivery of Marijuana

Scarlett Commons

Robert L. Robinson was arrested for felony possession of marijuana with intent to resell and three counts possession of a loaded weapon on campus. Christopher S. Schader was charged with felony possession of marijuana with intent to resell.

Monday, Feb. 7 - 3:33 p.m.

Nicks Hall  
Burglary

Subject requested officer in reference to his books being stolen.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 - 1:04 a.m.

Student Recreation Center  
Assault

Individual was breaking up a fight at an MTSU soccer game and was bitten.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 - 1:18 p.m.

James Union Building  
Theft over \$500

Camera reported stolen from Sidelines/Midlander office after yearbook closed in July 2004.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 - 4:28 p.m.

Cummings Hall  
Theft under \$500

Student had iPod stolen from dorm room. ♦

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## From the Editorial Board

### Show people a little respect: tips for the iPod aficionado

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably seen someone walking around campus to the beat of the music on his or her iPod. The popularity of the portable music player has grown tremendously, and with two additional versions of the device now available – the iPod Mini and the Shuffle – it's safe to say the iPod has become a mainstay of the modern music lover.

Unfortunately, it seems that with every new device comes new annoyances. Internet chat rooms (and particularly instant messenger software) gave the world the shorthand known as Netspeak, much to the bane of people who appreciate language.

The proliferation of the Web cam has given birth to Web sites where frightening-looking people dance for all the world to see, whether it wants to or not.

The iPod, for all its novelty and convenience, can prove to be a frustrating, if not absolutely grating, irritation when trying to interact with people who can't stand to part with their little music boxes.

So for the benefit of everyone, the Editorial Board offers the following advice to iPod owners everywhere:

Keep your music to yourself. We all have different tastes, and your favorite mix of Metallica might drive the Winona Ryder fan next to you to kill someone – probably you.

On that note, don't dance while listening to your iPod. Yes, most of us have seen the commercials of the silhouettes grooving to popular tunes. However, you probably don't have nearly as good a sense of rhythm as the people who were used to create those ads. Spare yourself some embarrassment and keep your arms and legs to yourself.

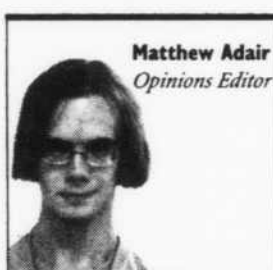
Most importantly, show a little respect to people when they talk to you. You will not suffer terribly if you have to take your headphones out of your ears for a minute or two to have a conversation with a friend or to otherwise communicate with another human being. Turn down the volume, look us in the eye, and pay attention to the person waving you down.

Who knows? You might even have as good a time talking and listening to someone as you would have had listening to the hit single you just bought for 99 cents on iTunes. ♦

## From the Opinions Editor

### What's up, doc: Study shows carrots may prevent cancer

Remember how your mother always told you to eat your vegetables, rattling off a list of reasons why you should obey her infinite wisdom? Add one more reason to the list: eating carrots may help fight cancer.



Matthew Adair  
Opinions Editor

Scientists at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne have discovered that a natural pesticide found in carrots called falcarninol, reduces the occurrence of cancer in laboratory rats by a third. Lead researcher Kristen Brandt is excited about the discovery and intends to test other vegetables and fruits for cancer-fighting properties.

No one's entirely sure how effective falcarninol will be in humans, but the chance that a few servings of food one should be eating anyway can keep the radiologist and surgeon at bay is certainly something worth looking in to.

Ironically, some of the low-carb diets that have been popular amongst people trying to starve off those extra pounds have cut carrots from the menu. Why? Because everyone's favorite rabbit food has a high glycemic (sugar) index, and sugars are prohibited to the carb-conscious.

Dieticians have been warning for some time of the risks of the long-term use of a low-carb diet, and the discovery of the newest potential benefits of eating your fruits and veggies puts one more nail in the coffin of such health fads.

Of course, who eats a raw carrot plain? I'd like to see more investigations, ones that replicate real-life situations. Will compounds in your ranch dip interfere with the preventative properties of falcarninol? If you cook your carrots to make stew, will you also be cooking away anything that can help you stay healthy? We eat so many different things in a single day that the different reactions that can take place inside the body can lead to any number of benefits or problems.

Still, the chance that something so simple can help so much is something to take note of. So load up your plate and chomp away: you might thank yourself for it later. ♦

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

# Democracy gives Iraqis opportunity

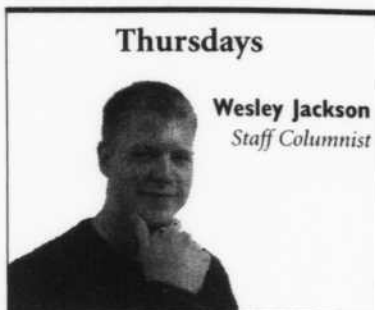
Winston Churchill once said, "No one pretends that democracy is perfect, or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

And the spreading of democracy is our new supposed reason for being in Iraq right now.

There is a great deal of excitement and uncertainty regarding last month's elections in Iraq – the first multi-party election since 1924.

Larry Elder and Joseph Farah, both writing for www.WorldNetDaily.com, reported the enthusiasm and gratefulness of the Iraqi people to U.S. troops for procuring free elections. These elections represent a dream-come-true for many, and a death knell for the terrorist insurgents.

According to the International Republican Institute (with no association the political party), 49 percent of the Iraqi people believe the country, with its new beginnings of democracy, to be going in the right direction. Around 39 percent of Iraq thinks the country is going in a bad direction, though



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson  
Staff Columnist

most of the concern here is toward security issues. Regardless, the majority of the Iraqi people (65 percent) were excited for the opportunity to vote.

Larry Elder, in his Feb. 3 article, quoted several newspapers that had talked to Iraqis about the Jan. 30 election. One Baghdad Sunni engineer was quoted saying, "Everybody feels that he is human today and can have a free voice ... I think today will show these terrorists lost their chance in this country ... I want to thank the U.S. soldiers for bringing this to Iraq."

There are several inspiring stories to be added to comments like this. There are anecdotes of people in Iraq standing in line for hours for the privilege to vote, about the elderly being rolled out in their wheelchairs to let their voices be heard, thanking the American

troops and children playing soccer in the streets, celebrating their new freedom. But not everyone is so excited. Along with the excitement for new voting rights, there is a lot of tension in the air.

One Iraqi blogger, "Diary from Baghdad," wrote in broken English last week, "removing [Saddam] was a dream to me, I still have hope for the future ... the possibility of being killed now is much more higher than in Saddam's days ... I voted, yes, I'm happy to do it but still I don't know the result of this election whether will be better or worse to Iraq."

I also visited "The Independit," a blog site used by many U.S. soldiers. It really is helpful to read what these men and women have to say – they're on the front lines in a way that CNN is not. While there is a great deal of optimism among our troops, there is likewise much uncertainty. It's easy to be motivated to topple an evil dictator.

What is difficult is establishing a lasting, peaceful culture? There are still a lot of doubt whether or not this can actually happen in Iraq, whether the people are ready.

Winston Churchill also said that, "The best argument against

democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." Exactly.

It would be easy to say the Iraqi people weren't ready for democracy. It's easy to say these new elections will turn out to be complete failures; that these new freedoms were not worth the price of American blood.

But you know, talk to us average American voters and see if we look all that worth fighting for. We don't. And yet we've flourished, not, I believe, because we have a silver-bullet form of government, but because we have a form of government that allows freedom for opportunity.

This is what has been given to the Iraqi people. For better or worse, those freedoms for opportunities, such as the new schools opening and the flourishing of free-press publications, provide hope for a better future.

And in this world of sin and woe, that hope is the only thing worth fighting for, worth dying for. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a senior English major and can be reached at wtj2b@mtsu.edu.

## Bush unwise in spending too little on too much

Trying desperately to renounce the "spends like a liberal" label, the George W. Bush Administration proposed their \$2.57 trillion budget for the 2006 fiscal year on Monday. The proposed budget would eliminate 150 federal programs, and reduce funds for many more, including veterans' affairs and education.

Among the many outrageous cuts proposed, the Environmental Protection Agency faces a 6 percent decrease. These monies would primarily be cut from storm-water run-off projects and air purity standards. An upgrade to the some of the country's nearly century old sewage systems has been slashed as well. Don't worry. I mean, who needs clean air or water anyway?

After crusading for No Child Left Behind, and leaving it \$27 billion underfunded, the Bush Administration wants the nation's literacy program for underprivileged families, Even Start, terminated. In addition to whole educational programs being wiped out, the science and technology budget will likely lose \$877 million.

Medicaid would also be hit hard. An expected \$45 billion will be sliced off, affecting more than 45,000 people in Tennessee alone.

This, combined with the uncertain future of TennCare, would leave an even larger number of Tennesseans without any healthcare at all.

A wide variety of programs are being reduced. Some of the president's proposals would reduce spending on veterans and "poor people." Far-reaching effects on the Tennessee Valley Authority and the structure of the military will be felt as well.

On the bright side, Tennessee has received some extra finances. Bush has allocated \$500,000 each for the Memphis Biotech Foundation and the Museum of Appalachia. The Sam Davis Memorial



(This Title for Rent)

Gretchen Jenkins  
Staff Columnist

Association will receive \$100,000 as well. Unfortunately, that does nothing but take one step forward to the many more steps already taken backwards over the last four years.

Here's the icing on the cake: Bush has failed to incorporate any funding for our troops in Iraq after September. Last year, he budgeted for the war inadequately. This year, he isn't even budgeting. Our men and women in uniform deserve better. How can you push a war and gain the American peoples' support, when you don't even subsidize your own proposals?

It is true that federal spending needs to decrease. If not, this year's administration might break its own record for driving up the federal deficit. But why pull it from programs that are actually needed and used? Why not cut from somewhere else? Why not eliminate the tax cuts? Reaganomics has already had its trial run, and it was a dismal failure.

Congress has until October to revise the budget, but don't worry: Even if they don't, it will all be worth it. In return for a permanent tax cut, we will only have to sacrifice clean air and water, literacy and healthcare. We can afford that, can't we?

Gretchen Jenkins is a freshman political science major and can be reached at gmj2d@mtsu.edu.

## Letters to the Editor

### Arguments against Forrest unfounded

To the Editor:

Brandon Bouchillon's criticism of Nathan Bedford Forrest is full of drama and showmanship, but short on any sort of judgment. He seems to believe that Forrest has been convicted of three separate crimes against humanity. I believe a response to Bouchillon's opinion is an order.

Having ties to slavery was common for "heroes" on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. This is not a pleasant fact, but it is true. Should the Lincoln Memorial be torn down because his famed Emancipation Proclamation intentionally excluded all the slaves in the Union slaves states (which include Washington, D.C., Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri)?

As to the surrender of Ft. Pillow, it never happened. Major William Bradford, commander of the Union forces at the time, refused Forrest's demand for unconditional surrender (Wyeth 323). Whatever happened at Ft. Pillow, Mr. Bouchillon says himself the events surrounding the attack on Ft. Pillow is still hotly debated, and he has no business reporting his opinions on the battle as fact.

Forrest did serve as the head of the Klu Klux Klan until 1869, but Bouchillon ignores, or is ignorant of, the fact that Forrest gave orders to disband the organization (Chalmers 19). Why did he do this? He believed the clan had become perverted in its aims and its methods; perhaps he disapproved of the "fabled night rides, cross burnings and even lynchings" every bit as much as Bouchillon does. Ultimately, the KKK was very secretive about its business, and Bouchillon's speculation is just that, speculation.

If Forrest were living, bringing such unsubstantiated claims to bear would be considered libel, and as a journalist, Bouchillon ought to understand this. Our society has not "let this one slip through," we have considered actual facts and found Forrest to be a worthy hero.

Brandon Ennis  
Freshman

### Politics play no part when hiring professors

To the Editor,

More than one recent opinion column has pondered the reasons that the proportion of left-leaning and right-leaning university professors seems to be skewed in favor of the left. While I am unaware of any statistics that confirm this suspicion, I will say that I share the same suspicion, especially in the case of the Liberal Arts. It is true that if university faculty were a random cross-section of the American people, we would expect departments to be split roughly 50-50. So why aren't they?

Is this another liberal plot to spread liberalism? I have served on numerous search committees and I can confidently say that the list of no-no questions is so long that when a hiring decision is made, it is based on the candidate's merit and nothing else – just as it should be. Questions about politics, marital status, children, religion and a whole slew of other topics are off limits at the interview and in interview-related discussions. You might think you can guess a candidate's political leanings by looking over his or her research record for political undertones, but professors are notorious for loving topics that they also disagree with, so that is hardly a safe bet. Safe to say the hiring practices are politically unbiased.

But if the apparent "liberal majority" at MTSU is not a result of biased hiring procedures, then what causes it? I propose a much better question: Why do fewer right-leaning individuals apply for university teaching jobs to begin with?

Ric Morris  
Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics

## SIDELINES

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## AD Search Update

Search Firm Refuses to Talk  
Search Committee, Faculty Senate  
Still in Dark  
First Search Committee meeting  
Wed., Feb. 16 @ 2 p.m.

# Blue Raiders finish homestand with North Texas

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team heads out west this Saturday, but tonight MT welcomes Sun Belt Conference foe North Texas.

Last Saturday night, the Blue Raiders ended a three-game home losing streak with an 82-69 victory over Florida International. MT (14-9, 4-5) will be looking to continue its winning ways against fourth-place SBC West team UNT (11-9, 4-5) at Murphy Center.

The Mean Green are also coming off a victory, in which UNT defeated New Mexico State 79-67. Leonard Hopkins, who averages 17.5 points per game (sixth place in the SBC), leads UNT. Hopkins dropped in 24 points in the win on Saturday.

Calvin Watson is second on the team with 12.7 points per game. The Mean Green have not been on a two-game winning streak since Dec. 22, 2004.

"They've got as good as wings, some of the best tandem wings in good as the league in Watson and

Hopkins," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "Just two athletic guys that shoot the ball from three, can take it off the dribble, and both of them combine to average 31 or 32 a game. So the key to their team is depth in their perimeter players."

In its only meeting last season, UNT defeated MT at the Super Pit in Denton, Texas, 69-64 on Feb. 12. Tipoff for tonight's game is at 7:30 as part of the doubleheader with the Lady Raiders taking on Denver earlier in the night.

The second game of the weekend has the Blue Raiders traveling to Denver, the toughest home environment in the SBC. The Pioneers are 9-1 this season at home, with the only loss coming against Stanford, 54-50, on Dec. 13.

Before the season started, the Pioneers were picked to finish last in the SBC West. Right now, Denver holds the top spot at 14-7, 8-1. Part of the reason is the play of center Yemi Nicholson.

Last week, Nicholson scored 28 in the 79-72 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette on Saturday. Nicholson was named SBC Player of the Week for

See Denver, 6

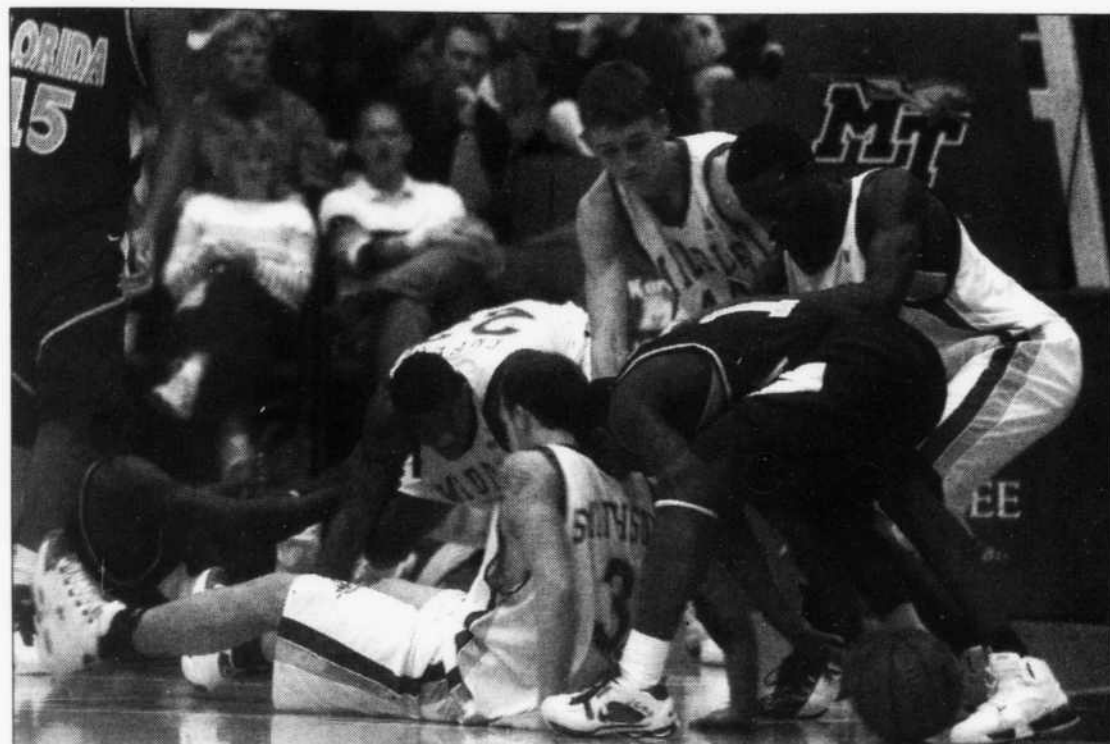


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT's Marcus Morrison (right) and his teammates battle for a loose ball against FIU.

## Leader of the racket pack



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT senior Jennifer Klaschka (center) has become the leader for the Lady Raiders. From left: Player assistant Laura McNamara, Claudia Szabo, Ann-Kristin Siljeström, Klaschka, graduate assistant Carien Venter, Ana Maria Cibils and Jacqui Williams (not pictured: Emily Vest and head coach Neil Stapp).

## Klaschka serves as binding force after coaching change

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

There is a point at which all of us must become independent and realize our potential.

Like many of us, Middle Tennessee tennis player Jennifer Klaschka has realized that time is now.

Both on the court and off, Klaschka has matured immensely in her three-and-a-half years at MTSU. With a coaching change occurring at the beginning of the season, she could not have picked a better time.

As a young girl in Germany, Klaschka was a quick study. Her talent was recognized right away, and she was soon inundated with free court time and other perks. In her formative years, she admired fellow Germans Boris Becker and

Steffi Graf.

"Steffi was great. I liked her because she was a fighter," Klaschka said.

Now it seems as though the senior has adopted that quality for herself. Last fall, Klaschka was ranked No. 63 nationally in the ITA poll, and she has followed up with two impressive singles wins to open the spring season.

In the first match of the season against Linda Johansson of Belmont, she fought back from a first-set deficit to win in a tiebreak. The sailing was a bit smoother in her match against Troy, but the 6-1, 6-2 score is just another indicator of Klaschka's emerging toughness.

"I've changed a lot since I've been here. I've realized how important it is to always be fighting on the court," Klaschka said.

As part of her transformation, Klaschka has also gradually slipped into the role of team leader. Fitting this mold has become much more important since the departure of former head coach Randy Holden on Jan. 31, five days before the team's first match.

"I'm definitely ready to step up," Klaschka said. "My job is to support everyone, watch the matches and help out the coach however I can."

Klaschka acknowledges the difficulties that can come with a sometimes unenviable position.

"Sometimes you want to have a bad attitude. But as part of the team, you realize how important it is for everyone else that you have a positive attitude," Klaschka said.

Perhaps most importantly, she accepts the challenge of being a strong role model for

younger players. That means refusing to give up and playing every point with intensity.

"On the court, I've learned when I'm down to get myself up again and play well," Klaschka said.

Fortunately, it seems that the senior is not alone in her quest for a successful season. The Lady Raiders have a special relationship that reaches beyond the confines of a team.

"Everyone is helping out each other, and that's the way it should be. We really have a good relationship with each other," Klaschka said.

"We go out together. We are not only teammates, but we are friends. It couldn't be better," she added.

Klaschka also has help in the form of interim head coach

See Klaschka, 6

## Lady Raiders look to halt losing streak

By Jori Rice  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will take on Denver and North Texas this weekend for more Sun Belt Conference action.

On Thursday, MT will play the Lady Pioneers for another SBC game. However, the Lady Raiders have to refocus after two straight losses on the road.

Last Thursday, MT lost to Western Kentucky 71-67 in overtime. Then, on Saturday, the Lady Raiders went to Miami to play Florida International and were defeated 66-55.

"It was a disappointing loss," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "Our effort and execution were all poor."

Although the Lady Raiders had trouble Monday night and last Thursday, there are still a few advantages in MT's favor. First, the game against the Lady Pioneers will be played at home in MT's territory.

MT (14-7, 6-2 SBC) is looking for a victory, and the team will look for big games this weekend from two talented upperclassmen.

MT senior Patrice Holmes averages 14.6 points per game, which makes her the leading scorer.

Holmes was also named 2004-05 SBC Preseason Player of the year. She is first in career steals at MT (299) and third in assists (411).

Junior Tia Stovall helps Holmes a great deal. Stovall averages 13.2 ppg and is the leading rebounder with 5.6 per game.

Then, sophomore Krystle Horton comes in with an average of 11.6 ppg. Horton is second in rebounds with 5.4 and is also second in steals with 2.1 per game.

Another sophomore who contributes is Chrissy Givens. Givens averages 10.3 ppg and is second in assists with 2.8 per game.

Meanwhile, Denver (4-17, 2-7 SBC) will look to improve its record.

Junior Venice Adams leads the Lady Pioneers with 11.5 points per game and senior Tasha Jones adds 9.8.

The Lady Pioneers average 52

See Slide, 6

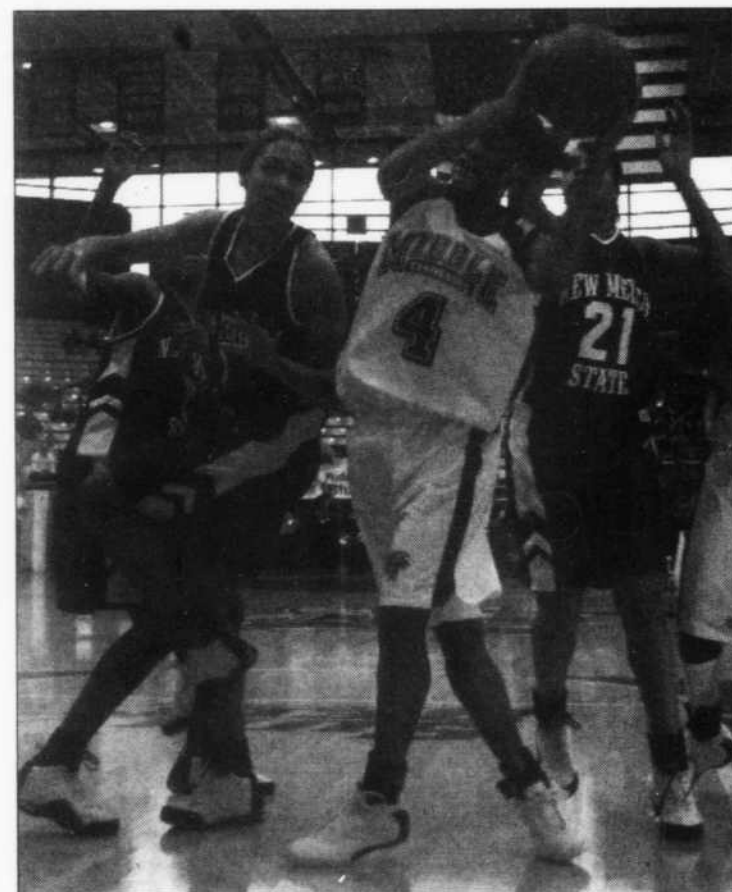


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT's Krystle Horton is averaging 11.6 points per game.

## Men's tennis squad returns to face Georgia Tech, Furman

By Mark Emery  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team returns home after a tough road trip, in which they won two out of three matches.

"I am fairly pleased that we came out 2-1 on the road trip," head coach Dale Short said. "I felt like we had a chance to beat Louisville. If we had played them at home, I feel nine out of 10

times we would beat them."

Now the Blue Raiders prepare for a four-match homestand at the Racquet Club. Their first of four matches at home will be against Georgia Tech, who currently ranks No. 35 in the nation. The Yellow Jackets are 3-0 on the season and have won their matches 7-0 each time.

Of the nine players on the GT roster, they only have one senior and one junior. They are led by

Jose Luis Muguruza, a sophomore, who is currently ranked No. 25 in the nation in men's singles.

"Anytime you play at home, it's an advantage," Short said. "They are very talented team, but having a young team and playing on the road can be difficult for any team."

Georgia Tech will be the third-ranked opponent the Blue Raiders have faced early in the

season. Short said he believes this helps the team in the long run.

"It's critical. I think we have the talent to be a Top 25 team," Short said. "I think it is important to expose the players often to as good a schedule as we can and put them in [a] situation where they can improve."

Last year, the Blue Raiders lost 5-2 to Georgia Tech on the road. They are 5-4 against them all-

time. Short said two years ago MT lost to Georgia Tech at home in a close 4-3 match.

The following day, MT will play Furman, who is 2-3 on the season. Their three losses on the season have all come against Southeastern Conference opponents. They lost at No. 3 Florida, No. 4 Georgia and No. 36 Alabama.

"We can't look past Furman," Short said. "They are a talented

team and can be very dangerous."

Furman will play one more SEC opponent before arriving in Murfreesboro. They will first take on Vanderbilt, then play MT the following day.

Both matches will be played at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. The matches will take place on Saturday and Sunday and will start at noon both days. ♦





# Lady Raiders begin weekend road trip

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will take a spotless Louisville on Friday and New Mexico on Saturday at Louisville.

Coach Neil Stapp's squad has posted two wins so far on the season, a 5-2 decision over Belmont and a 4-3 victory over Troy. This weekend figures to be the first true test for the Lady Raiders.

"Louisville has a good program, and their facility is quite a bit different,"

Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor  
**Ann-Kristin Siljestrom won her second straight match against Troy.**

Stapp said. "There are three really fast courts, and as a team, we'll have to adjust to the speed."

The Cardinals enter Friday's match with a No. 75 Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking, their first appearance in the rankings in more than two years. Last weekend, UL upset North Carolina State squad 5-2 before falling to No. 59 Marshall in a five-hour showdown.

"We are looking to move up higher in the rankings, and are pleased to be on the national stage," Cardinal head coach Greg Davis told UL Media Relations.

Louisville's only other loss this season came to No. 14 Kentucky, and the team now holds a 7-2 record on the season.

Leading the way for the Cardinals are Leslie Stewart, Kelly Taylor and Ariana Marshall.

The Lady Raiders will face the difficult task of playing against Louisville and New Mexico on consecutive days. The Lobos currently rank No. 32 after dropping six spots following the ITA Indoor Championships last week.

"New Mexico is definitely a deep team. They should be our toughest competition so far this season," Stapp said.

Despite a 0-3 record, UNM boasts a powerful lineup. Anchoring the squad is junior Maja Kovacek, currently ranked No. 24 nationally. Also ranked in singles for the Lobos is sophomore Iva Gersic at No. 66. The doubles team of Kovacek and

Gersic is currently No. 4 in the nation.

For the Lady Raiders, much is still up in the air two matches into the season. Senior Jennifer Klaschka is expected to play No. 1 singles.

The first two contests have featured senior Ana Marie Cibils at No. 2, followed by sophomore Emily Vest, sophomore Jacquie Williams and freshman Ann-Kristin Siljestrom, respectively. Klaschka and Siljestrom have paired in doubles action, as have Cibils and Vest at No. 2 and Williams and Szabo at No. 3.

"To be honest, I'm not sure about our lineup at this point," Stapp said. "But I will say that I'm extremely pleased with my six girls." ♦

# Rhythm bring unique atmosphere to Nashville

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

Over the past two weeks, the American Basketball Association's Nashville Rhythm team has shined into the local spotlight, leaving many Middle Tennesseans a little confused and asking, "When did this happen?"

The prevalence of the question may surprise those familiar with the Rhythm's ground breaking history and unique game atmosphere. The beat behind Nashville's Rhythm is original and certainly worth a listen.

Former Rhythm co-owner and CEO Sally Anthony made history in the summer of 2004 when she hired the first female coach for a men's professional basketball team.

"Why don't we see women coaches in the NBA?" Anthony told the media over the summer. "Women deserve to dream freely without being knocked out by the glass ceiling that floats quietly and deceptively above our heads."

Ashley McElhiney, also known as "Ashley Mac" to her fans, was Vanderbilt University's former 5-foot-6-inch star point guard and member of VU's 1,000-club.

After her graduation in 2003, McElhiney continued to seek out basketball playing and coaching opportunities. McElhiney was working with her former VU coach Jim Foster for Ohio State when she got the call from Anthony.

"Ashley will be an amazing coach," Anthony said after McElhiney's hire. "She's driven, fearless, open and excited about this opportunity."

The initial press of



Photo by Katy Hamlett | Staff Photographer

**Ashley McElhiney became the first female coach for a men's pro team in May 2004.**

McElhiney's coaching job may have drawn fans to David Lipscomb's Allen Arena, but it was the unique family atmosphere and exciting basketball play that got fans hooked on the Rhythm.

In the first ABA warm-ups before a game, it's not unusual to see children running around on the gym floor, grabbing balls for players and trying to shoot in the same style as their towering role-models.

Throughout the games, the family-fun atmosphere seems to rub off on the players. On Jan. 29, fans seated courtside were treated to a few of the Kansas City Knights' karaoke rendition of "Kung Fu Fighting," complete with karate moves, as they assembled at the free-throw line.

In addition to the unique atmosphere, the ABA has a few

playing rules exclusive to the league. When an offensive turnover in the backcourt occurs, the backboard is lit, signifying the 3-D rule.

A 3-D play allows the new offensive team to gain an extra point off any play immediately following the turnover.

The rule might sound a little odd, but so did the three-point line when it was first introduced by the ABA. The line, however, was eventually adapted into all mainstream basketball.

The unique rules and exciting atmosphere are a treat for fans, but Rhythm basketball has a serious business side.

"In minor league basketball, you've really got to have work ethic and motivation," Rhythm assistant coach Scott Flat said.

"In college [basketball], you have a plethora of coaches standing

over you and encouraging you. In the minor leagues, you have two coaches for the whole team, so you've got to bring your own motivation and work ethic. It's hard to coach effort."

While most players are living out a dream of getting paid to play basketball, the ABA salary is certainly a harsh reality check. "An NBA player may make double in a year what our entire team salary cap is," Flat said.

The ABA salary issue took center stage two weeks ago when former VU star Matt Frieji signed a two-game, \$10,000 contract with the Rhythm. Anthony was concerned about the team salary cap and told McElhiney not to play Frieji in his second scheduled game.

The confrontation that followed seemed to be the

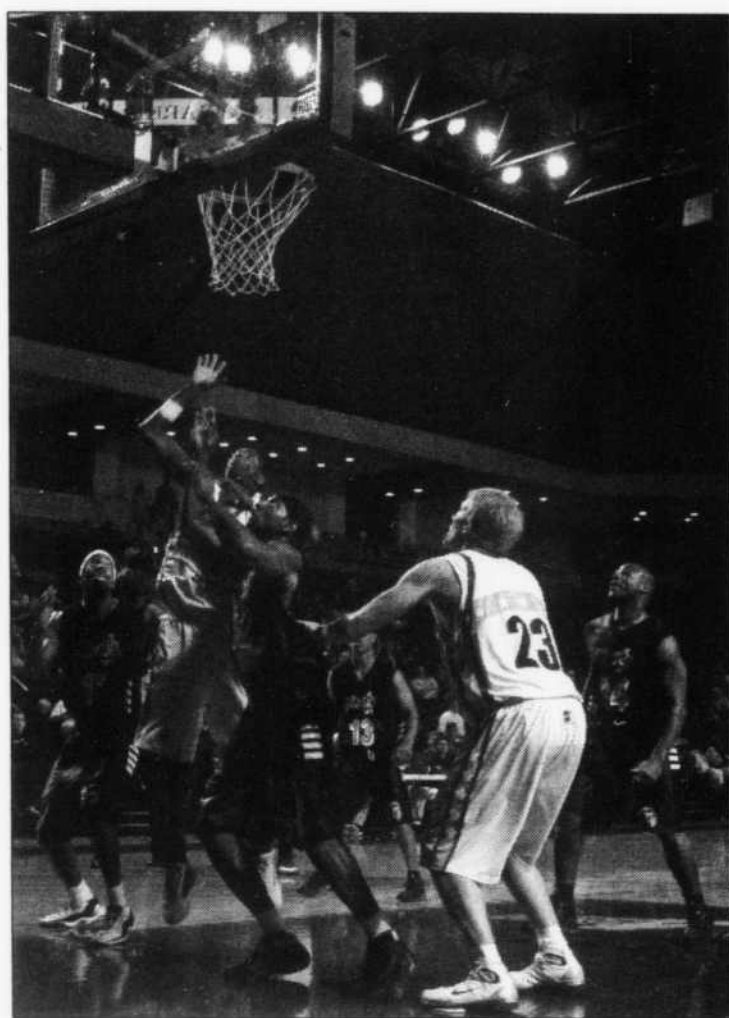


Photo by Katy Hamlett | Staff Photographer

**The Rhythm compete in the ABA's Blue Division.**

Rhythm's shot heard round the world. Anthony attempted to fire McElhiney for playing Frieji and during the Jan. 29 game and told the coach in front of the crowd that she needed to leave the gym.

McElhiney told the press that though unfortunate, she is "committed to moving forward with the Rhythm."

Last Saturday, McElhiney's former high school in Gleason, Tenn., hosted the Rhythm as they took on the St. Louis Flight.

More than 1,200 fans turned out to see McElhiney's homecoming and McElhiney herself

seemed ready to continue moving forward with her coaching career.

"I couldn't ask for a better turnout," McElhiney said. "The support that [Gleason's] given me and support from the team really means a lot."

For those eager to see coach McElhiney in action or to witness an ABA unique five-point play, the Rhythm is hosting "Cups of Night" at David Lipscomb's Allen Arena this Friday. Admission for students is only \$5 and fans are welcome to call the Rhythm office at 279-6666 for more information. ♦

# Chow becomes new Titans offensive coordinator

By Teresa M. Walker  
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Titans coach Jeff Fisher may have given quarterback Steve McNair another reason to return for the 2005 season by hiring Norm Chow on Wednesday as Tennessee's new offensive coordinator.

Fisher lured Chow, 58, away from Southern California where he helped the Trojans win two consecutive national championships.

Fisher said he has no doubts that Chow can handle NFL defenses despite spending 32 years coaching in the college ranks.

One of Chow's top priorities is "to keep a quarterback on his feet and keep him from getting knocked down," Fisher said Wednesday at a news conference.

"Obviously, we share similar opinions. So that's one thing that's going to be a paramount priority of ours is to keep the pocket clean and keep Steve

from getting hit."

McNair had bone grafted onto his sternum Dec. 28 after missing six starts and parts of two others last season. He has said he will wait to decide whether he should retire from the NFL after 10 seasons.

Fisher said he believes McNair will return. The quarterback met with Chow on Friday, and McNair's recovery is nearly complete.

"I believe that this decision put a little more bounce in his step than he's had," Fisher said of McNair. "He's doing very well right now, and I know he's excited about this."

Chow said the timing for this move was right. His hiring comes a week after the Trojans signed a recruiting class ranked among the best in the nation.

"Everybody understands it's an opportunity for me and my family to get to the highest level of football, and they understand the excitement that we have," Chow said during a conference call.

Chow replaces Mike Heimerdinger, who was hired as the New York Jets' offensive coordinator last month.

This is Chow's first job in pro football after 27 seasons at BYU, a season at North Carolina State and the last four at USC. Chow had some NFL opportunities in the past, but never pursued them. Asked about reports of friction with USC coach Pete Carroll, Chow said there was nothing to that talk.

"All of that is exaggerated. I owe a lot to Pete Carroll. He knows that. He knows how I feel. I know how he feels. We can't control anything else," Chow said.

A USC alum, Fisher also interviewed assistant head coach George Henshaw and quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson off his own staff. He initially met with Chow for four hours, a few days before national signing day on Feb. 2, then had a lengthy final interview in Nashville last Friday.

Fisher said he was impressed with Chow's abil-

ity to teach young players and pointed out that Chow has coached three Heisman Trophy winners, including the most recent in Matt Leinart. He also noted that Chow's offense has ranked in the top 10 nationally in 15 of the last 21 years.

"We know which direction our offense wants to go, and I felt without any question in my mind that he's the right guy to get us there," Fisher said.

The Titans are facing a tough offseason and are at least \$21 million over the 2005 cap. If McNair returns, that means the Titans might consider making one more run at a Super Bowl before cutting expensive veterans in a favor of younger players.

"As we enter some lean times or some challenging times over the next couple of years, ... we're going to have some younger players playing, and it makes sense to be able to have an offensive system where you can have younger players on the field and get them productive as soon as possible," Fisher said. ♦

## Klaschka: More responsible

Continued from 5

Neil Stapp, who has worked with the Lady Raiders previously and has received praise from his team.

"He really knows the sport," Klaschka said. "I have a great feeling about him."

With her teammates and her

coach sharing the load, Jennifer Klaschka won't be alone this season. However, her newfound independence comes in handy off the court as well.

"I've learned to do a lot of things on my own, like just washing my clothes and waking up on time," Klaschka said. "My mom used to always do that for me." ♦

## Slide: MT travels to UNT

Continued from 5

ppg. MT will play the the Lady Raiders in a doubleheader with the men's team, who will square off against Denver.

UNT (11-10, 6-3 SBC) recently suffered a loss against Louisiana-Lafayette 86-79.

Junior Erika Bobo is UNT's leading scorer with 12.8 ppg.

Sophomore Mia Ajekwu also averages 11.3 ppg. The Lady Mean Green has home court advantage over the Lady Raiders.

MT will play UNT on Saturday in Denton, Texas at 5 pm. ♦

## Denver: Nicholson, Billups lead Pioneers

Continued from 5

the second time in three weeks for his performance. Nicholson leads the SBC in blocked shots (3.05) and is second in rebounding (8.4) and field goal percentage (.607).

"They're playing with a lot of confidence," Davis said. "Right now, Yemi Nicholson may be the MVP of our league. He is probably the most dominant big guy in our league and just had two tremendous games last weekend."

Rodney Billups leads the SBC in assists with 6.86 per contest, and Erik Benzel is second in the SBC in three-pointers made (3.14).

This will be the Pioneers' third game this week. On Monday,

they beat Northern Colorado 72-53, and tonight they travel to Western Kentucky.

In their only meeting last season, MT beat Denver 65-48 at the Murphy Center on Feb. 14.

"We've had a lot of success against Denver in the past, but I know they're playing probably better than anybody in league right now," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders know that these two games are very important to keep improving their SBC standing.

"This weekend is a crucial stretch for us," MT junior forward Marcus Morrison said. "We really need to be 2-0 to keep ourselves in the hunt for a title."

Last week, Morrison scored a career-high 26 points, including 22 in the second half in the

FIU victory.

During Davis' stay at Middle Tennessee, the Blue Raiders have been known to make that important February run. Overall, the team is 9-5 during that month. Last season, the MT was 5-2, including winning four in a row.

MT feels that the team is ready to make the push, especially after the FIU win.

"We know what's coming, we know what we got to do," MT guard Bryan Smith said. "We've had a little rough end of January, but we're ready to step it back up. It's a whole new season once you get into the conference tournament, so we're just trying our seed high enough."

Tipoff for Saturday's game is 5 p.m. ♦

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# Leffew's Losers!

By Jon Leffew  
Assistant Sports Editor

In the spirit of camaraderie, teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play ... I often puke.

I'm much more comfortable recognizing and ridiculing the complete idiots in the world of sports, those who find themselves in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

So, with sincerest apologies to Sally Anthony, Jose Canseco and Freddie Mitchell, it's time to hand out this week's co-Leffew's Loser awards.

When I sat down to think about who deserves the first award, I first thought of a talented football player with record-breaking potential who should be in jail.

Nope, not O.J.

Jamal Lewis (who is ironically not the most dangerous Baltimore Raven with the last name of Lewis) recently reported to a prison camp in Florida to serve a four-month sentence after he used a cell phone to set up a drug deal.

The incident, which occurred when Lewis was at the University of Tennessee, is yet another black mark on a talented star's record.

Lewis led the NFL in rushing in 2003 with 2,066 rushing yards and currently holds the record for most rushing yards in a game, with 295.

However, his penchant for being a buffoon completely overshadows his talent, and if it weren't for a "plea bargain," Lewis could possibly be serving up to 10 years in prison.

Instead, he will be through at the "work-camp" in plenty of time for the Ravens 2005 season.

It should be noted that no drugs ever changed hands in the incident, but that doesn't take away from the fact that Lewis, though physically gifted, possesses very little upstairs.

While Lewis is dumb enough to hold this

week's award all by himself, another famous athlete made a late run.

Sharing the title with Lewis is another gifted athlete who should probably be in jail, a famous basketball player who is extremely overpaid.

Nope, not Kobe.

Latrell Sprewell, who seemed to be recovered after attempting to choke his coach in 1997, made the news again prior to this season after claiming that his \$14.6 million contract was not enough money.

Sprewell even had the gall to claim that he would not be able to feed his family.

Unless Spree's children dine on Bentley's and diamonds (which wouldn't surprise me), he has reclaimed his title as the NBA's biggest idiot.

To further support my claim, www.ESPN.com's Jeff Merron recently found Sprewell to be the NBA's most overpaid player.

For the \$14,625,000 he's making this year, Sprewell is averaging 12.5 points, 2.45 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game.

Even worse, his Timberwolves, which boast one of the most talented lineups in all of basketball and were picked by many to win this year's title, are currently 24-25 overall.

Congratulations, Latrell.

Even though you didn't set up a drug deal, at least Lewis decided to show up at this year's rushing for more than 1,000 yards and seven touchdowns in limited action.

I hope you both enjoy the award - plane tickets (in coach) straight out of the limelight and into the real world. ♦

Jon Leffew is a sophomore history major. He can be reached at jal3p@mtsu.edu.

## Blue Raiders host OVC foes in MT Valentine Invitational

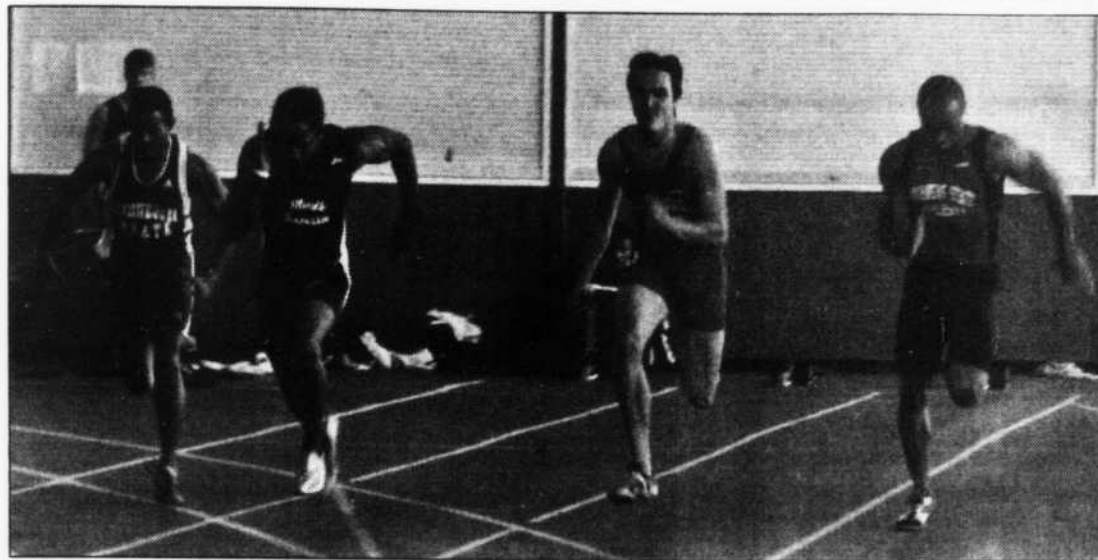


Photo by Brady Purnell | Staff Photographer

MT's VanTonio Fraley finished first in the 55-meter dash in last weekend's meet.

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

The competition at this week-end's indoor track Valentine Invitational at Murphy center promises to be anything but lovely, as some of the best collegiate athletes in the country prepare for a showdown in the distance and long jump events.

In addition to regular Murphy Center competitors Western Kentucky and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Blue Raiders will also host former Ohio Valley Conference rival Eastern Kentucky and current Sun Belt rival South Alabama.

Though Saturday's Invitational will only be the USA Jaguars' second meet of the indoor season, the team's performance at the Indiana Invitational two weeks ago has created buzz in the SBC around the upcoming event.

"South Alabama has really got good distance runners," MT head coach Dean Hayes said. "Two of their runners from Uganda took first and third at Indiana."

The Jaguars actually have a trio of sophomore distance run-

ners this season hailing from Uganda: Tony Okello and brothers Harry and Stephen Larubi. Okello took first place in the mile run at the Hoosier races while Harry Larubi posted a Sun Belt best time of 8:28 in the 3000-meter run and Stephen Larubi broke USA's school record in the 800-meter dash.

Larubi's 8:28 time in the 3000-meter run may suffice for a Sun Belt high mark, but ECU's freshmen prodigy Jacob Korir posted an 8:12 in the event two weeks ago at the McCravy Memorial meet in Kentucky.

"I'm really looking forward to some great battles between [EKU and USA]," Hayes commented.

UTC is also bringing some competition to the distance runs with the Southern Conference's Indoor Player of the Week, Steven Kocsis. The Canadian native broke his own school record by seven seconds when he clocked an 8:13 in the 3000-meter event at the McCravy Memorial meet.

While the men are running in circles around Murphy Center in the distance events, the women's spotlighted races for the meet are the sprints.

The Lady Raiders and the Hilltoppers will meet for the fourth time this season at Murphy Center in what promises to be a battle for the dashes.

Last weekend at the MT Open, WKU's Carita Cole landed first place in the 200-meter dash when she squeaked by MT's Tiffany Owens by one-hundredth of a second.

At the Blue Raider Invitational in January, Cole beat out MT runners Kerry Barrow and Antranette Springer to take first in the 400-meter event. But Stringer retaliated at the most recent Open, taking first place in the dash, followed a little more than a second later by WKU's Aimee Wellerding.

The women's sprint events this weekend may be a preview of the finals at the SBC competition in two weeks.

"WKU is always solid," Hayes said. "It'll probably be WKU, [MT] and North Texas in the Sun Belt Championship race."

So this Saturday, students are encouraged to drag their respective sweethearts, snuggle-bunnies, sugar-pies and pookies to Murphy Center to witness some of the best showdowns collegiate track has to offer. ♦

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## Classifieds

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Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girls Rock" Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would

like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girls Rock" Flash show in March. If interested, contact Brandon 615-898-2917.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

**BASSIST NEEDED.** Established band in need of talented and committed bass player. Must be melodic and solid. Must have own equipment. Must be serious and positive. Call Ryan @ 615.653.2456 www.mellmusic.com

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### Roommates

Female non-smoker roommate needed for 3 BR, 2 BA flat. 1 block from campus. \$300 per month including utilities. Call Toni @ 615-476-5916.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house. Room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 615-419-6696.

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Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car gate. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

Female looking for female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask for Rachel.

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Responsible female roommate wanted to share a 3bd, 2 bath house located 1 block from campus. All hardwood floors, dishwasher, W/D included. House is very clean and in great condition. Kitchen, dining rm, living rm, good size front & back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

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Microwaves and dorm refrigerator for sale in great condition. \$50 each obo. Call Julian 907-1807.

1988 Chevy Blazer for sale. Great condition. 4x4, 4 dr. \$5,500 obo. Need to Sell!! 931-592-2494.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb\_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

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Sublease for the University Courtyard. Call 615-48-1531 to move in immediately.

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or first month when you move in. Fully furnished, high speed internet, own bathroom, shower, 24 hour computer lab and fitness room. Next to greek row. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

Room available for sub-lease in a 3 bed apartment for a male at Campus Crossing. For info call Campus Crossing about apt K-203.

Female Sublease needed for 3BR/3BA apartment at Campus Crossing. Lease ends July 31, 2005. Apartment is fully furnished, w/ W & D. Rent is \$439/mo (utilities included) Call Chelsea @ 615-364-5355 or email cms3k@mtsu.edu

Female roommate needed. University Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 of pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 615-631-6220 or email emm2q@mtsu.edu.

Sub-leaser needed for apt. at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent!! High speed internet, fully furnished, own bathroom, free tanning, shuttle bus to school, 24 hr. computer lab and fitness center. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

3 bd/2 bath, looking for one more roommate. Rent is \$325 plus utilities. No pets. Very close to campus, on Beu St. Living room, dining room + kitchen, fully furnished, w/hardwood floors. Call Nichole @ 419-0802.

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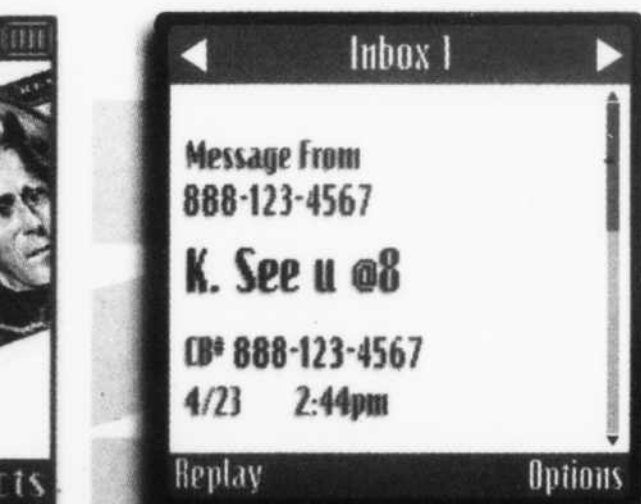
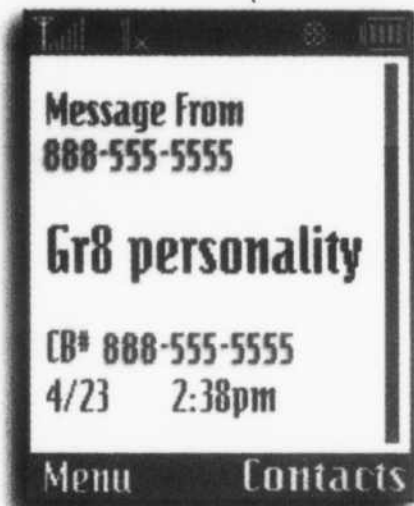
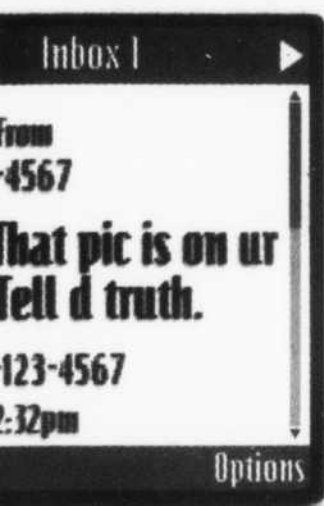
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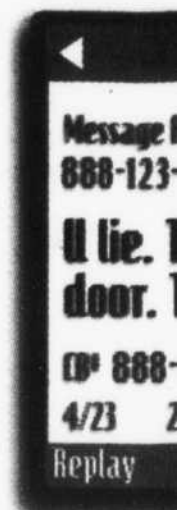
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