



# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Murfreesboro, Tennessee

February 5, 1998

## In the News

### Power outage expected

There will be a power outage lasting approximately five hours on Feb. 15. The outage will start at 10 a.m. and last until approximately 3 p.m., according to an interoffice memorandum.

Deere, Nicks, Sims and Smith Halls will be effected a power outage.

The Cope Administration, Mass Comm., Project Help, Budget House, Internal Audit and Laboratory Audit Buildings will also experience the outage. It is recommended that all computers, printers and voltage sensitive electronics be turned off.

### AIDS drugs concocted

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 200 reports at an AIDS conference this week describe new combinations of AIDS drugs, all intended to improve the spectacular success of the three-drug mixes credited with the steep drop in AIDS deaths over the past two years.

The goal is to concoct new formulations that more powerful, less toxic and easier to take.

Ideally, these new mixes will offer a second chance to those who failed to do well on the original combos. And they will require fewer pills, taken less rigorously, with fewer side effects.

### Brownies pose risk

MURFREESBORO (AP) — Martha White Foods on Wednesday recalled some packets of Moist-n-Fudgy brownie mix because they failed to list walnuts as an ingredient, posing a risk to people who are allergic to walnuts.

Only 21-ounce packages bearing a production code beginning with L7S03 are being recalled. Consumers can call the company with questions at 1-800-775-0625.

### Chrysler recalls cars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chrysler lost its unprecedented challenge of a government recall order Wednesday as a federal judge ordered the auto maker to recall 91,000 Cirrus and Stratus cars because their rear seat belt systems are unsafe.

The government's highway safety agency wanted the 1995 Cirrus and Dodge Stratus cars called in for repair without charge of their rear seat belt anchoring systems, which failed a federal strength test. Chrysler refused in 1996, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration took them to court.

### House passes DUI bill

NASHVILLE (AP) — Legislation that would lower the threshold for drunken driving took its first step Wednesday, albeit a small one.

The bill, backed by Governor Don Sundquist, sailed through the House Judiciary Committee's DUI subcommittee.

Sundquist said during his State of the State speech Monday that he wants to make it easier for authorities to arrest drunken drivers. One way to do that is lowering the level for drunken driving from .10 to .08 percent blood-alcohol content.

# Experience dorms expand

## Cummings chosen for freshmen

□ Jeremy Money/staff

A new approach to the residence hall setting will be available beginning next semester to anyone with less than 29 credit hours.

"Most schools...this size are doing some sort of 'living/learning' program," Cathy Crooks, associate director for residential education said.

Cummings Hall is being renovated for just that purpose. "Living/learning," which refers to a more unified approach to housing and education, began last year at MTSU.

Wood and Felder Halls were the first to try the new idea. They were turned into male and female honors dorms last fall.

Residential life is doing a focus group evaluation this weekend. Crooks said until then she will not know any specific strengths or weaknesses in the

renovation, but so far she has heard mostly positive feedback.

"Research shows that these kinds of programs seem to help with a student's academic and social success," Crooks said. She added that a greater sense of community is gained by placing students with similar interests together.

Crooks said she does not worry about isolating residents from the rest of campus. They will come into contact with students who have different interests and backgrounds through the course of other everyday activities.

Most programs are based on the same model, Crooks said, the core of which is to bring academic services to the students.

The freshman dorm will feature live-in tutors on each floor, classrooms in the building and seminars specifically designed for freshmen.

While researching this idea, Crooks visited Arizona State University, which has a program similar to the one being tried here. Arizona State has a short description of their program on their website.

There is a "living/learning" steering committee "with lots of input from different constituency groups,"

including students, faculty and staff, Crooks said. The committee is in the process of expanding the program to other groups of students, mainly by course of study.

"We're going to develop a strategic plan in terms of future initiatives," she said. The committee is reviewing several of the larger academic departments on campus.

"It's going to depend on what the needs of the university are," Crooks said.

If interest in the program is not high enough to fill the first-year residence hall, it will be filled with freshmen just as it would have been before the change.

It has not been decided if there will be an effort to keep students who had requested the first-year program together in the same rooms if freshmen who did not request it are assigned to the dorm.

Crooks said Cummings Hall will continue to be used as overflow housing at the beginning of the semesters.

There is a planned increase in housing fees, but Crooks said it is not to cover this change.

"We're not here to do anything extra," she said. "We're here to enhance what's already there."

## Honors dorm a successful experiment

□ Jaime Rheinecker and Jamie Evans/staff

The honors living and learning center—which started as an experiment last fall—is here to stay.

Last semester students had the option of residing in Wood or Felder halls as part of an addition to the honors program.

The living/learning experience was intended to include such features as access to the honors program advisor, a classroom and a computer lab—all located within the residence halls.

The purpose of the establishment was to give the honors students an opportunity to work closely with a small group of classmates, who are also neighbors, according to Cathy

Please see DORM, page 2

## Phillips stays on schedule

□ Adam R. Smith/staff

Despite delays due to wet weather, more than 2,500 square feet of added space will soon be available to the campus bookstore, and construction will begin on the new Keathley University Center plaza.

The expansion of Phillips Bookstore, which began in October, is scheduled to be completed by March 30, said bookstore director Earl Harris.

Concrete has been poured for the expansion, and the outer wall is set to be finished this week. The temporary wall separating the bookstore from the construction area will be removed in a few weeks.

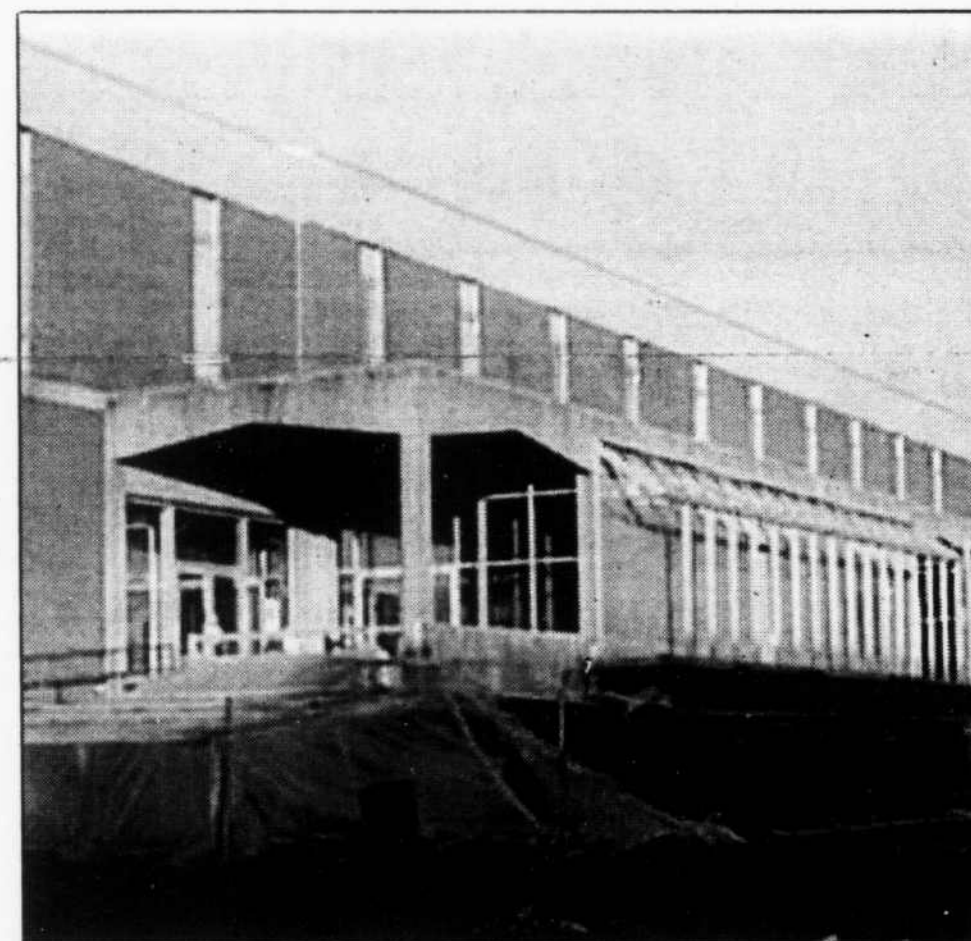
At this time, there are no "set-in-stone" plans for the new space, which will bring the total retail area in Phillips to 12,000 square feet, Harris said.

"We're going to use the new space to expand on the products we have now in stock," he said. "We're so crowded right now, we're trying to see what the best utilization of that space will be for us."

Preliminary ideas for the new space include expanding the software section and creating a new display area for computers.

The textbook area will likely be expanded to take up the entire back portion of the store, although Harris said the reorganization of that area would not be completed until the fall semester. The apparel section of the store may also be expanded.

Plans for the space added by the expansion include new offices, which will replace the offices at the front of the store. The space freed by the removal of the front offices will be



Vickie Gibson/staff

The book store renovations will be completed March 30. The new plaza construction should be finished sometime in May.

added to the retail space.

"We feel like everything's coming together pretty good," Harris said.

Included with the expansion of the bookstore is the building of a new plaza in front of the KUC. The completion date for the plaza was originally scheduled for May.

That date is still a viable target, said Tom Tozer, assistant director of News and Public Affairs. The brief delays in construction due to recent wet weather should be made up for in the coming months, he said.

The new plaza will include a concrete patio area with amphitheater-style tiered seating and several smaller knolls made up of earth

removed during the bookstore expansion.

The knoll closest to the LRC, which has traditionally been used for free Friday concerts during the warmer months, will be restored after the construction.

The plaza will be outlined with bricks, and benches will provide additional seating on the south and west ends of the patio area. Additional lighting also will be added, and the area will be landscaped.

A new tree will be added to the northwest side of the plaza, which will add shade to the area along with the two existing trees.

# Economy slow in Rutherford

□ Kim Easter/staff

Murfreesboro's rapid economic growth may slow down in the next five years, according to MTSU economics professor Tony Eff.

"The rest of the nation is doing so well that few people feel compelled to uproot and move to Middle Tennessee," he said.

While Murfreesboro's economy has grown tremendously, its average citizen's wallet has not, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Middle Tennessee's average household income in 1996 was \$33,182. Rutherford County had the lowest of 10 urbanized counties in the mid-state with \$20,912. Williamson County had the highest with \$64,694 and Davidson County had \$33,765.

"The influx of new workers to Middle Tennessee may have been

primarily low-income individuals destined for low-wage jobs," Eff said. "Much of the growth was in low-wage jobs, and the immigration was skewed toward low-income newcomers."

This may cause the local economy to cool if there is not a balance between low-wage and high-wage jobs, he said.

According to the Tennessee Department of Employment Security, Rutherford County's jobless rate in December 1997 was 3.5 percent compared to Davidson County at 2.5 percent, Williamson County at 1.8 percent and Wilson County at 3.1 percent.

Ron Crabtree, vice president of Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, emphasized how important it is for Murfreesboro to strike a balance between "white collar" and "blue collar" jobs.

"We need to fill this gap," Crabtree

said. "We have a great opportunity here in attracting white collar companies."

According to Crabtree, Murfreesboro could do that by developing a location for these companies.

"We need something like an office park to have the facilities to attract these companies," he said. "If we are competing with a city somewhere else that already has the facilities in place, [white collar companies] are going to go to that city. But with the city and county leaders, the business leaders and the Chamber of Commerce, we have the vision and foresight to attract some of these businesses."

Boosting the economy in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County was not easy, according to Crabtree.

"The Rutherford County economy

Please see ECONOMY, page 2

## Governor gives back to higher ed.

□ Chad Gillis/staff

Gov. Don Sundquist's \$15.4 billion 1998-99 budget proposal calls for MTSU to receive \$68.7 million from the state, according to the governor's office.

That would mean an increase of \$4 million over last year's funding.

"We're very encouraged by the governor's funding proposal," said Duane Stucky, vice president of finance and administration. "But that's still less than 90 percent of THEC's (Tennessee Higher Education Commission) model."

THEC constructs models for all 2- and 4-year state institutions and makes funding proposals to legislature and the governor.

Sundquist's budget, which includes a \$28.2 million increase for higher education overall, came almost one year after he cut higher education by \$40 million.

"We received that appropriation because we were one of the lowest-funded universities," Stucky said, adding that MTSU's top priority is to increase faculty salaries, classes and faculty positions.

Of that \$28.2 million, \$20.3 million would go toward increased funding for higher education institutions. Three million dollars would be used for instructional and research equipment and \$4.9 million would go to higher education salaries, according to the governor's office.

Funds totaling \$220 million for capitol projects and maintenance were also recommended by the governor during Monday's State of the State Address.

"All of (Sundquist's) recommendations were THEC's recommendations," said Alexia Levison of the governor's press office. "The governor simply added three."

Of those three, two are designated for a library and a science building at the University of Memphis. The other is for a technology center at Motlow State Community College in Fayetteville, according to Levison.

As for allocating MTSU's piece of the state pie, Stucky said that university vice presidents have a series of budget meetings scheduled this semester and will make recommendations to MTSU President James Walker later this spring.

The governor's recommendation

Please see GOVERNOR, page 2

Know something noteworthy happening on campus? Call the Sidelines news desk at 898-2336 or fax us at 904-8487. Information can also be mailed to box 42.



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## On Campus

To have information placed in the On Campus section of the paper, come by the "Sidelines" office, located in JUB 310, and fill out a form located on the table by the door. Information must be submitted in person. The deadline for Monday's paper is Thursday at 5 p.m. The deadline for Thursday's paper is Monday at 5 p.m. A new form must be filled out for each edition or the information will not be run.

### Feb. 5

An organizational meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, will be held at 5 p.m. in the Mass Comm. Building's upstairs lobby. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Lesli Bales at 898-2336.

Minority Graduate Student Association will have a Spring Meeting at 5 p.m. in KUC 314. This group's mission is to promote the intellectual and professional enhancement of minority graduate students. For more information contact Bobby S. Harris Jr. at 904-8377.

### Feb. 10

The Golden Key National Honor Society has announced that this is the deadline to qualify for scholarships. The criteria for membership is a junior or senior status with a GPA of 3.3 or higher. For more information contact Paige Parker at 360-3734.

Music Women International (MWI) will meet to discuss future panels and showcases at 6:30 p.m. in Mass Comm. 104. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information call Sarah Gunter at 898-3373.

### Feb. 11-12

Omega Phi Alpha is sponsoring a Blood Drive from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in KUC rooms 322 and 324.

### Feb. 11-14

MTSU Theatre will present "An Evening of One Acts" at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, BDA room 101. MTSU students are admitted free with ID, while

general admission is \$5 with a discount for faculty and staff. For more information contact Brandon Reece or Jeff Gibson at 898-2181.

### Feb. 24

The Golden Key National Honor Society will have an Induction Reception at 6 p.m. in JUB's Tennessee Room. Juniors and seniors with a 3.3 GPA or above are invited to join. Send in your profile form by Feb. 10. If you did not receive one, contact Dean Burke, KUC 126 or 898-2750. For more information contact Burke or Paige Parker at 360-3734.

### Feb. 24-25

A seminar for students to learn a study plan to make it possible to prepare for exams and to help them avoid using cramming as their only study techniques will be held in KUC 320. Two separate "Five-Day Study Plan" presentations will be held. One will be Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The other will be Wednesday, Feb. 25, from noon to 1 p.m. The seminar is free. For more information or to sign up, call 898-5989.

### March 10-12

Any students expecting to graduate in May are required to take the ACT-COMP test. On these dates, students may choose to take the test at 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. All tests will be held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB. No pre-registration is necessary. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours. For more information contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

## DORMS

continued from page 1

Crooks, associate director of residential education.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said J.P. Montgomery, director of the honors program. "I think that it might have exceeded my goals. It has been very positive. There is a variety of students constantly interacting in a higher learning environment."

The interaction taking place includes several study sessions, groups of friends just hanging out and late night movies in the lobby.

Originally, the honors dorms were to be a place where higher-achieving students could study and better themselves in a quiet environment, but Montgomery said it is not always quiet.

"The [resident assistants] have declared this to be the rowdiest bunch of students they have seen," he said.

Currently, there are a few students in the honors dorm who are living in a room by

themselves, but Crooks said that this situation is not isolated to just Wood and Felder halls. She said there are a few spaces open in residence halls all over campus where people are living by themselves.

In order for these students to have a room to themselves, they have to "buy out" the rest of the space in their rooms.

While there are a few openings in the honors living and learning center this semester, Crooks is anticipating a full house next year.

"There will be a waiting list for the honors complex in the fall," she said.

To accommodate the increase in honors students desiring to live in the specified dorms, Cummings Hall will be used to cluster qualifying honors freshmen.

In order to live in one of the honors halls, honors department requirements must be met. These include maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 as well as enrolling in at least one honors class per semester.

## ECONOMY

continued from page 1

is fantastic. It's a great place to live, but this didn't just happen," Crabtree said. "This is the result of local leaders having vision, providing, looking ahead and planning for the future."

Crabtree felt confident that Murfreesboro will have a more balanced economy in years to come because local officials have brought more businesses to town in the past.

However, Murfreesboro already has its share of "white collar" jobs in business and education fields.

The Holland Group, a Murfreesboro job agency, said

that it has helped many people get top positions in local business fields such as marketing, accounting and business management.

"Murfreesboro's industries that provide low-wage jobs have good paying jobs for those who are qualified to be in control positions," said Holland Group Technical Recruiter Lee Ann Plott. "Business department graduates at MTSU may benefit well with the opportunities that Murfreesboro has."

Murfreesboro's education industry has increased and more schools have been built recently due to the growing population's demand for more teachers.

## GOVERNOR

continued from page 1

must pass the state legislature, which usually votes on the state budget in mid-April, according to Levison.

"[Legislature] doesn't have to accept it," Levison said. "It's

just his proposal."

Of the funds which would be acquired by the state to support the \$15.4 billion proposed budget, \$355.5 million would come from university and community college tuition and student fees, according to the governor's office.

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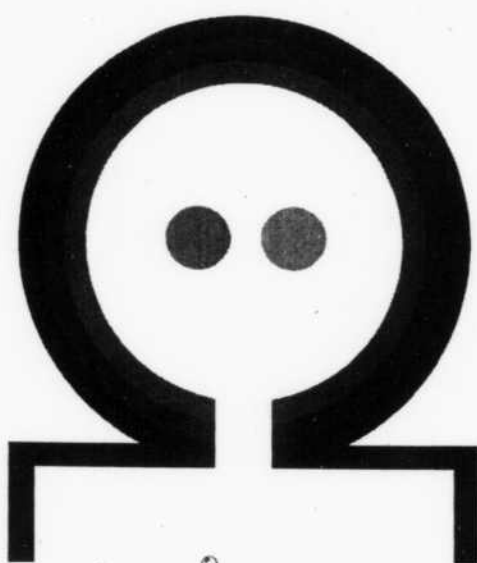
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## Trampling grass leads to landscape problems

□ Brandon Christy/staff

The grounds services department is working on landscape improvements, but is faced with problems including budgeting, construction and people walking on the grass.

MTSU grounds maintenance requires cooperation from everyone, explains James Luter, grounds services manager.

Grounds services has already begun making improvements in places that are not affected by construction. They are also planning for more small improvements this spring.

"We are doing everything that we can do that won't be messed up by the construction later," Luter said.

In many places there are large bare spots on the lawn caused by construction or people walking or driving through the grass. These bare places often result in mud.

Many complaints about the mud and standing water have been submitted, Luter said.

"We have been trying to cover some of these areas such as those around Kirksey Old Main and the science building," he said.

"If people would just stay off the grass and walk on the sidewalk, we wouldn't have this problem," Luter said, adding that the grass means very little to most students who are late for class and do not mind cutting across the lawn.

The white rope fences that have been sparsely located around campus are there so that people will not walk through the grass and cause damage to such areas as these, according to Luter.

But this problem is not created only by the students and faculty. Weather plays a major role in the aesthetics of the landscape.

The recent snow may have drowned out some of the grass and caused messy puddles and mud in some places, Luter said.

Another problem, according to Luter, is the cigarette butts.

"We are planning to put out some barrels that have been cut



Vickie Gibson/staff

The grounds crew has been making small improvements to the landscape but are experiencing difficulties with all of the construction.

Grounds services is open to any suggestions, comments or complaints, within reason, for improving the campus grounds.

## Playwright subject of next honors lecture

□ Shawn Whitsell/staff



Rucker

The life of Lorraine Hansberry is the subject of Monday's honor lecture, "Cupcakes, Cornbread and Civil Rights," presented by Robert Rucker, assistant professor of sociology, anthropology and social work at MTSU.

Hansberry is widely known for her play "A Raisin in the Sun," the story of an African-American family that tried to buy a house in a historically white neighborhood and the problems they encountered.

According to Rucker, the play shows a different side of African-Americans.

"It was the first major play on Broadway which looked at an African-American family," he explained. "The characters were represented with depth. They went beyond racial, ethnic and regional stereotypes."

The work was also groundbreaking in two other ways. The director, Lloyd Richardson, was the first African-American to present a Broadway play. In 1959, the play won the Drama Critics Award, making Hansberry the first African-American woman to receive it.

Even in 1998, Rucker expressed the need to really think about what the play means. As an attack against social injustice against women and African-American children, Rucker explained that even the characters' names are symbolic.

For instance, the character Beneatha (which Rucker said stands for "beneath her")

spends a lot of time trying to find herself and determine what she wants to do in life. Rucker said that this might be interpreted as representing women finding themselves—trying to establish what they want they do in life and where they want to go.

Meanwhile, Rucker said that the character Travis' name could mean that it was a travesty that African-American children have been misrepresented in entertainment. He later explained that African-American children have been stereotyped in roles such as "Buckwheat" from the classic show "The Little Rascals."

While "A Raisin in the Sun" will be discussed in the lecture, Rucker stresses that Hansberry's whole life will also be a focus of his lecture.

"I wanted to do a life story of Lorraine," he said. "I wanted to look at her total life."

Rucker's title for his lecture, "Cupcakes, Cornbread and Civil Rights," was taken

from an experience Hansberry had as a child. Although Hansberry wasn't raised in the South, she often visited her family there. She remembered eating her grandmother's cupcakes that tasted like cornbread, only sweet.

Hansberry expressed she didn't understand the oppression of African-Americans in the South because all of her memories of the childhood visits were pleasant.

However, not all of Hansberry's memories were cheerful ones. One that greatly impacted Hansberry's life happened when she was just 10 years old.

Hansberry's parents attempted to buy a home outside of Chicago, but a lawsuit was filed against them because the neighbors didn't want African-Americans in their neighborhood. The case was called Lee v. Hansberry.

Another lawsuit, Hansberry v. Lee, was later filed, stating that it was unconstitutional to have restricted binding

agreements related to the sale of real estate.

"It's my theory that these court cases had a profound impact on Lorraine," said Rucker. "These experiences showed in her work."

Hansberry also wrote "The Drinking Cord," a play which tells the story of two slaves, Hannibal and Sarah, and how they follow the 'big dipper' to freedom.

Hansberry also published writings that deal with anti-semitism.

Honors lectures are given every Monday in Peck Hall 109A from 3:30-4:20 p.m. This semester's theme is People, Ideas and Events that Changed the World.

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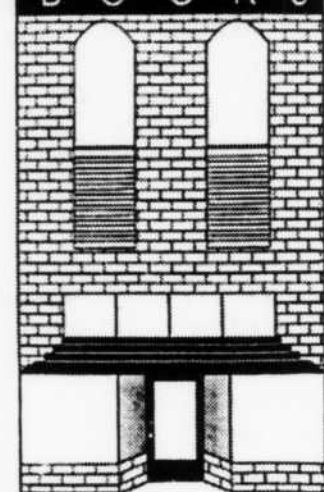
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J. EVAN BONIFANT ARETHA FRANKLIN JAMES BROWN B.B. KING AND THE BLUES BROTHERS BAND MUSIC BY PAUL SHAFFER COSTUME DESIGNER DEBORAH NADOLMAN  
BASED ON "THE BLUES BROTHERS" BY DAN AYKROYD AND JOHN LANDIS PRODUCED BY JOHN LANDIS DAN AYKROYD LESLIE BELZBERG WRITTEN BY DAN AYKROYD AND JOHN LANDIS  
DIRECTED BY JOHN LANDIS  
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FEB. 6 1998  
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## Editorials

### Fear is an illusion. BE BOLD!

Hats off to MTSU Ideas and Issues and The African-American History Month Committee for bringing such a wonderful speaker as Joe Clark to our campus.

This man's speech was truly a call for young people to be bold! He spoke so fervently and passionately to the audience about being true to ourselves and standing up for our beliefs.

"It is time for us as Americans to become one," Clark proclaimed. "It is time for us to come together... not as a slave coming to his master... not as a subordinate lapping up to his superior... not as Black, White, Hispanic, Chinese, Native American, rich or poor... but as brother and sister... as one."

He also daringly spoke against the prejudice and the divisiveness we have of each other as Americans (i.e. racism) and spoke of how shameful it is that we still allow ignorance and fear to hold us back.

This is the type of leadership our world needs. Clark exhorted us not to shortchange ourselves of opportunities due to thinking ourselves inferior.

He spoke of a lack of family structure and also 'dormancy' of people who are able to help and won't. He spoke of the lack of Godliness and lack of education, but in an encouraging tone of success, not failure.

The nature of his powerful speech was to encourage and admonish us by using his own experiences and trials and by pursuing God in all things.

This message of 'never settling for less,' and holding true to our destinies is exactly what higher education is all about.

Joe Clark is a testimony to the perseverance of human nature. His speech was a declaration against deterioration and will definitely stick with those who witnessed it.

Speeches such as this are greatly appreciated and add so much to the meaning of the word education.



## From the Mailbox

### Student concerned about SGA's proposed activity fee increase

To the editor:

While sitting in my English 112 class I was reading the February 2 issue of Sidelines. "SGA wants \$20 activity fee increase" was the headline that caught my eye. The first sentence of the article reports, "The Student Government Association is planning new ways to get the general student population involved in campus events so they can start thinking of MTSU as their university." What's that? Does the SGA expect to get more student involvement in campus events by adding as extra \$20 to the activity fee? Oh, and what about "thinking of MTSU as their university?" I already do consider MTSU my university, I am not enrolled anywhere else.

I understand that by raising the fee, SGA President Ryan Durham hopes to bring bigger events to MTSU. Yes, names such as Robin Williams and Adam Sandler do attract

attention and would also attract a crowd. It is for this reason that I would not attend the events, simply because I would not want to fight the crowd.

Another point argued was that students were bored, and that they "would be more inclined to stay on campus for the weekends if they knew a big show was coming on Saturday night, and MTSU might become less of a "suitcase" college." I commute from my house to school every day, so it seems as if the "big shows" coming to MTSU would be geared more towards those students who live on campus. I must argue; however, that many people go home on the weekends, not because they are bored, rather, because they want to see their family, or perhaps because they have to work in order to pay for their dorm rooms.

Later on in the article I read that "organizations have requested a total of about \$200,000, but there is only about \$100,000 in the activity fund." If I knew that my \$20 would go towards one of the organizations that I am a member of, such as the Collegiate FFA, Delta Tau Alpha, or the Agriculture Council, then I would be more than happy to pay the additional twenty dollar activity fee.

My only complaint is that I also read on the front page of Sidelines that "the SGA will be giving away \$500 to the student organization who shows the most enthusiasm in each of the four remaining home games," for a total of \$2,000. Instead of giving that money away to an organization for showing spirit, why not give it to one of the organizations who are requesting about \$200,000?

If the bill and proposal pass to increase the activity fee by \$20, I will pay. Actually, I would not have a choice, but I would like to know exactly what that money was going toward. If it was to fund a concert by Shania Twain, great! If it was to increase the amount of students that stay on campus over the weekend, well, okay (better that, than to give it to an organization who had large attendance at an athletic event and waved a flag around). If it was to fund organizations for trips, that is perfectly fine. I simply wish that the SGA would get their priorities straight and inform the students of MTSU on exactly what their additional \$20 was going toward.

Sincerely,  
Chaney Mosley  
sophomore

### Got a gripe? Let us hear about it.



E-mail your letters to the editor to "Sidelines" at:  
stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu

## Sidelines

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

#### Letters Policy

"Sidelines" encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. "Sidelines" keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) "Sidelines" reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. "Sidelines" will not edit for correct spelling or sentence structure. EMail letters to stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the "Sidelines" office in JUB Room 310.

## The state of MTSU

Mark Byrnes

political science



Every year about this time, the U.S. president presents his opinion of the state of the union and what should be done to improve it. Therefore this seems like an appropriate time to assess the current state of MTSU. Of course, I'm just a small cog in the vast MTSU machine, not its president. But as an alumnus, faculty member and

long-time supporter of the institution, I care deeply about this university and have some opinions on it. So, here is the state of MTSU, according to me.

**The University's image.** After considerable speculation (and over \$65,000 spent) Lightning has finally struck—MTSU's new logo and mascot have been revealed. For those of you who have been completely oblivious to these events, and I find that a good many students have been, the new mascot is a Pegasus, or winged horse, named "Lightning," and the new logo is a stylistic representation of the mascot.

I must admit that I was highly

skeptical when I first heard several months ago that the centerpiece of our new public relations effort was to be a lightning bolt-breathing winged horse. But I was pleasantly surprised with the logo, which turned out to look pretty cool. Of course, if I were the picky type, I'd mention that it looks like the logo horse is sneezing rather than breathing the lightning bolt (perhaps this is a subtle reference to Middle Tennessee's climate, which is highly conducive to allergies and other respiratory ailments). Still, given the constraints of marketing and political correctness that must have guided the

Please see MTSU, page 5





MTSU  
continued from page 4

correctness that must have guided the logo decision, I'm pleased with the outcome.

Some who witnessed the initial appearance of the mascot Lightning expressed dismay over its excessive prancing and its rather mystifying attack on a stuffed Barney doll. Others have commented that Lightning's costume really looks sort of cheesy. These are valid criticisms, but let's face it—most university mascots look silly and act stupidly. So Lightning is acceptable to me, although it is, at best, only marginally more relevant to the university and its nickname of "Blue Raiders" than the late and under-appreciated Ole Blue was.

Far more important than the logo and mascot, I think, is the proposal to change MTSU's name to the University of Middle Tennessee. To me, the proposed name has a big-time sound to it that our current name does not. A large part of the attraction is removing the word "state" from our name, which conjures up images of community colleges and inferior universities. True, there are a few major schools around the country with "state" in their names—for example, Florida State, Michigan State, Penn State and Ohio State. But have you noticed that people who make this argument invariably come up with the same handful of examples? Ask them for some more and they'll be hard pressed to come up with any.

Furthermore, a name change would not constitute some grievous break of tradition; the school is already on its third name. The name has been changed as the institution has evolved. We've gone from a two-year normal school to a four-year college, then to a full-fledged regional university and now we're in the process of metamorphosing into a major university. The name should be changed to reflect that transformation.

**The campus.** The state of the campus is mixed. On the positive side, the buildings that have been constructed on campus in the last few years

are beautiful. They look good and complement the architectural style of the campus. These buildings must be wonderful places to have classes, and they certainly are valuable additions to campus.

Of course, some of us confined to the monstrosity known as Peck Hall, or to other older buildings on campus, cannot help feeling a little envious. Peck Hall is essentially a concrete bunker with all the charm of, well, a concrete bunker. (On the positive side, perhaps the ambiance of Peck Hall helps history students envision what life was like in 1945 Berlin.) Some of the other buildings on campus also desperately need work. In our justifiable pride over the new buildings, let's not ignore the older ones.

The state of the grounds is also variable. There are some bright spots, such as the trees, the flower beds around campus and the area that's been landscaped near the Main Street entrance. But a distressing amount of the land on campus is covered with mud and/or weeds. Some of this is undoubtedly due to construction, but even parts of campus relatively unscathed by construction don't have much grass. This undoubtedly is a difficult problem on any campus since people tend to tromp on the grass in their zeal to take the shortest path toward their destination. And I'm sure that, like most things on this campus, landscaping is underfunded. But we clearly have the ability to improve things; some small parts of campus have been roped off and improved greatly. Let's expand that effort.

Finally I come to perhaps the most annoying, yet easily solved, problem—the cigarette butts that litter the campus. I realize that most smokers are either hopelessly addicted to nicotine or desperately seeking acceptance into some fringe peer group, and are therefore unlikely to quit smoking. But is it too much to ask for a little courtesy in the way they dispose of the filthy detritus of their habit? There's no reason

that smokers should haphazardly flick their cigarette butts to the ground or grind them into the sidewalks near building entrances. The university should provide adequate receptacles, and smokers should stick their butts in them (their cigarette butts, that is).

**Parking.** Ah, the perennial issue, and one that most of us confront daily. Few topics generate as many complaints on this campus, from both students and employees, as the difficulty of finding a good parking space. But it's time we all face reality—always getting a convenient parking space is not a realistic goal given that thousands of students and hundreds of employees converge on campus daily. I don't care what parking was like at your high school, community college or anywhere else; at a large university you cannot reasonably expect to park right beside your building. The only major problem with parking on this campus is the extraordinary amount of whining that students and staff do about it.

In four years here as an undergraduate and six and a half years as an employee, usually arriving as late in the day as possible, I have NEVER failed to find a legal parking place on campus. True, on most days the parking spots I find are not that close to my ultimate destination on campus. So—and here's the shocking part—I walk. From the outermost parking lots, it takes no more than fifteen minutes of brisk walking to reach the core of campus. For those to whom such exertion is too daunting, the university even provides buses to transport you near your building's doorstep. So my suggestion would be to stop whining, get to campus a little earlier, and walk to your building.

I do have one suggestion about the parking situation, however. I think that the president, the vice presidents, residence hall directors and other members of the university elite who enjoy reserved

parking spaces should relinquish them. I know that these people are busy and have important things to do, but that's true for just about everyone on this campus. What a wonderful gesture of solidarity and equality it would be if these privileged folks joined the rest of us in the hunt for a good parking spot. (Note: I don't think I'll hold my breath waiting for this to happen.)

**Civility.** Although one still encounters plenty of polite people at MTSU, common courtesy on this campus seems to be declining. Perhaps it's part of some overall degeneration of society, or perhaps it only seems like people are less civil since there are so many more of us on campus now. At any rate, a trip across campus these days exposes one to all sorts of uncivilized behavior. At the risk of sounding like "Life's Little Instruction Book," I offer the following suggestions to the uncouth portions of our university community.

1. When you go through a door, look to see if someone is following you; don't let the door slam in someone's face. Hold the door open for people. And if someone holds the door open for you, say "thank you" rather than simply marching through the door as if it's your right.

2. This isn't England; adequately socialized people here drive on the right hand side of the road and travel up and down staircases on the right hand side. This sounds like a minor problem until you've been nearly trampled to death going up a Peck Hall staircase when a class lets out.

3. Pedestrians, please get over the notion that you have the right of way at all times and in all places on campus. The mere fact that you are walking does not automatically give you the right to bolt into traffic whenever and wherever you please.

4. Drivers, please slow down, turn down the volume on your car stereos (but thanks for your willingness to share your taste in music with the rest of us), and respect the pedestrian crossing zones. Maybe you

don't realize that drivers are supposed to yield to walkers entering the double white lines, not speed up in an attempt to beat them. Drivers of the university shuttle buses should especially take note; being squashed by the Raider Xpress is not the way I want to exit this world, and I've had some close calls.

**The overall state of the university.** This is an exciting time at MTSU. The university is growing rapidly and taking big strides in all sorts of areas. The future appears bright, but there are still a few things to worry about.

Two major problems are largely outside the university's control. First is the chronic underfunding of higher education in this state. We've recently heard a lot of political rhetoric about the need for "accountability" in higher education. That's fine, as long as the state treats accountability as a two-way street. Give us adequate funding to operate, and we'll provide more than adequate performance. And while they're at it, our legislators and higher education bureaucrats might consider treating the Board of Regents schools as well as they treat the University of Tennessee system.

The other external problem facing MTSU stems from the truly misguided federal court decision in the Geier desegregation case. To make a long story short, and to use a crude metaphor, MTSU cannot blow its collective nose without TSU's approval. More specifically, MTSU's attempts to expand and improve its academic programs have been severely hampered because of this case (the thinking is that white students will be lured to TSU if they cannot pursue the degrees they want at MTSU). Until these restraints are removed, MTSU will not be able to fulfill its great potential.

We also need to be concerned about some of our own actions and ideas, however. We should remember that growth and change carry with them risks as well as opportunities. We need to

protect some to the old qualities that have made this a special institution: a friendly and caring atmosphere, easy student access to professors, relatively small class sizes, and an emphasis on quality undergraduate teaching. Let's not get so caught up in the desire to change that we forsake the good things that have helped make MTSU what it is.

There is no doubt that we have some problems on this campus. But, all things considered, I would say that the current state of MTSU is outstanding and that the future looks even brighter.

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tax forms.

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This year, millions will file their tax returns by phone — using TeleFile, a free service from the IRS. The call is easy and refunds are fast. Check your mail for a TeleFile booklet.

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Department of the Treasury  
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Goodbye, tax forms. Hello, TeleFile!

**TeleFile**  
It's free. It's fast. It works.

short story drawing poetry photographs sculpture painting etching

submit

**collage**

submission deadline is Feb 20

All submissions must follow submission guidelines. Deliver all entries to JUB#308 or mail to campus box 42. Call 898-5927 for more info.

short story drawing poetry etching creative photographs sculpture

WIN  
\$500

MTSU Spirit Contest  
Sponsored by the Alumni  
Association and the SGA

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 5 7:00 PM  
Saturday, February 7 1:00 PM

**WHERE:** MURPHY CENTER MAGIC  
MTSU vs. E. Illinois (basketball)  
MTSU vs. SEMO (basketball)

**HOW:** Go to the Games!  
Cheer for the Blue Raiders and WIN!

**WHO:** MTSU Student Organizations

For questions and official rules call the SGA Office at 898-2464.



## After Hours

Thursday, February 5

A reception will be held for the African-American Musicians in the United States Postal Stamps from 3-5 p.m. in the Alumni Center. The reception is free and open to the public. Artwork from the Jazz Musician Singers Series, the Popular Singers Series, the Big Band Leaders Series and the Gospel Singers Series will be featured.

MT

Spoonful plays the 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill at 9 p.m.

60

Stacy Mitchhart & Blues U Can Use plays the Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. \$5 cover.

60

Thyme and Reason plays the Springwater tavern, located at 115 27th Ave., N. in Nashville, at 9 p.m.

60

The Jews of Greece photo exhibit continues through Feb. 26 in the Baldwin Gallery in the Learning Resources Center. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. till 11:45 a.m. Saturdays and 6 p.m. till 9:45 p.m. Sundays.

MT

Pirana and 4 Man March play the Ace of Clubs.

60

Tennessee artist Kennv Jones brings his "Elastic Orbits and Distinguishing Marks" exhibit to Lipscomb University's John Hutcheson Gallery, located in the lower level of Sewell Hall, 3901 Granny White Pike in Nashville, through Feb. 19. The exhibit is open from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

60

Friday, February 6

Stacy Mitchhart & Blues U Can Use plays the Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. \$5 cover.

60

Pig & Dusty's 2nd Annual 50th birthday bash will be held at 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill.

60

The Jeff Beasley Band plays Springwater at 9 p.m.

60

The Skank Fest featuring Undertoe, Habbit, 12 O'Clock Nothing, Kynption, Plaster, Slack, Bellicose and Murder Minority, will be at 7 p.m. at 328 Performance Hall, 328 4th Ave., S. in Nashville. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. This show is for all ages.

60

Marcy Playground with special guests Lincoln play the Exit/In at 8 p.m. This show is open to all ages and sold out.

60

Saturday, February 7

Groove-A-Palooza '98 featuring Medicine Mann with special guests Overture, Icabod, Lowboy, Hollis Chapel and Eleven Twenty-Nine will be at 328 Performance Hall at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. This show is open to ages 18 and over.

60

Dean Hall & The Loose Eels plays 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill at 9:30 p.m.

60

The Aneurhythms play Springwater in Nashville at 9 p.m.

60

Please direct any entertainment information to the Sidelines Features Desk at 888-2917.

## RAP offers alternative to the beach

□ Susan McMahon/staff

Are you looking for something to do over spring break but you're too broke to go to Florida and you don't want to spend time with Mom and Dad?

The Raider Assistance Project (RAP) is offering students a chance to take an alternative spring break to the Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem, West Virginia.

For only part of the \$125 registration cost, students have the chance to help make a difference. Students will be working with a team from Tufts University in a rural, poverty-stricken area to refurbish homes by doing activities like construction, destruction and painting.

Up to 10 people can go to West Virginia March 14-20. So far, one person has signed up.

"We're still hoping to get more people," said Dawn Kennedy, coordinator of student organizations and community services. "It's good for the students."

The deadline to commit to the trip is Feb. 6. Interested students can pick up applications in Keathley University Center room 122.

Kennedy has talked to organizations and professors to help get students involved with community service.

"The word has really gone out," she said.

Although a definite cost has not been decided, Kennedy is sure it will be less than \$100, which includes travel expenses, lodging and meals. The money will not be due until Feb. 18, when the team is assembled.

The Alternative Break Connection, or Break Away, is a national program designed to get students involved in community service and experimental

learning. It was started at Vanderbilt and has now grown to include hundreds of schools and hundreds of sites.

The program is a "very wonderful opportunity" for students to gain experience in community service, Kennedy, who will be going on the trip as the on-site advisor, said. Each participant will earn 50 hours of community service.

"It's an opportunity for service instead of an opportunity to party," explained Kennedy, adding that the trip is for students interested in making "healthier choices."

Students on the trip will be volunteering at least six hours per day for five days. Two night-time activities are planned to increase each student's cultural awareness about the area where they will be staying. The groups can choose from topics like blacksmithing, coal mining, history, traditional music and square dancing.

Students will be staying in dormitory-style housing in the Appalachian Center. The dorms do have running water and electricity. There is also a chapel and a dining hall on the 65-acre facility.

MTSU students participated in the program last year, working in a soup kitchen in Washington, D.C., feeding the homeless. Kennedy said that all students she talked to who were on the team enjoyed the trip "immensely."

Teams cover the entire country "from California to Florida to Rhode Island," Kennedy said. Each team picks where they want to go and are given things to do.

Teams can get involved with a diverse group of issues—including being politically active for minority groups and tutoring and mentoring children in the Cherokee nation.

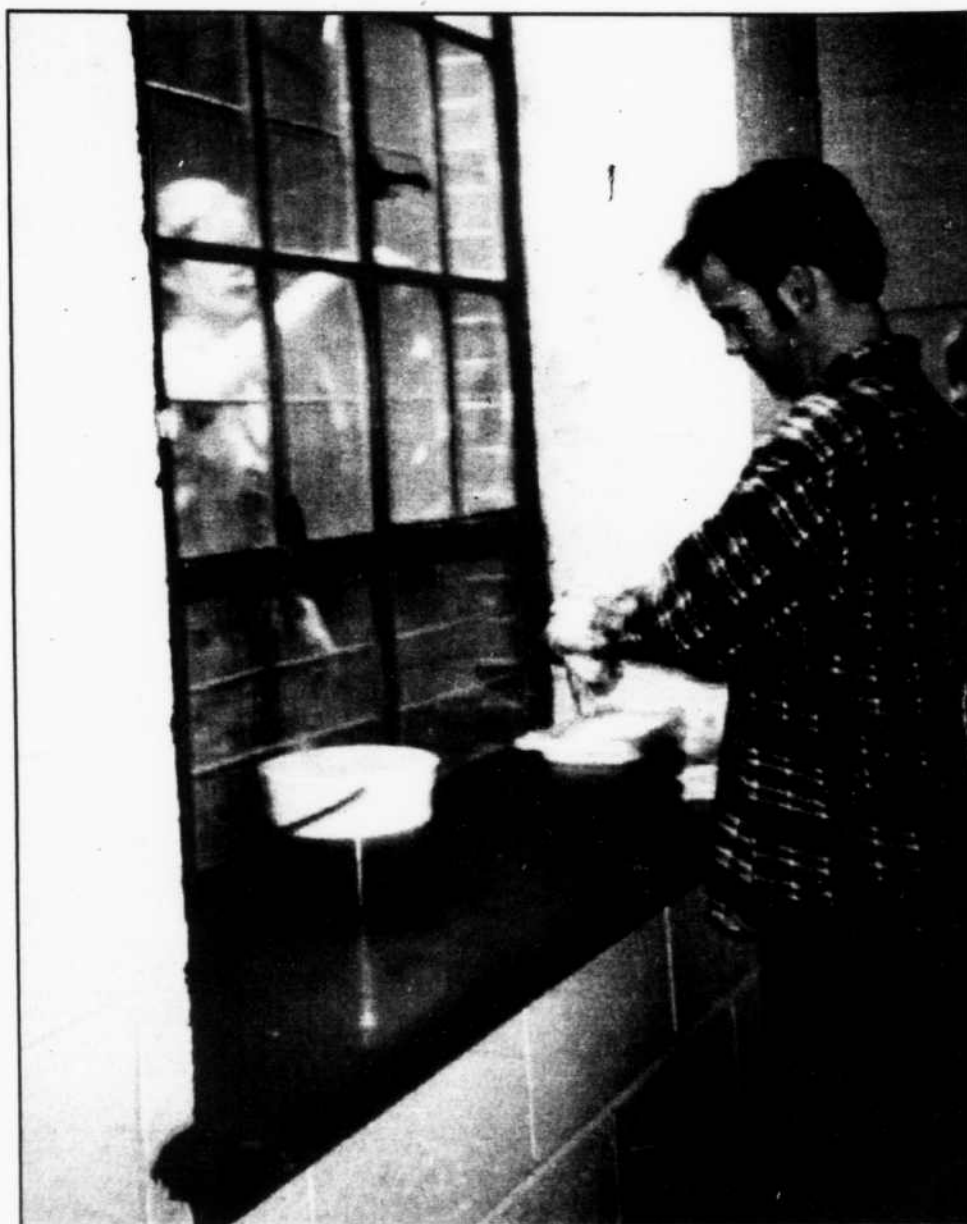


photo provided

Students who participated in the Alternative Spring Break last year in Washington, D.C., clean windows for the people they are helping.

After the deadline passes, applicants will be interviewed and a team will be assembled. Five pre-trip

meetings are scheduled and two meetings will be held after the group returns.

## Politically incorrect



Vickie Gibson/staff

Joe Clark, subject of "Lean On Me," spoke to faculty and students in the Tucker Theatre Feb. 4. Clark condemned political correctness and spoke positively on race relations and personal relationships in his over one-hour speech.

## Artist brings Chicago to MTSU with new exhibit

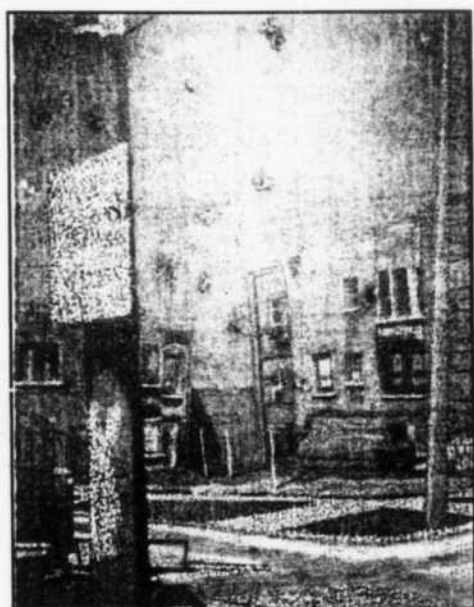
□ Dawn Marie Stankovsky/staff

Artist and Professor Robert Graham brought his memories of Chicago to the Art Barn Gallery this past Monday.

Graham's exhibit, entitled "Chicago: Memories and Fantasies," is a conglomeration of colorful pieces reflecting growing up on the south side of Chicago. The pieces on display are from the "Malcolm X" part of this series which, when finished in 1999, will number over 300. Graham has been averaging 50 pieces a year, using colorful images and textures to capture his memories.

Three major themes in his exhibit are present. Graham started with colors and forms then moved on to capture cityscapes. His final frontier was to use the abstract color and forms he previously joined to shape silhouettes. The outcome is a spectacular show of imagination and reality mixed to form surreal states of imagery. As Graham stated, "Art is what you feel."

Graham currently resides in Blacksburg, Va., and is a full-time art professor at Virginia Tech. His



Vickie Gibson/staff

"From All This Came Beauty" by Robert Graham is one piece in his new exhibit "Chicago: Memories and Fantasies," on display at the Barn Gallery through Feb. 27.

"Chicago" exhibit will be open for viewing at the Art Barn Gallery through Feb. 27. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## Jazz concert kicks off Black History Month

□ Shawn Whitsell/staff

Did you happen to wander past Tucker Theatre on Monday night and wonder what was going on?

Well, a large audience of students, professors and people from the community gathered in the Theatre for a night of jazz.

The show opened with performances by Phillippe Saisse and Jeff Golub.

Saisse is a composer and producer who has traveled all over the world, working with artists such as Chaka Khan and Al Jareau.

Golub is a guitarist who has become quite known for his blend of rock, soul and blues. He has also worked with many artists and played guitar with Rod Stewart on his world tour.

Golub's energetic performance seemed to impress the crowd and prepare them for the headliner, Kirk Whalum. Both Saisse and Golub have had albums hit number one on the charts.

After the appetizers it was time for the main course—Kirk Whalum. He entered the stage with his beautiful platinum tenor saxophone. The audience welcomed him to the stage with a huge round of warm applause.

Whalum and his band, which included both Saisse and Golub, filled the show with beautiful jazz music, as well as, a bit of comedy.

Not only did Whalum perform, he interacted with the crowd during and between songs.

He talked about himself, his family, his career and on several occasions he bragged about his talented band. He told the crowd how much they were a pleasure to work with.

He also told the audience that he has had the same bass player, who they called "The Judge," for nearly 20 years and his drummer has been with him for seven years. He even managed to throw in a joke or two about them.

Whalum shared the spotlight, giving his band a chance to shine. In the middle of the show Whalum went to the side of the stage, took a short break, and enjoyed the sounds of the band.

"This is the point in the show when I become a fan," he said.

He described it as being one of his favorite parts of the show.

Whalum returned to the spotlight with an alto saxophone and invited a

fellow musician and friend, who was in the audience, on stage for an unplanned duet.

The group performed songs from Whalum's current and past albums, as well as songs from other artists that he worked with. One song that I recognized was one recorded by Luther Vandross.

Other artists he has worked with include Whitney Houston, Barbara Streisand, Quincy Jones, Larry Carlton, Nancy Wilson, George Benson, Micheal Franks—the list goes on.

Another part of the show, which was my favorite part, was when Whalum gave the crowd a short history lesson by explaining then demonstrating how musicians used to compete with each other back in the earlier days of jazz.

He explained that back then musicians really loved big finishes. So after he did the regular ending to his song, he went back and did a long, exaggerated finish that had the crowd laughing and clapping.

Whalum closed his show by showcasing an aspiring singer and musician. His younger brother has been on tour with him for the past few weeks.

Whalum has traveled all over the world performing and recording. Though he currently resides in Nashville, it was his first performance here at MTSU.

He said he enjoyed playing here and he looked forward to coming back. "We don't mind it being our first time here," he said. "We just don't want it to be our last."

The show turned out to be a great success.

If you missed it, then you truly missed a treat. But you can still catch some of the upcoming shows throughout the month.

The concert was one of several events and activities which have been planned by Special Events and the African-American History Month Committee for February, Black History Month.

There will also be a comedy show featuring Leighann Lord and Wali Colins.

Check "On Campus" and the feature section of "Sidelines" for dates, times and location of the upcoming events.

Come out and celebrate Black History Month on campus.

I know I will.



# Wind Band Conference comes to MTSU

□ Waunausha Hairston/staff

On February 5 through the 7 the Middle Tennessee State University Department of Music will present the Tennessee Wind Band Conference. Richard Anthony Murphy, director of bands, Terry D. Jolley, associate director of bands, Music Department Chair James Brooks and University President James Walker are this year's hosts for the conference.

The three-day event will consist of many performances of interest by nationally-known conductors and award-winning composers. On February 6 at 9:45 a.m. Lalo Davila, director of percussion studies will direct a percussion ensemble that will last an hour.

Later on Friday the Middle Tennessee State University Wind Ensemble, conducted by Richard Anthony Murphy and Terry D. Jolley, will perform at 7 p.m.

W. Francis McBeth will guest conduct the Wind Ensemble on his original composition, "Through Countless Halls of Air."

The Wind and Percussion Ensemble will play Malcolm Arnold's "HRH Duke of Cambridge March" as well as present the Tennessee premiere of "Waking Angels" by David Gillingham.

Included in the program are local pianists Dr. Charlene Harb and Dr. Jerry Perkins, who will perform while Dr. Madeline Bridges narrates on



Jason Mazzo/staff

Members of MTSU's Wind Ensemble practice Wednesday afternoon in preparation for the Tennessee Wind Band Conference that will be held this weekend on campus.

Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals."

Concluding Friday's program will be the Tennessee Valley Winds conducted by Joseph T. Smith as well as McBeth who will guest conduct the group.

The conference will conclude at 2 p.m. Saturday with the performances of the two symphonic bands, which will include 200 high school students. These

instrumentalists were selected because they qualified for their All-State or Regional Band or were highly recommended by his or her high school band director.

Students will have a chance to work with highly esteemed composers and conductors and are prospects for Middle Tennessee State University's own Band of Blue.

Guest conductors are Ed Lisk from Oswego, NY,

nationally known music educator and conductor; and Stephen Mililic of Hampton, Va., an Emmy Award-winning composer.

All performances will take place in the Music Hall of the Neill and Margaret Wright Music Building on the MTSU campus. The concerts are free and open to the public as always.

## ROAD CLOSED

DETOUR

Not to us! We're going straight ahead for treatments and cures for 40 neuromuscular diseases.

**MDA**

Muscular Dystrophy Association  
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People help MDA... because MDA helps people.

# JAZZ

## WMOT-FM 89.5

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

\$0.50 transaction fee for non-UP customers through July 31, 1998.



**We just dropped a ton of money on our new location at the KUC Student Center on the campus of MTSU.**

**We don't mean to brag.**

It's just that our Annie® Cash Machines are showing up all over the place.

We have cash machines at more than 600 locations throughout seven states. And now they're even inside some of your favorite stores.

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**SOLUTION:**

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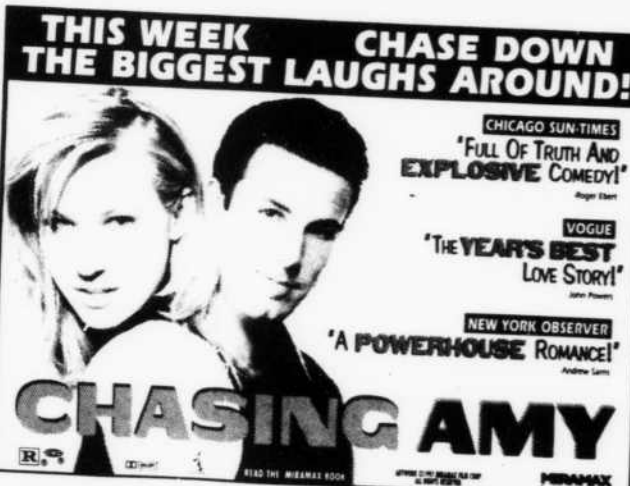
## KUC Theater

Thursday  
February 5

Last showings tonight!  
7:00 & 9:30 pm  
Only \$2.00!!



LEAN ON ME



**Valentine's Special:**  
2 for 1  
at the early showing  
7 pm - each night!!

**February 9/10/11/12**  
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thu 7 & 9:30 pm  
Admission only \$2.00



MTSU Special Events  
presents

# WALLI COLLINS

Stand-Up!  
Stand-Up!

plus Black Comedy Award Winner

**LEIGHANN LORD**

**FREE AND OPEN**

**COMEDY SHOW**

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 8 pm  
JUB Tenn Room

# The Color Purple



KUC Theatre

Sunday Feb. 8 4 p.m.  
**Admission FREE!!**

presented by MTSU Fine Arts

Alice Walker's joyous Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Color Purple* comes to the screen as Steven Spielberg's most powerful, most personal film. An intimate story of suffering, endurance and triumph set in the early 20th century in the rural South, *The Color Purple* is a distinctive and deeply moving film revolving around one black family and their particular struggles. Whoopi Goldberg makes her screen debut as Celie Johnson, a browbeaten, much abused, nearly illiterate farm girl, who over the course of 40 years, grows into a woman of self-assurance and wit, a woman with her own dreams and identity. (Color, PG-13, 1985, 155 minutes).

*Special Events*

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~specevt>

WWW = OPEN 24 HOURS!



# SPORTS & RECREATION

Page 8

Thursday, February 5, 1998

## 2-MIN. DRILL!



### Bring the Oilers campaign

WAPB 810 AM is promoting a "Bring the Oilers to Middle Tennessee" campaign.

According to Mike Leahy, WAPB general manager, anyone interested in assisting with the campaign may call the station at 867-3366 or e-mail WAPB@mindspring.com.

Leahy also noted that people may pick up information or sign petitions to be presented to the Oilers by coming to the station, 107 S.E. Broad Street.

### Basketball results

The Lady Raider basketball team stayed above .500 in conference play with a 62-49 win over Murray State Monday night.

Freshman Joanne Aluka led the way with 14 points while Carlita Elder's 12 and Kelly Chastain's 10 rounded out the Raiders who reached double figures.

### Women's tennis results

The Lady Raider tennis team picked up a big win Tuesday with a 6-2 victory over UAB for the second straight season.

Amy King, Michelle North and Kim Glassman all recorded straight set victories for Middle in singles action.

### Francis to have surgery

Kay Francis, a junior from Murfreesboro who plays for the Lady Raider basketball team, is expected to under go exploratory knee surgery today.

Francis has been bothered much of season with pains in her right knee. It is hoped that doctors will be able to locate the cause of the pain and scope the problem immediately.

### Allen among country's top

Malachi Allen currently has the 11th best shooting percentage in Division I men's basketball.

Allen has shot 63.6 percent from the field thus far. The ranking is based on player's who have made a minimum of 60 field goals.

### Raider television schedule

"The Randy Wiel Show" airs every Sunday night on WNAB at 10 p.m. It is replayed 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. on MTSU Ch. 8.

"The Shophy Smith Show" airs on WHRT Channel 27 on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

### Raider Radio Network

WMTS FM 88.3-

(Womens Basketball only)

vs SEMO 3 p.m. Feb. 7

at TSU 7 p.m. Feb. 14

vs Morehead 5:30 p.m. Feb. 21

WGNS AM 1450-

All Lady Raider basketball games

The Randy Wiel Show on Sunday nights. Taped from 6-7 p.m. at Toot's Restaurant in Murfreesboro.

WBOZ FM 104.9-

All Blue Raider basketball games

### Upcoming schedule

Men's Basketball-

vs Eastern Ill. 7 p.m. Tonight

vs SEMO 1 p.m. Feb. 7

Women's Basketball-

vs SEMO 3 p.m. Feb. 7

vs E. Illinois 7:05 p.m. Feb. 9

Women's Tennis-

at Ball State T.B.A. Feb. 7

at E. Illinois T.B.A. Feb. 8

Men's Tennis-

ITA National Indoors Feb. 5-8

at Illinois Classic Feb. 13-15

Indoor Track-

at Indiana Invite All day Feb. 6-7

MTSU Invitational All day Feb. 14

Baseball-

vs Illinois State 3 p.m. Feb. 20

vs Illinois State 1 p.m. Feb. 21

vs Illinois State 1 p.m. Feb. 22

(Opening Home Stand Series)

Softball-

at Samford (DH) 1 p.m. Feb. 21

at Ole Miss (DH) 2 p.m. Feb. 25

Golf-

Bridges All-American Tournament

Feb. 16-17 (all day)



Please fax any information on sports and recreational activities to Sidelines at 904-8487 or call the Sports desk at 898-2816.

## First-time cavers not afraid of dark

□ Jennie Treadway/staff

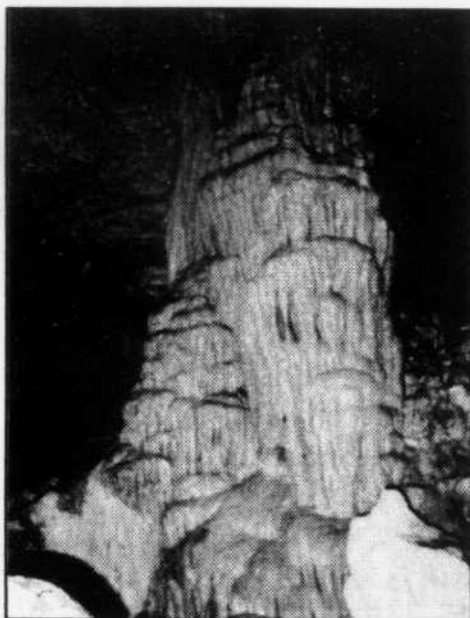
I came out of Southport Cave with only one scratch and a few bruises. The others suffered about the same. To tell you the truth, it was worth it.

Last Sunday, a group of students participated in a day-long caving excursion, one of the Recreation Center's Outdoor Pursuits adventure trips. It was to Southport Cave in Maury County, Tennessee, and was led by adventure directors Steven Jones and Jay Frain.

The adventure began in Murfreesboro when Steven informed the group that we would be making an unexpected stop before going to the cave.

"Almost all of our headlamps were rented out from right under us," Steven said first thing Sunday morning. "So we'll be stopping at Wal-Mart."

After buying mini-flashlights, extra batteries and gloves, our group of 11 cavers was on its way to Maury Co.



Jennie Treadway/staff

This stalagmite grows just inside the entrance to Southport Cave.

in the Rec. Center van, otherwise known as the "Big Rig."

The cave is owned by Buddy Baldwin and Mark Dunnivant, who own the surrounding land and are in the process of having the cave surveyed and mapped. Over the past several years, more than 2,000 feet of the cave have been surveyed.

The cave was a salt-peter mine used for making gun powder during the Civil War. There are a few names

and dates on the walls of the cave that serve as remnants of the war.

Once out of the van, we immediately bundled up to ward off the strong winds. Since we were at a higher elevation, the temperature was a bit colder than it was on campus earlier that morning.

"OK—the first thing you want to do is watch for bats," Buddy said after welcoming us to the grounds. "They're sleeping."

The cave bats, which are not bigger than the size of a thumb, are in hibernation and cannot be disturbed. It would be difficult for them to find food and survive throughout the rest of the winter.

With that in mind, we entered the cave around 11 a.m. and were cautious to watch for what was hanging above our heads, not to mention the cave rats that might be scurrying around.

None of us, except for Steven and Jay, had been caving before Sunday. However, no one was lagging behind.

The cave was chilly, muggy and, by far, not easy to explore. Within the first ten feet, we were on our knees crawling through the iron gate that led to the depths of the cave. That was the first clue that we would return a dirty, muddy mess. Our headlamps were our only light source and our clothes protected us from any major scraps and scratches.

"Feel free to explore any part of the cave you want to, but you must go in groups of three," Steven warned us. "If one gets hurt, then there's one to stay and one to go get help."

The group ended up staying together, although some moved a little faster than others. There is no way to get dangerously lost since the cave has a circular design. There are plenty of holes and tunnels to explore, but the group never split up or lost its sense of adventure. We were in this trip together.

There was a small crack in the cave's wall that led to a greater room with stalagmites and stalagmites from top to bottom. The crack was about the width of a human body, so the only way to the other side was to take off our backpacks, crawl on our bellies and wiggle through.

Needless to say, the bravest of the brave went through. Three of us waited restfully for the group to return.

By noon, the group was getting hungry and a few of us had drank too much water to crawl any further in comfort. The daylight took a moment of getting used to after being in utter

darkness for over an hour, but the air smelled fresh and the sun felt warm. We were ready for a small break.

Before long, we crawled back inside for another excursion. There were parts where teamwork and strength were all that could pull us through the cracks and holes of Southport Cave. The dirtier and sweatier we got, the more eager we were to go farther.

However, the time finally came when exhaustion was setting in and we had crept through the last part of the cave that we could. Before leaving for home, we took a moment to turn off our headlamps and flashlights. For the last few minutes, we were silent and in

complete darkness.

I believe that's when we all understood the adventure we had just been on. Not only had we explored an extraordinary creation of this earth, but we exerted ourselves to limits we never expected.

--Baldwin and Dunnivant have their own outdoor adventure program called Southport Cave Recreation Area, which has been active for about seven years. They provide guided and unguided caving tours, camping, hiking and mountain biking.



Jennie Treadway/staff

Back row (left to right): Chuck Millier, Kenny Gibbs, Melissa Stepp, Ashley Carmouche, Josh Crain. Front row: Jennie Treadway, Jay Frain, Steven Jones, Chad Monroe, Andy Oyer and Kelly McLaughlin.

## Why just sit around during Spring Break?

Guest Columnist  
WT Taylor  
Internurals Director



Can you believe Spring Break is LESS THAN SIX weeks away?

Many people are still looking for options for fun getaways for their break. There are a number of locations to find information and a variety of factors to consider in your plans.

Therefore, check your budget, time schedule and desired activity preference and read on!

Monday's "Sidelines" listed five ads for Spring Break. These are found in the travel section and include "Yoga in Missouri's Ozarks" from \$165 to the beaches at "South Padre Island in Texas" from \$434.

These types of vacations offer quick code words listing distant, and often exotic, locations. When calling be sure to ask for not only starting prices but also references or perhaps even local students who have utilized this service.

Many operators are reputable and offer a great time at a good price. However, some have been known to have a fine print which can cause stress and extra charges.

For a more rustic adventure, one can consult various outdoor magazines such as "Backpacker" and "Outside."

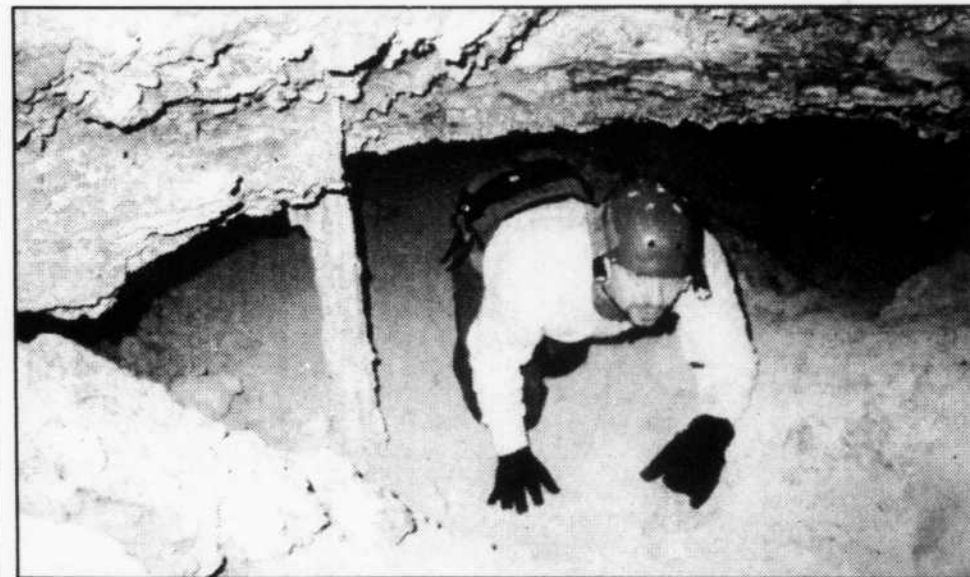
A recent issue of "Outside" had 11 pages of options to choose from. These are categorized by destination areas, including Western States, Alaska, Mexico and more.

The major difference between these and the aforementioned listings is the type of company presenting them.

Those offering spring breaks are usually travel/tour companies which make arrangements but may or may not have a representative on site. Those in "Outside" are guide services with employees who will lead you on the adventure—they provide references upon request.

The local newspaper is also a good resource. In Sunday's "Tennessean,"

Please see TAYLOR, page 9



Jennie Treadway/staff

Jay Frain, an Outdoor Pursuits coordinator, brings up the rear after a slow crawl through a slim opening underground.

## Home stand begins tonight

□ Staff reports

After a two-week road swing, the men's and women's basketball teams return to Murphy Center tonight for a combination of four games in five days.

The men (16-4, 10-2) will kick-off the home stand tonight in a game against Eastern Illinois at 7 p.m..

The Raiders lost a tough game with Eastern three weeks ago, it is one of only two OVC losses this season for the men.

Both teams will then be in action for a double header against Southeast Missouri on Saturday. The games get underway at 1 p.m and can be seen on WNAB.

The Lady Raiders (11-9, 7-5) then wrap up the home stand Monday night against Eastern Illinois with tip-off set for 7:05 p.m.

## Performer of the Week

Freddie Martinez



Ponce,  
Puerto Rico  
Sophomore  
6'5"  
Forward  
2nd year  
with team

Games: Raiders vs. Murray State and UT-Martin

Date: Jan. 29 and 31

Outcome: 78-75 loss to Murray, 78-54 win over Martin

Scenario: Freddie Martinez continued to be a model of constancy for the Raiders as they closed out a four-game road trip with three wins.

Martinez scored 15 points against Murray, seven down the stretch, as the Raiders nearly snapped Murray's 24-game home winning streak.

Two nights later, Martinez made six baskets from the field, all from beyond the three-point arc. His 18-point effort led the Raiders to their first road win over Martin since the Skyhawk's joined the OVC.



# Coaches should encourage successful future for players

**Keith Ryan Cartwright**  
Sports Editor



In life, it's a dire necessity to understand your role.

We all have many roles depending upon what aspect of our lives we're talking about.

It's obvious that athletes and coaches have roles. Players have certain parts of a game plan they contribute to and a coach's role is to determine what role players should have.

But athletics isn't the only part of life where roles have to be played.

My role in the classroom is to be the best student I can be and to absorb as much of the information and knowledge my professors have to offer.

In the "Sidelines" office, my role is working with my co-editor to make sure we put out the best sports section we're capable of.

It's important that we realize our roles and never lose sight of them. The point I'm making is that all too often people fail to properly function in their given roles. It may even be possible that they don't fully understand their roles.

Unfortunately at Riverdale High School, Gary Rankin has failed at his most important role.

Sure he's won state football championships and coached a handful of players who have been named the top player in Tennessee the past few years.

But in the end, being a high school football coach is only one small role Rankin plays in the overall scheme of things.

Recently, a Knoxville newspaper quoted Rankin basically saying that there is no reason for any of his players to play at MTSU considering Riverdale draws a larger crowd.

When your at the high school level, worrying about attendance is the last thing that should be on a coach's mind. If it is on Rankin's mind, it definitely needs to be kept to himself.

However, that's not even the point of my argument. My point is that because Rankin is at the high school level his most important role at Riverdale is working as an educator. Something he surely must have lost sight of.

What the hell kind of an education is he providing his players? His students? His own family?

Gary Rankin is working with kids at a time in their lives when they are extremely impressionable.

People complain all the time that professional players don't respect sports anymore.

Maybe it's true, that athletes are only driven by greed—that all they see is money or ways to boost their own inflated egos by claiming to be the real attraction.

With coaches like Gary Rankin it's no wonder why college and professional athletes these days have such an attitude.

As if winning football games wasn't enough, Rankin now feels the need to compare attendance figures and publicly talk about the fact that his players are too good for Middle Tennessee.

Bullshit. In my humble

opinion, Gary Rankin (no, I've never met him) appears to be nothing more than a jealous, self-absorbed egomaniac who can't seem to get enough of himself these days.

If Rankin was half the educator in life that he appears to be as a football coach, he would constantly remind his players to be thankful for the opportunity they have been afforded.

He would prepare them for life as much as he does for their next opponent. Despite the fact that as a team they are competitive, the vast majority of them will never play a single down at the college level.

That's reality!

Publicly downplaying a major university (let me repeat that, 'major university') in his own backyard for personal reasons is not being fair to his players, either school or himself.

What kind of precedent does that set for his players?

Coaches and educators have an obligation to their players and students to encourage them—not discourage.

What it boils down to is that Rankin made an error in judgement.

Hopefully, that error won't stop any potential players at Riverdale High School from pursuing MTSU, if that's what they are interested in doing—even if their coach seems to have some kind of a problem with the Blue Raider program.

When it boils right down to it, the real problem is the fact that the chip on Rankin's shoulder is preventing him from performing his role.

airfare, so check your bank account before signing up.

Lastly, MTSU's Outdoor Pursuits, a division of Campus Recreation, has several options to consider. The advantages are price, variety of offerings and interaction with other students while going with MTSU's volunteer coordinators.

Although the Costa Rica trip is filled, spaces still remain for skiing the Rockies and canoeing the deserts of the Rio Grande.

First, if your idea of roughing it includes a bed, go skiing! There were 85 students exploring the slopes with MTSU over Christmas break without getting frostbite.

The spring ski outing goes to New Mexico's premier resort, which combines the Swiss ski flavor with the Spanish adobe of Taos and the Indian pueblo just outside the town.

You can ride in the van for \$385 or meet the group there for \$295. In either case, this 3-day/4-night trip is designed for all levels of skiers looking for fun with a mountain whose

summit is 11,819 feet with a 2,612-foot vertical drop on 72 runs.

Think snow! Lastly, for the more wilderness-oriented at heart, try canoeing on one of the top three wilderness rivers in the continental United States. The Rio Grande's Lower Canyons offer five or six days of canoeing and kayaking while paddling through canyons with 1,000-foot-plus walls.

This wild and scenic river, as designated by the U.S. Park Service, has bubbling hot springs, over 300 days of sunshine, wild burros and desert flora and it borders Mexico. The past two years the temperatures have had highs in the 70s and 80s. All this for \$199 for MTSU students.

In summary, if you have not made plans for Spring Break '98, it's not too late. Look at your time off, your goals and, of course, the pocket book, and then plan to have fun "roughing it" on the beach, the slopes or by a campfire!

## CLASSIFIEDS

Sidelines recommends that you use discretion before sending money for any advertised goods and services. We recommend that you get in writing a full description prior to sending money.

### CHURCHES

Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church, 816 North Church St., 896-0720

### FOR RENT

Room for rent in Log Home approx. 10 minutes from MTSU. Share kitchen and living area. Call 893-7240. If out, leave message with best time to call back.

Rehearsal space available, 24 hour access. \$275-350/month. Flexible leasing plan. 664-4015. Downtown area.

Rooms available. \$285; includes utilities; kitchen and laundry shared. 896-7918.

### FOR SALE

Art table, white tip, legs black, adjustable height. \$75, call 731-6351.

Large blue sofa in good condition. Will sell for \$75 or best offer. Call 849-8196 for more details.

Sofa and chair \$300, sleeper sofa \$50, waterbed with headboard \$100, dresser \$20, bicycle \$40, TV \$60. Call 890-5319.

PIONEER ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE 150 watt receiver; 120 watts per channel; cassette deck; two floor speakers. All need some work. \$200 obo 890-0162, leave message.

Sony Computer w/ printer and software, all under 2 months old. 200 MHZ w/MMX, 32 MB SDRAM, 4.3 GB Harddrive, zip drive, 56 kbs modem w/voicemail, 24 x CD ROM, 4MB EDO memory on video card, TV Tuner w/stereo reception, HP 820 Cse inkjet printer, and lotsa software! \$2600. Call Matt at 898-4646. Leave message.

Blue couch and chair. Is clean and worth a look. Great if you've got nothing. Call Chuck @ 402-8596 and leave message. \$40

1995 Saturn SC2, dark green w/tan cloth. Options: traction control, ABS, PW, PDL, Power sunroof, Cass/10 disc CD Player w/equalizer, \$12,000 M-F 8-5 p.m., 361-0087, home-333-0492. Ask for Angel.

For Sale 1997 Pacific MTB, aluminum frame, SACHS gripshift, formula rims, and much more. Call after 4 p.m. 904-2666. Ask for Rod. \$300.

### HELP WANTED

Organist needed for Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening practice along with special services. Send resume to First CP Church, 907 E.Main

St., M'boro, 37130 or call 893-6755.

Part-time receptionist needed for fast-paced local real estate office. Computer skills necessary. Contact Larry Sims at 893-3589 or mobile 300-8321.

CAMP COUNSELORS Overnight Camps in Pocono Mtns of PA need counselors to teach Athletics, Outdoor Adventure, Arts, & MORE! Call 215-887-9700 or e-mail pinetree@pond.com.

Grad seeking volunteers for thesis research project identifying who women turn to for support following rape, and what characteristics those persons have that made their support helpful and effective (or not). Participation takes approximately 60 minutes and involves completing some questionnaires and a brief interview. All information will be kept in the strictest confidence. Volunteers must be women over the age of 18. If you are willing to participate, please leave message at 904-8080, box 9206, or contact Dr. Gloria Hamilton, Psychology Dept., Project Director.

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Tutor wanted for social work major two hours per week. Good pay. Reply to P.O. Box 4854.

### LOST & FOUND

HELP! HAVE YOU SEEN MY GLASSES? I lost them 1/13/98 on the first level of the Mass. Comm. building or in the parking lot on my way home. Brown case w/prescription glasses inside. If found, please call 904-8380, even if they're found broken.

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FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies of catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library. For more information,

come by KUC 328 or call 898-2500.

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Needed, male or female roommate. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, kitchen, living room, \$190 to \$230/month. Utilities divided. Call 890-4094 or 890-6961.

Rommate needed to share 2 bedroom apartment. Free water, washer, and dryer included. Within walking distance to campus. \$250 plu 1/2 utilities. Call today. 907-1943. Move in immediately.

Female roommates needed. Please contact Shannon at 848-0645.

Need 3rd roommate for 3 bedroom house 15 min. from MTSU. \$158 per month plus deposit/utilities, w/d, fenced yard. Call Shawn or Wes 273-2014, leave message.

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