

THEY'RE HERE!

# SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007

## Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea

In a new report, Tennessee ranks in the top 10 for three STDs in the nation; eighth for syphilis, ninth for chlamydia, tenth for gonorrhea

By Johnathon Schleicher  
Staff Writer

Tennessee ranks in the top 10 in the nation in three different sexually transmitted diseases. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention data shows that Tennessee has placed eighth for Syphilis infections, ninth for Chlamydia, and 10 for Gonorrhea.

Though these diseases can be treated with antibiotics, the direct medical cost associated with STDs is estimated to be around \$14.7 billion annually.

The number of cases in Tennessee surged for all three STDs between 2002 and 2006, the Associated Press reported. Jennifer Ruth, spokeswoman from the Centers for Disease Control, stated in the article that Tennessee is not the only one who suffered from the increase.

"Cases increased nationally..... what this data does is serve as a reminder that STDs still pose a major health risk," Ruth said.

There are 3.5 times more men with syphilis than women. Syphilis is spread through direct contact from person to person, The Center for

Disease Control and Prevention's Web site stated. The best treatment to date is Penicillin.

Chlamydia is caused by bacteria known as chlamydia trachomatis, and is spread by intercourse with an infected partner.

It is the most frequently reported STD in America and can be treated with antibiotics.

Gonorrhea is caused by the bacterium neisseria gonorrhoeae. It is estimated that 700,000 people in the United States are infected every year. Only half of these infections are reported to CDC. Gonorrhea can be cured by several antibiotics in adolescents and adults, but drug resistant strains are developing.

According to the National Prevention Information Network, despite having 19 million new infections annually and having billions of dollars of the nation's healthcare cost, many Americans are still unaware of the dangers of STDs.

Corey Harper, a nursing major at MTSU, said it is not shocking that Tennessee is ranked so high nationally for STDs.

"I don't know anyone personally who said they have an STD, but I know some of them do," said

Harper. "They just do not talk about it. People should tell their partners what they have before having sex."

STDs affect everyone, but women and infants with infected mothers and young adults have an increased risk.

Some of the factors causing the increase of STDs in America are teenagers who are sexually active at a younger age, and sexually active teenagers are hesitant to receive STD services; 15-24 year olds represent nearly half of all new STDs each year.

The National Prevention Information Network's Web site also states the most reliable methods to avoid becoming infected with an STD are to abstain from sexual intercourse, and maintain a long term monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner.

Latex male condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the transmission of STDs.

To further reduce the risk of an STD infection, regular testing for HIV and other STDs is recommended. ♦

## Horn students spread holiday joy across campus



Horn professor Angela DeBoer conducts horn students as they play different Christmas carols throughout various buildings across the campus.

Horn Students: Ion Marina, Sean Donovan, John Park Horner, Hannah Tilton, Ana Valenzuela, Stephanie McKneel and Andrew England.

Photos by Justin Keoninh | Photography Editor

## MT celebrates diversity with seasonal showcase

By Tiffany Gibson  
Staff Writer

On Dec. 5 in Tom Jackson Hall, the office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs along with Lambda Theta Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Hispanic Students Organization will begin a new tradition. at MTSU known as Celebrations of the Season.

What started out as an original Hispanic showcase soon became a joint event due to its financial status.

"Basically it was a good way to co-sponsor and mingle," said Luisa Padro, President of Lambda Theta Alpha, senior and public relations major.

Celebrations of the Season will take place at 6 p.m. and will consist of organizations explaining certain cultural traditions of celebrating the Christmas season.

Displays of Posada and other traditions will be available as well as holiday music performed by the MTSU gospel choir and salsa band.

"We are starting small and hopefully will be branching out to include additional groups next year," said Luther Buie, Interim Director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.

A few of the traditions that will be discussed throughout the event include Kwanza, Three Kings Day, Posada and Midnight Mass.

Kwanza is a seven day celebration that begins on Dec. 26 and continues until January 1.

During this time participants partake in activities such as lighting of candles and gift giving.

Also incorporated into these activities is the pouring of the libation, which serves as an offering to god.

Latin holiday customs will also be portrayed in this event by the Latin sorority, Lambda Theta Alpha.

Luisa Padro, president of Lambda Theta Alpha, senior and public relations major, encourages people to come out even if they have no other incentive that receiving free food.

"From a student's perspective I real-

ize that students are getting ready to go home to celebrate with their families, but I feel like as students of MTSU we are a family and should take the time to celebrate together," said Padro.

Padro went on to explain several of the Latin customs that would be presented at Celebrations of the Season by power point presentation and displays.

The first tradition is known as Three Kings Day and is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on Jan. 6.

Three Kings Day is a Christian celebration, also referred to as Epiphany, and is based on the story of three kings following the Bethlehem star in order to bring gifts to baby Jesus.

According to Padro, in Peru some people celebrate Three Kings Day by bringing gifts to a holiday party as a gift for Jesus, and as the evening progresses the host will then give out all the gifts to everyone.

Another Latin holiday custom that will be discussed is Posada.

Posada is a nine day celebration that begins on Dec. 16 and concludes on Dec. 24.

This celebration is similar to caroling with the exception of hosts welcoming the carolers into their home and offering them food.

After devouring the food, the carolers will move to the next house and the previous hosts will join them.

Posada is reenactment of the story of Mary and Joseph trying to find a place to stay and birth baby Jesus.

Midnight Mass is also considered a Latin tradition where people attend church on Christmas Eve at mid-night and afterwards return home to a gigantic feast.

Both Buie and Padro hope to make Celebrations of the Season an annual event by encouraging people to come out and learn about other holiday customs.

"Talking about the principles of different cultures and traditions is a good way to end the school year and bring in the winter holidays," Buie said. ♦

## Court rules McPhee not liable in sexual harassment lawsuit



By Andy Harper  
Managing Editor

The Appellate Court of the Tennessee Supreme Court granted permission to Tammie Allen Tuesday to proceed with a sexual harassment suit against the state.

Justice Janice M. Holder wrote the opinion of the court, which dismissed McPhee of individual liability but still holds the state responsible.

"Given the role McPhee would be designated to play in the handling of Allen's sexual harassment complaint, a reasonable jury could conclude that Allen could have credibly believed that complaining would have been futile or counterproductive or would have resulted in retaliation," the court wrote.

Justices heard the appeal for the suit against McPhee on June 6, after the Rutherford County Circuit Court dismissed the suit in 2004.

During the appellate hearing, Allen's lawyer, Gilbert Anglin, cited sexual harassment, retaliation and aiding and abetting sexual harassment as the primary focus of the suit.

"One thing we have in this case is there seems to be some misunderstanding about the law," Anglin said in opening statements in June.

Allen filed a civil suit against McPhee, MTSU, the Tennessee Board of Regents and the state in 2003, after an investigation by the TBR regarding accusations of sexual harassment from Allen about McPhee. The result of the TBR investigation found both parties guilty of "inappropriate behavior."

McPhee was given a 20-day suspension and \$10,000 pay decrease. Allen was relocated to Development and University Relations, promoted to vice president of the division and given an increase in salary.

In 2004, Rutherford County courts dismissed the suit. Allen filed an appeal with a district appellate court in Gallatin, which upheld the dismissal. Allen's council responded by filing an appeal with the Appellate Court of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Since the sexual harassment claims, the TBR has restructured policies on reporting sexual harassment, said Mary Morgan, a spokeswoman for TBR.

"After this occurred, we did make a change to the policy to make it explicit what steps one takes in the event it is a president or director that is being accused of harassment," Morgan said to The Tennessean.

The TBR is pleased with the court's decision, Morgan said.

"In its ruling, the court found that the board acted appropriately in removing the claimant from any risk of further harassment, conducted a swift and effective investigation, took reasonable corrective actions, disciplined McPhee and did not retaliate against Allen," Morgan said. "We are further pleased that the court found McPhee is not personally liable for any of the claimant's charges." ♦

Graffiti artists leave marks on campus

See Features, 5

Fair and Unbalanced: "It's OK, I'm on the Pill"

See Opinions, 4

Volleyball team heads to Sweet 16

See Sports, 7

### LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 48°  
LO: 34°

Friday



HI: 58°  
LO: 46°

Saturday



HI: 67°  
LO: 53°

Sunday



HI: 67°  
LO: 50°

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# Firm wants to process 20,000 tons of nuclear waste in Tenn

By Duncan Mansfield  
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Utah nuclear waste company has proposed bringing 20,000 tons of low-level radioactive garbage from Italy to Tennessee for processing, burning and recycling, then sending what's left to Utah for burial.

"This is a pretty routine import license request for us," EnergySolutions Inc. spokesman Greg Hopkins said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Still, this marks the largest volume of foreign waste — some 1 million cubic feet — that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ever considered for processing and disposal in this country.

Tennessee Rep. Bart Gordon, chairman of the U.S. House Science and Technology Committee, considers the proposal a "terrible idea" and is urging the NRC to deny the company's license application.

The Murfreesboro Democrat said the United States already has problems treating and disposing of domestically generated nuclear waste. "We should be working on solving this problem at home before taking dangerous waste from around the world," Gordon said in a statement.

He also worries some of the Italian waste will be buried in Tennessee. "That is incorrect," Hopkins insisted. "There will be no waste disposed of in Tennessee."

Reps. Joe Barton, R-Texas, and Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., also have written the NRC over concerns the imported waste could exceed federal radiation limits.

But Hopkins said the material will be thoroughly characterized in Italy by an EnergySolutions team before it leaves that country.

"So we will know exactly what the materials are. We will know that they all meet the regulatory requirements in the U.S., including the license requirements both in Tennessee and in Utah," Hopkins said.

EnergySolutions Inc. says the waste will be mostly paper, plastic, wood, metal and ion-exchange resins from shuttered nuclear power plants. "Some of these (plants) were built on American design, so it will be the kind of materials that we deal with on a regular basis out of U.S. nuclear power plants," Hopkins said.

The company has proposed bringing in the waste through the ports of New Orleans or Charleston, S.C., then shipping it by truck, rail or barge to its processing facilities in Oak Ridge, formerly owned by Duratek, for incineration and metal recycling some 25 miles west of Knoxville.

EnergySolutions proposes to import about 200,000 cubic feet of material annually for five years, beginning next spring.

"Only a small fraction of the material imported will be disposed in the U.S.," according to information from the company. "Over 33 percent of all the material will be recycled." ♦

# Prescription birth control costs to increase in state

By Brittany Carruthers  
Staff Writer

In response to changes resulting from the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, Health Services will begin raising the prices for several birth control options.

MTSU was notified of the price increase of birth control pills in late December 2006.

The increase is due to the DRA, which stated the change of eligibility standing of College Health Clinics to receive this discounted pricing.

A chance that the law could be changed is possible.

MTSU Health Services is working with the national organization, American College Health Association, and other organizations to lobby Congress and the Department of Health Services to resolve this issue for the benefit of the students.

If the situation is resolved, Health Services will reinstate the discounted pricing as soon as possible.

"It's great to take responsibility for your actions," said Tiffany Gray, sophomore theatre major. But, she added, "I don't believe a large number of students are aware of birth control being provided at Health Services."

There are options available to students who are affected by the price increases, such as continuing to purchase the same birth control at the increased price or scheduling an appointment with a provider to discuss options on switching to a lower cost method.

Students wishing to purchase birth control may also use their insurance at an outside pharmacy, while still obtaining a prescription from a provider.

"The legislation should put college health back into the exempt category," said Richard Chapman, director of the health center at MTSU, adding "The resolution is in the Senate and House with those legislations."

"The perfect resolution would be abstinence," Gray said. "We are all sexual creatures by nature and we all have urges, but

taming it; life would be easier.

Gray said that students are in college with an intent to graduate, but no birth control is 100 percent effective, and students who are sexually active run the risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease or getting pregnant.

For all intents and purposes, Medicaid's refund law ended the need for drug companies to supply colleges with a discount for birth control.

"Everyone has access to Medicaid," Gray said. "Health Services is convenient because it's on campus, but right by the Stones River Mall in Middle Tennessee, there is a Department of Human Services that links through our state, where you can sign up for Health Care and whatever doctor you need, you can get it."

Chapman said the students at MTSU can afford birth control if the American College Association and other organizations dealing with this situation can find this method to keep the price for it at an affordable rate. ♦

# Stones River Battlefield receives \$1 million grant for renovation

By Michael Stone  
Contributing Writer

Legislation for a \$1 million renovation of Stones River National Battlefield's entrance roads was approved by the House of Representatives on Nov. 14.

This money is part of an annual Appropriations Bill from the Department of Transportation.

"The renovations we plan to do are badly needed," said the battlefield's superintendent, Stuart Johnson. "The tour loop was built in 1963, so there is much that needs to be renovated."

The \$1 million is not going to be enough for all that the battlefield staff wants to get done, so all the possible renovations are being prioritized.

The top of the priority list includes building two new entrances to make the park more accessible to visitors, rerouting part of the existing tour route, and making parts of the tour roads accessible to only pedestrians and cyclists.

"Even though the \$1 million will not cover all the renovations, we hope to eventually get more funding to finish them," said Johnson.

These roads are used by the battlefield's 200,000 yearly visitors.

"We see a mix with the type of people that visit the park. Everyone from families to school groups come here. Some MTSU students come as well because of class requirements. We hope to see an increase in the number of visitors to the park with the entrance-way renovations," said Johnson.

U. S. Representative Bart Gordon has been backing the Stones

River part of the Appropriation Bill.

The Appropriations Bill has passed through the House of Representatives, but not Congress.

"We hope to see the bill passed through Congress by the end of this year," said Gordon's spokeswoman, Julie Eubanks.

Stones River is important because it was a major turning point for both the Union and the Confederacy in the Civil War.

"The Battle of Stones River enabled the North to take its first significant territory in the South. With the territory earned after the battle, the North built Fortress Rosecrans, which became a major supply depot for them. Also, the Union built their first cemetery in the South at Stones River," said Ellen Garrison, associate professor of history.

The battle itself covered 4,000 acres, but only 600 of that is preserved by the park.

The North and the South lost significant numbers in the battle. The North lost 1,730 men, while the South lost 1,294 men, according to the battlefield's Web site.

Mostly Union soldiers are buried in the cemetery portion of the park because it was originally a Union cemetery.

Of the 7,123 headstones, around 6,100 are for Union soldiers. The remaining graves were dug later in the war, and most of them the people buried are unidentifiable.

"The battle was no Antietam, but it was very bloody," said Garrison.

Stones River National Battlefield will be open this winter every day of the week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦

## Get your foot in the door!

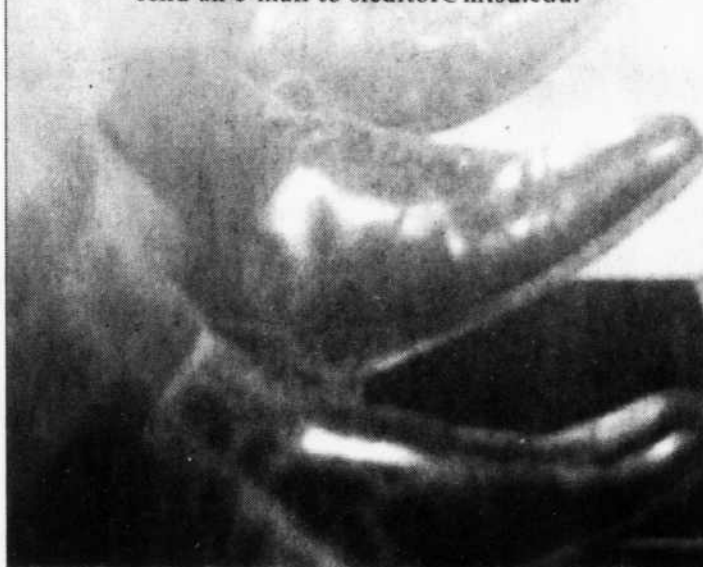
Sidelines is still looking for qualified individuals to fill the below positions. Stop by Mass Comm 269 for applications.

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Photo Editor  
Online Editor  
Assistant Sports Editor  
Assistant Features Editor

Writers for News, Sports and Features  
Photographers for News, Sports and Features

Advertisement Designer  
Advertisement Representatives

For more information, please come to the Mass Communication Building room 269, call 904-8357 or send an e-mail to [sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu).



## MTSU Evening Extended School Program

Evening Care for Children  
Kindergarten through 8th grade  
923 E. Lytle Street  
(behind Bell Street parking lot)  
(615)904-8220

[www.mtsu.edu/eesp](http://www.mtsu.edu/eesp) Monday-Thursday 3:00-9:30

### Fees:

\$32.00 weekly, first child  
\$9.00 daily, first child  
\$20.00 registration fee

\$18.00 weekly, additional children  
\$7.00 daily, additional children

### Activities:

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art, science, music, ect. activities  
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special guests and activities  
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# Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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Need a job? Home City Ice needs you! Flexible scheduling; minutes from campus; up to \$14.00/hour. Apply online at [homecityice.com](http://homecityice.com) or call (800)843-8901 ask for Jon or Derek.

Semester Break Work: \$15 base-appt; 1-5 week work program; flex schedules, sales/svc, work P/T in spring or secure summer work, conditions apply, all ages 18+. Call now! 832-8448 [semesterbreakwork.com](http://semesterbreakwork.com)

Continued from last column

Evening Extended School Program Part-Time Activity Instructor for K-8. Any major--must be 18. Monday-Friday 2:15pm-6:00pm. \$6.50 to start--Call Jennifer 904-8220. [eesp@mtsu.edu](mailto:eesp@mtsu.edu)

P/T Clerical position in Smyrna. Great work environment. Will work with school schedule. Saturdays a MUST. Call 604-6916.

Neill Sanders Buick, Pontiac, GMC Service Department is taking applications for a part time cashier/file clerk. Apply in person at 2240

Continued from last column

NW Broad St. Murfreesboro, TN 37129. No phone calls please!

## FOR RENT

Campus Crossing South apartment available Dec. 16. \$366/month; half off first. 6 month lease available. Handicap accessible. Washer/dryer, water, & electric inc. Call Heather, (615) 849-1196

1615 Center Pointe Drive; close to MTSU; perfect for roommates; clean. 2.5bdrm 1.5ba townhouse; new paint; includes appliances; \$700/mo \$500/dep apply

Continued from last column

cation. Available immediately. 615-631-5614.

House for rent: 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 3 miles from MTSU. Expanded driveway and patio, garage, appliances, W/D negotiable \$980/month. Contact Art (615) 896-6484.

## FOR LEASE

Female needed to take over lease at Woods at Greenland. First month's rent will be \$235 inc. utilities and \$410 every following month (ASAP). (615) 483-4402

NEED SUBLEASER! Woods

Continued from last column

at Greenland newly furnished three bedroom apartment. \$410/month including utilities, cable, internet, washer and dryer. Contact Sadie at (615) 424-6912 or [SJC3G@mtsu.edu](mailto:SJC3G@mtsu.edu).

Seeking male to sublease my Campus Crossing South apartment. \$400 a month; includes utilities, your own bedroom and a bathroom. Call (423) 505-4377.

Female sublesser needed @ Campus Crossings North. \$409/mo; 3 clean, quiet roommates. Available first of year or

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before if needed. Call Ashley @ (731) 610-5948.

## FOR SALE

2006 Crossroads Cruiser Fifth Wheel 31 ft, 3 slides, upgrades galore, outside shower, non-smoker, less than 2,000 miles. Hitch, covers. Photos and info: [phomas@mtsu.edu](mailto:phomas@mtsu.edu).

Buy good quality products and merchandise at prices you can afford from our website: [www.AustinEnterprisesBI.com](http://www.AustinEnterprisesBI.com) (432)867-1015

Continued from last column

Female roommate needed: 3 bdrm 2.5 bath house off S. Church St. \$450/month. First and last month up front. Call Shannon if interested or questions @ (615) 830-8336

## OPPORTUNITIES

#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, PanamaCity Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+ Book

Continued from last column

20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. [www.StudentCity.com](http://www.StudentCity.com) or 800-293-1445

Spring Break 2008 Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free! Best Prices Guaranteed to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas, S. Padre and Florida. Call for group discounts. 1-800-648-4849. [www.sttravel.com](http://www.sttravel.com)

Singer & Bassist Needed! Experience is not required. Willing to gig. Bond influences: funk, rock, blues, reggae, metal. Contact Kyle @ 615-294-3006. M'Boro.

Continued from last column

## SERVICES

### POLICIES

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.



CRIME BRIEFS - CRIME STOPPERS

Nov. 28, 12:06 a.m.  
Traffic  
Alumni Dr.  
Driving on a closed road.  
Chelsea R. Sloan

Nov. 29, 12:46 a.m.  
Drug Abuse  
Judd/Sims Hall lot  
Jamal Jarboe was arrested for felony possession of a schedule II narcotic, simple possession of marijuana, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.  
Erik Trent was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana.  
Sarah Baker was issued a state citation for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Nov. 29, 7:47 a.m.  
Burglary  
Peck Hall  
A laptop was reported taken from the history department.

Nov. 29, 10:53 a.m.  
Assistance  
Keathley University Center  
An individual called to advise of a female in the restroom who could not stop throwing up and was too weak to stand. The subject was transported to MTMC and Student Affairs was notified. An officer left a message with the girl's father.

Nov. 29, 10:32 p.m.  
Suicide Threat  
Felder Hall  
Subject called seeking help for depression and thoughts of suicide.

Nov. 30, 9:49 p.m.  
Drug Abuse  
Judd Hall  
The area coordinator on duty advised of the possibility of drugs present.

Dec. 1, 3:21 p.m.  
Use of a false ID  
Scarlett Commons, Apt. 2  
Subject was issued a state citation for possession of a fraudulent ID.  
Mark Thompson

Dec. 2, 7:49 p.m.  
Suicide Attempt  
Womack Lane, Apt. L  
Police received a report of a possible attempted suicide. The subject was

described as a 19-year-old female, lying on the floor surrounded by pills of unknown type, but probably Tylenol or Excedrin. The caller advised that she was not on-scene and was reporting second-hand information. Officers were en route to the scene when the report was filed.

Dec. 2, 10:29 p.m.  
Sex Offense  
Kappa Alpha House  
A meeting with Murfreesboro Police was arranged to discuss a possible sexual assault victim at MTMC.

Dec. 3, 3:57 p.m.  
Traffic  
Tennessee Livestock Center lot  
Subject called advising that someone hit her vehicle.

Dec. 4, 1:35 p.m.  
Theft - From buildings, under \$500  
Business Aerospace Building  
A worker from the canteen called advising that someone broke into the vending machine, taking its contents.

Dec. 4, 3:13 p.m.  
Theft - From buildings, under \$500  
Smith Hall  
Two males reported some books stolen from their dorm.

Dec. 4, 5:02 p.m.  
Theft - Bicycles  
MTSU Police Department  
Subject advised that his bicycle was stolen.

Dec. 4, 5:40 p.m.  
Theft - From buildings, over \$500  
Sims Hall  
Subject advised that someone may have broken into his dorm room.

Dec. 4, 5:44 p.m.  
Theft - From buildings, over \$500  
Smith Hall  
Subject advised that his laptop and television were stolen from his dorm room sometime between 1:10 and 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 5, 12:36 a.m.  
Drug Abuse  
Baird Lane lot  
Thomas Stinson and Robert Rector both received state citations for simple possession of marijuana; Rector was also cited for

unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Crime Stoppers**

MTSU Crime Stoppes is offering a cash reward of up to \$300 for information that leads to the arrest of the person who took a pair of SEan John blue jeans and a black hooded sweatshirt from the gym area of the tudent Rec. Center. This crime was committed between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Tue. November, 27. If you hae any information about this crime, know here any of the stolen property is or know who committed this crime, please call Crime Stoppers at (615) 893-7867 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered Smith Hall room #326 and burglarized it. The burglar(s) took an X-Box 360 with two controllers, Madden 2008, and a white Macintosh Power Book laptop computer. This crime was committed sometime between 4 p.m. on Mon, November 19 and 7 p.m. on Sun. November 25. If you know who committed this felony, know where any of th stolen property is, or have any information about this crime, please call Crime Stoppers at (615) 893-7867 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest the person or persons who took a Seer Motorcycle helmet from a City of Murfreesboro Police Department Motorcycle. This felony was committed at approximately 9:57 p.m. on Sat. November 24 while the motorcycle was parked near the intersection of Normal Way and Faulkinberry Drive next to Floyd Stadium on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. The suspect ripped the helmet from the motorcycle causing at least \$500 worth of damage to the motorcycle. If you know who committed this felony, where this helmet is, or have any information about this crime please call Crime Stoppers at (615) 893-7867 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

Campus may be new hub for city transportation

By Jeselyn Jackson  
Contributing Writer

A new transportation hub in Murfreesboro may be located at MTSU. According to a news release from Representative Bart Gordon, the U.S. House approved \$200,000 in funding for the prospective hub, which would make public transportation more convenient for students.

Murfreesboro currently has three forms of public transportation: Rover, Relax and Ride and Raider Xpress.

Rover's current center is at the corner of Walnut Street and West Burton Street and currently circulates every 30 minutes with six different routes.

Relax and Ride established in 1996, transports people from Rutherford County to Nashville.

Raider Xpress runs Monday through Friday and the routes are only on and around the MTSU campus.

The proposed hub would incorporate all three systems, but currently Raider Xpress is the most widely used by students.

"I think that the new hub being built is going to be very convenient, especially with our crazy parking issue," said Vateshia Cox, sophomore education and behavioral science major. "If you have to park far away or on the outskirts of campus you're able to just find which route runs in that direction. It's usually the red raider express that runs on the outskirts of campus."

The Relax and Ride accommodates commuting students coming from other counties for classes but it doesn't run throughout campus. ♦

Correction:

In the Dec. 3 edition of Sidelines, the story titled, "Heritage Center of Murfreesboro hosts grand opening reception," contained errors, including exhibit titles and display origins.

Once proper verification of the facts and the correct information has been attained, a revised copy of the story will appear on the Sidelines Web site later this week.

The story will be pulled from the web site until these verified facts can be inserted into the story at some point later this week.

Sidelines regrets this error.



There's no place like St. Jude...

Up 'Til Dawn: We Need YOU!

Help us reach our goal of  
\$105,000!

Enter a team of 6 today!  
Sign up in KUC 326.

Deadline: December 14

For More Information

www.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn  
615-898-5812



# OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

## Abstinence fails. Use a condom.

The *Sidelines* Editorial Board talked sex this week, in a needlessly graphic round-table discussion of various news items. The politics of sex have always been gritty and contentious in our country, and this year is no exception.

Troubling stories about the United States' sexual health should cause us to continually reexamine our personal and national policy towards the ultimate of Puritan taboos, 'doing the nasty.' Of course, each viewpoint in the debate is right, so there can be no consensus.

The federal government began to tamper with nationwide sex education in the mid to late nineties, according to SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. In the past 10 years, most official policy regarding sex education was that it should focus primarily on abstinence. Condoms are no longer allowed in the classroom, and now, neither are any other types of contraceptives.

Anyone smarter than a box of hammers knows that abstinence is the only foolproof way to prevent STIs and pregnancy, 100 percent of the time. What now?

If you know, or have been a teenager, you are fully aware that teens tend to do the exact opposite of what their elders advise. Enter: Tennessee's abnormally high rates of both teen pregnancies and STI infections. Clearly, "just say no" doesn't cut it anymore.

Editorial Board members shared anecdotes from health classes in Tennessee schools. Basic fact-checking revealed a staggering amount of misinformation passed off as fact. Imagine that.

To make matters worse, as part of a seemingly benign "budget deficit reduction" bill, Congress slashed funding that used to subsidize the availability of birth control medication to university students. Birth control pills will become more expensive as a result.

The message is clear: those in charge of the federal government are not interested in the sexual health of its college-age citizens, or the vital sex education that our middle and high school students currently lack.

Perhaps when unwanted pregnancies and STIs reach epidemic proportions, the powers that be will wake up.

Until then, don't screw around, literally or figuratively.

## It's OK, I'm on the Pill

People around the United States, and particularly Tennessee, are weighing two different, but still related, changes on the horizon of sexuality. Both will most likely affect how we think of sex and birth for generations to come.

The first was the announcement Wednesday from the Centers for Disease Control that the birth rate has climbed to its highest level since 1971. Most notably, was the fact that the teen birth rate, the number of births per 1000 from girls ages 15 to 19, rose for the first time since 1991.

This should come as a wake-up call to supporters of abstinence-only sex education programs. The current administration has made it its mission to rapidly expand support for such programs, much to the dismay of the states, which have consistently demonstrated that abstinence-only programs do not have a track record of consistent long-term results.

That's not mentioning the half-truths, misrepresentations and blatant lies these programs often spread in the name of health. They apparently can't even describe the process of pregnancy correctly: one pamphlet said that each parent supplies 24 chromosomes during conception.

I would urge anyone who agrees with that statement to open an anatomy textbook sometime.

Meanwhile, at the University of Tennessee, researchers are making what is not so much a scientific breakthrough as a social one. Duane Miller, a UT professor and chair of pharmaceutical sciences, led the creation of a drug known as C-31. The drug has been shown to be completely effective in stopping sperm production in rats, without destroying that ability once they've been taken off C-31.

Miller, as well as GTx, the Memphis-based company that's been supporting the research efforts, are excited, and with good reason. A male-oriented contraceptive pill would give men an option for preventing unwanted pregnancies without losing sensation from a condom or having to undergo surgery. In other words, there would be no excuse for a man not to do something constructive about preventing a birth for which he and his partner may not be ready.

The development of C-31 couldn't have come at a better



Fair and Unbalanced

Matthew Adair  
Staff Columnist

time. It is abundantly clear that the current attitude towards sex education in this country is flawed, and is doing more harm to than good. Not only has it been shown to fail at preventing pregnancies among teens, but it also promotes the spread of ideologically-motivated nonsense as fact, giving young men and women a horribly flawed understanding of their own bodies. Surely, they deserve better than this.

Instead of promoting unproductive and unsafe abstinence-only programs, our government should invest more of its money in research like that being done with C-31 and in initiatives that teach teens the truth about sex and how best to protect themselves from disease and from throwing away both their own lives and those of any children they may bring into the world.

This is not to say that abstinence is a bad idea, but to solely teach it as the proper behavior for young people without giving them any other information, is both morally contemptible and foolish. A society that practices such a policy, and is later shocked by a sudden rise in pregnancy rates, ought to be ashamed of itself for forgetting the simple fact that when you deny a teenager knowledge or access to something they're interested in, they will look for it anyway behind your back, regardless of the risk.

Will C-31 change the world? That remains to be seen. However, any step that encourages people to take control of their own sexuality and promotes safe, responsible sex is a good one. A simple-to-use, method for men to prevent pregnancy will be as radical as the original Pill was almost half a century ago. However it may happen, whether by C-31 or another drug, old attitudes about sex, and hopefully abstinence-only initiatives, will get swept out the door.

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



"And Friends"

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Frank Hasenmueller

## Ron Paul fights corporate greed

By Trey Ray

Guest Columnist

This letter is in response to Daniel Potter's article entitled "Ron Paul unusual, unfavorable" [Nov. 19]. Potter has tapped into the dreadfully hip trend of smearing Dr. Paul, to which many pseudo-journalistic pundits have taken a liking. As usual, it is filled with all the trite "truthiness" of the Colbert Report, minus the humor. I'll stick to the most pertinent facts.

It is unfortunately accurate to say that Ron Paul is unusual, because it has been quite some time since a politician has had the moral soundness to be honest with the people. Likewise, it is a sad state of affairs to suggest that someone who fulfills their oath of office by strictly adhering to the Constitution that they were sworn to uphold, is unfavorable.

Granted, the Constitution is an imperfect document, but I think most would agree that it is the best mankind has produced as of yet, especially in terms of listing the inalienable rights bestowed unto humanity, in spite of their government.

Therefore, as Dr. Paul points out, if you choose to ignore certain parts of the Constitution without amending it, ultimately you nullify the document entirely. Ron has stated numerous times that he regrettably votes down bills he would otherwise support, simply because he does not have the constitutional authority to do so.

Speaking of limited authority, Ron Paul is the only candidate who seems to understand the role of the President of the United States. It may be surprising to some, but the executive branch is not equivalent to an unbridled dictatorship. However, the PATRIOT Act, along with some other tasty little nuggets - i.e. Military Commissions Act, Real ID Act, etc. has literally legalized just such a situation. Right now, HR 1955, a bill lovingly entitled "The Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007" has passed the House of Representatives, and is on its way to the Senate. This bill vaguely states that any person who "acts, or promotes action against the U.S. Government" is a terrorist.

Essentially, this is a 'thought crime' bill, aimed at squashing the healthy, patriotic dissent that we have enjoyed since 1776. Of

course some will argue, "This could never happen here; that sounds like something Hitler would do".

Hitler did these things. Even he didn't have the balls to put it down on paper, and any lawyer will tell you that the government doesn't pass laws that they don't expect to enforce at some point.

Back to 2007 from 1984, the President actually has very limited power under the Constitution. The President is Commander in Chief of the military - not the people, and as such has the authority to bring the troops home as soon as militarily possible, and drastically alter our aggressive foreign policy.

According to almost every nationwide poll, this is something that 70 percent of the American people want, and therefore sounds quite favorable to me. As for the vast number of government departments and benefits that Ron Paul would supposedly make magically vanish, he will be the first to tell you that he has no authority to single-handedly do this.

Congress, through the will of the people would be responsible for changing or completely doing away with these programs and departments. The President's job is to inform and educate the American people, and to influence Congress to do the people's bidding. However, the President does have the authority to write an executive order, which would reverse previous executive orders that have obliterated the Bill of Rights, and would restore our Constitutional freedoms.

On the subject of free markets and the economy, Dr. Paul has some very interesting ideas that may seem "radical" at first glance. But upon a closer, more open-minded examination, these ideas not only make perfect sense, but they are in line with the Constitutional role of government. Yet again, these changes would not happen with a mere flick of a switch from President Paul; this could only come about through an informed public demanding that Congress change the laws.

I must point out some obvious facts that are often overlooked regarding government involvement in the economy. Firstly, a free market system is not some willy-nilly free-for-all to let corporate interests run amok. There are still laws, and under this system corporate

malfeasance would be punished, instead of rewarded through government subsidies via the taxpayers.

The Halliburtons and Enrons of the world can only exist in a system in which there is collusion between corporate interests and the state, and I think we all have seen just how well the government has protected the people from such calamity under the current system.

It is also interesting, and frightening to note that the term "Corporatism" was the preferred way to describe this joining of businesses and the state according to Benito Mussolini. He suggested that this was the more proper way to refer to another term he is famous for coining, "Fascism". In Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, the state took control of the corporations. In present day America, through the tireless efforts of lobbyists we see the same trend occurring in reverse, but with the same effect.

In closing, it is not my wish to belittle Potter personally, as he is merely misinformed, as myself and many others have been before. Instead, I think of it as a quantum leap of sorts, trying to make right what once went wrong. I applaud him, however for simply describing us as "rabid" instead of suggesting that we are domestic terrorists, for whom the military should be deployed to control, as Glen Beck recently implied. It is true that we are passionate, but this passion comes from the fact that we are aware of what is at stake in the coming election.

Overall, the Ron Paul supporters that I have met are the most informed, and diverse group of people you could possibly imagine. There are a few people in the movement who might be described as "on the fringe" by those intent on maintaining the status quo, but the unifying factor that brings us all together is the love of our individual liberty. Even those "crazy conspiracy theorists" can detect when someone is telling them the truth, and that is something any patriotic American would find refreshing from a politician.

If upon further investigation, Potter decides to join us, he would be welcomed with no hard feelings. Until then, though it is certainly difficult to define, the substitution of trivialized disinformation for facts is definitely not Rock n' Roll.

## Overspent, commercial Christmas

It wasn't yet November, but the red ribbons flew. An innocent trip to Hobby Lobby for a Halloween costume prop affirmed a long-held suspicion that soon, Christmastime will be all the time.

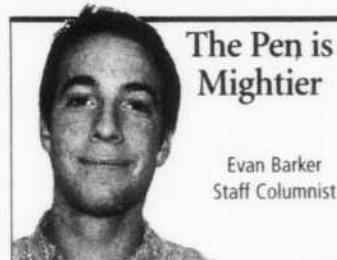
A bizarre juxtaposition of Jesus, ghosts, turkeys and Frosty the Snowman festooned stores, and the leaves hadn't even fallen.

It wasn't always this way. There was a time when December was a time for solemn celebration, and not the much-anticipated salvation of our retail economy.

Every year, Christmas creeps earlier. A simple Google search yields scads of advertisements for Christmas sales, many held in late September.

Regardless of one's religious convictions, or lack thereof, this blatant commercialization of spiritual festivals is troubling. It overlaps America's love affair with gratuitous consumption.

It's hard to separate the joy of gift giving - or receiving - from this holiday, but this joy comes at the detriment of consumers and



The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

the religious holidays for which the season exists.

Children grow up with the expectation that Christmas equals gift-giving. However, the concept of gift-receiving is far easier for kids to understand. They grow accustomed to lavish gifts and conspicuous consumption - those whose families can afford it. This works well to support our commercial machine, but it does so at the expense of the common good.

This harms all of us. The advertising machine that drives our gratuitous consumerism creates an expectation: that spending money is the pinnacle of virtue. Of course, for the less fortunate, December often differs little from other months, except for the

painful differentiation of 'have' versus 'have-not.'

We break our banks and our backs to scrape up money to buy gifts for everyone, even those for whom we would prefer not to.

The spending, in particular, has gotten out of control. It's a sad time when the actions of a single day of retail sales either float or sink the stock market. The miracle of the holiday season is subjugated to the performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Instead of concentrating on the joy and importance of millennia-old miracles, or reflecting on the coming year, this season often causes more stress than any other.

This year, MTSU's exam week falls during Hanukkah. Jewish faculty and students will spend the most important eight days of their year frantic to finish their semester. So it goes.

We obsess over gaudy decorations and party planning, lending very little time to good works. Imagine the Clark W. Griswolds of the world who could have spent

those nine hours volunteering to help the homeless, or spending time with their kids.

We waste vast amounts of electricity lining our sidewalks with plastic candy canes and faux candles, while people shiver in homes without heat, or no homes at all.

Worse still, there are those who take advantage of the holiday season to stir needless acrimony decrying the "War Against Christmas."

The far-right wastes a season's worth of goodwill attacking the perceived enemies of the holiday season, instead of winning converts to the cause. The far-left uses superfluous litigation to sanitize the holidays from the public sphere.

It's time for a reality check. If you celebrate the religious holidays in December, then devote yourself to the quiet contemplation that they require.

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**SIDELINES**  
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*Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and AP Style.

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# FEATURES

## Love is watching someone die

By Mark Bell

Contributing Writer

I remember the phone ringing on an unseasonably warm Dec. 13, 2005. My grandfather, Don Taylor, and the rest of the family had been eagerly awaiting news from a lab in Knoxville, Tenn., about a strange lump that had appeared on his neck.

He had been seen numerous times by a family physician in Jefferson City, Tenn. who had dismissed the lump as a calcium deposit. He had been known to develop these lumps on other spots of his body, including a large one on his upper right arm.

After falling extremely ill, however, with bouts of throwing up and extreme dizziness, he had decided, under the strict orders of my grandmother Sandy, to seek a second opinion. Little did we all know how much this would affect the rest of our lives.

December 13, which ironically was Don's birthday, was the day he would receive his death sentence. Over the next three months, which seemed like a lifetime in itself to me, our family would be pushed to new limits.

I had just returned home for winter break after finishing the fall semester at MTSU the week before. By the time Don, who I called Pappaw, was diagnosed, he had already become so ill that he could no longer drive.

Pappaw was a big rig mechanic with hard hands to prove it. He loved what he did though. Even in his spare time I could always find him under the hood of his latest project (he loved to remodel old cars). I still remember everyone giving him a hard time about the dirt and grease that was constantly under his fingernails.

He had an even harder work ethic that was finally beginning to pay off. He had just bought a new home, a double-wide trailer, for my grandmother. He had also just bought a new Ford Edge truck in substitute for the blue '70s model F-150 he had driven for 34 years.

The man had never missed a day's work until he was diagnosed with cancer. I remember him going to work with the worst of colds with no complaint.

By that time his son Scott had been notified. Scott had taken a job in Seattle as a professor at the University of Puget Sound. When he learned that his father had been diagnosed with cancer he was on a plane to Tennessee two days later.

I had been driving Pappaw to and from Knoxville over a few days for numerous tests with my mammaw, Sandy, and my mother, Lisa.

Pappaw was getting extremely dehydrated and we sat for hours in a waiting room with him hooked up to a rolling I.V. while we waited for his body to absorb enough water so he could take certain tests.

The nurses at Fort Sanders did their best to ease our worries. At this point we didn't know how bad the cancer was or what the prognosis would be. The only thing we knew was that cancer had been found in his adrenal gland, which sits on top of the kidney and is responsible for the synthesis of cortisol and adrenaline.

My mother had spent countless hours on the Internet finding research that had her and the rest of the family thinking bad thoughts.

So began my state of denial that would exist up to his final days. I picked my uncle Scott up from the airport the night before Pappaw's conference with the doctors. I was already tired. Scott's flight didn't arrive in Knoxville until 12 a.m. and I had to get up the same morning just five hours later to drive the family to Fort Sanders again. I'm sure Pappaw was even more tired.

This was the first time I had walked into a cancer ward at a hospital. The scene was utterly depressing, people coming in and out for chemotherapy and radiation, and the stench in the air burned my nose. I imagined it was a mix of urine, vomit and bleach.

I was growing nervous. My pappaw looked even more nervous, as if he knew already what we were about to hear.

They gathered us in the conference room and a tall doctor in a white lab coat with a thunderous voice and white hair burst in with the news. He told us how the hospital would throw all of its available resources at

my pappaw's illness. I felt hope.

The next part seemed strange. He had Pappaw go into another room for an examination and told us that we could wait in the conference room. After a few moments he returned with that stern look that doctors get when they're going to deliver bad news (I would learn to hate that expression).

"Don already knows just how sick he is," he said. "But we need to let you guys know what is going on."

"We're not going to tell Don because we are sure he already knows that he is really sick."

I felt my heart drop and my stomach rise and turn when the doctor uttered the words that Pappaw, the strong man who raised me as his own after my father ran off when I was five, was only going to live three to six more months. Cries filled the room. My mammaw, mom and my uncle Scott clung together and sobbed.

I didn't believe it. I sat there in denial biting my tongue to keep from crying. Surely to God, I thought, by some miracle I will wake up and this will all just have been a bad dream. Even if it isn't, surely to God there will be some miracle or new medical breakthrough that will save his life.

I was dead wrong.

The months that followed were some of the worst I can remember. I had never experienced any kind of terminal illness up to this point in my life. I had never had a close relative die, especially not one that I had grown up to admire so.

I drove home that evening heavy with grief. It was like a ton of iron pressing hard upon my body. I weighed me down. I did my best to iron my depressed state from Pappaw.

To complicate things further that night my cousin's boyfriend, the father of her two children, took his own life with a bullet to the head after a psychotic episode resulting from a cocktail of pharmaceuticals and stress.

No one was even thinking of Christmas by this time. The funeral came and passed. I thought about how these children wouldn't grow up knowing their biological father and it made me feel even more thankful for Pappaw. I hoped that their grandfather would act the same as mine had.

When Christmas did roll around I opened my presents from my mammaw and pappaw in front of Pappaw for what would be the last time. It felt strange taking from someone who was already losing so much.

Within a couple of weeks it was time for the removal surgery the doctors had planned. It gave a family with no hope a chance to flirt with the idea that maybe, just maybe, there could be some miracle.

However, our hopes turned into horror when we saw my grandfather being escorted from the operating room with a hole in his neck. The cancer had grown at such a rate that a tracheotomy had to be performed.

Pappaw now looked like a very sick man. The first night after the surgery my uncle and I stayed up to suction the mucus that was being expelled from his throat at an alarming rate.

He required constant supervision because he would go into coughing fits throughout the night and expel a black liquid. He was there only in body; the medication they had given him had taken him away to another world.

It left Scott and me feeling helpless. We had volunteered to give my mom and mammaw a chance to rest, something that they got very little of throughout Pappaw's entire sickness.

The family was amazed when a few days later we saw a turn for the better. While Pappaw did have a little trouble speaking he could do it. He was back in mind and body and we felt thankful for his coherency.

But with this type of cancer one step forward was two steps back. Soon his energy began to flee, his medicine made him less coherent, and when he didn't take it (because he hated to do so) he would be in unbearable pain. Then he began to have trouble eating. He would become frustrated over certain things and then be apologetic about his frustration the next. His sanity began to slip.



Photo submitted by Mark Bell  
A young Mark Bell sits with his grandfather. Years later, Mark would have to suffer his beloved grandfather's illness and death, something that changed his life forever.

"I have seen a photo of his gravestone but have never gone to see his marker. This is how I allow myself to remember him as he was. It may seem shameful or disrespectful to some but its the only way I can keep a strong grasp on my own sanity. I miss my mentor, my iron giant."

He once called 911 thinking that someone was trying to choke him with a rope. He had actually knocked the plastic that was keeping his airway open out.

It was a saddening state to see my iron giant in.

He continued his radiation, which was the last hope I think everyone was counting on. The long drive for treatment gave Pappaw horrible motion sickness and I would constantly pull the car over so the man could get the sickness out of his system.

It was nearing the time for me to return to college, and I felt extremely divided on whether I should leave Pappaw. I felt extreme guilt when I left to go back and I still feel guilty about it today. If there was a time machine that could transport me back to the moment I left I would easily take the second chance to stay.

My uncle would have to return home, too. He climbed aboard a 757 and flew back to Seattle-Tacoma International with a heavy heart. I could only imagine the agony of the distance; a four-hour drive seemed like an eternity to me.

I would continue to return home on the weekends until Pappaw's

See Love, 6

## Coloring Campus

By Jason Grissom

Contributing Writer

Tucked away in the receiving area of the Keathley University Center, an octopus wraps its tentacles around one of the campus' many dumpsters. Pressed against another near Wood Hall, a lonely looking girl clutches a bomb and the American flag. Scattered all over campus, images of faces, robots, and sumo wrestlers peek out from electrical boxes and bus stops, all placed there illegally by graffiti artists.

Some advertise bands or political positions; some are nothing more than the pseudonyms of those who put them there, while others are nonsensical images placed at the whims of the creator.

"I clean up more of it than I should have to," reveals Raymond Rodriguez with the MTSU Maintenance Department as he scrubs a Web site advertisement off the Todd Building. "Every clean up requires a work order, so smaller stuff, stuff that isn't vulgar, might not get reported and cleaned," explains Raymond. He isn't sure why some people tag the buildings on campus, saying that most of it doesn't make any sense.

"Personally, I just like seeing my art out there," explains Sword, an

alias for a graffiti artist and former student. "Everyone has their reasons, but there's something about seeing people react to what I've put up."

Working primarily with stencils, he prefers images with a "desolate vibe to them," such as bullhorns, gas masks and skulls, but insists there is no hidden meaning.

Sword sprays mostly on campus because "there are really not too difficult. It has more hiding spots and less people patrolling it than anywhere else I can think of, and there are few other places where it's not out of the ordinary for teenagers to be wondering around late at night."

He may have a point. The MTSU Public Safety Department's 2005 Annual Crime Report showed that of the 131 cases of reported vandalism, less than four percent were "cleared" or ended in an arrest.

While there is no way of knowing how many of the cases reported were instances of graffiti, Support Sgt. Steve Scott with MTSU Public Safety thinks graffiti is "a real issue," but one with little chance of

Despite efforts by the school, graffiti artists continue to treat MTSU as a living canvas



Photo by Patrick Casey | Staff Photographer  
A giant octopus adorns a dumpster by the Keathley University Center. The MTSU Public Safety Department's 2005 Annual Crime Report showed that of the 131 cases of reported vandalism, less than four percent were "cleared" or ended in an arrest.

See Coloring, 6



## Features: "Love..."

Continued from 5

death.

He eventually got to the point where he couldn't take any food or water. This worried the family and resulted in numerous stays in the hospital while the sickness ran its course.

More tests revealed that the cancer had spread to his intestines and was blocking all intake and absorption of food. The end was staring this man in the face.

The only food he took after this diagnosis was when I was around and I felt like he was trying to be strong for me. He slowly got down a mixed fruit and protein shake that I made for him.

The doctors again scheduled another surgery to try to remove the cancer from his stomach. I wouldn't be around for it because of school.

I received a call on a Wednesday night that I remember all too well. The words would echo in my head.

"Eric, Pappaw's not going to make it," my mom sobbed on the phone. "It's too big and they can't remove it."

"They are only giving him another day or so to live."

I hung up the phone stunned. It was beginning to sink in. My heart was beating a hundred miles per hour.

It was 8 p.m. when my mother gave me the news. I jumped in my car and began the long drive out of Tennessee's Central Basin.

I traveled I-40 as it twisted through the Highland Rim and the Appalachian Plateau until I arrived at the hospital sitting down in the Tennessee Valley.

The lines in the road grew longer and the sun had already set behind me in the western sky. The night fell like a black sheet across the bitter-cold land.

I made my way to the hospital and met the family. I sat in my grandfather's room and watched him fading. A morphine drip was his only comfort, and he never came out of the state of incoherency again.

I uttered my final words to him in the room alone that night with his hand in mine. He squeezed my hand as I spoke.

It was extreme despair. I felt helpless. There was nothing else anyone could do. I began to sob uncontrollably for the first time throughout his suffering.

I sat curled up in a chair and felt something I had never felt before in my life.

My grandmother came back in the room and she took me in her arms and let me know that it was okay to cry. She told me it was okay to think that life isn't fair. Life isn't fair. I'm not a believer in the philosophy of you reap what you sow to this day because of those words.

Mammaw, my mother and I stayed up that night. Mammaw had informed Scott of Pappaw's impending death but advised him to wait until Pappaw passed before he came home. She knew that was when he would really be needed. Coming from a poor background makes it hard for one to leave work even under extreme conditions.

The next day seemed to drag on forever as the family waited for the inevitable. My great grandfather, my pappaw's father, came to the hospital that day. It was strange watching him witness his own son, his own flesh and blood, fading away.

He shook hard that day, his only sign of nervousness or anxiety. He had the confidence that his son was a good Christian man just as he was and still is.

Around 1:20 p.m. on Feb. 2, 2006, I was sitting with my great-grandfather in the waiting room when we received news from a family member that Pappaw

was slipping away.

I was panicked. My great grandfather and I made our way down the halls of rooms until we arrived at my pappaw's deathbed. The nurse had come into the room. My pappaw's last breaths were slow and labored. His life signs became fainter and weaker until around 1:25 p.m. his heart took its final beat.

I cried uncontrollably. My cousin Eddie, who had lost his pappaw to cancer a couple of years before, wrapped his arms around me to console me.

The man who had taught me how to hit a baseball, built me a go-kart from the ground up, completely raised me as his own, was gone.

I tried to compose myself and I stepped out of the room to call my uncle Scott. I gave him the news and told him to come home. He was there the next day.

Later, I would speak at my pappaw's funeral. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. I recalled the trip of the lifetime he had finally gotten to take with my grandmother to Destin, Fla. A picture from the trip sat above my grandmother's fireplace. He looked healthy and happy. That's how I wanted to remember him.

I looked at the man in his casket and didn't even recognize him. I've heard people say that the dead look beautiful in their sleep. I didn't think so. Pappaw's skin was pale in comparison with the dark tan he had when he was living.

The man in the casket was extremely skinny. My pappaw was fat and healthy when he lived. The clothes on this man weren't clothes that my pappaw would wear. The man in the casket had on a blue sweater with a white collar. My pappaw always wore the same blue Lakeway Trucking uniform with a light blue shirt and navy blue pants.

However, it sank in that this was my pappaw when I looked at his golden belt buckle which he was awarded for his long service at Lakeway Trucking.

Pappaw was the greatest man I've ever known. I lived beside him for 18 years and never saw the man get mad about anything. I never saw him and my mammaw argue.

He and my mammaw were married for 41 years and still up to his very last days, even before Pappaw was sick, I always saw them holding hands and noticed how Pappaw would wrap his arms around Mammaw as they came home after going out to dinner on a Saturday night.

They had grown up as high school sweethearts, marrying at the ages of 18 and 16, my pappaw being the older of the two.

This is how I wanted to remember him. I haven't gone to look at his gravestone. I was there when his body was lowered into the ground. It was a bitterly cold February day. An unforgiving wind was in the air. The entire situation was unbearable.

I have seen a photo of his gravestone but have never gone to see his marker. This is how I allow myself to remember him as he was. It may seem shameful or disrespectful to some but it's the only way I can keep a strong grasp on my own sanity. I miss my mentor, my iron giant.

My pappaw's steady decline taught me that love is watching someone die.

Watching someone struggle to hold on yet, in the end, be defeated is humbling. Holding on to hope throughout the bad times is what makes remembering the good times so grand.

I only hope, when my time comes, I am lucky enough to have someone watch me die. ♦

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## Features: "Coloring Campus"

Continued from 5

being resolved.

"People think it's cool to tag up a building," he explains, adding "the only way you can attack a problem like that is to change the environment so that it's no longer appealing."

As for the low arrest rate for vandalism, "all you can do is hope you can find a witness or something that can place them at the scene," Scott says. Beyond that, he admits there isn't much chance of an arrest.

Sword assures he's careful about making sure there are no witnesses.

"I always travel in a pack of two or three, any more than that and it looks suspicious. Someone is always on look-out and we make sure not to stay in any one area for too long," he tells me.

He outlines a few "tricks" for avoiding detection: wearing and disposing of gloves, ways to disguise what he's carrying, ways to silence the shakers in his cans, and others.

When asked, he doesn't contest that the practice is illegal, but claims that most people don't seek out art anymore, and what he does brings some kind of art to the people.

"The weakest justification for graffiti is self-expression," challenges Barry Buxkamper, a professor in the Graphic Design Department, "you can't force an audience."

"Some [graffiti] is drop-dead gorgeous, like the subway cars in Manhattan, but it seems the people who really respond to the vitality of graffiti wouldn't be as open-minded if it showed up on their property," he continues. "I like passing by junk yards for the structure and colors of them, but I wouldn't want one placed in my front yard."

Still, Buxkamper agrees that "taken for its own sake, out of the

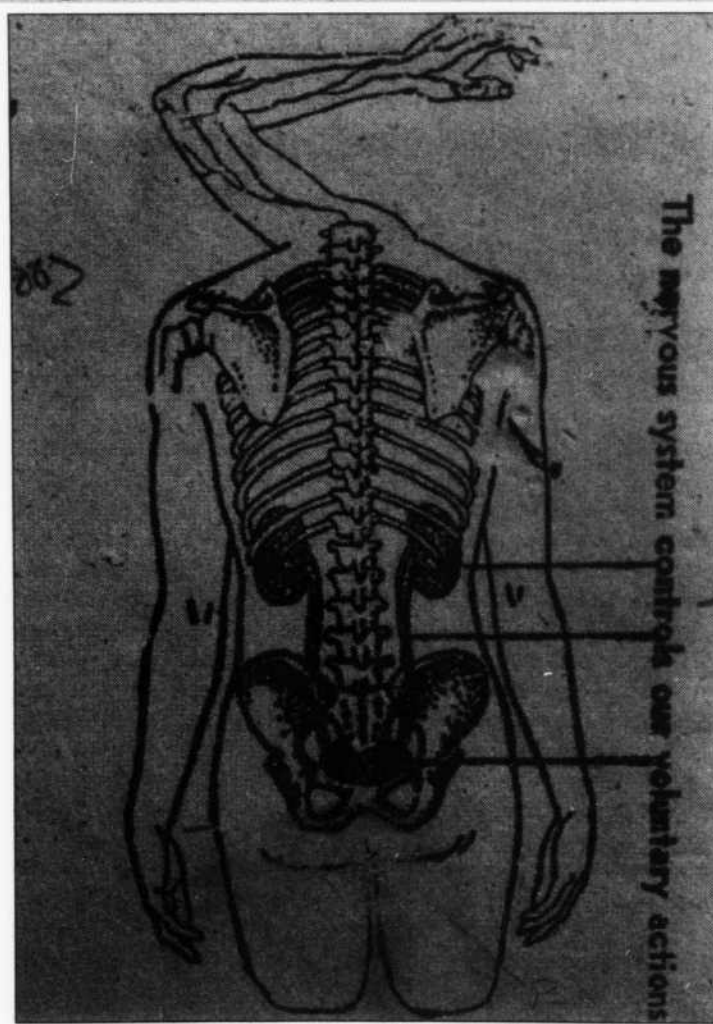


Photo by Patrick Casey | Staff Photographer

This anatomical piece of art is located on the third floor of the Saunders Music Building, and represents what some believe to be a growing problem on campus.

context of cost and maintenance, some graffiti is simply beautiful," and that he'd be more supportive of graffiti with a strictly political statement if it had a direct correlation to where it was placed.

"I can see putting up something against the use of napalm in Vietnam on a Dow Chemical plant, where it makes sense to place something like that," he declares.

Though stencils protesting the war in Iraq and other political and social policies can be found, much of the graffiti seems devoid of any meaning beyond the aesthetic. From the ever-present Barney Fife stickers to the broken

hearts, skulls and animals that dot the campus, most artists seem content to mark buildings and dumpsters with whatever words or images please them.

Sword asserts that graffiti can be a powerful tool for political dissent, but that most has no real purpose. Still, that doesn't stop him from spraying or enjoying what others have put up.

"The campus would be bland and lifeless if the students didn't leave some kind of mark," Sword reasons, "and, yes, it costs, but sometimes you need a bit of aerosol to break up the brick and concrete." ♦



# SPORTS

## -Football- Seven make all-Sun Belt

Press Release

The Sun Belt Conference announced its all-league team today and Middle Tennessee had seven players honored. The Blue Raiders had four first team selections, one second team pick, and two on the honorable mention list.

In just two years, the Blue Raiders have had 11 first team honors under Rick Stockstill.

The league's coaches and select-media members honored junior Franklin Dunbar, senior Tavares Jones, senior Erik Walden, sophomore Desmond Gee, and senior Bradley Pickles in 2007. DeMarco McNair and Alex Suber made the honorable mention list.

The Blue Raiders' first-team selections were Dunbar, Gee, Jones, and Walden while Robinson made the second team.

Dunbar, a second team selection in 2006, started all 12 games for the Blue Raiders at left tackle and led all linemen with 840 snaps. The Waycross, Ga., native played 80 or more snaps in three straight games during the season and will enter play in 2008 having started in 30 straight games.

Jones, who joins Walden and Gee as Middle Tennessee's first back-to-back first team picks since Kerry Wright in 2003-2004, led the Blue Raiders in tackles with a career-best 61. The disruptive defensive end also paced the team in sacks with a personal-high seven to go along with 9.5 tackles for loss, an interception, a fumble recovery, a forced fumble, and two pass breakups. The Swainsboro, Ga., product ended his career with 12.5 sacks to rank third all-time.

Despite missing two games with an injury, Walden impressed the voters with his relentless pressure even though he faced numerous double teams. Walden, who ended his career as the conference's second all-time leading sack man with 22.5, had 46 total tackles in 2007 to finish just two shy of his career mark. The Dublin, Ga., native had 8.5 tackles for loss, two sacks, an interception, and a safety in 2007.

The final first team selection was Gee, who earned the honor as an all-purpose performer for the second straight year. The true definition of all-purpose, Gee gained yards as a wide receiver, running back, kick returner, and punt returner in 2007 on his way to leading the team with 1,323 all-purpose yards. The Greenville, Fla., native was second on the team with a career-best 29 receptions.

"All of our first team honors are very deserving," said Head Coach Rick Stockstill. "They all overcame and played through injuries and to still be recognized as all-conference is a great accomplishment."

After a stellar career, Robinson was finally recognized by the league's coaches and media as he was voted to the second team. Despite ending his career with a share of the league's all-time interception record with 14, Robinson earned all-league honors for the first time. An honorable mention pick in 2005, Robinson led the Blue Raiders with five interceptions and five pass breakups in 2007. The Duncan, S.C., native, however, will always be remembered for his dramatic play against ULM. With time running down, Robinson returned the first kickoff of his career 89 yards for a touchdown to provide the winning margin against the Warhawks with :45 seconds to play.

"I am really proud to see that Bradley made all-conference," added Stockstill. "He has enjoyed an outstanding career and he is coming off a solid season. He is very deserving." ♦

## - Women's Basketball -

### Blue Raiders nearly upset No. 3 Terps

By Richard Lowe  
Sports Editor

One year ago, Middle Tennessee opened their season with a near-upset of the then-No. 1 team in the nation, the University of Maryland. After opening this season with mixed results, the Blue Raiders had a chance to erase any doubts the nation may have about repeating their success from last year. A late charging call erased the momentum for the Blue Raiders as they fell to the third ranked Terrapins 74 - 69 at the Comcast Center in College Park, Md.

After getting within three points of the Terrapins with less than a minute to go in the contest, Sophomore Chelsia Lymon was called for a charge that erased two points from the scoreboard and gave Maryland the ball for the remainder of the game. Lymon finished with 14 points off the bench.

Middle Tennessee senior Amber Holt had 16 points and 10 rebounds and sophomore Brandi Brown scored a season-high 22 points, hitting six 3-pointers in the contest.

The teams were nip-and-tuck almost the entire second half. The contest had seven ties and 16 lead changes and Middle Tennessee led 62-61 with 4:32 left in the contest before Tolliver took over, hitting a 3-pointer and then a 15-footer the next time down the floor. UMD's All-America point guard added four free throws, including two with 12.1 seconds remaining to ice the game for the Terrapins.

Tolliver's 3-pointer and jumper started the 11-0 run for the Terps, but Middle Tennessee (3-4) came back with seven straight points. Brown hit the last of her trifectas, then Lymon made a steal and got a layup before Holt hit a tough fall away jumper in the lane with the shot clock running down to cut the deficit to three with 1:10 left in the contest.

The Blue Raiders got a stop on Maryland's next possession. Lymon went to the right and drove to the bucket, laying the ball up and looking like she drew a foul, but former Shelbyville High School star Ashleigh Newman was laying at the bottom of the pile, drawing a charge to help UMD survive for the second straight year against Middle Tennessee.

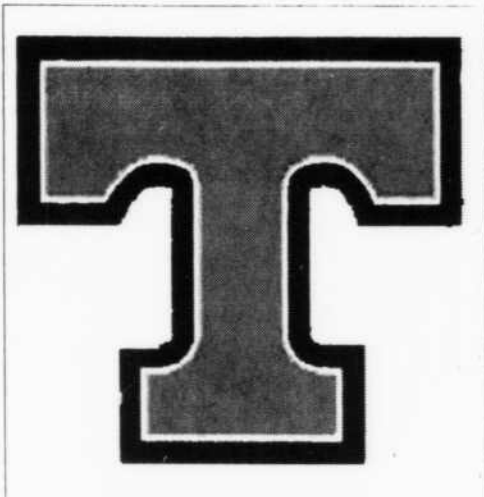
"We've been shooting the ball poorly, but we shot the ball better tonight," head coach Rick Insell said. "We're not as big as Maryland, but we match up pretty good with them because all of our kids can shoot the three and it kind of spreads [Maryland] out a little bit. My kids have the green light to shoot anytime and we did a good job tonight of finding the open man and hitting some shots," Insell said.

"We also executed on offense much better and took advantage of each of our opportunities. We also rebounded much better and against a much taller team. We got quality minutes from everyone."

Middle Tennessee next plays at top-ranked Tennessee on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. ET. That game can be seen on SportSouth. They return to the Murphy Center Dec. 19 against Florida International University, their first game on the Sun Belt Conference schedule. ♦

Information from this article provided by GoBlueRaiders.com.

## - Men's Basketball -



### College basketball hits Nashville

By Chris Martin  
Staff Writer

Two Sun Belt Conference teams will square off against two top-10 opponents at the Summit Center in Nashville in the first ever Sun Belt Classic on Dec. 15.

Middle Tennessee (2-5) will be taking on No. 2 Memphis (7-0) in a game that will be televised on ESPN2. Also featured on the docket will be a matchup between preseason Sun Belt favorite Western Kentucky (5-2) and No. 10 Tennessee (8-1). That game will be available to ESPN2 viewers.

"We are eagerly anticipating the national exposure two of our schools will receive on ESPN2 and ESPN2 on Dec. 15," SBC Commissioner Wright Waters said in August when the matchups were announced. "It is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase two of our outstanding universities."

MT and Memphis are scheduled to begin the action. Memphis has absolutely ripped through its opponents this season on the way to building its so far unblemished record. The Tigers have defeated their opponents by an average of 18.7 points per game. In fact, aside a 62-58 overtime victory over USC on Tuesday, Memphis's closest call this season was a 63-53 victory in the semifinals of the 2K Sports College Hoop Classic in Madison Square Garden.

The Tigers are led by their trio of superstars: Joey Dorsey, Derrick Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts. Dorsey, a senior, is averaging 7 points and 9.2 rebounds a game on a team that features eight players who average at least 6.7 points. Rose, who was considered a top-5 recruit coming into the season, has lived up to his preseason hype. He is second on the team in scoring (15.9), tied for fourth in rebounding (5.7) and first in assists (4.3) per game. Douglas-Roberts shunned the NBA last year, to return to the Tigers and is their leading scorer (20.1) and third-leading rebounder (6.1).

While MT appears to be overmatched by the Tigers, the Blue Raiders will be able to walk out of the Summit Center with some always-helpful national exposure.

"The SBC Classic will generate remarkable interest and the teams involved will gain

valuable exposure early in the college basketball season," MT Director of Athletics Chris Massaro said. "Middle Tennessee is excited to be part of what we know is going to be a great night for college basketball in the middle Tennessee area."

The Blue Raiders have had a tough start to the season. They have lost four of their last five, including all three of the road games they've played this season. MT has failed to find its defensive presence from a year ago. This season MT is allowing an average of 78.4 points per game compared to last year's average of 63.8.

Following the Memphis-MT contest will be the matchup of WKU and UT. The Vols have been a juggernaut on offense this season, failing to score fewer than 74 points in nine games. In fact, UT's most lopsided win came against the Blue Raiders on Nov. 20 when the Vols beat MT 109-40 in Knoxville.

Chris Lofton, the reigning SEC player of the year, has been a little slow out of the gate this season. He is averaging only 14.3 points per game, down from 20.8 a year ago. However, UT has been able to survive without Lofton this year. The Vols sport five players averaging at least 9.4 points per game.

The Hilltoppers' main weapon this season has been preseason All-SBC first team player Courtney Lee. Lee is 18th in the NCAA in scoring per game this season with a 22.1 average. Lee is also tied for 15th in the nation in the steals per game category, boasting a 3.0 average.

UT head coach Bruce Pearl was quick to explain the importance of playing quality competition in the state's capital.

"I think it is important to highlight our program in all parts of the state," Pearl said. "WKU is always one of the best teams in its conference and will be picked to be in the field of 64 this year. Some people think there is everything to lose and nothing to gain by playing games like this. I don't agree with that. You run the risk of getting beat, but the risk is worth it."

The MT-Memphis contest is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. while the WKU-UT game is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. ♦

## - Volleyball -

### Sweet 16 begins this weekend

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

December rings in the Christmas cheer as the Blue Raiders hope to continue their current 14-game winning streak as they face Brigham Young University in the Penn State Regional this Friday at Penn State University.

"They're not as big as Louisville; they're athletic," Head Coach Matt Peck said. "They're an aggressive team. They play more of our style. They did a similar thing like we did by upsetting Washington to get into the Sweet 16. We upset Hawaii. They couldn't win their conference. UNLV won their conference, I'm not sure what happened with that, and they have a few more losses

than we do. So they tend to have some not so great games. I think it's going to be a great match."

BYU is a mirror image of MT and just like the Blue Raiders, it upset a higher-ranked team at home in No. 6 Washington. The Cougars have a 23-7 record coming into this weekend match.

"Whoever is playing better and not making forced errors," Peck said, "will win the match."

MT beat Louisville and Hawaii, which both teams were looking forward to the next opponent that they were going to be playing in the next round.

"We don't really make any kind changes to accommodate other teams," Peck said. "We focus on things we've been doing well or need to work on.

Actually BYU is similar to us in the style compared to Louisville and Hawaii."

"It's a little bit easier preparing for them," Peck said. "We play and practice against each other every day. So we're just going to be tweaking things a little at the end. We're hoping to be sharp and on our game. After we get our practices out of the way, we'll be in pretty good shape."

MT faces a team who is playing in their first regional tournament since 2000, while the Blue Raiders are enjoying the experience of reaching their goal of advancing in the tournament this year.

See Sweet 16, 8



Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor  
Senior Alicia Lemaire led the Blue Raiders with 18 digs against the Rainbow Wahine of the University of Hawaii.



# 2007 – 2008 Bowl Schedule

BOWL	LOCATION	DATE/TIME	NETWORK
San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Utah vs. Navy	San Diego	Dec. 20, 9 p.m.	ESPN HD
R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Memphis vs. Florida Atlantic	New Orleans	Dec. 21, 8 p.m.	ESPN2 HD
Papajohns.com Bowl Southern Miss vs. Cincinnati	Birmingham, Ala.	Dec. 22, 1 p.m.	ESPN2 HD
New Mexico Nevada vs. New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	Dec. 22, 4:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Pioneer Las Vegas UCLA vs. BYU	Las Vegas	Dec. 22, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Sheraton Hawaii Boise State vs. East Carolina	Honolulu	Dec. 23, 8 p.m.	ESPN
Motor City Purdue vs. Central Michigan	Detroit	Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Pacific Life Holiday Arizona State vs. Texas	San Diego	Dec. 27, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Champs Sports Boston College vs. Michigan State	Orlando, Fla.	Dec. 28, 5 p.m.	ESPN HD
Texas TCU vs. Houston	Houston	Dec. 28, 8 p.m.	NFL Network
Emerald Maryland vs. Oregon State	San Francisco	Dec. 28, 8:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Meineke Car Care UConn vs. Wake Forest	Charlotte, N.C.	Dec. 29, 1 p.m.	ESPN HD
AutoZone Liberty UCF vs. Mississippi State	Memphis, Tenn.	Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Valero Alamo Penn State vs. Texas A&M	San Antonio	Dec. 29, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
PetroSun Independence Alabama vs. Colorado	Shreveport, La.	Dec. 30, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces California vs. Air Force	Fort Worth, Texas	Dec. 31, 12:30 p.m.	ESPN
Roady's Humanitarian Georgia Tech vs. Fresno State	Boise, Idaho	Dec. 31, 2 p.m.	ESPN2
Brut Sun South Florida vs. Oregon	El Paso, Texas	Dec. 31, 2 p.m.	CBS
Gaylord Hotels Music City Kentucky vs. Florida State	Nashville, Tenn.	Dec. 31, 4 p.m.	ESPN HD
Insight Indiana vs. Oklahoma State	Tempe, Ariz.	Dec. 31, 6 p.m.	NFL Network
Chick-fil-A Clemson vs. Auburn	Atlanta	Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN HD
Outback Wisconsin vs. Tennessee	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 11 a.m.	ESPN HD
AT&T Cotton Missouri vs. Arkansas	Dallas	Jan. 1, 2008, 11:30 a.m.	FOX
Gator Texas Tech vs. Virginia	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 1 p.m.	CBS
Capital One Michigan vs. Florida	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008, 1 p.m.	ABC HD
Rose Bowl presented by Citi Illinois vs. USC	Pasadena, Calif.	Jan. 1, 2008, 4:30 p.m.	ABC HD
Allstate Sugar Hawaii vs. Georgia	New Orleans	Jan. 1, 2008, 8:30 p.m.	FOX
Tostitos Fiesta Oklahoma vs. West Virginia	Glendale, Ariz.	Jan. 2, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX
FedEx Orange Virginia Tech vs. Kansas	Miami	Jan. 3, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX
International Rutgers vs. Ball State	Toronto	Jan. 5, 2008, Noon	ESPN2 HD
GMAC Bowling Green vs. Tulsa	Mobile, Ala.	Jan. 6, 2008, 8 p.m.	ESPN HD
Allstate BCS Championship Game LSU vs. Ohio State	New Orleans	Jan. 7, 2008, 8 p.m.	FOX

Information courtesy of ESPN.com

## Sweet 16

Continued from 8

This is the farthest MT has been in the NCAA Tournament in their third attempt. In 1995 MT lost in the first round to George Washington and last year they lost to Ohio State in the second round.

Coach Peck has guided a team to an NCAA national title before with the 2003 North Alabama in Division II-A team. Peck came to MT in 2004 and is currently in his third year as head coach for the Blue Raiders. He spent nine years with UNA before moving to MT.

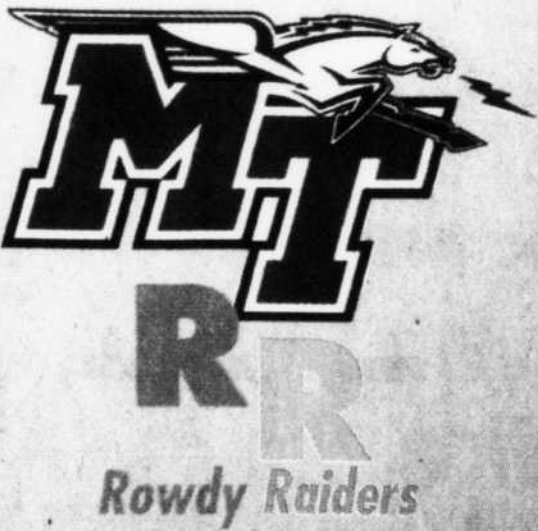
The team is focused on the goals that they have set for this season, watching them come to life as they progress in the tournament. For a young team the Blue Raiders have tournament experience because they have been here before by winning the regular season

tournaments and the Sun Belt Conference Tournament a couple of weeks ago.

"We're pretty excited about it," Peck said. "We really don't have anyone that gets nervous. I know they're excited about it that's one of our goals to pass what we accomplish last year and we have. We're thinking let's take it one game at a time and that philosophy has worked for us."

The winner of this match goes on to face the winner of the Michigan/Penn. State match on Saturday, with the winner going to the final four in Sacramento, Calif.

MT competes against BYU Friday at 4 p.m. on the campus of Penn State University. The game will be broadcast on GoBlueRaiders.com and on 88.3 FM, WMTS. If the Blue Raiders win, Toot's will be show the game on ESPNU on Saturday. ♦



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