

# Students will vote on fee increase

By Carla Fields  
Contributing Writer

Student Government Association and Student Affairs office are in the process of designing an initiative to increase students fees that will go to pay for the new student university center.

The initiative, which is in the early stages, is expected to be placed on the ballot as a referendum for students to vote on in this SGA senate and homecoming election this Oct.

This referendum comes at a time when MTSU

students have seen a persistent increase in their tuition in the last four years, as well as on the heels of clean energy fee increase passed last April.

As of now, the details for the increase and the project are still not certain. According to Gene Fitch, vice president of Student Affairs, the new center is estimated to cost \$45 million and the fee increase could be anywhere from an additional \$75 to 125 per student.

"We really do not know yet. It may be anywhere from \$75 to \$125 dollars," Fitch said.

The date is unknown when this project will begin,

but the student payment will remain a part of the student fees for the next 30 years according to Fitch.

The reason for the 30 years is "because their will always be maintenance needed and possibly a renovation," Fitch said.

According to the MTSU Web site, full-time students, those taking 12 hours or more, pay a total of \$409 in general access fees. The way it is broken down is like this: students first pay a flat fee of \$23 and then pay an additional \$25 per hour until it reaches a total amount of \$321. Then additional fees are tacked on for the post office (\$12), clean

energy fee (\$8), recreation activity fee (\$25) and SGA fee (\$20).

Students will vote in less than a month to decide whether or not they are willing to pay the extra fees to fund this building. The election will be held Oct. 3 through 5 on Pipeline.

But before the students can vote, the Senate must pass a resolution saying what the new increased payment should be, and if it is a sufficient amount, according to Jay Cash, president of SGA.

See Increase, 3

## 5K run helps generate funds for MTSU Veteran's Memorial

By Noel Rodriguez-Pak  
Staff Writer

A 5K run to raise money for an MTSU veteran's memorial was held Sunday afternoon at Peck Hall.

The memorial will be an amphitheater and a usable space to hold outdoor events such as the ROTC commission events.

"It will also be a space for students to reflect," said Derek Frisby, a professor in the history department. "The goal is to bring about the Blue Raider memorial spirit of service."

The run was a joint effort between the National Guard, Army and Air Force Cadets, fraternities, sororities, students and faculty of MTSU.

"We have been planning and coordinating this run since the end of the spring semester," Frisby said.

Frisby, a U.S. Marine sergeant that served in Operation Desert

Shield/Storm, was the head coordinator of the run, which had over 250 participants.

"It's a really good cause and we have a lot more people here than expected," said Danny Catino, junior aerospace major and an Air Force cadet.

Two special guests representing MTSU alumni who died in Iraq participated in the race. Cherich Piche, the wife of the Pierre Cherich, an army captain, and Shannon Lampton, aunt of Ken Ballard, an army first lieutenant, walked in place of their fallen relations.

"My uncle is a Veteran and think it's for a good cause," said Jason Gerald, freshman business finance major. "I wanted to get involved in something and this a great cause to get involved in."

The proceeds of the run will go toward the construction of a memorial designed for Veterans that have graduated from MTSU.

"Right now the memorial is still in conceptual design and the site location is unknown, but we should have those items taken care of by the Veteran's game, which is on September 25," Frisby said.

The memorial has been in the process of being built for the last two years and over \$13,000 has been raised for the memorial, with \$3,500 coming from this race alone.

Additional contributions for the memorial fund have come from a \$5,000 grant from the MTSU foundation, various donations from businesses and alumni, and the successful veteran's memorial run.

Conceptually, the memorial will have a wall for Fallen Veterans that were MTSU Alumni, which have totaled 59 service members since 1911.

"Putting a memorial on campus is a great cause," Jessica Zembek, a junior pre-nursing

major said. "I am a member of the Arnold Air Force Society and it is great for all of us to be working towards a common goal."

The first place winner for the male category was Jacob Carrigan and first place winner for the female category was Hannah Morgan.

There were door prizes for all participants and various trophies were given in different categories, which included age groups and teams members.

"It's very exciting to see how people are getting healthy and active," said Olivia Barker, sophomore marketing major. "My roommate, Jessica Zembek, and it feels good to support her for such a worthy cause."

Additional information on the memorial and a list of fallen veterans can be found at <http://www.mtsu.edu/veterans>.



Photos by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The 5K run Sunday raised approximately \$3,500 for a memorial to be built on campus honoring MTSU veterans who have fallen in military service. The event drew over 250 participants, more than were expected, according to junior aerospace major Danny Catino. A total of \$13,000 has been raised for the project.



## Tennessee colleges fail to raise academic bar

Planning, policy, research director: "Tennessee should get 'A' for effort"

By Noel Rodriguez-Pak  
Staff Writer

The recently released 2006 Measuring Up study, which measures academic achievement of higher education in the United States, ranked Tennessee below the national average.

The study, released by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, measured the performances of public and private, two- and four-year, non-profit and for-profit colleges and universities. Each state was evaluated by the preparation of young people for college, enrollment by high-school graduates and working adults, completion of college degree and certificate programs and the affordability of college for students and families.

When compared to other states, Tennessee was given a C- for preparation (preparing high-school students for college), C- for participation (college enrollment), F for affordability, B for completion of degree, and C+ for benefits (college graduates that help stimulate the local economy).

"The data is accurate and accepted for what is measured; however, there are some inconsistencies," said David Wright, associate executive director for Policy, Planning and Research for the

Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

For example, the graduation rates only measures students that start as freshmen and stay in the same college up to graduation. It does not take into account transfers because the information is borrowed from another study, Wright adds.

"When these studies were first published, they were not accepted; but with each subsequent release they become more acceptable," Wright said. The 2006 report is the fourth.

The basis of comparison for the schools is their performance in the 1990s. The main concern of the grading scale is that 43 out of 50 states have received an "F" grade for affordability.

"We were not surprised by the results produced by this report, but there has been improvement since the first release and all subsequent releases," Wright adds.

States work hard to keep the costs of tuition down with financial aid, scholarships and various grants. This study does not take into account the price of tuition after these variables have been calculated.

The main goal is to contrast the lowest income in the state to the college with the lowest price of tuition, and although the average price of public tuition in

Tennessee is rising, it is still lower than the national average. The study looks at how accessible and affordable colleges are based on income without looking at the fact that there is a lower income per capita in Tennessee than in most states.

"The main idea is that change takes time and it is our goal to help high-school students become better prepared for college and help make it affordable for lower income families," Wright said.

This will also help keep college graduates in-state or attract more college graduates to work in Tennessee, which will help stimulate the economy.

"These studies require a long-term commitment because it involves issues that are both difficult and complex," Wright said.

The THEC is also planning to focus on preparation in middle school and high schools demonstrating the most educational need to deliver early interventions to students both academically and economically at risk.

"Tennessee has improved since the first report and we are completely optimistic about it," Wright said. "Tennessee should get an 'A' for effort."

Since its first report in 2000,

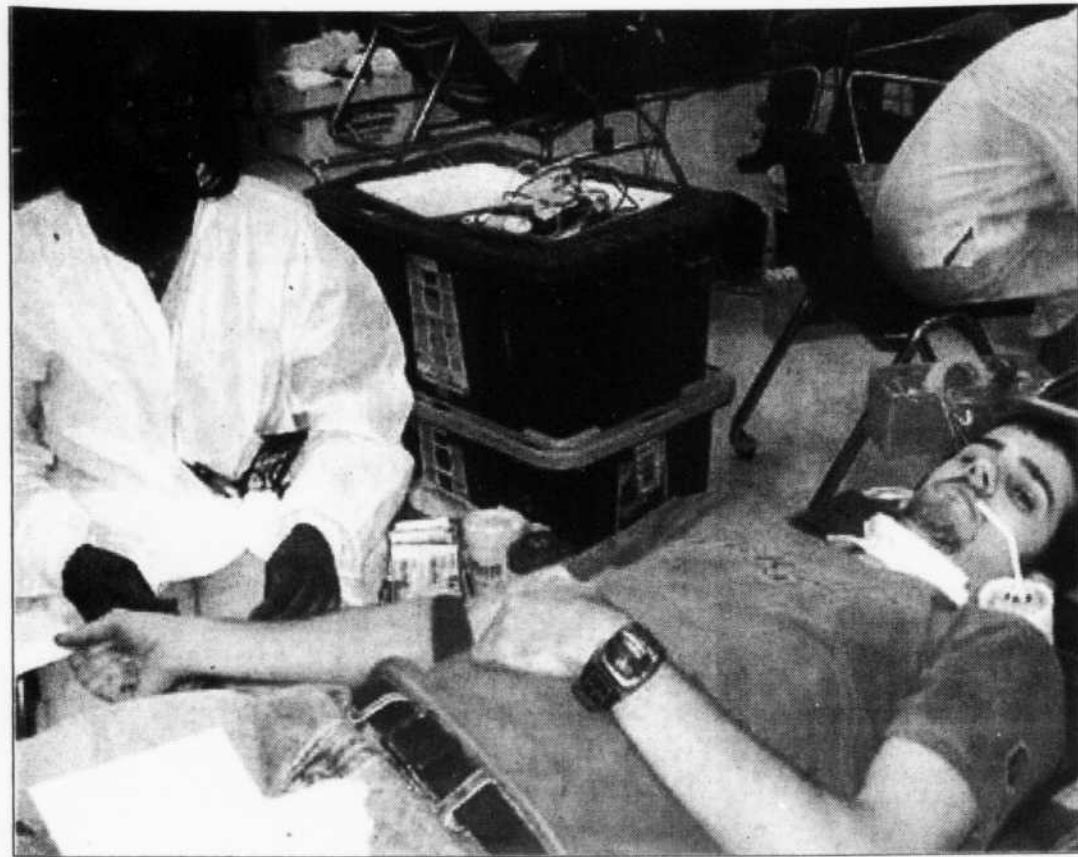
See Measuring, 4

U.S. Report Card			
Category	Tennessee	Best State	Worst State
<b>Preparation</b> How well k-12 schools prepare for post high school education	C-	Mass.	N.M. La.
<b>Participation</b> Opportunities for higher education	C-	N.M.	Miss.
<b>Affordability</b> Whether families can afford higher education	F	UT	43 states received an F
<b>Completion</b> Whether students continue through obtaining a degree	B	N.H.	Ala. Nev.
<b>Benefits</b> Economic/societal benefits the state receives for having well educated residents	C+	Mass.	La. W.Va.

Graphic by Blake Arnold



# MTSU wins blood drive competition



Senior Jordan Haskins finishes up donating blood with Red Cross nurse Vanessa Whittaker. MTSU collected 150 more pints of blood than Tennessee Tech University in the competition intended to stir up the decades-old rivalry between the two schools.

By Angelea Smith  
Contributing Writer

MTSU beat Tennessee Tech University in the blood drive competition with 150 more pints of blood than Tennessee Tech University last week.

There was a total of 436 pints between the two schools in two days, and MTSU had 286 of that.

The contest was judged based on capacity, said Meagan Flippin, vice president of administration and public affairs for the Student Government Association.

The competition was held at MTSU Sept. 12 and 13 in the Keathley University Center, Room 308 by the American Red Cross of Middle Tennessee, and was sponsored by the SGA and the Athletic Department.

"The Athletic Department had been looking for some competition to hold against Tennessee Tech. When the blood drive came up, it was the perfect," said Flippin.

According to the American Red Cross, Middle Tennessee's blood supply has dropped to less than a one-day supply. High school and college students donate more than 12 percent of the blood in our area.

"MTSU usually has one or two blood drives a year, so it was a great opportunity for SGA to have co-sponsorship in this blood drive and get Tennessee Tech involved in some friendly competition to spur up some old university rivalry," said Jennifer Kirk, who organized the blood drive for the American Red Cross.

The rivalry between the colleges began when the Tennessee Legislature enacted the General Education Bill, which stated that three colleges would be established within each grand division of the state.

One of the three schools established was Middle Tennessee State. The conflict came when Murfreesboro was chosen over Cookeville as the site of the new normal school.

The main goal of the blood drive was to have as many people as possible donate blood, due to the fact that the summer time is one of the slowest times for the Red Cross. The MT Athletic Department and the SGA were very supportive of the efforts and promoted the blood drive competition.

"MTSU campus was an ideal location to hold the blood drive competition, [because] we have a high potential for donations," Kirk said.

Spencer Wood, SGA Senator for Mass Communication, said he was very pleased with the student turn-out for the blood drive, not just for the competition, but also the awareness that

students were showing.

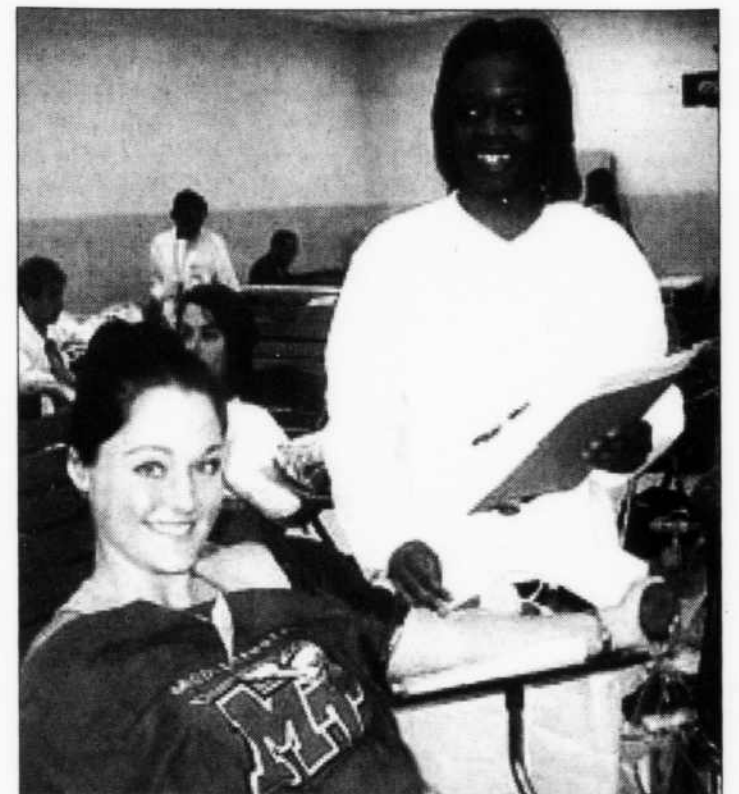
Based on the school's population, MTSU had a lot more eligible people to donate than Tennessee Tech, leaving them with a very small possibility of winning. For this reason, a fair way to be judged had to be thought out.

"We had to work out a fair way to judge the competition. It was still based on how many people donated, but both rooms that it took place in at MTSU

and TN Tech has the same capacity and the same amount of nurses to help people," Flippin said.

TTU held their blood drive at the end of August, so the MT Athletic department and SGA knew what they were up against, and how much blood they had to collect.

MT was announced as the winner during Thursday's Faith and Family Day game against Tennessee Tech.



Freshman Courtney Smith donated blood for the second time. "It feels great to be able to donate," she said. She is with Red Cross nurse Vanessa Whittaker.

# Panel to discuss Israeli-Lebanese conflict

By Courtney Foster  
Contributing Writer

Americans for Informed Democracy will host a panel discussion on the Israeli-Lebanese Conflict Wed., Sept. 20, to get out their message about American foreign policy. The discussion will focus on how American media covered the event, and how that coverage affected American audiences.

Angie Feeney, president of the MTSU chapter of AID, helped organize the discussion.

Feeney said that she would like students to get "a better understanding of what is going on in the Middle East." She thinks that the best way to do that is by "getting information [from different sources] rather than getting it all from one biased source" and Americans will be able to form opinions about American foreign policy for themselves.

The main purpose of the discussion is to cover the recent situation with the Lebanese government and the Israeli government. In early July 2006, the Lebanese military group Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers on the border between the two countries, which sparked the current conflict. This discussion will focus on how the media covered the

event and how Americans responded to it and what information they grabbed from it.

The panelists will consider all American and European media sources such as newspapers, the Internet and television as the questions arise. Other topics for discussion will include religious motives, gender issues, the threat of terrorism and the Hezbollah. Also, the panelists will be providing background information on the conflict itself.

In the panelists' goal to inform and educate about the situation, they also seek to inform students about how America's "moral message" has been undermined by President Bush's unilateral action to invade Iraq. The message that they want to be considered is that of a multilateral type of American politics.

"[Americans] can't make the decisions for the entire world because we're only one country; we're only one nation," Feeney said. "If we understand the world better as citizens ... then we can get along better in the future."

"Instead of the U.S. being more dominant and making all of the decisions, we can come together and make the decisions as an international society," Feeney said.

The panel will include MTSU professors with varying backgrounds, such as political science, history, journalism and even some with personal experiences in the Middle East region.

Larry Burriss, professor of Journalism who served in the Air Force during the Gulf War, will be one of the panelists. He said he hopes to discuss his personal service overseas when he takes questions from students attending the panel.

"I would like to emphasize the need for the public to know as much as they can about what is going on over there. Understanding perspectives does not necessarily mean that you need to agree with them," Burriss said.

AID is a non-biased student organization that seeks to promote glob-

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-Angie Feeney, president of the MTSU chapter of AID

al awareness on campuses by bringing up world issues that are happening outside of the U.S., with a focus on American foreign policy and international affairs.

AID, which has 500 chapters on campuses nationwide, is part of a "Hope not Hate" campaign to facilitate relations with the Arab world. AID plays a significant and substantial role in international issues.

Feeney said she hopes the event will help people to develop their own perspectives about the current foreign affairs.

"Here's the information: You make the decision instead of relying on other people to do it," Feeney said.

The panel will be held at the Learning Resources Center Room 221 at 7: p.m. The panel is open and free to the public.

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Sign up in KUC 208 to be involved in a committee that raises funds and plans events for AIDS awareness on MTSU's campus.



# Lecture series tackles global warming Monday

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

Global warming will be the topic presented by Jim Henry in the second installment of the fall honors lecture series Monday.

"In a nut shell, we will look at global warming, the affects of it and the preventative methods," said Henry, professor of geosciences.

The cause of global warming is a combination between human and natural causes, Henry said. For example, a cause of global warming is the burning of natural gas and fossil fuels by humans.

"For the most part, humans in addition to some natural cycles, have cause global warming," Henry said. "However, even if you took humans off of the planet, the average temperature of the globe would go up and down in cycles just as they always have."

One of the main points Henry will cover is how global warming has only raised the temperature of the earth by about one and a half degrees

Fahrenheit.

"In terms of global temperature, this rise does make a difference," Henry said. "During the last ice age, the globe was only nine degrees cooler than the current average temperature."

The solution, according to Henry, is very noncontroversial and very simple. Some of the adjustments would include burning coal cleaner, not necessarily stopping the use of it. Additionally, more renewable sources, like wind and solar energy, should be used.

"It just comes to being more efficient and putting out less greenhouse gases," Henry said.

Henry has taught meteorology in the geosciences department for years and said he has students constantly asking about the subject of global warming.

"I based my lecture off of common questions asked to me by students throughout the years about global warming," Henry said.

The reason global warming becomes an issue to be discussed among natural disasters, the topic of the lecture series, is

global warming could increase to a threshold, or breaking point, and cause other disasters, Henry said.

"It will, if it is allowed to run away with itself, will produce some natural disasters," Henry said.

"A colleague of mine recently released research which said that if global warming became more powerful, disasters like hurricanes could get more powerful."

The main concern of global warming is the increase of temperature, Henry said. A major affect involving humans would be disease carried by insects which thrive in heat, like mosquitoes, disasters like hurricanes or rising sea levels.

"My final opinion is that, while this issue is important and major, this is not a time for panic," Henry said. "However, it is a time to start doing something differently. We can start changing our ways without wiping out our economy."

The lecture series will take place Monday in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. University Honors Building at 3 p.m.

## Increase: Fee increase would fund student center

Continued from 1

"MTSU students deserve a better student building," Cash added. "The new student center would be a great selling point for students and give them something to be proud of and also a fun place to hang out."

For the past six months, architects have begun to create future drawing plans for a new and improved student union center because MTSU has outgrown the Keathley University Center.

"The existing KUC was built for only 6,000 students but now our campus has nearly tripled with 22,000 undergraduate students," Cash said.

The location for the new center is still under debate, but considerations include the older inner fields and somewhere on the west side of campus, near Middle Tennessee Boulevard, Cash said.

New improvements and additions to the future building will include new major food services, a larger bookstore, space for the MTSU radio station, "Sidelines" and the SGA office, a banquet hall that will seat 1,000 people (the largest is in the James Union Building and seats 600). The

building will also include meeting space, SGA office, dry cleaning services, a bank, a convenient store, a hair salon and several other retail operations. There will also be space available for both student and Greek organizations. The space is limited though it will be on a first come, first serve basis.

The new student building will be fully equipped with the latest technology, lounge space, computer labs and large screen televisions that will be available to showcase presentations throughout the building. The post office, however, will remain in the KUC, which will become an office building for faculty and staff.

SGA is working extremely hard this fall to ensure that every student votes in the election.

"We will begin putting together the campaign in the next two weeks and we will use all resources available to educate the student body of why this new center is needed," Flippin added. "It is extremely important that every student votes. Our KUC was built for only 8 to 10,000 students. Now we're at 23,000 and still growing."

## ~ "What's up on campus?" ~

### Monday 9/18

Honors Lecture Series - Hon Bldg 106 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Intramural Sand Volleyball - Rec Center @ 5:00 p.m.  
Greek RUSH - BAS S102 @ 5:35 p.m.  
Tang Soo Do - Rec Center @ 7:00 p.m.  
Maya Stone Faculty Bassoon Recital - WMB MH @ 8:00 p.m.

### Tuesday 9/19

Student Pagan Organization - KUC Knoll @ 10:00 a.m.  
Shake on the Move - KUC Knoll @ 12:00 p.m.  
Student Organizations - KUC 322 @ 4:30 p.m.  
Martial Arts Club - Rec Center @ 8:30 p.m.

### Wednesday 9/20

Shake on the Move - KUC Knoll @ 12:00 p.m.  
Anime Club - BAS S316 @ 6:00 p.m.

### Thursday 9/21

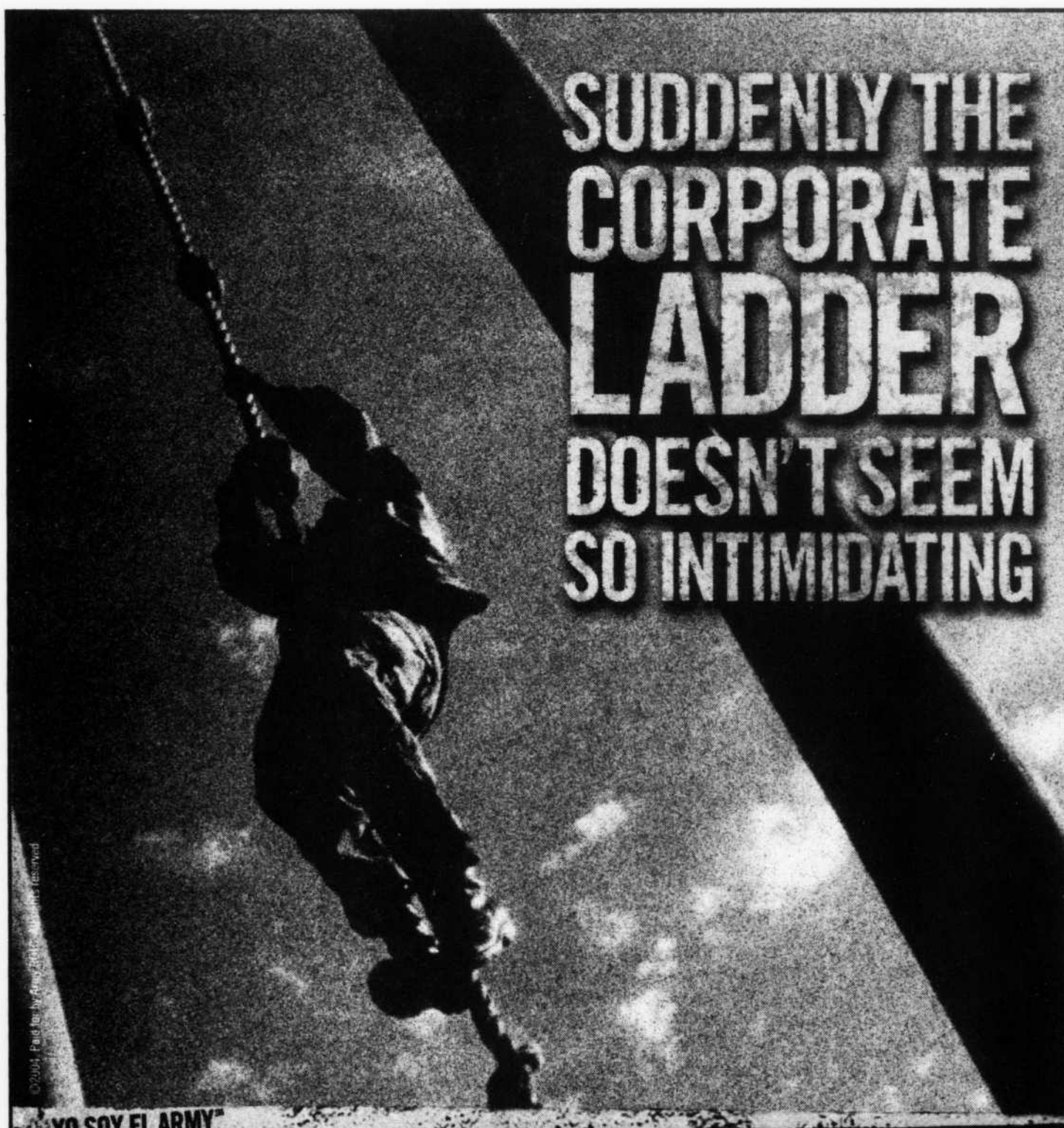
Career Day - MC Track @ 8:00 a.m.  
National Walking Horse Association - TMC Complex @ 9:00 a.m.  
Red Cross Blood Drive - KUC 322 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch - Hon Bldg 202 @ 11:30 a.m.  
Shake on the Move - KUC Knoll @ 12:00 p.m.  
Peace Corps - KUC 313 @ 4:30 p.m.  
Tang Soo Do - Rec Center @ 7:00 p.m.  
Martial Arts Club Practice - Rec Dance @ 8:30 p.m.

### Friday 9/22

Career Center Interviews - KUC 313 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Helen Pruitt Photo Shoot - WMB MH @ 4:00 p.m.  
Scared Rabbit Records Showcase - KUC Theater @ 8:00 p.m.

### Saturday 9/23

Defensive Driving - BAS S128 @ 8:15 a.m.  
National Walking Horse Association - TMC Complex @ 9:00 a.m.  
Wind Ensemble Recording - WMB MH @ 10:00 a.m.



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# Opportunities to work 'down under' abound

## Australian government program encourages migration for new grads

By Dana Owens  
Community News Editor

A representative from the Australian Embassy spoke at MTSU last week as part of an Australian government program to encourage students to start their careers across the world.

"This is a program the Australian government is promoting very heavily right now," said Susie Burnard from the immigration section at the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C.

The global program, Move Your Career Down Under, is working to recruit skilled labor, particularly young professionals and recent graduates, to a country that is having difficulty filling certain job positions.

Though Australia is similar in landmass to the United States, the current population is only 20 million, or about two people per square kilometer.

Among the most urgently needed professionals are those in the health care field, accountants, engineers and computing professionals. There is also a need for those in particular trades ranging from electricians to hairdressers.

The highest demand is for skilled workers, or those with a post-high school education and an Associate's Degree or higher.

According to Burnard, Australia is extremely livable, especially for Americans.

"Most people comment on [Australia's] fantastic way of life," she said. "I don't think it's much different than the U.S."

Among the benefits Burnard cited for professionals moving their careers to Australia is the fact that the economy had been climbing rapidly for the past 15 years and has had the lowest unemployment rate in the world for the past 30 years.

Jan Quarles, a professor of electronic communication who lived in Australia for six years, called Australia a land of contrasts and diversity, both economically and culturally.

"It's very much a country all it's own," Quarles said, adding that it can be very urban and cosmopolitan.

"Australians are easy-going people and very friendly," she said.

Income and cost of living, like in the United States, varies a great deal. While clothing and books are expensive, food and rent are not. Quarles compared rent in the major cities of Australia to that of Nashville.

"It would be an easy place for a student to do a first job if you meet all the immigration requirements," Quarles said. "It would be an easy place to adjust to because you speak the language already."

Those interested in migrating

to Australia are eligible for several types of visas, temporary or permanent and independent or sponsored, but the process is not quick or cheap. At the fastest, it could take six months but typically takes more than nine. Also, it costs around \$2,000, Burnard said.

An independent visa allows the most freedom but also has the most requirements. While a profession must be declared to receive the visa, one is not required to work in the same field once in the country. Also, the visa issued is permanent and requires that one work for at least two years.

In order to qualify for the independent visa, one must go through a skill assessment, be proficient in English and have recent work or study experience in the

country.

This visa program is based on a point system. Meeting certain qualifications earns one more points. For a permanent visa, 120 points are required while only 70 are needed for a temporary visa or to be allowed a second chance at applying for a permanent visa.

A permanent visa allows migrant workers more residency rights without giving up their United States citizenship. Each year, 144,000 permanent visas are issued. The universal system of health care is also available to permanent residents.

Migrants from the United States are typically able to meet the 120 points, Burnard said.

A sponsored visa does not fall under the point system, but requires that one be sponsored by an Australian employer, state or territory, or a relative. Applying for a sponsored visa is a faster process than the independent, but is only temporary. This means one would not receive the same advantages, such as universal health care.

If a migrant enters the country with a temporary visa, it is possible to re-apply for one that is permanent.

Exceptions can be made with both visas when the applicant's profession is one of the most urgently needed, Burnard said.

Another type of visa is known as the "skill matching" visa. This visa does not require the applicant to meet the point system or have as much work experience, but allows one to post their resume on an online database for employers to search. The employers may then sponsor an applicant to enter the country.

The matching visa has been successful because it gives applicants a chance to consider moving and working abroad, Burnard said.

In order to earn more points to qualify for the permanent visa, MTSU offers several study abroad opportunities in Australia through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad and International Student Exchange Program.

CCSA offers programs each semester and in the summer in recording industry, marketing, biology and other areas of study, said Brandon Fisher, assistant to the director at the Office of International Education and Exchange.

ISEP offers an exchange program to universities in Australia. This program allows students a nearly unlimited option of courses to take, but the cost can be prohibitive. All the credits earned transfer back to MTSU.

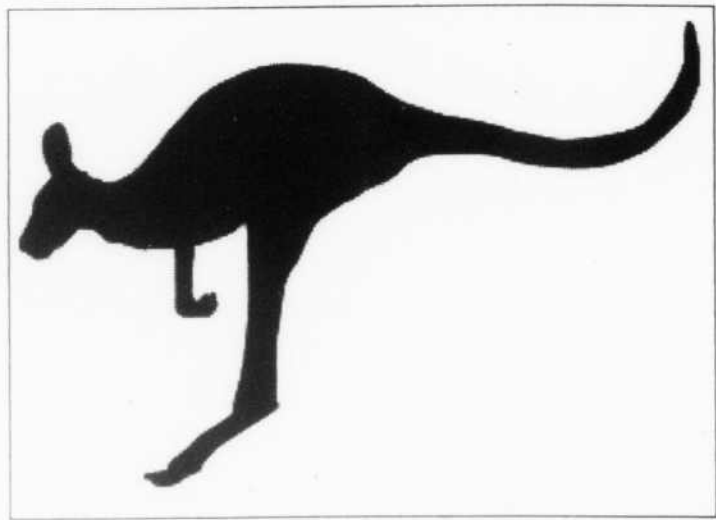
Currently, there is one MTSU student studying in Australia with ISEP and there were two during the summer, Fisher said.

According to Fisher, Australia is not as popular as London because it is much further and does not offer as many programs.

"A surprising number of students are interested in going to Australia, but with CCSA, they are limited by courses offered," Fisher said, adding that ISEP is also limiting because of costs.

For those who are serious about working in Australia, Burnard said the Web site, <http://www.careersdownunder.com>, offers a great deal of information, including lists of eligible professions.

"It's a global market, there's got to be opportunities to go somewhere else," Burnard said. "[In Australia, there are] unique personal and professional opportunities."



# College alcoholism slows future recovery

By Lauren Magnuson  
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON - Drinkers who become alcohol-dependent at a young age are less likely to recover quickly and without complications than their peers, according to study released Sept. 3 by the Boston University School of Public Health.

SPH professors Ralph Hingson, Timothy Heeren and Michael Winter conducted the study, which showed a strong correlation between the age of dependence onset and the difficulty of recovery.

"The younger people are not only more likely to become alcohol dependent, but they develop it more rapidly," Hingson, a social and behavioral sciences professor, said. "They also have longer, more severe and a greater number of episodes of dependence."

The study follows a July report, based on the same set of data, that found adolescents more likely to become alcoholics if they begin drinking at a young age. According to Hingson, almost half of the individuals in the recent national study of adults 18 and over who had become dependent developed dependence before the legal drinking age, and two-thirds before age 25. These young people were less likely to seek treatment for their dependence and waited longer to do so if they made that decision.

"The general impression was that alcoholism is a middle-aged person's problem," Hingson said.

"Many people in the field felt that young people cannot become alcoholics. But the study shows that that is not so."

Some students said they have little concern for the possibility of underage drinking leading to major health problems. College of Arts and Sciences junior Shah Ullah said he feels underage drinkers are "more fun-loving, better human beings, less critical of others and generally give out less negative vibes."

SPH Dean Robert Meenan said while moderate alcohol consumption in certain cultures has shown to have positive health effects, "overuse is a major public health problem."

According to Hingson, injuries are the leading cause of death among young people, with alcohol as the leading contributor to those injuries. Forty-thousand people die each year from alcohol-attributed injuries, he said.

Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences sophomore Nicole Urbanowski said she recognizes that some students have a problem, but she chooses to distance herself from it.

"I don't have a lot of respect for students who abuse alcohol," she said. "It jeopardizes their education."

According to Hingson, a study conducted at the University of California at San Diego found that alcohol-dependent adolescents have less frontal lobe activity and difficulty with memory and planning. While it is unknown if these findings were a direct result of alcohol abuse,

Hingson said "we know that the brain develops until we are in our mid-twenties."

The researchers stressed the importance of education, screenings and treatment programs to help delay the onset of alcohol dependence.

"People think, 'I'm 20 years old, I'll get over it,'" Meenan said. "But the study shows it can be more than just a short-term problem. They are developing habits for life."

Meenan and Hingson also encouraged young people to watch out for each other, especially when they see an abusive drinker.

"Not only are they posing a risk to themselves, but they are posing a risk to other people," Hingson said.

CAS junior Tyler Ramaker said he has little confidence in the ability of school programs and education to make a difference.

"People who are already drinking aren't going to be swayed from their behavior," he said. "Most kids who already drink understand that it is bad for them, but they don't really care. It is something that is socially acceptable."

School of Management junior Seth Herring said he feels most students who drink do so without resorting to abuse and dependence. However, he does see an importance in education available to students.

"I think that more information should be given to students on how to confront a friend who they feel is abusing alcohol," he said.

## Measuring: Tennessee university scores released

Continued from 1

Tennessee has improved in participation and completion.

This study also compared the nation's degree attainment for young adults (ages 25 to 34), which has lowered since the 1990s. However, older adults (ages 35 to 64) are still top nation-wide for holding a college degree. The study also reflects that the United States remains in the top five of college participation internationally, but it is in the lower half of college completion.

Another tool for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is a website, [www.collegefortn.org](http://www.collegefortn.org), which is a "one-stop shop" for potential students and parents searching for the appropriate college in Tennessee. It will also be a useful tool for high-school counselors to help students decide where they would like to attend college. This website contains useful information such as price of tuition, academic programs, methods to apply for financial aids, and other aspects that help individuals decide which college is right for them.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is not affiliated with any government agency. For further information, these reports can be viewed at <http://measuringup.highereducation.org>.

# U.S. colleges see grad rates slide

By Julie Steinberg  
Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Penn)

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA - The United States boasts the world's largest economy, its strongest army and perhaps the most diverse population in the world.

But when it comes to its citizens graduating from college, America can't claim any similar superlative.

The United States has slipped behind other nations in the numbers of students who finish their degrees, according to a report released by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a California-based think tank.

And a significant generational gap is emerging.

Though the United States still ranks among the top nations in the proportion of 35- to 64-year-olds with college degrees, it has dropped to seventh in the 25- to 34-year-old demographic.

Across the nation, graduation rates are plummeting.

Education policy advisers say that there are several reasons for the decline, with financial and cultural factors contributing.

More and more lower-income students are heading to college, according to Tony Palz, a spokesman for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

But tuition rates are simultaneously spiraling up, he said, while federal grants are decreasing in value.

Ultimately, this means that more, poorer students are heading to college but cannot afford to finish - which contributes to a higher drop-out rate, Palz said.

He added that the failure of student aid to keep up with students' financial needs has compounded the problem.

Meanwhile, America is experiencing the most diversity in college admissions in history, said Maybeth Gasman, a professor at Penn's Graduate School of Education. But with more minority enrollment comes more families that are unable to afford tuition.

"It's not always the case, but students from low-income backgrounds aren't usually academically prepared for college," she added.

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### FOR LEASE



# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### If we want campus community, we'll have to pay the high price

This October, the student body will make their voice heard: do we want a glitzier student union for future MT generations, or an extra hundred bucks in our pockets every year?

Granted, the estimated \$75-\$125 increase in student fees would be painful. Most students are strapped for cash anyway, and every little extra charge gets us where it hurts – especially when we're talking about a student center that few, if any, current students will ever see completed.

On the other hand, though, it's time for the students to take a few steps back, scan the bigger picture, and realize that it's time for us to stick out our necks, and our wallets, for the greater good.

Even after you graduate, you will have to tell people from whence you hail. If students are still sitting around in the same old Keathley University Center 20 years from now, well, that would just be sad. We aren't yet to the point where we have to be embarrassed when we describe our student union, but that day is fast approaching.

The chorus of voices calling for greater community on campus is slowly rising to a roar, and if we are ever going to see a turn from the suitcase-campus mentality, major change will have to be wrought.

Students don't want to spend their weekends sitting on crummy couches in dead lobbies, with nothing to do but watch TV. We need food centers that are open longer. We need more extensive shopping. We need a laundry mat.

It could be argued, we understand, that none of the aforementioned needs are really "needs" in the true sense of the word. Then again, neither are a Recreation Center, or vending machines or sidewalks.

This campus is going to yield benefits according to how much its members invest. If we are content to revert to ghost-campus status every weekend, and have to go off campus every time we want a real dinner, then no. We don't need a student union.

Otherwise, suck it up, and cough over your hundred bucks. In 15 years, the new freshmen will be glad you did.

## Greeks must recreate honorable foundation

In a musty tavern near the campus of the College of William and Mary in December, 1776, five male students gathered in the Apollo Room to create the first collegiate fraternal organization: Phi Beta Kappa. These men gathered secretly to discuss different social issues because the faculty of the College of William and Mary did not allow for alternative opinion and discussion on campus.

Fast forward to 2006 and collegiate fraternal organizations look nothing like their respectable ancestors from some 230 years ago. Greek organizations are often the topic of sophomoric movies with little substance. Take "Animal House," for example. "Toga! Toga! Toga!" While Jim Belushi did much for the comedic world, he did little to advance respect for the world of fraternities.

When one thinks of the words 'fraternity' and 'Greek,' sophisticated conversations on pressing social issues certainly no longer come to mind. Instead, words like 'alcohol,' 'drunkenness' and 'irresponsibility' frequently highlight conversations about Greek organizations.

Kappa Sigma is the poster child for irresponsible fraternities on campus.

After neglecting to end a party (with alcohol) at 2 a.m. in the spring, MTSU Administration decided to kick them off campus. Left with no place to call home, the national fraternity pulled their charter.

If being Greek means "being a leader," as the Greek Life Web site states, then Kappa Sigma certainly showed MTSU how to lead.

Recently, another fraternity on campus found themselves in a compromising position.

A party involving alcohol at the Beta Theta Pi house ended when a student was hit in the back of the



Hurtt Pride  
Matt Hurtt  
Staff Columnist

head with a pool stick. Michael Morrison, the student, is still recovering.

Beta Theta Pi certainly showed MTSU how to lead.

The only difference between these two events is that the more serious offense, the incident at the Beta House, did not result in the shutting down of the House and subsequent removal of the fraternity's charter.

Why is there no uniform code of discipline among Greek Life?

MTSU should judge fraternities equally: if one fraternity can be shut down for a party running later than allowed, then a fraternity responsible for the hospitalization of one of its "brothers" should also be shut down.

I am not calling for the removal of Greek Life from campus altogether, just that administration remove the obvious hypocrisy from the system by which it judges the organizations.

When a former Student Government Association President can throw back a beer with Greek Life employees while underage, one must question the policies of Greek Life.

Where did those upstanding young men go wrong? At what point in history did those respectable fraternal organizations stray from the "Fraternity, Morality and Literature" of the Phi Beta Kappas of 1776 to the debauchery, infidelity and drunkenness of today?

Matt Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

## Anti-Semitic bigotry unacceptable

By now, Mel Gibson's anti-Semitic remarks have become as commonly known as Ashlee Simpson's nose job.

They came as no surprise to me – he did mastermind a film falsely portraying the Jews as the killers of Christ, after all. However, to some, this drunken buffoon's statements seem shocking and completely out of character.

The Holocaust is a thing of the distant past. Now-a-days, we all get along. Anti-Semitism is a non-issue. While I don't think America could ever recreate a Nazi-type regime, I do wonder what is causing this shift. When did Jew-bashing become trendy?

At a friend's apartment a while ago, I overheard a conversation reminiscing the previous night of drunkenness. "You were so wasted last night," a generic girl commended the guy beside her. "You were, like, screaming about how we should kill all the Jews and that all the Jews should die." Giggles ensued, followed by, "Yeah, I was pretty smashed."

Needless to say, by the end of the night, the Gibson-wannabe and I were debating George W. Bush's competence, the War in Iraq and the literalness of the Bible; all the while he repeatedly assured me that he absolutely "loved" Jewish people.

I've seen a swastika adorning a stop-sign in the wealthy Breckenridge neighborhood, witnessed countless "You're going to Hell" comments and other ignorant remarks about my



Kvetch A  
Break  
Sarah Lavery  
Staff Columnist

religion and now, in the safety of a friend's apartment, I've been face-to-face with blatant, hateful statements against Judaism.

Welcome to the land of the free.

Here, everyone is guaranteed an equal pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. Unless, of course, you're not Anglo-Saxon.

Tennessee has a Christian population of 82 percent. Granted, we are smack-dab in the middle of the Bible Belt, but is a little tolerance too much to ask?

Since when did an overwhelming majority equal the assumed right to look down on the lesser demographic? (Insert obvious sarcasm here.) All my life I've been exposed to bigotry – having only known teachers, political officers and "American Heroes" to be a strange army of white, Christian males – but never have I experienced it in such a first-hand, unabashed manner.

The idiotic, aforementioned kid had no qualms about what he was saying, no little

man in the back of his head telling him to shut up, and he only backed down when – surprise! – he realized there was a Jew in the room.

In Murfreesboro, Tenn., a town where there's a good chance no Jew, Muslim or African-American will be in earshot, perhaps it would still be wise to pay attention to the little man inside of your head – if he still exists.

Sentiments of hate are not cool or funny, and even if you believe Mel Gibson's blabbering to be chuckle-worthy, recreating his ignorance is certainly not.

A sense of humor is necessary to deal with these situations. I couldn't help but laugh at the synchronicity of Mel Gibson's tirade; it was only inevitable that he be exposed as the true, drunken wacko that he is. Gibson's face will forever be plastered on the wall of shame, so let us remember that reliving his futility will simply reserve you a spot there, as well.

I look forward to seeing the Gibson impersonator again. Though his aim may have been to make a joke, he still serves as a reminder of everything I strive not to be. His ignorant words have added even more fuel to my fire.

So thank-you, friend, if you're perchance reading this. May you achieve stratospheric fame for your idiocy, just like your idols.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communications major and can be reached at scl2s@mtsu.edu.

## Illegal parking annoys, endangers

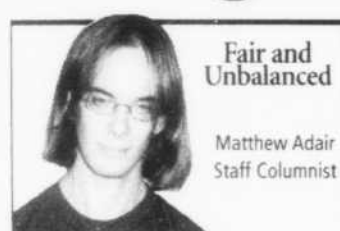
There are, as we all know, three absolutes in life: death, taxes and the inability to find a parking spot at MTSU. Much has been written about all three of these things and yet, we keep talking about them because all three are an endless source of anxiety for us all.

Most everything that can be said about parking here has been said already – there isn't enough of it, and most of it is not anywhere near anything on campus that you actually want to get to. We all know these things, so to bring any of it up again would be beating a dead horse.

There is nothing more frustrating than trying to navigate an already crowded parking lot, only to smash the front of your car in because somebody decided to park their gigantic sport utility vehicle in the middle of the aisle.

Now normally, when I encounter someone who goes their own way in handling situations, it's worth celebrating.

That's the American spirit – to cut your own path forwards, throwing caution to the wind. However, that ingenuity is somewhat diminished when 'cutting your own path' means causing a pileup that is five cars long and



Fair and  
Unbalanced  
Matthew Adair  
Staff Columnist

still growing.

Now, it's understandable that we, the students, faculty and staff of this university, are busy people. We've got a lot to do and not a lot of time to get it done in, so we don't want to feel like we're wasting precious minutes – and precious gasoline, for that matter – driving around the lot hoping that someone will leave soon and let you take their place.

I also know that it's frustrating to be left at the mercy of all the other drivers out there who are willing to drive at break-neck pace – the wrong way, of course – down the aisle to steal said parking spot from you after you've been waiting patiently for 15 minutes or more.

However, leaving your car in the middle of the road, while it might get you where you're going a little faster, isn't going to make your life any easier.

It might be convenient now, but

that warm glow of victory over Parking Services will quickly fade when you return to find your vehicle ticketed and booted.

There is a reason it is called parking illegally, after all, and a reason why it is illegal.

When your car is wedged up against the end of an aisle or crammed along a sidewalk, you make it more difficult for everyone else to drive safely.

You increase the chance that someone is going to have a wreck, damaging one or both vehicles, potentially wrecking nearby property and endangering the lives of anyone involved in the accident.

It's quite a choice, isn't it? Hospitalizing an innocent person, or not missing a lecture. Apparently, some people struggle with this, though, because day after day since the beginning of the semester, I have had to weave around cars parked wherever their drivers could fit them.

The easy thing to do here would be to blame the university and join the chorus of people here who bemoan the lack of parking.

There's a lot that has been done to alleviate the situation, and more that can be done that the school is dragging its feet about. I

still hold out for the day that this school will start thinking vertically and build a garage instead of eating up more and more land to accommodate everyone's car.

However, it is not the university's fault that some of you are unable to obey the rules of the road that you were supposed to learn when you first got a driver's license.

Handling your car responsibly is part of the deal you made when you registered to get that piece of plastic to put in your wallet, a deal that is enforced by law. If you can't handle this responsibility, then get off of the road and let the rest of us drive in peace.

Parking illegally is an annoyance to the rest of us, a hazard to other drivers and a crime. Take the time to find an actual parking spot before you run off to the rest of your life.

It might take longer and you might wind up late for whatever you're doing, but the rest of us will appreciate not running into you while we're looking for a spot of our own.

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

## Women must choose family over careers

By Kara Borbely

The Diamondback

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – The American Dream can be largely reduced to a single pursuit, a single word: success. My question, is does that American dream depend on gender? Is the idea of success – or at least the status markers considered necessary in attaining it – subject to the gender of an individual?

Does my idea of success have to fall into certain societally imposed categories based on the fact that I sport two matching chromosomes and succumb to the torturous fashion of wanting to look fantastic in a pair of patent leather heels? Is my pursuit of the success necessary to achieve the American dream limited by my gender?

Let's assume that a man's sense of success is encompassed in financial stability – money.

This seems to be a fair corollary to the idea of success in America. Just look at the people we respect and admire – and devote entire magazines to: celebrities, athletes,

CEOs. All of these people are millionaires. How else did Donald Trump get his own reality TV show? It certainly wasn't his long flowing locks of carefully wound and quaffed blond hair. Therefore, for men, success is characterized by money. Where, then, do women fall?

I won't argue that Triumph has no female counterpart – after all, Oprah is a bit of a phenom, but there are many more Triumphs than Oprahs.

Why is it the first questions asked of women, specifically young women, at family reunions, are concerned with relationship status? I'm not a man, so I can't pretend to know if men get the same hideously repetitive questions, but from my eavesdropping and commiserating, this seems not to be the case. Why does Grandma always ask me, "And how's your fella, dear?" Why doesn't she ask me how my grade point average is doing instead of my boyfriend? Maybe she could show interest in whether I've decided upon a career path or

where I want to go to grad school or how my student loans are coming along. Why was my aunt more concerned, when my cousin graduated college, that she tragically hadn't yet found someone to marry rather than that she graduated with honors?

It appears the American Dream for women is inextricably tied to the idea of family. For men, success can mean a career, but for women, ultimately success must entail matrimony and maternity. As a somewhat neurotic, hard-working and ambitious woman, this offends me deeply.

Why is it I must have a family in order to be successful? Can I not pursue the same path of career and financial stability as my male counterparts and be considered just as successful? Not, it seems, without a relationship and a child.

What, then, does my future hold? My education is worth roughly \$100,000, not to mention the countless hours of studying and classes that have gone into the past three years of establishing my GPA and, oh yeah, learning stuff.

Why have I worked so hard if society will only deem me successful if I have a husband and babies?

I guess I was just wasting time in high school, challenging myself so that I could get into a good college because, after college, I'm just going to sacrifice my career to have a family. Why do men get to define success with a career and I have to do it with a child?

That is, of course, not to say I may not want a family at some point. Who doesn't want love? Right now, my biological clock certainly isn't ticking. I don't even think it's wound yet, so the alarm isn't going to go off any time soon.

In a world that claims equality and professes uniformity among men and women, why am I expected to sacrifice my idea of success for family after my devoted pursuit of education and career, not to mention the investment of time and money? Why can't I define a dream that also allows me success through a career instead of through family?

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# FEATURES

## The truth hides behind the legend

By Will Cade and Katy Coil  
Staff Writer

Santa Claus is a big red man who slides down your chimney on Christmas Eve bearing a bag full of presents just for you.

This may be the first Urban Legend many of us ever heard and believed as children. Now, as pseudo-adults on a college campus, we hear an assortment of folklore: some believable, some not.

The Davis Market on the corner of East Main Street and Middle Tennessee Boulevard is the subject of many variations of Urban Legends.

"Davis Market is supposedly the cosmic center of the universe," says Brooks Butler, senior economics major at MTSU. "In case of nuclear winter, it's the only safe place on the planet."

Lynn Funkhouser, a senior anthropology major at MTSU, says the market also has "a freezer that is the portal to hell."

These are lofty and somewhat unbelievable qualities for a corner market in Murfreesboro, TN, but the legends don't stop there.

According to Funkhouser, Davis Market also houses a curse.

"If you go in for any reason, then you're stuck in Murfreesboro for life," she says.

But there is a way out. Breaking the Davis Market curse involves the geographical center of Tennessee, an obelisk located a mile from Middle Tennessee Boulevard on Old Lascassas Pike.

According to Nathan Hanes, a junior concrete management major, if "you can have sex on the geographical center of Tennessee or piss on it," then you break the curse.

Matt Kikesell, a junior concrete management major, has followed one of these suggested cures.

"I pissed like hell on that [expletive]," he says. However, the majority of his motivation derived from the drugs that he was taking, he explains. Either way, Matt doesn't have to worry over the forces trying to imprison him in Murfreesboro.

Another legend that threatens to hold students back concerns the University Seal in the courtyard between Walker Library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

"If you walk across the seal you'll never graduate," says Jonathan King, a sophomore history major at MTSU.

Jonathan says he doesn't put a lot of stock in Urban Legends, but he's not going to risk it.

Students may hear and even believe these legends without having a clue as to how dependable they are or where they come from.

"That's part of the mystery of folklore and the greatness," explains Kenneth Deshane, associate professor of English at MTSU. "The part that catches us is that they could be true."

"Most of the time we don't know who created these legends," Deshane adds. "It's always a friend of a friend that this happened to."

Over time, students perpetuate these legends across the campus. Faculty members can only rely on students to learn of them.

"I pump my students every semester for urban legends," Deshane says, but he admits he only knows a few.

Any student who has actually attended class will have heard the rule concerning how long to wait for late professors.

"Students have different interpretations," Deshane explains. "If the person is an assistant professor, you don't wait as long as if he or she is

an associate professor."

Many students, eager to ditch class by the book, may wonder whether this rule is binding.

"Last I knew there weren't any official rules about how long to wait for a professor," he says. "For most students, 10 or 15 minutes is the maximum they'll wait for a professor, and then they'll leave."

The most well-known legends seem to be those that benefit the students in one way or another.

"There's the one that circulates on any campus, and that's if your roommate commits suicide you're supposed to get a 4.0," he adds.

Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of judicial affairs and mediation services at MTSU, is also familiar with this legend.

"I heard that when I went to college and continue to hear it," she says. "That is not a rule I can find in print anywhere."

However, in the tragic event that a resident's roommate does commit suicide, the university will help in anyway it can, she says.

"The university is going to and assist that student in anyway they need," Sosh-Lightsy explains. "But the university will not give them straight A's."

So slipping arsenic into your roommate's coffee would serve no purpose come exam time, aside from getting you free counseling.

Some legends concerning campus policy may be verified or rebuked by seeking out administrators, while other, more supernatural legends can only be proven first hand.

For instance, Andrew Burns, a junior aerospace administration major, saw an apparition next to the Keathley University Center last week.

"I was next to the KUC around 9 o'clock [at night] and saw this white thing twice," Andrew says. "It looked like a sheet or the outline of a person."

However, Andrew was hesitant to tell authorities.

"I haven't told anyone because nobody would believe me," he says. "I hope I'll see it again just to make sure I'm not seeing things."

Andrew has a plausible explanation for his supernatural experience.

"I figure this is a pretty old place, maybe built over a cemetery," he gathers.

Andrew's account exemplifies how many Urban Legends could have begun.

"There seems to be a kernel of truth with most Urban Legends," DeShane says. "Probably something similar has happened, and that's why people perpetuate these ideas."

People may also perpetuate Urban Legends in explaining a current state of affairs, as does Jennifer Blake, a junior theater major.

"Abernathy Hall is haunted and that's why no one lives there," she says. "When I was a freshman, people said 'don't go in, the lights come on by themselves at night.'"

However, Jennifer no longer believes the stories she was told in her younger days.

"Now it sounds silly," she admits. "As far as I know, no one has lived there probably due to renovation or asbestos."

Melanie Sadler, an undeclared freshman at MTSU, is also skeptical of a legend she has heard.

"When I came for Customs I heard when you kiss somebody in front of Kirksey Old Main you're going to marry them," she says. "I don't know if I believe that, but I'm not going to try it, just in case."

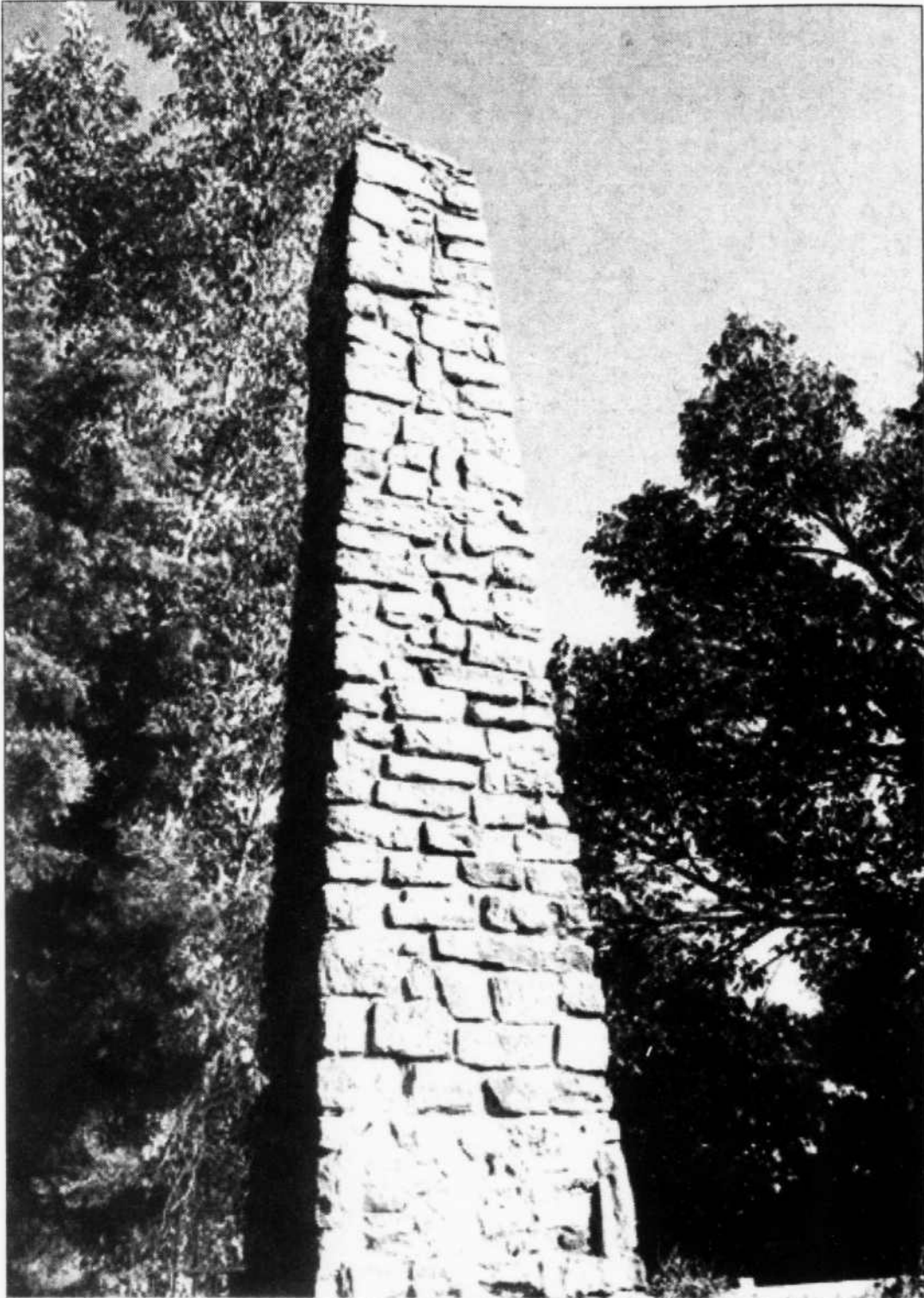
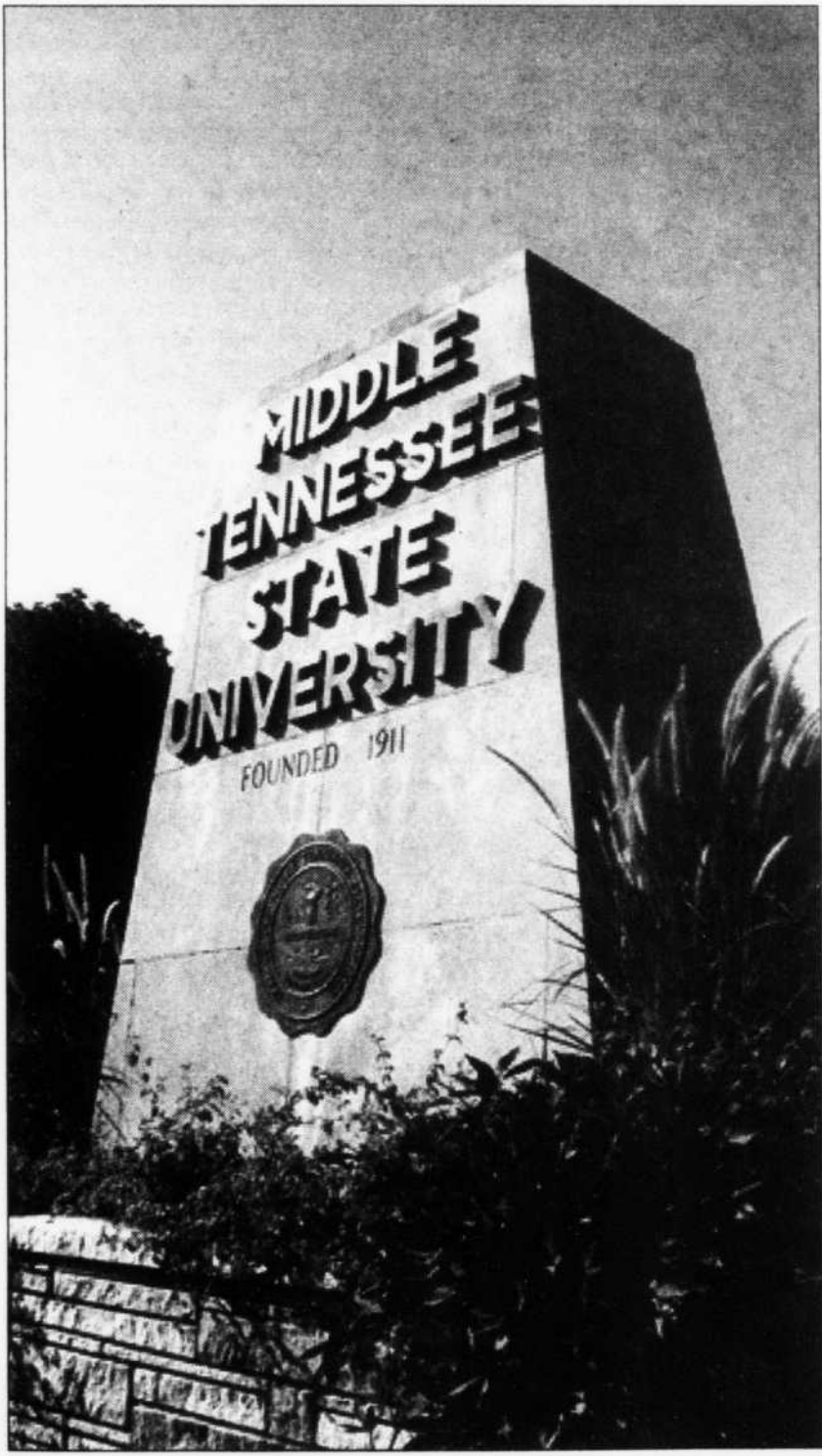


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

# FACT OR FICTION

- If your roommate dies, you get all A's for the rest of the semester. False.
- If you get hit on campus then your tuition is free. False.
- Nathan Bedford Forrest was one of MTSU's first mascots. True.
- If you go into the Davis Market, you're doomed to live in Murfreesboro for the rest of your life. Probably false, but you won't catch us in there any time soon.



Photos by Blake Arnold | Art Director

Monuments and milestones around campus, including the middle point of Tennessee (above), the Middle Tennessee State University monument (right) and Davis Market (right) are all steeped in superstition. Urban Legends are rampant on campus, and if you ask 10 students, you'll get ten different versions of each tale. "That's part of the mystery of folklore and the greatness," said Kenneth Deshane, associate professor of English. "The part that catches us is that they could be true."





# SPORTS

## MT wins big over Tech

Thursday, September

14

MT 44

TN Tech 0

Next Game at  
Oklahoma,  
September 23

By Ricky Brooksher

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (2-1) beat Tennessee Tech (0-3) Thursday night. The first half was a defensive battle between the two in-state teams.

MT had the only score of the first half due in large part to the longest play from scrimmage by MT this season, a 55-yard play action pass from Clint Marks to Bobby Williams that put them in field goal range.

The Blue Raiders advanced inside the 10-yard line but couldn't put the ball in the end zone so they settled for a 24-yard field goal by Colby Smith to go up 3-0. MT ended the first half with 103 total yards of offense while the defense held Tennessee Tech to only 33 yards of total offense.

In the second half, MT came out with a newly-found intensity that would reside with the team for the rest of the game.

"At half time we told the defense to keep playing the way you're playing. Don't give up any big plays," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "Got on to the punt team for the blocked punt, and told the offense how they were playing."



Desomond Gee running in for a 15-yard touchdown against Tennessee Tech.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The opening kick of the second half was returned by Phillip Tanner for 61 yards and put MT on Tech's 29-yard line. This led to a Eugene Gross 1-yard score, but Colby Smith missed the PAT for the first time of his collegiate career. Tech mounted a drive, getting the ball to MT's 23-yard line, but Jason Foster was short on a 40-yard field goal attempt and gave.

Later in the third quarter, an interception by Reggie Doucet gave the offense a short field to work with. Three plays later, Marks hooked up with Luke Paschall for a 9-yard touchdown.

Paschall reflected on the first touchdown reception of his career.

"Ecstatic, it was my first touchdown since high school," Paschall said. "I thank the coaches for giving me the opportunity to play and make plays like I always thought I could."

MT's defense got back to work and ended a Tech drive with a sack on 4th and 13 by Marcus Brandon. The offense wasted no time putting more points on the board. The first play of the drive, Marks ran for a career-long 45 yards down the field.

"It was longest one of my

career," Marks said. "The [defensive] end came down hard so I kept it. I got some great blocks; the receivers had some great blocks down field. There was nothing but open grass for me to run."

DeMarco McNair scored on the very next play from 16 yards out, putting MT up 23-0. The offense and defense never faltered in the fourth quarter, putting up 21 more points. The first score was another touchdown pass by Marks, this time to Taron Henry. A couple of drives later, MT's Lonnie Clemons picked up a loose ball from Tech and took it 40 yards all the way to the end

zone. Desmond Gee would close the game with a 15-yard touchdown run. The final score was Middle Tennessee 44, Tennessee Tech 0.

This was the first match-up between these two teams since 1998. The last eight games have been won by the Blue Raiders. Although they came out sloppy to begin the game, MT looked very good on both sides of the ball in the second half. The defense, led by Erik Walden and Marcus Brandon held the Tech team to just 135 yards of total offense, while forcing six turnovers to give MT their first shutout since Oct. 30, 2004 against Utah State.

Brandon led the team in tackles with seven and Walden had two sacks plus two forced fumbles. Reggie Doucet also had a solid game with three tackles and two interceptions.

"They [the defense] kept us in the game until the offense could get some things going," Stockstill said. "[I am] proud of the defense. They're playing lights-out right now, and anytime you can shut somebody out in college football, it's something to be proud of."

The offense benefited from the great plays of the defense to put a bunch of points on the board. Offensively, inconsistency still lingered throughout the game, but they made the big plays when they needed to. Marks finished with 106 yards passing and 58 yards rushing, with two touchdowns. Gee led in rushing with 61 yards on seven carries and a touchdown.

MT is heading to Norman, Ok. to play against Oklahoma this Saturday at 6 p.m.

### Up next for MTSU....

Sept. 23  
Oklahoma 6 p.m.

Sept. 30  
North Texas 6:05 p.m.

Oct. 6  
Louisville\* 7p.m.

Oct. 21  
Louisiana-Monroe  
(SBC) 6 p.m.

Oct. 28  
Louisiana-Lafayette  
(SBC) 4 p.m.

Nov. 4  
Florida Atlantic (SBC)\*  
2:30 p.m.

Nov. 11  
Arkansas State (SBC)  
2:05 p.m.

Nov. 18  
South Carolina  
TBA

Nov. 25  
Troy (SBC Game)\*  
2:30 p.m.

\* Denotes home games.



(4) Katie Daley, (12) Rebecca Rodriguez and (28) Ingrid Christensen celebrate after a goal during the Lipscomb game.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

## MT soccer team beats Lipscomb

Friday, September 16

MT 10

Lipscomb 0

Next Game at Florida  
Atlantic,  
September 22

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders (6-1) routed David Lipscomb Friday night at Blue Raider field. Middle Tennessee's Kala Morgan and Mary Zapapas scored double hat tricks to secure a win 10-0 and continue MT's dominance over David Lipscomb.

It was also the 16th victory for MT at Blue Raider field,

since the streak began last year.

In the game six different players scored goals for Middle Tennessee. Rebecca Rodriguez, Kathrine Andresen, Kim Farrant and Caitlin Reeves each scored goals in the game.

"This was a great team win and everyone played a role in this," head coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "I liked the way our team came out focused following our first loss of the season. We were able to take control of the match early and get back on the winning track. We can't enjoy this one long, though, because we have a tough road game at Vanderbilt Sunday."

The Blue Raiders set a lot of records in this game and personal best for a few players. MT tied the singles-game record for goals with 10 and set a record for single-game points with 28. The other team that did this was Stetson in 2002. Middle Tennessee had eight assists and

43 shots on goal. The eight assists were good enough for second place on the single-game list.

MT dominated Lipscomb, but they shared the ball among themselves as Holly Grogan had three assists, which placed her in third on the single-game list. Morgan had an assist as well as seven points in the game. For the Blue Raiders this was their third straight win over the help-less Lady Bisons in three years, and fifth over-all since 2001.

The Blue Raiders were quick to score 5-0 unanswered points in 12 minutes and Morgan leaving the game after getting her hat trick. Zapapas was close behind her scoring her second goal just a minute before Morgan's final goal. Andersen scored her first career goal to go up 4-0 at the 11:44. Morgan would score at 11:57 to go in the first half and she was taken out of the game with her final goal of the game with her final goal of the night.

"It was great to come out and play well as a team," Morgan told MT Media Relations. "We were very aggressive offensively and we were able to finish shots, which was key. We have been getting good shots but not finishing as well."

Katy Rayburn got her 66th career start, while teammate Erynn Murray got her first career victory and Courtney Fortner recorded the team's second shutout of the season. The Blue Raider had 27 shots on goal and Lipscomb could only defend 17 of those shots. Lipscomb only managed to get one shot on goal and a corner kick.

Sunday was the last game of the Blue Raiders non-conference soccer schedule as they faced Vanderbilt in Nashville. They suffered at 4-3 defeat. For more details of the MT vs. Vanderbilt game check out the Tuesday edition *Sidelines*.

## Big win could have been bigger



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

MT's 44-0 win over Tennessee Tech was not the blowout it seemed. Instead of being the show of force the Blue Raiders are capable of, the game merely showed the difference between a middle tier team and a bottom feeder like Tech. Don't get me wrong. The game was electrifying, but it should have started in the first quarter and not the third. Believe it or not, at half time, the Blue Raiders only held a slim 3-0 lead. Had Tech been better coached, they might have actually held the lead at the half.

Two weeks ago, at MT's weekly press luncheon, coach Stockstill said, "We prepare for every game the same, whether it's Maryland, the Dallas Cowboys, or the Pop Warner Wompus Cats."

Everyone laughed. It was a great quote. But in all fairness, Tennessee Tech isn't Maryland. And they sure aren't the Dallas Cowboys. They're the collegiate equivalent of the aforementioned Wompus Cats, or Little League pretenders playing against a team from another league.

I'm not trying to say the win wasn't impressive. The Blue Raiders made some amazing plays and took advantage of every second-half opportunity they could. Still, I couldn't help but wonder what the game could have been if the offense had executed better, if the defense had grabbed all six of the interceptions that hit their hands, and if they hadn't allowed a blocked punt. You'd have to tack at least 24-30 more points onto the final score.

I can't help it, I'm a football cynic. Watching a game is more than seeing who wins, and I knew that this score would misrepresent the struggles MT continues to have on offense. Stats are where the real story lies. Beyond a team's record, there are numbers that can better tell the story.

Simply hearing the score of the

Tech game and not knowing the how it went down would be like saying you've read Moby Dick because you skimmed the cliff notes. The single biggest stat in football, after wins and losses, is the third-down conversion ratio.

If you convert a high percentage of third downs you are in control of the game. And once again, the Raiders really struggled on third down. They didn't convert a single one. That may work against the Golden Eagles, but it won't fly next week against Oklahoma. To beat a school in the top 20, you can't count on broken plays. You can't expect to recover three second-half turnovers and you can't expect Clint Marks to run 45 yards on a bootleg.

If you take away those big plays and add in the Sooners' potent offense and smart coaching staff, you start to see why MT is still in need of a lot of growth. I wouldn't have even bothered saying this last year. We would have all known that Oklahoma and Louisville are automatic losses. But this year is different.

One more bit of football trivia keeps running through my mind. When Bobby Bowden arrived in Tallahassee in 1976, many people considered FSU to be the worst team in Florida. They were so bad that the football program was in jeopardy of being cancelled, but in 1977 Seminoles went 10-2 and a football dynasty was born. One of the QBs under Bowden during those years was a young Florida native named Ricky. We all know him now as coach Rick Stockstill.

I guarantee he wasn't satisfied with Thursday's win and the fans of the Blue Raiders shouldn't be either. We should all expect more out of our team. MT is already halfway to being a contender — all they need is an offense to match MT's 10th ranked scoring defense.



# Week three dismal for conference

By Russell Luna  
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt had another setback despite a valiant effort by the Troy Trojans at Georgia Tech. Florida Atlantic, North Texas and Louisiana Monroe were dominated by their opponents. Florida International came up short on the winning end. Middle Tennessee was the only winner this week after smashing Tennessee Tech 44-0 Thursday.

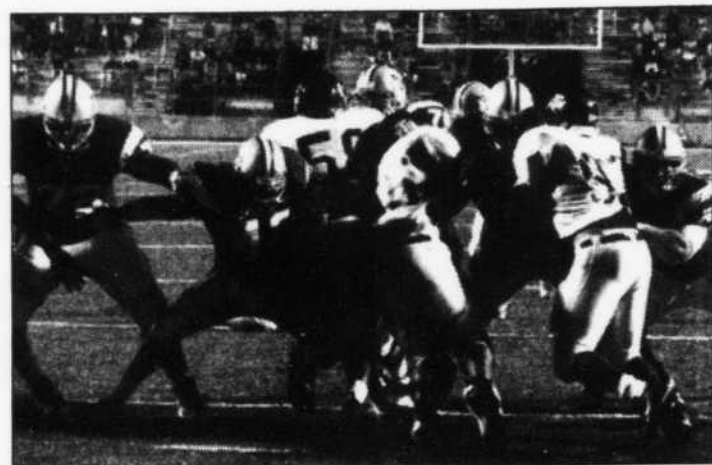
**Troy 20 (1-2), Georgia Tech 35 (2-1)**

**NEXT OPPONENT:** Saturday, Sept. 30th at Nebraska ATLANTA – The Trojans tried to capitalize on their momentum after potentially upsetting Florida State last weekend. Troy came into Saturday's game with a lot of confidence and battled with the Yellow Jackets until a couple of mistakes allowed the ACC opponent to walk away as the victor. WR Gary Banks led the Trojans with eight receptions for 104 yards and one touchdown, while quarterback Omar Haugabook threw 18 completions for 184 yards and one touchdown.

Although Haugabook had a decent game, his two interceptions late in the game allowed Georgia Tech to break away from a 14-14 game in the third quarter. QB Reggie Ball broke a school record by rushing for 133 yards. Ball also completed 13 passes for 164 yards and two touchdowns. Although the Trojans played competitively, they will have a tough task playing Nebraska who is hungry for a win after losing to Southern California on Saturday.

**NOTABLE QUOTE:** "I'm proud of our team. We're not quite as deep as they are, I don't reckon. We just have to keep pressing on and try to get to the next opportunity. Chan's done a great job here and has some great people working for him. We can't look back. We've got Nebraska looming in our immediate future, then UAB and conference play." – Troy Head Coach Larry Blakeney

Bowling Green 33 (2-1),



MT's offensive line pushing Tech's defense around.

Florida International 28 (0-3)

**NEXT OPPONENT:**

Saturday, Sept. 23rd at Maryland MIAMI- The Florida

International, Golden Panthers are continuing to improve, but one they haven't done is won a game. The Bowling Green Falcons had something to prove after struggling to win in overtime over the University of Buffalo last week. The Falcons jumped on the board early with a 24-14 lead at the half. Bowling Green's Anthony Turner completed 10 passes for 139 yards and two touchdowns, while the Falcons utilized the running attack of Freddie Barnes, who ran 15 times for 79 yards. FIU did have a positive outing from running back A'Mod Ned who ran 16 times for 169 yards. Josh Padrick threw 14 completions for 169 yards and two touchdowns for the Golden Panthers. Despite improving offensively and on special teams, FIU was still unable to hold off the Falcons in the fourth quarter, as the Falcons scored on a Barnes touchdown and an Ellis field goal to win the game. The Panthers will need to revitalize themselves as they travel to a angry Maryland team (who were manhandled by West Virginia on Thursday) next week.

**NOTABLE QUOTE:** "We talk about being consistent, not just two good plays and two bad ones. I understand that we are very young in a lot of areas and there are going to be growing pains. But there comes a time, when after a while, someone

needs to step up." – Florida International Head Coach Don Strock

**Florida Atlantic 8 (0-3), Oklahoma State (3-0)**

**NEXT OPPONENT:** Saturday, Sept. 23rd at South Carolina

STILLWATER, Okla. – One thing is certain about Florida Atlantic, they still have a lot of progress to make before becoming a legitimate 1-A program. The Oklahoma State Cowboys had a field day as the Cowboys compiled a total of 470 yards to FAU's 260. Bobby Reid led the Cowboys with 16 completions for 186 yards, while throwing one touchdown. Running back Mike Hamilton ran 11 times for 85 yards, including a 25 yard run that would result in a Cowboy's touchdown. The Owls are still struggling to decide who will be the quarterback, but Rusty Smith completed 10 passes for 107 yards to lead the QB corps on Saturday. The Owls' road doesn't get any easier, as they travel to South Carolina next week.

**NOTABLE QUOTE:** "Aside from the score, it felt great. My first collegiate touchdown and the first for the team this year – it felt great. It felt amazing." – FAU fullback Willie Rose.

**North Texas 3 (1-2), Tulsa 28 (2-1)**

**NEXT OPPONENT:** Saturday, Sept. 23rd at Akron

TULSA, Okla. – The Mean Green were trying to capitalize

off their momentum of defeating SMU last week. Unfortunately for North Texas, a seven yard touchdown in the last of play of the first half helped swing momentum in favor of the Golden Hurricane. Tulsa's Paul Smith threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns as Tulsa shut-down the Mean Green offense. Although many thought the Mean Green had recaptured their "Green Curtain" days (the days when North Texas' defense was the most dominant in the Sun Belt), Tulsa wanted to prove them wrong. Wood Wilson threw four passes for 37 yards, while the rushing game was held to 27 yards. The Mean Green look to revamp themselves next week as they travel to play the Akron Zips, who defeated North Carolina State two weeks ago.

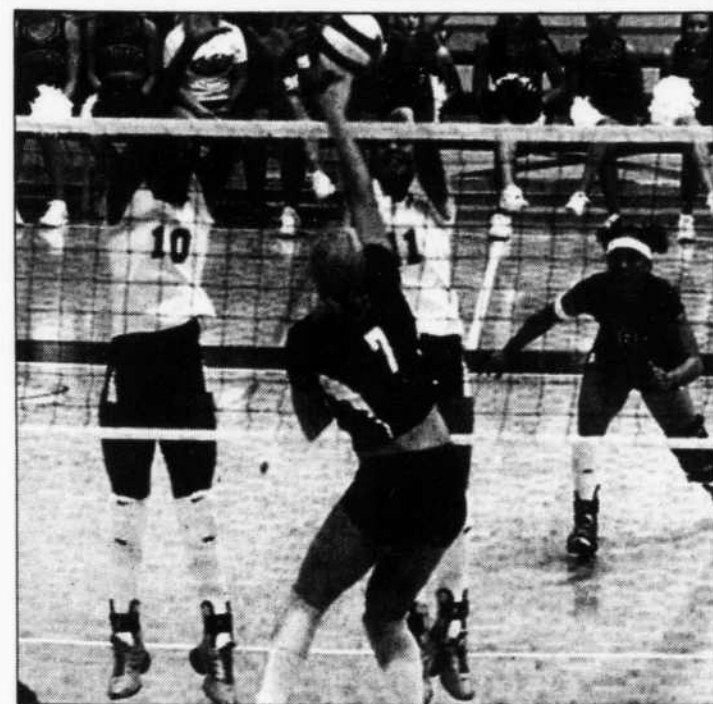
**NOTABLE QUOTE:** "Anytime you lose its disappointing. I think our players played hard. I think anytime you look inept it's very frustrating, because you practice hard and you work hard. Our players and coaches spend time studying film and coming up with a good game plan. Knowing that we've got plays that we think if we can execute them, we can be successful. The frustrating part is that we keep having breakdowns, we keep having mistakes." – North Texas Head Coach Darrell Dickey

**Louisiana-Monroe 7 (1-2), Alabama 41 (3-0)**

**NEXT OPPONENT:** Saturday, Sept. 30th vs. Florida Atlantic

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – The Warhawks wanted to see if they could prove the skeptics wrong after coming back on Kansas but falling short 21-19 just a week ago. The Crimson Tide struggled early, but found their niche with John Parker Wilson who threw two touchdowns after completing 13 passes for a total of 210 yards. Alabama held ULM to 253 total net yards, while the Warhawks allowed the SEC foe to rack up 451 total yards. Monroe's Kinsmon Lancaster was shutdown as he threw 10 completions for 73 yards. Running back Calvin Dawson led ULM with 16 rushes for 118 yards. Alabama would score 21 points in the second half and remain undefeated as they enter SEC play against Arkansas next week.

**NOTABLE QUOTE:** "We had a decent plan coming into this week. We tried the same things, to throw the ball and run the ball, kind of mix things up a little bit. We really didn't have any big plays. We didn't throw the ball downfield like we did against Kansas." – Louisiana-Monroe QB Kinsmon Lancaster



(10) Quanshell Scott and (11) Victoria Monasterolo attempt to block the ball.

## MT Volleyball wins Albany Tournament

By Wade Neely and Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

It was quite the weekend for the Middle Tennessee Blue Raider volleyball team. In their most dominant performance of the season, the Blue Raiders won all three of their matches en route to claiming their second tournament win of the season at the University of Albany Tournament in Albany N.Y.

After breezing past Temple and Syracuse in the first two matches, the Blue Raiders found themselves facing the host, the Albany Great Danes, in the tournament final. And while the Great Danes had home court advantage, they proved no match for the over-powered Blue Raider attack.

The Blue Raiders were relentless in their match with the Great Danes, never dropping a single game to the scrappy Great Danes. Despite only having a .238 hitting percentage in the final match, the Blue Raiders held the Great Danes to only a .200 clip, winning the three games by a tally of 30-25, 30-25 and 30-26.

The Blue Raiders turned in their most dominant performance of the tournament against Syracuse, hitting a .404 scoring percentage to a paltry .138. The Blue Raiders won that match 30-28, 30-24, 30-21.

The biggest performance for the Blue Raiders came from Ashley Asberry, who led both teams with 13 kills and committed just one error. Jessica Robinson, Ashley Adams and Victoria Monasterolo all had ten kills each.

Another impressive perform-

ance was turned in by freshman setter Leslie Clark, as she notched 43 assists against Syracuse and 44 against the Great Danes. For her efforts, she was named the MVP of the tournament. Other members of the All-Tournament team included Asberry and Monasterolo.

With the win, the Blue Raiders improved their overall record to 9-4 with Sun Belt Conference action set to begin this Friday when the Blue Raiders face South Alabama in the conference opener at home.

Friday, MT began their run by sweeping Temple 3-0 (30-28, 30-24, 30-21) and registering an attacking percentage of .323 with their fifth shut out of the season. MT had 96 attacks and 44 kills with 13 errors.

MT held Temple to an attacking percentage of .142 and kept the Owls from getting a hit – .000 percentage. Temple had seven service errors and 27 errors overall.

Ashley Adams had 18 kills and 30 attacks and no errors. She had an attack percentage of .600.

Leslie Clark had four block assists and six digs.

In the Syracuse, match MT swept them 3-0 (30-20, 29-22, 29-23). Adams continued to dominate as she recorded an attack percentage of .700. She had 14 kills, while Quanshell Scott and Victoria Monasterolo finished with 10 kills apiece.

Middle Tennessee completes their non-conference stint and kicks off the Sun Belt Conference opener this Thursday at Alumni Memorial Gym against South Alabama at 7 p.m. and Troy Friday night at 7 p.m.

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# SIDELINE

September 18, 2006

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hurt your career?

**Career fair**  
this week:  
**Tips to get  
you READY**



# Some think personal sites profiles could damage professional careers

By Christin Pepple and Brittany Washburn

Staff Writers

Communication Web sites like MySpace and Facebook could help or hinder recruiting for college students who are looking for a career.

In a recent poll by the National Association of Career and Employment, more than a quarter of employers polled stated that they "Google" candidates for hire.

"I don't think employees should be judged on the amount of work and how well they could perform, based on their MySpace and Facebook profiles," said Megan Holt, sophomore journalism major.

MySpace and Facebook allow personal photographs, descriptions and journals that allow any subject matter to be displayed for the public to read. More and more companies are finding these forums to be harmful to their public relations images.

"The presumption is that anybody can see it," said John Palfrey, executive director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law. "It's not hard to get into Facebook no matter who you are."

In a recent survey from CollegeGrad.com, 47 percent of job-seeking college graduates have changed their personal profiles or intend to in order to better their chances of landing a job.

"It would help employers when looking at candidates," said Michael Dezotell, sophomore public relations major.

The networking possibilities for the Web sites are endless in obtaining information about potential job offers. However the information obtained by employers could bring either negative or positive attention to possible candidates.

"Employers shouldn't do it because it is just for fun," said Beshoy Nady, a chemistry graduate teaching assistant.

Facebook has photos updated 1.5 million times each day. It is the seventh most trafficked site in the U.S. and is available to over a thousand corporations in America.

"It is unprofessional of employers," said Jamie Robertson, senior English major. "It is your personal life."

In a five month space, the MTSU Career and Employment center aided over 1,362 students in finding jobs, many of which have either Facebook or MySpace sites.

In March 2005, a University of Oklahoma student posted a "joke" about assassinating President George Bush. His "joke" resulted in a Secret Service investigation.

"What qualifies them for a job cannot be based on

what movies or TV shows they watch," Robertson said. "That doesn't determine the person's ability to complete a job."

This is the first story in a two-piece series that highlights the issue of employers using personal profile Web sites like MySpace and Facebook when hiring a potential employee or to monitor current employees.

In the not-so-distant past, the Internet was in its infancy—a flashy tool that high-powered businessmen used to keep in touch. Today, that same invention is not only fun and convenient, it's powerful.

The Internet's reach extends into every facet of life, including socializing, learning and working. The influence of the Internet in shaping one's career has come into the public eye recently with the advent of Web sites like Facebook and Myspace that allow users to essentially live their lives—the good, the bad and the ugly—before the world.

In a recent survey by Careerbuilder.com, 35 percent of employers polled have either reprimanded or fired someone in their employment for something they posted on the Internet.

Subsequently, students may find themselves on the other end of an electronic microscope if employers get curious about what their hires, or potential hires, do in their free time. Suddenly, the small get together with a few friends and some beers last weekend is at the forefront of the company boss's awareness.

Many students and employers, though, are speaking out against this use of personal Web space.

Kevin Stokes, an assistant manager at Starbucks in Murfreesboro, said it is absolutely not ethical for employers to check applicants' Internet profiles before hiring them.

"MySpace is an expression like [a] Letter to the Editor is an expression," he said. "America prides itself on freedom of speech. Employers have no right to take that away from their employees."

Barbara Fuller, the managing attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee, described a similar policy.

"We only base employment on a written reference check and interview," she said. "We don't use the Internet."

Among the student workers, who are often those most directly affected by employer trolling, many express frustration with what they believe is an unfair use of a medium that doesn't lend itself to secrets.

"Everything on the net needs to be taken with a grain of salt. It doesn't need to always be taken seriously," said Sarah Catlett, who works at Spencer's Gifts.

Chris Sutor, an employer of Buckle, echoed that sentiment.

"[Your boss] shouldn't be able to 'Google' you and fire you for it," he said. "Personal and professional lives are separate."

Brandy Gibbs, a general manager at Hastings, expressed a middle-of-the-road view on the subject, putting the debate in terms of what's best for the company. She said she agreed with an employer's right to fire someone for what they post on the Internet, but only if it is directly harmful to the company in question.

"If [employees] talk about customers or use names, for Hastings, it's a breach of contract," Gibbs said. "We have a contract that we sign that says we can't let out sale information. So if it's a breach of contract, sure, they can be fired."

In addition to photos and comments posted on Web sites like Facebook and MySpace, many students put themselves on display through personal Web logs, or blogs.

John Merchant, a graduate student for recording industry arts and technology said he had no sympathy for students who experience consequences for something they post in a blog.

"It is a publicly viewable document," he said. "It's like posting something on a wall and saying 'I have a reasonable claim to privacy.'"

Caution is the name of the game where the Internet is concerned, said Anantha Babbili, dean of the college of Mass Communications.

"Whenever you have a leap in technology, you have to see the positive and negative aspects of it," Babbili said. "The positive is that your expression is seen and experienced by many people. The negative aspect is that it invades your privacy, and it is the latter that will have an effect on how you will be shaped."

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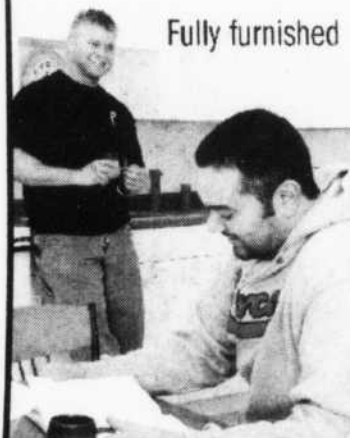
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# Career Fair, center aid job-hunting students

By Michaela Jackson  
Editor-in-Chief

Some students come to college to party. Some come to find a husband or a wife. Some students' parents don't give them a choice. Overall, though, most students find themselves at college with the hope of launching a successful career.

That's how Karen Austin sees it, anyway. Austin is the assistant director of the Career and Employment Center on campus, and she sees job-hungry students coming through her door every day.

"We like to think that that's one of the reasons that people have chosen to come to college: To

make themselves more employable in their field," Austin said.

This goal is met through a variety of means, but Austin and the rest of the staff at the Career and Employment Center work to make the road as straight and smooth as possible.

Using tools from Career Fairs to databases and everything in between, the career representatives are here for a singular purpose: to find students jobs.

"This is a service you're paying for with your tuition," Austin said. "Take advantage of it."

## Career Fair pairs students, employers

Career-seeking students:

update your resumes, don your blazers and make the trek to Murphy Center Thursday for MT's annual Career Fair. This event, which will bring together students with representatives from business, industry, governmental agencies and professional schools, is pivotal for students preparing to graduate, Austin said.

"Please come to the fair. Come prepared [and] present yourself as a viable candidate, which means please dress appropriately," Austin said. "We know you're between classes, but govern your dress. And bring your resume, by all means. These people, that's why they're here. That's why they paid money to have a booth at the

## WHEN YOU GO...

The fair is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Murphy Center Track Area.

Bring resumes, and come dressed in business-casual attire.

fair. They're looking to meet you."

Employers will be on hand to network with students seeking internships and part-time work, in addition to full-time jobs.

"[You can find jobs] anyway that you just about can define employment, from internships to part-time work," Austin said. "But I think [the employers'] ultimate goal is to brand themselves to the MTSU students so when MTSU students are looking for employment, that's who they're thinking of."

In addition to employers increasing their visibility, the goal of the career fair is making contacts for the future.

"The whole point of the fair is to network, to get you to the interview," Austin said. "Rarely do people get a job specifically from the fair. What they do is make the contact."

When students are preparing for the fair, they should come with a little bit of background information under their belts.

"Do a little bit of research," Austin said. "I talk to recruiters all the time, and there's nothing that turns them off more quickly than somebody who says, 'Oh, Chaney Industries. So what do you do?'"

"Know a little bit about them. No, you don't have to know their whole product line – that's not necessary. But if you convey that you have done a little bit of homework on that company, you know a little bit about them, that's gonna excite the recruiter. That's gonna make them want to engage you, and that's gonna make them maintain a contact for you with regard to an internship or a full-time position later."

One new development in the job market is that a lot of the process leading up to employ-

ment takes place online, Austin said.

"Students, we're learning, tend to feel put off, when they come to a fair and they're told, 'Go to the Web site,' she said. That is normal, and they don't need to feel put off by that."

In 2004, 17 percent of employers asked their candidates to fill out applications online, according to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. By 2006, that percentage increased to 41.

"That's a phenomenal increase," Austin said. "That's an incredible increase – that's more than doubled, and it's going to do nothing but go that way because of [Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action] requirements."

The critical step in connecting with employers is to follow up after the initial contact, Austin said.

"The point of the fair is to network. . . . So yes you're going to have to go to the Web site and fill out their application, but also you handed them a resume, and you made the personal connection, you got the business card... But don't feel put off. That's the trend – get used to it."

That's a phenomenal increase. That's an incredible increase, that's more than doubled, and it's going to do nothing but go that way because of EEO/AA requirements. So don't feel put off; the point of the fair is to network. . . . So yes you're going to have to go to the Web site and fill out their application, but also you handed them a resume, and you made the personal connection, you got the business card.

See Careers, 6

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## Career: Fair, Career Center serve students

Continued from 5

### Employment Center can aid in job hunt

In addition to the highly-publicized events like Thursday's Career Fair, the Career and Employment Center digs in and gets their hands dirty throughout the day-to-day process of finding and landing a job.

Students have access to a free database called eRecruiting that makes their resume available to employers seeking help, much like services like Monster.com and CareerBuilder.

"The thing about our [database] is employers know that they don't have to pay to have access to you, so we're going to have a more broad base of employers," Austin said. "We're not gonna have just the Avis car rentals, or whatever that is, those kinds of jobs. We're gonna have a good variety, the majority of which are going to

be here in middle Tennessee."

Job opportunities are available across the country, though, as eRecruiting is a national database.

"You can opt into the Experience database, and that's going to shoot your resume across the nation, and that is gonna increase your exposure," Austin said. "If you're mobile, that's the thing to do, definitely. The Career Center is going to make you aware of opportunities that you may not, as an average student, be aware of."

For instance, a representative from the Australian Embassy was on campus recruiting students last week for jobs in the Outback.

"They're trying to get people to pack up and move to Australia," Austin said. "They need professionals down there. And they want people that have graduated, that have at least a Bachelor's degree, and some work experience."

"So that's who she was targeting. And if you had been in my database, you would have known about that, because it came

up very quickly."

Students can sign up for an account in eRecruiting on the Career Services Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~career](http://www.mtsu.edu/~career), but they will have to sign a form in person at the Career Center to comply with privacy laws.

"From that point on, after we have that, you can never come into the office again and that's fine," Austin said. "Everything can be done electronically."

The real keys to making yourself a stand-out job candidate are to start preparing early, and don't settle for a mediocre position, Austin said.

"Ideally, the thing you want to have been doing your whole college career is to understand that when you left high school to come in here, that this is the 13th grade," she said. "You have started in your profession when you start college, and to take some kind of ownership attitude toward it, rather than just, 'Oh, I've got to go to class.'"

"You're going to spend tens of thousands of dollars to make yourself employable in your profession, so . . . make sure that you're an employable candidate at the

end of your college career. And that goes by being involved in organizations, taking leadership roles in organizations."

Austin spoke specifically to non-traditional students, encouraging them to get involved in their communities.

"If you've got family obligations, if you've got adult obligations, you may not have the opportunity to be as involved on campus as you want to," she said. "That's OK. Then be involved in your community. If you're driving here from Columbia every Tuesday and Thursday and your class is all day long and then you leave, then you need to be involved in some things Columbia."

Finally, students can't expect to get a stellar job right off the bat. Patience is of utmost importance.

"It's normal [to wait two months], if they're waiting for a career-kind of position," Austin said. "The rule of thumb, and I say that loosely, is one month for every \$10,000 you want to make."

"Most students wanna walk into roughly \$30,000, so you can think it's gonna take about three months."

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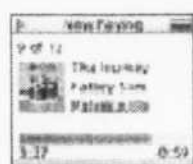
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# Helpful tips to prepare for the interview...

## Know yourself

- \*Establish your career goals and define your job interests. What job do you really want?
- \*Identify your abilities and strengths. What skills do you have? What skills will you need for your ideal job?
- \*Review your resume.
- \*Know the employer
- \*Research the organization. What is the company's history? What are their products or services? Company philosophy? Standing in their industry?
- \*Several websites may be of help in your research (Reference USA and Hoovers)
- \*Use the Career Resource Library in the Career Center.

\*Some facts to gather before interviewing

- \*Key people in the organization
- \*Major products and/or services
- \*Size - in terms of sales and employees
- \*Other office locations
- \*Organizational structure
- \*Competitors
- \*Company's view by clients, suppliers, competitors
- \*Latest news
- \*See Common Questions to Ask the Interviewer

## Know the position

- \*Learn the duties and responsibilities, types of training provided, location, travel requirements and career progression

\*Prepare your questions for the interview

- \*Be sure you ask questions!
- \*This shows your interest and your knowledge about the company.
- \*Prepare your responses to anticipated questions
- \*See some common questions below.
- \*Answer the questions clearly - do not assume you know what the interviewer wants.
- \*If asked to cite an example or experience, think of an event and cite it. Examples are invaluable.
- \*Dress in business attire
- \*Wear business suit with appropriate accessories, conservative make-up and jewelry, and avoid cologne or perfume.

\*Be on time or better yet, be 10-15 minutes early.

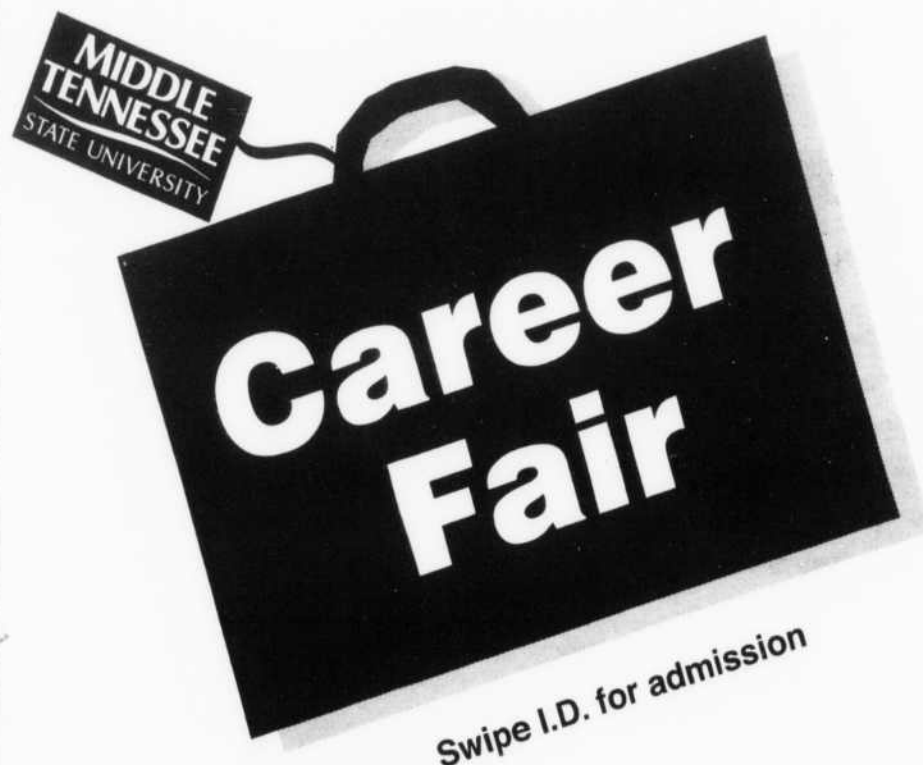
- \*Be sure you know where you are going and where you are able to park before the interview day.
- \*Use proper business etiquette
- \*Maintain direct eye contact.
- \*Be aware of body language.
- \*Introduce yourself and shake hands firmly.
- \*Remember interviewer's name and use it.
- \*Use correct grammar and speak in complete sentences.
- \*Maintain erect posture and avoid distracting mannerisms.
- \*Speak distinctly.
- \*Demonstrate confidence and comfort level by smiling.
- \*Present your qualifications

in an organized manner.

- \*Emphasize your work experience and academic achievements.
- \*Be honest, self-confident, positive, enthusiastic and energetic.
- \*Be a good listener.
- \*Do not dominate the interview.

## Follow-up after the interview

- \*Review the hard-to-answer questions and plan better answers for the next interview.
- \*Write a thank you letter to the interviewer. (View a sample thank you letter)
- \*Follow-up again in writing or by telephone to keep your name before the employer.



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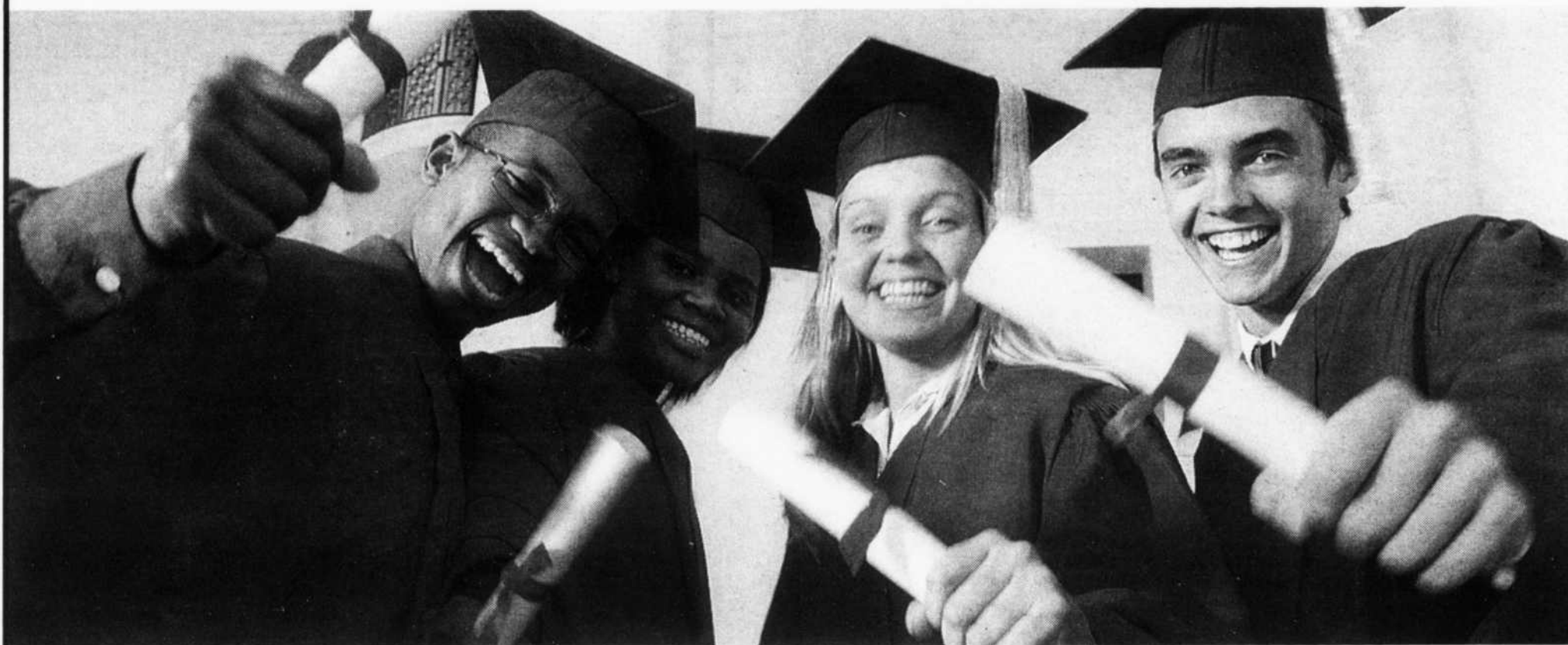


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