

An editorially independent newspaper

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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## CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Campus Rec traveling to Honduras, Costa Rica**  
Campus Recreation is coordinating a spring break diving trip to Roatan, Honduras during Spring Break, March 5-12. Costs for the trip are \$1,550 for MTSU students, \$1,600 for MTSU faculty and staff and \$1,650 for guests.

Those who register and pay a \$200 deposit by Friday, Dec. 10 will save \$50 on the total cost of the trip.

The final deadline for submitting registration and \$200 deposit is Dec. 17.

Campus Recreation is also planning a trip to Costa Rica for Spring Break, March 4-12. The cost is \$1,300 for MTSU students, \$1,400 for MTSU faculty and staff and \$1,500 for guests.

For more information, contact Campus Recreation at 898-2104 or [www.mtsu.edu/~camprec](http://www.mtsu.edu/~camprec).

### Greek Life sponsors formal

All members of the Greek community are encouraged to attend the annual end of year formal at the Opryland Hotel on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 8 p.m.-12 a.m. The cost is \$25 a person and several awards will be given, including Outstanding Delegate and Alternate Delegate and Greek Woman of the Year. For more information contact the Greek Life office at 898-5812.

### Toys for Tots campaign starts Sunday

The MTSU Financial Management Association with the help of the United States Marine Corps Reserve will be holding a Toys for Tots campaign, Dec. 5-9.

Contributors may bring a new, unwrapped toy to the assigned drop boxes. Donations are accepted. Please make checks payable to USMCR Toys for Tots of Middle Tennessee.

Toys and/or donations should be brought to the men's basketball game (Dec. 5 at 4 p.m.) in the Murphy Center or to the 2nd floor of the Keathley University Center (Dec. 6-7) or the Business and Aerospace Building South Lobby (Dec. 6-9). For more information contact Thomas Swindle at [tes2m@mtsu.edu](mailto:tes2m@mtsu.edu).

### Raider Republicans elect 2005 leadership

The Raider Republicans elected officers for the 2005 calendar year at their final meeting of the semester last Tuesday night.

Sophomore Elizabeth Miller, current treasurer and official page to the 2004 Republican National Convention, was elected president. Matt Visconte was elected vice president of membership and Paul Bryant Fulcher was elected vice president of public relations. Elizabeth Gharavi will serve as the new treasurer, and Russell Parman completes the elected body as secretary. Kara Watkins has been appointed executive director.

The new officers will be installed at the annual inauguration banquet in January. For more information on the Raider Republicans and their new leadership, visit [www.raiderrepublicans.com](http://www.raiderrepublicans.com).

## School system struggles with growth

By Laura Lindsay  
Staff Writer

As the county school system expands, Rutherford County Schools Director Harry Gill, Jr. said he has a challenging assignment ahead of him.

Gill said the county has put together a 10-year plan based on 5 percent growth that indicates the county will need \$400 million for more schools. This does not include \$110 million that will be needed over the next two years.

"Over the next 10 or 12 years, it is very possible we will need a half-billion dollars for these schools," he said. "This is staggering."

On Nov. 18 the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners approved funding for the development of three new county schools. Almadale and LaVergne elementary schools and Almadale Middle School should together accommodate 3,000 students.

Gill said these schools will open in August 2006, and coun-

ty residents will have to pay \$3.5 million to cover first-year operational costs.

"It concerns some of the county commissioners that to fund these schools there is going to be a property tax increase," he said. "These costs include staffing them, the furniture and the technology that goes into them."

The county has borrowed a \$55 million bond for the building of the schools, but none of this money is dedicated to operational costs. The county has

been discussing a 30-cent county property tax increase for 2006, which Gill said is approached reluctantly because it will be a burden to senior citizens and young homeowners.

He said the reason this is a concern is that the county is very dependent on property taxes, and many of the people moving into the area are building starter homes, which do not bring in much revenue.

"A lot of people are starting

See Schools, 3

County High School Enrollment 2004-2005	
LaVergne High School	- 2,007
Smyrna High School	- 1,700
Siegel High School	- 1,920
Riverdale High School	- 2,020
Oakland High School	- 1,650
Blackman High School	- 1,750

## Fraternity seeks new lease terms

### Sigma Chi ponders move off campus

By Erica Rodefer  
Campus News Editor

University officials will have to meet several demands if they hope to keep Sigma Chi fraternity in its house on Greek Row, according to the fraternity's president.

"It's killing our brotherhood, and we're not available to spread out and do anything other than raise the money to pay the mortgage," Sigma Chi President Brett Smith said.

"Of course we've got to pay the \$10,000 a month, so that

means if our house is not fully occupied, brothers outside the fraternity [have] to pay higher dues," he said.

Smith said that university officials would have to agree to fix maintenance problems within the house, including problems with black mold and plumbing, as soon as school is out for Christmas break.

They will have to allow freshman brothers living in dorm rooms to get out of their agreements with university housing to move into the fraternity house in the spring semester.

"We want that indefinitely," Smith said. "That should be available every semester."

And they will have to finance the fraternity's mort-

See Fraternity, 2

## SGA votes down 'big name' coach

By Alex Miller  
Staff Writer

The student government voted a resolution by 11 votes to 20 a resolution calling for MTSU football coach Andy McCollum to be fired and replaced, according to the resolution, a "big-name" coach like Steve Spurrier or soon-to-be former Miami Dolphins Coach Dave Wannstedt.

Fielding a winning team is the only way to increase attendance at home football games, said student Sens. Jon Campbell and Joey Torrento, who co-sponsored the resolution at SGA's Thursday, Nov. 18 meeting. MTSU hasn't had a winning season since 2001.

Gimmicks have failed to

boost attendance, Campbell said. Even a performance by Big Boi after the Oct. 23 game against Idaho didn't fill 15,000 seats, the average attendance required to retain the team's division I-A status.

"It was a wonderful idea to try to create interest by offering this promotion," Campbell said. "[But] I would much prefer to see an in-state rivalry."

Campbell and Torrento believe that a better coach would improve the team, so it could compete with the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

See SGA, 2

## Stocking stuffers



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Staff Photographer

AdamsPlace resident Joe Black Haynes and a student from Cheryl Craig's fourth grade class at Reeves Rogers Elementary School help in the assembly line formed Nov. 18 at AdamsPlace to fill 100 stockings for the Salvation Army. AdamsPlace residents and fourth-graders filled the stockings for local needy senior citizens.

## Former St. Mark's church lot to be used for parking



Photo by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer

The St. Mark's United Methodist Church building was demolished to make room for the additional parking lot.

By Laura Lindsay  
Staff Writer

Next fall there will be about 100 new parking spaces available to students off Main Street.

MTSU purchased the land and building that was formerly used by St. Mark's United Methodist Church. The church is now located at 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.

The university purchased the location because it is in close proximity to campus, MTSU Director of Events and Transportation Ron Malone said.

Malone said the initial plan was that the building be renovated for office space, but this

could not be done because of structural problems. To best utilize the land, the building was demolished.

The land may be developed at another time, but right now it is going to be paved for student parking.

Malone said traffic counts have shown that a lot of students enter MTSU from the southwest corner of campus, so these smaller lots are significant.

Sophomore Lauren Bullock said she doesn't usually have a problem finding parking because she arrives on campus early in the morning, but sophomore Emily Williams said that until recently it has been a hassle to find a spot close to her

class. "Students prefer to be able to park as close to this area as possible so they can get out, having to classes and back without having to fight traffic on the interior of campus," Malone said. "This is why patches of churches are getting put to use and why more parking spaces are being placed on the perimeter."

Malone said the new parking areas will benefit students. However, he said parking services considers these lots temporary, even if they remain for years, because these land acquisitions fall into MTSU's expansion plans.

See Parking, 2



This week's poll question at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

What do you think of the decision to retain Coach Andy McCollum?

# Music important to nation during cultural struggles

By Erika Decker  
Staff Writer

Recording Industry professor Paul Fischer discussed the attacks on and defenses of popular music and its role in culture in last week's honors lecture, "Popular Music and America's Culture Wars."

Fischer began by quoting Pat Buchanan.

"Those who deny that the culture war is in root a religious war have not dug down to its roots," he said.

Fischer had some problems with Buchanan's words. He explained that one cannot accurately call the conflicts within American culture a war.

"Wars are about enemies, two sides fighting until one prevails and eliminates or assimilates the other. Culture is far more complex than that. American culture with its primarily immigrant origins especially so," Fischer said.

Fischer said struggles can arise within American culture because of its composition of



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Professor Paul Fischer discussed music and pop culture at last Monday's honors lecture.

many other diverse cultures.

"The American narrative that speaks most directly to this condition is the myth of the melting pot," he said. "At its most basic, this tale paints America as a promised land full of opportunity for immigrants of all

stripes, that anyone can become an American, work hard and prosper."

From this idea of America as a melting pot, Fischer said that there are two basic interpretations. The first is that of assimilation, and the second is an egal-

itarian view.

Fischer said those who accept the idea of assimilation feel that immigrants should comply with existing power structures, societal practices and cultural norms.

In wanting to live here, the immigrant embraces America as a better place, and in going through the hardships of immigration, adaptation to the new environment and the quest for citizenship, submits to the heat of the crucible, and emerges Americanized and fit for mainstream life, Fischer said.

The problem Fischer pointed out with the idea of assimilation of immigrants into American culture is that it denies the immigrant the ability to contribute to the culture.

With all the ideals from these diverse cultures bumping together and moving about in that American melting pot, friction seems to invariably be created, Fischer said. There are times when the direction in which popular culture is moving is different than that of traditional social norms.

"Scholars of popular music history point to three eras when popular music became the object of mainstream moral panic: the jazz age of the 1920s, the early rock and roll era of the 1950s and now," Fischer said.

Fischer explained that the first two times the panic was over the readjustment of cultural norms about race, and the third is over "public morality."

Beginning in the 1980s popular music has been criticized for its content and there has been an effort to monitor this content and, in some instances, to try to get rid of the questionable content entirely, Fischer said.

In the 1980s a Senate subcommittee on communication held a hearing about "porn rock," Fischer said. The government took no action, but did bring about media attention.

This event led the Recording Industry Association of America to voluntarily place parental advisory stickers on albums with mature content.

Other such hearings have been held on gangster rap and

the effects of violent popular music on children, but the federal government has not put any legislation into effect, Fischer said.

"Popular music has been challenged in court... and thus far the artists have won every time," Fischer said.

Fischer did foresee possible problems with sections of the recently implemented U.S. Patriot Act. The problem is in the wording of section 802 concerning a crime called "domestic terrorism."

The wording in this section is vague enough that such "domestic terrorism" could include protest of any kind that is intended to change government policy.

Fischer said that this makes it all the more important for the public to stay informed.

"My prescription for this state of affairs remains unflinching vigilance and a will to fight unpopular battles when and if necessary, and I'm afraid that day is coming," he said. ♦

## Economics professor publishes book

By Lauren Buckley  
Staff Writer

Economics and finance professor Nghiep Nguyen has published a book about an issue that college students can relate to: the struggle for money.

The title of Nguyen's book is *Three Vital Principles for Perpetual Wealth*.

"This book provides essential principles for an average person to increase their money so that they might live in wealth," he described.

The book took 15 years for Nguyen to complete. He spent 10 years researching, four years writing, seven months to find a publisher and about four months publishing *Three Vital Principles*.

Nguyen was born in Vietnam, then moved to the United States in Christmas of 1973.

While he was in Vietnam, he attended the National Institute of Administration, which he describes as what would be considered "a college for high-ranking civil servants."

Nguyen also worked a governmental job as a deputy district chief in a rural area of

Vietnam.

Having established himself through his education and governmental service in Vietnam, these accomplishments worked to his advantage in the United States.

Nguyen had the opportunity to come to the United States on a scholarship. Nguyen had difficulty adjusting to the new environment and way of life.

"It was tough at the beginning. The first three months were a nightmare. I wanted to pack my belongings and go home but it was impossible because of the contract. I had no choice, I had to take it or perish," he explained.

Eventually assimilating to United States culture, Nguyen participated in a few business ventures "with mixed failure and success," he said. Those successes and failures led him to start his research of finance.

"I was curious about what really makes the difference between a financially successful venture and a failing one. My curiosity was reinforced after a few trips back to my original country, Vietnam, where I observed many people working very hard but not having

[enough] even for standard living," he said.

So, Nguyen began researching the financial practices of figures such as Colonel Sanders, Sam Walton, Ray Kroc and Bill Gates.

"I am less interested in details of their character... What matters to me is what they have in common that has made them successful," he said.

As indicated by the title of the book, Nguyen has three principles that he believes can elevate one to attain personal wealth.

"The first principle shows a simple way to help one achieve financial independence. The second identifies the root cause for earning money and exhibits how one can use it to earn a monetary abundance. The last principle reveals how successful people use leverage to earn virtually unlimited income," reads the book's description.

Nguyen explained why he is a credible knowledge base for advice on money.

"I have taught finance for 23 years. I have practical experience doing business for about 20 years," he said. "I do believe I can save people a significant

amount of time building personal wealth. Out of this belief, I offer a full refund to anyone who is unsatisfied with my book."

"I agree that there are so many books about finance out there on the market. However, what makes the book different is that it is accessible to the average person," he said. "It is not an intimidating textbook-style read but a quick one that is practical, easy-to-understand and timelessly valuable as a resource."

Nguyen had some advice for young adults.

"Because you are young, use time as your advantage," he said. "Find out what you can do best, and then make up your mind to become the best in this line of business. Work on yourself constantly until you are [the best] and keep improving to stay on top of your chosen field. You are guaranteed to be a wealthy person."

*Three Vital Principles for Perpetual Wealth* is available through all major online book retailers, and it can be found in more than 25,000 bookstores worldwide. ♦

## SGA: Resolutions must be approved

Continued from I

According to the resolution, the "big-name" coach's salary could be generated through increased ticket sales, donations and away game contracts.

However, big-name coaches don't come cheap.

Steve Spurrier, mentioned in the resolution, became the head coach at South Carolina on Tuesday, Nov. 23, signing a seven-year contract worth \$1.25 million per season.

"We can't afford to get a big name," student Sen. Casey Talbot said during debate.

He also added that McCollum should not take all of the blame for the team's losing record, and the SGA shouldn't be in the business of hiring and

firing coaches.

"I don't think it is the SGA's place to be there," Talbot said.

Even if the student Senate had approved the resolution, it would not have been binding.

After resolutions leave the Senate, it is up to the Associate Dean of Student Life and Vice President of Student Affairs to approve them. From there, they go to the department that they affect, but the department is under no obligation to adopt them.

SGA resolutions suggest, rather than dictate, university policy.

Athletic Director Boots Donnelly announced on Wednesday that McCollum will coach at MTSU next season. ♦

## Parking: Master plan includes new development

Continued from I

"They may be here until I retire and am gone," he said, "but the university has been here for a long time.

"We have to think of things long term - what will happen 25, 30, 50 years down the road. We can make these plans now."

"If someone decided that they have a million or so dollars that they want to donate to the university for a new building, you have this wonderful facility and you have to have some place to put it," he continued. "So you start looking at your empty space that is available on campus to see whether it will accommodate it. That is the way

we have to look at a parking lot."

Malone said the university's master plan includes new living/learning centers to be developed at certain locations on campus. Similar to the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, these structures, which might be modeled after those at other universities, combine a dormitory with classrooms and other educational facilities.

"We are anticipating that these developments will take place," he said. "This is why we must be out looking for alternative locations for parking, and why you see acquisition areas. We do our best to try and stay on top of it." ♦

## Fraternity: Meeting to resolve conflict takes place today

Continued from I

gauge agreement to "basically cut the payments in half."

If the university does not agree to these demands, Sigma Chi is prepared to vacate the house, Smith said.

"If those options aren't available, we don't see any need to stay there," he said. "I've been in the fraternity for four years, and we've been fighting an uphill battle for four years. We haven't been able to do anything successful because of it."

If that happens, other fraternities are likely to follow, according to Smith.

"Everyone on Greek Row is feeling the pressure," he said.

Smith cites the high rent rates as the reason fraternity membership has dropped since it moved to Greek Row six years ago.

"I've been meeting with several officials over the last couple of months, and they have no

answers," Smith said. "They've just kind of said 'survive or die' on our own."

Bob Glenn, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, and Gene Fitch, assistant vice president for student affairs, both said they were not aware of any official actions taken by the fraternity regarding moving.

"That would come at least as some news to me," Glenn said, "but I am sure that I know it's difficult for all the fraternities and sororities to keep current on their house payments."

"I'm sure that there's some frustration associated with that," Glenn added. "If that's the case, I can certainly understand why they would be grumpy, if you will, about the lease situation."

Fitch said he was unaware of any disciplinary violations against the fraternity, and he is frequently in contact with Greek groups to see that pay-

ments are kept up.

Smith said a meeting is scheduled with Sigma Chi alumni and administrators from the business office today to discuss the matter and finalize their plans.

Mike Gower, associate vice president of the business office, said in an interview Wednesday afternoon that he did not know of any fraternities planning to move.

He also affirmed that the fraternities were keeping up with their payments.

However, the group apparently is not optimistic that university officials will meet their demands.

Last week, Panhellenic Public Relations officer Jessica Reeves sent an e-mail release on behalf of the fraternity that said the group had already begun looking for new off-campus housing arrangements.

"Right now it's a temporary fix," Smith said. "We want to



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Kelso Dimes  
Majors National  
Preserve Wilderness  
Photo by Peter Dumbell

# Commission expected to propose income tax

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A commission winding down its two-year study of the best tax structure for Tennessee could suggest taxing earned income as an option, even though the idea was feverishly protested by state residents two years ago.

"We're down to, really, two main scenarios and then, off that, there are more possibilities in each one of them," said Nelson Andrews, commission chairman, Tennessee real estate developer.

Both options would try to curtail the state's high sales tax.

One would be a yearly, statewide vehicle fee and/or a statewide property tax. Some commission documents place the property tax in the range of \$2.50 to \$3 per \$100 of assessed property value and the vehicle tax at \$50 to \$100.

The income tax being considered by the commission is structured in one version to range from 3 percent to 6 percent, depending on income, and is a flat 4.5 percent in another version. A tax on earned income could be coupled with dropping the state's tax on interest and dividends, called the Hall Income Tax.

Neither of the options has the full support of the 19-member commission, which is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature by the end of December.

But despite the state's unsuccessful try at an income tax in 2002, some tax opponents feel the commission will recommend one.

"We fully expect them to recommend an income tax," said Ben Cunningham of Tennessee Tax Revolt, one of the groups that has aggressively fought the measure.

"We haven't taken the commission too seriously because it did seem like kind of a stacked

deck." Many members were appointed by state officials who backed an income tax. A survey by *The Tennessean* newspaper of all commission members in September showed none of them had ruled out an income tax, although several said it was a political impossibility.

Cunningham, however, doesn't think the tax structure should bear all the scrutiny.

"Citizens need more impact on the overall size and burden of government," he said. "I'm not sure that tweaking a particular tax one way or another is important to citizens."

Cunningham said his group would like to see the sales tax and tax on food lowered without new taxes.

Currently, the sales tax makes up more than 60 percent of the state's revenue, compared to an average of 33 percent for other states, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators.

The state rate of 7 percent with local taxes on top of that is driving residents to nearby states with lower rates.

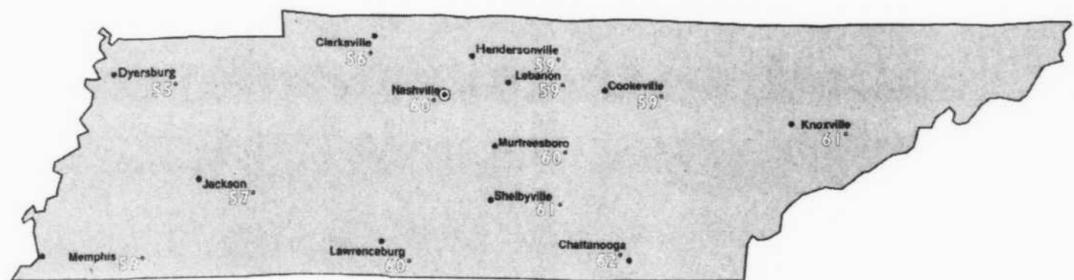
"This has us at a disadvantage, both the state and local governments," said Gary Poe, business representative to the commission, who recently retired after 19 years as Eastman Chemical's tax director.

Commissioners generally agree there's a need for change, but they say the money would have to come from elsewhere if the sales tax rate drops. That's where a vehicle, property or income tax would come in, with the amount varying in relation to the sales tax change. However, Andrews said the commission realizes that whatever is ultimately decided has a small chance of being "liked."

"It's surprising how much emotion this generates," he said. "We're trying to be as objective as we can." ♦

# Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Day	High	Low
Tuesday	56°	44°
Wednesday	49°	32°
Thursday	52°	32°
Friday	51°	36°
Saturday	54°	41°

# Schools: County searching for funding options

Continued from 1

families and building \$70,000 homes," Gill said. "They are bringing in two- or three kids but not contributing as much perhaps as the county commission would like because of the current tax structure."

"Clearly, if the county had unlimited revenue and all the money they needed, I am sure they would say, 'Three schools, no big deal, \$41 million.'"

Gill said he understands the financial concerns of the county commissioners, and that it is a difficult situation.

He said it is his responsibility to tell them what he needs, and the commissioner's job to come up with the solutions. The county seems to be pleased with the work he has done.

Rutherford County Commissioner Faye Elam said Gill has done "a better job than has been done in some time" of managing the budget and providing information to the county. She said he has also utilized the balance in savings at the end of the year to enhance the school system's technology.

"From my position, he's doing an outstanding job and has a good rapport with the county commission," Elam said. "He seems to work well with the mayors, the county commission and school board."

The current enrollment of students in Rutherford County Schools is 31,300. Gill said this number is expected to increase by 1,600 to 1,700 students a year, which is "essentially two schools a year."

The Rutherford County

school system includes all middle and high schools located in Murfreesboro and the county. It also includes several elementary schools that were originally past city lines, but annexed into Murfreesboro.

There are eight city and 38 county schools. About 6,000 students attend city schools, while nearly 32,000 attend county schools.

Rutherford County currently has the sixth largest school district in the state.

"We need schools," Gill said. "In many counties in Tennessee, they haven't had a new school in many years, and when they have it is just one over 15 or 20 years. So when people hear that you are basically building two schools a year, they can't identify with it."

"I think that our county government isn't really sure how to deal with it either," he continued. "They know it's a problem, and they know they need additional revenue, but no one can seem to agree on the direction to go."

Gill said he thinks the county school system is valued in the community and viewed across the state as an excellent system. Ninety percent of the teachers are highly-qualified, and the district has done quite well on its report card, particularly in areas it had targeted for improvement.

"The big problem for us, obviously, is this growth situation," he said. "How do you fix it, how do you fund it? It lends itself to many sleepless nights."

He said the county is also

concerned about the \$25 million bond they have borrowed, which they have opted to pay off over 25 years.

"This interest on it, which is frightening to them because the county is already well over \$300 million in debt that has gone toward schools," he said. "In the next nine to 12 months I will be asking for more money for schools because this is just taking care of the first wave of kids."

"We will need a new high school in two or three years, and that will be another \$30 million, excluding operational costs. We will need a couple more elementary schools, and we will need to add on to Blackman High School."

In order to alleviate overcrowding in the high schools, Gill said, Riverdale High School has requested portables, and next year 400 seats will be added at LaVergne High School. Gill said he expects to eventually rezone the LaVergne area.

"We would like to fix some of the problems," he said. "The high schools we have reached their capacity, so we will have to rezone and shuffle here and there."

"This even is just putting a Band-Aid on the big problems because the growth is there," he added. "We need to figure out where we can put these kids. We just have a big problem across the board."

Gill said his main priority now is to try to balance out the number of students at the different high schools and to make sure the situation over the next

few years remains manageable. It will be difficult, he continued, to bring any kind of real socioeconomic balance to the school district because of where various neighborhoods are located.

He said rezoning will probably be done this year, but it will be minimal.

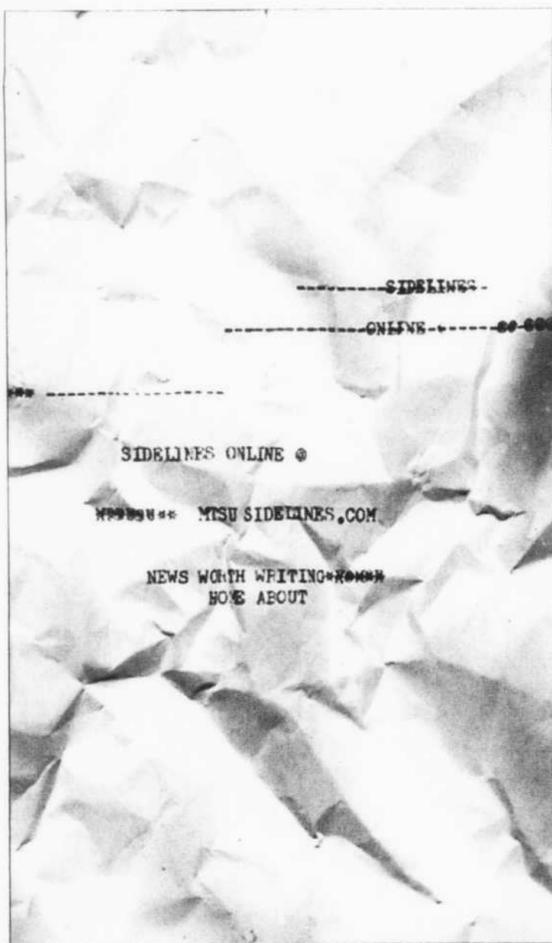
Gill is in his second year as superintendent of Rutherford County Schools. He has worked for the county school system since the early '70s and in Murfreesboro for 12 years.

He has taught or worked in administration at Symrna High School, LaVergne High School, Cedar Grove Elementary School and Rockvale Elementary School. Coaching until 1987, he led the Symrna High School girls basketball team to a state title. Nonetheless, he said the position as superintendent is the most challenging position he has had.

"I am isolated a lot of the time, and I make decisions that impact a lot of people and involve spending millions of dollars," he said. "You certainly want to make sure you are doing so reasonably and that you are accountable for that so you can make sure it is done right."

Rutherford County school board member Rick Wise said Gill has learned quickly and done an excellent job.

"He works well with the county commission and the county school board," Wise said. "I feel confident that he will manage the next what lies ahead over the next few years. [The county school system] is behind but is making progress." ♦



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## From the Editorial Board

### Letting fraternity leave will be a problem for all

The problems keep adding up for the fraternities living on Greek Row. High rent and numerous maintenance issues are forcing Sigma Chi to consider moving out of their house on Greek Row.

A meeting between the fraternity leaders and MTSU administrators today might be the deciding factor in whether they stay or go.

In the interest of every student on campus, whether you are Greek or not, the university needs to convince Sigma Chi to stay.

At this point it's too early to take sides. But no matter who fixes the problems in the Greek Row houses, this is a problem that the university needs to address immediately and not ignore.

Sigma Chi President Brett Smith claims that several houses – not just theirs – have mold and plumbing problems, besides the fact that they are losing members due to the high cost of the houses.

If Sigma Chi does indeed leave campus, this could create a huge problem for the university. The other fraternities, who are dealing with the same problems as Sigma Chi, are watching to see what happens and if one leaves, it could open the floodgate for all the fraternities to leave.

That would leave the university responsible for not one but eight mortgages. Furthermore, the mass migration of all eight fraternities won't exactly encourage other ones to move in.

The fraternity has some high demands, and there's no way that the university is going to cut the rent by half. It's not really fair for the university to foot the bill.

But it is the university's responsibility to fix structural problems with the building.

This is just one of numerous problems with buildings on campus leaking, the walls crumbling and faulty plumbing. Perhaps this is a glaring, neon sign for the university to rethink to whom they are awarding construction bids.

We've all seen through the Ezell and Abernathy halls what happens when university buildings are shoddily made.

Let's all hope that the university and the Greeks can come to some agreement, without the university having to stick "For Rent" signs in the front of Greek Row. ◆

## Giant spending bill misplaces priorities

After his recent re-election, President George W. Bush boasted that he had earned political capital and he intended to use it. True to his word, the president and Congress have gone on a spending spree, combining at least nine bills – too risky to bring up before the Nov. 2 election – into one massive \$388 billion spending bill. It passed with bipartisan support on Nov. 20.

"I'm very proud of the fact that we held the line and made Congress make choices and set priorities, because it follows our philosophy," Republican House Majority Leader Tom Delay said about the bill that many members of Congress admitted they did not read.

Besides increasing the government's borrowing limit by \$800 billion, some of the things Delay is proud of include around a quarter of a million dollars a piece for sunflower, blueberry and catfish research and the appointment of the oak as our national tree. Cuts were made in educational and environmental spending, but \$2 million was set aside to buy Bush a yacht. No wonder he was anxious to sign the bill.

Democrats succeeded, however,



Cave Canem

David Cotton  
Staff Columnist

in postponing the signing until next week. In the nick of time, they discovered the sleaziest aspect of the rushed bill, a proposal that gave the Republicans the right to inspect Internal Revenue Service records for political use.

Rep. Ernest Istook, a Republican from Oklahoma, had a proposal in the bill that would allow agents to examine the tax returns of any American without any penalties for publicly releasing them. This broad and invasive power would be given to two other Republicans, Sen. Ted Stevens from Alaska and Rep. Bill Young from Florida, the chairmen of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Sen. John McCain, often unpopular among fellow Republicans for his unfortunate belief in honesty and candor, worried, "How many other provisions will we find in that 1,000-page bill?"

Other Republicans also tried to distance themselves from the shady proposal. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist again offered us the choice of believing he is either a liar or an idiot by lamely claiming he had "no earthly idea how it got there."

Even without the controversial privacy invasion, the titanic bill remains a testament to the corruption and waste of government. While a useful homeland security bill remains a pipe dream, the Bush administration has in one bill managed to challenge abortion, gain one and a half billion dollars in bribes for other countries that support the neo-conservative foreign policy and hand out pork barrel rewards like a special new \$60 million courthouse in Las Cruces, N.M.

The Constitution requires that Congress pass 13 separate spending bills per year. Instead of encouraging a strong work ethic among legislators and a sensible fiscal policy, this rule has allowed lawmakers for the last three years to wrap all their spending bills up into one big, end of the year super bill. This year's bill does nothing to help our nation out of the record deficits the Bush administration

has created.

With this bill passed and the Congressional session wrapped up, our country's ruling elite can trade in the ease and luxury of their day jobs for the ease and luxury of the holiday season. Sure, our commercial airlines are as unsafe as ever, but \$335,000 says our sunflowers will soon be safer from blackbirds. The bravest and often poorest of Americans continue to die in an unsuccessful conquest of Iraq, but the president might get a new boat.

He lied about weapons of mass destruction and the cause for war, but Bush did not lie when he said he would spend the political capital gained with control of both the White House and Congress.

He did not say he would spend it wisely.

But then, what says "freedom is on the march" like naming the mighty oak as our national tree.

Take that, Osama bin Laden. You can run, and apparently you can indeed hide, but we've got a new national tree. ◆

David Cotton is a graduate history major and can be reached at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

## Letters to the Editor

### Arafat was bad for Israel, Palestine

To the Editor:

I am very disgusted by David Cotton's opinion article published on Nov. 15, "Bury Arafat in Jerusalem to build Middle East peace." The false generalizations, one-sidedness and naivete of Cotton's article make me skeptical that this man even knows anything about the Middle East beyond what he hears on Al Jazeera and CNN.

I would like to point out a few fallacies in Cotton's article:

1. There is no Palestine. It is not a recognized state by the international community. Before Arabs wanted a Palestinian states, Jews had lived there for thousands of years. Jews were called Palestinians and are referred to by real historians as Palestinian Jews. They even had a Palestinian Symphony.

2. Generalizations like "Israelis cheer the passing of the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization," and "Keeping Arafat's resting place out of Jerusalem reflects the wish of conservative Israelis to exclude all Arabs from Israel" are very elementary. Cotton does not back any of these statements with hard evidence. His only evidence are out-of-context statements from past Israeli leaders.

The funny thing is that some of these "conservative leaders" were part of the liberal Labor party. In addition, the vast majority of Israelis want peace. A CNN poll in 2000 found that 59 percent of Israelis supported the peace talks. They even supported giving up 97 percent of the West Bank and all of Gaza in order to help create a Palestinian state. Cotton's hero, Arafat, refused peace. And he came home to Ramallah to cheering crowds.

3. Arafat did not fight for the liberation of his homeland. He orchestrated the murder of thousands of Israelis and Americans while keeping his people confined to refugee camps and resisting any efforts to improve their conditions. He laundered millions of dollars from the United Nations that were meant for Palestinian aid into his own bank accounts.

Palestine was never his homeland. If one reads a little about history, he will see that Arafat was born in Cairo and lived most of his life in Kuwait, Egypt, and Lebanon.

4. Cotton claims that Israelis are extreme. The CNN poll mentioned earlier shows that most Israelis support a peaceful solution to the conflict. On the other hand, it is very convenient that Cotton does not mention how "moderate" and "peace loving" the Palestinians are. According to a BBC poll, 60 percent of Palestinians strongly support the killing of innocent Israeli civilians. Half of the "moderate" Palestinian people support the complete liquidation of the State of Israel. This would be a complete eradication of six million people, a new holocaust. How convenient that Cotton leaves this out.

5. Cotton claims that Israel is "a nation dedicated to the betterment of one race and religion." In fact, Israel has Arab Muslims sitting on the Supreme Court, in the ranks of the military and in parliament. It is the only democracy in the Middle East. Can Cotton show me where any Jews or Christians enjoy religious freedom in other countries in the Middle East or even in the Palestinian controlled areas? He would have a hard time doing so because the Middle East minus Israel is run by dictators who do not extend nearly as much religious freedom to minorities as Israel does. Would Iran allow the 2005 International Gay and Lesbian Parade to take place in its holiest city? No, but Israel did. Would Saudi Arabia allow non-Muslims to practice religion freely? No, but Israel does.

In all, it is important to look at all the facts before coming to conclusions about such complex conflicts such as the one between Israel and the Palestinians. Generalizations and fake facts are not the way to do it. I hope Cotton puts a little more research into his articles next time and stays away from preaching one-sided half-truths.

Max Kuperman  
Sophomore, Political Science  
Vanderbilt University

## From the Opinions Editor

### Father tries to bust child, police bust father instead

Words of advice: If you're going to try and teach your children about the dangers of substance abuse, make sure your cache of illegal substances isn't lying around anywhere.

Kevin Winston of Essex County, N.J. could have used this advice last Friday. The 46-year-old father caught his daughter, aged 16, returning home early that morning thoroughly drunk. Winston, apparently thinking he could give his daughter a life lesson she wouldn't likely forget, called in the police on her.

When officers arrived at the house, the young girl told them how she was afraid for not only her own life, but for that of her four other siblings, aged 3 through 15. She had good reason to be frightened.

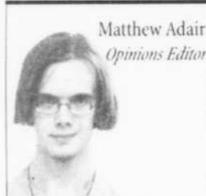
With the girl's assistance, police were led into a crawl space where they discovered a sizable collection of semi-automatic weapons, including an AK-47, as well as several handguns and a sawed-off shotgun. Most damning of all, however, were the 617 vials of cocaine, along with various other tools of the drug trade that officers found with the weapons.

Winston had apparently forgotten he had any of the illegal goods. One would think that if your business includes keeping hard drugs and the means to guard them in your house, you would be a bit wary to call in the cops. The thought must have slipped his mind – admittedly, an easy error to make when boiling with anger at your drunken, underage child.

While he's doing time on possession charges, he can at least come away with the knowledge that a lesson was learned that morning, however. Winston learned to look before he leaps inadvertently into the arms of the authorities (or, better yet, to simply avoid such situations all together by not trafficking coke).

Meanwhile, his young daughter now knows that no matter what anyone says about you, there's always someone even more irresponsible than you. ◆

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



Matthew Adair  
Opinions Editor

## Start small to bring big change to world

Have you ever heard the saying, "If you don't stand up for something, you will fall for anything?" Whether you have heard this statement or not, it does not make it less true for you or me.

We look up to legendary people because in their life and time, they were revolutionaries. We sometimes forget that even though they did great things, they were only human, like ourselves. They did not hold any special power that we do not have within us. The only difference between them and us is that they stood up for what they believed in, and we can do the same, no matter who we are.

For example, in the early '90s, the up-and-coming singer Tori Amos wanted to give help and awareness to the public about sex crimes during a time when no one else seemed to, so she started the Rape and Incest Network, which has helped many people deal with the issue over the years.

We have the ability to become revolutionaries as well. What do you believe in? What do you think needs to change in this world for the betterment of humanity or the environment, for that matter?

I want to open up the awareness of the pain that U.S. society tries to hide and show people the strength of change. That is why I travel to other countries, write in the school paper and am a social work major. I am not going to stop fighting for healing and change because that is what the world needs.

If you don't stand up for something that matters to you, then you have no right to complain about what others are doing because you are letting what others believe take control of the welfare of your life. I know fear can take control of people wanting to stand up for what they think is right, but what we must realize is that fighting fear is the first step in changing for the better.

I have some more good news: You do not have to do it alone. Find and be a part of a group or organization that is fighting for the cause you have a passion for. If there is not a group started yet, put the idea on the table and start one. If you really believe in something, don't let your fears stand in the way.

Do not think you can change the world overnight. Start small; tell your friends and family about your passion because you will need a strong support group when the going gets tough. Another idea is to start locally here at school or the community. Remember, you cannot force people to change. People like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. used patience, love and education to reach people.

We may never be in a history book. We may never win a Noble Peace Prize, but if we make a difference in one person's life, we will have planted a seed that will keep feeling even when we are gone. Because of this, we not only should feel good about ourselves, but we should consider our efforts revolutionary. Take a stand. Speak up. Be proud and passionate. Change the world. Make a difference. You're not alone. I'm standing with you along with all the other soldiers fighting for their powerful cause. It's an amazing thing to stand united. ◆

Kacey Hercules is a junior social work major and can be reached at kah2x@mtsu.edu.



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules  
Staff Columnist

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

### Sidelines online poll results

Do you think marijuana should be legalized for medical use?

Yes. There's nothing wrong with medical marijuana. (43 percent)

Yes. And while they're at it, they can legalize my recreational use, too. I'm going to go through a lot of paper writing out those fake prescriptions. (40 percent)



No. Marijuana should always be illegal. (14 percent)  
It's not already legal? (3 percent)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "What do you think of the decision to retain Coach Andy McCollum?" Results are not scientific.

## He's just not that into you if...

Book tells women to stop settling for less and realize that they are worth more than inattention and lies. Feelings are mixed about the truth of the authors' claims.

By Nona Kempton  
Staff Writer

A woman meets a great guy. They go out. A pleasant time seems to have been had by all. He walks her to her door and promises to call.

And she never hears from him again. Then the rationalizing begins. She makes excuses for why he hasn't called.

He's really busy. He has intimacy issues. He must have been spirited away to Guantanamo Bay by the CIA and can't use the phone.

Stop wasting your time and energy, ladies. He's just not that into you.

That's the message according to *He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys*, by authors Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, who articulated this idea while working as writers on HBO's hit comedy "Sex and the City."

The book, which has been on every book-seller's top-10 list for weeks, takes an amusing wake-up-and-smell-the-coffee approach to dating and claims that actions speak louder than words when a personal relationship fizzles.

According to the book, if a man truly likes a woman and wants to continue to see her, he will call her, he will take her out and he will be willing to commit to a relationship.

The book recommends that a woman should not waste even a minute rationalizing why a man has suddenly become David Copperfield and disappeared from her life without warning or explanation. The answer is clear from his behavior: he's just not that into you.

"Knowledge is power," writes author Tuccillo, a 41-year-old single woman from New York, "and more important, knowledge saves you time... I would be spared hours and hours waiting by the phone, hours and hours of obsessing with my girlfriends, hours and hours of just hoping his mixed messages really meant 'I'm in love with you and want to be with you.'"

The chapter titles are painful reality checks: He's just not that into you if he's not asking you out.

He's just not that into you if he's not calling you.

He's just not that into you if he's not having sex with you.

He's just not that into you if he's having sex with someone else; married; a selfish jerk; a really big freak, etc.

Each chapter is a series of letters from women, in various stages of ambiguous relationships, arguing their cases to Behrendt, who then dismisses the validity of the excuses each woman makes for her man's bad behavior.

Melina Tzanetos, a recent college graduate, said that while she found the book to be very humorous, recognizing some of the rationalizations was a little disconcerting.

"I couldn't get all the way through the book," she said. "It was too depressing."

But is it really as simple as all that? Do men really just stop contacting women just to avoid having to tell them that the relationship is over?

Behrendt writes that most men would "rather lose an arm out a city bus than simply tell you, 'You are not the one.' We are quite sure you will kill us or yourself or both - or even worse, cry and yell at us. We are pathetic."

"He [Behrendt] called our bluff," said Matt Blankenship, a junior recording industry major, "Those are the excuses used. The way he articulated it and presented it was a good way to bring it up with humor."

Psychology professor Greg Schmidt says that the book can be helpful if taken in the right context.

"In a sense, this is a self-help book without all the counseling psychology," Schmidt said. "I think there are a few fundamental principles here that coincide well with research."

Schmidt said that most men are "conflict avoidant" in intimate relationships, noting the argument that stress tends to cause "fight or flight" in men and "tend and befriend" in women.

"From an early age, both men and women are taught to avoid hurting other people's feelings," Schmidt said. "Both men and women are very good at this and it's reflected in the excuses we tell one another."

Schmidt said he also suspects that both authors, while perhaps recapping some lessons learned from personal experiences, are imparting wisdom learned through therapy.

"If you were to ask a practicing therapist what basic advice they give to their patients about how they should act in and out of relationships," Schmidt said, "I think you'd see a lot of overlap."

Scott Lauritsen, an MTSU alumnus and co-manager of the Books-A-Million store in Murfreesboro, said that the store has seen brisk sales of the book.

"We only had two on the day they [the authors] were on *Oprah*," Lauritsen said, "and we had 20 or 30 requests for the book by the end of the day."

Lauritsen said he has not read the book, but he thinks it perpetuates stereotypes that all men are players and are seldom honest with women.

"A lot of girls are trying to play that same game," Lauritsen said.

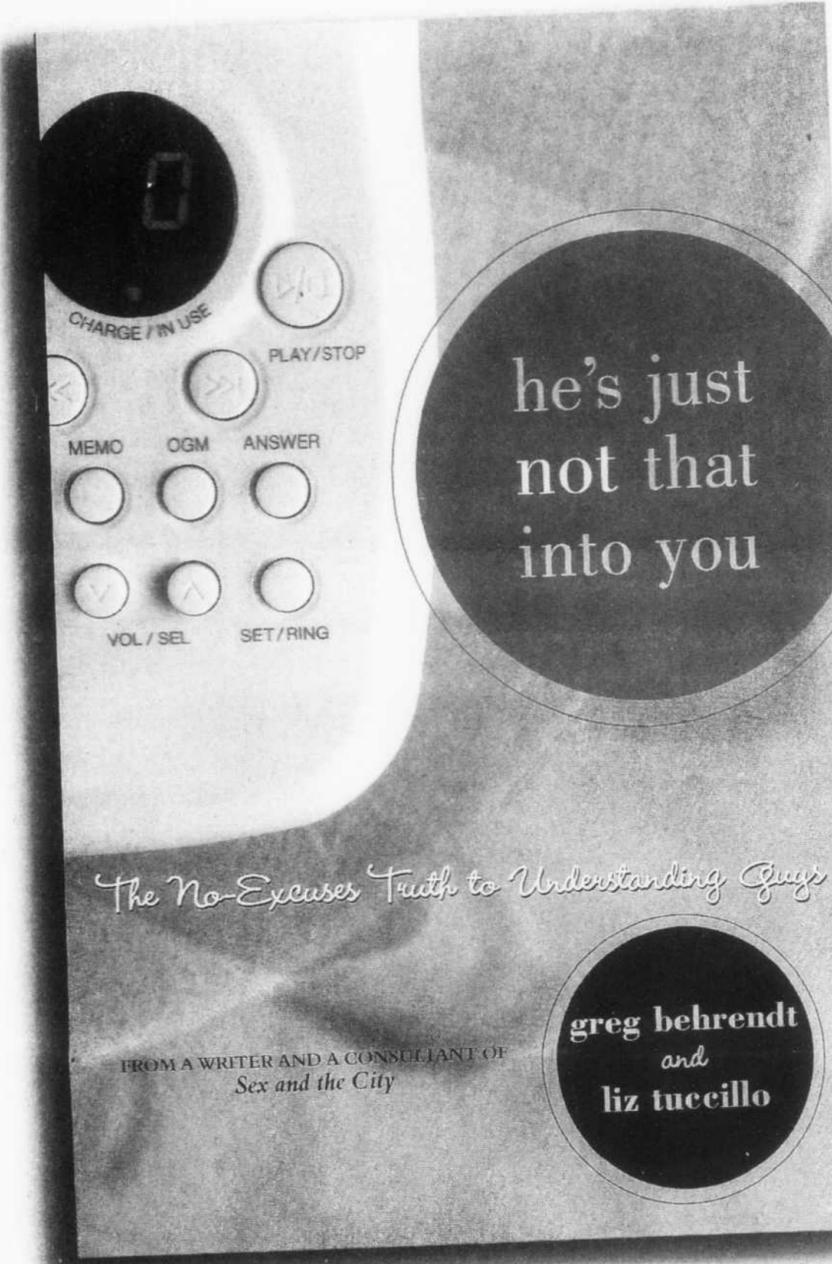
Blankenship said that he thinks the nature of the relationships described in the book may be more typical of a faster-paced lifestyle in New York than in the more traditional South.

While the book emphasizes that men want to be physically intimate with any woman they are "really into," Blankenship said that he thinks most men in this region have a more genteel approach dating.

"I'm pretty conservative," Blankenship explains, "[and if] she's really conservative too, I don't want to jeopardize anything by moving too fast."

Schmidt said that readers should put the book to an empirical test.

"Basically, [the authors] say: Try it and see if it works," he said, "You'll know it works if you feel better about yourself, better about yourself in your relationship and dating improves." ♦



## Students not achieving results because of poor exercising techniques

By Sarah Catlett  
Staff Writer

With the stress of schoolwork, oncoming final exams and the threat of the Freshman 15, many students turn to exercise to help relieve stress and keep off those extra pounds. However, many students are not exercising properly, which could mean more harm than good for their bodies.

Mark Anshel, a professor in the health, physical education, recreation and safety department, says he sees students exercising improperly in the Recreation Center quite often.

"No one is reading literature on this; no one reads about proper exercise techniques before they exercise," Anshel says.

One issue that Anshel has found among students is that they do not consume a sufficient amount of water.



Photo by Blake Noel | Staff Photographer  
Proper stretching should be done after exercising, not before.

"People are simply not drinking enough water. They're not drinking enough water before they exercise; they're not drinking enough water during, and certainly not after [they exercise]... It is a major problem because if you are dehydrated, you don't have enough water to rid the toxins from your body, and you don't have enough water to keep your body's internal temperature at a proper level," Anshel says.

Food for thought: Did you know that stretching before exercising is not really necessary? Anshel describes it as mere procrastination and says it takes time away from actually exercising. Rather, one should stretch after exercising, while the muscles are contracted and "warmed-up."

Since classes may be located on the opposite side of campus from each other, some students have made the false assumption that they are getting enough exercise by just walking to their classes.

Also, simply walking on the track in the Rec Center may not be enough to stay in shape.

"A lot of people choose to walk instead of jog, which is fine, but they walk too slow. You can't go for a stroll on the track or on campus and think that you're actually getting the fitness benefit. It has to be called 'brisk walking'; brisk walking means at least three to four miles per hour," Anshel says.

Additionally, if a student does want to run, then they should balance it with walking. Anshel stresses alternating a lap of each on the Rec Center track.

"Everyone's fitness level would go up if they did walking and jogging in intervals. Make it a point to jog slowly for one lap, then walk a lap," Anshel says.

Doing an extensive amount of exercise in a short amount of time can be harmful to

the body. Developing a habit of exercising for a longer amount of time regularly is much better for a person's body.

"People leave the track much too quickly... There is almost no benefit in that. They should be on the track for a minimum of 20 minutes. If they're not, then they're not getting the full aerobic benefit."

Time to "cool down" is also necessary after a good work out. Anshel instructs students to "keep walking" rather than just stopping short after going for a run. Stopping short can prevent blood from returning to the heart, which can be a health risk to those who have heart problems.

Finally, Anshel stresses a balance between aerobic exercise, such as walking or running, and weight training. Weight training increases metabolism and builds muscle mass, while aerobics strengthens the heart and burns calories. A balance plays an important role in preventing heart disease.

Plan a time each week to exercise with a friend. Keep each other in check and stick to your "schedule." Creating routine in your exercise habits will decrease the chance of just giving up. Exercising has an extremely high drop-out rate.

For students who would like more information on the proper way to stay fit, personal trainers are available at the Rec Center, though a small fee may be involved. The Human Physiology Lab, located on the first floor of the Alumnus Memorial Gym, offers advice to students interested in learning more about enhancing their own personal fitness.

"They [the students] would speak to a doctoral student who could provide fitness prescription and testing," Anshel explains.

Anshel also co-authored a book with Lindsey Reeves and Rebecca Roth titled *Concepts in Fitness*, which contains extensive advice on maintaining good health. The book is available at a discount rate at the Phillips Bookstore. He welcomes students to e-mail him with any questions they might have. He can be reached at manshel@mtsu.edu. ♦

## Turkey Day full of treasures

A turtle is floating in my kitchen, and I have ice in my pajamas. I couldn't be happier.

It all started Thursday morning as I drove the kids to my mom's house. This year's tradition follows the previous Thanksgiving customs, which includes the innate, yet notorious sibling rivalry ritual. Catie plays "Jingle Bells" on her recorder, Cassie changes the radio station and Courtney screams that Catie needs to stop playing so she can sing "I'm a Little Palm Tree." I'm driving and admiring the scenery.

Sure, I hear them, but instead of screaming at them, I apply my infamously parenting method of selective hearing. My thoughts begin to shift as I recall my mom's more potent method of smacking us on the head. You know - that worked.

As I get older, I've thought a lot about my mom and the sacrifices she made for us. It really wasn't that long ago that my sisters and I were pushing her maternal limits.

Gosh, I miss my little sisters now. And to think that I couldn't stand them then. Now, both of them live far away, and I rarely see them anymore. Thankfully, technology helps us keep in touch, but nothing replaces seeing them in person.

Each of us has cherished memories that make us chortle and maybe even cry. Things change so fast.

This weekend, mom passed along all of my childhood pictures. I'd forgotten so much, and now I'm reminiscing about the twinkles of my childhood. And my hippie parents were actually cool and young once. (I was born in 1971, by the way).

Now a new generation only has pictures to teach them about their heritage. To think,

### Take The High Road



Calley Stroud  
Staff Columnist

my grandmas didn't have the opportunities that I do today, and yet they still made a life for their families despite their modest conditions.

Can you imagine a world without birth control? No disposable diapers, formula or Barney videos? How did they manage?

They accepted little education, strict religious values and they never questioned their situation. Thank God for higher education and the women's movement.

Take time this year to consider all that you are and where you're going. Could you have done it without the people that you love? When was the last time you let someone know how much they mean to you? Don't waste another minute. We don't know what next year holds. But you have now, so just do it!

Now that my little precious angels are on a sugar high from the holiday pies, they're running around putting ice in each other's pajamas. Instead of bickering, they're screeching and running around laughing. In a few years, they may be too cool, or too busy. I'm gonna go enjoy them while I can.

By the way, the turtle in the kitchen is actually a hollow shell that was discovered while hick-ing with Papaw. The girls aren't sure what to do with it, but they find it particularly fascinating. ♦

## Donnelly: McCollum will return next season

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee head football coach Andy McCollum will return next season, according to a statement released by Athletics Director Boots Donnelly last Wednesday.

In the statement, Donnelly addressed the coaching situation "in order to squelch all rumors" concerning McCollum and his future with the Blue Raiders.



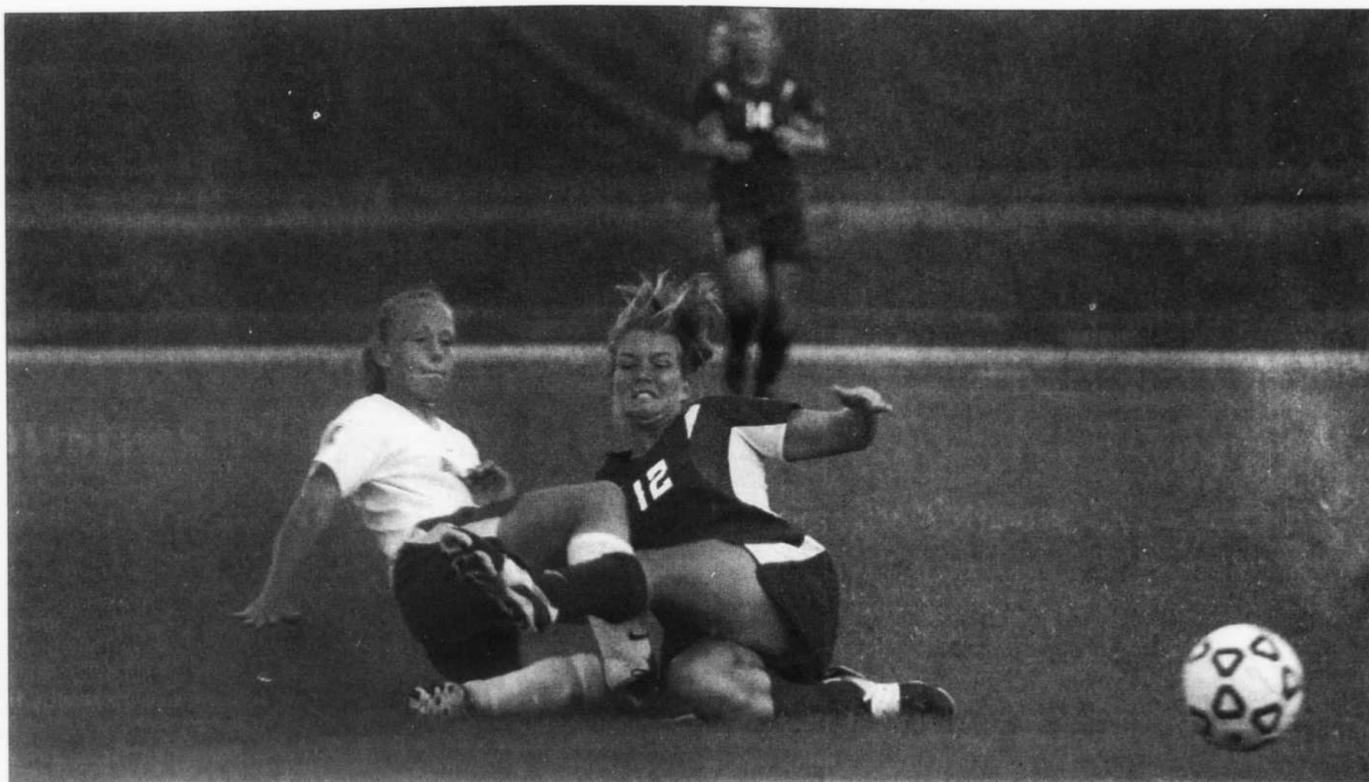
McCollum

"I made the decision, after meeting with Andy on Tuesday at our annual evaluation of our football program, that he will have the opportunity to continue to coach our football team," Donnelly wrote in an e-mail distributed to various media outlets. "We reviewed the past year and discussed possible changes that could be made in order to make us successful in 2005."

No specific changes were addressed in the statement, but Donnelly made next season's importance clear after the team finished under the NCAA-mandated average of 15,000 fans per home game.

"Andy is extremely excited about the young talent we are returning (18 seasoned starters)," Donnelly wrote. "He is anxious to get started recruiting. Everyone understands that 2005 is going to be a very, very important year for the future of our football program."

The Blue Raiders finished 5-6 this year, their third consecutive losing season. McCollum is 30-38-0 (.441) in six seasons at Middle Tennessee. ◆



File Photo

Blue Raider senior forward Debs Brereton was named the Sun Belt Player of the Year after leading the conference with 16 goals this season.

## Soccer squad reached new heights

By Casey Brown  
Staff Writer

How does one measure success?

For starters, take a look at the recently completed Middle Tennessee soccer season.

The Blue Raiders finished the campaign with a 3-2 shootout loss to Florida International in the Sun Belt Tournament semifinals, but 2004 was a year of impressive runs and broken records.

"Our success this season was a combination of good talent and kids committed to each other, the team and the school," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said.

The team concluded with a record of 13-4-2, ranking 27th nationally and establishing a new record for wins in a season. That record included a 10-match unbeaten streak to end the season as well as a 9-0 mark at Blue Raider Field. In those nine wins, MT outscored opponents 47-5.

So what was the key to such achievement?

"We have tremendous people in the program. Our girls have a strong sense

of team and university pride, and are especially dedicated," Rhoden said.

Senior defender Jessica Northcutt echoed that sentiment.

"We had such great chemistry this year," Northcutt said. "It took everyone to win conference, and there wasn't one player on the team who didn't give everything they had."

Along with Northcutt, other seniors combined to address the leadership needed for victory on the field. Defender Ashley Elliott provided a veteran presence off the bench, and forward Danielle LaDuke finished second all-time in goals and points.

Senior captain Laura Miguez also played a lead role in MT's historic season. The book, leaving her mark as the school leader in career points (81), goals (28) and assists (31).

"All I can say is conference championship. My four years here, that's what we worked for, and we finally achieved it," Miguez said.

Given the chance to go back in time, she insists nothing would be altered.

See Soccer, 7



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Jessica Northcutt (18) was selected to the All-SBC Second Team.

## Holmes pushes MT past Badgers

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

Patrice Holmes' three-pointer with 29 seconds left lifted Middle Tennessee over Wisconsin 77-74 on Saturday in the Houston Classic.

Holmes led the Lady Raiders with a game-high 25 points

along with six assists and six steals. Teammate Krystle Horton chipped in 24 points and seven rebounds.

"This was a huge win for us," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations. "We played a lot more aggressively on defense, and that led to our improved

offensive output."

MT led 73-71 before UW's Stephanie Rich hit a three-pointer with 1:34 remaining to give the Badgers the lead. The teams traded turnovers before Holmes hit the go-ahead basket.

Wisconsin came back with a chance to take the lead, but Ashley Josephson's shot was short. MT's Chrissy Givens was fouled with less than 20 seconds remaining and converted one free throw to give MT a three-point lead.

Wisconsin's last possession then ended with the Badgers' 22nd turnover of the game.

"Give Middle Tennessee credit," Badgers head coach Lisa Stone told UW Media Relations. "We turned the ball over [and didn't] get the shot off. Their [winning] play was run to perfection."

Before the winning play, the lead went back and forth in the first half until the Badgers built a 25-18 lead, but four turnovers in a 4:56 span gave the advantage to the Lady Raiders.

MT scored seven unanswered points to tie the game with 3:56 to play in the half. The game was tied again at 29 with under two minutes to go in the first half, and eventually the Lady Raiders led 34-32 at the break.

UW scored the first four

points in the second half, then built a seven-point lead for the second time in the game with 9:57 remaining.

MT took their first lead in the second half when Starr Orr made a layup to make the score 66-65.

MT then put together a six-point lead with a three-pointer by Horton.

UW had a chance at a four-point play in the waning minutes of the game when Rich hit a three-pointer and was fouled by Orr. Rich hit the free throw and cut MT's lead to two.

Rich put the Badgers ahead 74-73 with 1:34 remaining with another three-pointer, giving her seven points in 42 seconds.

Holmes then delivered the final blow, giving the Lady Raiders the victory with her fourth three-pointer of the contest.

Rich finished with 20 points and four assists, and Jolene Anderson had 11 points and six assists.

"This was a game we should have won, but we didn't bring our defensive presence from start to finish," Stone said. "Our team is better than this. Our inability to put the dagger in and win the game was very frustrating."

The Lady Raiders lost to Houston 80-56 in the final game of the Houston Classic yesterday. *Sidelines* will have a full report on that game in Wednesday's edition. ◆

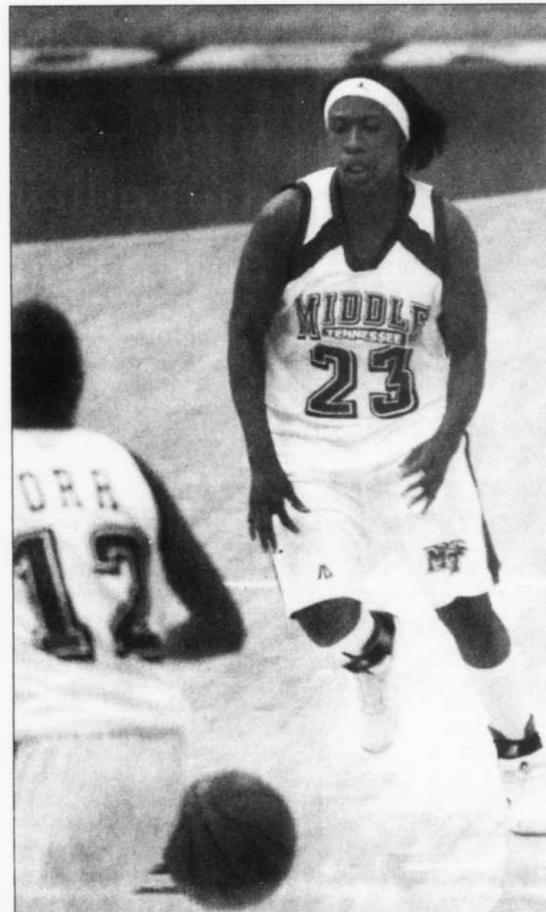


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Patrice Holmes hit the game-winning three-pointer with 29 seconds left to defeat Wisconsin.

## Blue Raiders drop two road contests

By Cody Gibson and  
Jonathan Hutton  
Staff Writers

After a successful start at home against Lambuth, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team suffered two road losses last week.

The Blue Raiders played from behind for nearly all of Thursday's game against Rice University before falling 67-62.

The Blue Raiders trailed by 10 with 1:10 remaining before trimming the Owls' lead to 62-59. Rice hit seven-of-eight free throws down the stretch, however, and MT couldn't recover.

The Blue Raiders' only lead came at 10-9 early in the first half. MT drew close with three consecutive three-pointers that cut the lead to 40-38 with 14:53 remaining in the game, but the Blue Raiders were unable to recapture the lead.

Senior guard Mike Dean led the Blue Raiders with 20 points. Michael Cuffee finished with 12 points on 3-for-12 shooting.

The Blue Raiders shot 38 percent for the game.

Foul trouble hurt the Blue Raiders' substitution strategy, as Alex Weekes fouled out and Marcus Morrison and Cuffee had four fouls each.

Rice had foul troubles of their own when Michael Harris, the preseason Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year, picked up his fourth foul in the

opening minutes of the second half.

"I thought their guards were better than our perimeter guys down the stretch," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations. "They were harder and tougher than we were. We have to get better, and we have a lot of work ahead of us."

Rice was led by Jason McKrieth's 21-point effort and their strong play from the free-throw line. The Owls converted 19-of-31 attempts from the free-throw line and 11 straight field goals in the final five minutes.

"I thought we did what we were supposed to do but we couldn't hit some shots we usually make," Davis said. "The bottom line is they shoot 31 free throws and we shoot 15, and they outscore us [by] 12 at the line."

The Blue Raiders suffered another setback in a 71-58 loss to Mississippi Valley State on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders (1-2) went into halftime tied with MVSU at 35 after Marcus Morrison hit a three-pointer at the buzzer. The basket was Morrison's only field goal of the game. Mike Dean then hit one of his four three-pointers to give the Blue Raiders a 38-37 lead with one minute gone in the second half.

See Losses, 7

# Blue Raiders host Bruins to begin homestand

By Katy Hamlett  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will host the Belmont Bruins tonight at 7 p.m. in the first installment of what could become an annual local rivalry.

The Bruins (0-2) played their first two games of the regular season in the Coaches v. Cancer Classic two weeks ago in Berkeley, Calif. After leading in the first halves of both games, the Bruins fell short against St. Mary's (58-67) and the University of California-Riverside (65-74).

Junior guard Brian Collins was Belmont's leading scorer in both games, as he scored 14 points against St. Mary's before tying his career high with 20 points against UC-Riverside.

"Belmont's got really good perimeter players," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "They're a very good shooting team and very disciplined, so we'll have to do a good job of guarding the three-point line."

MT (1-2) is also entering tonight's match after dropping two road games. Despite senior Mike Dean's 20-point contribution against Rice University last Tuesday, the Raiders fell 67-62.

MT sent the Owls to the line for 31 free throw attempts, allowing the Owls to rack up 19 points off the clock. The Raiders struggled with only seven of 15 from the line.

"The bottom line is they shoot 31 free throws and we shoot 15, and they outscore us [by] 12 at the line," Davis told MT Media Relations after the game.

The Blue Raiders led Mississippi Valley State 50-46 on Saturday with 11:30 left to play, but the Delta Devils outscored MT 25-8 over the remainder of the game to win 71-58.

After two losses on the road, MT will have a little over 24 hours to rest and prepare for the Bruins.

"I'm not really worried about the fatigue, just about us having enough time to prepare for Belmont," Davis said. "[Belmont] has had about 10 days and we'll have just barely a day, and it's a concern."

Davis hopes Belmont will become a yearly rival for the Blue Raiders in order to establish more interest with fans on a local level.

"When I got this job I really wanted to try and renew some of these [local rivalries]," Davis said. "I just think instead of having to go way across the country to play a lot of teams, it's good to sometimes play a game that your fans have an interest in, and [the other team's] fans do, too." ♦

File Photo

L.T. Lockett converted three free throws in a 95-54 win over Lambuth on Nov. 19.



## Losses: MVSU defeats MT

Continued from 6

MT led 50-46 with 11:30 remaining, but the Blue Raiders went cold as MVSU (1-2) outscored MT 25-8 the rest of the way. The scoring drought dragged the Blue Raiders to a season-low 36 percent shooting from the field.

MVSU point guard Hosea Butler had a game-high 22 points, and Timothy Latiker added 14 points for MVSU.

Dean led the Blue Raiders with 21 points, followed by Cuffee with 14 and eight rebounds. Forward Keith Christmas came off the bench and added eight points and seven rebounds.

MT (1-2) will have a chance for redemption against the Delta Devils on Dec. 11 at Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders' next chance to get in the win column again, however, is tonight at home against Belmont at 7 p.m. ♦

## Soccer: Brereton leads team to SBC regular season title

Continued from 6

"Sure, I wish we could have won the [SBC] tournament," Miguez said, "But I wouldn't really change anything."

MT soccer was also treated to a distinct foreign flavor, as several players were from other countries. Whether it was midfielder Claire Ward from Scotland or Lisa Marie-Woods from Norway, MT fielded a very diverse lineup.

From Middlesbrough, England, Debs Brereton provided a huge offensive spark.

The numbers don't lie. Brereton's 19 goals and 47 points ranked her fifth nationally in points per game and earned her SBC Player of the Year honors.

However, she shared the credit with her teammates.

"We had so many key players at every position," Brereton said. A stingy MT defense was the

key to many victories this season. The outlook is bright for the next few years.

"I think we have a strong foundation since they [freshmen and sophomores] all came in together," Northcutt said. "I think they've grown in confidence, and there's a lot of leadership left in the back."

Despite all of the individual accolades, there remained a constant force that bound the team together. Rhoden once again found a formula for suc-

cess, as he was honored as SBC Coach of the Year for the second straight year.

"He's an exceptional coach," Brereton said. "He knows soccer so well."

"The year in a word? 'Fun,'" Northcutt said. "[It was about] becoming a better player every year and getting more out of it."

"Unbelievable," Brereton said. "I would do it over again." ♦

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The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

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### Roommates

I am looking for a female roommate who is responsible and doesn't party much (at least at home). I have a really pretty house in a nice subdivision about 2 miles from MTSU. Please call ASAP to see the house. Thanks! 615-653-8003.

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Nonsmoking female roommate needed to live with 2 outgoing females! Rent is 216 & 1/3 utilities. 3 Bd Brick house CLOSE TO CAMPUS!! For info call Samantha at 931-581-6064.

I am a graduate student who is looking for a non-smoker, responsible and clean roommate to share 1300 sq ft apartment only blocks from campus. Renter would have own private bath and walk-in closet. Rent is \$305 plus half utilities (phone, cable, electric, water). Deposit required. Please call 615-904-7246 or 931-334-0985 for more information.

21-yr-old female seeking roommate to share 2bd/ba at Oak Park

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Female roommate needed ASAP. 3 BR/2BA house Stonegate subdivision. \$325 plus 1/3 utilities; 5 minutes from campus. Brand new house, 2 car garage, high speed internet, W/D included. Call 731-693-9595 or 615-585-4802.

Male, non-smoker roommate wanted to share 3 bd/2ba with female. 20 minutes from campus. Must sign 6 months or 1 year lease. \$350 plus 1/2 utilities. \$100 deposit required. Call Lisa 615-415-9302-leave msg.

### Subleaser

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Sterling University Gables. Female subleaser needed for spring/summer semester. \$335/mo. Utilities included w/ internet. Awesome roommates, just moving to Fla. Lease starting in Jan. Call Maggie at 770-778-1498 cell

Female subleaser needed. University Courtyard 1st floor. Fully furnished 4BD/4BA \$395/mo utilities included and internet access. 1st Month Free-Move in Now! Call Katie at 770-778-1497 or 770-459-7435.

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Campus Crossings 2BD. Rent \$505/mo. All girl apt. 1 Rm. vacant during spring semester. All utilities included. Call Shea at 615-218-1888. Lease until July, stating Jan. 1st!!

Need female roommate to sublease 4 bedroom house starting after school commences in Dec. Rent is \$240/mo including all utilities, cable and internet! Right directly across from Murphy Center. Please walk to class. Please call 516-457-0904.

Subleaser needed immediately to share 4BD Apt. at University Courtyard with three males. Rent from Dec.-Aug. 2005. Rent is \$365/mo. Includes all utilities, fully furnished, hot tub, pool, fitness room, free tanning, high speed internet in room, cable and HBO. Call or e-mail adam at Talonguy17@aol.com or 615-319-7054.

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# Crimson Tide clean glass, wipe floor with Lady Raiders

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

Alabama outrebounded the Lady Raiders by 20 as Middle Tennessee fell to the Crimson Tide 80-66 last Monday night.

The Crimson Tide dominated the glass from the start and compiled a 27-15 rebounding edge in the first half.

"We attacked the glass extremely hard tonight," Alabama head coach Rick Moody told Alabama Media Relations. "Also, the amount of pressure that we were able to extend on them full-court was effective."

MT only trailed by six at the half despite shooting just 35 percent. In the second half, however, Alabama went on an 18-8 run to push its lead to 60-41 with 10:21 left in the game.

Alabama shot 55 percent from the field in the second half and 45 percent for the game. Neither team had its best night handling the ball, howev-

er, as the Crimson Tide committed 23 turnovers and the Lady Raiders added 22 in an error-filled contest.

"We made a lot of mistakes tonight," Moody said. "We need the young kids to keep their heads up. It's just a different game at this level from what they are used to."

Holmes and Givens finished with 16 points each, and Tia Stovall added 15. Alabama's Gamble led all scorers with 17 points for the Tide, and Monique Bivins added 14. Marverly Nettles scored 10 points and seven steals in just her second game with the Crimson Tide.

With the win, Alabama avenged their overtime loss to Middle Tennessee 65-61 last year at Murphy Center.

"This was a great win," Moody said. "A win like this can help us start earning a little respect."

The Lady Raiders bounced back to defeat Wisconsin 77-74 on Saturday. For more on that game, see page 6. ♦

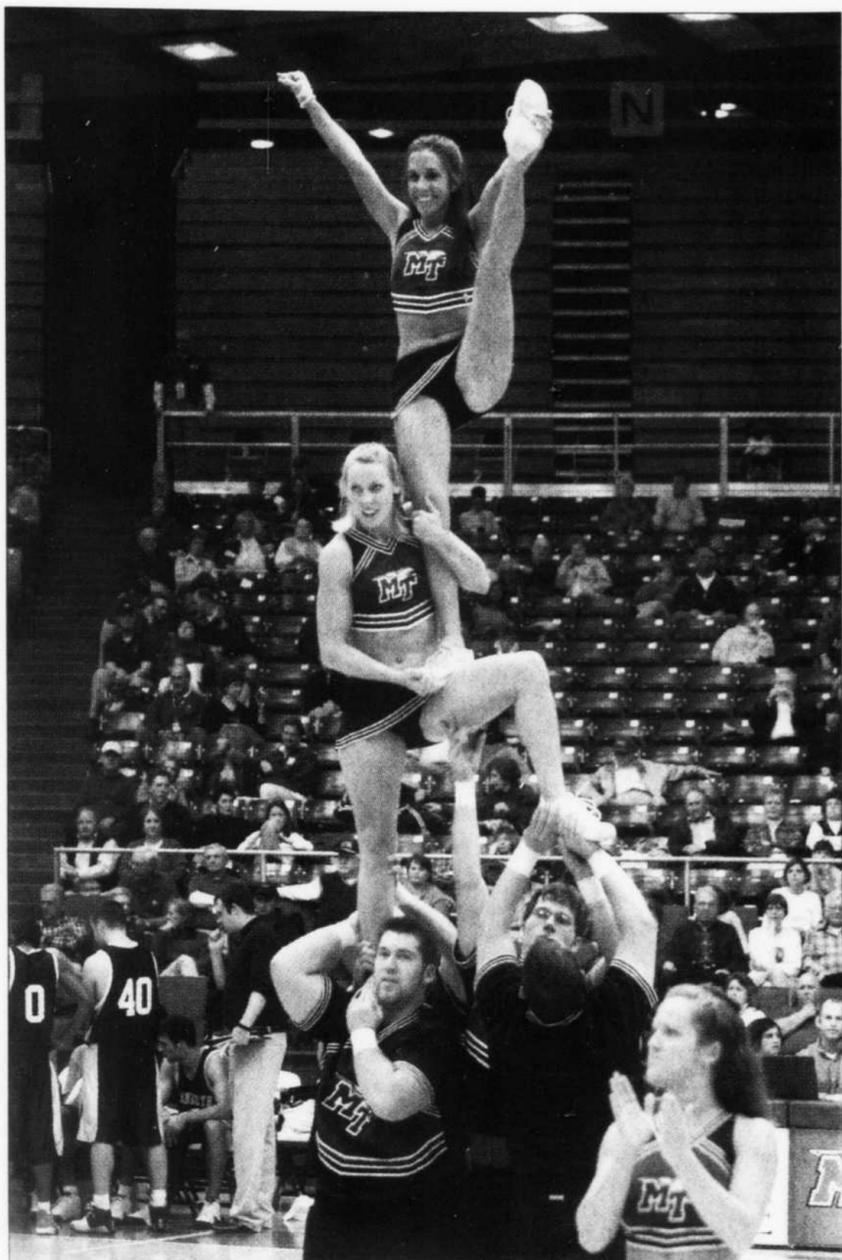


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The MTSU cheerleading squads want to improve on their 9th-place finish last year.

## Cheerleading squads continue to improve

By Blake Alford  
Contributor

The members of MTSU's competitive cheerleading squad are very optimistic, and Jonathan Pursley thinks they have every right to be.

Pursley coaches the MTSU squads and insists this year's team has the potential to top its 9th-place finish at the 2004 National Cheerleaders Association Collegiate Championships.

The squads, which include 24 coed squad members and 21 all-female squad members, will attend the 2005 Championships on April 6-10 at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Pursley said the squad is already busy preparing for an even better performance this year.

"We have increased the difficulty [in the routine] and increased practice hours," said Pursley, who added that he has instituted two hours of study hall each week to ensure the squad does not lose any members because of academic struggles.

"Last year, people quit and we lost a few to grades," junior Billy McCarrall said. McCarrall was a member of last year's squad and is returning this year.

At an NCA camp last summer in Louisville, Ky., the MTSU all-female squad placed second in the game-day competition and received the "Most Collegiate" and "Best All-Around" awards. Three members of the all-female squad received All-American honors.

The co-ed squad also received the "Best All-Around" award at the camp, and two members received All-American honors.

Pursley said the squad's performance last year helped increase the talent of this year's squad. In describing participation at tryouts for this year's squad, Pursley said there were "not so much more people, but the quality drastically increased."

McCarrall said he thinks the new addition of talent and the many returning members has many on the squad anticipating great results.

"The stuff we do in practice is mind-boggling," McCarrall said. "[It's] stuff we never would have tried last year."

Both Pursley and McCarrall credit the additional practice requirements with helping this year's squads pursue routines that have increased in difficulty. The squads practice together six times a week in addition to two hours of weight training/conditioning and four hours of independent stunting/tumbling practice per week.

University support has also been crucial to the squads' success, according to Pursley.

"As long as I have been here, the university has always been very supportive of the program," Pursley said, who mentioned men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis and President Sidney McPhee as supporters.

MTSU also sponsors an \$800 scholarship each semester for many squad members.

Currently the squad is raising money to cover travel expenses to the NCA Championships in April. With \$19,000 of a \$25,000 fund-raising goal already raised this year, however, Pursley said he thinks the goal is one the squad will easily achieve.

For more information about MTSU cheerleading, Pursley can be reached at 494-8907. ♦

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