





# City annexes property

By Josh Hudson  
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro will be adding a significant area to its city limits in March by annexing approximately 2,104 acres of the Blackman and Salem communities.

"Property is usually annexed at the owner's request," said Margaret Ann Ely, a planner at the Murfreesboro Planning and Engineering Department. "They usually want to use it for development, and by including it in the city limits, would allow them to take advantage of the city services."

The areas include 133.17 acres along Ashbury Lane, 5.01 acres along Conhocken Court, 36.02 acres along Fortress Boulevard, 105.5 acres along Highway 96, and 1,824.30 acres along Rucker Lane, Gresham Lane and State Road 99.

Of the proposed 1,824.30 acres, only 112 acres are under consideration for residential development.

Ely explained that the reason so much land would be absorbed by the city is because the 112 acres would result in a portion of county property being completely surrounded by city property, which is prohibited by Tennessee case law.

"If we only annexed those 112 acres, there would be confusion as to who provided services in a specific area," Ely said, adding that if the area fell in the Murfreesboro city limits, the city would provide the police and fire department services. Otherwise, it would fall under the county's jurisdiction. "We want to provide a continuity of services to the area."

In order for an area to be annexed by the city, it must be contiguous with the city limits as well as remaining within the urban growth boundary granted to the city.

When an owner decides they wish to have their property annexed by the city, the owner submits a request to the planning commission. The planning commission sends out notices to all residents living within 250 feet of the area proposed for annexation as well as posting signs on the property, Ely explained.

The planning commission then holds a public hearing in which all who are for or opposed to the annexation are free to speak. The planning commission also assesses a plan for services, which includes providing police, fire, schools, water and sewage.

Ely explained that the owners wishing to develop the property see the advantage of having the city's services at their disposal.

"Rutherford County provides some of the same services but, for instance, they only have a volunteer fire department, whereas Murfreesboro has a full-time, paid fire department," Ely said, adding that the city also has a higher police-to-resident ratio. This makes annexation appealing to those landowners who wish to have their property zoned for residential development.

"Also, the annexed land would be able to take advantage of the city's sewage system, which is a lot more nature friendly than having a septic tank around."



Graphic by Chet Overall | Staff Designer

The dark gray area specifies a portion of the acreage that is being annexed on the west side of Murfreesboro.

According to the planning commission's website, the land developers are responsible for providing funds and building all necessary roads and utilities.

Some residents, however, are against annexation because of the increases in taxes. "The bottom line is, we made a conscious decision to live outside of the city," said Craig Alea, unofficial spokesman for the Blackman community, in an interview with Sidelines last September. The community has since been annexed.

Residents from the Blackman community are taxed at the same rate as Murfreesboro residents, but they do not receive all of the same services, such as sewer.

Once the planning commission has assessed all sides of the proposal, they will send a recommendation to the city council for passage of the annexation or rejection. An annexation ordinance is then proposed before the council, requiring three readings, Ely explained.

"If the ordinance passes on the third reading, then it is effective within 30 days," said Ely. The proposed areas received their third and final reading Feb. 1 and will be effective as of March 3. ♦

## CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 1 - 1:20 a.m.

East Main Street  
Drug Abuse  
John Matthews III of South Pittsburg was issued a citation for simple possession of marijuana and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Feb. 1 - 11:41 p.m.

East Main Street  
Alcohol  
Dustin Alley of McDonough, GA and Sherman Neal II of Naperville, IL were issued citations for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Feb. 2 - 3:22 a.m.

Gore Hall  
Alarm  
Caller advised that he witnessed an individual pull the fire alarm and then take off running with 4 or 5 other people toward the KUC. The subject is described as a black male, wearing jeans and a dark coat with yellow trim and hood.

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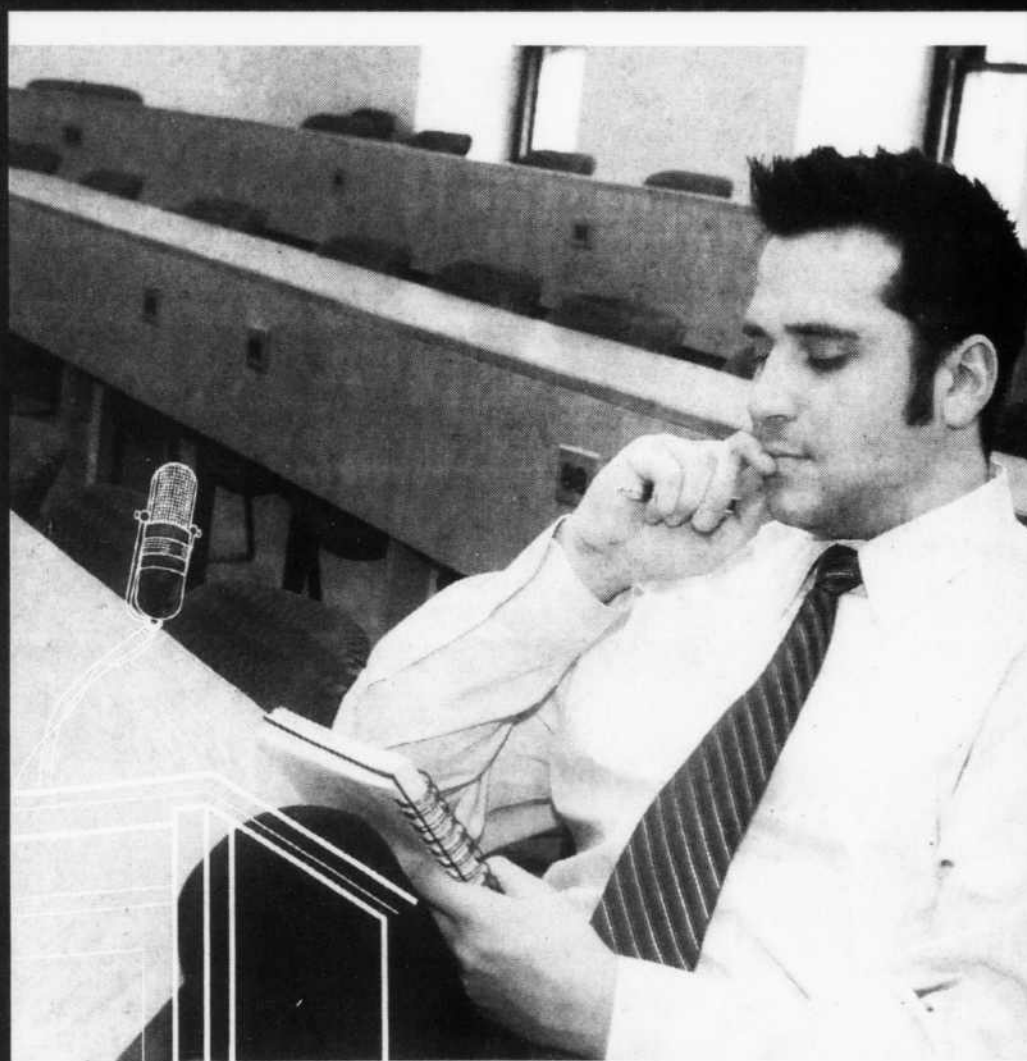
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Photo courtesy of morgue file  
The Committee on Science and Technology in the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to use alternative fuels, such as ethanol and Bio-diesel, in place of petroleum based fuels in modern vehicles.

Fuels: "Act promotes Bio-diesel"

Continued from 1

heavy weight vehicles including fleet trucks.  
The closest gas station to Murfreesboro carrying E85 is Citgo located at 500 Main Street in Nashville. Prices earlier this week were \$1.99 per gallon for E85, compared to \$2.03

per gallon for unleaded gas.  
Bio-diesel is currently offered in town at the Murfreesboro Farmers co-op and Daily's on New Lacassas Highway. Prices currently run \$2.35 per gallon for bio diesel and \$2.45 for petroleum diesel fuel at Daily's on New Lacassas Highway.  
"It sounds like something we need," Nathan Haynes, treasurer of the MTSU chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon said. "We are spending so much money right now and polluting the environment. It is not going to be around forever and needs to be stopped"

Correction:

Last Monday, there were several incorrect facts in "Refugees speak about experiences in Darfur." The peace agreement between southern Sudan and the northern government was signed in 2005. Also, Osama bin Laden was in Sudan in the early '90s, not Saddam Hussein. Sidelines regrets these errors.



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Background checks raise concerns among faculty

By Clarence Plank  
Sports Editor

A resolution passed by the Faculty Senate will require all new faculty member background checks to be processed by Kroll Background America, Inc.  
The major problem the faculty had with the application for background checks was the wording within the release form a candidate must sign, said Tony Johnston, associate professor of agriscience and president of the Faculty Senate.  
"The concerns were raised when we looked at what exactly the release form itself said," Johnston said. "They wrote a general release form that would cover them for all of their possible activities."  
The faculty's concern was if Kroll complied all the information about a possible employee's demographics, they could sell the information.  
"When we looked at the two, the university policy and the Kroll release form, they didn't match," Johnston said. "The concern was if a candidate signed the release form, our university policy dictates that this is the only thing we want to look at."  
Middle Tennessee only needs to use certain information from the background checks about

any candidate.  
"Kroll is authorized to look at all kinds of things," Johnston said. "What we are trying to express is some concern, if a candidate were to come on campus and read that form before they sign it. They may choose not to sign the form because it gives authorization to the company for far more than they want to release."  
That authorization is the problem because all the information required by MTSU is past convictions of felonies that could pose a threat to students and faculty.  
"They will know where you live, who your insurance is with," Johnston said. "Basic demographic information can be put together to be sold without you knowing it and you sign the release form not knowing that you give them the authority to do all those things."  
As of now, the faculty is meeting with Sidney McPhee, MTSU president, and others to see if they can work on getting Kroll to change the release form.  
"No one is saying we don't want to do background checks," Johnston said. "We are just saying the release form that is being used needs to be narrowed in scope to generally allow what we are asking for or requested to be modified to reflect university policy, these are the specific steps that we

are going to request of Kroll. We are going to go back to Kroll and say we want to modify this form. Let our lawyers talk to your lawyers that kind of thing."  
Technically the university has the right to bring in any company they want to do background checks. A few years ago, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation did the background checks for MTSU.  
When the Tennessee Board of Regents, the governing body for state universities including MTSU, signed the contract with Kroll, it gave MTSU another option to use.  
"TBR has gotten this contract to allow everyone to use it, if they choose too," Johnston said. "The policy doesn't say we have to use Kroll. In fact, I don't know what universities are not using Kroll, but then again a number are. Maybe everybody hasn't switched over."  
The contract came from the TBR to uniform the background check system, Johnston said. The only university that clearly shows this process is being done with Kroll is the University of Memphis.  
"I know the University of Memphis has because the same release form with some modifications have been to the posted form on the Memphis web site," Johnston said.



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor  
Jessica Long (L), junior criminal justice major, and Paige Kimbro (R), junior business administration major, pose with the "Make Your Mark" board. The board was written on by people who donated to Alpha Chi Omega's fundraiser.

Alpha Chi Omega raises money for local schools

Staff Report

Alpha Chi Omega spent Tuesday and Wednesday in front of the Keathley University Center, promoting McDowell Month by raising money to support music programs in local Murfreesboro high schools.  
"Alpha Chi was founded for the fine arts," said Paige Kimbro, junior business administration major and member of Alpha Chi Omega. "To celebrate McDowell Month, our chapter

came up with 'Make Your Mark.' All the proceeds will go to benefit local high schools."  
According to Jennifer Gibson, sophomore public relations major, this is the first year for 'Make Your Mark.'  
"We are seeing how this week goes," Gibson said. "But it seems to work well, people come and donate and then they get to paint their name or messages on the sheets."  
In total, the women raised \$335.

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Miscellaneous

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# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### Beauty pageants harmful, mens' standards different

If men and women are truly equal, then let's host a Mr. MT Pageant. Let's dress the men up in stilettos and swimsuits, ask them generic questions about their future hopes and scrutinize their appearance.

The women of the recent Ms. MT Pageant have worked hard and undeniably deserve the recognition they're getting. They aren't just pretty faces, they're promoting important issues such as racism and art education.

Then again, it's hard to image the crown going to a woman who didn't fit into the tiny box of acceptable female beauty.

Pageant critics have long decried the tradition as the antithesis to gender equality. And, just the same, pageant defenders have long disregarded these nay-sayers as "bra-burning feminists," eager to erase any sign of femininity they come across.

It is undeniable, however, that the requirements of pageant winners promote an unrealistic image of what it means to be an "ideal" female.

"Male" beauty pageants are a hot commodity in high schools, of parading male-hopefuls in big, blonde wigs, over-the-top makeup and Pamela Anderson boobs.

However, it's a joke. They aren't taken seriously – and even if MTSU was to host a legitimate Mr. MT Pageant, what would the winner look like? He'd be attractive, probably. Charming, definitely. He would be eloquent, intelligent and goal-minded.

And if he was forced to prance around in a bathing suit for a "fitness" competition, the audience would be laughing, and he would be laughing with them. If a heavy-set contestant bared it all, he'd be the hit of the night – deemed "hilarious" and "free-spirited."

If a heavy-set woman somehow got the courage to squeeze into a scrap of spandex, however, the audience would explode into whistles and scrutinizing glances. When women cross the pageant stage with their hard-earned bodies, it's not funny.

It's competition.

## Proposed policies fail to offer real solutions

Governor Phil Bredesen unveiled his plan for Tennessee's children on Monday during his State of the State Address. Bredesen's bright idea for collecting tax dollars for the hundreds of thousands of undereducated school children: raise the cigarette tax 40 cents.

Mathematically, this is probably one of the most ignorant forms of taxation known to man. Think about it: the sin tax works to deter people from purchasing whatever good the tax is applied to, whether it is liquor, tobacco or anything else the government sees fit to tax under this classification.

The goal is to reduce the total purchases of these goods over time. Theoretically, the revenue from a particular tax on cigarettes would decline over time, especially if the tax was dramatically raised. Bredesen's proposed 200 percent increase would definitely convince smokers to cut back on cigarette purchases.

The governor proposed that 90 percent of the estimated \$219 million in extra revenue would go to support K-12 education programs. The remaining amount would go to fund an anti-tobacco campaign, much like the governor's crusade against methamphetamine.

Bredesen also praised the success of the Books from Birth Program – a program that was launched in the James E. Walker Library last semester as a pseudo-socialist attempt for the state government to educate the children right out of the womb.

Putting books in the hands of children at an early age is a great idea, but shouldn't it be the responsibility of the parents to read to their children and teach them basic skills before kindergarten? The same applies to the governor's pre-K program: shouldn't parents be teaching their children how to count to 10, the letters of the alphabet, shapes and colors?

We must, at some point, take responsibility for our own lives. It is not the role of the government to raise our children and make them productive members of society.

Bredesen also feels that every single Tennessean is entitled to a college degree. In his upcoming budget proposal, he will ask that HOPE lottery funds be extended



Hurtt Pride  
Matthew Hurtt  
Staff Columnist

to nearly any student who wishes to attend a community college.

Once again, the importance of education can not be stressed enough, but not everyone should be entitled to a degree. Large portions of the labor force in the United States get along just fine with just a high school diploma. To hand degrees out so freely only cheapens the struggle that determined college students undergo.

Bredesen also proposed the use of lottery funds for capital improvements in public schools, something the Rutherford County Commission has been lobbying for over the past few years.

The Republicans actually proposed to give the funds out to needy school districts, while Bredesen's plan suggested the governing bodies would need to repay those funds disbursed from the lottery coffers.

It seems the governor's idea of improving education is to write schools a blank check or continue to pour money into something that does not produce results according to funding increases.

There has to be a more efficient way of educating Tennessee's youth. Blindly throwing money at the problem does not solve it.

Not to open up a can of worms, but that tactic is skillfully used by Democrats to demonize Republicans. "Republicans don't care about education or children," they say, but that is not the case. Republicans just want to spend money on education wisely – a skill that has long been forgotten by most people in government.

My advice – and Bredesen's advice – to those who care about the education of our children: go out a buy a pack of cigarettes, and 'light up' for education.

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



## Woman's mistreatment not justice

Tampa Bay, Fl. is a beautiful vacation spot where many go to relax during Spring Break. It also happens to be a hot spot for rape victims and horribly skewed police officials.

On Jan. 30, according to CNN.com, a 21-year old woman was thrown in shackles and hurled into prison only hours after being the victim of rape and reporting it to the police. The woman was arrested because of an outstanding fine from a juvenile record, which she stated she had paid.

She was raped in the afternoon and immediately went to the police so they could take action as soon as possible. The police took her to a rape crisis center where she was administered the first two of three doses of the morning after pill, to terminate any chance of unwanted pregnancy.

She was riding in the police car afterwards to take the officers to the scene of the crime when the officers received word that the woman had a fine from a juvenile arrest. They instantly cuffed her and put her in the back of the car.

Amazingly though, this was not the only injustice served on the battered woman. The officer in charge of looking out for her while she was in the cell refused to give her the last and imperative dose of the morning after pill because of – and do take a moment to appreciate the idiocy – religious convictions.

The woman was raped, thrown in prison on the same day and refused a way to escape ruining her life, all in one afternoon, because of our justice system. Isn't justice sweet? Yes, this course of action was clearly the right way to go.



A Rough Trick  
Named Jim  
Christin Pepple  
Staff Columnist

What kind of callous, emotionally-stunted pigs would do that to a person who has just been violated in the most traumatic way? Is this justice? Are a few dollars worth an unwanted pregnancy that could ruin this girl's life?

These officials are supposed to protect and serve. Instead of taking the girl to a hospital or finding someone to care for her, they threw her in prison. They worried more about her running off before paying her meager fine than finding the jackal responsible.

And let's not forget the oh-so-religious officer charged with her care. There is nothing wrong with having convictions and disagreeing with the morality of taking the morning after pill. However, that doesn't give a person license to refuse it to someone else. The last time I checked, this is the United States where people can make their own decisions like big boys and girls. The last time I checked, this is the land where the tired, sick and whatnot were aided.

A juvenile fine does not equal this kind of terrifying, special brand of justice. These men were not doing their jobs; they were violating the

Constitution. Apparently, the police force down there doesn't happen to remember the Eighth Amendment. Cruel and unusual punishment is a more than apt phrase in this situation.

Thankfully, the young woman's attorney got her out of jail a day later and she finally got the last dose of the pill a day late.

The Tampa police force issued an apology and stated that they are "changing their policy to give officers more discretion on when to arrest a crime victim with outstanding warrants."

The officer who took it upon himself to be judge and jury for this woman's unwanted pregnancy was also reprimanded heavily.

Gee, I wonder why?

Finally, justice is served. Situations like these should not arise. The law is supposed to be free from passion, but obviously in some cases, this just doesn't work.

The girl had not murdered anyone. She had no criminal record as an adult. The actions taken against her would have been understandable if she was a terrorist or serial killer; but she wasn't.

The Tampa police force needs to get perspective. The officials of their justice system and any others who deem it appropriate to toss a beat-up and violated young woman into jail hours after being raped need to open their eyes and fix the policy that promotes such evil doing.

Christin Pepple is freshman journalism major and can be reached at cnp4c@mtsu.edu.

## Letters to the Editor

### Hurtt's picture of Iraq highly inaccurate

To the Editor:

I do not know where Matthew Hurtt gets the 'facts' he uses to support his opinions in his column "War's opponents skew truth to ensure victory," [Feb 1.] The only American victors in this war, regardless of the outcome, will be the contractors, such as Halliburton and Blackwater. Those companies and those that manufacture the weapons of war have reaped multiple billions of dollars, much of it squandered or unaccounted for. Among the losers are the more than 3,000 soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen who have lost their lives and the approximately 50,000 Americans who have suffered serious physical and mental injuries as a direct result of this brutal war. Don't forget the estimate of more than half a million Iraqis who have been killed since the invasion and occupation began in 2003.

Regardless of the outcome, the United States has been transformed in the eyes of many around the world from the aggrieved, sympathetic victim of Sept. 11, 2001, to a rogue nation whose "bring 'em on" president threatens pre-emptive war on any country that opposes his will. Meanwhile, prosecutors in Italy and Germany have issued warrants in separate cases for CIA operatives who they say were involved in illegal renditions or kidnappings. After an exhaustive investigation, Canada paid nearly \$10 million in reparations to a Canadian citizen who was sent by U.S. authorities to Syria where he endured months of harsh treatment and, yes, torture before he was released. The United States has yet to acknowledge any error in its treatment of this individual.

It appears that Hurtt uses the same sources as President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others, who refused to acknowledge a growing insurgency in Iraq until it could no longer be hidden under a blanket of lies and which now seriously threatens U.S. forces. Also, Hurtt states that the conflict "is restricted to Baghdad and the Al Anbar province. The rest of the country is returning to normalcy." If only that was true. In Gen. George W. Casey's confirmation hearing this week for the post of Army chief of staff, he acknowledged in response to a question by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, that an American might be able to walk down a street without being shot at in only about half of Iraq's cities or towns. Sen. Graham stated that we have screwed up in Iraq a thousand different ways. Still, Gen. Casey claims that victory is possible.

However, four U.S. helicopters have been downed in the past month, including one killing 12 aboard in Baghdad, including two colonels, two lieutenant colonels, a major, a captain, two command sergeants major and two sergeants first class. In another deadly encounter, two Iraqi generals have been implicated in the deaths of five U.S. servicemen who were kidnapped in Karbala and subsequently killed by attackers who appeared to be wearing American uniforms. This was reported by Fox News. And on Friday, explosions by two suicide bombers in Hilla killed at least 60 Iraqis and wounded 150 others. Earlier in the week, more than 200 were killed in a battle near Najaf. At first, the Iraqi government said the dead were insurgents, but they have since backed off that claim. Now it appears that many of the dead were members of two southern tribes on their way to observe the Shia holiday of Ashura. Please note that neither Karbala nor Hilla nor Najaf are in Al Anbar province or Baghdad.

Regarding comparisons between the conflicts in Iraq and Vietnam, Hurtt's asserts that all comparisons are invalid because of the difference in the number of lives lost. But for the gains in medical technology and the speed and skills of our valiant corpsmen, doctors and nurses, the fatality rate would be much higher in Iraq.

Hurtt also seems to think that we need to continue in Iraq because we failed in Vietnam. I fail to see the sense of such circular logic. I wonder how much more war our country can afford in lives and treasure as estimates of the conflict soar toward a trillion dollars. As a Vietnam veteran, I find it curious that those who argue most for war are those who have never served in one. All that we have achieved so far is to reinforce the basic truth that war is sheer folly and we are the poorer for it.

Kent Flanagan  
Professor, Journalism

### Tolerance key in Commandment debate

To the Editor:

Our founding fathers did not write a 'freedom from religion' in our Constitution, nor was it ever 'implied.' They wanted us to have the same freedoms that they themselves practiced. They quoted the Bible during over 10,000 sessions, and they were all on government lands as they did so. They opened and closed every session with prayers to God, even though they all held different beliefs. Our founding fathers did not fear 'offending' others with an open show of their beliefs when they stood on government-owned lands, as the freedom of speech is an offensive thing. The freedom of speech is the freedom to debate and disagree, on any issue, even religion.

The real issue here is that tolerance is expected from those that disagree and become offended. Tolerance of others' beliefs systems and ideals. There was to be an open discussion, and representation, from all, even though they disagree. If real tolerance is being practiced then this would happen, instead of the ever wished for censorship by those that do not understand freedom of speech.

Also, since other religions are already being represented on government lands, then to not allow Christianity to be represented is discrimination. The Eye Of Horus, a Wiccan and Freemason deity from Egypt, worshiped by the New Age movement, is on our one dollar bill, and the Federal Court House in Nashville. The Obelisk, the Washington Monument, is a symbol for the Wiccan and Freemason deity Osiris from Egyptian religious beliefs, and is represented on the Murfreesboro courthouse lawn. The Statue of Liberty is the Wiccan goddess Ishtar, also from Egyptian religious beliefs. The state seals are also mostly Wiccan goddesses. The Parthenon is covered with gods and goddesses of the new age movement as well. If you do not understand these are New Age deities of Wicca and Freemasonry, contact the MTSU Student Pagan organization on campus to discuss what neo-pagan gods they worship. It is discrimination to not allow the representations of other religions besides the freemasons, wicca, and the new age movement.

Carrie Scoggins  
Bigsby Creek Rd, Cleveland, TN

## SIDELINES

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# FEATURES

## Technological age spurs cheating

### Professors wise up as students discover new ways to cheat

By Katy Coil  
Contributing Writer

In the modern world, all sorts of information is readily available merely by making a few clicks of the mouse or punching in a few buttons on a phone.

Those seeking information, however, don't always have honorable intentions. In recent times, there has been a surge in the use of technology, not only as a means of research, but as a means of avoiding research and original work entirely. On campuses nationwide, students have been discovered using phones to send answers via text messages while others pay for a paper online that would ordinarily take hours of research and writing.

Professors are often forced to deal with students who commit acts of cheating or plagiarism. Alfred Lutz, associate English professor, is no exception. Lutz has encountered four cases of plagiarism in the past two semesters, ranging in degrees of severity. Even though it is relatively easy for students to find papers on line, it is also easy for professors to discover these works, as Lutz explains.

"First, you just have to find the source. Without the source, you have no evidence. It can take time to find the source before you talk to the student to make sure there aren't any mitigating circumstances. Then I give the student an 'F' for the assignment, in most

cases an 'F' for the class, and then I pass on the information to the Department of Judicial Affairs," he says.

Lutz believes students are not aware of the harm they are doing to themselves and those around them.

"One problem is that they cheat themselves out of an education," he says. "Another problem is they also harm other students who worked hard but earned a lower grade than the student who plagiarized. They undermine the integrity of higher

education, to tell their kids that an education is important, but that would be more convincing from someone who had heeded that advice. Anybody who is an adult probably wishes he or she hadn't done things in the past and plagiarism is one of those things later in a life a student might regret most deeply."

The Department of Judicial Affairs deals with students who commit acts like cheating and plagiarism everyday. Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of judicial affairs, asserts that such offenses are a "significant problem."

"Our academic misconduct numbers tend to increase year to year and more often, we see students who think it is no big deal. We believe the numbers are higher than actually reported," she says.

Sosh-Lightsy believes the use of technology is furthering the spread of cheating. "The most prevalent is the 'cut and paste' phenomenon because so much information is on the web and it is so easy to just cut, paste and move on. In past times, you had to take time to copy passages out of books at the library but now students have the ability to send the information through cell phones and PDAs. We are seeing more and more professors who don't allow the use of phones in their classroom."

In order to prevent cases of plagiarism and cheating, the Judicial Affairs department tries to educate students and faculty. "In terms of prevention, we always look for information on the web and speak about academic misconduct in University 1010 classes and to various organiza-

education.

When I was certain I had found plagiarized work, those were the darkest moments in my career as an educator."

In addition, Lutz thinks students who cheat or plagiarize may not realize the future consequences of their actions.

"They need to realize they are cheating themselves out of an education. You hurt your parents, the state and yourself. Ask a student to think of themselves as a par-



Photo illustration by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor  
Though outlets for cheating readily increase with new technology, old favorites still frequent college classrooms. Professors and school officials strive to stay in touch with new technology and continue to keep an eye out for papers purchased online.

tions and groups on campus. When we go to these groups, it's primarily to educate them how to educate students. We are constantly looking for ways to pass on information to students," says Sosh-Lightsy. She adds that her chief concern is student's apathy towards such offenses.

Members of the student body have differing opinions on whether or not the university adequately deals with the discovery and punishment of students who cheat.

Chad Jakes, a junior pre-pharmacy major, believes the university could implement better policy to deal with offenders. "It should go on your permanent record and shouldn't be expunged after a year or a semester," he says. "It should be there for good."

Chad says he also thinks professors should be stricter in ensuring cheating does not occur in their classrooms.

"Professors need to watch out for technology use during classes and tests. They shouldn't have one test for everybody but have different variations, look for better programs to detect papers and all papers should be run through a database."

Ultimately, Chad believes cheaters hurt themselves the most. "If you're going to be a doctor and you cheat through college, are you going to be a good doctor?" he wonders. "College is preparing you for what you need to know and if you cheat through college, what are you really going to know?"

Other students, such as senior social work major Sarah Halliburton, believe the university's stance on cheating students already deals with the problem as well as it can.

"I try not to judge people because I believe everyone has done it at least once in their

lives," she says. "I think people will cheat regardless. The university can't really do anything to make it stop. People still cheat. I don't really think you can take any more measures."

Freshman nursing major LaEndia Buchanan also thinks that measures currently in place cover punishments for offenders. "I don't think [the university] needs to cut down because everyone knows the consequences. If someone really wants to cheat, they'll do it," she says.

LaEndia says she believes those who cheat eventually face problems of their own making.

"People shouldn't cheat because it isn't right. They do nothing that benefits them. Things that they're supposed to be learning now for themselves, when they need it in the future, they won't know it."

As the famous adage goes, "Cheaters never prosper." ♦

## Iota Tau STOMPS the yard

By Lemon Keith  
Staff Writer

"Stomp the Yard" was the number one film for its first two weekends in the box office in January. The film features various performers and celebrities including Chris Brown. Few know, however, that the film also features a step team close to home during the final competition – the Iota Tau chapter of Delta Sigma Theta at MTSU.

Their role in "Stomp the Yard" came after a nation wide open-call for sororities and fraternities to send in tapes.

"At first they didn't respond, but we stepped in a competition at the University of Chattanooga and one of the judges was actually a producer of the film," says Treecie Miller, financial secretary of Iota Tau.

After a few phone calls and a trip to Atlanta, their theatrical steps were brought to the big screen using their 2005 homecoming routine.

With a gleam in her eye and a compassionate tone in her voice, Miller described the first time the women saw themselves on the screen. "It was an adrenaline rush when we saw it on our founder's day, we were excited and clapping even though our role was small," Miller says.

"We knew we would be in the film, but we didn't know we would actually be able to point out people," she continues.

The Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. sense of grounding shows, as Johnson and Miller agree that they did not make a big deal over the film because they did not know how the film would turn out.

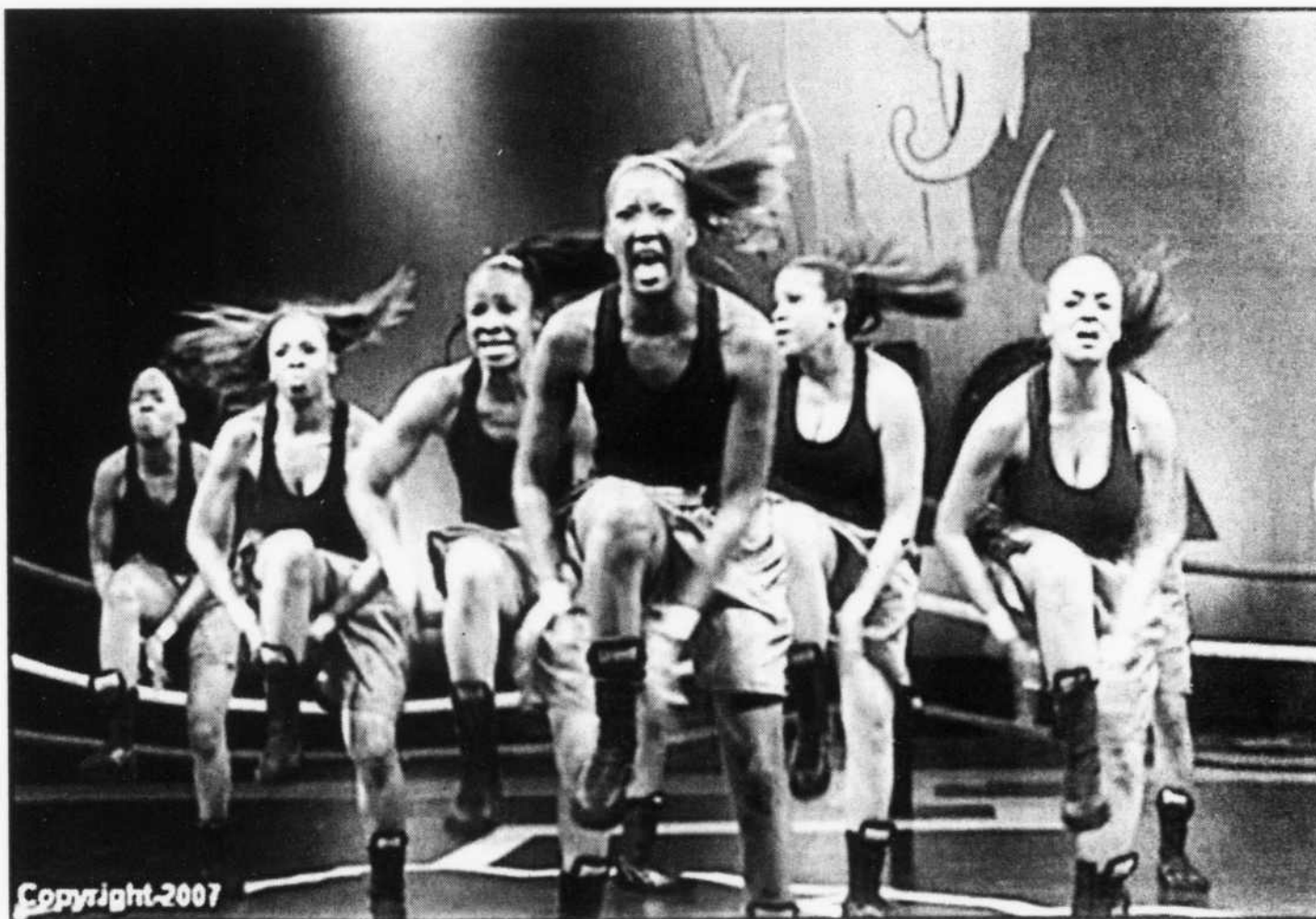
The role may be brief, but it is one that these sisters nor their fans will ever forget.

College students and step-lovers alike are still filling into the theater to catch a glimpse of the beat-throbbing, high-intensity step-dancing that has become legendary.

The collegiate stepping tradition can be traced back to when groups like the Temptations and the Four Tops reigned the airwaves. Fraternity brothers started mimicking their steps, and the tradition of stepping evolved. Today, Greeks incorporate some traditional African ritual dancing and other elements such as tap, gymnastics, and hip-hop.

Although the women of Delta Sigma Theta have won the MTSU step show continuously in recent years, their integrity and humble personalities always pervade over other students' hype.

"Members within Iota Tau



The ladies of the Iota Tau chapter of Delta Sigma Theta at MTSU are known around the community for their philanthropy, generosity and amazing step-routines. Their skill landed them a cameo in the hit film "Stomp the Yard," starring Chris Brown.

have different personalities but compliment each other," says Diane Johnson, step master and chaplain of the Iota Tau chapter. "We come together collectively to achieve common goals."

Their steps are as refreshing as hot chocolate on a cold day, but Johnson humbly says that they "are down to earth, easy to talk to and put God in everything that [they] do."

Johnson's warm personality elevates the room when she smiles. Although sororities everywhere are probably clamoring to hear her chapter's secrets to success, she won't tell. Instead, Johnson coyly says their secret formula must be kept.

"The way organizations step illustrates character ... we are bold, strong, assertive, but still hold a sense of femininity," Johnson says.

The Iota Tau chapter is unmis-

takably distinguishable from other Delta Sigma Theta chapters. "The quality of the women within our chapter is what makes our chapter different, but the goals and contributions are the same," Johnson adds.

Their strength and assertiveness shows through the commitment and community service that Delta Sigma Theta achieves through their "five thrust" program. It focuses on educational and economic development and physical and mental health, among others.

Some Greek organizations say "you make the letters, the letters don't make you."

For Delta Sigma Theta, though, their contributions are well noted and this statement is unarguably true. Just look at the way they have benefited their community since Jan 19, 1973 when it was established at

MTSU by eleven visionary and dynamic women.

"We were trying to put MTSU on the map [when we did the film], it was not just about Delta Sigma Theta. We represent the university to the best of our ability," says Johnson, happy they are able to share this experience with all MTSU students.

"Stomp the Yard," is an inspiring film about finding one's true self in order to benefit your Greek organization to its fullest potential.

Although their role in the film was not big, the role of the Iota Tau chapter of MTSU continues to leave a big imprint on the lives of the Murfreesboro community.

Perhaps it is their unique style or maybe it is their surge of enthusiasm, but the name Delta Sigma Theta speaks for itself in theaters across the globe. ♦

### Show times

Wynnsong 16  
Cason Lane  
1:00pm | 4:05pm  
7:15pm | 9:55pm

Hickory 8  
Bell Road  
4:15pm | 7:05pm  
9:40pm

Opry Mills 20  
Opry Mills Dr.  
12:55pm | 4:05pm  
7:05pm | 9:50pm



# SPORTS

## MT looks for revenge against ULM

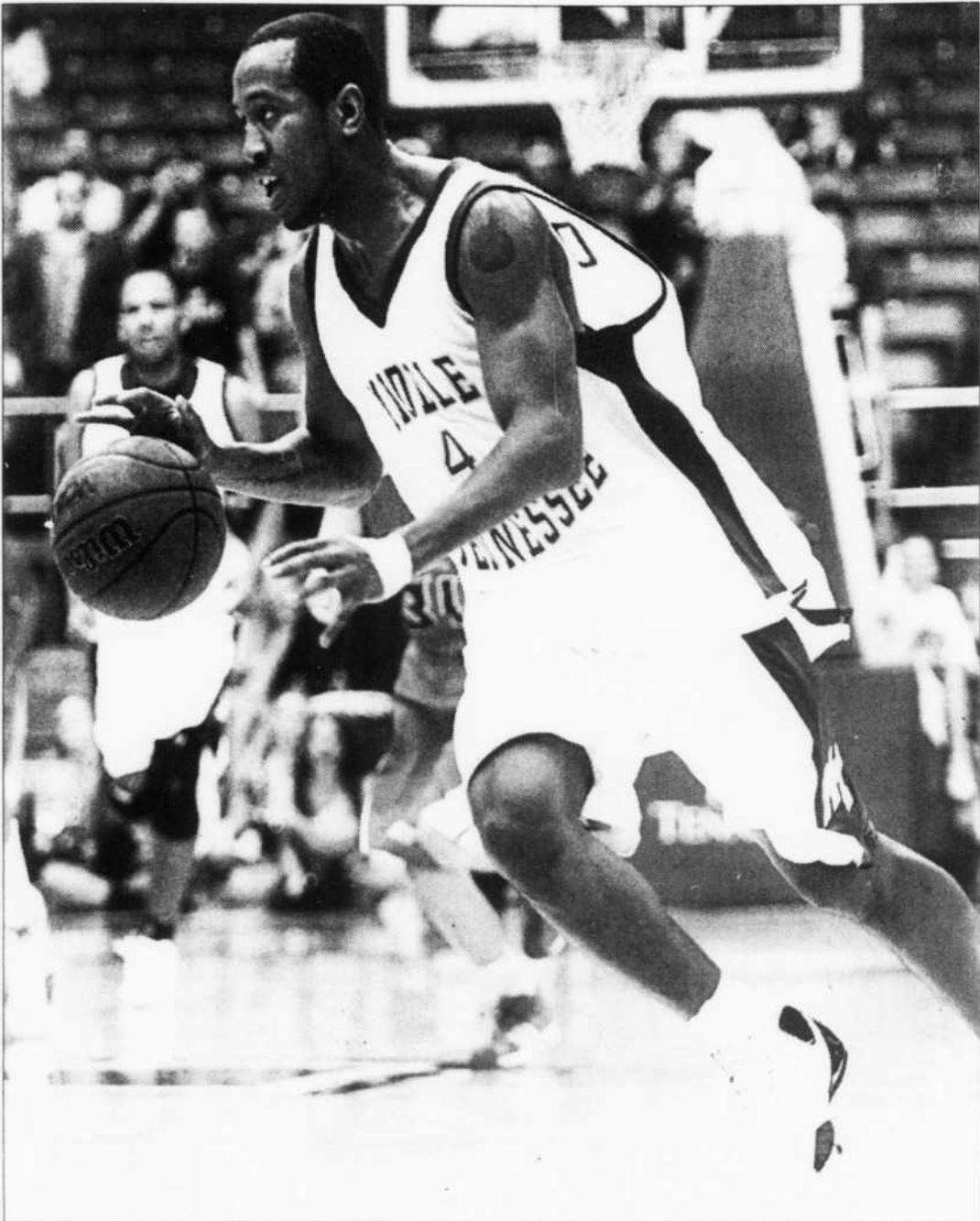


Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Calvin O' Neal drives towards the basket, so he can slam dunk the ball against South Ala

By Wesley Mize  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider basketball team is looking for revenge on the road this weekend. MT travels to Louisiana-Monroe tonight and then will travel to Bowling Green, Ky. to take on the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky on Saturday, Feb. 10.

MT fell to both of these teams earlier this season at Murphy Center. The ULM Warhawks defeated MT on a last second shot by Brandon Roberts on Dec. 17 while WKU handed MT a home loss ten days later thanks to 18 points by Orlando Mendez-Valdez.

The Warhawks (14-10, 8-4) come into the MT game leading the Sun Belt West. ULM is led by a quartet of guards averaging double-digits in scoring. Second leading scorer Jordan Payne lit up the Murphy Center nets in its last meeting with MT scoring a then career-high 27 points.

Payne averages 12 points on the season, but Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis knows he is certainly capable of putting on another offensive show.

"Jordan [Payne] scored 29 points in a loss to Western Kentucky two games ago," Davis said. "He's an explosive player and probably the best sixth man in our league. I do think Darren Avery and Calvin O'Neil have been doing a good job on the opposition's best scoring threat as of late, and they'll have to do the same against Payne."

Kevin Kanaskie will be asked

to do much of the scoring for MT as he has all season. Kanaskie scored 20 points in the loss to ULM and will need to have a good overall game once again in order for MT to come away with the win.

"I don't think a team can win without good guard play in college basketball," Davis said. "We do have a height advantage over Monroe so post-play will be important, but the guards have to be able to make good passes into the post and they also have to knock down open shots from the perimeter."

Tip-off for Thursday Feb. 8 game at Monroe is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Blue Raiders will play what could be the biggest game of the season just two days later when they travel to Western Kentucky in a nationally televised showdown. MT and WKU have had an exciting rivalry going in Davis' tenure and Saturday will no doubt be another classic.

"This is the best rivalry in the Sun Belt, and it will be a packed house," Davis said. "Our players will really get the first taste of how big this game is on Saturday. They're gym will be packed, and the fans will be loud, so it should make for an exciting atmosphere."

The Hilltoppers are led by 6-5 guard Courtney Lee. Lee, the Sun Belt Preseason Player of the Year, matched his season average of 17 points against the Blue Raiders earlier this season.

"What's scary is I still don't think we've seen the best of

Courtney Lee," Davis said. "I still don't think he's 100 percent healthy from injuries he had earlier this year. He's still really good. I think he has the best mid-range jump shot in all of college basketball. His athleticism is tremendous. What I like most about him is that he plays hard all of the time. His work ethic is what separates him from other players."

Once again, guard play will be critical for the Blue Raiders' as they will most likely see a full court press for most of the game.

"Western is going to press us for 40 minutes," Davis said. "We have to protect the ball and make plays out of our press offense. Our guards will need to make the safe pass. I'm not looking for the highlight reel material. We need to play smart and fundamental in order to win this game."

Saturday's game will be televised on ESPN2. This is the first appearance for Middle Tennessee on the ESPN family of networks this season.

"Nationally televised games are important for any sport at Middle Tennessee," Davis said. "We want to make sure we play well and represent our school proudly especially when the national audience is watching. People that watch the game on TV will have a better feeling about our league once they see the atmosphere, the athletes, and the competitive play."

Tip-off for Saturday's game at Western Kentucky is scheduled for 1 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN2 as part of rivalry week. ♦

## Football team announces new recruiting class

By Greg Hohwald  
Staff Writer

It was National Signing day for colleges and universities all across the country yesterday, as high school seniors all over the nation gave their pledges to play for the school of their choice next fall.

Middle Tennessee signed 24 of those players to scholarship agreements on Wednesday, ending months of speculation, phone calls, and meetings between players and coaches.

Head coach Rick Stockstill was very pleased with his class, and is excited about the future.

"I think we filled our needs at every position," Stockstill said. "We signed players at every position and I feel like we have a good solid group."

Middle Tennessee recruiting coordinator Justin Watts was pleased with this years signing class.

"We needed three bodies that could run at receiver and we got that," Watts said. "We got a quarterback and some offensive linemen that can step in, maybe not play right away, but can give us depth."

All, but 13 of the 24 signees for the Blue Raiders come from the defensive side of the ball, and Stockstill said that there was a good reason for that.

"The numbers are real low defensively, so heavily on the defensive side of the ball, Stockstill said. "We're not even 2-deep in some positions on defense. We lost a lot of players at linebacker and in the secondary, and our defensive front will be depleted after next year, so we had to add more depth on defense compared to where we were this past year."

With two of those defensive players, Andrew Harrington and Ivon Hickman, expected to contribute immediately on the defensive side of the ball at the linebacker spot.

The two linebackers, both from East Central Community College in Mississippi, signed a letter of intent back in December and have been with the team since the start of the spring semester.

Although coach Stockstill doesn't think going to the Junior College ranks is something he wants to

make a habit out of, he said this year, he needed some experience considering he lost half of his linebackers to graduation. "Every year, based on immediate need needs, you need to look JUCO."

Also, another interesting fact is that 11 of the 24 players that signed letters of intent came from the sunshine state of Florida, with four of those players all coming from the same high school [Tampa, Jefferson].

According to Watts, the plan wasn't to go into Florida and raid the talent there, it just worked out that way.

"Florida, that was a big state for us, getting our recruits," Watts said. "This year that's just the way it happened to fall. This year it just so happened that Florida was a place where we had ins, where our previous coaches had ties."

When asked if he thought any of the freshmen coming in would see playing time, Watts responded, "You would hope that you could redshirt every kid, but that's just not possible. Some of these guys are going to have the talent, and then be able to do what we ask them to do mentally. Then they'll play."

On the offensive side of the ball, the Blue Raiders signed 11 players, including four linemen and three wide receivers, a quarterback, a running back, a full-back, and a tight end.

The most important position was along the offensive line, where the Blue Raiders had very pressing needs.

"You always need to do that to fill the needs on the offensive line. If we're behind any place on the offense in terms of numbers right now, it would be on the offensive line," G.A. Mangus, offensive coordinator said.

Mangus added that Middle Tennessee needed to get more athletic along the offensive line, and he thought they accomplished that.

"I think Mark Fisher, local kid, has a chance to be a great player," Mangus said. "The two Tampa guys, Mike Williams and Colin Boss, are different, in terms of Colin being a big, big strong 300-pound type kid, but athletic lacrosse player and then you

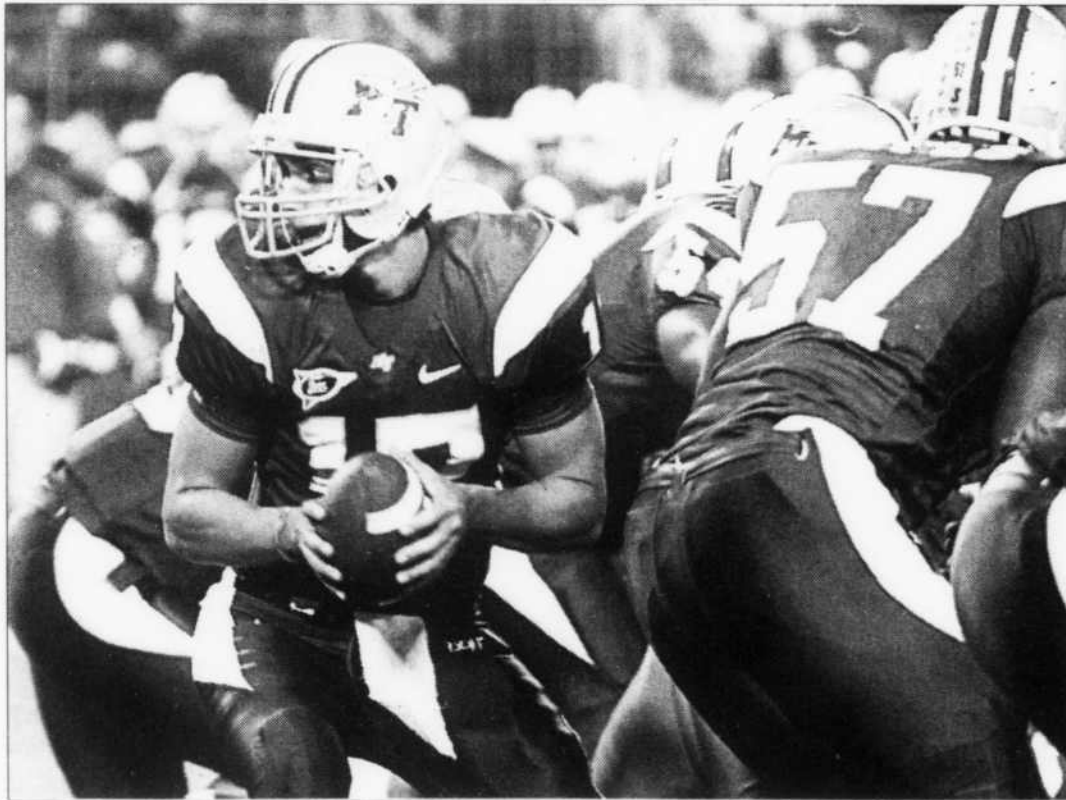


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Senior Clint Marks hands off the ball. The Blue Raiders brought in 24 new recruits on signing day. MT finished 7-6 last year.

got Mike Williams who is a great athlete, who played d-line, and those are the kind of guys that I really like."

"We needed to get more athletic on the offensive line and I think we did and of course Jake Padrick," Mangus said. "[He] is a young scrapper, and a good athletic center. I think all four of them will contribute to us over the next four years."

Stockstill and his staff also looked to add much needed athleticism to the wideout position, and by the looks of things, they did that as well. The three receivers they did bring in, all had a unique set of skills.

Wes Caldwell, according to coach Mangus, was probably the most college ready receiver they signed. Mangus had nothing but praise for the 6-foot-2 receiver from Lexington, Kentucky.

"Wes Caldwell is a very polished high school receiver," Mangus said. "He will catch a lot of balls, runs crisp routes, and plays older than he is with what he brings maturity-wise, I think he has the chance to get on the field early."

The second receiver, Deandre (D.D.) Kyles, is a blazer-type receiver from Tampa, Florida.

See Recruiting, 7

## Tennis team prepares for Washington, Texas Tech, Louisville

By Colby George  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders will be going this weekend's matches with a winning streak of four matches. Their streak will be challenged as soon as they arrive in Seattle, Wash. when they face a No. 14 ranked Washington Huskies [3-1] team.

Saturday they will face Texas Tech [2-1] and then soon followed by a rivalry match verses No. 42 Louisville on Sunday.

"We have not been on the road for a duel match," Head coach Dale Short said. "we will have to wait and see how we do."

The Raiders have yet to face a

team with a ranking as high as Washington's, but all focus cannot be put on the Huskies with two games following on the next two days.

"We will be facing three very good teams," Short said. "Washington is a top twenty-five team, Texas Tech should be a top twenty-five and Louisville always plays us like their number one because of the rivalry."

Texas Tech will be led by their No. 12 ranked guy, junior Bojan Szumanski who is currently 2-1 in singles action this season.

Texas Tech is currently 2-1 overall, and they have yet to play a Big 12 match. The Red Raiders

were upset by Denver who is in the Sun Belt Conference.

While Texas Tech has their stars, the Blue Raider's star Andreas Siljestrom, is on a roll after just being named SBC Player of the Week. Siljestrom is 12-5 in singles and has a 16-4 record in doubles as well. Siljestrom has defeated six nationally ranked players.

"Siljestrom is healthy and playing the best tennis of his life," Short said. "if he keeps this up when matched up against Szumanski of Texas Tech, he will hopefully come out on top."

Washington is fresh off a 5-2 win over Brigham Young. The

Huskies were lead by their senior leader Alex Slovic who just moved into sixth all time with is 84th singles match win.

"Washington is a very tough team, but we match up well," Short said. "I would much rather play them last in the matches this weekend just to see what they are working with."

Louisville is the closest to a rival that MT has in tennis. The Cardinals are 4-2 and are on a two match winning streak going to Seattle.

"Although Louisville is ranked

See Tennis, 8



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor

Senior Marco Born continues to heal as the Raiders prepare for Washington this weekend



# Lady Raiders face foes

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders have only three weeks remaining before the Sun Belt Tournament.

This week, Middle Tennessee has a double dip on the road starting with Louisiana-Monroe.

ULM enters the game against the Lady Raiders with a 14-9 record on the season including four wins and eight losses in conference.

The No. 19 ranked Lady Raiders have outscored all conference foes, not allowing any team to come within single digits of their lead.

Yet the Lady Warhawks have been a strong home team. Over their past 50 games, Louisiana-Monroe has compiled a 40-10 record. Conversely, Middle Tennessee has only lost one road game to No. 3 ranked Tennessee.

The Lady Raiders defeated the Lady Warhawks 103-59 in their first meeting this season in Murfreesboro. ULM has received strong play from their bench. In 17 of the 23 games they have played, the bench has scored 20 or more points.

This is one area where the Lady Warhawks will look to exploit. Defensively, Louisiana-Monroe is among the conference leaders in field goal percentage defense. The team is only allowing 38 percent from the floor.

Lajeanna Howard is the only player averaging in double figures for the Lady Warhawks, and the team relies on a set of balanced scoring from a number of different players.

In contrast, the Lady Raiders' other opponent this week Western Kentucky relies on their leading scorer Crystal Kelly who averages 23.5 points per game and is on the Wooden Award list. She joins Chrissy Givens as the two representatives in the Sun Belt.

The Lady Hilltoppers look to avenge their 76-62 loss to the Lady Raiders.

Western Kentucky has a record of 16-5 and has lost only two games in league play. Dominique Duck also is averaging double figures in scoring with 13 points per game. The Lady Hilltoppers have outscored opponents by 18 points per game and have been strong in the conference as well.

Western Kentucky has been very consistent from the field shooting over 45 percent on the season.

One area of weakness however is the lack of three point shooting. The team is averaging only 30 percent from behind the arc.

The Lady Raiders will definitely have their hands full this weekend as they try to extend their consecutive game streak to 20 games on the season.

The biggest question that remains in the conference season is the game against WKU.

If the Lady Raiders win their remaining conference games could be blowouts for the Lady Raiders, it could mean an undefeated record in the conference.

It is fitting that the SBC crown comes down to Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

The rivalry will continue on Sunday at 2 p.m. ♦

## Recruits: Looking toward the future

Continued from 6

"D.D. has got what I call world class type speed," Mangus said. "One of the things we've lacked is that deep threat and I think D.D. brings that to us."

The 3rd receiver, Walt Dozier, is a big time receiver from Chattanooga. "I think Walt Dozier is very physical. He brings the physical presence to the wide receiver position," Mangus said.

Perhaps no recruit got G.A. more excited than Dwight Dasher, a 5-foot-10 quarterback from Charlton High in Georgia.

Although some suspect that Dwight, lacking the ideal height to play quarterback, might switch to receiver or

safety, Mangus said that may not be the case.

"We're going to let Dwight play quarterback," Mangus said. "He is a guy, if you see him on film and see the great program he comes from, he is a winner, and the thing I want first and foremost in a quarterback is a winner. I like a quarterback that has 'it,' but that 'it' is something, and I think Dwight has that."

When asked what stands out about Dwight's athletic ability Mangus said, "The thing about him is obviously his athleticism. I thought he was the best player on the field when his team played in the playoffs."

Mangus gave no specifics

about who may play in the fall or who would be where come spring practice, but he is anticipating working with his new players.

"All these guys we brought in on offense, we expect to help them and look forward to the opportunity to coach them in the fall."

Judging by the buzz from all of the coaches in meeting room yesterday, everyone is excited to strap on the pads for spring practice, which begins in a few weeks.

When asked if he was excited for the upcoming season, Mangus laughed, and with a smile on his face. ♦

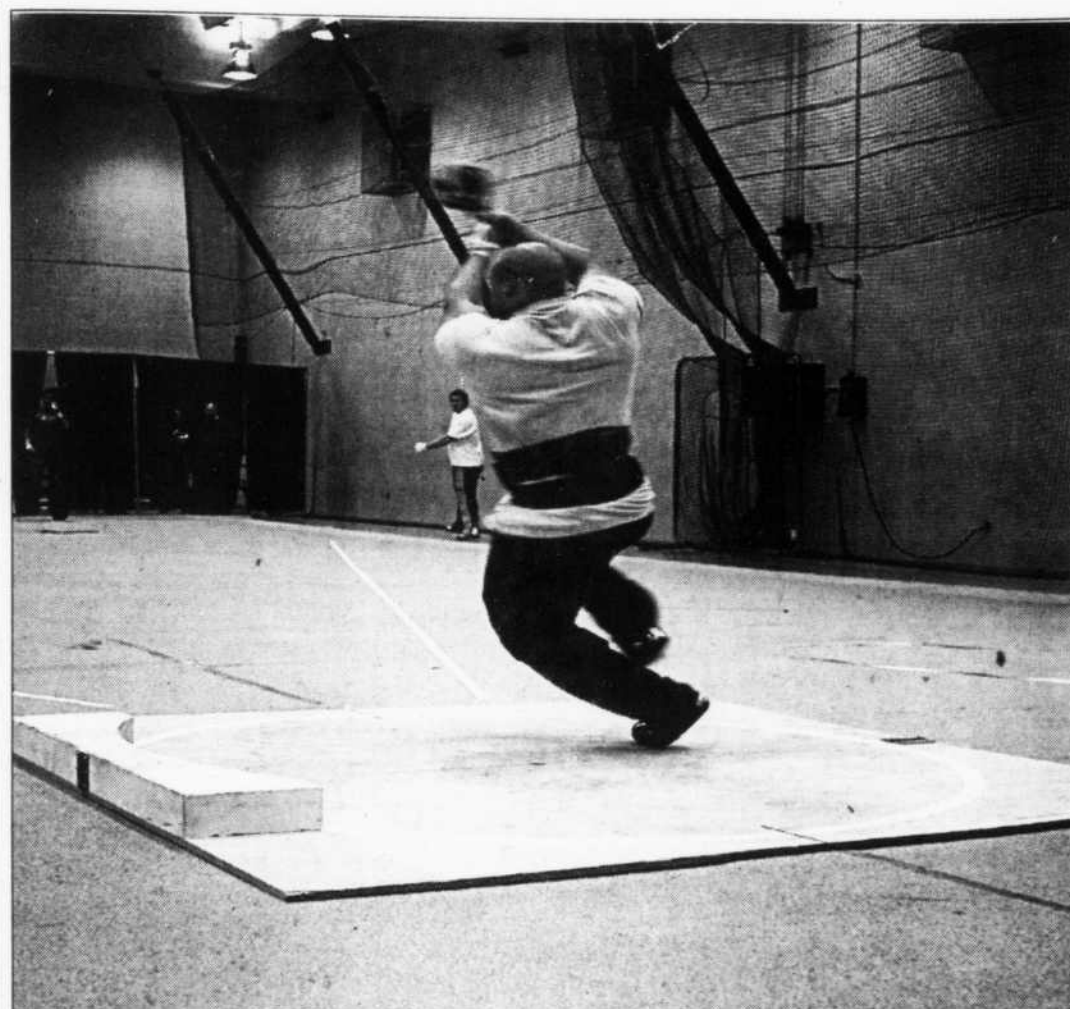


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer  
Senior James Thomas goes into his windup for the hammer toss. Thomas and Sara Lunning found success at Indiana.

## Track team set new records at last weekend's Indiana relays

By Brendon Henson  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders track team won three events competing in the two-day Indiana Relays in Bloomington, Indiana last weekend.

"We had some good performances so far," Graduate assistant Laetitia Florimond said. "We've got everything going in the right direction. We need everyone doing their part."

Senior Orlando Reid placed first in the 200-meters and 400-meters. Reid posted a provisional time of 21.38 in the 200-meters on Saturday, with senior Juan Walker finishing in fifth place at a time of 22.03.

Reid also took home first place in the 400-meter race with a winning time of 47.77.

The runners also took first in the 4x400-meter relay, finishing with a time of 3:13.31.

Taking part in the relay were Walker, Reid, senior Jermaine Barton and junior Carlos Morgan.

Senior Sara Lunning competed in the 5000-meters and broke a school record held by former Blue Raider Lea White, who set the record in

1992. Lunning passed White's mark by 10 seconds 18:37.28.

"[The runners'] times have been getting better, especially in the 400," coach Florimond said.

Senior James Thomas broke the school record in the weight throw, which he set last season. Thomas finished fourth with a mark of 58-8.75, besting his previous record by more than a foot and a half. Thomas also finished eighth in the shot put with a mark of 50-8.75.

Morgan's mark of 23-6.75 in the long jump was good enough for fourth place, and senior JaKeith Hairston finished in seventh with a jump of 22-4.5.

For the women, Melyn Thompson posted a mark of 45-4.5 in the shot put to finish in second place. Freshman Brittany Cox came in fifth with a throw of 45-0.25.

"Our throwers, they've been very competitive this season," Florimond said. "They've been very focused."

The track team returns to Murfreesboro this weekend for the MT Valentine Invitational at the Murphy Center at 10:30 a.m. ♦

## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2007/2008 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$19 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online. Please note that the amount of the prepaid rent deposit has increased to **\$300** for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

\*\*Summer 2007 Housing Applications are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

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For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

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eeo/aa



## Tennis: Texas Tech preview

Continued from 6

on the lower end of the teams we are going to be playing, they are just as good," Short said. "As I have always been saying rankings right now mean nothing all the current rankings are now are how each team finished the year last year."

Middle is currently recovering from all their previous injuries. Born sat out from practice on Sunday and Monday to let his ankle heal and then had a light practice on Tuesday as well.

"Born is around 80 percent," Short said. "Hopefully he can make it to 90 percent by the time we get to Seattle."

Although he is injured, Born and Siljeström are tearing

through all their opponents in doubles. They are currently ranked 16th, and together, they have a 16-4 record.

"If they play their best together, they will be real difficult to beat," Short said. "It is unrealistic to think that they can play this well the whole season, but if they do it will be a real boost to the rest of the team."

Going into Seattle, Middle Tennessee is hoping to stretch their winning streak to seven. With Born and Siljeström playing like they are, it will be really hard for anyone to beat them.

Middle Tennessee returns to play Mississippi State on Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Racquet Club. ♦

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For more information, visit Forrest Hall, Room 1, or contact Major Giles at 898-2470 or cgiles@mtsu.edu

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