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**Monday**  
**46°/37°**

Sidelines is the semiweekly student newspaper of MTSU. Anyone can have up to two copies of the current issue free of charge.

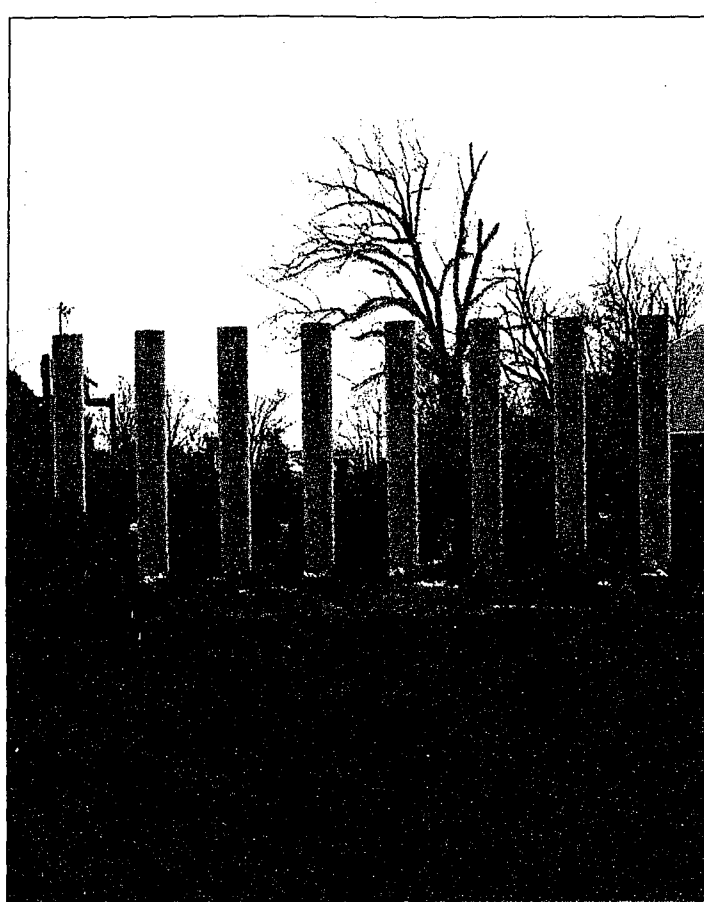


# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 24



## Student allegedly assaulted on Greek Row

By ALEX MOORMAN  
News Editor

A female MTSU student claims she was sexually assaulted on Greek Row sometime between 9 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 3 a.m. on Dec. 4, according to the MTSU police department.

The victim said she awoke in a fraternity house on Greek Row and believed she had been sexually assaulted. The victim said she remembers nothing from the hours of the alleged assault. Police officials are trying to con-

tact a friend of the victim to substantiate the location of the assault.

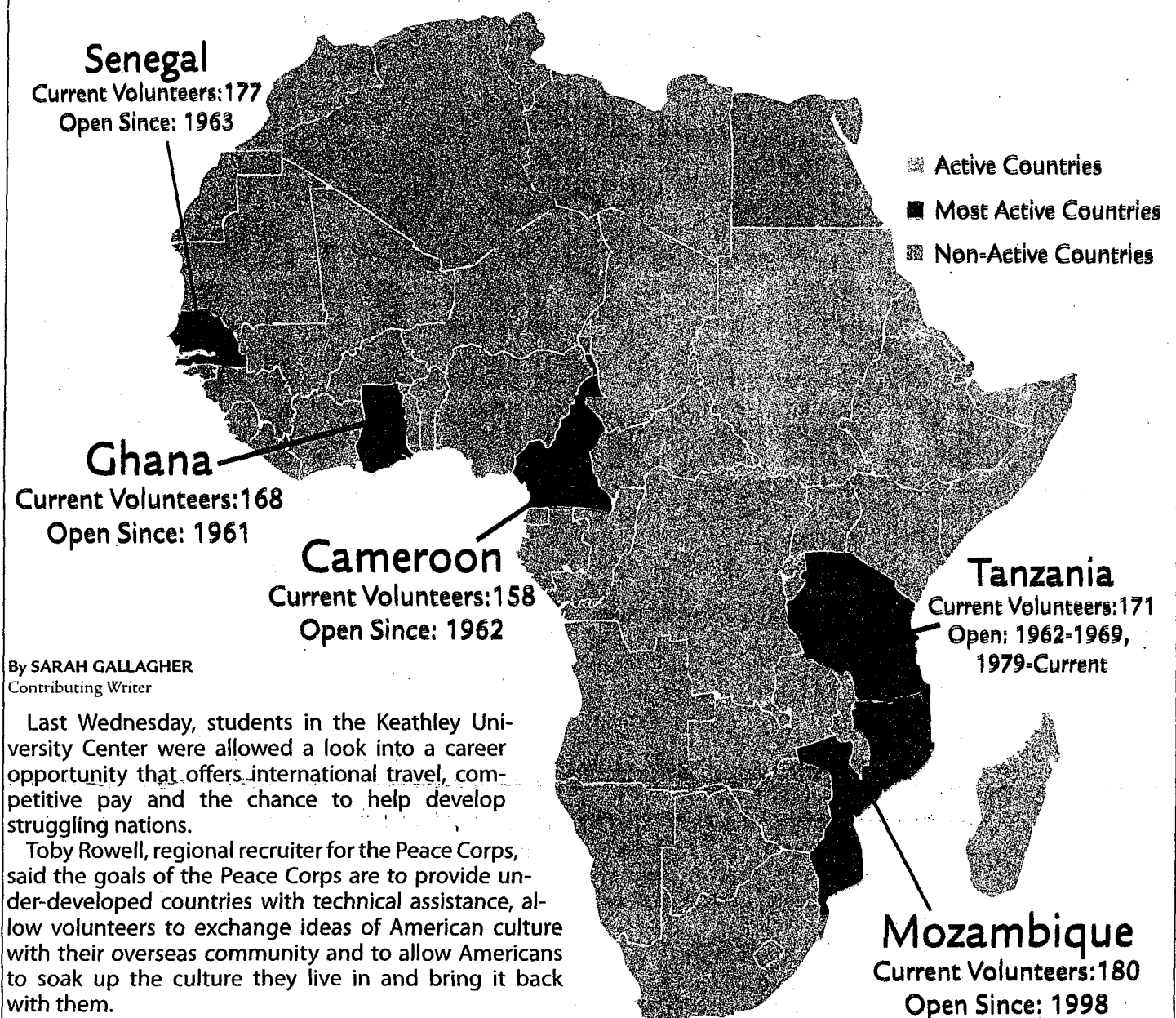
Sergeant David Smith of the MTSU police department responded to the call from the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Emergency Room. MTMC said they had a female claiming she had been raped on Greek Row. The victim was not treated for any physical injuries at MTMC.

Neither Chief Buddy Peaster nor Smith could be reached for comment.

The case is still under investigation.

## Students fight poverty

37 percent of Peace Corps volunteer job requests by host countries in 2009 came from Africa



By SARAH GALLAGHER  
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday, students in the Keathley University Center were allowed a look into a career opportunity that offers international travel, competitive pay and the chance to help develop struggling nations.

Toby Rowell, regional recruiter for the Peace Corps, said the goals of the Peace Corps are to provide under-developed countries with technical assistance, allow volunteers to exchange ideas of American culture with their overseas community and to allow Americans to soak up the culture they live in and bring it back with them.

"Peace Corps was born out of this rhetoric," Rowell said. "This was the first time Peace Corps was conceptually created and vocalized. [President John F.] Kennedy challenged students to give up two years of their lives to go to developing countries and offer technical services."

Peace Corps has served 139 countries and trained nearly 200,000 volunteers. Currently, there are 7,671 volunteers serving in 75 countries around the world.

A Peace Corps press release said seven MTSU graduates are currently serving in Samoa, Kyrgyz Republic, Gambia, Tanzania, Kazakhstan, the Philippines and Honduras.

The Peace Corps is a 27-month-long program which includes three months of training and 24 months of service. The service is broken up into six different programs: health, business information and communication technology, the environment, agriculture, education and youth and community development.

"It's a chance to positively influence communities

around the world and show a different side of America," Rowell said. "It's also an adventure. If you love international travel and love helping people, Peace Corps is a great opportunity to take the technical knowledge you learn in college and apply it in a practical sense."

Rowell said that while Peace Corps is a service to benefit people in under-developed countries, there are many benefits for volunteers both during and after service.

In-service benefits include a round-trip plane ticket, housing, a monthly living allowance, full medical coverage, 48 vacation days, and a re-adjustment allowance of \$6,000 at the end of Peace Corps service.

To read more, visit us online.

**online**  
www.mtsusidelines.com

Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

## Students herd together, help abused horses

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Staff Writer

Students from MTSU's Equestrian Team have been volunteering to help 84 abused and neglected horses, mules and donkeys rescued from a Cannon County farm on Nov. 24.

A five-month-old mule from the farm that the Can-

Billy Nichols, Cannon County sheriff, said in a press conference last Tuesday that Charles and Clint Howland, owners of the animals, have been charged with cruelty of animals. Both men made bonds of \$1,500.

The Cannon County District Attorney is expected to file charges some time

this week.

"Many of the horses were extremely emaciated and suffering from a variety of medical ailments including overgrown and infected hooves and parasite infestation," stated the Humane Society of the United States Web site. "Rescuers also found several dead horses on

**"Many of the horses were extremely emaciated and suffering from a variety of medical ailments."**  
HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES WEB SITE

non County Sheriff's office and U.S. Humane Society raided died on the morning of Nov. 29.

The animals were taken to a rescue shelter at the Tennessee State Fair Grounds. There they were given medical attention and necessary care for neglect and abuse.

Students from the MTSU Equestrian Team were on site at the fairgrounds helping the rescued animals into their shelter Nov. 24 after transportation from the Bradyville, Tenn., farm.

Scotlund Haisley, senior director of Emergency Services for the Humane Society of the United States, said the MTSU volunteers have been very helpful in the effort to rehabilitate the horses.

"The level of expertise [MTSU volunteers] have been providing has been a unique one, and a necessary one," Haisley said.

Christine Henry, a sophomore horse science major, and four other volunteers from the equestrian team helped the animals off of the trailers, set up stalls and prepared the stalls.

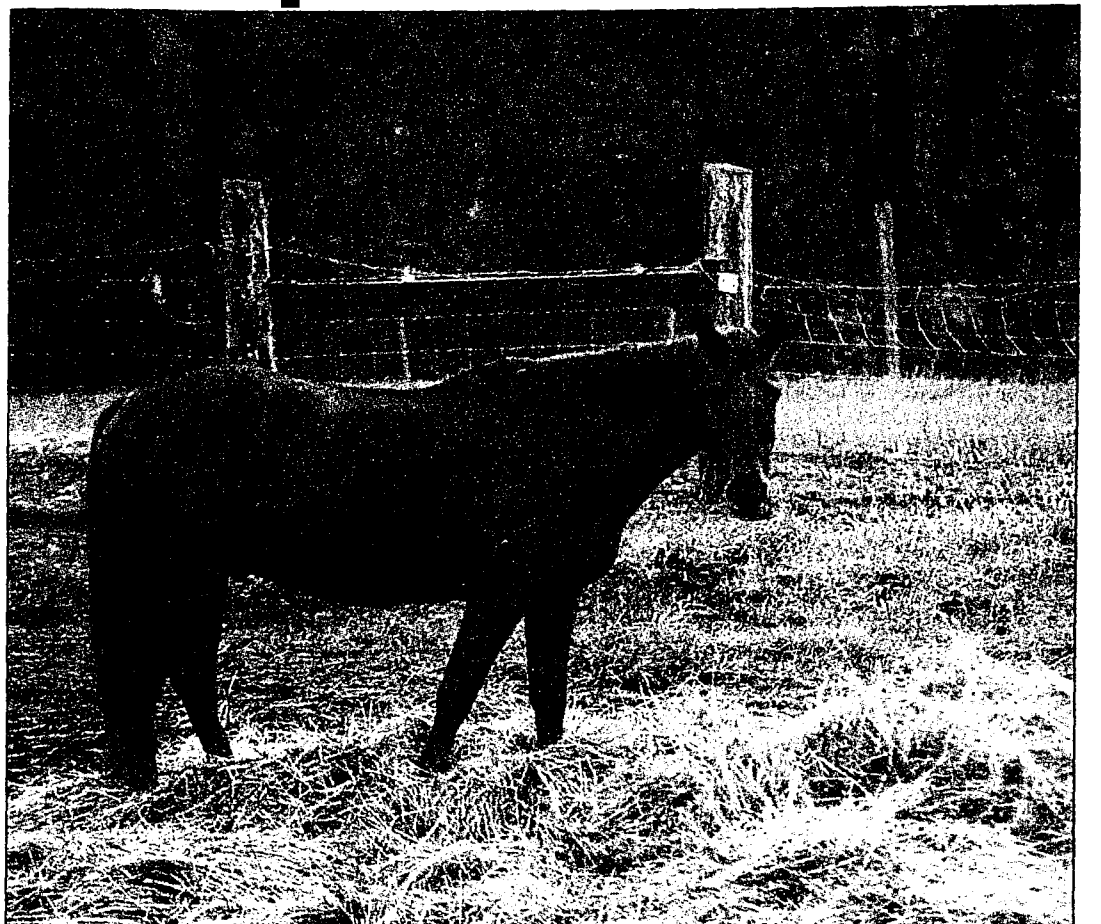


Photo by Alex Treneff, staff photographer  
Students are working with the Humane Society to care for 84 abused and neglected horses, mules and donkeys.

# Chemist teaches students, faculty problem solving

By **QUINTON PARKER**  
Contributing Writer

MTSU's Distinguished Lecture Series brought renowned laser chemistry expert Richard N. Zare to campus last Tuesday to speak about problem solving.

The lecture, entitled "How to Succeed," took place in MTSU's State Farm Room and focused on various methods of problem solving.

Zare provided the audience with numerous critical thinking problems and invited them to attempt finding a solution. Though all of the problems were similar in nature, Zare explained after each problem a different solution method.

After solving each problem he provided, Zare showed ways to apply the same problem solving method to everyday use.

"Solving problems is very much like playing a musical instrument," Zare said. "The more you practice solving problems, the better you become at solving problems; no one I know has learned to play the piano by just reading a book entitled 'How to Play the Piano.'"

The lecture was forwarded by Racquel Ingram, a member of Women in Science and Engineering, Daniel Gouger, president of MTSU's Honors Student Association and Bill Badley, MTSU's Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Zare also gave a second lecture for the Distinguished Lecture Series last Wednesday. The second of his lectures was far more technical and focused more on Zare's discoveries in the Chemistry field. It also dealt with several issues in the science community ranging from new ways to administer medicine to isotope ratios in elements.

Zare has won numerous awards in the chemistry field and was named Chair of Stanford University's Chemistry Department in 2006. Most recently, he was awarded the American Chemical Society's Priestley Medal, the highest honor awarded by the organization.

## EQUINE FROM PAGE 1

"It's pretty bad," Henry said. "It was definitely an experience to remember."

Henry said that when the horses arrived at the fair grounds shelter, some of them were having trouble standing, had intestinal problems and looked emaciated due to lack of nutrition.

"I cannot fathom [letting] that many, or any horse at all, starve to that point," Henry said.

Rescuers said the condition of the animals was so severe, some were not expected to survive the trailer ride to the rescue site.

"It's miraculous we've had as many survivors as we've had thus far," Haisley said.

Haisley said because animal cruelty is against the law, action against it needs to be done through the law and that the HSUS tries to work with the local authorities.

"We rely on the general public to report animal abuse, even if they just suspect it," Haisley said. "If you want to see an



Photo by Alex Treneff, staff photographer  
MTSU students from the equestrian team help tend to abused horses.

outcome, you cannot act on your own, you need to address it through the legal system."

Equestrian team members have volunteered throughout the last two weeks in small groups.

Megan Hephner, a junior equine science major and member of the MTSU Equestrian Team, said she plans on going to help when she can.

"I think it's great to give back to the community," Hephner said.

Hephner said members of the team helped feed, groom and hold the animals while they were being tended to because the abused horses may not respond well to being tied.

"Some of the things like cleaning stalls is quite a task for those who have not done it before," Henry said.

Henry said that any student who feels comfortable around horses is welcome to volunteer. Volunteers may help with the horses and an agriculture background is not necessary.

"Whether it's doing things in junction with the horses or just doing things around them we need," Henry said.

Any student interested in volunteering with the equestrian team can contact Christine Henry at [chenry89@bellsouth.net](mailto:chenry89@bellsouth.net) or contact the HSUS at [Tnhorserescue@HSUS.org](mailto:Tnhorserescue@HSUS.org).

## CRIME BRIEFS

<b>Dec. 1, 11:25 a.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> Greenland Drive Parking Lot B Report of a wallet stolen from a vehicle in the parking lot.	<b>Dec. 2, 3:11 p.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> James E. Walker Library Report of a stolen textbook.	<b>Dec. 4, 1:56 a.m.</b> <b>Underage Alcohol Consumption</b> Faulkinberry Drive Rivers Maxon was issued a state citation for consumption of alcohol under the age of 21.
<b>Dec. 1, 3:56 p.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> James E. Walker Library Report of a stolen textbook.	<b>Dec. 2, 7:19 p.m.</b> <b>Harassment</b> MTSU Police Department Report of harassing text messages and e-mails.	<b>Dec. 4, 3:19 a.m.</b> <b>DUI</b> Rutherford Boulevard Scott Shaver was arrested and charged with adult driving while impaired, violation of implied consent law, underage consumption of alcohol under the age of 21, violation of the open container law and possession of alcohol under the age of 21.
<b>Dec. 1, 9:03 p.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> Business Aerospace Building Lot Report of a registration tag stolen from the vehicle.	<b>Dec. 2, 11:11 p.m.</b> <b>Vandalism</b> Womack Lane Apartments Parking Lot Report of a broken window in vehicle.	
<b>Dec. 2, 12:16 p.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> Jim Cummings Hall Report of a bike stolen.	<b>Dec. 3, 11:59 a.m.</b> <b>Theft</b> James E. Walker Library Report of a stolen textbook.	

## CURRENT EVENTS

<b>"Messiah"</b> <b>Dec. 6 - 7, 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Hinton Music Hall Admission: \$10	<b>Study Day</b> <b>Dec. 10</b> Location: campus wide	<b>Events Policy</b>  Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to <a href="mailto:slcopy@mtsu.edu">slcopy@mtsu.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:slnews2@mtsu.edu">slnews2@mtsu.edu</a> , and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.
<b>Tornado Siren Test Date</b> <b>Dec. 8, 12:20 p.m.</b> Location: campus wide	<b>MTSU String Chamber Recital</b> <b>Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Hinton Music Hall Admission: Free	 Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.
<b>Last Day of Classes</b> <b>Dec. 9</b> Location: campus wide	<b>Star Wars In Concert</b> <b>Dec. 13, 6 p.m.</b> Location: Sommet Center, Nashville Price: \$35 - \$75	

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

seeks students interested in the following positions for Spring 2010

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We are also looking for writers, photographers and graphic designers for news, sports, features and opinions.

Applications are due on Monday, Dec. 7.

For more information, please stop by our office in the Mass Communication Building, Room 269.

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Thanks again for all the hard work! Just a reminder if you checked out letters at the Great Lick-A-Thon, please make sure those letters are turned in before the semester is over.

Contact Chloe Robinson or Edgard Izaguirre at [uptldawn@mtsu.edu](mailto:uptldawn@mtsu.edu) with any questions of concerns.

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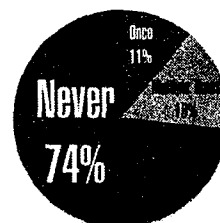


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## FEATURES

HAVE YOU EVER  
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ON CAMPUS?BASED ON VOTES FROM  
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## Bike Nite attracts fixed-gear cyclists

'Who are these insane kids doing preposterous things on trendy bikes in the Quad everyday?'

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant News Editor

If you've ever found yourself making your way to the John Bragg Mass Communication building, you've seen them. In fact, you've probably had to maneuver around them to avoid getting run over.

Cursing under your breath, you ask yourself, "Who are these insane kids doing preposterous things on trendy bikes in the Quad everyday?"

After months of asking myself this question, I finally got an adequate answer from Ryan Green, one of the riders who frequents the Quad.

"I guess you could call us the Chirp Crew," Green says tentatively. "I know it's random, but someone just started using it as a verb, like 'hey want to go chirp at the Quad?' – and it just kind of stuck."

To be more specific, he is a member of Chirp, the Murfreesboro Fixed Gear Crew, and for these guys, a bike is more than just a simple mode of transportation.

"I used to skateboard when I was younger," explains Carter Harris, avid fixed-gear rider. "So it's like my new way of pushing myself to learn tricks and ride with my friends."

To explain this fixed-gear phenomenon, first you have to know exactly what a fixed-gear bike is. Fixed-gears, or "fixies" as they often referred to, are bicycles with one speed and no freewheel. This means you can't coast on them. Oh, and the icing on top of this seemingly suicidal cake is that they have no breaks.

"Here I'll show you how it works, I had to explain it to my mom too," Green says with enthusiasm as he jumps up and gives me a demonstration. "If I'm pedaling backwards, the back wheel is going to go backwards,

forward it's going to go forwards. You have to lock up your legs to make it stop."

As I pictured myself on one of these things careening down a hill, arms and legs flailing because I have no way of stopping, Green explains how to handle yourself in that sort of situation.

"If I'm going really fast down a hill, instead of just letting my legs spin out, you do something called resistant pedaling," Green says, moving his legs on the pedals to help explain. "You stop the peddles a little bit by locking up your legs as you're going and you start skidding, eventually to a stop."

At this point, you're probably thinking what I was thinking: I don't handle crashing into stationary objects and road rash very well. But Green insists it's not as unsafe as it sounds.

"Anyone who rides a fixed gear can tell you it's perfectly safe," Green reassures me. "When you ride a bike with no brakes, you have to be really aware of everything that's going on around you – your senses are heightened and you pay attention more."

So why ride a brakeless bike that can't coast?

"So you can do tricks!" Harris says with excitement. "It reminds me of skateboarding in the 80s when it suddenly blew up and everyone was doing tricks."

Because they have the ability to pedal backwards, fixies allow the rider to do crazy stunts, which you can often witness riders doing in front of the Mass Communication building. The fixie, however, was not invented with the idea of doing tricks.

"They came from the West Indies," says Jaime Shafer, giving me a mini history lesson. "They would fix up these cheap bikes that didn't need brakes and didn't need



Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer

Some of the chirpers gather on the Quad with their fixies in preparation for Bike Nite, which takes place every Thursday night at 9 p.m.

a lot of maintenance."

Shafer says when people from the islands came to New York City with the bikes and became bike messengers, the demand for these cheap and fast bikes grew.

To fully appreciate the fixed-gear trend in all its glory, I partook in what

the Chirp crew likes to call "Bike Nite," an event that takes place just about every Thursday night around 9 p.m.

Starting as a leisurely ride around Murfreesboro, Bike Nite has quickly gained momentum, often bringing together as many as

60 cyclists.

"We made flyers and went around putting them on all the bikes we thought were cool," Green says of the first Bike Nite that took place around fall of 2008. "I really wasn't even sure if people would come, but around 20 people showed up."

Participants of Bike Nite pile their bikes in the center of the quad and form a giant circle around them. After this, one of the members directs the group in a series of stretches via a megaphone that Green purchased.

BIKE NITE, PAGE 4

## Non-traditional students make MTSU home

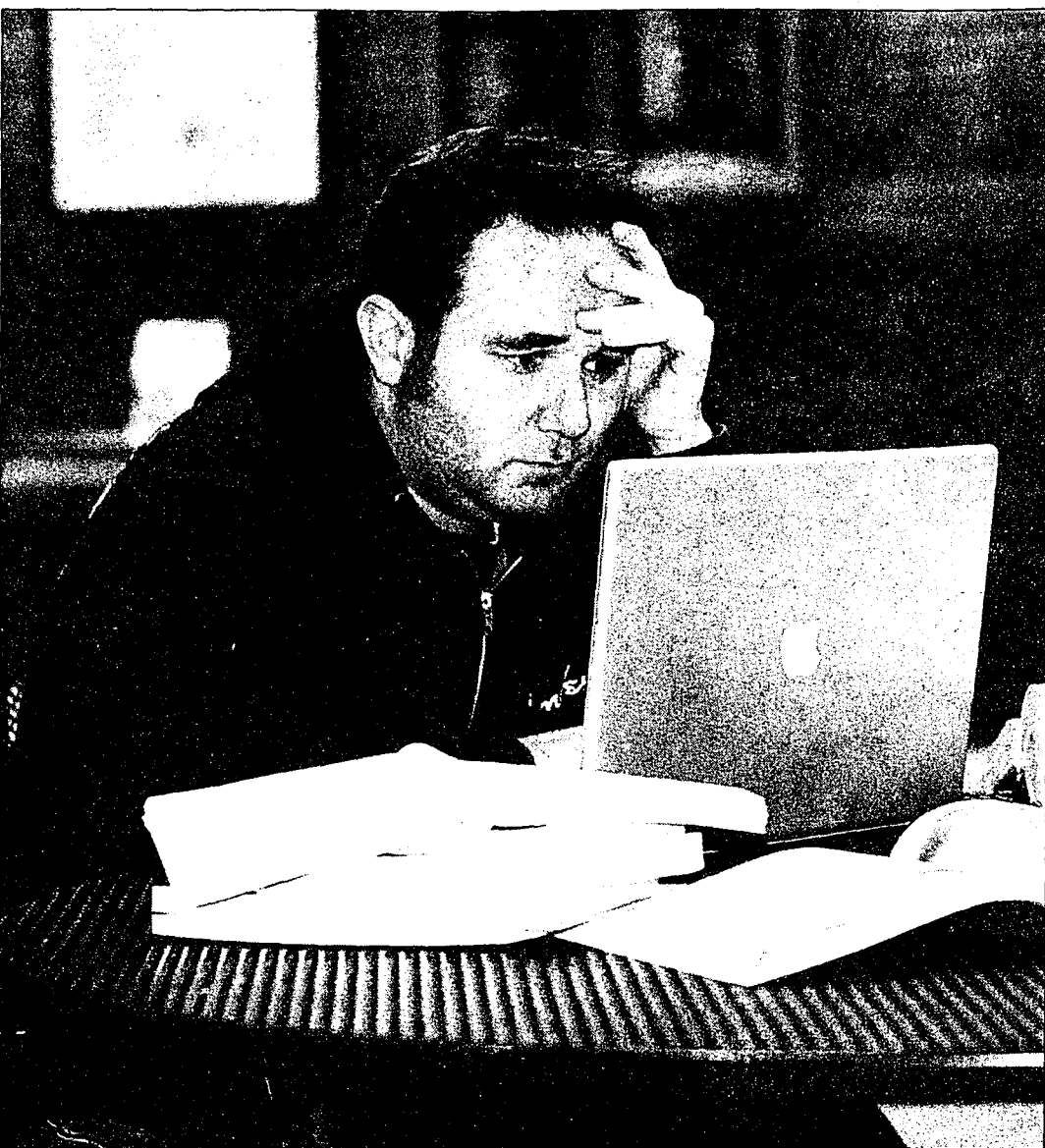


Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Non-traditional students often have to juggle pressures beyond the classroom, including full-time or part-time jobs, spouses, children and the challenges of returning to school after a period of absence.

By BRITTANY KLATT  
Staff Writer

Most students complain about not having enough time in the day. Between papers, exams and all of the necessary tasks such as laundry and grocery shopping, it seems like a small miracle when there is a spare moment to go see a movie with friends or catch up on some missed sleep.

But for the non-traditional students on MTSU, those moments of luxury are an even rarer occurrence. The extra responsibilities they have make it near impossible for them to complete everything they need to.

"A non-traditional student doesn't live on campus and is not fresh out of high school," says Lydia Cook, a senior interdisciplinary studies major.

"They're are usually 25 or over and are married, divorced, have kids or commutes," adds Cynthia Petz, junior pre-vet major.

Because of these extra responsibilities, these students have several challenges that they must overcome.

Many of them have full-time jobs, take a full course

load each semester and have a family as well.

"It's a struggle every day, trying to juggle school, work, kids or spouses," Cook says.

Although they have more responsibilities than the more traditional students, there are some benefits that come along with the path

For more info on OWLs and non-traditional student resources, check out the Web site: [frank.mtsu.edu/~owls/index.htm](http://frank.mtsu.edu/~owls/index.htm)

that they have taken.

"We're more motivated to graduate and to better ourselves," Cook says.

Fortunately, many of these students do not have to face these challenges alone. They are able to find help and support from Off-Campus Student Services.

Located in Keathley University Center Room 320, the OCSS offers many services and activities to help ease the burdens of these students including scholarships, preliminary academic advising

and various seminars.

"Mind mapping is a seminar that is held at the beginning of the fall semester," Cook says. "It helps us organize our thoughts."

OCSS provides its students with several tools to help them succeed. All the students have to do is ask for help.

"If we're having difficulty in a subject, we're quick to find a mentor who is either a current student or contact the department to find someone who can help," Petz says.

Cook adds that the office will "help find students who don't want to live on campus find housing."

What students seem to enjoy the most is the lounge located in the OCSS office. Filled with several armchairs and a small kitchen, the lounge has a very relaxed atmosphere that invites students to come and study.

"It is a place where we come together and don't have to worry about the rambunctious downstairs," Petz says.

The lounge also serves as a gathering place for students to meet and talk.

STUDENTS PAGE 4

## BIKE NITE FROM PAGE 3

"Depending on how funny they are being, they will make us get a partner and awkwardly stretch with them," Green said. "It's funny and I think it's a good way to start it off because it just gets everyone in a good mood."

Following this, willing participants compete in a track stand competition where fixie riders try to balance the longest on their bikes.

Then there is the more risky game of foot down where cyclists ride in a small circle and try to push each other out of it.

After these invigorating events, the ride around the town begins. On this night, we made our way down Rutherford Boulevard and East Main Street to the square.

We were honked at a lot, either because drivers thought the sight of 40 cyclists was super awesome, or incredibly inconvenient.

Green says one thing the group encourages is corking intersections, or blocking traffic so that bikers can safely pass through:

"When you come up to a place where there is a light, someone on a fixed gear who can track stand will ride to the middle and track stand there," Green says. "That way, you don't have to worry about a car coming through and hitting everyone."

Besides a rather admirable concern for everyone's safety, Green says the group stays at a reasonable pace to ensure that all riders stay together.

"We want to build unity through bikes rather than just saying 'Well, if you can't keep up too bad for you,'" Green proclaims modestly.

After riding a few more miles around town, we finally ended at Sonic on Mercury Boulevard where I nearly collapsed and promptly decided that I should look into investing in a fixed-gear bike because my old school cruiser wasn't cutting the whole long-distance thing.

"So many people who are critics say it's just a hipster thing," Green defensively tells me. "I get super annoyed by that because it's just fun, practical and whether it's cool or not, I'm still going to ride a fixed-gear."



Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer

Fixed-gear bikes originated in the West Indies and gained popularity when they were brought to New York by immigrants, who used them as messenger bikes because of how fast they travel. The chirpers use these bikes to do tricks other bikes cannot perform.

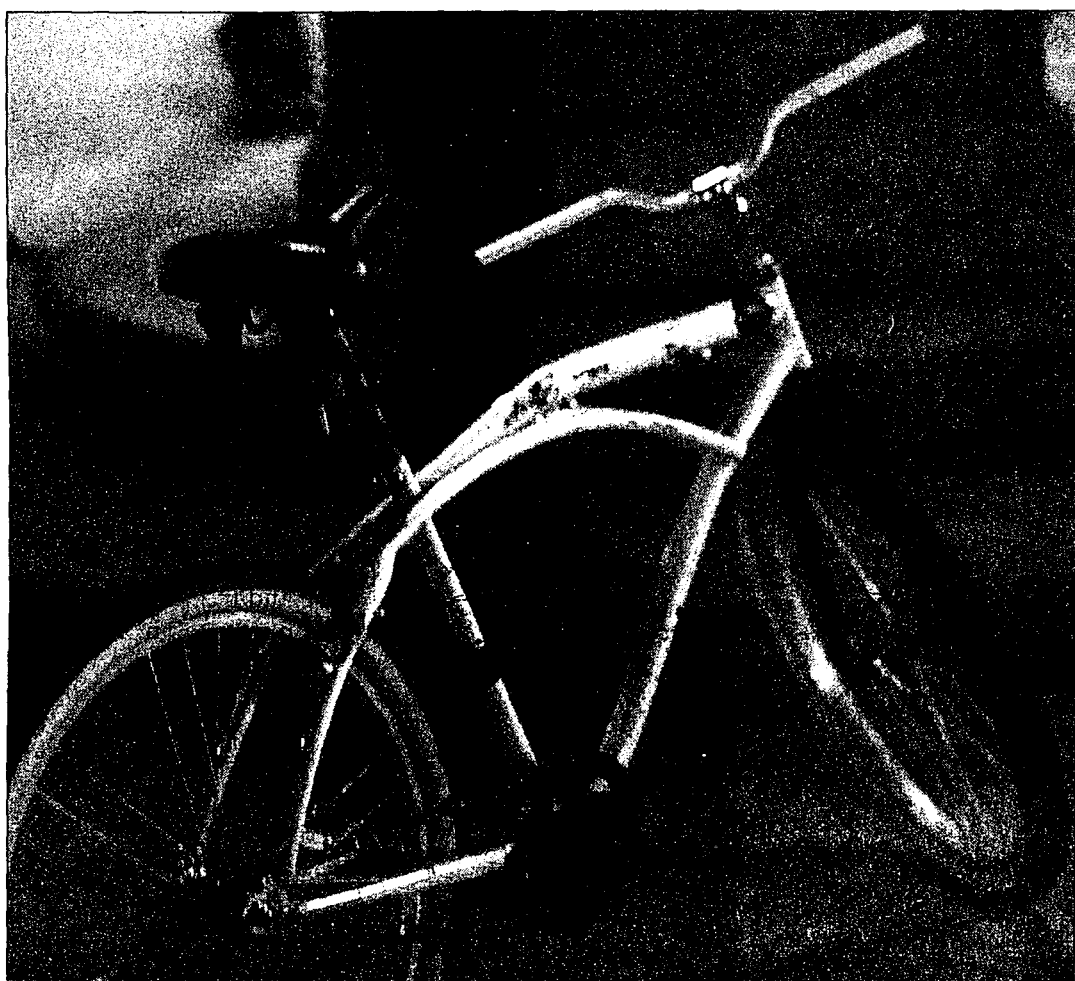


Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer

Fixed-gear bikes, like the one above, have one speed and no freewheel, allowing them to coast. The bicycles also have no brakes, which requires riders to bring them to a physical stop and helps with speed.

## STUDENTS FROM PAGE 3

"We get to talk to each other about problems," Cook says. "We're able to help each other. When something life-changing has happened, someone here has already been through it."

While in the lounge, students help each other, not only with academic problems, but with life problems as well.

"When I have problems with my 5-year-old, many of the people here have older children and someone will say 'why don't you try this?'" Cook says. "We're constantly bouncing ideas off each other, and they make you feel good about yourself."

Non-traditional students are also invited to join Older, Wiser Learners. OWLs is an organization for any student who has "primary responsibilities outside of the university." The group works as a support group for its members, as well as a way for non-traditional students to meet and connect with others in their position.

The chance to connect with other non-traditional students is important to these students, because they have different experiences and responsibilities from those students who entered college immediately after high school.

It can be difficult for the two groups to relate to one another.

"Life experience definitely sets non-traditional students apart," Cook says.

"I've already lived trial-by-error," Petz says. "I've lived in Germany for nine years, and for others this is their first time being away from home."

While the OCSS office is a great place for students to relax and connect, not every student has the chance to take advantage of their facilities. For those students who do not have time to stop by the office, the OCSS Web site offers online tools that can help them with their studies.

One such tool is a link to a series of PowerPoint presentations that aim to improve students' study skills. These presentations give advice that would benefit every student, such as steps on how to take better notes and how to write a paper.

Whether a student is 18 or 80, lives in the dorms or has a mortgage to pay, every student needs to appreciate the experiences they are gaining from being in school.

"Take the opportunity you've got now fully," Petz says. "Don't waste it."

"If you are coming to school, it needs to be for education, not socializing," Cook adds. "You'll go farther in life that way."

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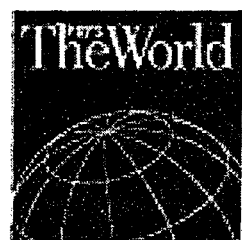
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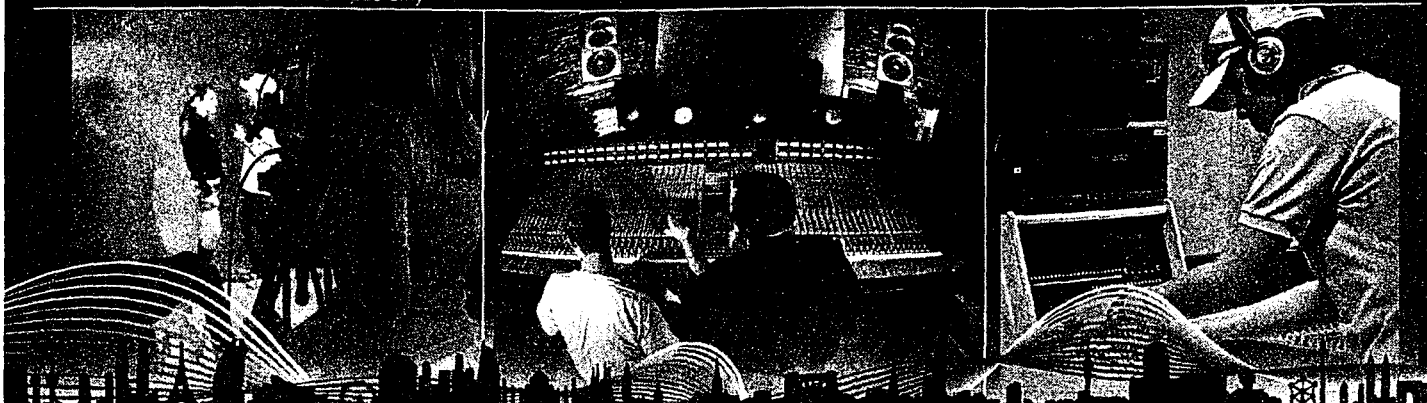
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OPINIONS

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

Popular culture degrades women

Being the holidays, I have been watching hours upon hours of delicious, mind-rotting television. While flipping through the channels, I came across recent American Music Awards. I was immediately captivated by the stage performances in front of millions of viewers. I realized that there was definitely something missing in entertainment and our society.

Where did all of the ladies go?

You know who I am talking about. What happened to the classic woman, the Audrey Hepburns of the limelight? Where are the females you would not be ashamed of calling your role models? As I continued to watch the show, I began to sadly realize they are just a thing of the past.

Let me be blunt. A large percentage of our female performers, actresses and celebrities are lewd and embarrassing. They strut around on stage wearing



Even odds

Rebecca McGrath

skin-tight clothes that would be too small for a four-year-old. It does not even matter what the subject of the song may be. Singers could be crooning about adopting kittens and puppies while performing synchronized pelvic thrusts. It is not limited to age either. Celebrities of all ages are scrunching up their skirts and pulling out all of the stops in order to get attention.

If you do not believe me, just take a look at any teenage girl's bedroom wall. Are there pictures of elegant women with all of their "assets" covered? I am going to

guess that is probably a no.

You are more than likely going to find a photograph of a girl shaking her butt while hula hooping and jumping on a trampoline. That is pure talent by today's standards. The trend used to be shock and awe. The wow factor was what it was all about. Now, it is the norm and the female body is nothing special.

The sad part is, I cannot blame celebrities. It is what they are forced to do to survive the industry. We, as consumers and supporters are eating it up like Thanksgiving leftovers.

Naturally, men are going to support this "bare necessities" phenomenon. Let us be honest with ourselves —no man in his right mind is going to turn down the chance to see a buxom blonde shimmy around to suggestive music. It is pathetic.

What kills me is that the only people who could aid in preventing this type of behavior are fully support-

ing it. I hear girls complaining all the time that they do not want to be treated like sexual objects. They claim to be individuals who demand and deserve constant respect from male counterparts. You are completely correct, sweetie, you do deserve that. However, maybe if you put your clothes back on, you would be a little more successful in that endeavor.

Females are so desperate for the attention this behavior gives them they do not realize how degrading it is or see where it is coming from. All they see are the admiring eyes in the crowd and dollar signs. All I see are 50-year-old perverts.

There used to be a saying that we as females should leave a little to the imagination. I am not quite sure if people even remember the saying or not, but I dare say we should bring it back to life. There is no reason why every body part must be put on display for the world to see. We need to

bring classy back to females before we damage ourselves too much.

Stop supporting the slutfactor in entertainment. It is not attractive and does not reflect well on the women of this generation. Being a woman is so much more than the bodies we were given. It could be argued that subtle innuendos, no profanity and the right amount of sass can make you just as sexy as any of those half-naked girls on television, if not more.

I am by no means saying we should all be prudes. You won't catch me dressed up in a habit with matching clogs when I hit the club.

However, can we rein it in a little please? If there is no room for your dignity in that skimpy outfit, maybe you should think about a wardrobe and attitude change.

Rebecca McGrath is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at [rkm2z@mtsu.edu](mailto:rkm2z@mtsu.edu).

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

MT bowl game finale needs strong fan support

By the time you read this, MTSU's football team will know where they will be playing their final game of this season.

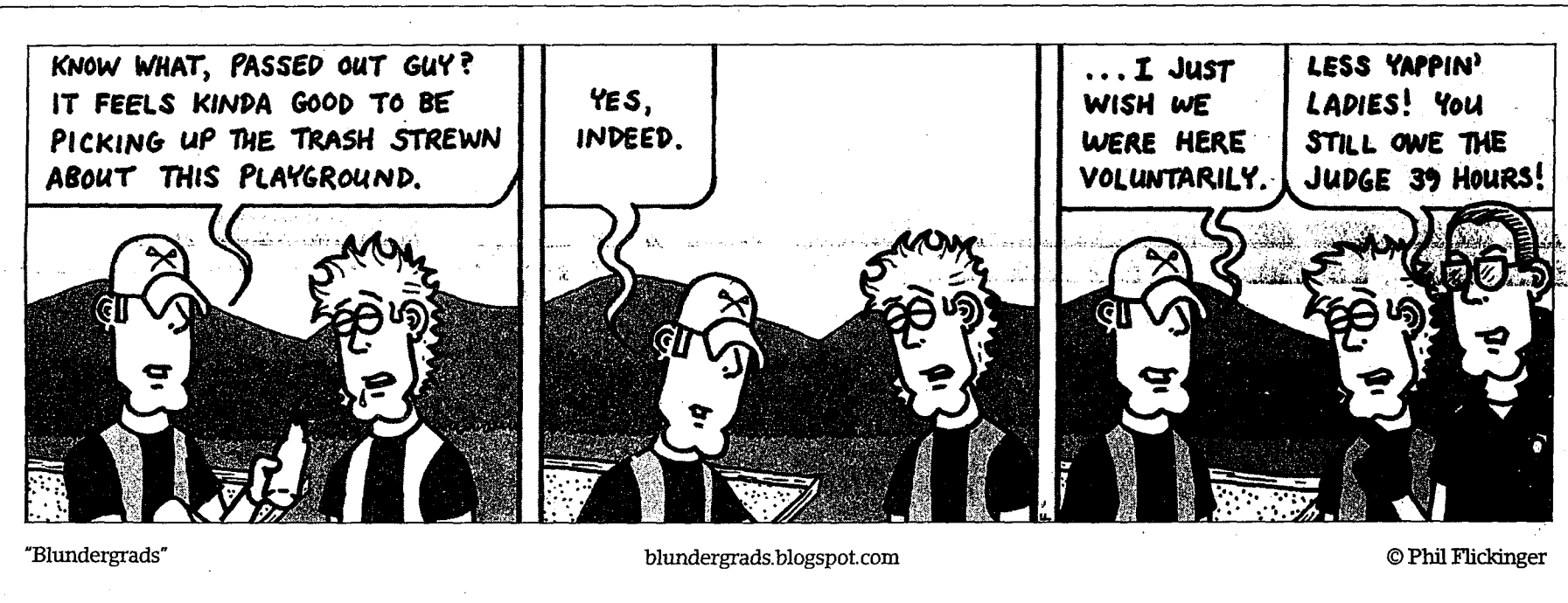
In case you haven't ventured over to Floyd Stadium this fall, the Blue Raiders finished the regular season with nine wins - the most in FBS program history. QB Dwight Dasher is arguably the top offensive player in the Sun Belt Conference and one of the top players in the country —no joke. Our defense is the top unit in the conference and leads the nation in tackles for loss.

Another sign of our team's success is the fact that head coach Rick Stockstill and several assistant coaches have been rumored to having offers at other "big-time" football programs, even if some coaches that have been rumored to be on staff really aren't ("Christ Turns Down 3-Year, Multimillion Dollar Deal To Coach Notre Dame," Dec. 5, The Onion). Plus, we've been on TV 10 out of 12 times this year! And you're telling us you didn't know this team was that good?

Either way, the last opportunity to see this team live and in person is during the bowl season. Make it a family affair and road trip to the bowl destination. Give this team the send-off they deserve and cheer them on to their first bowl game victory.

Listen to the editorial board online at [mtsusidelines.com/multimedia](http://mtsusidelines.com/multimedia)

COMIC



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fliers offensive, infantile

To the Editor:

Your open letter in the Dec. 3 issue of Sidelines ("From the Editorial Board") posed the question "Which is more offensive, the tasteless advertisements objectifying and degrading the female form or censorship?" but throughout the letter, you trivialize one "option" in an attempt to justify your disgusting flyers and to vilify the persons who took them down.

First, I'd like to point out some of the flaws in your methodology —you opened yourself up for this the moment you claimed to have taken part in an "experiment."

It seems that you only measured the percent of your flyers that were left up, a more accurate conclusion would have been achieved had you included other flyers —both of offensive and non-offensive topics—in this count. Did you take into account natural forces that may have

lead to the removal of the flyers (rain, wind, faulty tape)? Did you record the placement of each flyer when you posted them? Did you make rounds in order to determine the locations of the flyers that didn't last as long as the others?

I'm going to assume that this was not the case, because if you had taken these measures, you probably would have written about them in your open-rant. You didn't participate or conduct an experiment —something happened, you assumed and applied a conclusion without observation or study. Please don't hide behind the objectivity and name of science (As in: "we didn't mean it; it was for science!") in an attempt to justify and distant yourself from your offensive tactics.

"Our flyer, like the majority of advertisements on campus." Oh, so it's all right because everyone else is doing it?

I'm sorry, I didn't know Sidelines had their offices at the Campus

Day care Center because the "argument" of "X did that, why can't I?" sounds pretty infantile.

"Featured a tasteless pin up girl." Was the pin up girl tasteless, or was your use of her photo tasteless? "And a cleverly placed euphemism." I'm sorry, that wasn't clever.

And in fact, it was down right problematic. But gauging from your open pity-party invite, you don't realize just how it was problematic —let me explain.

The use of the pronoun "our" in the phrase "our racks" implies that the racks in question were under the ownership of a collective and not an individual. This alone would be fine, but plaster that pronoun over someone's body and then it seems like you're claiming ownership.

To misquote and re-appropriate—something you guys are great at — Mr. Spock, "You may like them very much, but they are not the hell you boobs."

Now you may be thinking, "oh

good God, this kid wants to argue the pragmatics of a campus paper... lame." But it's more than that.

You see, you attempted to hide behind the banner of free speech. For all your flag pointing, you seem to have forgotten that your newspaper is the publication of a public university and you should try to be objective, open to diversity, and most importantly, shouldn't alienate a percentage of your readership —even if it means sacrificing some "cleverly placed euphemism."

Natashia Sartain  
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Sidelines misogynistic

To the Editor:

I always find it ironic when the First Amendment argument is used to justify the ridicule, oppression or hatred of others ("From the Editorial Board," Dec. 3). In this case

it is particularly sad that university students thought it was "cute" or "clever" to employ - in your own words - "tasteless advertisements objectifying and degrading the female form" in order to try to get students to participate in a contest to decorate newspaper racks.

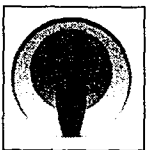
Your misogynistic tendencies are undercut further by employing a logic fallacy known as bifurcation (sometimes called the "either/or fallacy"). This is all particularly worrisome because you are future leaders of our country. The last thing we need are more ignorant, self-important leaders who continue oppressive, racist and sexist policies.

I would encourage the editorial staff to take courses in Women's Studies, Argumentation and the Constitution. You might be surprised at what you learn.

Linda Seward  
Faculty, Speech and Theatre



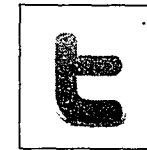
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# SPORTS

## Blue Raiders fall in first round

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Sports Editor

MT's fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA volleyball tournament was short-lived, as the team suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Colorado State University Thursday.

Neither team looked sharp, with the Rams finally putting together a dominant fifth set as well as taking advantage of MT mistakes to put the Blue Raiders away.

"Honestly, I would say it was us and that we didn't come out like we should have come out," said sophomore Stacy Oladinni. Some things were not falling the right way for us, we weren't getting up on time and there were a lot of disconnects."

Junior Izabela Kozon led the team with 20 kills and a .226 hitting percentage, while Oladinni contributed seven kills and three block assists.

Mistakes doomed the Blue Raiders, as the team finished with 16 service errors, seven reception errors and five blocking errors. CSU didn't play mistake free, but had far fewer errors—13 service errors and three reception errors.

"I think it was one of the most poorly played matches I have ever been associated with," said head coach Matt

Peck. "I don't think either of our teams found their rhythm and we out hit them by 15 points. I think neither of us are accustomed to playing that kind of match with lots of service errors."

The Blue Raiders are not accustomed to playing five-set matches, like the last game the team played on Oct. 9 against Arkansas State University.

MT was dominated in the first set, posting a hitting percentage of just .067 and nine kills.

The team responded in the second set by scoring 22 kills and a .177 hitting percentage, winning the set 25-16. Ten of Kozon's 20 kills were earned in that set alone.

The third set went back and forth, with both teams erasing large leads before the Rams finally pulled ahead to win 25-21.

The Blue Raiders jumped out to a 17-10 lead in the fourth set and never looked back, winning 25-17.

MT came out flat in the final set, with the Rams jumping out to a 12-3 lead. The Blue Raiders simply could not mount an attack and lost the set along with the match.

The team finishes the season 25-10, winning the Sun Belt Conference Championship for the third time in four years.

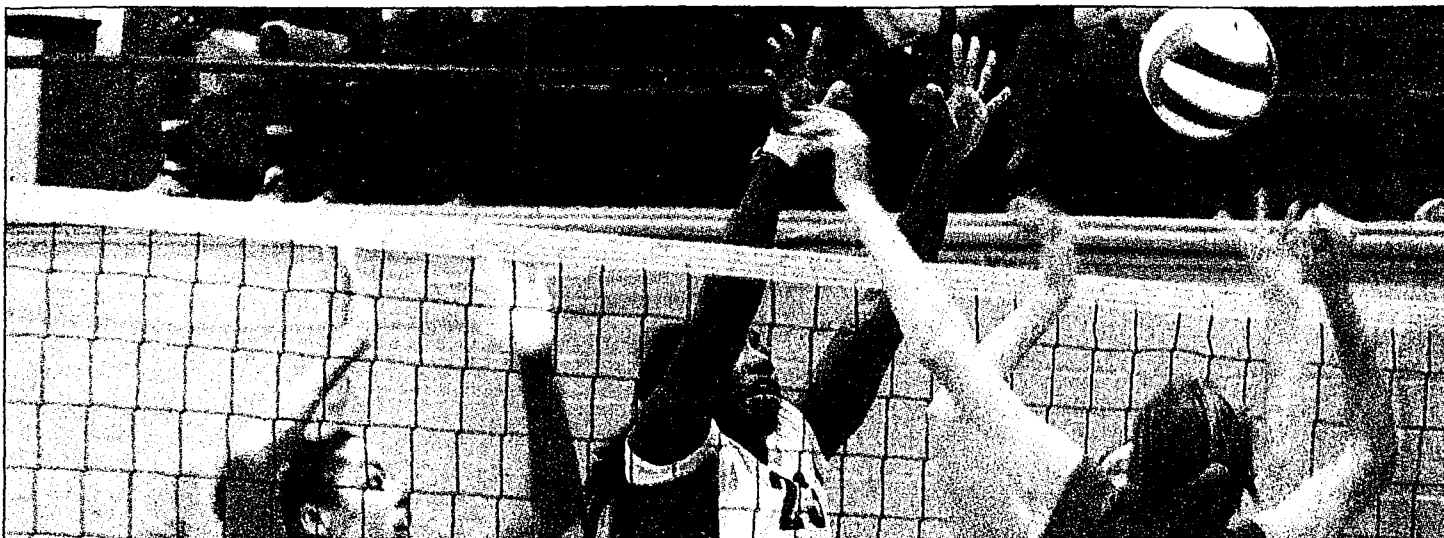


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Senior Ashley Mead finished her season at MT, averaging 3.39 kills per game and 72 total blocks. The team lost to Colorado State last week.

## Lady Raiders outmuscled by Xavier

STAFF REPORT

Senior guard Jackie Pickel's 22 points wasn't enough to overcome No. 9 Xavier University, as the Lady Raiders fell to the Musketeers 80-63 in Cincinnati, Ohio Thursday.

Xavier out-rebounded the Lady Raiders by 19, and used its size and strength to hold senior forward Alysha Clark to just 11 points.

Ta'Shia Phillips led the Musketeers with a dominating performance, scoring 20 points and grabbing 20 rebounds. Xavier had three other players with double-digit scoring figures.

Pickel's 22 points included five three-pointers, at times keeping the team in the game with her hot hand from beyond the arch.

She missed her last six shots from three-point range, however, and the Lady Raiders could not cut the lead to less than 14 in the second half.

Dee Jernigan also contributed 13 points for the Musketeers, with Tyeasha Moss and Special Jennings adding a dozen of their own.

The Lady Raiders return to action Wednesday, when the team travels to Louisville, Ky. to take on national runner-up University of Louisville.

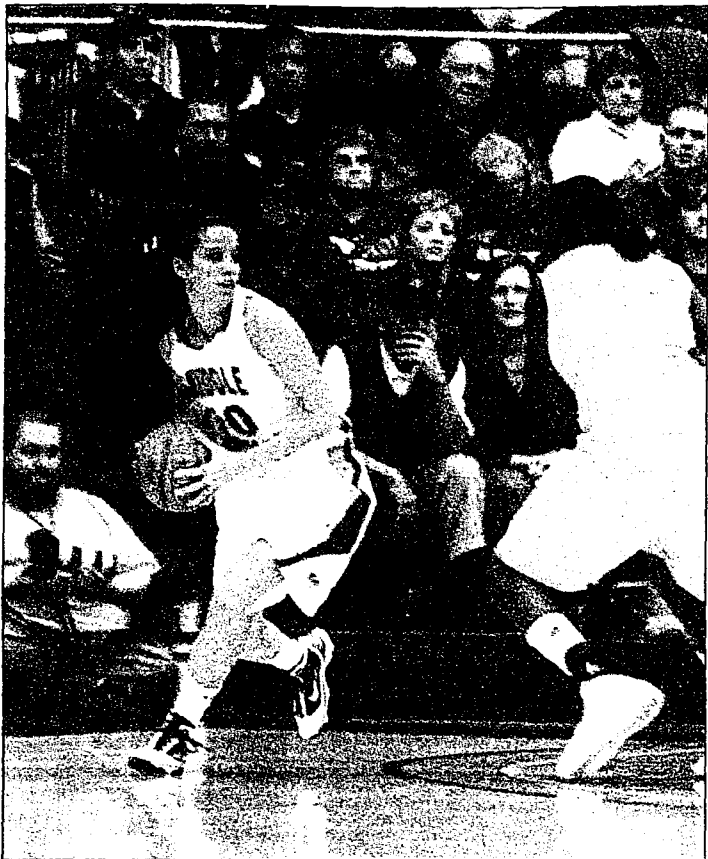


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Senior Jackie Pickel led the Lady Raiders with 22 points against Xavier. The team travels to the University of Louisville on Wednesday.

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