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Harassment case against McPhee dropped

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

The civil suit against President Sidney McPhee, filed by his former assistant Tammie Allen, was dismissed Monday in a summary judgment in Gallatin.

Allen originally filed the suit in February after an investigation by the Tennessee Board of Regents into her sexual harassment complaint found "inappropriate behavior by both parties."



McPhee

the discretion and control of Chancellor Manning, conducted an investigation that was incomplete and

The suit also named TBR Chancellor Charles Manning, the state of Tennessee, MTSU and the Board of Regents as defendants in the case.

The suit alleged "the TBR, under the discretion and control of Chancellor Manning, conducted an investigation that was incomplete and

biased in favor of McPhee."

Summer County Chancellor Tom Gray heard the arguments from lawyers for both sides and ruled that the investigation was proper and that Allen didn't follow MTSU's sexual harassment policies by waiting too long to file a complaint and filed it incorrectly with the TBR instead of MTSU's Equal Employment Opportunity office.

The result of TBR's investigation last year was a 20-day suspension and a \$10,000 pay cut from his salary. Allen was moved to another office and

received a pay raise, but she claimed in her suit "her assigned job and duties involve significantly less responsibility, prestige, privileges, accountability and job opportunities."

Allen was suing for damages as a result of "severe emotional distress, mental anguish, indignation, wounded pride, shame, and despair." No monetary amount was set.

A civil trial was set for February, but the defendants' attorneys filed for a summary judgment in October. In a summary judgment the judge reviews

the case evidence in order to determine whether the case should go to trial.

According to reports from *The Tennessean*, Steven Sager, Allen's attorney, said he would be filing an appeal against the decision.

"My family and I are happy to put this chapter behind us," McPhee said in an official statement after the decision. "And I am eager to continue to put all of my energies into conducting the business of the university." ♦

Center scores big in grants

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Writer

MTSU's Center for Health and Human Services has accomplished many achievements since it was established six years ago.

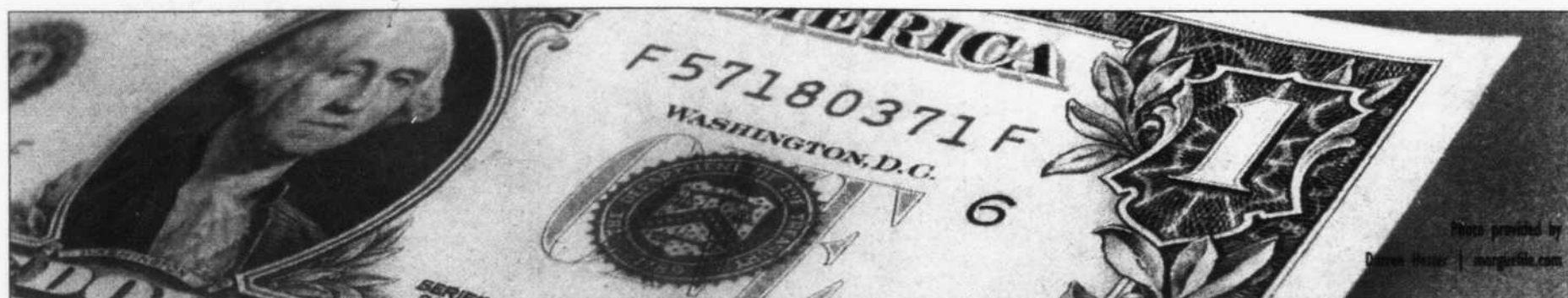
When the Center for Health and Human Services began in 1996, it received only \$7,800 in grants. For the 2004-2005, academic school year, they have received grants that add up to more than half a million dollars.

Jo Edwards serves as director of CHHS and is also the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services.

Edwards' job is to work with outside agencies and to identify with their needs, bring the needs here to the university, and to find faculty members from different departments that can help meet with different projects needs.

Several of the projects that CHHS is focusing on

See **Center**, 2



Congress vote affects Pell Grants for students

By Jason Cox
Editor in Chief

Some of MTSU's neediest students won't be receiving additional Pell grant funds, as Congress voted to freeze the maximum amount for the third consecutive year.

In addition, thanks to a revision in tax formulas, as many as 90,000 students nationwide will lose their grants entirely.

Pell Grant allocations — cited as a \$12.4 billion portion of a \$388 billion omnibus spending bill by *The Los Angeles Times* — will still increase by \$458 million, but the maximum amount will remain at \$4,050.

Brian Fitzgerald, staff director for the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance — designed to advise Congress on financial aid matters — said that President George W. Bush did not recommend raising the maximum amount, but did seek to raise the total allocation in order to fund the students who qualify for Pell Grants.

However, David Hutton, director of financial aid at MTSU, said the impact is not "nearly as severe as what's been publicized," although he added, "any negative impact is always bad."

"It'll affect \$100, maybe \$200 on some of our students," Hutton said. "It will

decrease some of them, but not everybody."

Hutton said more than 5,000 MTSU students receive a Pell Grant of some amount. Nearly \$14,000,000 was allocated for the 2004-2005 year for MTSU Pell Grant recipients, and Hutton said the lost amount will likely total less than \$100,000.

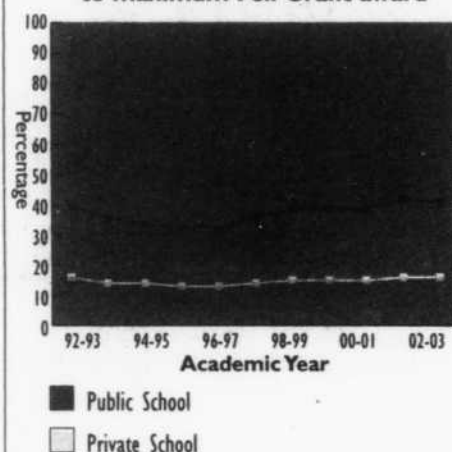
Richard Rhoda, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, said the blow is somewhat softened by state grants as well as the lottery scholarship for newer students, but any amount lost will affect a student's pocketbook.

"Any increase in fee is a decrease in percentage of the total, so they will have to make up the difference through some other form of financial aid, whether it's a scholarship or a loan," Rhoda said.

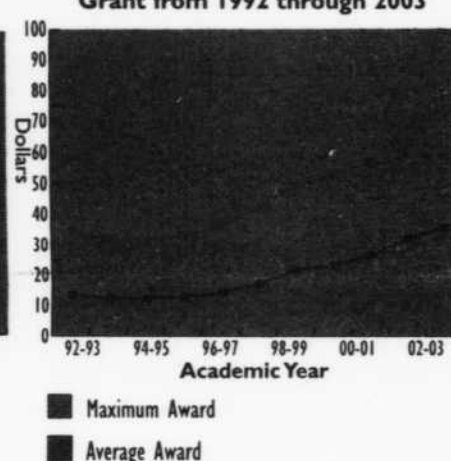
Rhoda also made this point of comparison: In the 1994-1995 year, the total cost of attending MTSU, including tuition and all fees, was \$1,774. In 2004-2005, the amount was \$4,210 — a 137.3 percent increase.

Meanwhile, the maximum Pell Grant award was \$2,300 in 1994-95 and is now \$4,050, representing only a 76 percent increase during the same time period, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Education.

Percentage of cost of attending four year college as compared to maximum Pell Grant award



Maximum, average award of Pell Grant from 1992 through 2003



"We've been tracking it, and of course it's not just Tennessee," Rhoda said. "States have not been in the position to keep up the funding ... so the states have looked increasingly to students."

Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., himself an MTSU graduate, said he was "very disappointed" that the tax tables were revised and that the cap remained the same as it has been.

"I think this is very short sighted," Gordon said. "At a time when we're seeing so many of our jobs shipped overseas, it's even more important that we

have an educated, well-trained workforce to keep those jobs here."

He said the Bush administration's initiative "will wind up saving money, but ... I think that Pell Grants are an investment that will, in the short and the long term, return dividends."

Hutton said that these revisions only add to the financial crunch many college students are experiencing.

"What students are doing is they're

See **Grants**, 2

Parking lot plans concern parents

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

A possible plan for a parking lot next door to Project Help where the budget center now stands has raised concern from faculty and students.

Project Help, an early-intervention center with the goal to help children with developmental delays and disabilities, is located on the corner of Blue Raider Drive and North Baird Lane on campus.

The intersection of North Baird and Blue Raider Drive is a busy one. An existing parking lot across the street already raises parents' concerns at drop-off and pick-up times for the classes and daycare services at Project Help.

A busy parking lot next door may cause added anxiety.

Kristine McCusker and Ron Kates, both associate professors, have children involved with the Project Help program and have expressed concerns about their children's safety if a parking lot was built in the space.

"The university's mission is to provide an open atmosphere

for the exploration of ideas, to provide a space for people to learn and to contemplate. Turning everything into a parking lot does not do that," McCusker said.

McCusker's daughter, Gracie, has congenital hydrocephalus and started attending Project Help at 17 months in September. At the time, she was about five months behind her peers in motor and vocal development.

Gracie has benefited from the centers support and staff. She has been able to play with children her own age and work with the highly trained teachers. For two hours a day, four days a week, Gracie works on the skills and exercises outlined by her physical therapist, pediatric neurosurgeon and pediatrician.

McCusker has seen Gracie's improvement.

"The other day, we were at the mall and [a song] came on ... and I looked at Gracie and she was dancing," McCusker said. "She had never danced before. It

See **Parking**, 2

County considers increasing wheel tax

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

The Rutherford County Commission's Property Management Committee endorsed a wheel tax increase Monday.

With unprecedented growth, three new schools will open in 2006 in Rutherford County. Rutherford County Finance Director Lisa Nolen estimated that the opening of these schools will require nearly \$4 million in additional costs.

According to a wheel tax analysis from her office, a \$30 increase would generate around \$4 million, if the entire amount went to county schools. Currently, 40 percent of the wheel tax revenue funds the county schools.

Such a high increase is unlikely, according to County Commissioner Will Jordan.

"I don't believe it's reasonable to expect a \$50 increase," Jordan said. "I don't believe it'll never pass the commission or with the public."

Jordan said he might support a \$10 increase if it were

part of a "broad based" revenue stream. Both he and Nolen said the county was also looking at a new excise tax, which would tax a percentage of real estate transactions.

But Jordan conceded that with the county growing as it is, some type of tax increase is inevitable.

"Another revenue stream is just going to be necessary," Jordan said. "You can't fund everything on the property tax."

"A lot of people say the government should tighten its belt and everything will be OK. But if you look at the pay schedule for county employees, they haven't had a significant increase in several years."

"The county is in very tight times as far as revenue, and it's just going to get worse," he said.

Can the county tighten its belt any more?

"Anybody that saw the budget process last year, I think we cut things all over," Jordan said.

See **Tax**, 3



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The possibility of a parking lot near the Project Help building on campus has caused parents concern.



Sidelines' last issue will be Wednesday, Dec. 8. The paper will resume publication on Jan. 18.

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Parking: Children's safety main concern

Continued from 1

was one of those epiphany moments as a parent."

McCusker's concerns stem from the issue of safety for her child and other children at the center as well as for the overall university environment. She believes that building a parking lot next to the center will be "counter-intuitive to the children at the center."

Kates agreed.

"As a parent, I am concerned about the presence of a parking lot in such close proximity to the playground," Kates said.

"Children at Project Help spend a portion of their day playing outside on the play-

ground behind the building," he said. "This outside playtime represents an essential element in the development of some - if not all - the children Project Help serves."

Kates also brings to issue the trees that are in the space where the possible parking lot will be built.

"The fact that a good number of trees (perhaps near a dozen) may come down for this lot to go up also concerns me. We have a diminishing amount of greenery on campus as it is, so why destroy more trees," Kates asked.

Anna Fitzgerald, from Students for Environmental Action, said her group is also

opposed to the parking lot.

"We would like to preserve the beauty of Tennessee so that these children, in different stages of development, will be exposed to the beauty that is Tennessee and not emissions from cars, excess noise and something they see everywhere: parking lots," Fitzgerald said.

Ron Malone, director of parking services, indicated that concerns may be a bit premature since there are no definite plans as of yet.

"The discussions concerning the permanent use of the areas to which you are referring are currently in their infancy stage. Any projections at this point are purely preliminary,"

Malone said.

"No decisions have been made at this time," he said.

The center also is a daycare for children from all backgrounds. Project Help not only helps kids, but the center also provides classes, programs and workshops for parents.

Project Help, which was established in 1983, is funded by grants from the State of Tennessee Division of Mental Retardation Services and the United Way of Rutherford County as well as a contract with Tennessee Early Intervention Systems. ♦

Grants: Students foot education bill

Continued from 1

having to work more, and they're to borrow more with the grants not going up at the same rate as tuition," Hutton said.

Besides capping the maximum amount, tax table revisions will likely lower grants for 1.2 million students and cut out entirely 90,000 students who previously received grants, Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald explained that recently updated tax tables, which reflected lower state and local taxation rates, would be used this year to determine eligibility.

"The new tax rates, on aver-

age were much lower," Fitzgerald said. "It made families look like they had more income available to pay for college."

The Department of Education sought to use these revised tables in order to curb spending growth on the program, Fitzgerald said. Last year Sen. Jon Corzine, D - N.J., was able to get an amendment to a bill passed that blocked the Department of Education from using the updated tables. This year, however, his attempt to do the same died in committee.

The bill passed Congress in late November and is currently awaiting Bush's signature. ♦

Center: Projects grow

Continued from 1

this year involve specific health issues.

One of the current projects it is working on deals with tobacco use control with youth. It is working in high schools in 11 counties in the Middle Tennessee area to inform teenagers of the effect of smoking and helps prevent tobacco use by teenagers.

CHHS also just completed a three-year project with "March of Dimes." This project focused on informing pregnant women on the health risks and negative side effects of smoking while being pregnant.

"Working on one of these projects gives students and faculty the chance to do basic research and learn about important issues," Edwards said.

Along with working with the March of Dimes and local high

schools, the CHHS also just completed a major AIDS project in South Africa.

"The AIDS rate is extremely high in South Africa," Edwards said.

This project focused on training women to go to various settlements in Africa to educate them about basic sanitization and to also inform about health education, which would help prevent the spread of the AIDS virus.

Edwards is hoping to be able to extend this project and has put in a \$1 million grant proposal to continue the work.

Students and faculty members are encouraged to get involved with any of the projects that CHHS is participating in.

For more information on volunteering for a project, contact Edwards at 898-2905. ♦

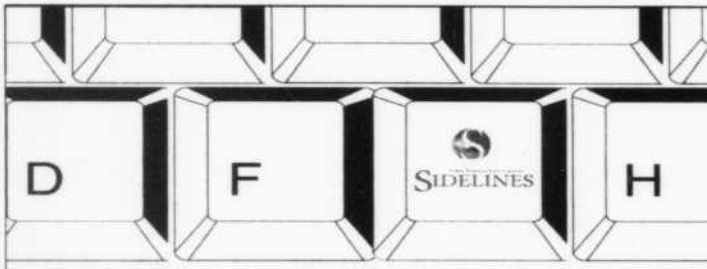


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SAMSUNG

Play harkens back to old time yule tide

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

The Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro will host the inaugural production of "An Old Fashioned Christmas," written and directed by Murfreesboro-local Michael Reinhardt. The show opens on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

The cast is comprised of 25 local residents, in an array of ages from two to 60. The musical features original and classic Christmas tunes, including a composition by Elizabeth Jackson.

Reinhardt wrote the musical over several months. This is his second production for the Center of the Arts. He has worked alongside Elizabeth Jackson to compose five full-length plays and two musicals.

Reinhardt has also written several hundred murder mysteries for private parties that feature audience participation.

"I wanted to write a show with a lot of family members featured. There's one family in the show of a mom and dad and their five kids. There's also a grandmother and granddaughter in the show," Reinhardt said.

The musical is set in present-day West Virginia. A freak blizzard causes a busload of passengers to stop on Christmas Eve in a small town. The local hotel is booked and the unexpected guests are forced to lodge in the town's general store.

The passengers include a

New York couple and a choir of singing and dancing girls, known as the "Gleeful Glee Girls" that, along with their director, help to provide the entertainment while the group spends the with their unplanned company.

Reinhardt said of the show that it was very family-oriented and fun for all ages. The show includes memorable musical numbers, romance and highlights the true spirit of the holiday season.

"If you want to escape the craziness of shopping for a day and have a family show, this is a great show to go and see," Reinhardt said.

The cast features local residents George W. Manus, Jr., Lydia Helm, Vladimir Pankratz, Gary Davis, Jerry Rittenberry and Doron and Kathee Clairborne, plus many others.

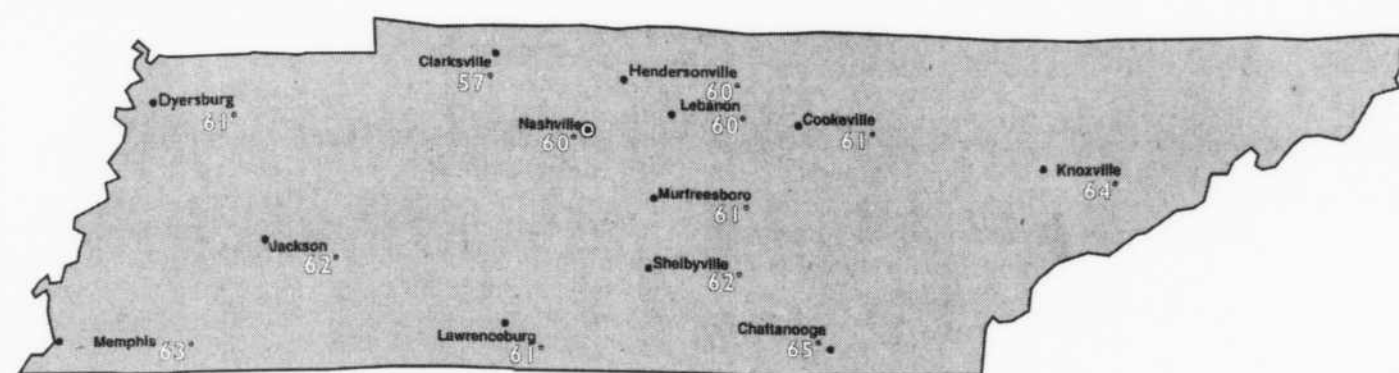
The Center for the Arts theatre seats 112. The show will run the weekend of Dec. 9, with show times beginning at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday Matinee at 2:30 p.m. Shows on Dec. 16 - 18 will also include a matinee.

Ticket prices are discounted for the first night of the show to \$5. Students and seniors are offered a ticket price of \$8, and general admission is \$10.

The Center for the Arts is located at 110 West College Street. Reservations are requested. Call 615-904-2787 for more information. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Bredesen to universities: Prepare for tight budgets

By Matt Gours
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gov. Phil Bredesen told higher education officials Tuesday to prepare for more tight budgets, suggesting the lean years they're now going through will probably become an annual event.

He said that likely means tuition increases, which have been outpacing inflation in recent years, will likely continue this year and beyond.

Bredesen has asked all of the state's agencies to prepare a zero-growth budget for the coming year. If any improvements are needed, they are to be paid for by shifting revenue within the departments.

That follows a 5 percent cut last year and a 9 percent cut the year before.

Bredesen told administrators

of the state's higher education system during their budget hearing Tuesday that they should get used to tight restrictions on spending growth.

"These may not be so difficult (times), these may be regular times for a long time to come," Bredesen said. "And as we look at these issues, we're going to have to figure out how to make things work."

Tuition raises have followed the recent budget cuts, often double-digit increases that caused administrators to wince and students to complain.

Bredesen said it's possible that tuition increases will just become part of doing business, although he said it's too early to speculate on the size of any increase next year. The last budget required roughly a 7 percent tuition increase for the current academic year.

"I think realistically, we're going to have to have some tuition increase," he said. "I can't imagine we can go very long without tuition increases at our colleges and universities and keep them healthy and solvent."

Representatives from the University of Tennessee and the Board of Regents, which runs the rest of the state's universities, colleges and technology centers, asked Bredesen for more flexibility to help with what is expected to be a tight budget.

They also said money for building maintenance and upkeep is their top priority. The last budget set aside about \$20 million in construction projects, after years of little or no money for deteriorating facilities.

This year, the higher education system wants approval to spend roughly \$200 million on maintenance and construction.

UT President John Petersen also asked Bredesen to let him decide how to spend any money allocated for raises, focusing it on areas he thinks are important rather than a flat, across the board 2 percent or 3 percent increase.

Bredesen said he liked the proposal.

"I think that's a good idea," he said. "You bring in guys like Dr. Petersen and pay them a lot of money, I think you should let them run their schools."

The governor is using the hearings to gather information for the budget he will present to lawmakers in January. The hearings began in mid-November and are scheduled to wrap up before Christmas. ♦

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Tax: Fiscal future uncertain

Continued from 1

He added that the sheriff is suing the county for \$9 million per year because the county didn't provide what he wanted in terms of new vehicles and employees. He also said that ambulance drivers can earn more in Bedford County and have lighter bed volumes.

"Every year we think we squeeze every department down as tight as we can, then we squeeze down a little more the next year," Jordan said.

The county only has two options for generating more revenue, according to Nolen — an increase in the wheel tax or the property tax. Other revenue sources, like fines and fees, are "maxed out" under state law.

"Unless legislation came that

allowed us another source of revenue, those are really the only two sources that the commissioners have," Nolen said.

"We're screaming, 'Look, there's going to be some problems, we've got these schools opening, we've got 3,000 [new] kids over the last two years.'"

Nolen said that education money from state is based on last year's attendance numbers, which adds to revenue problems. The county doesn't get new money for new students until the following year, when even more students are added.

When asked about the outlook for Rutherford County schools, Nolen said "it is a scary picture."

"It's the continuing growth. It's killing us." ♦

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WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled By Nick Fowler - State and Local Editor



Agreement among Ukraine's political foes hits snag

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A tentative deal to ease Ukraine's political crisis foundered Tuesday over the opposition's refusal to endorse constitutional changes and outgoing President Leonid Kuchma's rejection of the call to fire his prime minister.

The agreement between Viktor Yushchenko's camp and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's supporters called for simultaneous passage of two issues by parliament.

One issue was opposition-demanded electoral changes to prevent fraud in the Dec. 26 presidential rerun. The other was government-demanded constitutional reform that would trim presidential powers.

But the deal appeared in jeopardy early Tuesday after late-night European-mediated talks between Yushchenko, Yanukovich and Kuchma.

Yushchenko has pushed for electoral amendments to close loopholes that prompted the Supreme Court to cancel the victory of his Kremlin-backed rival because of fraud that marred their Nov. 21 runoff.

House Republicans ready to put stamp on intelligence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are getting ready to put the final stamp on long-awaited legislation overhauling the nation's intelligence agencies now that President Bush and House Armed Services chairman Duncan Hunter have endorsed a compromise.

Bush has called on Congress for months to pass legislation implementing the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations to protect the nation from terrorists. House GOP leaders have been holding up the bill because of Hunter's concerns it might interfere with the military's chain of command.

But Hunter now supports it

because House-Senate negotiators added language to ensure Defense officials would have priority in battlefield areas over the nation's spy satellites and other intelligence equipment.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., refused to bring the bill up before Thanksgiving because of the opposition from Hunter and House Judiciary chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

Sensenbrenner still will oppose the bill in Tuesday's GOP meeting because it does not deal with such issues as illegal immigration and asylum changes.

Assault in Saudi Arabia shows militants still capable of attacks

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The deadly assault on the U.S. consulate in western Saudi Arabia — the first high-profile attack here in seven months — showed that even highly guarded American targets in the kingdom are vulnerable, and analysts warned terrorists will likely be encouraged to attack again.

Nine people were killed in Monday's assault, in which militants used explosives and firearms to breach the external perimeter of the consulate before they were caught in a gunbattle by Saudi Special Forces, who stormed the compound.

Three of the five attackers were killed in the gunfight, and a fourth later died of his injuries. The fifth was wounded and arrested.

The five victims were consulate staff: one Yemeni, a Sudanese, a Filipino, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan, according to a Saudi security official speaking to Saudi television.

He said 13 people were injured, including five Saudi security men.

The significance of the attack, analysts say, is the target, timing and element of surprise, three factors that may force a closer look at the Saudi government's efforts in fighting terror.

New rules intended to help track contaminated food

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's food supply remains vulnerable to a bioterror attack, experts say, though new rules will help investigators track where in the chain of production and distribution an item may have been tainted.

The regulation, announced Monday by the Food and Drug Administration, aims to trace the source of food contamination after the fact. Most businesses involved in the nation's human and animal food supply will have to keep records showing where they received food and where they shipped it.

An attack on the food supply could happen, say experts led by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, who said last week that he worries "every single night" about a possible terror attack on the food supply.

Thompson singled out the possibility that infected food would be imported from the Middle East, but experts say the threat is equally serious for food produced domestically.

U.S. students lag behind international peers in math

WASHINGTON (AP) — Compared with their peers in Europe, Asia and elsewhere, U.S. 15-year-olds are below average when it comes to applying math skills to real-life tasks, new test scores show.

The U.S. students were behind most other countries in overall math literacy and in every specific area tested in 2003, from geometry and algebra to statistics and computation.

The latest scores from the Program for International Student Assessment also show that white U.S. students scored above average, while blacks and Hispanics scored below it. That achievement gap has become the focus of federal education policy.

Education Secretary Rod Paige called the new scores a "blinking warning light" as the Bush administration seeks to raise expectations and expand testing in high school.

The international test is not a measure of grade-level curriculum, but rather a gauge of the skills of 15-year-olds and how well students can apply them to problems they may face in life.

It also aims to give the United States an external reality check about how it is doing.

One expert who reviewed the scores, Jack Jennings of the independent Center on Education Policy, said the test is more a measure of how math is taught than what students know. Many U.S. math classes teach analytical or theoretical thinking, not everyday math application. Among 29 industrialized countries, the United States scored below 20 nations and above five in math. The U.S. performance was about the same as Poland, Hungary and Spain.

High court hears dispute over interstate wine sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is considering whether states may bar people from buying wine directly from out-of-state suppliers, a big-money question that could lead to sweeping changes in how alcoholic beverages are regulated and sold.

Justices were hearing arguments Tuesday in three appeals involving bans in Michigan and New York on direct shipments that cross state borders. The dispute pits regulators and wholesalers against out-of-state wineries that want to sell alcohol to consumers, mostly over the Internet or by phone.

"It seems to be restraint of trade," said Juanita Swedenburg, owner of a family run winery in Virginia who is challenging New York's regulations.

The case involves a clash between two parts of the

Constitution, with lower courts divided over which section should rule.

On one side is the 21st Amendment, which ended Prohibition in 1933 and explicitly granted states authority to regulate alcohol sales. Twenty-four states have laws that generally require outside wineries to sell their products through licensed wholesalers in the state. Michigan and New York allow instate Internet or telephone sales of alcoholic beverages. Some other states allow such sales, others do not.

The Constitution also implicitly prohibits states from passing laws that discriminate against out-of-state businesses. That provision has been embraced by wine makers who hope to reach faraway Internet customers looking for favorite U.S. vintages unavailable in their home states.

Progress in baseball steroid talks but no deal as of yet

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players and owners have made progress toward toughening rules on steroid testing, a move that would pre-empt congressional intervention.

How close they are to an agreement depends on which side you listen to.

Commissioner Bud Selig, who has called for more frequent testing and harsher penalties, told Colorado Gov. Bill Owens two weeks ago that an agreement was near, Owens said Monday.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said that while the discussions toward a new agreement had advanced, there was more work to be done.

"We've had a series of discussions with the clubs, and in many respects they've been fruitful," he said Monday after the union opened its annual executive board meeting.

"But to suggest we have a deal that either is going to be ratified by the executive board this week or is going to be put in

place shortly is simply not right."

Orza said discussions will continue, and a management official said owners hoped they would resume next week. Selig wants tougher rules in place by opening day.

"I won't say we're a long ways away," Orza said of an agreement. "I don't want to say it's not possible. I just can't guarantee it."

Currently, players are tested once from the start of spring training through the end of the regular season. Selig wants additional tests, some in the off-season, and more substances added to the banned list.

Under the agreement in place, scheduled to run until December 2006, players don't face suspensions until their second positive test for steroids.

Rumsfeld staying as defense secretary; Thompson leaves HHS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, scarred by postwar violence and prison scandal in Iraq — accepted President Bush's request that he remain for the second-term Cabinet. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned Friday, warning as he left of a possible terror attack on the nation's food supply.

Thompson's resignation broadened the exodus that has emptied more than half of Bush's Cabinet before he takes the oath of office for a second term. In all, eight members of the 15-person Cabinet have said they will leave.

The decision to keep Rumsfeld resolved a major question about the postelection reshuffling in the Bush administration. In an Oval Office meeting Monday, Bush informed Rumsfeld he considered him the right man for the job, and the Pentagon chief — widely thought to want to keep his job, at least for a time — agreed to remain, a senior administration official said Friday. ♦



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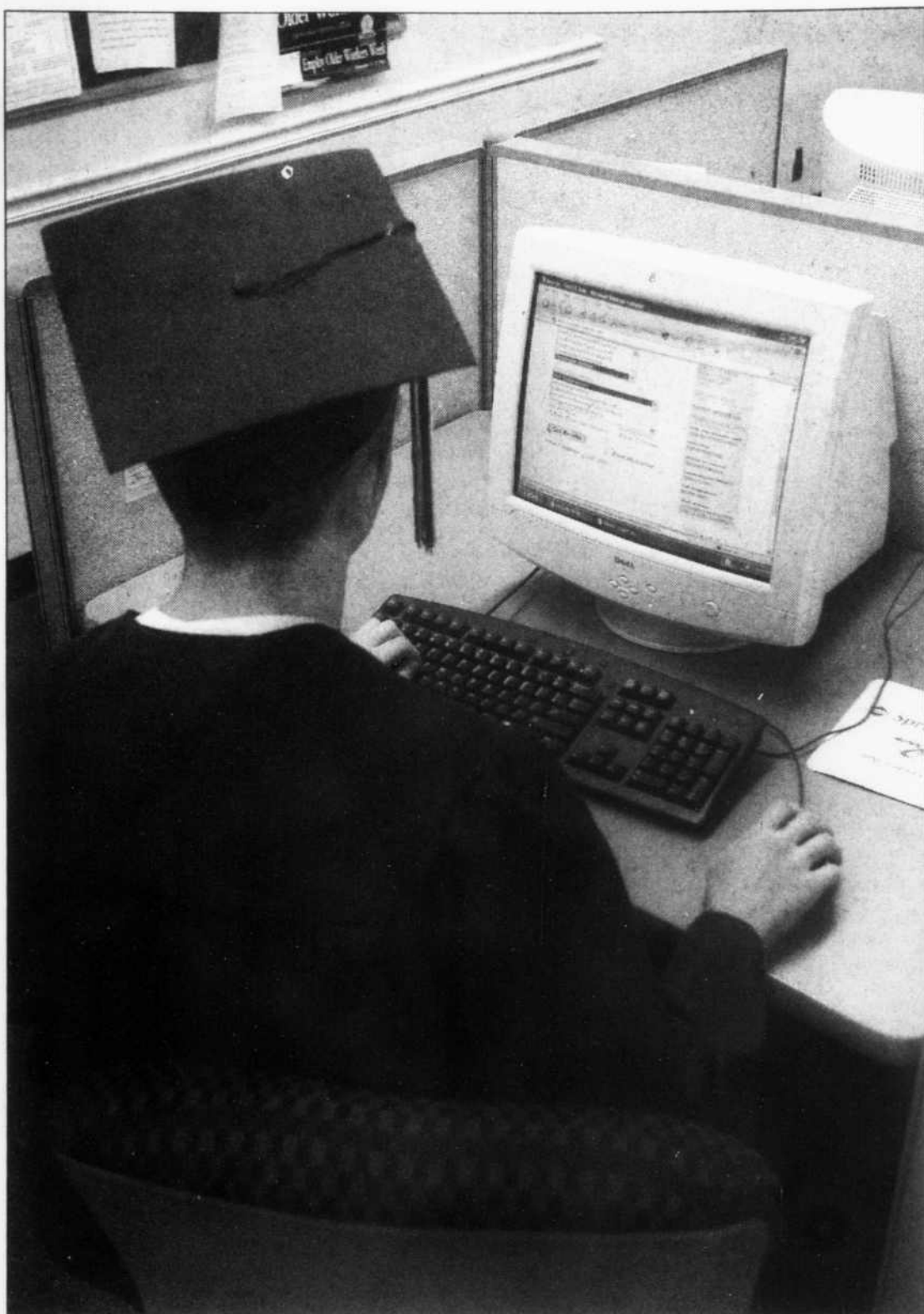


Photo illustration by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Although jobs won't fall into their laps, December graduates will have an easier time finding jobs during the "off-season," as opposed to the flood of graduates in May.

Interview, resumé tips from Monster experts

Staff Reports

Confidence and assertiveness in the resumé-building and interviewing processes can lead to big things in the workplace.

Monster.com's Career Advice section offers a plethora of tips and tweaks to make your resumé and interview stand out in your favor, rather than merely list your work history and

"You can quickly improve your resume by reordering your accomplishments according to importance."

Kim Isaacs
Monster.com
Resume Expert

confirm that you are, in fact, seeking a job.

Considering how the person on the other end might think is essential to creating an effective resumé. Instead of focusing just on one's work history, any awards received should be a staple of the resumé, according to Kim Isaacs, Monster.com Resume Expert.

"Include awards on your resumé to demonstrate that employers have valued your work," Isaacs said. "It's helpful to explain the context of the award so it has meaning to the person reading the resumé. For example: 'Inducted into President's Club, awarded to the top 5 percent of employees for outstanding sales performance.'"

Figuring out what is important to employers – and what is not – can significantly spruce up a resumé.

"You can quickly improve your resumé by reordering your accomplishments according to importance," Isaacs said. "Review your employment section and think about which accomplishments would most impress hiring managers, and then be sure to list those first."

Issacs also said that using a concise, active voice in resumé writing helps clear the air and asserts accomplishments.

"If your sentences are written in active voice, they will present you as a doer and achiever," Isaacs said. "Compare these sentences to see how active voice is more concise and dynamic. Passive: '\$1.2 million in new products were sold.' Active: 'Sold \$1.2 million in new products.' Review your resumé and look for ways to express your accomplishments in active voice."

Carole Martin, a Monster contributing writer, puts forth the novel notion that it's OK to be nervous for a job interview.

"Telling yourself you should feel differently than you do is unrealistic and just makes you feel bad about yourself," Martin said. "What's the worst that can happen at an interview? For many, it would be not getting an offer."

And according to Marty Nemko, another Monster contributing writer, confidence does not mean one is infallible. In fact, admitting a weakness shows that you know enough about yourself and your work habits to identify your lesser points.

"That candor builds chemistry, helps ensure you're likely to succeed on the job and differentiates you from typical candidates who

themselves," Nemko said. "It can even land you the job."

Nemko added that asking effective questions about the job, such as "What would be my first priorities on the job?" allows the candidate to both show interest and to tailor answers to the employer's interests.

And as a general order of consideration, think about this: Those of you out there with gender-neutral names (Lee, Casey, Chris, etc.) should consider including some indicator of gender, unless the applicant has reason to believe that gender may affect whether or not he or she is hired.

Think about it: Isn't it awkward when you see a name and you have to address a person, but don't know the person's gender? Interviewers and employers are people too, and this simple consideration extends common courtesy, which is always welcomed.

Issacs proposes including a Mr. or Ms. in your name, or including a middle name to indicate gender (such as Lee Matthew Davis). Better yet, include a testimonial that refers to the applicant's gender (I worked with Lee and he was an essential member of the team).

Finally, those of you who are serious about a job might want to replace that Bob Marley tune on the voicemail. Martin said an applicant should know when to expect a call and to ensure that who or whatever answers your phone, be it a voicemail or another person, is professional in nature. ♦

h y p e

December grads have advantage

Sending out resúmes during the holidays may be the best plan for new graduates

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

December graduates won't just be finding part-time work during the holidays folding clothes at a department store. December is a good time to find permanent, full-time jobs that lead to careers, according to career and economic experts.

Martha Turner, director of MTSU's Career and Employment Center, said that December is a good time to send out resúmes from new graduates.

Many graduates and regular job seekers don't bother to try because they assume employers will be too busy with the holidays to look at prospective employees.

But as David Penn, director of the Business and Economic Research Center, pointed out, that is precisely the reason to keep searching in December.

"There will be fewer resúmes coming into employers and fewer calls," Penn agreed.

"That's a really good time to be looking because others will be dropping out," Turner said.

"It's also good to have applications on file in December

because when employers need someone in January, they will go back and pull applications," Turner explained.

Another reason why December graduates will have an advantage is because the main flood of graduates more often comes in May.

This December 1,373 MTSU undergraduates will finish their degree, which is slightly smaller than last May's graduation of 1,423 undergraduates.

Turner recommends that students register with the career center by their junior or early senior year. Finding a job through the career center is often easier for new graduates rather than Internet job searches.

"A lot of them [employers] prefer the career centers," Turner said. "They say they find the best candidates there."

Lastly, Turner encouraged graduates to stick through the holiday blues brought on by a lack of response to resúmes.

"It's extremely important for job seekers to stay focused and submit an application or resume every day," Turner said. "Don't get discouraged, because everyone gets rejections." ♦

"It's also good to have applications on file in December because when employers need someone in January, they will go back and pull applications."

Martha Turner
director of
Career and Employment Center

Regional economy looks good for winter grads



Tennessee boasts lower unemployment

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

The local Tennessee economy is looking good for MTSU December graduates – in fact, better than the national economy.

According to the Business and Economic Research Center at MTSU, the unemployment rate in Tennessee's middle 41 counties is lower than the national average – 4.3 percent versus 5.4 percent.

"The labor market here looks more favorable for those looking for a job," said David Penn, director of the BERC.

The top five biggest private employers in the state of Tennessee are Wal-Mart (32,000 employees), Federal Express (30,000), Kroger (15,500), Vanderbilt University/Hospital (13,700) and Eastman Chemical Corporation (11,100), according to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Penn estimated that the healthcare industry is a large-hiring employer in Tennessee, especially in Davidson County.

The American

College of Nurse Practitioners just released a study that predicts that the number of nurses will fall to 20 percent below the national need by 2020.

Another field of work that is in need of graduates is education. Penn said that there is a huge growth in enrollment, especially in suburban counties surrounding metro areas like Nashville and Memphis.

"The first edge of the baby boom is starting to retire, so there is a demand for college students to fill the slots," Penn said.

Most importantly students are choosing to find jobs in the region because it's what they are familiar with, Penn said.

"Most of our graduates are from here, or have family here," Penn said. "It makes a lot of sense that you want to stick with what you are familiar with."

The local economy is fairly diversified, Penn said, and that helps keep a wide variety of graduates in the area.

"We have manufacturing and a good presence in printing and publishing," Penn said. "There are opportunities in many sectors." ♦

Congratulations Graduates!

From the Editorial Board The rich get richer...

President George W. Bush stepped up the War on Poor People once again with his recommendation that Pell Grants be frozen at the same maximum for the third straight year.

The provision that allowed this to happen was, of course, tucked nicely into a giant omnibus spending bill that any congressman or senator would be lynched for voting against, lest they let partisan bickering hold up "democracy."

Despite the fact that college tuition has increased by at least 7 to 8 percent across the nation, the federal government will contribute the same paltry amount — \$4,050, as it has for the last three years — to educate and train the nation's poorest students to become productive and independent citizens in an ultra-competitive 21st century economy.

The cost of an MTSU education has increased more than 25 percent in this time period, while federal funding per student has remained the same.

Luckily for MTSU students, education at a public Tennessee college is still cheaper than most other states. But the costs are rising dramatically every year, and college students find themselves working more and taking out more loans to cover the cost.

As our country careens more and more to the neo-conservative side of the spectrum, even programs like the Pell Grant system seem to become like all the other "entitlement" programs conservatives hate — a way for poor people to leech off all the good, God-fearing rich folks that won't be cut outright, but allowed to slowly erode so we hopefully won't notice when it does dry up for good.

But this is an investment in the future of this country. Unlike welfare and farm subsidies to corporations with billion-dollar revenue streams, Pell Grants ensure our citizens can compete in an increasingly global economy. They are our magic beans — they return dividends.

The rest of the first-tier nations realize the importance of education, and they notice our kids are getting dumber and less interested in a world beyond themselves and their immediate gratification. If we don't take drastic steps to curb this problem, we could easily find ourselves "left behind."

And while the president gives away the store to our nation's most fortunate, he doesn't deem it proper to throw a few beans to the rest of us. ♦

Values belong to both sides of aisle

After having read many editorials and listened to talk radio during the weeks since the election, I have had the same message drilled into my head repeatedly by conservatives.

First, that the conservatives were the big winner on election night, in large part because of moral values. Secondly, that the Democrats need to get on board and accept the coming conservative agenda.

There's no doubt that the Republican Party was the victor of last month's elections. However, I think it is unjust the way conservatives try to portray Democrats when it comes to values and religion.

The conservative right has tried to make it seem that if you are a Christian in this country, then you must vote Republican.

In many conservatives' minds, voting for a Democrat would be the equivalent of voting for a godless pagan. However, the majority of the people on the left side of the aisle are Christians, too. That's not to say that one is not free to worship, or not worship, however he or she sees fit.

It perturbs me the way

Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller
Staff Columnist

Republicans try to portray themselves as morally superior to Democrats. For example, for years Rush Limbaugh has condemned drug users and advocated strict sentencing for them. Then it comes to light that he has been illegally abusing Oxycotin, a drug that is the equivalent of getting high on heroin.

Limbaugh never went to jail, and many in his conservative audience actually felt sorry for him. I think there is a word for doing something that you have told others not to. I think it is hypocrisy, not one of my values.

Furthermore, my personal favorite "fair and balanced" newscaster, Bill O'Reilly, recently had a lawsuit filed against him for sexual harassment by one of his former assistant producers.

So what did O'Reilly do in response: fight against the charges to clear his name? No, he settled the suit out of court for a very large sum of money. Sexual harassment: not one of my values.

Another great example of the moral superiority of Republicans can be found in their own House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay. Under a Republican rule in the House, no one may hold a leadership position or be a committee chair who is under indictment.

So in the face of an indictment stemming from his methods of campaign financing, what did he and the Republican Congress do? They changed the rule. Indictments and scandalous campaigning practices, not part of my values.

Contrary to how many members of the right try to portray them, Democrats are religious and moral people. I thought Ron Regan said it well when he said his father was a religious man, but he did not necessarily wear his religion on his sleeve.

As Democrats, we do have morals and values. We believe that in a country as rich as the United

States, efforts should be made so that no one should have to go to bed hungry, that everyone is entitled to a quality education and that healthcare should be affordable and accessible to everyone, especially children and senior citizens.

Although it is true that Republicans are in control of every branch of our government at the moment, without 60 seats in the Senate, they cannot pass anything without the help of Democrats. This means the Democrats could potentially block any legislation, judicial appointments or new cabinet members.

However, the Democrats should work with Republicans to pass quality legislation. This does not mean they should roll over on everything, either.

As the new Democrat Leader of the Senate Harry Reid put it, "I can dance or I can fight." In the end, Democrats, like Republicans, want what is best for this country. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached at bigharf@comcast.net.

Putting faith into law not always good for all

I am sick and tired of hearing the word "values."

Unless you have been living in some kind of cave or Alaskan watchtower, you are aware that the issue that won George W. Bush the presidency was moral values. But has anyone ever stopped to ask themselves what that means?

Does it mean that every state will still have the right to decide whether it wants to execute its criminals?

Does it mean that the United States will continue to prosecute drug offenders that currently fill 90 percent of our grossly overcrowded prison system?

Does it mean that we are good people if we go to church?

There is a great need for people to have a variety of values. It gives us a sense of freedom, as well as a sense of community. When we are able to find people who share our sense of what is right and wrong, we feel as if we are part of something bigger than ourselves. It is truly wonderful.

However, there is a line, and I like to call that line legislation. As soon as we begin to legislate our moral values and turn them into laws and codes, then we have problems.

I'm not talking about murder, theft or harming other citizens. I'm talking about stem cell research, abortion, smoking, same-sex marriage, most recreational drugs, religious practices, naturalistic worldviews and any other idea that some people want to take away our right to decide upon.

The point that I wish to make perfectly and undeniably clear is that anyone, no matter who, that tries to turn their personal belief structure into the laws of our country is committing treason.

Logic, reason and compassion should be what we look to in order to create our laws, because all it takes to ruin everything is one incorrect point of perspective.

A story that I love telling concerns witches, so it can be easily dismissed, but try and bear with me because it proves my point.

During the Salem Witch Trials, there was a Boston man who became convinced that the cats that gathered in the alleyway behind his house were witches that could turn into cats for the express purpose of keeping him awake at night with their meowing.

So, one night, he decided to do something about it and went out back with a

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

fire poker. He swung the iron rod, whacking at his feline tormentors. He managed to inflict several injuries and distinctly remembered breaking the hind left leg of one of the cats. The man, satisfied, went back inside and got some sleep.

As he was telling the story to his friends, someone informed him of an elderly woman that had been laid up in bed with a broken left leg. This particular old woman happened to be quite ugly and lived alone, just like most witches. After hours of Inquisition-style interrogation, the woman admitted that she was a witch and gave the names of other witches. Summarily, she was put to death.

Now, if you got through that story, I applaud you. But you can now see that the only illogical piece of information the man acted on was the existence of witches. Everything else shows the actions of a perfectly rational and logical person.

It only takes one falsehood in your perspective to lose sight of anything resembling truth.

I understand that when someone attempts to legislate their beliefs, they are doing what they think is best for the country. However: the Catholic Church thought that the Inquisition was the best thing for their country. Hitler thought the Holocaust was a nifty plan and the Protestants thought that the witch hunts were the only way to save the innocents.

It is important that we keep these things in mind whenever we consider laws that deal with "morality" because, believe it or not, moral values can be just as arbitrary as anything else. And there is not a person among us who has not questioned their morals, even if it is just a little bit.

Remember, just saying the word "values" does not mean that you actually have them. ♦

Carter Fort is a senior digital animation major and can be reached at cf2b@mtsu.edu.

Keep level head with roommates during exams

By Erin Anderson
The Collegiate Times

BLACKSBURG, Va. — I've had some really good roommates, and I've had some really bad ones. The biggest difference between the two was the amount and quality of communication I had with them.

I bring this up because we're coming into crunch time here at the end of the semester. With finals approaching, nerves will be frazzled and tempers will be flaring, so bear in mind when your roommates make you mad that they're just as frustrated and stressed as you are, and instead of snapping at them later, try talking to them calmly when the problem first occurs. Don't hit the roof unless it's been an ongoing problem and talking to them hasn't done any good.

I had two roommates who were pigs. Total slob. I would come home from class and find trash and food all over the coffee table, the trashcan piled high with garbage and stinking the place up, and no one around to help me clean up. My other roommates and I put up with it for a long time, and finally we just snappd.

The moral of this story: if you have a problem with your roommate, talk to her. Don't just let it fester until you go ape on her and leave her just as angry as you are.

I had another roommate with whom I began having problems around this time. Part of it was that we were both stressed out, and part of it was that she didn't know how to say, "Hey, Erin, can I talk to you about something?"

So the way it happened was that I got an irate e-mail over winter break (and my also-not-too-happy reply only made things worse), and then when we came back from break it all really hit the fan.

For a while, she would only communicate with me via notes. We'd be sitting in the same room for over an hour, and I would go to class and when I returned there would be no roommate, but a note from her on my desk (usually asking me to be sure to lock the door when I leave, or something else fairly non-controversial that shouldn't have been hard to say to my face).

I tell these stories to help others avoid the same troubles that I have had. Communication is the most important part of any relationship, and when you're living in such close quarters with someone, it's even more key. Ignoring or avoiding an issue isn't going to fix it, and being passive-aggressive and leaving Post-Its a la "Sex and the City" isn't going to help either.

I have two fantastic roommates now, and I chalk it all up to the fact that we communicate. For example, my female roommate and I have complained enough about our male roommate leaving dirty socks in the living room that he finally got the hint and started leaving them in his bedroom.

If you're having a problem with your roommates, talk to them right away, because they aren't going to figure it out on their own, and having you break it to them out of the blue three months later will only ruin the relationship. ♦

From the Opinions Editor All I want for Christmas is this list of demands

Well, 'tis the end of the year, and the holiday season is fast approaching. While the editorial staff has composed their own list of things they wish the university — or themselves, for that matter — could have, I have my own list that you can check twice, so you can find out if my plans are ludicrous or not.

You were all expecting me to say "naughty or nice," weren't you? In any case, I present my first semi-annual Wish List to you, the readers of this newspaper:

- Ejector seats in the library. You may be wondering why on earth a library would need ejector seats. Trust me, the eighth time you've noticed someone playing games on a computer that you could be using to finish that final paper for class, you'll appreciate it.

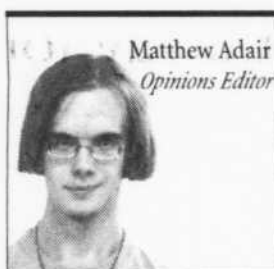
- Underground parking. Sure, the blasting will cost a price roughly equal to the gross national product of some small nations, but it's a small price to pay for avoiding rage around campus.

- While we're thinking underground, let's build ourselves a campus metro as well. Why wait in the rain for a bus when you can stay cozy underground, waiting for the train to ferry you from the Mass Communications building to Kirksey Old Main. Peck Hall could be like Grand Central Terminal. It pretty much is, anyway.

- The stadium should be completely redesigned to look more Greek in design. If the athletics department is going to do something as downright goofy as the "Battle for the Palladium" then we might as well go all-out.

- Finally, I want staged swordfights in the Quadrangle; real, honest-to-goodness, steel-on-steel swordfights. The plaza has the perfect design for it, and the lampposts would make the battle all the more interesting. Even better, students could line up around the steps circling the Quad to watch. The university could even sell tickets if it wanted to; something's got to fund those ejector seats, you know. ♦

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Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Ramadan, Yule, etc. from Sidelines to all of you.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Sudanese students escape from danger

By Randi Cornwell
Contributor

Perhaps here at MTSU, students take for granted the accommodations afforded to them, but such is not true for all. The members of the Sudanese Students' Group are thankful for everything they have, including their safety and health.

"Genocide" is a term that is a perplexity for most people; however, the Sudanese refugees who are studying here at MTSU are very familiar with the atrocious term.

A genocide society is one in which one ethnicity or race systematically persecutes and kills another. This is the type of civilization from which Mabior Manyok and others have escaped.

Manyok, known to his friends as "Juke," has lived here in the United States for nine years and will graduate this year with a degree in University Studies.

His life previous to his arrival here is more than astonishing.

When he was only 12 years old, Manyok joined the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). While in the army, he encountered many obstacles and dreadful conditions.

"I was a guerrilla warfare fighter, so there was lots of traveling," Manyok said. "We'd have to walk many miles and sometimes sleep under the trees and wait for an attack."

Manyok continued by saying that he and the other members of the army would go for weeks without food and days without water.



Front to back: Biith Maker (Computer Engineering), Chol Garang (Undecided), Mabior Manyok (University Studies).

When he finally left the army, Manyok fled to the refugee camps of Kenya and Ethiopia. It was here that he decided he wanted to come to the United States and get an education.

Manyok's family is no longer living in Sudan, but rather in Kenya. He has not seen them since the mid to late-1980s.

"I don't like to think about what they are going through because I know about the situation," Manyok said. "My father

was working with the United Nations but was laid off. Now [my family] depends on only me."

Juke is not the only student working to support his family. Biith Maker, president of the Sudanese Students' Group, is also working and going to school full time. He came to the United States five years ago and is still struggling to become a citizen.

"I applied for my green card in 2002, and still have not

received it," Maker said.

Maker works on campus while taking a full load of courses in order to have the money to send home to his family.

"My dad died and women are not allowed to work, so my family depends on me to send them money for Christmas and other things," Maker explained.

While working to support their families must be the foremost thought in the Sudanese students' minds, one cannot help but wonder how they

adjusted to the American culture. Manyok insisted that the social aspect of life here in the United States was the hardest thing for him to get use to.

"When I first came here, I felt alone all the time," Manyok said.

Then he started to learn how to make friends.

"Now I want time alone and can't get it, which is a good problem to have."

Maker maintained that while there are many cultural differ-

ences, the importance of time here in the United States was the strangest thing for him to adapt to.

"Time is simply not as important back home as it is here in America. Here, everyone wants you to be somewhere at a certain time. It just wasn't like that in Sudan," Maker insists.

The Sudanese Student Group here at MTSU is a small but close one. They support each other and help any new student who comes to understand the culture and succeed in classes.

"We can talk about our families and people back in Sudan [as well as] other things going on," Manyok said.

But while they strive to succeed for themselves, they still have not forgotten about the people suffering in their home country. They collect books to send to children back in southern Sudan. Maker explained why they need the books so desperately.

"People here at MTSU may change editions every two or three years and the old books aren't as good anymore. We ask for those books to send to children back in Sudan," Maker said. "Without these books, how will they learn?"

As Manyok continues in the large east African nation of Sudan, the Sudanese students work hard here in the United States, unsure of what will befall their families back home.

They manage to succeed in school and work, not only because they want to be triumphant in their efforts, but also because their families depend on them to provide. ♦

Thouin's Chex mix

one stick butter or margarine (melted)
two teaspoons seasoned salt
two tablespoons plus half a teaspoon

Worcestershire sauce

two and one-third cups Corn Chex cereal
two and one-third cups Rice Chex cereal
two and one-third cups Wheat Chex cereal
one cup Cheerios cereal
one cup salted peanuts
one cup pretzel sticks

two large disposable aluminum pans or two rectangle cake pans or two broiler pans

Preheat oven to 250 degrees.

In a large plastic container with a lid, or a large paper bag, combine the cereal, peanuts and pretzels.

Add seasoned salt and Worcestershire sauce to melted butter. Stir. Pour the butter mixture over the combined dry ingredients.

Put the lid on the container and shake until thoroughly coated.

Spread the mix evenly into two-inch deep pans. Bake for one hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

Allow to cool completely before storing in an airtight container.

Cranberry-orange Punch

12 ounce can frozen cranberry juice concentrate
12 ounce can frozen orange juice concentrate
24-32 ounces ginger ale (optional)
Water

Mix frozen cranberry and orange juice according to package directions. Combine both in a one gallon container or punch bowl. Add ginger ale as desired.

For a more festive look, add sliced lime to the punch bowl.

Send your cooking question to: juanitathouin@hotmail.com. ♦

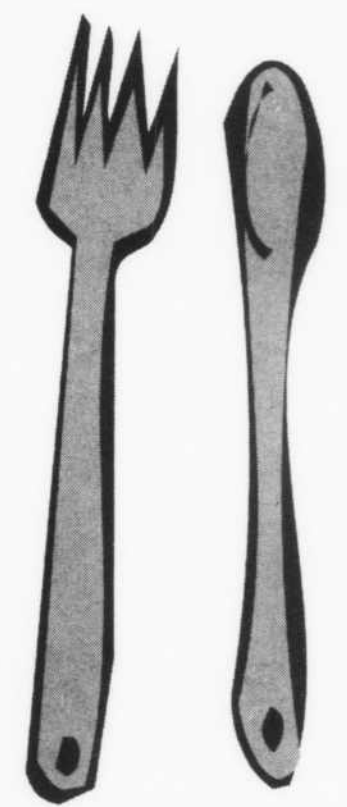
Cooking 101



Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist

'Tis the season of holiday parties and entertaining. Here are two recipes sure to please all your guests.

Tip: When put into festive tins, Chex mix makes a great gift for roommates or friends.



Juanita

Warner Parks offer perfect way to leave troubles behind, get-away for a day



Memoirs of a senior

Brittany Matern
Contributing Columnist

At one point on the trail, I came face to face with a squirrel. He sat, hunched on all fours. He looked like he was prepared to attack if threatened. In his mouth was a huge piece of something. I assumed it was a walnut, or some other nut from one of the many trees, but it was hard to tell. Whatever it was, it was about half the size of his body. Not willing to fight him for his treasure, I side-stepped the little guy and he went scampering off into the woods.

The run-in with my squirrel friend happened in the middle of Nashville, Tenn. Many cities in the Southeast have extensive park systems. The Warner Parks of Nashville are one example, and they are only a short drive from downtown.

To get to them, take I-65 South from downtown Nashville to exit 74A and continue on Old Hickory Boulevard to Highway 100. The parks are located at 7311 Highway 100. Park hours are dawn until 11 p.m.

Percy Warner Park and Edwin Warner Park are known collectively as The Warner Parks. They were established in 1927, making this year their 77th anniversary.

Managed by Metro Board of Parks and Recreation of Nashville and Davidson County, the parks offer 2,684 acres of forest and field. Half a million people visit annually to utilize the parks' picnic areas, equestrian center and horse trails, cross country running courses, golf courses and athletic fields.

Vera Vollbrecht, a naturalist in the parks, expanded on the activities available to park visitors.

"There are two golf courses. Percy Warner is a nine-hole course and Harpeth Hills is an 18-hole course."

Fees for the courses vary depending on what day you go, but you can visit the park's Web site (<http://www.nashville.gov/parks/warner.htm>) to see a price list.

Fields for baseball, soccer and cross country running are available to athletes and teams in the area.

"They have also been playing cribbage lately in the park," Vollbrecht adds.

Also available are the steeplechase race track and infield jumps for equestrian events. Sorry to those of you who don't own a horse.

"There is no horse rental in the park. Trail riders must trail horses to ride," Vollbrecht explains.

For people not wanting to participate in sporting events, there is still plenty more to do, such as hiking, nature studies, picnicking, participating in environmental education programs and star-gazing.

My father and I decided to experience the hiking trails in the park one crisp Saturday morning in October. I had been in low spirits and welcomed the escape to the outdoors.

Both of us had been in the parks before, but neither of us had ever hiked the trails.

Our first stop was the Nature Center at Edwin Warner Park. It was kids' day, so there were lots of little rug rats running around.

The Nature Center is a beautiful environmental education and recreation center that serves as the main trailhead. The aroma of fresh wood hits you when you walk through the door. Storytime takes place in front of a beautiful floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace.

A friendly smile from behind the front desk greeted us as we walked through the door. John Sharlet looked like the quintessential trail guide, his long silver hair pulled back into a ponytail.

We walked around the center briefly to see what it offered. It's the perfect place to take little ones to learn about nature. There's an oversized tree trunk habitat in the middle of the room that kids can play in, along with several educational, kid-friendly (and adult-friendly) displays throughout the room.

The Nature Center is a great place to take a school field trip. It offers environmental education programs and other special activities.

Vollbrecht fondly recalls one particular school group.

"One of my favorite stories as a naturalist here... occurred when I was leading a field trip of

See Warner, 8

Puleo's opening creatively blends the South and Italy

By Stephanie Vass
Staff Writer

Get ready, Murfreesboro, for a new restaurant with a "Southern Roots and Italian Heritage" theme. The eatery, Puleo's, located at 730 N.W. Broad St., is set to open Dec. 14.

Steve Puleo, the executive chef, has been involved with restaurants for 32 years.

Restaurants that have employed

Puleo include Regas, The Chop House, Grady's and Riverside Tavern.

With his Italian and Southern heritage, Puleo has made a menu that can accommodate any appetite.

Creating fried green tomatoes (\$5.99) to stuffed seafood ravioli (\$6.99) as starters shows the wide variety on this menu.

"We make everything from scratch with the highest quality ingredients," Puleo said.

Everything is made in-house with a chef on duty, allowing Puleo's to stand out from any other restaurant, Puleo said.

"The restaurant is also operated because it is chef-owned and operated; the taste is a real difference," Puleo said.

Murfreesboro is the third location in which Puleo's has opened. The other two locations are Strawberry Plains, Tenn., and Knoxville, Tenn.

"Guests should expect smiling faces,

a warm, friendly environment and generous portions of food when they come to dine at Puleo's," Puleo said.

The prices range from \$5.99 to \$19.99.

Some items that are featured on the menu include fiesta chicken tender salad (\$8.99), shrimp and grits (\$14.99), chicken-garaged pork chop (\$11.99), chicken parmesan (\$11.99) and Philly steak sandwich (\$8.99).

Puleo's is a restaurant that provides

Tennessee hospitality and food made from scratch, Puleo said.

Those who are looking for a tasty meal that is different from other restaurants in Murfreesboro are invited to stop by from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday beginning Dec. 14.

For more information about the opening, please call (615) 867-3312. ♦



Campus Club Spotlight:

The Christian Music Society

By Edward Miller
Contributor

The Christian Music Society is an MTSU organization that is devoted to helping music-driven students in and out of the classroom.

Recording industry professionals often host seminars that give the students an opportunity to connect, learn and receive advice about the music profession.

"We just try to have a great time while furthering the education and opportunities for students that they might not get in class," club Treasurer Angela Knoll said.

A group of 25 students took a trip to EMI in September and Dark Horse Records in October. A tour of each record label was given to the students

where they received free CDs, great connections and a real feel for the industry.

"After not being on the campus for a few years, we are making a comeback," Knoll said.

As a part of that comeback, on Dec. 7, in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 104 there was a demo forum for anyone interested.

The forum began at 8 p.m. and three industry professionals came to critique and listen to as many demos as possible.

All styles are welcome to participate in these types of great opportunities for singer/songwriters to get their songs heard.

The Christian Music Society meets every other Tuesday in the Mass Comm building, Room 104 at 8 p.m. ♦

Warner: Local parks provide sanctuary

Continued from 7

elementary students – probably third or fourth grade. Along the hiking route we came upon a red-tailed hawk on the lower branch of a large walnut tree. All of the students were amazed to see a real, live hawk up close. We got to stand right underneath it without scaring it away. It was awesome for me and for the students."

After we made rounds at the Nature Center, John gave us a map of the trails (which I found a bit confusing at first, but the actual trails are marked pretty well) and we were on our way.

Another little treasure in Edwin Warner Park that you might miss if you blink awaits you at the trailhead. A small teaching pond is home to hundreds of little tadpoles. When the season is right, you can hear

the frogs croaking. Stepping stones lead you across the pond onto the trail.

Eight color-coded trails with a connector trail connect the two parks. My father and I chose the Harpeth Woods Trail, rated moderate. The label didn't scare off many folks though. We met hikers from ages ranging from five to 65 on the trail.

It only took us about an hour and 15 minutes to complete the trail, but it was an hour and 15 minutes full of sights.

We quietly crept up on a beautifully colored woodpecker early in the hike and listened to him peck at the tree. It echoed through the trees because of the silence around us.

Though I couldn't point them out myself, one of the brochures brags that there are about 110 species of trees and more than 400 species of wild-

flowers. The parks offer homes to more than 200 species of birds, at least 30 different mammals and more than 40 species of reptiles and amphibians.

One of the most enjoyable things about the hike was being able to enjoy the company of my dad in the serene environment. The quiet forest listened as we caught up on life, and it lent its ears to our laughter.

Though I had been in low spirits at the beginning of the hike, I found myself pleasantly surprised by the peaceful and relaxing surroundings the Warner Parks had to offer.

The slogan on one of the maps states it best: "Enjoy the Warner Parks hiking trails, and remember: Take only time and photographs here and leave only troubles and footprints behind." ♦

Graduates shouldn't settle

Many college students question whether or not they will use their degree when they graduate. Are you one of them?

Work hard, study more and make good grades. That is what parents and teachers always tell you. But for what? To keep working at the same job you have been working at through out college?

This is the strategy most college students have. Many say, "I'll just stay at my job until something better comes along."

But if the graduate does not pursue a new career, it is not going to simply fall into his or her lap.

Many college students wonder if they will be like others who do not get a job directly out of college. It is a scary thought for most of us, although others have jobs lined up through internships or friends and family that can help push their way into the corporate world.

Senior Danielle Ford expects to graduate in December with an entrepreneurship degree. She already has her mind made up about what she will be doing after she walks the line on Dec. 18. Danielle hopes to be one of the few who actually takes advantage of her estimated \$15,000 degree.

"Once I have been there a few years and make enough money, I'll take over my mom's catering business, Cherry Tree Catering," she confidently assures me.

When asked how she feels about her upcoming degree, Ford replies with a laugh, "Well, it's the most expensive piece of paper I'll ever have."

On the other end of the spectrum, MTSU graduate Katherine Finney has a teaching degree with an emphasis in art. Once she obtained her "expensive piece of paper," she already had a teaching job lined up in Clarksville, Tenn.

"Psyching myself up for another interview after getting



Heather Carter
Contributing Columnist

turned down on the one before was harder than I thought. But it paid off now, because I got my job on the second interview," Finney explains as she proudly showed me pictures of her fifth grade class.

Job hunting can be one of the hardest things to do when you graduate. You have to ask yourself so many questions.

"What do I want to do with my degree? How can I use it to my advantage? Can I afford to take a pay cut if the company does not offer me what I am already making now?"

Unfortunately, there is not a definite answer to any of these questions mentioned. The main thing is to figure out what type of field you want to be in. The rest comes later.

Sometimes, college students assume they will make more money staying at their current job than they will going into a new field using their degree.

However, what they do not realize is that pay can increase quickly at a major job, which most likely will not occur at the present job.

So what can you do to painlessly smooth your way into another job? MTSU maintains a Career and Employment Center that is not well-known among many students. In fact, only 31 percent of last year's students used the center's resources.

This program has assisted many students in finding job openings, reviewing and submitting resumes and eventually landing a job for the new graduate.

Martha Turner, director of the Career and Employment Center, is working hard this year to ensure more college students

are aware of this program.

"We want students to be able to come to us when they need help finding a job. That's what we're here for," Turner said.

"The center has been a success so far, but we're still hoping for an increase of students who want to use our resources," she explains.

Events like job fairs and interview sessions are extremely helpful in pushing students in the direction they want to go. The Career and Employment Center hosts a job fair every year at the Murphy Center. This year's fair was held on Thursday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

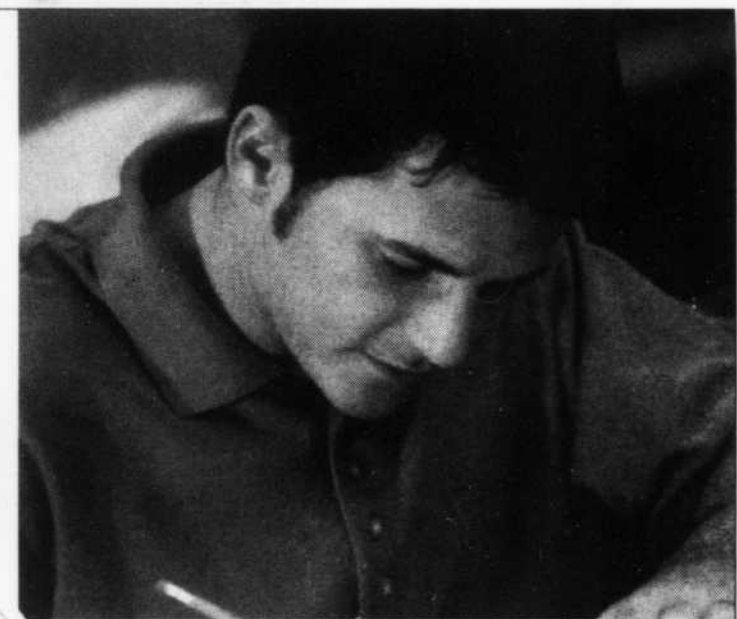
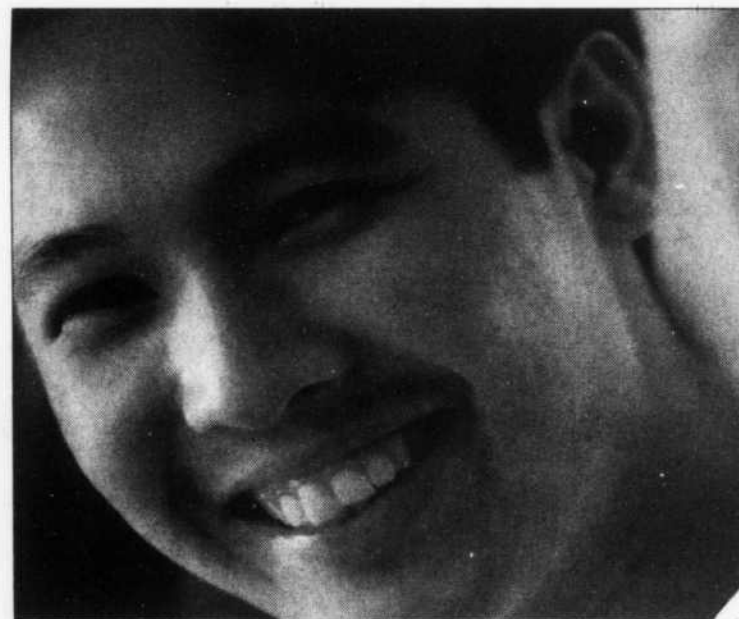
The job fair is an event that brings businesses together that are looking for potential employees. Each one sets up a booth and describes the positions they are looking for. The best way to get the full benefit of the job fair is to take a handful of your resumes and pass them out to each company you are interested in applying to. By the time you leave, you will hopefully have a better understanding of the field you want to enter.

Another benefit of the Career Development Center is how well they can locate the potential job openings in the local area. You simply give the center your resume. They will evaluate it for you and post it for all the companies to see. Another benefit of this program is that it is free!

To get a reputable job when graduating college, it takes determination, it takes preparation and it takes dedication. Anyone can possess these qualities if he or she wants something bad enough.

Once you graduate and you are still wondering what you want to be "when you grow up," just ask yourself one question: Have I used my degree lately? ♦

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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

9 ♦ SIDELINES

Men's Basketball

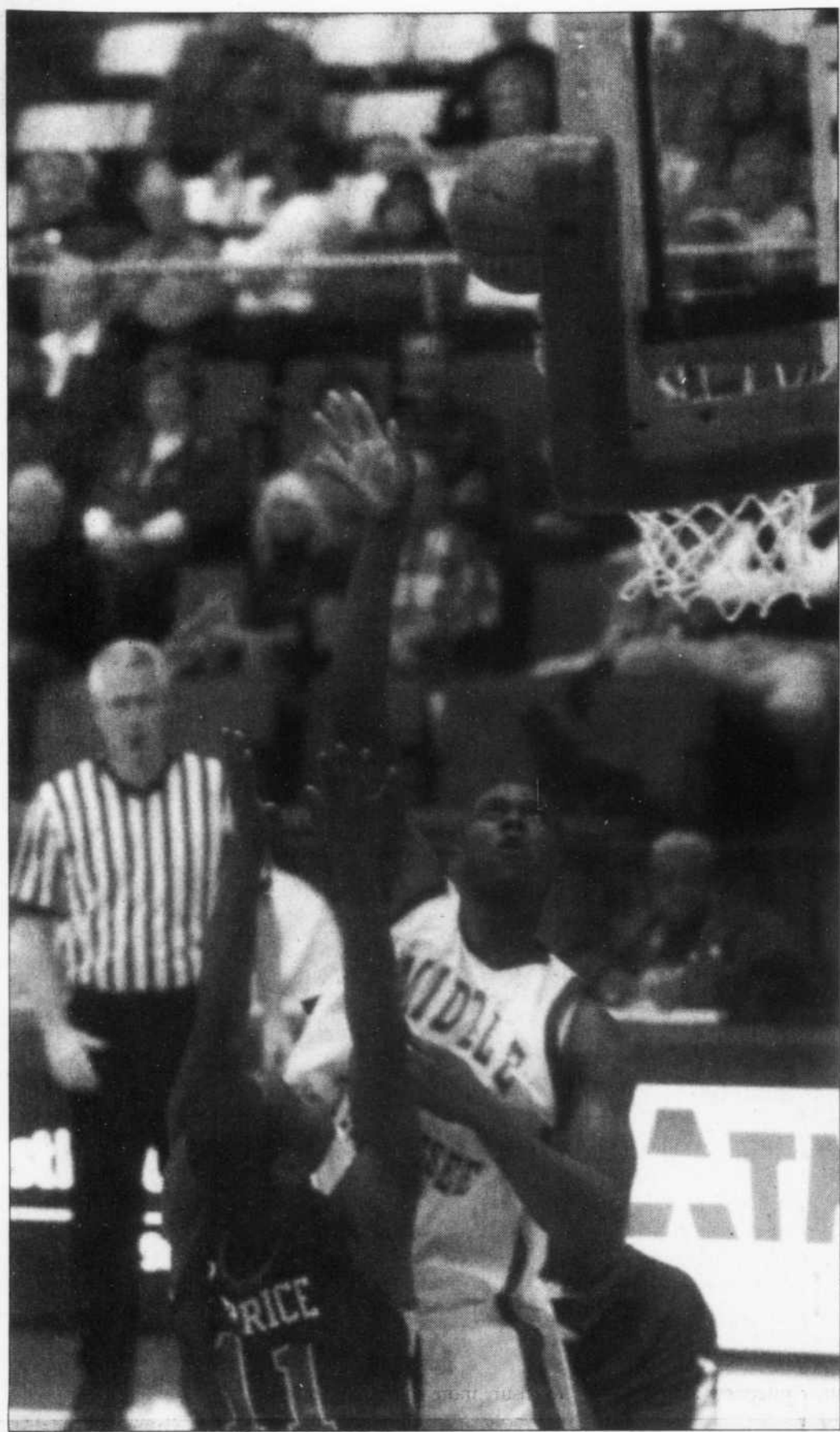


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
MT junior Darrio Scott scored a career-high 18 points in his first career start in the Blue Raiders' 96-94 victory against Tennessee State at home on Sunday.

MT outlasts Tigers

Dean scores season-high 25 in victory

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Sunday night it was pouring down rain outside the Murphy Center.

Inside, it was raining threes in Middle Tennessee's 96-94 victory over in-state rival Tennessee State.

"They have a lot of good athletes and they weren't going to back down," MT guard Michael Cuffee said. "This was a rivalry game and they gave us their best shot."

MT's Marcus Morrison connected on two free throws with five seconds left to put the Blue Raiders up 96-91.

TSU hurried down the court and Bruce Price nailed a three-pointer as the horn sounded to account for the final score.

TSU took control in the opening half and led the Blue Raiders by as many as eight points. MT starters Bryan Smithson and Cuffee spent most of the half on the bench in foul trouble.

MT was able to close the gap to three, however, when Alex Weekes brought the season-high 4,105 crowd to their feet with a huge dunk with seven seconds left in the half. TSU led 39-36 at the break.

Cuffee opened the second half by scoring five straight points, including a three-pointer with a little more than one minute gone to cut the lead to a single point.

The Blue Raiders took the lead for good when Mike Dean connected on two free throws with 13:01 remaining to make the score 54-53.

MT Basketball



Blue Raiders 96
TSU Tigers 94

Next Game: v. Mississippi Valley State

"I thought they upped their intensity level in the second half," TSU coach Cy Alexander said. "I thought that was the difference in the game. The first 10 minutes we did not up our intensity level and that was inexcusable."

The Blue Raiders extended the lead to 11 on several occasions in the second half. The latest one came with 1:11 to go with MT leading 89-78.

After a three-point play by TSU's Bruce Price, MT's Darrio Scott slammed one home to push the lead back to 10.

The Tigers were able to cut the lead to three after three-pointers by Wayne Arnold and Jeremy Jackson and a basket by Roshaun Bowens.

Cuffee added two free throws to put the lead back to five with 10 seconds left.

Mike Dean fouled Arnold while he was in the act of shooting a three-pointer with five seconds to go. Arnold missed the first free throw, but hit the next two to make the score 94-91.

Dean scored a season-best 25 points, while Scott added a career-high 18 in his first

career start.

"He's been our most active guy in practice," MT head coach Kermit Davis said of Scott. "After the Tennessee Wesleyan game, which we didn't play very well, we had a hard, competitive practice and he was by far the toughest guy on our team, so we inserted him into the lineup. He was very athletic and physical."

"I'm not shy when it comes to shooting, but that's how I've been practicing and it showed up in the game," Scott said.

Cuffee dropped in 17, and Morrison had 16 coming off the bench.

The Blue Raiders shot 49 percent from the field, including 62 percent in the second half. MT shot 79 percent from the foul line, going 28-of-32.

The Tigers were led by Rod Flowers' 20 points. Price added 19, and Reiley Ervin drilled five three-pointers to finish with 17. Jackson and Arnold chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively.

TSU (4-4) had their four-game winning streak snapped, while the Blue Raiders improved to 4-2 with a three-game winning streak.

"It's good to have the game back and I hope we will continue it the rest of the time that we are both at these schools, because it's good for the Midstate," Davis said.

MT's next game is Saturday in a rematch against Mississippi Valley State. On Nov. 27, MVSU defeated the Blue Raiders 71-58. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders end road swing tonight

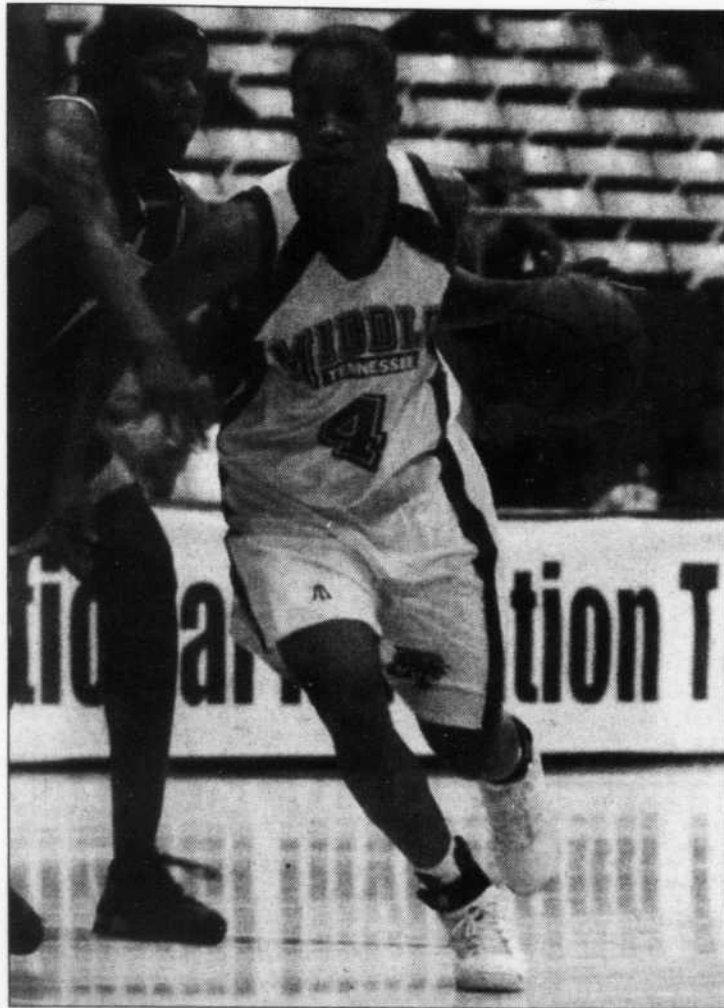


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Krystle Horton scored 13 against Georgia State.

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team finishes their six-game road run tonight at Tennessee Tech.

The Golden Eaglettes (4-2) completed play in the Contra Costa Times Classic in Berkeley, Calif., over the weekend by falling to Cal 65-41 in the championship game.

On Sunday TTU's four-game winning streak was slashed by the Golden Bears, who forced 13 turnovers and held the Eaglettes to 22 percent shooting in the first half.

Turnovers have been a debilitating factor for the Eaglettes in the past two road contests. Before committing 20 turnovers against Cal, TTU lost possession 21 times in their 63-48 victory against Pepperdine University.

"We won't let this game, or the way we played... affect us, except that we will look at our mistakes and try to correct them," junior forward Emily Christian told TTU Media Relations afterward.

Despite the Eaglettes' loss in the title game, Christian was named to the all-tournament team along with teammate Kendall Cavin.

"They [TTU] have a phenomenal player in Emily Christian," MT head coach

Stephanie Smith said. "She could be playing anywhere."

Christian leads the Eaglettes with 17.0 points per game.

MT (4-3) will be entering the TTU game fresh off two road victories against Georgia State and Georgia Southern.

The Raiders were led on Sunday against GSU by Patrice Holmes' 20 points, which included four three-pointers.

Despite the confidence gained in the victories, however, MT will be fighting another foe. Every college student is familiar with the stress of final exams, but athletes often have a heavy burden to bear in their sport and classes this time of year.

"We just had two different five-day trips that were a long way away," Smith said. "We missed a lot of class. The fact that we have final exams next week means not only are we physically fatigued, but we're mentally fatigued because we're playing catch up in our classes."

After quality study time and preparation for the next two days, MT will head into tonight's contest with a 3-2 road record.

"It's nice to get wins, and it's especially nice to get wins on the road," Smith said. "We've had such a long stretch of road games and we're hopeful that we'll finish out our road swing with a victory against Tennessee Tech on Thursday." ♦

Thomas, Byrd break MT records in Arkansas

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track squads returned to action Saturday at the 16th Annual Kickoff Classic in Jonesboro, Ark.

Junior Meaghan Byrd beat her own school record from last season (50-10) in the weight throw placing third with a mark of 51-8.

Redshirt

sophomore

J a m e s

T h o m a s

also broke

his own

record of

51-5.5, plac-

ing fourth

with a mark

of 52-5.

Both Byrd

and Thomas

broke school records with their

throws.

Newcomer Alex Pruitt placed first in the high jump at 6-6, while Pierre Ingram placed third at 6-4 and Julius DeFour in fourth at 6-4.

The Blue Raider men took fourth, sixth and eighth place in the long jump: J.J. Sturm finished at 23-6.25, Sean Waller came in at 22-2.5, and Wesley Dupar-Scott was in eighth at 22-2.25.

Sturm finished eighth in the triple jump (42-11), while teammate Greg Jones placed third (47-2).

Jonathan Guillou came in third in the 3,000-meter run at 8:50.75 and Steve Safstrom in sixth (8:54.53).

The Lady Raiders did just as well. Out last season, Latoya Brown returned to place fourth in the high jump (5-4). Sierra Douglas placed fourth in the long jump (18-6.75) and sixth in the triple jump (38-9).

In the 3,000, Sara Lunning placed third at 11:12.53, while Miranda Galloway came in fourth in the mile at 5:28.78. Kerry Barrow ran the 400-meter dash and placed third (59.40). Kishara George came in second in the 800-meter dash (2:18.78).

Tiffany Owens, Antranette Stringer, and Barrow ran the 200-meter dash and placed third (25.44), fourth (25.45) and fifth (25.47), respectively. Owens placed second in the 55-meter dash (7.19), while Stringer came in fifth (7.27).

Candice Robertson placed fourth in the 55-meter hurdles at 7.32. ♦

Golf squads sign 2005 class

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee head men's and women's golf coaches have announced the signing of several new players.

Men's coach Johnny Moore signed two top-100 players in Rick Cochran and Chas Narramore as well as a U.S. Boys Junior qualifier in Craig Smith.

"We are very excited," MT assistant coach Whit Turnbow said. "This has never happened."

One of the standout golfers will be Cochran, who is the nephew of Professional Golf Association Tour star Russ Cochran. The Junior Golf Scoreboard placed him as the 90th-best prospect in the nation.

Cochran graduated from Heath High School in Paducah, Kent. He was first team all state last year and finished third in the Kentucky State Championship.

All in the same year, Cochran placed sixth at the Signal Mountain National Junior with a 73-71-68 212, before finishing 13th at the Bubba Coulee National Junior with a 75-68-69 212.

"Rick is going to have the biggest impact," Turnbow said. "He has good experience and a good attitude."

Rick's uncle believes his nephew has the ability to contribute to MT also.

"Rick is a fearless and aggressive player who is really long off the tee," Cochran told MT Media Relations. "He has a lot of natural ability, is tenacious and loves to compete, which makes him a great fit for MT. His short game is world class, and when he gets his putter going, he's hard to beat."

Narramore, who is ranked 98th on the Junior Golf Scoreboard, was born in Kingston, Tenn., and graduated from Roane County High School. Narramore is the current Tennessee State Junior Champion after a 70-68-70 208.

Narramore finished as a runner-up in the 2004 National High School Championship.

Smith qualified for the U.S. Boys Junior Championship at the Olympic Club, which took place in San Francisco. Smith is a Springfield, Tenn., native who choose MT over Ole Miss,

Alabama-Birmingham and Memphis.

"This is a great class and we are very excited to have them representing our program and this University," Moore told MT Media Relations.

Meanwhile, women's head golf coach Rachel Short announced the signing of Leigh Wilkins and Mallory Bishop.

"They are both excited to come to MT," Short said.

Wilkins is a four-year state tournament qualifier from Oakland High School and a two-time *Daily News Journal* Player of the Year.

"I have known Leigh forever," Short said. "I used to baby-sit her, so this is a special signee for me," Short said.

Bishop played at Bearden High School and won the Class AAA state championship in 2004 with a 36-hole total of 147.

"Mallory has a solid overall game and loves to compete," Short told MT Media Relations. "She will bring a lot to our program, and I expect her to come in and contribute from Day 1." ♦

Dean returns to lead Blue Raiders

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee leading scorer and senior Mike Dean is one of the top returning guards in the Sun Belt Conference for the 2004-05 season.

"Dean has been a good leader and he works so hard that I want him to have a great season," MT head coach Kermit Davis said.

Davis believes one of the reasons why Dean is such a good leader is because of his love for the sport.

"He loves to play basketball more than anybody I have ever coached," Davis said. "Dean truly loves basketball. Some guys say they do, but he really means it."

Davis also admits to liking Dean as a person.

"Dean is a really quiet guy. [He's] soft-spoken, but he tells you what is on his mind, and I like him a lot for that," Davis said.

Dean is from Rome, Ga., where he grew up and played high school basketball at Coosa High School. In just two years of play Dean averaged 30 points, 7.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists and scored more than 1,600 points.

He became a two-time Region Player of the State and All-Region team member. Dean also was rated the No. 18 shooting guard in

the nation out of high school by *The Sporting News*.

Dean was recruited by the University of Georgia, where he played in 23 games as a freshman and averaged 1.8 points.

In his sophomore year he scored 2.8 points per game and had a career high with nine points against Arkansas. There was an obvious problem with Dean playing for the Bulldogs.

"Life was pretty good in Georgia," Dean said. "It's this too bad everything did not work out."

When Dean was playing in Georgia he never got comfortable.

"I was always frustrated when I was there," Dean said. "I was coming off the bench trying to get used to the way Coach (Jim) Harrick wanted me to play."

Dean felt he did not perform well enough at Georgia, so it was time for a change.

"I could not perform well because I was not comfortable," Dean said. "But I am a lot more comfortable at MT."

Dean has become a high-scoring marksman for the Blue Raiders after transferring to MT before his junior year.

In the 2003-04 season he led the Blue Raiders in scoring with 16.2 points per game,

which was No. 3 in the SBC. Dean was also No. 5 in the conference's three-point field goals percentage with 2.7 per game.

Dean's season ended prematurely, however, when he suffered a broken left hand during practice before the SBC tournament.

This year Dean overcame another injury, suffering a deep bone bruise in his right knee.

Dean sat out the Blue Raiders' win over Tennessee Wesleyan last Thursday, but came back against rival Tennessee State and scored a season-high 25 points in MT's 96-94 win.

"Dean is one of those guys that will get hurt and say they didn't get hurt," Davis said.

This year Dean is averaging 19.4 points per game and also leads the team in three-pointers.

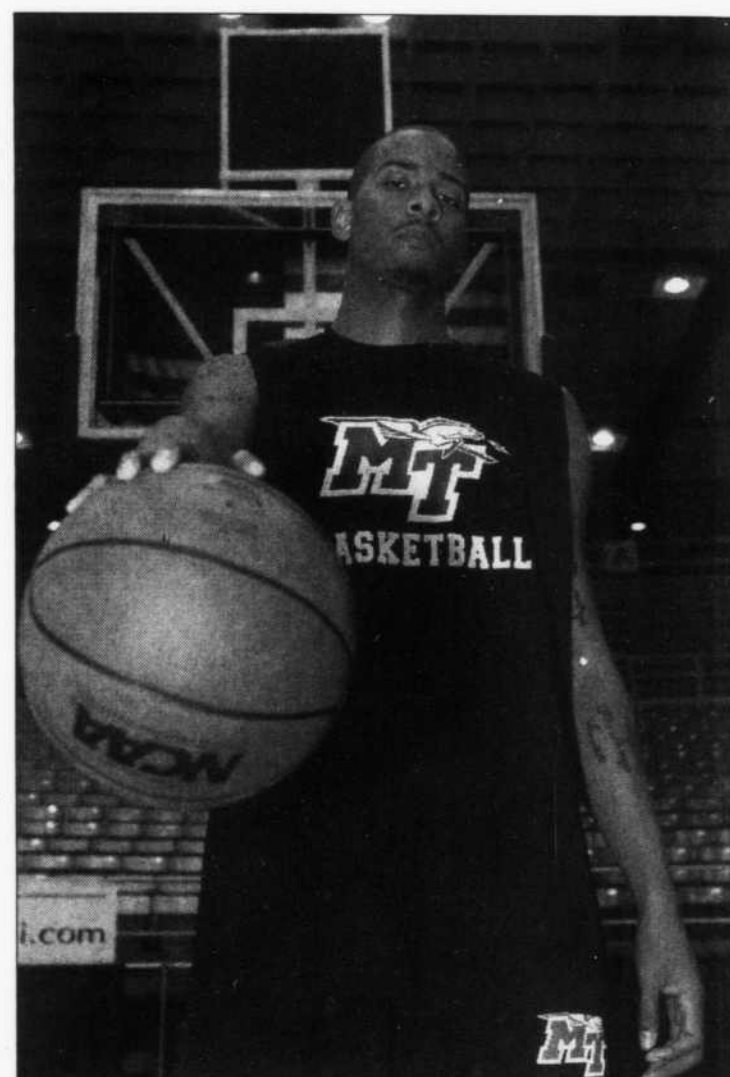
Dean hopes in the future to keep playing basketball or become a coach.

"My major is physical education, so I can coach the game," Dean said.

With the numbers Dean has put up at MT in the last two years, he will certainly have enough to put on his resumé. ♦

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT senior Mike Dean leads the Blue Raiders with 19.2 points per game.



SPORTS BRIEFS

News from around Middle Tennessee



Paul receives honors in wheelchair tennis

Michael Paul, a member of Middle Tennessee's wheelchair tennis team, recently garnered two separate honors in his sport.

Paul participated in the Wheelchair Tennis Championships in Hilton Head, where he received the Golden Eagle award.

In addition to this award, Paul also earned certification by the Professional Tennis Registry as an Associate Instructor.

PTR, which is the world's largest international tennis teaching organization, is dedicated to educating, certifying and servicing tennis teachers and coaches worldwide.

Due to Paul's efforts, the MT Wheelchair Tennis Program also received a Sports Tutor ball machine

from the tournament, which gave out more than \$16,970 in prize money during the event.

Hockey squad sweeps Texas teams

The Middle Tennessee hockey team, which recently finished a road trip to Texas, has enjoyed a successful season thus far.

The team defeated Texas Tech 9-0, Texas 11-0 and Texas A&M 6-1 to run their overall record to 21-1-1.

Brad Peterson currently leads the team in both assists and points, while Jason Porter paces the team in goals.

Last season, which was the team's first, the Blue Raiders finished second in the Central Conference and fourth in Division III.

The team still has 16 more games (six of which will be at home in the Southern Ice Arena in Franklin) in their regular season, and postseason play will begin in February at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division National Championships.

Barring a change in the schedule, the Ice Blue Raiders will next travel to Michigan for three contests on Dec. 17-19.

Groundhog Day luncheon announced

Middle Tennessee's annual Groundhog Day luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

The luncheon, which is sponsored by the MT

baseball team and the Blue Raider Athletic Association, is a kickoff for the 2005 baseball season.

The meal includes ham hocks, white beans, tomato salad, green onions, corn bread, chocolate cake and ice cream. Tickets bought in advance are \$10, while all purchased the day of the event are \$15.

"This luncheon is a great way to begin getting the fans excited about the season," Blue Raiders head coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations. "We have such great baseball fans at Middle Tennessee and it's good to see the numbers keep increasing each year."

Reservations for the luncheon can be made by calling (615) 898-2210.

The last day to make reservations is Wednesday, Jan. 26. ♦



It's a Boy!

"And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Nearly 2,000 years ago, God Became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. If you have questions about this incredible event or about its implications for your life, please ask one of us or see www.leaderu.com/tellmemore.

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As a part of the MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship, we believe that personally knowing Jesus Christ and following His teachings provide intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions. We are available to interested students, staff, and faculty who might like to discuss such questions, and the claims of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions regarding the Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship, please contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352 or email ksokoya@mtsu.edu.

Your Invited! A Cookie and Coffee Study Break for all students on Thursday, December 9th in the KUC on the 2nd floor, in the lobby across from the Grille. Stop by the tables for free cookies, coffee and juice between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

MT plays host to MVSU

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee's men's basketball team aims for a fourth straight win and plans to defend its 4-0 record at home when the Blue Raiders host Mississippi Valley State Saturday.

The Blue Raiders will be looking for revenge after the Delta Devils defeated MT 71-58 on Nov. 27 in a game in which MT only managed 36 percent from the field and 30 percent from the three-point line.

"[A win] would do a lot for our team," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "It would be a nice opportunity to see how much we've improved since the last time we played them."

Davis said the Blue Raiders are also relying on the student body to help keep up their confidence and energy level.

Davis is also hoping that during practices this week before the game Saturday the team will make some strides in attacking a zone defense, which he said was the Blue Raiders' main weakness in their previous encounter with MVSU.

Mike Dean leads MT in scoring again this season with 19.4 points per game. Darrio Scott made his first career start against TSU and responded with 18 points and eight rebounds.

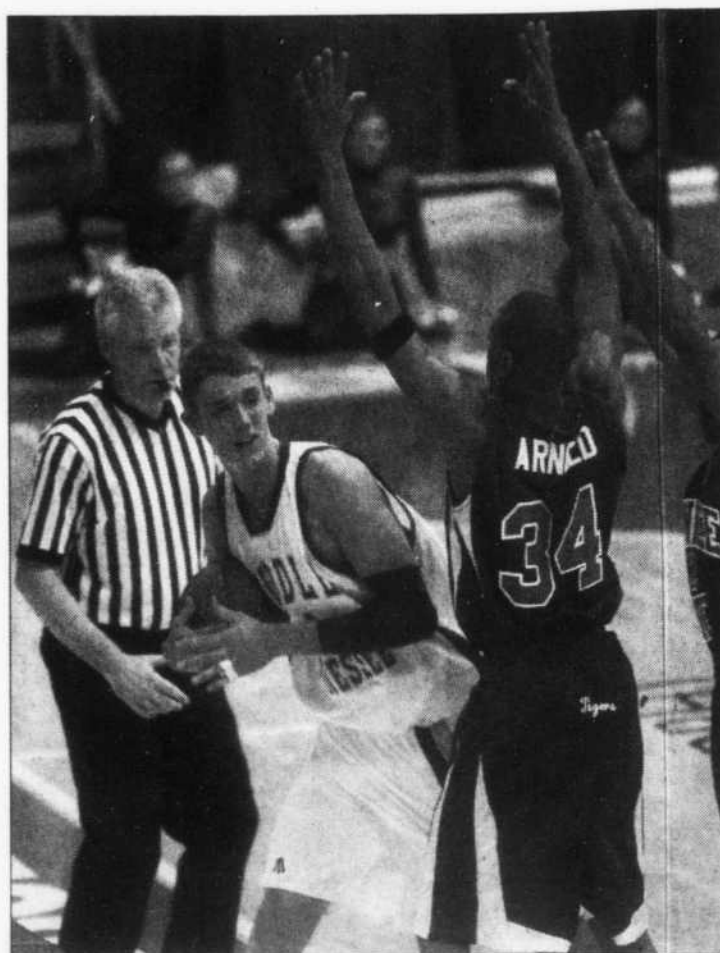


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT forward Kyle Young is averaging 7.5 points per game.

MT will face many challenges from MVSU. A well-balanced team, MVSU holds a definite size advantage of the Blue Raiders with 7-foot center Ronald Alexander and 6-foot 8-inch power forward Jeffrey Price.

"I think that playing quality teams in the non-conference

really helps your team for the Sun Belt play," Davis said.

The team does possess a few strengths that Davis expects to see laid out on the court.

"I hope we can continue with our depth," Davis said. "I think that could be a big factor."

Tipoff is 7 p.m. at Murphy Center. ♦

Hilltoppers lead SBC

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

This week is full of Sun Belt Conference men's basketball action as nine of the 11 teams play at least once this week.

The action starts tonight when the only undefeated SBC team, Western Kentucky, takes on in-state rival Eastern Kentucky.

Currently the Hilltoppers are 5-0 on the season, their best start since the 1985-86 season. WKU will meet the 5-0 Colonels for the first time in a decade.

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. at WKU. The Hilltoppers will travel to Indiana to take on Evansville on Saturday at 7:05 p.m.

Tonight Florida International hosts Florida Tech. FIU is 3-2 on the season, not including Tuesday's game with the University of Miami. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

On Saturday Arkansas State hosts Lambuth at 4:05 p.m. ASU improved to 4-1 with a 92-65 victory over UT-Martin on Monday.

Arkansas Little-Rock travels to Mississippi State on Saturday. MSU is ranked No. 21 in the latest Associated Press poll. UALR is 3-3 on the season, not including Tuesday's game against Southern Illinois. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

North Texas hits the road against in-state rival Texas-Pan American on Saturday. The Mean

Green's record is 3-2 so far, not including Tuesday's game against No. 18 Texas. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

Defending SBC tournament champion Louisiana-Lafayette will travel to No. 2 ranked Kansas on Saturday. ULL is 3-3 on the season. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

South Alabama hosts Samford on Saturday. USA's record on the young season is 2-3, not including Tuesday's game against Loyola Marymount. Tipoff is set for 7:05 p.m.

Denver will host South Dakota State on Saturday. The Pioneers are 3-2 on the season. Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. The next game for New Mexico State is Dec. 15th against Texas El-Paso. New Orleans' next contest is set for Dec. 13th against Mississippi State.

So far this season, the SBC is 28-4 against non-conference teams at home this season. This record does not include the three home games that were played yesterday. Last season the SBC was 51-12.

Overall, the SBC has a 36-25 record this season facing non-conference opponents.

Currently, there are no SBC teams that are ranked in either the AP or USA Today Coaches Poll. However, in the newest CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 that was released on Monday, WKU is ranked No. 15, while Middle Tennessee and ULL also received votes. ♦

sports line 898-2816

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

Get paid cash to Answer Text Messages on Your Cell Phone! It's FREE. It's Easy. Opt-in @ WWW.PollCast.net.

Banner Artist needed: The Campus Recreation Marketing Department is taking applications for a banner artist on an as needed basis. This is an excellent opportunity for someone with this skill who is in need of work experience to add to their resume/portfolio. Applications must be filled out at the Campus Recreations Office, 8-4:30 p.m., M-F. Some experience is necessary; portfolio will be reviewed at interview. For more information, contact Jenny or Jeff at 898-2104.

Project HELP is in need of a part-time assistant for the hours of 10:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. The responsibilities include assisting in the classroom and warming children's lunches from 10:15-11:00, cleaning lunch dishes, loading/unloading children from van and riding van as van assistant. Hours ARE NOT flexible, days are Monday-Thursday through the university breaks as well. \$7.00 per hour. Call Debbie Bauder at 898-2458 to schedule an interview.

Part-time Youth Minister for local Southern Baptist Church. Flexible week-end hours. Phone (423) 837-7455, leave message.

Part-time position available for pianist in local Baptist Church. Please call 893-4885.

Water Aerobic Instructors Needed for 5-6 pm. class at Campus Recreation beginning Oct. 25. \$10/hour. Training available if interested. For more information, call Pam at 2255.

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

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Opportunities

Fashion Models! We are looking for models! Models are needed for a fashion show in Feb. 2005. Auditions are Wed., Dec. 8, 2004, KUC Room 315 at 6 - 8 p.m. Come out!!

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-

9634 or 931-682-3878.

Models Needed! 3-4 female models needed for exciting new web project. No experience necessary. Applicants must be between 18-23, and should be between 100-130 lbs, be in good physical shape, and have an outgoing personality. No nudity involved, and there's no cost to the model at all. Project has long-term potential, with average model earning \$750 per week for more. For more information, send an e-mail to models37@southernangelz.com indicating interest. Serious inquiries only, please.

Attentions: Singers Songwriters, Actors/Actresses, Voice over, film making, etc. A promotional agent is looking for clients. E-mail at harmonyman777@yahoo.com. Thank you and looking forward to hearing from you! Whenmagazineneeds@yahoo.com Ask for Doug.

Guitar and keys wanted to join established rhythm section. Call for details 703-725-3273. Ask for Ryan.

Movie Extras and Models Needed!

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Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

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Sales

Miscellaneous

12" JL Audio Sub with box and Series II Z2X-820 watt amp. \$100 obo. Call Jonathan 904-5654.

Bass equipment. Peavey cabinet with 2-10" subs. Crate cabinet with 2-15" JLB Subs. AmPeg BSR bass amp head. \$700 obo. Call Jonathan 904-5654.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. E-mail: deb_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

New Toshiba Lappy computer w/ Intel Celeron Processor, DVD/CD-RW, 256-MB Ram, 40 GB Hard Drive with Windows XP, 56K Modem. Call 615-491-4656.

Beautiful brand new, NEVER worn wedding dress for sale. Has a wonderful flower design tank Aline style, about 3-4 ft. train. Size 2 A MUST SEE!! Paid \$750, will take \$500. If interested please call 615-308-9623 or e-mail at at3g@mtsu.edu.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035

Want to Sell Something? Want to Buy Something? (Will Pick-up & Deliver)

Call Rodney: 615-848-4375 (no large items cars - etc)

CB Maxx SP series 5 piece drum set, 14 inch Wuhan hi-hat, one ride, crash, throne. Barely used, great beginner set. \$350 or best offer. Love the set but not enough room. Call and leave a message Joe @ 904-2035

Automotive Roommates

Female roommate needed ASAP! Looking for a clean, responsible roommate to share a brand new house in a new development with 2 other girls. Room has never been lived in. House has 3 BR 2 BA with a garage. Rent is \$375-includes everything. Please call 615-419-6696 for more information.

Female subleser needed for bedroom in a 4 BR apt. at College Park (formerly Sterling Gables). Free daily shuttle to school, swimming pool, hot tub, free tanning. Lease is Jan-Aug \$376/mo. furnished, utilities, internet *will pay \$100 of first month. 615-579-7020

I am looking for a female roommate who is responsible and doesn't party much (at least at home). I have a really pretty house in a nice subdivision about 2 miles from MTSU. Please call

ASAP to see the house. Thanks! 615-653-8003.

Male roommate needed to share house w/3 guys. \$250/mo. + 1/4 utilities. Biking/walking distance from MTSU. No deposit. 817-913-4898.

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

21-yr-old female seeking roommate to share 2bd/ba at Oak Park Apts. \$279/month + \$150 deposit. Washer and dryer included. Possible first and last month's rent upon move-in. No preference regarding sexual orientation. Please call 615-631-8479 ASAP!

Female sub-leaser wanted for one bedroom in a two bedroom two bath apt @ Univ. Courtyard. Located on 1st floor 2/no noisy neighbors above or around. This apartment usually rents for \$525 but get in NOW for \$495 w/a \$99 dep. Move in ASAP, lease will end in July. Contact me Me ASAP at 615907-0794 or Hnp2b@mtsu.edu

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

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

Subleser

Subleser needed at University Gables to lease a room in a 4 BD 2 BA. Roommates are great, shuttle bus to MTSU. \$100 off first months rent. Contact 506-2158.

Subleser needed for a 3 BD 3 BA duplex. Great roommate to live with. Walking distance from school. (Middleborough subdiv.) Will pay first month's rent and lease ends this summer. \$325/month 615-218-3400/615-542-4888 A nice place and great neighbors.

Subleser needed for a 2 BD apt. @ Campus Crossings. Fully furnished, 24-hour fitness center, computer lab, shuttle bus to campus, next to greek row. LESS THAN ACTUAL RENT! Call Mark 901-487-2716 or Dustin 931-260-8582.

Female roommate wanted, 4BD 2BA, full kitchen and utility room, in College Park (formerly Sterling Gables), computer room, exercise room, pool & hot tub, utilities included. \$335/month with Dec. rent paid. Call 615-243-8701 or 615-449-7507 if interested.

University Courtyard 4 BD 4BA free sublease! Move in Jan. 2005. Male transferring student! Must sublease! \$395 a month. 615-351-0448.

Subleser needed to share 3 BR apt. November rent paid. Will only have to pay from December - August 2005. Rent is \$439/mo. includes all utilities and the apartment is fully furnished. if interested please e-mail becmarsh@bellsouth.net or phone 423-842-6452 collect.

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

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

For Rent

Very Nice 3BD, 2BA House for rent. Perfect for 2 or 3 people. 10 minutes from MTSU campus. Convenient location. \$975/month. Call 473-7127

Apartment for rent at the Woods. Free utilities, cable and high speed internet. Free month of December. \$389/mo. Call 615-633-8691.

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove, refrig, D/W, washer/dryer, screened back porch, 1 mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

Got friends? Looking for an apartment? 4 BR/2 BA, remodeled apartment; very close to campus; \$295 per month / per bedroom. 615-758-9298.

Room for rent, plenty of storage, dishwasher, washer/dryer. All utilities included plus cable. Very close to MTSU. \$100 deposit, \$300 monthly. Contact 615-904-2035, leave message.

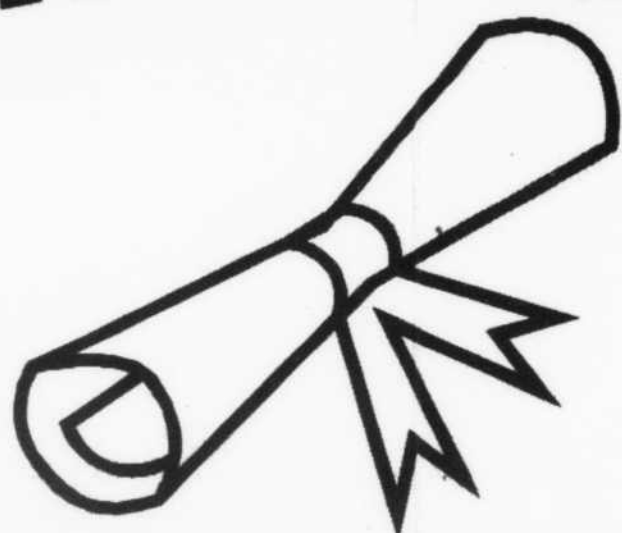
Pets

Beautiful white kitten with bright blue eyes needs a loving home. He is neutered and will give paperwork. Please call 516-457-0904.

Policies

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm. Room 269, or faxed to (615) 904-8193. For more information call (615) 904-8154. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty. ♦

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