

SGA meeting becomes heated

By TODD BARNES
Associate Features Editor

Thursday's SGA meeting exploded in a bout of verbal sparring when senators took their frustrations out on At-Large Sen. Christopher Burks, who has become somewhat unpopular among his colleagues.

Burks, who is a senior in the College of Business, proposed two pieces of legislation, 1-11-S and 2-11-S, during last week's first SGA meeting of the 2011

spring semester.

The legislation concerned establishing a cap on senate terms and creating a survey about students' opinions on the organization's progress during each term, provoking a negative response from his fellow senators.

During the proposition of Burks's legislation concerning creating a survey about SGA's approval rating, several senators laughed while he was offering answers to senate questions, in which some veered off focus

from the legislation.

"Does the sponsoring senator know how precious senators' time is?" Sen. Moriah Rosser asked.

Samantha Cobb, vice president of the SGA, reprimanded Rosser and reminded the senate to focus on the legislation, not on personal issues.

"You are out of order, and will yield to the floor," Cobb said.

Last week, Sidelines published an article in which Sen. Burks spoke about Brandon Batts, president of SGA, receiving

an exclusive free meal plan with Aramark, the campus' food supplier.

Burks said in the article that he was writing The Elimination of Special Perks Act, which could affect this deal and add to senate tensions.

"We do not get special perks at all," said Darrin Johnson, election commissioner for the SGA, in response to the article.

Due to time constraints, Burks did not present The Elimination of Special Perks

Act in the meeting.

In addition to Burks's involvement with the media, his unpopularity within the senate could stem from past pieces of legislation that he has written without consulting senate and committee guidance, Cobb said via e-mail, adding that Burks had lost sight of overall student focus in some of his propositions.

"There was a piece about sweet tea being the official

SGA, PAGE 2

Students support making changes to health care bill

By Kimberly Barker
Contributing Writer

U.S. House Republicans voted to repeal The Affordable Care Act on Wednesday in a 245- to 189-vote, just days before President Barack Obama is slated to give his State of the Union Address on Tuesday night.

"The [bill] was a priority before [the repeal] and it's a priority now," said Press Secretary Robert Gibbs in a press briefing. "We will continue to focus on the economy, continue dealing with the problems that we talked about during the campaign that

have existed for quite some time that we haven't addressed."

Gibb added that the focus of the speech Tuesday will be geared more toward "creating jobs" and establishing unity in the nation.

Annie Wells, a senior majoring in psychology, said she would like to see Obama talk more about the repeal of the health care bill during his address.

"I think everyone has a right to health care," Wells said. "I'm not sure how people would want to repeal."

In an unscientific Sidelines survey, 36

HEALTH CARE, PAGE 3



Photo by Bailey Ingram, contributing photographer
Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority perform for attendees Jan. 22, 2011, during the group's annual Founder's Day celebration.

AKA 'recaptures the dream'

By BECCA ANDREWS
News Editor

Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., commemorated the organization's founders through song, dance, history lessons and a love of sisterhood during a "Recapturing the Dream" luncheon Saturday.

More than 200 members from across the state congregated in the James Union Building to celebrate their 103rd year as the nation's first and oldest African-American women's sorority.

The luncheon focused on remembering the group's founders who equally contributed to Alpha Kappa Alpha's goal of making every community better, said Justine Pitchum, a member for more than 50 years.

"I can't say that any one of them contributed more than the other," Pitchum said. "They have all been outstanding."

Eight members read a narrative of each founder's life and contributions to the sorority, and official representatives of the sorority spoke about what the organization meant to them.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha means supreme service to mankind," said Brenda McKinney, president of the Pi Nu Omega Chapter. "I wouldn't go any other way."

The sorority has more than 260,000 members in graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U. S. Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, Korea and on the continent of Africa, according to the organization's website.

President Sidney McPhee's wife, Elizabeth McPhee, is also a member of the Murfreesboro chapter and helped organize the event. She compared her fellow sisters to blades of grass.

"We can be small in stature, but mighty at the root," McPhee said. "You just can't destroy us, and you just can't keep us down."

In addition to hearing speeches, the attendees celebrated with singing, including several praise songs such as "The Lord's Prayer" and "How Great is Our God," and through dance. As members in brightly colored dresses and large hats danced to "I Know the Lord Almighty," the audience enthusiastically clapped and sang along with performers.

The performances inspired McPhee to announce that she will be brushing up on her dancing and singing



Photo by Bailey Ingram, contributing photographer
Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority watch performers dance during the Founder's Day celebration on Jan. 22, 2011, in the James Union Building.

"We can be small in stature but mighty at the root. You just can't destroy us, and you just can't keep us down."

ELIZABETH MCPHEE
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

skills for next year's celebration.

"I can't sing, but I'm here to tell you next time, I'm going to start practicing today," McPhee said. "So next Founder's Day, I'll be out there singing. I can't dance, but you better believe, I'm going to start practicing. I want to be one of the ladies with the hats on, and I'm going to start dancing."

McPhee summed up the celebration in three words. "This was wonderful," McPhee said.

FAFSA submissions decline

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

A study by Sallie Mae and Gallup revealed 28 percent of students didn't file the FAFSA last year, half reporting ineligibility and half claiming to be better off not filing.

The Sallie Mae and Gallup study is the third annual Sallie Mae national report that evaluates how families of undergraduate students finance the cost of college. The study concentrates on students between 18 to 24 years old.

The report portrayed many reasons why people claimed they did not file.

The GI Bill, a provision to help fund college education for military

veterans, benefits some families from filing because FAFSA factors those benefits into the filing family's income and makes it impossible to receive aide, according to the report. In most cases, it pays entirely for tuition, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs website.

The Sallie Mae report also said most veterans are better off to just use GI Bill if applicable because they will save more money in the long run by dodging interest, according to the report.

Of all families surveyed in the study, 73 percent report reducing

FAFSA, PAGE 2

INDEX

FEATURES
PAGES 4,5

OPINIONS
PAGE 7

SPORTS
PAGE 8

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Follow the path of one Lady Raiders assistant coach from adolescence to adulthood.

PAGE 4

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



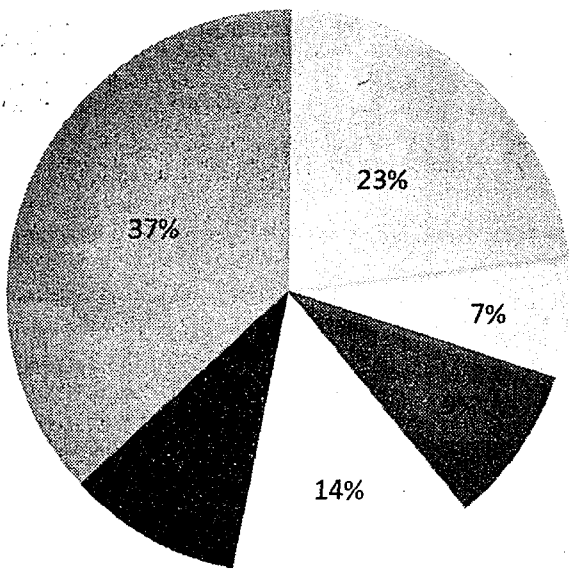
Music professor delights audience with his tenor vocals in the Wright Music Building on Sunday night.

NEWS

WEATHER



MONDAY
46/33



- Grants & Scholarships
- Friends and Relatives
- Student Income & Savings Student Borrowing
- Parent Borrowing
- Parent Income & Savings

Graphic information provided by Sallie Mae & Gallup's report "How America Pays for College 2010."

Families look for other ways to pay for college

FAFSA FROM PAGE 1

household spending or working more hours to support their child's education. Of those, 48 percent of families were choosing to keep their children in the house a little longer to spend less money on housing.

"My parents decided to pay for school out of pocket instead of taking out loans this year," said Brandon Bateman, a sophomore majoring in English.

Bateman said his father took on a second job and asked him to move back home from the apartment he was living in near campus.

"I definitely miss having my own place," Bateman said, "but I understand the things my parents are sacrificing to help me progress in my life."

Bateman works a part-time job at a car wash to help with car insurance and his phone bill.

"My parents make too much to qualify for aid," Bateman said, "and they say they're trying to avoid paying interest."

At MTSU, funding is generally spread out a bit, according to the MTSU Financial Scholarship and Aid Office.

"Students are smart to use their resources wisely while they're in college," said Leann Eaton, assistant director of the MTSU Financial Scholarship and Aid Office.

Eaton said she did not

have up-to-date information on how many students filled out a FAFSA at MTSU, but that some students may not have filled it out because it takes so long.

The time it takes to fill out the financial aid forms should decrease dramatically due to new developments in the FAFSA form, according to the report.

The form for the 2011-

"My parents make too much to qualify for aid, and they say they're trying to avoid paying interest."

BRANDON BATEMAN
SOPHOMORE

2012 academic years will require the same personal and financial questions as in the past, but the Department of Education and IRS have attempted to make the form easier for students to fill out, according to the report.

Beginning Jan. 30, a family will be able to transfer its 2010 tax form data from the IRS to the FAFSA form, a much easier task than tracking down your parent's financial information, according to the report.

"My parents' information was always easy to track down because they were always helping me prepare," Bateman said.

Bateman said that he has heard horror stories from other students about trying to track down their parent's information.

"My best friend ended up paying for her school

out of pocket one semester because she wasn't sure how to go about getting her parents' information," Bateman said.

There was "no change in the types of funding families used to pay for college; in fact, the way families pay for college is virtually the same as last year," according to the report.

Instead, virtually all

consistent in the report is the mounting cost of attending college. The surveyed families report that their costs of attendance have increased 17 percent since 2009.

The cost of attendance for those families has stayed nearly level, according to the report.

Families from nearly every income bracket faced increased costs, especially those earning less than \$35,000 a year.

Smith said her parents have been relatively consistent in paying for her education by taking out loans and paying them back in installments.

"They're really saving money by being money savvy," Smith said. "They know how to manipulate a budget and get the most out of any situation."

Families have met the additional costs by increasing their use of nearly all sources of income, borrowing nearly all sources of funding.

In the past, Gallup used the data on funding sources to develop a composite picture of how the average American family pays for college.

Currently, Sallie Mae is hosting an online chat with members of the Financial Planning Association to answer money questions for families and provide advice about to saving the most for education and live by other "smart money habits."

The free chat takes place on Thursday, Jan. 27, from 9 to 10 p.m. EST on Sallie Mae's website.

Tensions mount over proposed legislation

SGA FROM PAGE 1

drink of the SGA," Cobb said. "How is that supposed to positively impact the students of MTSU?"

However, Cobb described Burks as a "hard-working senator" who "rarely misses meetings and always gets in his hours."

Cobb also said that he has written a lot of legislation during his term and she appreciates his hard work.

At the end of the meeting, Batts responded to the conduct displayed by senators.

"Some of the comments that I've heard really, just to be honest, pisses me off," Batts said. "I must commend Sen. [Christopher] Burks. You may not agree with him, but he is always consistent."

After Batts' announcement, some senators expressed dismay over their colleagues' behavior.

"I'm just kind of curious why we're fighting like 12 year olds," said Sen. Sarah Hoover of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. "Be positive - be positive about [the] senate."

Other senators apologized for their colleagues' behavior, including Sen. Kasteesha Cosby of the College of Liberal Arts.

"We're attacking him," Cosby said. "I do truly apologize."

In other business, SGA voted and passed the Electoral Act, which establishes "clear, proper, and equitable procedures for conducting university elections."

The senate debated whether a spending cap for campaigns should be in place but decided to leave the spending cap at \$500.

The two bills that were proposed by Burks, 1-11-S and 2-11-S, were both tabled for possible discussion in future meetings.



Batts



Cobb



Johnson

CRIME BRIEFS

Vandalism

Jan. 14, 8:44 a.m.

Smith Hall
Complainant reported that both Smith and Judd had been vandalized with spray paint.

Theft

Jan. 14, 4:33 p.m.

Schardt Hall
Theft from a dorm room in Schardt Hall

Traffic

Jan. 14, 4:37 p.m.

Off Campus
Evon Lettsome was issued a state citation for driving on an expired license.

Theft

Jan. 14, 6:37 p.m.

Beasley Hall
Complainant reported his wallet was missing from his dorm room.

Alcohol

Jan. 15, 1:11 a.m.

Greek Row
Robert Kendall was arrested for DUI and charged with resisting arrest.

Alcohol

Jan. 15, 1:20 a.m.

Greek Row
Tyler Ryan Hicks, 18, was arrested for underage consumption and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Traffic

Jan. 15, 3:13 a.m.

East Main Street
Kevin Arnold, 26, was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license.

Drug Abuse

Jan. 15, 4:15 p.m.

Felder Hall
Kevin Hinson, 20, was issued a citation for simple possession of a controlled substance.

Alcohol

Jan. 16, 1:38 a.m.

Greek Row
Nathan Fitzgerald Jones, 20, was arrested for resisting arrest, underage consumption, and public intoxication.

Traffic

Jan. 18, 1 p.m.

Charles Steele, 21, was issued a state citation for driving an unregistered vehicle.

Assault

Jan. 20, 9:18 p.m.

James Union Building
Officers responded to a complaint of an assault between two food service employees. Assault resulted from a reaction to a snowball fight. The individuals involved in the assault declined to prosecute.

LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

CONCERTS:

Flute Festival
Jan. 29
Wright Music Building
FREE

Stones River Chamber Players

Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
FREE

GUEST LECTURES: "How to Win at the Game of College"

Jan. 26, 6 p.m.
Business & Aerospace Building
Room S102
FREE

"Solving Immigration: The Truth Is Out There"

Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
Business & Aerospace Building
Room S102
FREE

"The Mother: Goddess Figurine Problem of the European Paleolithic"

Jan. 31, 3 p.m.
University Honors College
Room 106
FREE

STUDENT LIFE:

MT Idol Tryouts
Jan. 24, 4 p.m.
KUC Theatre
FREE

Conversation Partners Meal

Jan. 25, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian Fellowship House
FREE

Study Abroad Presentations

Jan. 24, 3 p.m.
University Honors College
Room 106
FREE

Fencing Club

Jan. 25 6:30 p.m.
Health, Wellness & Recreation Center
Aerobics Room
FREE

Gender Circles

Jan. 26, 1 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Room 320
FREE

Video Game Night

Jan. 28, 4 p.m.
KUC 2nd Floor Lounge
FREE

CONCERTS:

No Age
Jan. 24, 8 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: \$12

Josh Thompson

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
12th & Porter
Tickets: FREE

David Jacobs-Strain

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
The Basement
FREE

Susan Gibson

Jan. 26, 6 p.m.
Bluebird Cafe
FREE

Liz Phair

Jan. 27, 8 p.m.
The Cannery Ballroom
Tickets: \$18

Edwin McCain

Jan. 30, 8 p.m.
3rd and Lindsley Bar & Grill
Tickets: \$20

Event: Sundance Film Festival

Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
Belcourt Theater
Tickets: \$15

Performing Arts: Shrek: The Musical

Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
TPAC, Andrew Jackson Hall
Tickets: \$27 - \$73

Joy Koy

Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Zanny's Comedy Showplace
Tickets: \$20 - \$23

Blue Collar Comedy Tour

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.
Bridgestone Arena
Tickets: \$94 - \$135

Art Making in the Lobby: Southern Sweet Poetry

Jan. 27, 6 p.m.
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
FREE

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mtsu.edu or slnews@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

CRIME STOPPERS

Vandalism

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who broke two lawn flood lights on Greek Row on Dec. 8 sometime between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. the following day.

Theft

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a pink and silver laptop from Room 732 of Corlew Hall on Dec. 10 between the hours of 4:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Hit-and-Run

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who have been committing hit-and-runs on campus during the past three months.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact the MTSU Office of Public Safety at 615-898-2424.

All callers will remain anonymous.

Many concerned with overall cost of legislation

HEALTH CARE FROM PAGE 1

percent of students said they did not know enough about the bill to make an informed decision.

Leading the poll, 40 percent of students said they were in favor of an amended bill, and 26 percent said they were against it entirely.

Every student in the survey said they felt uneasy about their future health care plans.

Student health is a key concern to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"No matter how good schools are, students won't be able to learn if they're not healthy," Duncan said in a press release.

"The House bill will roll back the advances we've made to ensure our students are

healthy, and would be a step backward as a country in preparing students for success in schools and in life," she said in a press release.

While Republicans see this as the first step to crumbling Obama's provisions for the Affordable Care Act, Democrats said they would not immediately act on the House repeal measures, Gibbs said.

"The types of monetary problems that would be placed on future generations would be horrendous," said U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, in a press release.

In general, pieces of the reform are necessary, Corker said.

Republicans will

continue to pursue the ideals they campaigned on last fall, attempting to cut off money in order to carry out the bill, undo specific sections of the bill and challenge federal courts to shut the bill down altogether.

"This is a significant step in the effort to repeal ObamaCare," said Newt Gingrich, general chairman of American Solutions, in a press release. "We still have a long way to go before it can be repealed."

The three Democrats who supported the vote for the repeal were Reps.

to provide insurance for everyone," Hayes said.

Additionally, employees know whether or not their job provides insurance when they're hired, so they should be responsible for taking on a job that offers such insurance, Hayes said.

A key point to the Republican's argument is that the reform bill is weighted against doctors.

"We cannot possibly reduce the cost of health care in this country without reducing defensive medicine," said former Sen. Judd

children and the elderly should never be denied."

The reform covers the cost of preventative care as well, Obama said.

The bill also allows parents to cover dependent children up to the age of 26. If a citizen is under 26 years of age, the progeny can remain on its parent's health insurance plan. After 26, he or she can live on an alternative insurance of his or her choice.

However, the plan does not cover children and adults with pre-existing medical conditions until 2014. An insurance company cannot deny Americans coverage due to health problems until this date.

Following the address, six White House officials will be available online on Twitter, Facebook and whitehouse.gov to answer questions from the public, according to a White House press release.

"I'm glad Obama is using the web and social networking to reach out to people," Corum said. "Anytime an official does something to make them more accessible to their people, it's a good thing."

In a live chat Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Obama is scheduled to answer several questions via a YouTube interview from the White House.

The questions will be based on how many votes a question gets from users. Last year, more than 700,000 votes were cast on questions.

Amanda Haggard, associate news editor, contributed to this report.

"The types of monetary problems that would be placed on future generations would be horrendous."

BOB CORKER
UNITED STATES SENATOR
TENNESSEE

Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, Mike Ross of Arkansas and Dan Boren of Oklahoma.

A few students stressed the importance of having insurance, regardless of whether the health care bill was repealed or not.

"I just got health insurance through Starbucks, and it's half of my paycheck," said Elisa Childs, a senior majoring in social work. "Insurance coverage costs a lot of money, but it's necessary and totally worth it."

A concern of Shirley Hayes, a senior majoring in psychology, was that the government was "giving with one hand and taking with another."

"Based on our rights, we should not be forced as citizens or businesses

Gregg, a Republican from New Hampshire.

Obama nominated Gregg in 2009 to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, but Gregg eventually withdrew his name shortly after.

Obama said the bill will provide more security and stability to insurance owners. He mentioned if Americans want to keep their insurance provider, they could. They do not have to change providers unless they want to.

The bill insures people with pre-existing conditions.

"People who need care the most," said Taylor Corum, a junior majoring in music business, "like the disabled, people with pre-existing conditions and preventative care for

ATHENA awards to be held in Nashville

STAFF REPORT

The international ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award recognizing young women in professional leadership roles will be sponsored for the first time in the Nashville area this spring, according to a press release from the organization.

The mission of ATHENA is to support, develop and honor women leaders and to inspire them to reach their full potential and create balance in leadership around the world.

Those eligible for the award are women ages 25 to 40 that excel in their professional field and serve their community and inspire young women to do the same.

A panel that will comprise 23 judges will evaluate the nominees based on their individual demonstration of excellence, creativity and initiative in their profession, community service and role model behavior.

The award is being brought to Nashville through the patronage of Nashville CABLE, under license from ATHENA International, which established the recognition in 2007.

The scholarship program will award a total of \$21,000 in scholarships to six women in four categories based upon a 300-word essay and past academic performance.

Mayor Karl Dean will present the 2011 ATHENA Young Professional Award at the Nashville CABLE Luncheon on March 9.

Summer reading list announced

STAFF REPORT

The largest oral history project in the United States will be showcased at MTSU's 10th annual Summer Reading Program, according to a MTSU press release.

The project, titled Listening is an Act of Love, consists of selected transcripts from more than 10,000 interviews and was written by Dave Isay. It was chosen to coincide with MTSU's celebration of its centennial in the fall.

"The book was suggested because of MTSU's upcoming 100th birthday," said Laurie Witherow of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College and coordinator of the annual Summer Reading

Created in 2002, the summer reading program's purpose is to give incoming freshmen a shared experience by providing them with a unique opportunity to network with highly praised authors and substantiate the significance of reading for a meaningful and purpose-driven life, according to the press release.

Incoming freshmen are expected to read this book before the beginning of the fall semester. All University 1010 classes will be discussing the collection, according to the press release.

University Convocation is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 and will feature author Dave Isay as the keynote speaker.

THE BOULEVARD

BAR & GRILLE



Every Thursday Night

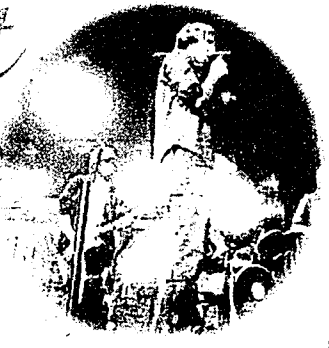
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FEATURES

For love of the game

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

Pump fake, power dribble, pull up.
Swish.
Repeat.

Her look says it all. There is no doubt in her eyes as the ball glides through the net, smooth as silk. The result is expected.

Making the shot is what Alex Fuller, 24, has always expected. When she was a teen learning the game, all legs and arms pumping piston-like as she ran up and down the court, she expected to hear 'swish' every time the ball departed her fingertips.

Even now, Fuller, who is Middle Tennessee State University's women's assistant basketball coach, gets in practice time.

On a recent afternoon, while awaiting the start of the Lady Raiders' practice, a ball finds its way into her hands as she lofts shot after shot.

This is her element: a rectangle of glossy hardwood, 94 feet-by-50 feet, crowned by two hoops at each end positioned exactly 10 feet from the floor. She'd just as soon be here as anywhere on earth.

As Fuller spins away from the basket practicing a hook shot, her jet-black ponytail flows behind her. She possesses a milk chocolate complexion, and her almond-shaped eyes are a complementary brown. During games her gaze shoots laser rays.

Then there's the smile – the 1,000-watt smile that her players love to see directed their way.

When she was a kid and flashed that smile, some people probably thought she was too pretty to play basketball.

But three state championships and two national championships later, everybody knows this girl's got game.

Her first love was softball, but when she turned 13, Fuller chose to focus on basketball because it promised more opportunities. To understand that decision, you have to understand Fuller's home base.

In Shelbyville, Tenn., unlike many other towns, women's basketball is the king of sports. Since 1964, the Golden Eaglettes of Shelbyville Central High have won 12 state championships, more than any other women's team in the state. The creator of that roundball kingdom was a coach by the name of Rick Insell, who parlayed his 775-148 winning high school record into the head coaching job at MTSU in 2005.

Even when Fuller was in middle school, Insell recognized her potential. Although she competed with her middle-school team, Fuller also played pickup games with the high school squad. Insell drilled Fuller in the footwork and post moves she would need to maximize her long, rangy body.

During her freshman year at summer camp, Insell put her on the floor with the varsity team.

"Rebound," he barked.

Fuller responded by pulling down double-digit boards.

During her time on the AAU circuit, a who's who of women's basketball coaches flocked courtside to watch the kid from Shelbyville. AAU is an amateur basketball program that allows players to play organized games in the off-season.

Shy by nature, Fuller recalls the awkwardness of phone calls with coaches whose teams she had studied on ESPN. Chatting with Pat Summitt, the head coach of the University of Tennessee, was especially intimidating.

In the end, when signing day came, the prestige and history of the Lady Volunteers lured Fuller to Knoxville. Little did she know she was going to be a part of arguably the greatest single recruiting class in the history of women's basketball.

And little did she know of the challenges

that would soon face her.

According to Mike Flynn's Blue Star Report, which annually rates the best 100 seniors in the country, Fuller was the number five player in 2004 and the No. 1 center.

That same year, Candace Parker, who was the No. 1 forward and the No. 1 overall player, chose UT as did the second, fourth, 16th and 43rd ranked players. The media dubbed the class the "Super Six."

Fuller, who was the first of the frontcourt players to commit, did not second-guess her decision when three other All-Americans at her position chose the same school.

"I was just as confident in my abilities as they were in theirs," Fuller says. "I didn't have any type of regret or doubts."

Sports pundits predicted Tennessee would win four national championships in a row.

Even Summitt couldn't help but feel overly optimistic. She still had seven returning players on her roster, including a senior class that had been to three straight Final Four's.

All the pieces were in place for a spectacular 2004-05 season.

Then momentum halted.

Fuller and Parker both required knee surgery and had to sit out their first year. Injuries to others, illnesses and a death in one player's family also served to slow the Lady Vol machine.

Even so, heading into March, the Lady Vols claimed one of the four No. 1 seeds in the NCAA tournament. The team arrived at their fourth Final Four in a row.

However, in the national semifinal against Michigan State, Fuller and her teammates watched a 16-point lead disappear.

"It was tough to watch that loss from the bench," she said. "I think we all wanted to get out there and help our team out."

In November of 2005, UT fans finally got a taste of what Fuller could bring to the team.

Fuller posted 18 points and 10 rebounds in a rout of Canadian university, Dalhousie. She played 21 minutes and also tallied three steals and a block. She showed composure inside, a soft shooting touch, deep range and, of course, her trademark footwork learned from Insell in middle school.

Unfortunately, in the second game of the season, Fuller suffered a hip injury that derailed her for most of the season. Fuller battled through the pain, but saw only limited playing time.

Other injuries and the abrupt defection of Fuller's classmate and starting point guard, Sa'de Wiley-Gatewood plagued the team.

Once again, the Lady Vols exited the NCAA tournament. After two seasons, the Super Six were sputtering.

In the summer of 2005, the team finally jelled, Fuller recalls. During pick-up games there was a sense of urgency to get the job done. The Super Six lost another member as Sybil Dosty transferred, but junior college transfers Shannon Bobbitt and Alberta Auguste stepped in to offset the losses.

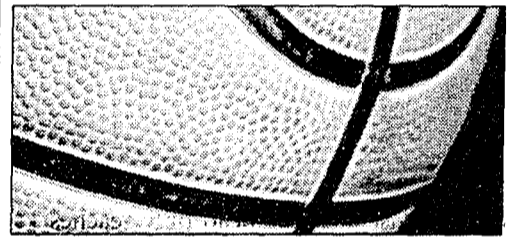
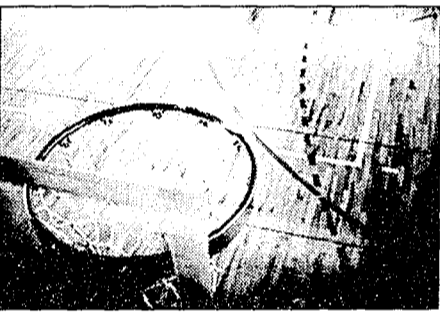
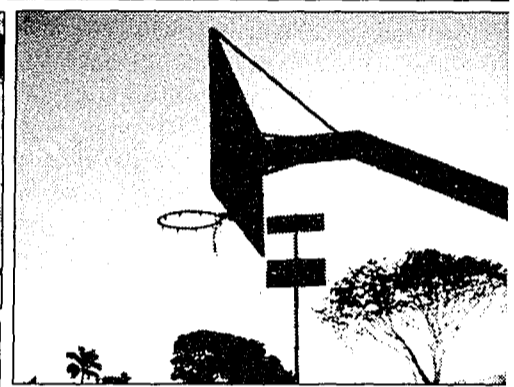
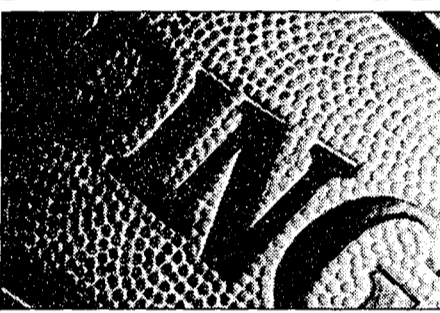
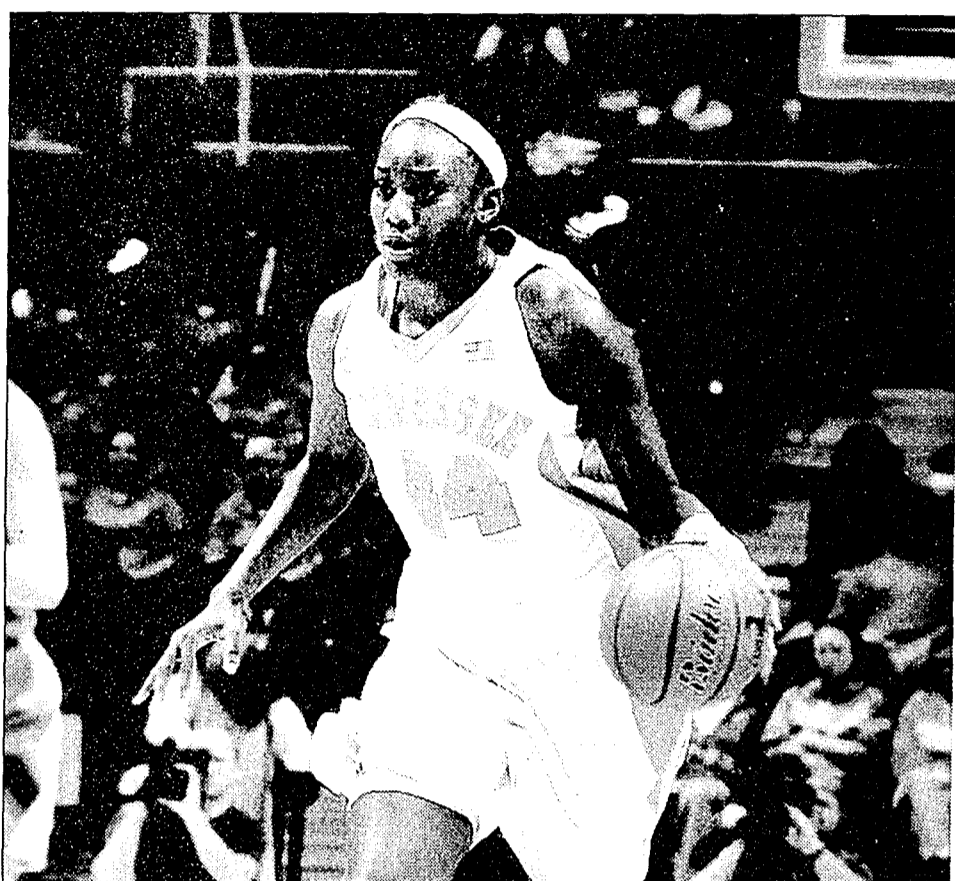
After two injury-riddled seasons, Fuller spent the off-season molding her body and tuning her game. She spent much time in the gym by herself. As the season began, Fuller returned to playing down low where she was most comfortable. And she thrived.

Fuller took on the role of the first player off the bench. Because of her versatility, Fuller relieved all three front court players and, consequently, saw her playing time double, as did her scoring and rebounding numbers.

Tennessee finally looked like the team people were expecting two years earlier.

The Promised Land beckoned. Nine seasons had passed since their last championship – an eternity in Knoxville.

With a trip to the Final Four on the line, Tennessee ran into the pressing, running and gunning North Carolina team for the second year in a row.



Photos provided by Danny Parker (top), Shelbyville Times-Gazette (bottom-left) and Stock Xchng (middle, bottom-right); (Top) Alex Fuller drives down the floor during a University of Tennessee game; (Bottom left) Fuller catches her opponent on their heels while playing for Central High School in Shelbyville; (Below) Fuller rebounds during a UT game in Knoxville.

Eight minutes remaining in the game, North Carolina possessed a double-digit lead. In a game where points were harder to come by than a smile on Summitt's face, an early exit seemed destined again.

Then there was the timeout. Summitt and her staff didn't say a word. During an emotional huddle Fuller and her teammates decided they weren't going home without a championship – again.

Tennessee returned to the court and suffocated the Tar Heels. The Lady Vols went on a scoring spree, collecting 20 unanswered points.

Momentum carried them to the tournament finals. Rutgers, their opponent in the championship game, never stood a chance.

Next year, they accomplished the feat for a second time.

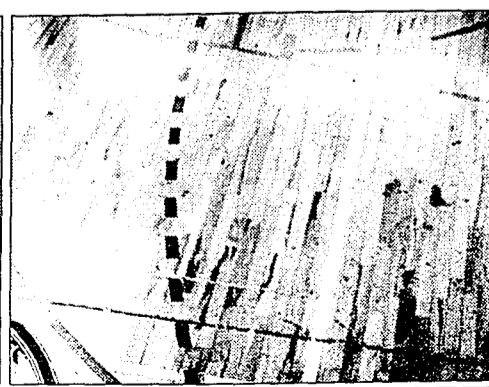
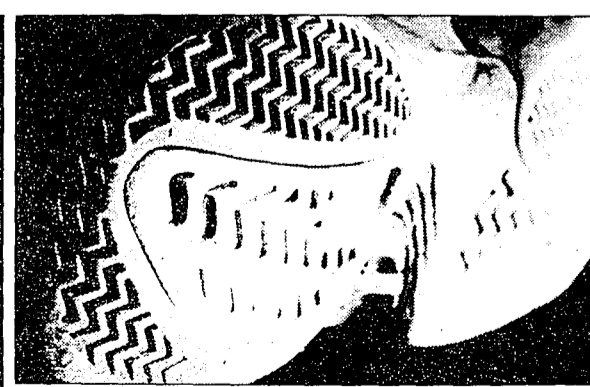
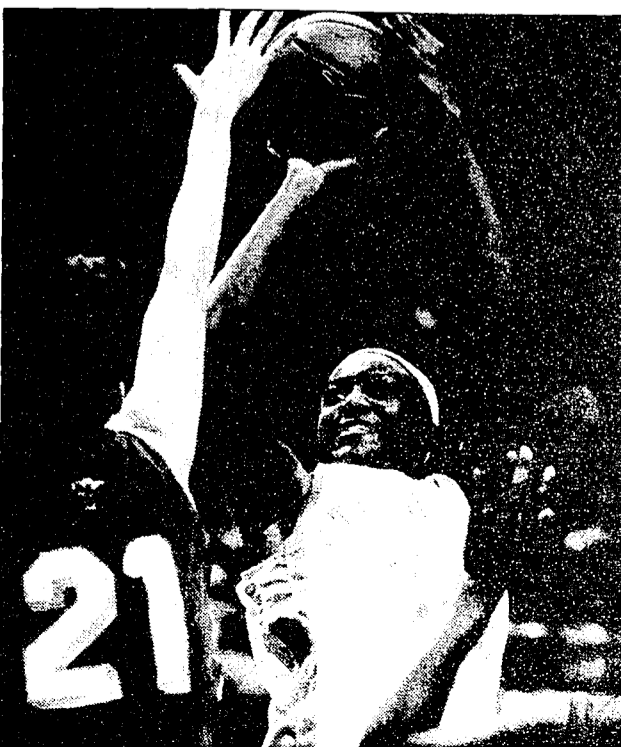
The Super Six, rather, what was left of it, was finally validated.

In 2009, Fuller returned for her fifth season, but without the rest of the team that earned consecutive championships. Surrounded by 11 underclassmen, she was now known as grandma.

Fuller responded like a mother hen. She sent out text messages to remind players of team meetings. She spent time with players one-on-one, both nurturing and challenging. Fuller called team meetings and kept morale up. She directed traffic on the court and literally pointed her teammates to their correct spots on the floor.

She was the unquestioned leader of the Baby Vols, as coined by the media. Still, she could only do so much.

BASKETBALL, PAGE 5



ADMIT ONE

Basketball journey comes full circle

BASKETBALL
FROM PAGE 4

Her last season at Rocky Top was rocky indeed.

Tennessee finished the year 22-11, losing the most conference losses in school history. In the NCAA tournament the squad suffered what Summitt called "the worst loss" of her career to No. 12 seed Ball State University in the first round.

Fuller finished the game four points, four rebounds, five assists, two bloody knees and an overwhelming sense of disappointment.

"It hurt," Fuller recalls.

Her teammates, more than anything, were heartbroken that they couldn't give Fuller a better exit. Summitt, too, felt Fuller deserved more.

Summitt ordered an immediate meeting and practice session when the team returned to Knoxville, and although she was ordered to rest her knees, Fuller showed up.

She was no longer obligated to the team, but remained committed to seeing them succeed. The season had sparked a fire in her that she had never felt before: a desire to teach, to coach.

After graduation from UT, Fuller headed to the University of Kansas for a master's degree in Sport Studies. While there, she served as the university's student manager, which only intensified her desire to coach.

Meanwhile, her high school coach, Insell, had begun forming his basketball staff at MTSU.

It was a perfect match.

Fuller journeyed home to coach in the same gym where her high school teams had won three state titles.

It is the first game of the 2010-11 season and Middle Tennessee is up against the University of South Florida from the Big East Conference.

As the teams line up for the singing of the national anthem, Fuller stands at attention. Between the two Division-I basketball teams, Fuller hovers. Of course, the three-inch platform heels help. Her height is only magnified standing next to Insell, whose head only reaches her shoulders.

She vigorously works a piece of Dubble Bubble gum as the anthem reaches its crescendo. Now it's game time.

Fuller pulls the starting post players to the side before tip-off to emphasize the game plan.

Wearing a black top and matching pencil skirt, she returns to the bench for the start of the game. Knees together. Ankles crossed. Fuller sits poised and composed.

The game starts with both teams fighting for momentum and neither being able to get going offensively.

Then USF goes on a run forcing Insell to call a timeout. The players huddle while Fuller circles the pack to her two post players. She puts her hands on their backs and they turn to listen. Bending to eye level, she acts out the motions of boxing-out, rebounding and securing the basketball. The players nod in unison.

With her team trailing by seven, freshman forward Ebony Rowe gets a steal that leads to a three pointer. A USF player misses a jump shot on the next play and Rowe hustles for the rebound, throws the ball down court and joins the charge toward the goal.

Catching the ball at the top of the key, she barrels down the lane, forcing multiple defenders to close in. Rowe kicks it out to an open teammate and another three pointer cuts USF's lead to one.

Fuller's hard shell cracks. She claps and flashes that 1,000-watt smile, making sure Rowe sees her.

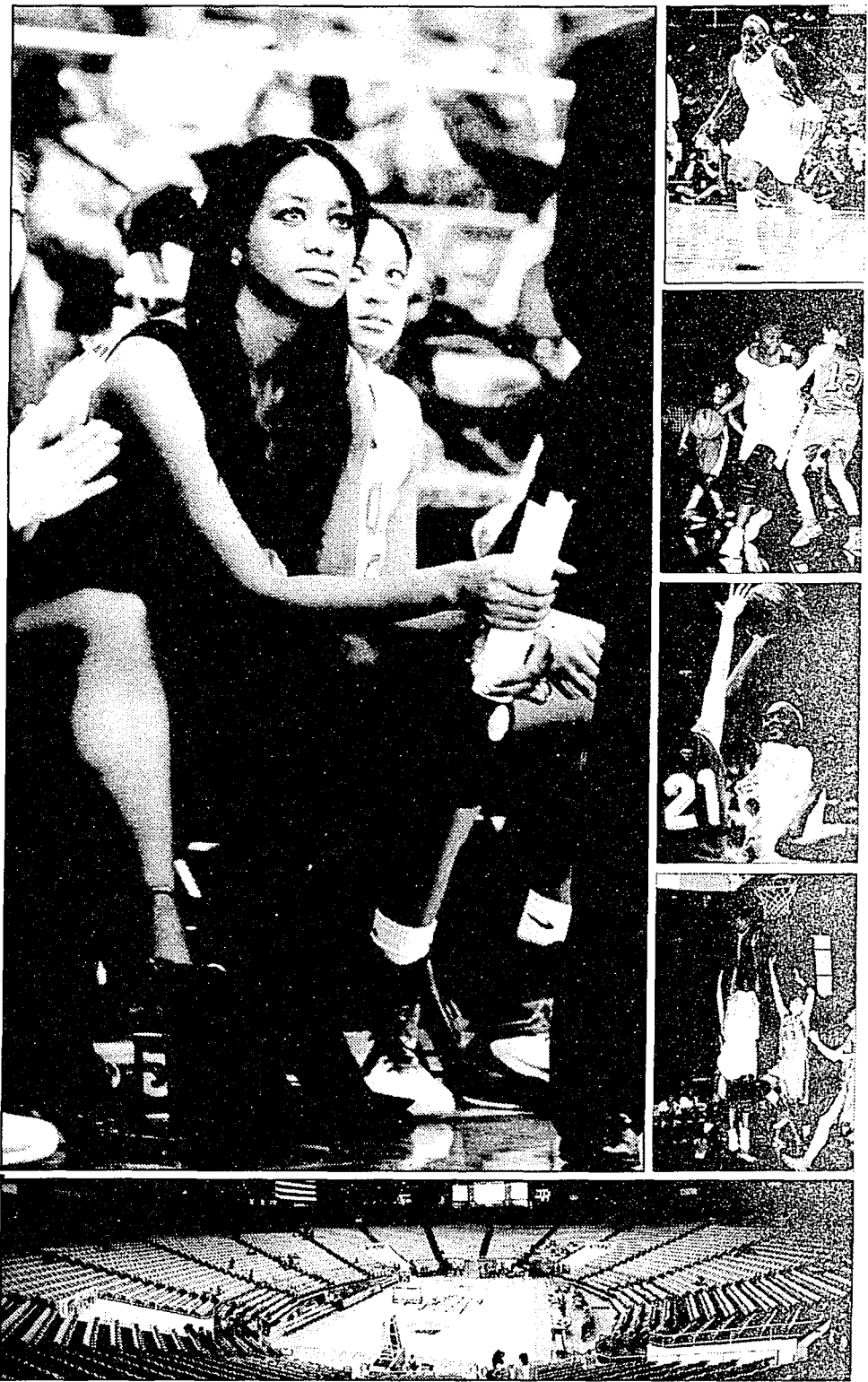
In the last 10 minutes of play Rowe tallies eight points, four rebounds, two blocks and an assist to give MTSU a 71-59 victory.

Rowe, who wasn't ranked in the top 300 players in her class according to the Blue Star Report, continues to lead the team in scoring and rebounding and has emerged an early candidate for the National Freshman of the Year.

She credits her play to Fuller. "She helps me improve every day," Rowe says. "She taught me how to outthink players that are bigger and stronger than me - She demands hard work."

As much as anyone, Fuller knows where hard work can take you.

Pump fake, power dribble, pull up. Swish. Repeat.



Photos courtesy of Danny Parker (Top right, second from the bottom-right), Shelbyville Times-Gazette (Second from the top right, bottom-right), and Drew Gardonia (Bottom-left) (Left) Fuller watches from the bench as the Lady Raiders compete to win; (From top) Regardless of where or when Fuller played basketball, her determination served as driving force for teammates.

LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

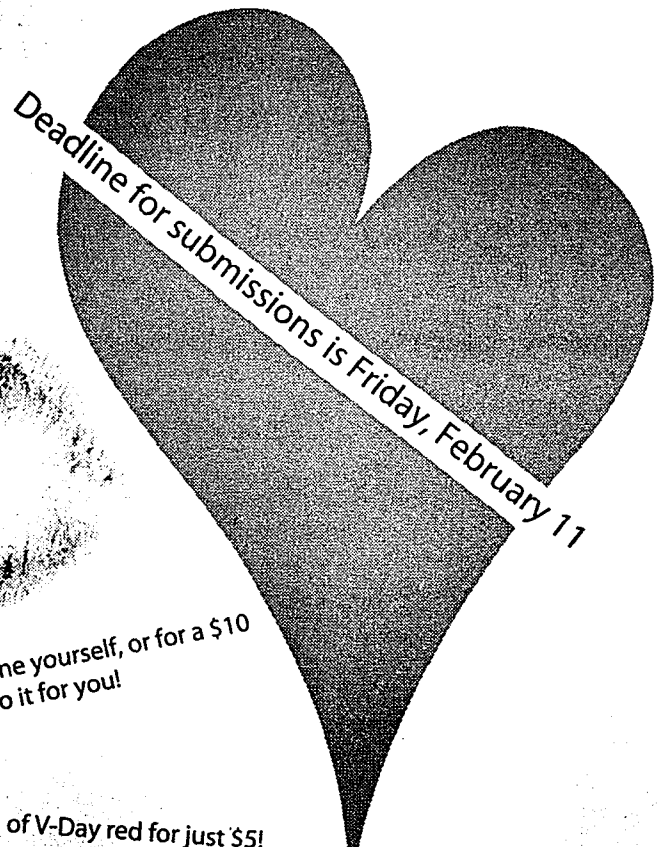
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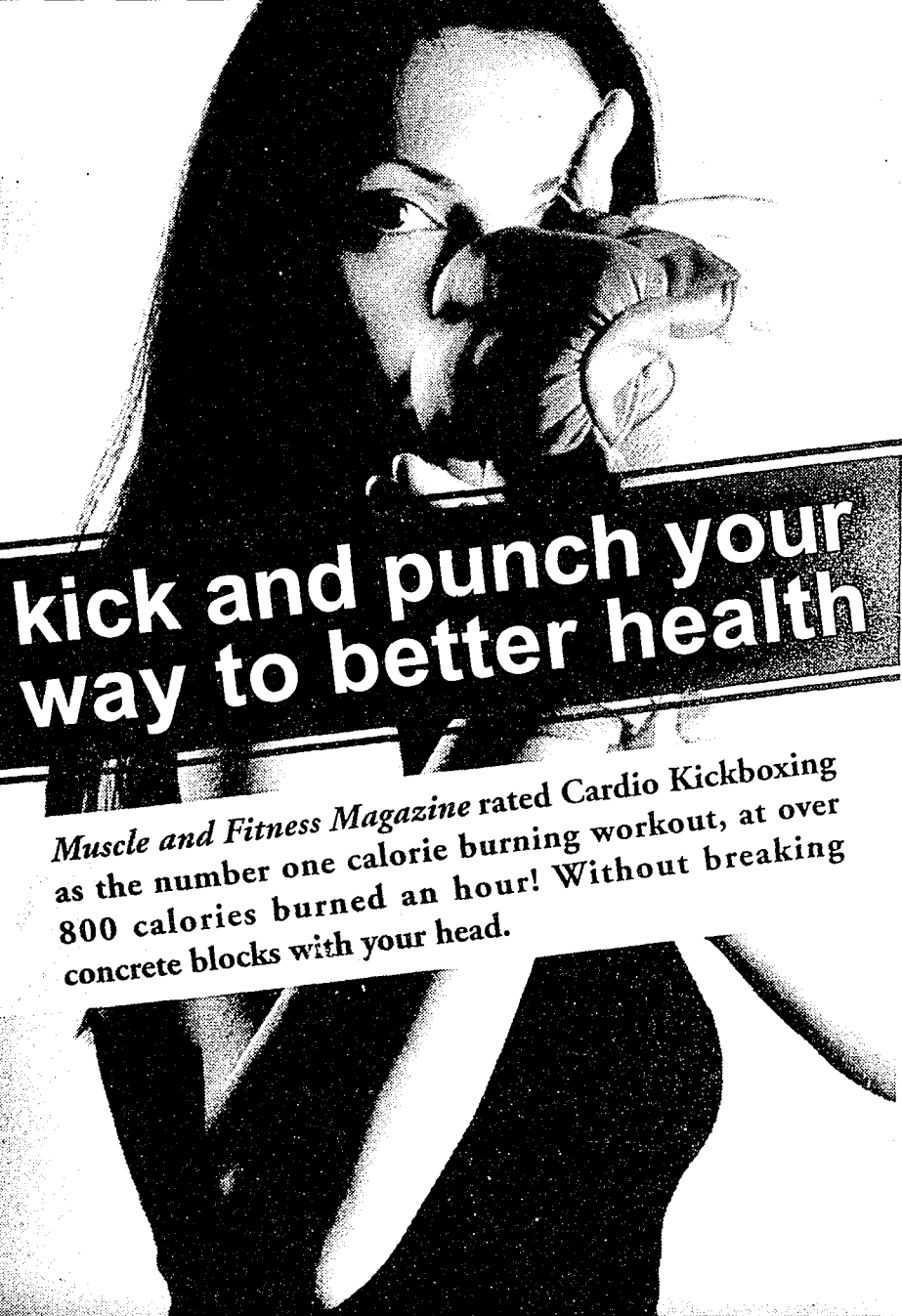
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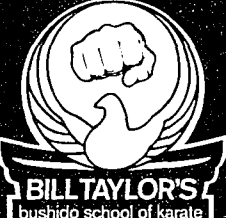


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OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Brutality issue spans many minority groups

Living in the 21st century, it is hard to imagine that a number of things are still possible. It is hard to imagine that women are still paid less than men.

It is hard to imagine that Arizona hadn't had a female Jewish representative until Gabrielle Giffords. Consequently, it is also hard to imagine that police brutality still exists today in our society.

The issue of police brutality is incredibly relevant at this time for MTSU. Reggie Doucet Jr., a former MTSU football player, was shot twice by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Doucet, naked and drunk, caused a disturbance that prompted neighbors to call the police.

It is hard to imagine what exactly Doucet could have done to deserve those two fatal shots. Similar cases have generated opposition with activists and organizations holding forums in attempts to shine a light on police brutality.

Yes, people of color have been historically targeted in numerous cases. However, the issue of police brutality is not necessarily a racial issue.

According to the Department of Justice statistics, African-Americans account for 11.4 percent of the population. Yet, they constitute 22.6 percent of the population that is subjected to police violence.

However, we must also recognize that police brutality largely affects minority populations in general.



Brandon Thomas

Opinions Editor

These issues of class and race intersect in ways that many fail to identify.

The Sean Bell case is a perfect example of how race may play a surprising role in this discussion of police brutality.

Sean Bell and two men were shot 50 times by New York City Police Department officers. Bell and the two other men were unarmed, but Bell died while the other two men were wounded on the morning after Bell's bachelor party.

Interestingly, it wasn't an issue of white police officer versus black victim, but rather one of the police officers that was engaged in the shooting. He was black. This New York Police Department unit actually contains a balanced and diverse group of officers in regards to race.

This case demonstrates that minority status has an increased risk of falling prey to police brutality.

This issue is still prevalent in our society today, regardless of any similarities that officers may share with

victims. In Doucet's case, it was a black officer that pulled the trigger rather than a white officer. It's important to note that this officer had only been on the force for 17 months.

In a more recent story, a gay couple became the victim of police brutality in Philadelphia. The officers in question were responding to a call about a domestic quarrel. Their behavior on the scene was a clear abuse of power.

According to the neighbors who recorded the incident on video, the police handcuffed Jason Mendez and dragged him outside in the snow while using the N-word and a homophobic slur.

When Mendez's partner Luis Berrios demanded the police stop, they beat him as well. When the couple tried to file a complaint about the incident, the police department supposedly lost their statements.

Incidents like this show that police brutality and harassment exist on a wide-range spectrum. Deliberate violence is incredibly detrimental to its victims and the victims' families. Community life can also be shattered.

These cases show that the issue of police brutality, in all its forms, needs to be addressed. We must do so in a way that does not vilify law enforcement, but does hold it accountable for its actions.

On a related topic, Clint Eastwood's Changeling, based on the true story of Christine Collins — played in the film by Angelina Jolie — drove many citizens

to revisit evidence of abusiveness of the law enforcement in the '20s. Collins, a single mom whose son disappeared from her home in 1928, was told by the LAPD five months later her son had been located.

Once reunited, Collins claimed the boy was not her son and began to chastise to LAPD for attempting to cover up its mistake. However, Los Angeles police captain J.J. Jones dismissed her and had her committed to an insane asylum, afraid she might publicly expose the misgivings of the LAPD, according to NPR's website.

According to the site, "Because the police ... refused to admit they'd made a mistake," said screenwriter J. Michael Straczynski, "they had to somehow say this woman is nuts — and their best way to reinforce that was to literally incarcerate her."

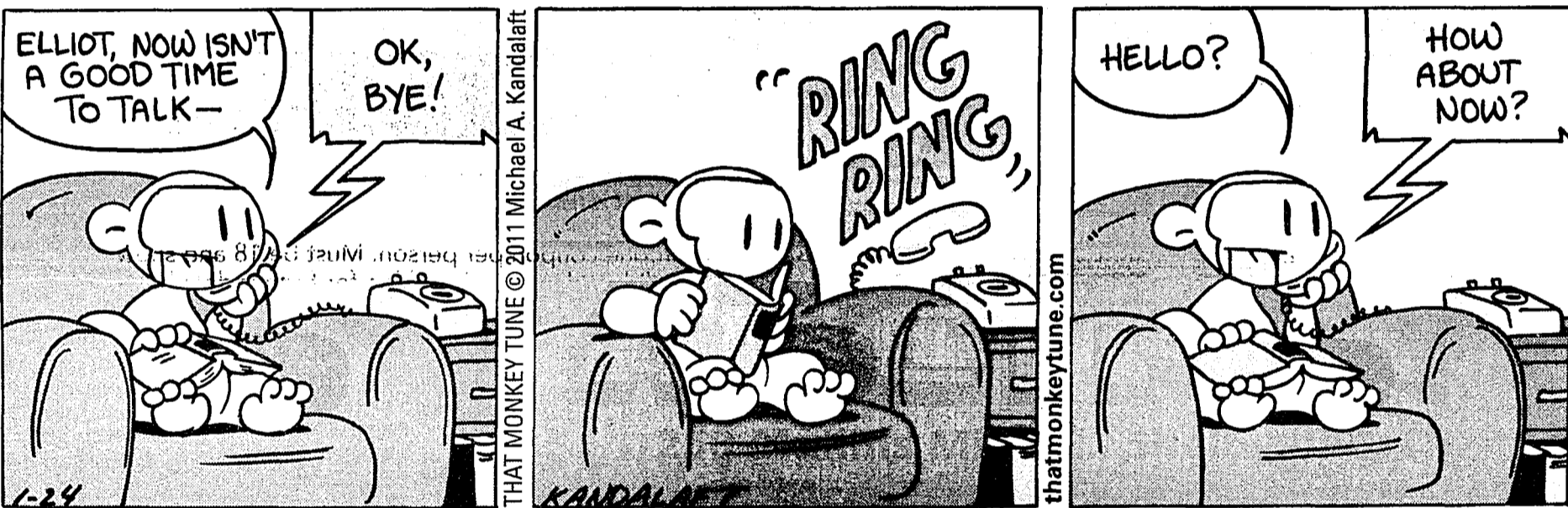
According to Straczynski's research, Collins' hardships were headlining the news in California, yet the issue of police manipulation eventually disseminated.

This is yet another example of the law enforcement using its power to abuse citizens. If this issue is not addressed, we may have another Collins' case on our hands in the near future.

Brandon Thomas is a junior majoring in political science and can be reached at muckrakerthomas@gmail.com.

THAT MONKEY TUNE by Michael A. Kandalaft

www.thatmonkeytune.com



Letter to the Editor

I had the privilege of playing football for four years under Head Coach Rick Stockstill from 2006-2009. I also had the privilege of being a teammate of Reggie Doucet my freshman year of college. I am extremely disappointed in the lack of any type of notification, memorial, or simple recognition of the unfortunate events that lead to his death. His contributions to the university warrant at least some public acknowledgement.

As a current law student at the West Virginia University College of Law, I am fully aware of the responsibility that Reggie may have incurred by his alleged actions, and the criminal implications that he would have faced regardless of the fact the he was fatally shot by the police. The facts presented seem to show a series of events and decision making that is disappointing to any alumni, especially former athletes and teammates.

These actions, however, do not alleviate the fact that Reggie was well respected, an outstanding athlete, and an integral part in making MTSU football gain national recognition as a division one FBS program.

This situation seems eerily similar to the plight of former West Virginia

football player Chris Henry, who also died tragically as a result of a dispute. His past was well documented by the media as a troubled young man throughout his career as both a professional and collegiate athlete. The events that occurred in his life and pattern of behavior that eventually led to his death are not circumstances that any university or athletic department would wish to glorify. As far as I know, Reggie never had such a pattern and was a motivated entrepreneur.

However deplorable Henry's past actions were, at least Head Coach Bill Stewart of West Virginia University had the respect to make a public and honest statement about his importance to the university:

"The entire Mountaineer football family is deeply saddened by the tragic passing of Chris Henry. He is in my thoughts, as well as those of his former teammates, right now. We say, 'Once a Mountaineer, always a Mountaineer,' and Chris was a big part of our success during his time here. For me, he was a real joy to be around on a daily basis. He always came to work and loved to play football. Our hearts and prayers go out to his mother and family. He will be greatly missed," Stewart said.

If I feel that although officials with Blue Raider Athletics and university administrators have an obligation to either authorize personnel to recognize the tragic death of Reggie or make an official statement on their behalf.

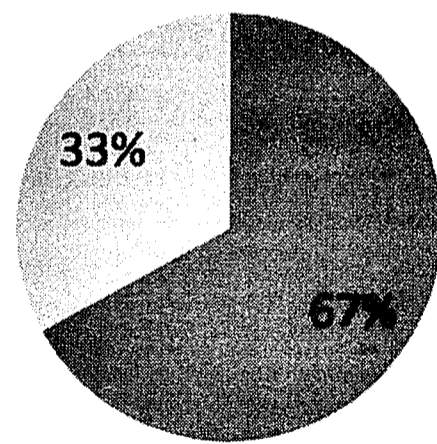
Frankly, if athletes are expected to become a family and a fraternity of successful young men as graduates of MTSU, as Reggie was, I would hope not to abandon a family member in the most serious time of need and reverence — regardless of the circumstances of his death.

I think it is, and will be, a classless and insulting move for Blue Raider Athletics not to make some statement regarding a man whose importance to the university during his two years of attendance came at a time of pivotal transition where leaders were needed. Reggie was one of those leaders.

Please heed the words of Stewart and show some decency by, at a minimum, issuing a statement or memorial in a similar fashion.

2nd Lt. Sherman L. Neal II of the U.S. Marine Corps is a 2009 MTSU graduate, and he can be reached at shermanneal777@gmail.com.

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Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
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Editor-in-Chief
Marie Kempf
steditor@mtsu.edu

Editorial: 615-904-8357
Fax: 615-494-7648

www.mtsusidelines.com

Managing Editor
Laura Aiken*
smanage@mtsu.edu

News Editor
Becca Andrews
slnews@mtsu.edu

Associate News Editor
Amanda Haggard
slcampus@mtsu.edu

Assistant News Editor
Charlie Bateman
slstate@mtsu.edu

Features Editor
Emma Egli
sfeature@mtsu.edu

Associate Features Editor
Todd Barnes
slassociate@mtsu.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Dietrich Stogner
sflash@mtsu.edu

Opinions Editor*
Brandon Thomas
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Sports Editor
Will Trusler
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Josh Fields*
slproduction@mtsu.edu

Photography Assistant
Sarah Finchum
slphoto@mtsu.edu

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Richard Lowe*
slonline@mtsu.edu

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SPORTS

Lady Raiders survive late scare from Denver

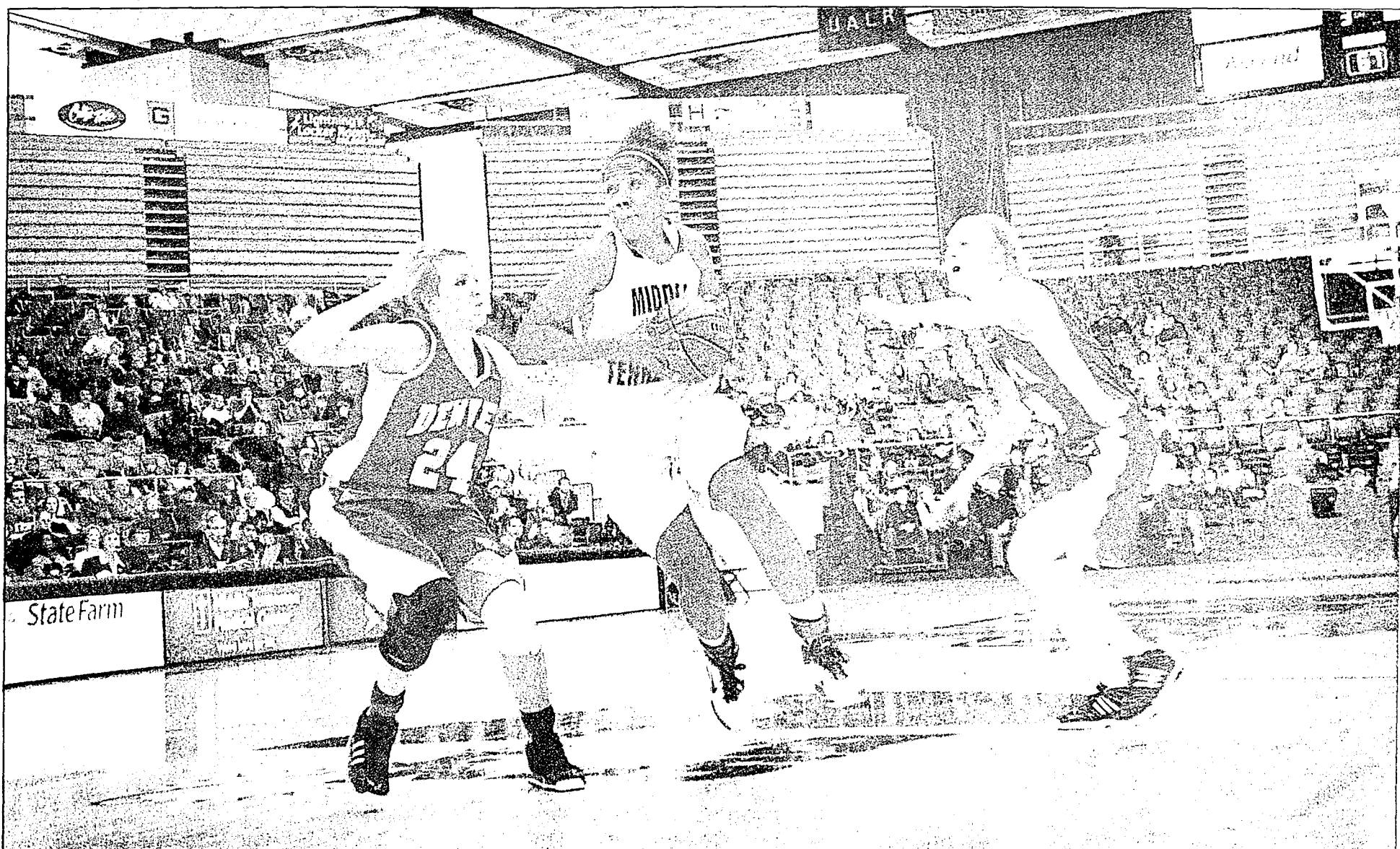


Photo by Drew Gardonia

Freshman forward Ebony Rowe (21) splits a double team as she attacks the basket against Denver Jan. 23, 2011, at the Murphy Center.

Lanning marks college career with 1000th point

By ALEX HUBBARD
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders needed a defensive stop. There was 1.9 seconds left on the game clock, and the Raiders were up by three, still a one-possession game facing a team that had proven its ability to shoot the ball throughout the contest.

The ball was fed in bounds, and sophomore Icelyn Elie, who celebrated her birthday with a 16-point effort, intercepted the pass to seal MT's 71-68 victory over their Sunbelt opponent from the Western Division, Denver.

Freshman Ebony Rowe led the Raiders with the 10th double-double of her young career, scoring 24 points and bringing in 17 rebounds. Senior Anne Marie Lanning, meanwhile, became the 25th Lady Raider to amass 1000 points in her career as she posted 18 points.

The game started fast as the teams traded baskets on alternating trips up and down the court. Each team hit a 3-pointer in the

early going, but most of the buckets were inside which was the way the game went for the duration.

Rowe and Elie, playing mostly in the post, accounted for 12 of MT's first 13 points. Elie, with three early fouls, continued to play smart in the second half to stay on the court and allowing her to make the game-winning steal.

"We were a little afraid with Ice with three fouls to really let her be aggressive on the offensive end," head coach Rick Insell said. "But she cut the lane a time or two, got some put backs and made some great shots."

Rowe did most of her damage in the first half, hitting six of seven from the field, scoring seventeen points and grabbing nine rebounds despite facing constant double-teams by Denver's man defense.

"Ebony is just amazing," Insell said. "Some of the first-half put backs she just went and got. They were not hers; she just went and got them. You've got to be born with that; you don't coach that."

MT charged out to an 18-11 lead and led

by as many as eight early on, but Denver broke the Raider press just enough to force a tie at 26 all, which set up Lanning's milestone shot.

Primed to hit 1000 points in her career, Lanning got the ball with the shot clock nearing zero. With the crowd counting down, she heaved a shot in desperation that went in, causing the crowd, nearly four thousand strong, to administer a loud ovation.

"I didn't even think about my 1000 points with the shot - I was just like, 'wow I got lucky on that one,'" Lanning said. "I didn't get emotional or anything, but I just know that it really means a lot to me, and I'm just glad to get it with the teammates that I have."

MT managed to take a 38-36 lead into halftime and extended it in the second half. Denver's difficulty with MT's play inside led to a 24-12 run by the Raiders and their largest winning margin at 62-48.

Denver forwards Katelyn Murdoch and Brianna Culberson, who finished with 25

and 17 points, respectively, stepped up their games to cut MT's lead down to two at 68-66 with 40 seconds remaining in the game.

Clutch free throws by Lanning and Elie forced Denver's scrambled attempt at a last-second shot that came up empty thanks to Elie's steal.

"I think we made a few risky passes and turnovers that shouldn't have been," Lanning said. "This game especially will be in the back of our head because I think they are in the top-three teams in our conference."

Key to the win for MT was 39 rebounds, which limited to some degree the effectiveness of the Denver attack and also helped manage the clock, even as MT shot just 33 percent in the second half. Denver only picked up 26.

The Lady Raiders rack up their seventh-straight win and improve to 16-4, 7-0 Sunbelt, while Denver falls to 12-8, 4-3 Sunbelt.

The team will return to action on Wednesday as they travel to Florida to face Florida Atlantic University.

Track team earns six victories at home invitational

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

Senior Josh Butler was one of six Blue Raider athletes to win an individual event Saturday at the Blue Raider Invitational in the Murphy Center.

The New Jersey native continued his impressive 2011 campaign by besting his competition in the triple jump with a mark of 51-3 1/4, nearly 4 feet more than his closest competitor. His jump stands as the conference's top mark and among the country's top 10.

Butler also placed second in the high jump.

Sprinters Kenneth Gilstrap and Roscoe Payne also garnered wins for MT.

Gilstrap edged Troy's Payton McGhee by a mere .01 to take the crown in the 55-meter dash in a winning time of 6.35.

Head coach Dean Hayes said of his freshman, "Getting Ken fit to run is big for us. He has the speed to score for us at the conference meet."

Meanwhile, Payne, a junior, was victorious in the 55-meter hurdles thanks to his time of

7.50 seconds just off his conference best time of 7.40 ran in December. He also placed third in the 200.

In women's action, redshirt senior Cherice Robertson led the team by winning the 55-meter hurdles and placing second in the high jump.

Her winning time in the hurdles was the only mark under 8 seconds of the meet as she posted a season-best 7.95. She also matched her career mark of 5-8 in the high jump.

Nyeisha Wright and Amber Jackson also added victories in the long jump and the 400, respectively.

Wright, a redshirt senior, had a busy day for the Blue Raiders as she also ran the 55-meter dash and the 200. After posting a mark of 19-11 1/4 to capture her pet event, she garnered third and fourth place finishes in the sprints.

Jackson, meanwhile, was successful focusing on one event as her winning time of 56.17 is now the best in the conference.

The team will travel next weekend to Lexington, Ky., for the Rod McCravy Memorial.



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