

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

VOL. 87, NO. 3

## Administration disregards student voice

### Plans for parking garage continue despite students disapproval last semester

By MARIE KEMPH  
Campus News Editor

MTSU students need to brace themselves for higher fees, despite the fact they opposed them in a campus-wide vote last year.

On Thursday, MTSU administrators announced to members of the Student Government Association they plan to enact a student fee increase to pay for a new parking garage, which is estimated to cost \$34 million, and eventually cost students an extra \$32 a semester.

Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life and vice president of Student Affairs, said that although students did vote against raising student fees last spring, administrators are not necessarily required to abide by that vote. He said school officials are required, however, to get approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents before raising student fees.

"There is nothing that requires a student referendum," Fitch said. "The only one that requires that involves the student activity fee."

School administrators were unavailable for further comment once they completed their presentation on Thursday. Officials did answer questions from several senators,

but did not stay for the entire SGA meeting.

This proposal is going straight to the board without a student referendum," said Sen. Brandon Thomas of the College of Liberal Arts.

School administrators met with TBR officials Friday to seek approval for the proposed student fee increase, which would go into effect for the July 2010–June 2011 fiscal year. There has been no official word about the outcome of that meeting.

John Cothorn, senior vice president of MTSU, said the plan includes an \$8 student fee increase each semester, starting with the 2010 fall semester, and will continue to rise until the 2012 spring semester to \$32.

"The rate increase will be used to pay for the garage," Cothorn said. "The parking garage will be for students only, plus an area for prospective students and visitors."

Many of the SGA senators expressed strong disapproval to administrators for their decision to proceed with construction plans and were visibly stunned by the unexpected announcement.

Several senators said they were concerned about the safety of students, overall cost and traffic on campus. Others

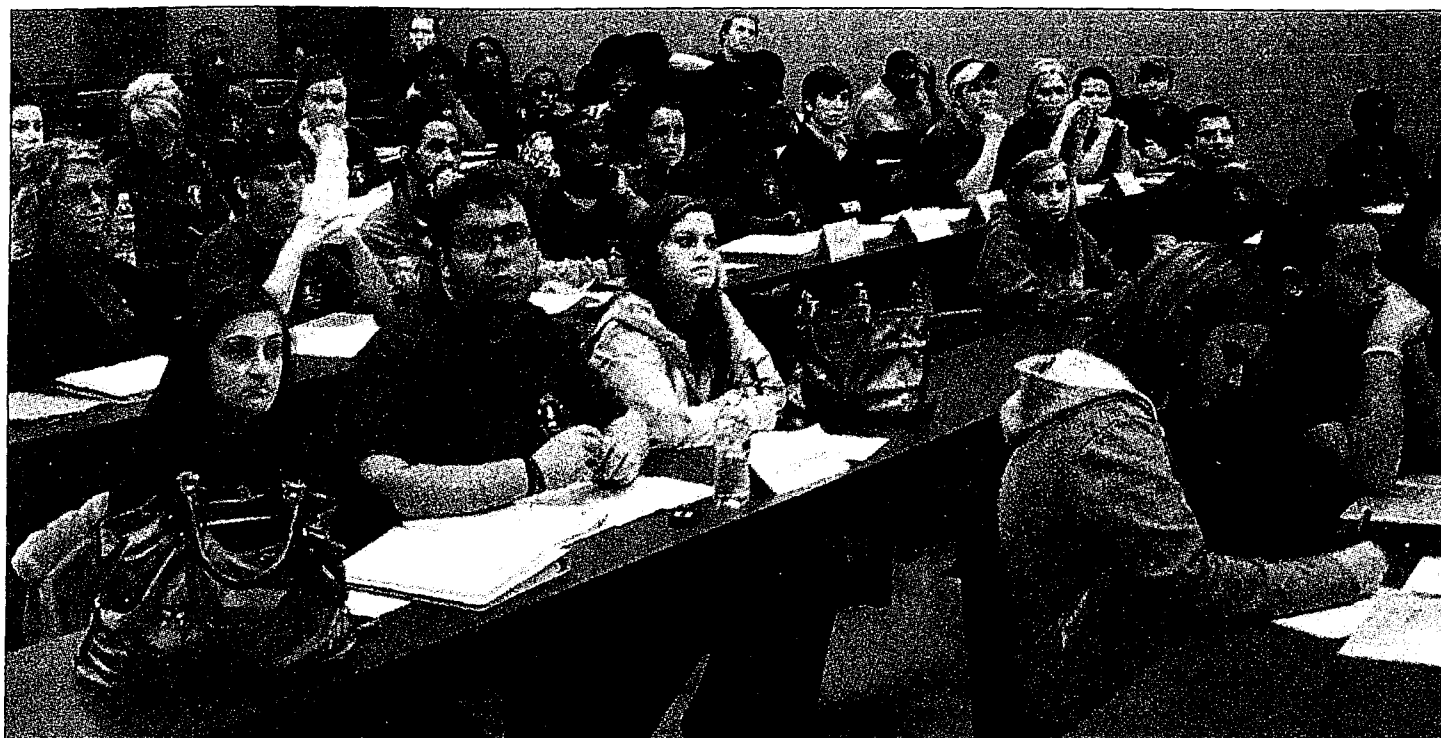


Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer  
SGA senators met with administrators Thursday, as the administration announced its plan to continue with parking garage plans.

pointed out that the school has been facing budget cuts from the state and employees are being asked to voluntarily retire, while at the same time administrators are continuing to pursue new projects.

"It is more money than we have to spend, and we cannot afford it," said Senator Danielle Reed of the College of Business. "They are essentially downsizing employees for a parking garage."

Unlike the proposal from last year, the student fee increase is only intended for

the parking garage, not for additional parking upgrades around campus, and faculty and staff will not be allowed to use it.

### PARKING GARAGE

"The students did vote down a bill about increased fees last semester," said SGA President Brandon McNary, in an e-mail Friday. "However, it was a relatively close vote and [administrators] have found a way to ultimately cut the fees in half for the students."

McNary said the controversy surrounding the "Vote Yes" campaign probably played a

significant role in how students voted in the referendum last year. The controversy surrounded the usage of student activity fees to fund a marketing campaign promoting the parking garage.

"Many students were very upset by that and voted no due to that reason," he said.

Luke Franczek, junior computer engineering and computer science major, instead of building a parking garage, it might be better to work on making the bus route more efficient.

Jasmine Moore, junior business major, said she was concerned about the proposal.

"Since girls get attacked a lot on campus, I think it is a bad idea," Moore said, adding that if safety was not such an issue she would be in more support of the proposal.

"The only thing I am worried about is how they are going to pay for it," Franczek said. "The students who paid for the recreation center did not get to use it."

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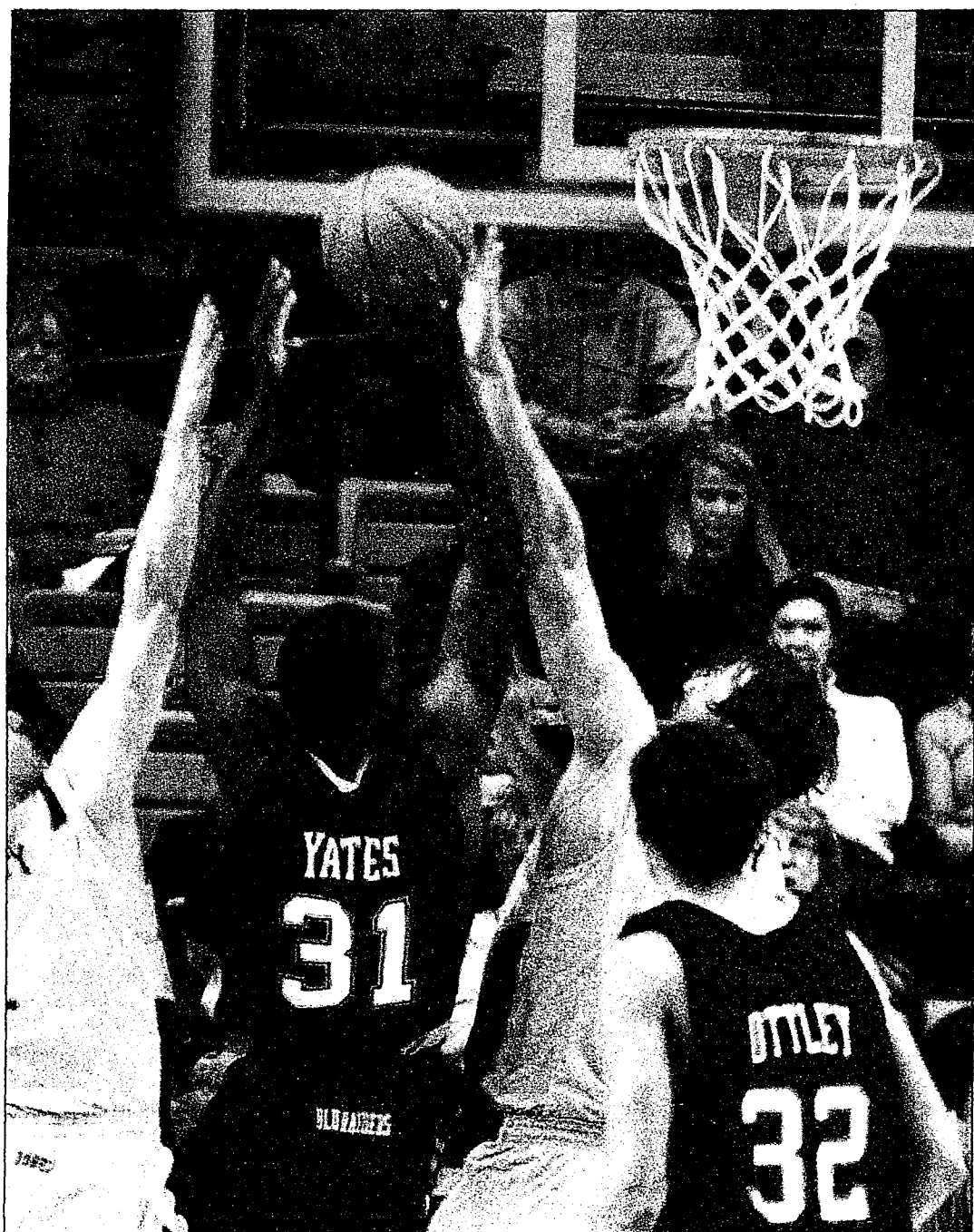


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Desmond Yates takes a shot against Vanderbilt this season. Yates became MTSU's all-time leading scorer on Saturday as MTSU defeated archrival Western Kentucky 84-74 on the road.

## Yates smashes scoring record

By WILL TRUSLER  
Contributing Writer

Senior forward Desmond Yates needed 22 points to become MT's all-time leading scorer. He finished with 28.

His barrage of three-pointers in the game's early minutes and his clutch free throws down the stretch all culminated in a career game for Yates, but more importantly it helped lead his team to an 84-74 win and season sweep of perennial rival and conference favorite Western Kentucky University.

"I was told yesterday how close I was, but it wasn't on my mind," Yates said. "I was just trying to score and get points on the board for Middle Tennessee."

Yates surpassed Robert Taylor at the top of the scoring list with his 22nd point, a layup off a feed from Calvin O'Neil with 1:17 remaining. He raised the record to 1,629 points after six free throws in the final minute to ice the game.

"It feels good to break [the record] against your rival and to get a win," Yates said. "I am happy to break it and it feels good, but the most important thing is we won."

The Blue Raiders seemed to forget that they had not swept the Hilltoppers since the 1974-75 season. They were not concerned that they had not beaten WKU at the E.A. Diddle Arena since 1977, and Yates did not seem aware that none of his 27 ca-

reer 20-point games had come against their biggest rival.

Middle Tennessee disregarded all of the statistics mounting against them, as well as the 0-1 deficit they faced before the game even started, thanks to a pre-game technical foul assessed to Trevor Otley for dunking in warm-ups. MT did not allow the Hilltoppers to ever get in rhythm.

Instead, they took an early lead and never relinquished control of the game en route to their second straight victory over WKU.

"What a great week for Middle Tennessee basketball," said head coach Kermit Davis. "To beat your rival twice, and a great road win at Monroe, and Desmond Yates, who is one of my favorite guys to have ever coached, to have an opportunity to break the all-time scoring record on national television, and a win to push you into first place — it can't get much better."

Yates came out shooting the ball early, seemingly determined not to let this contest against the Hilltoppers come down to a last minute three-pointer.

Within the first six minutes, Yates was a perfect 5-5 from the field, including three from three-point range, and had 13 straight points.

Early foul trouble, however, would send the Somerville, Tenn., native to the bench for a large portion of the first half.

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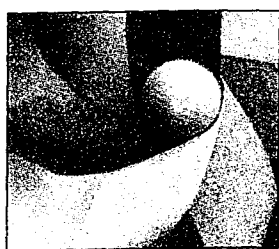
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School goes green to help promote healthy lifestyles for elementary kids.

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ONLINE  
Students offered full scholarship to attend LGBT banquet.

mtsusidelines.com

### MONDAY FORECAST

ISOLATED SHOWERS  
40% CHANCE OF RAIN  
HIGH 46, LOW 28

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"College is a refuge from hasty judgment."  
Robert Frost

# Students create alternative fuel

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Community News Editor

A project to build a mechanism to convert the methane produced from MTSU's dairy cows' waste into usable energy is being made by environmental science students.

"I'm getting into the whole green movement," said Justin Miller, a senior environmental science major. "I love the possibility of using alternative ways of producing energy."

The apparatus Miller and fellow students have been working on is called an anaerobic digester. Methane gas, which is a natural by-product, is collected from manure. The manure is put into a covered container and is filtered through water to separate it from other gases. The methane is then collected and used for fuel.

Miller said that dairy cows are being used because they produce more methane in their manure than any other farm animal. Sixty percent of their excrement is methane.

Before this project started, Miller said he believed the manure from MTSU's dairy farm was just being sold for fertilizer. When the anaerobic digester is finished, the manure can still be used and sold as fertilizer.

"It really is just money lying around," Miller said.

Miller said he was inspired to build the anaerobic digester after a trip to Tanzania.

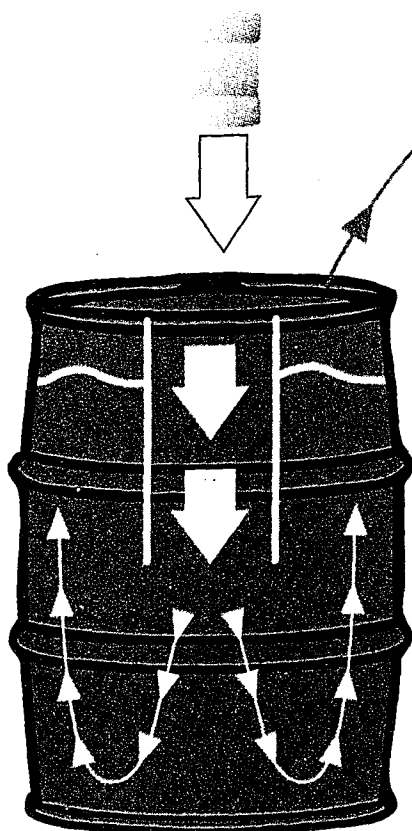
"This farmer probably had 10 cows, yet he had a huge chamber underground that was collecting all of the gas and was powering his lights, and he had no electricity bill," Miller said. "I was like, 'why are we not doing this back home.'"

Miller said a small amount of dairy farmers are using the digesters, but the overhead cost is too high for farmers to justify building one on their farms even though it would pay itself off over time.

"The whole point of the small scale is to understand what our potential is exactly," Miller said.

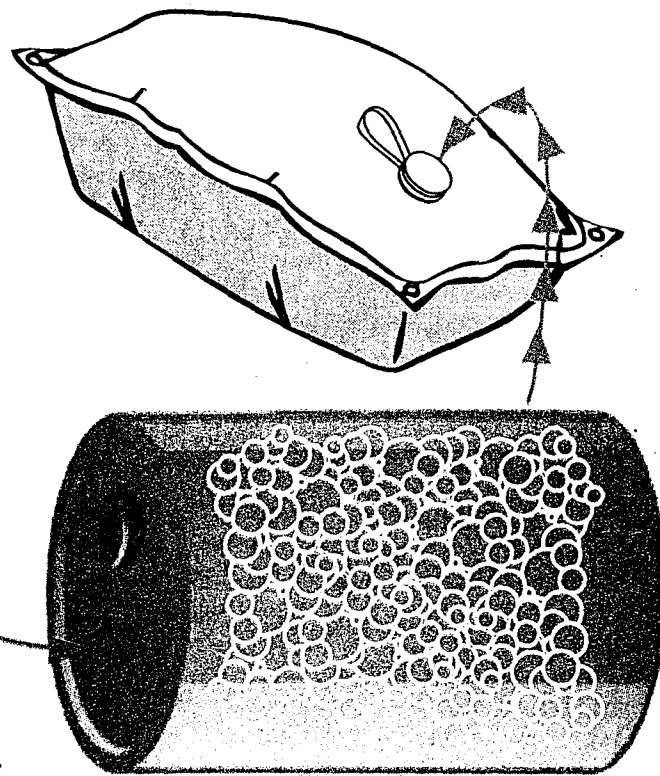
Miller and his fellow students are in the process of building a small-scale version of the final project. The small-scale version is being built with a \$1,000 grant from the Student Government Association to make sure that the equipment

PVC piping allows manure to be poured into the 55 gallon barrel (the anaerobic chamber)



The gas produced from the anaerobic chamber (left) flows through a rubber hose into a water-filled barrel (right)

The methane bubbles through the water, filters the gas, and collects in a connected bag



Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

will work as desired and be as efficient as possible.

"I believe it definitely is worth it," Edwin Gannon, a junior biology major said. "Propane - we're looking at something that takes energy to produce but when you look at methane - it takes no energy."

Gannon said the team is working on a small-scale version of the anaerobic digester to figure out the particulars of the mechanism and the science behind the project.

Gannon is working as the treasurer for the project. He said the project, which is running under budget, is very economical.

"We have a little bit just in case something comes up, but right now we haven't spent very much and we've got most everything we

need," Gannon said.

Gannon said that once the small-scale digester is built, the final project would not take long to complete because only certain parts of the equipment need to be modified in size.

"We're taking something that is a by-product and can become harmful to the environment and we're converting it to energy," Gannon said. "It is something that we can use, instead of something that could harm us later on."

Miller originally planned to have a chute from the dairy farms into a reservoir. That reservoir would have some sort of cover to trap the gases and be a natural anaerobic digester making the process much easier.

"I don't want any by-product that we can't find a job for," Miller said. "I want to use

every piece that we can so we can make this project as efficient as possible."

Jason Tanner, manager of the dairy farm laboratory, said each of the full-grown cows produces 80 pounds of manure every day. There are 132 cows on the farm and 62 of those cows are used for milking.

"It may not be cost effective right now, but as we get more into it and maybe get it at a bigger scale I'm sure at one point it will be," Tanner said.

Tanner said that some of the Michigan dairy farms he has toured make almost as much money from selling energy made from methane as they do from dairy products.

"They've got everything out here on the farm to get started, but I don't think they've put it together," Tanner said.

# Higher education reform passes state legislature

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Managing Editor

The Tennessee State Senate passed Gov. Phil Bredesen's overhaul of the higher education system last week, which intends to dramatically increase graduation success rates at community colleges and universities - dramatically changing how these schools are funded.

The legislation, which unanimously passed in the state senate on Thursday, is set to move remedial and developmental classes from universities into community colleges, promotes the usage of community colleges and associate's degrees, and shifts funding to schools with higher graduation rates.

"There is a funding formulae that is very complex," said Mary Morgan, director of communications for the Tennessee Board of Regents. "[The Tennessee Higher Education Commission] develops the formula, and it will be undertaking the revision for the [University of Tennessee] system and the TBR system."

Morgan said the legislation requires that the new formula reward graduation rates, instead of awarding schools based on the number of enrolled students. Currently, schools with higher enrollment rates receive more state funds than those with fewer students.

According to a report by Erik Schelzig in the Tennessee on Friday, the graduation rate for four-year institutions in Tennessee is less than 50 percent and only slightly more than 10 percent for two-year institutions.

Jim Vaden, associate executive director for fiscal af-

## Included in the bill:

- Creation of an academic master plan to address strategic goals of higher education institutions in the state
- A proposed shift in funding allocation from rewarding enrollment to rewarding graduation rate
- Elimination of duplicate or identical programs between educational institutions in the state
- Additional measures to ensure the transferring of credits between community colleges and universities
- Removal of remedial and developmental courses from universities

Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

fairs at THEC, said the new formula would take the missions of the campuses and outcomes of the formula itself into account when factoring the composites of the formulae.

He said the other major part of the legislation, developing the statewide master plan, would be another factor for developing the funding formulae.

"There will be a formula for universities and community colleges as well, with a special formula for the technical schools," Vaden said. "The formulae are based on the principals of the master plan and roles of campuses in the next cycle - the master plan and development of the funding formula go hand in glove."

Morgan said the funding formula will be a difficult undertaking for THEC, and it will certainly not happen overnight. She said that while there will be many differences between the revised and current formulae, there has not been additional money provided for state education funding for a few years, and the lack of funding will be more noticeable than the changes.

To read more, visit us online.



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"Even enrollment hasn't been rewarded because the current formula hasn't been fully funded," Morgan said. "Re-allocation of state funding will be necessary if the money is supposed to move."

Vaden said the lack of new funding is something many keep forgetting about. He said the most important thing to keep in mind during these changes is that all state agencies, not just education, have undergone a 6 percent reduction, and that some agencies have had to take an additional 3 percent reduction.

"We are on a reduction mode as opposed to getting new money," Vaden said.

Vaden also said the historical use of "hold harmless" clauses, which basically state that appropriations for universities will be kept at an artificially higher level for a sense of financial stability, will also be removed completely as the changes are phased into effect.

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## School goes green to help promote better health

By CHRIS MAYO  
Staff Writer

This semester, the Student Diabetic Association is set to partner with Hobgood Elementary School to raise its students' awareness of nutrition by planting and maintaining a vegetable garden.

SDA plans to work with science teachers from Hobgood Elementary to educate children about proper nutrition, as well as how to tend and grow a garden.

Monique Richards, SDA president, said the garden is

To read more, visit us online.



meant to supply food for the school's salad bar, but will ultimately serve as a learning experience for the students.

"We want [the students] to not only know how to eat healthy at school, but to take that knowledge home with them," Richards said. "The goal is to do much of the work ourselves in the beginning, and then get the students involved."

## PARKING FROM PAGE 1

Sen. Sarah Hoover of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences said she was concerned with the fact that students are being asked to pay for something that they may not necessarily be able to use or enjoy.

"We always have a problem with this," said Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services.

Sells said that the parking garage would be a part of the previous class' legacy.

"We are asking you to invest in something that will be here long after you are gone," she said.

Cothern said the \$32 student fee would not increase after the 2012 spring semester, but would remain in effect as part of tuition in order to pay for the initial loan that will be used to pay for construction costs and that construction would be completed by 2012.

Cothern said students have lost more than 400 parking spaces recently because of new construction projects on campus, and that the park-

ing garage would not only replace those spaces, but will add an additional 600 spaces for students.

"It has become very difficult to find additional parking space," said Ron Malone, assistant vice president of Events and Transportation Services. "A garage is preferable."

Malone said because of those constraints, the best way to provide more parking spaces is to build upwards.

Cothern said a new parking garage is part of a larger plan for MTSU and additional garages are being discussed.

"We want to become more pedestrian friendly," Cothern said. "Someday, we might not allow driving on the interior of campus."

Cothern said the university is trying to get money from Congress to build a garage in the Bell Street parking lot.

Cothern said the parking garage would be five levels made up of 1,000 spaces and would be located in the gravel parking lot of the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

Sarah Hamacher contributed to this report.

## CRIME BRIEFS

Jan. 20, 12:05 a.m.

### Drugs

Baird Lane

Logan Tylor Maule was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jan. 20, 5:28 p.m.

### Arrest Warrant

Greek Row

Arma H. Andon was arrested for an outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court.

Jan. 20, 2:32 p.m.

### Theft

Peck Hall

A complainant reported a stolen wallet.

Jan. 20, 2:32 p.m.

### Theft

Center of Historic Preservation

A complainant reported a missing laptop.

Jan. 21, 9:37 a.m.

### Traffic

John Bragg Mass Communication Building

A complainant reported an unknown subject allegedly struck his or her vehicle and left the scene.



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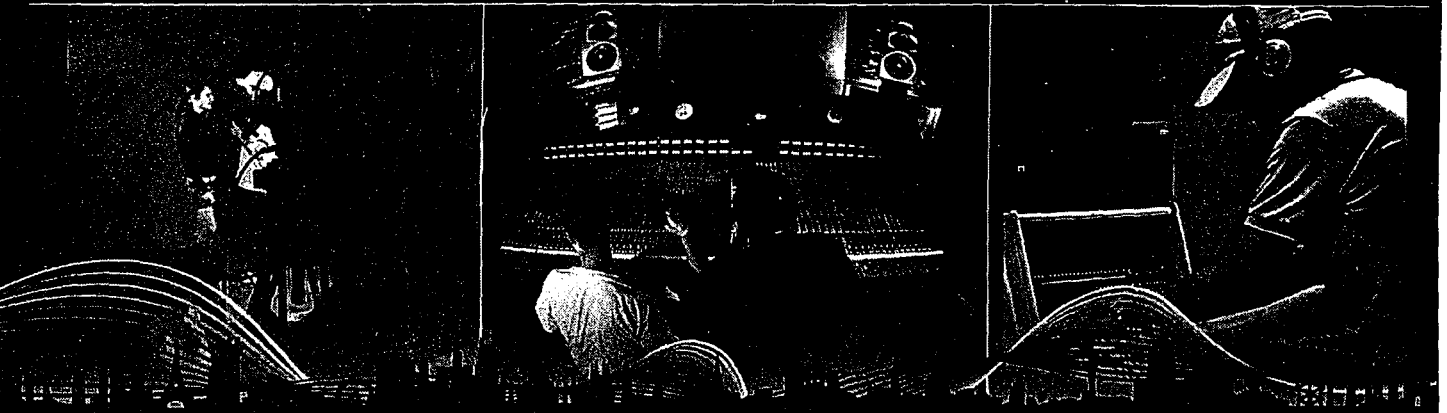
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## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2010 / SPRING 2011

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2010/ Spring 2011 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year; as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2010/2011 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010 at 4:00 PM.**

Students may reapply by completing a reapplication form and paying the \$300.00 prepaid rent in the Housing and Residential Life Office in the Keathley University Center, room 300, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online.

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

\*\*Summer '10 Housing Applications are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$175.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

**MIDDLE**  
**TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

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

## Save the Date!

**Who: Up 'Til Dawn**

**What: Finale Event**

**When: February 19th**

**7 P.M.-1 A.M**

**Where: Campus REC**

**Center**

**Up 'til Dawn**

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Please turn in any  
remaining letters to

**KUC 326-S**

**Letters Policy**

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

# OPINIONS

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

**FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

## Administration disregarding student vote outrageous

Attention MTSU students: administrators are planning to disregard your vote and voice on fee increases from last year on a parking garage and force them upon you. So were us little kids just playing democracy?

Last spring, the student body voted on fee increases to go toward the All-Access Improvement Plan, which included among several other campus transportation improvements, a parking garage. The student body – in spite of Events and Transportation Services wasting \$10,000 from student fees and parking tickets on a marketing contract to push the vote – said no, 1,888 to 1,508. Apparently, MTSU's ad-

ministration did this as a fake showing of democracy, as they are planning to raise fees regardless of the outcome of the vote. This is an insult to those students who voted, whether in favor or opposed, and a waste of money on marketing that the university does not have.

As the number of millions of dollars that MTSU must cut continues to rise, administrators want to take out loans totaling \$34 million to pay for an aesthetically pleasing parking garage. And who must pay off these bonds? The students through gradual fee increases over the next few years.

MTSU, a place based on education, is planning to lay off faculty and staff, ask them to leave

by taking buyouts, consolidate and eliminate departments and impose many other cuts. Instead of forcibly raising fees for a noble cause, such as preventing some of these cuts, officials would rather fuel money into buildings during bad economic times.

There are several other big-dollar projects happening on campus, including the new student union building and the education building. We understand that the foundation for these projects began before the current state and federal revenue shortfalls. We also understand – but don't agree with – the bureaucratic divisions be-

### PARKING GARAGE

tween funding for buildings and other expenses, such as faculty salaries.

Sidelines is not here to complain about previously enacted projects, but to start a new multimillion dollar project now is an insult to all those who will be out of a job when stimulus money runs out and all others affected by budget cuts.

And why do we need a parking garage anyway? There is always open parking on the outskirts of campus, including in the recently built lot across from Rutherford Boulevard. All a parking garage would do is flatter students who don't have enough patience to wait

on a bus.

Brandon McNary, Student Government Association president, praised university officials at a meeting Thursday for lessening the amount – \$60 to \$32 – that students will have to pay for the garage. Students should keep in mind, though, that the original transportation improvement plan from last year consisted of many more items: additional Raider Xpress buses, new bike lanes, improvements to MTSU Boulevard and a new entrance to campus from Wiles Court. Hence, the cost reduction is because there are less things to pay for.

Most other SGA members are outraged, and stood up for the student body at the

meeting. They deserve praise for this.

They also deserve to hear your opinion. If you don't feel MTSU should be using funds on the garage during this economy, let your senators know. If you don't know who your senators are, go to the university's Web site and find them.

Also if you disagree, you should e-mail President Sidney McPhee at smcphee@mtsu.edu and tell him what you think.

We at Sidelines think it's asinine. Save the professors and their programs. And if you can't do that, definitely don't slap them in the face by saying a parking garage is worth more than their livelihoods and our education.



By Kyle Patterson  
Staff cartoonist

"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### American majority wants public option despite South

I love to hear politicians on the radio saying, with confidence, that the American people never wanted a public option. That is flat out wrong. Overwhelmingly, the American people want universal healthcare.

It may not seem that way because we live in the South, which is not surprisingly still the most conservative, socially and morally, in the United States.

Take a look at Medicare. That is funded by the government but is not administered by the government. It is administered and distributed by the states, and its funds are quickly depleting.

Forget about the country needing tort reform; that is just a sham. Malpractice doctors only makeup around 1 percent of malpractice costs. Doctors need to fear screwing up because it is your health on the line.

If we want to ensure that they will not foul up, then give coverage to everyone.

Kevin McDaniel, sophomore anthropology major

### Students want vegan choices

I would like to praise all the great things already said about the Wild Cow Vegetarian in Nashville ("A 'moo' twist that's 'udderly' meatless," Sidelines, Jan. 13). It's a smart decision when you consider that a survey by Aramark, a leading food-service provider, concluded that nearly a quarter of college students are actively seeking out vegan options. The reasons include their health and concerns for the environment and animal suffering.

It's no surprise that people look for cruelty-free alternatives when they discover how animals are treated.

Wild Cow, which offers tasty and cruelty-free Reubens and Buffalo Grinders, coincides with an ever-increasing student demand for vegan food and is to be commended.

Drew Winter, Peta2 college campaigns assistant

# Insurance mandate from health care bill bad move

## Democrats should stick to their guns on original plans

It's disheartening to see a movement go down in flames, especially a movement so remarkable that it tries to provide health care for an entire country.

It's also disheartening to see a country as great as ours fail so utterly at securing basic necessities for its citizens when so many others do so well.

We look with derision at "socialist" Sweden, as tens of millions of our own citizens do without regular doctor visits. These casualties slip through the cracks, often receiving care only when preventable problems become life threatening – a situation with which Swedes would right-

fully be aghast. The health care reform legislation before Congress is a horribly mangled version. Instead of a robust public health plan, we are left with a toothless individual mandate to purchase insurance on the open market.

This mandate is the single worst thing to come from the debate. It's like offering someone a healthy meal, and then punching them in the face.

The original plan included a so-called "public option," designed to put the uninsured into a giant pool. Members of this pool would collectively purchase care—like a version of Medicare—and pay fees to help control costs.



### The pen is mightier

Evan Barker

Conservatives act as if the private sector has a monopoly, if you will, on competition. This is simply not true.

The Swedish government, for example, used to own Absolut Vodka, which could hardly be accused of inefficiency. Thus, a traditional business based on competition may live comfortably in the public sector.

The public option was designed with this methodology

in mind. Originally, it was going to be a non-profit plan, providing the benefits of the group at a bargain for its clients, the taxpayers. At the same time, it doesn't funnel unholy amounts of money into executive bonuses or stock dividends, like HMOs do.

The new health plan was specifically designed to provide care to as many people as possible for a reasonable cost, as opposed to insurance companies who drop patients when they get sick.

Let's return to the aforementioned mandate of individuals purchasing health insurance. Companies prefer this because their profit is greater on individual purchases. They scrutinize every individual who wishes to purchase insurance, gouging at any opportunity.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

Group purchases, such as corporate health plans, mitigate these circumstances somewhat because the per-capita cost of insuring thousands is much lower than insuring an individual. Imagine the bargaining power of a pool of 30 million people.

If the companies get their way – and they probably will – they will limit the regulation designed to keep them from dropping patients with pre-existing conditions. As many will attest, "pre-existing conditions" have a malleable definition to insurance companies.

The Democrats could have constructed a strictly non-profit, transparent public option to provide a basic level of care for the uninsured, which would lower prices for the market overall. Instead, they

attempted to compromise with members of the GOP, also known as "the party of 'no,'" who would fight the Obama administration even if it made gold rain from the sky.

A 60-vote majority is a mandate from voters for the administration's will to be done. Instead, the Democratic Party chose to flatter insurance companies with the sweetest deal they've ever seen. In the meantime, the too-poor-to-live will simply receive a new brand of raw deal. Instead of being financially crippled by emergency room bills once every few years, they'll be felled every month by their HMO.

Evan Barker is a senior English major and former Sidelines opinions editor. He can be reached at evanhbarker@gmail.com



# SPORTS

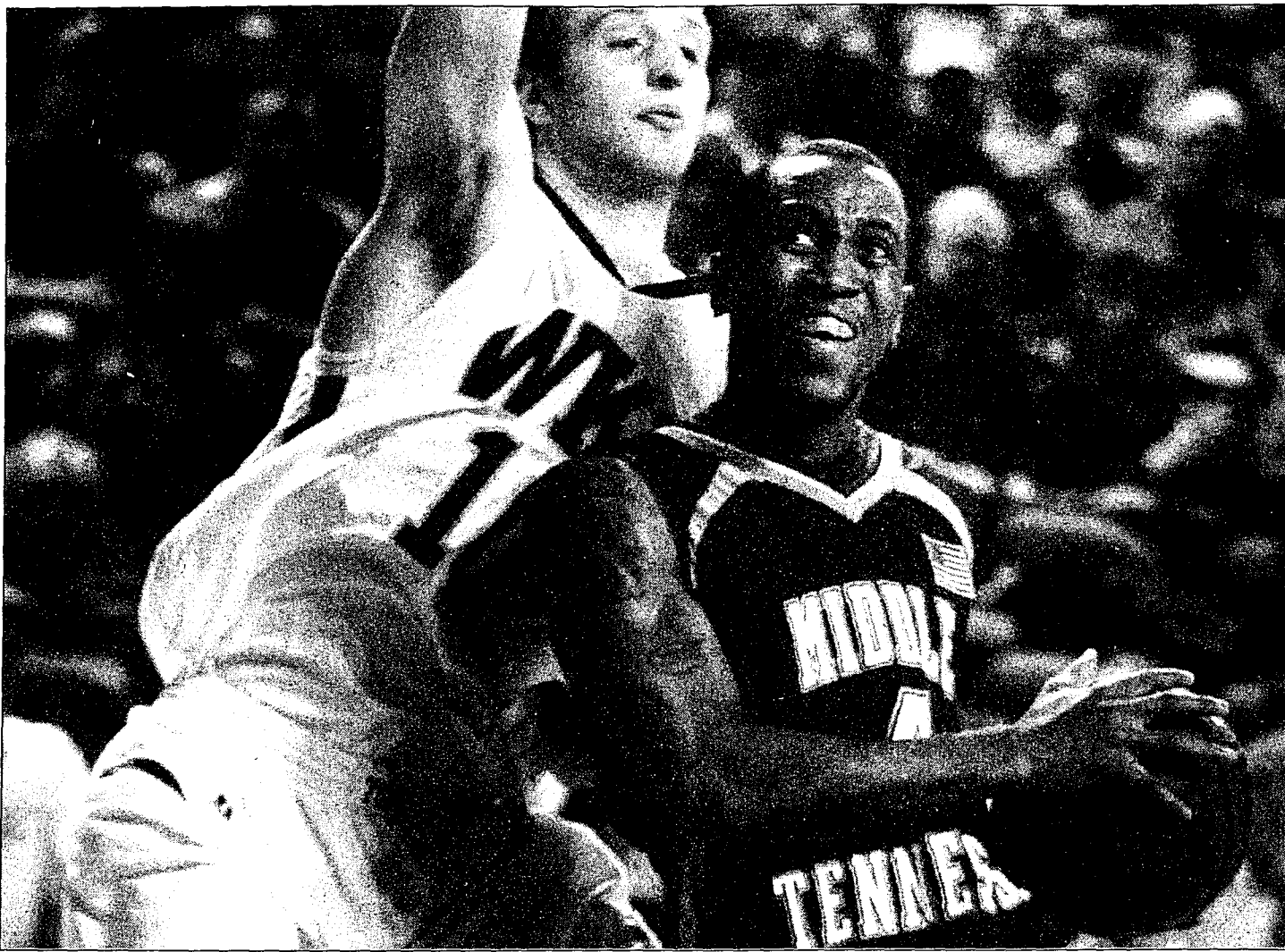


Photo Courtesy of Aaron Thompson, DNJ photographer  
Senior MTSU guard Calvin O'Neal (right) avoids WKU guard Caden Dickerson during Saturday's game at Bowling Green.

## BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 1

Solid guard play and good shooting allowed the Blue Raiders to push through and enter halftime with a 33-30 lead.

The shots did not stop falling for Middle Tennessee after the break as they continued to pour it on offensively.

The Blue Raiders finished the game shooting 54.2 percent from the floor.

They were 9-13 from behind the arc and a solid 85.2 percent from the charity stripe.

Junior point guard James Washington led the charge over the course of the game and finished with 18 points to go along with four rebounds and four assists.

Montarrio Haddock and O'Neal joined Yates and Washington in double figures with 14 and 11 points,

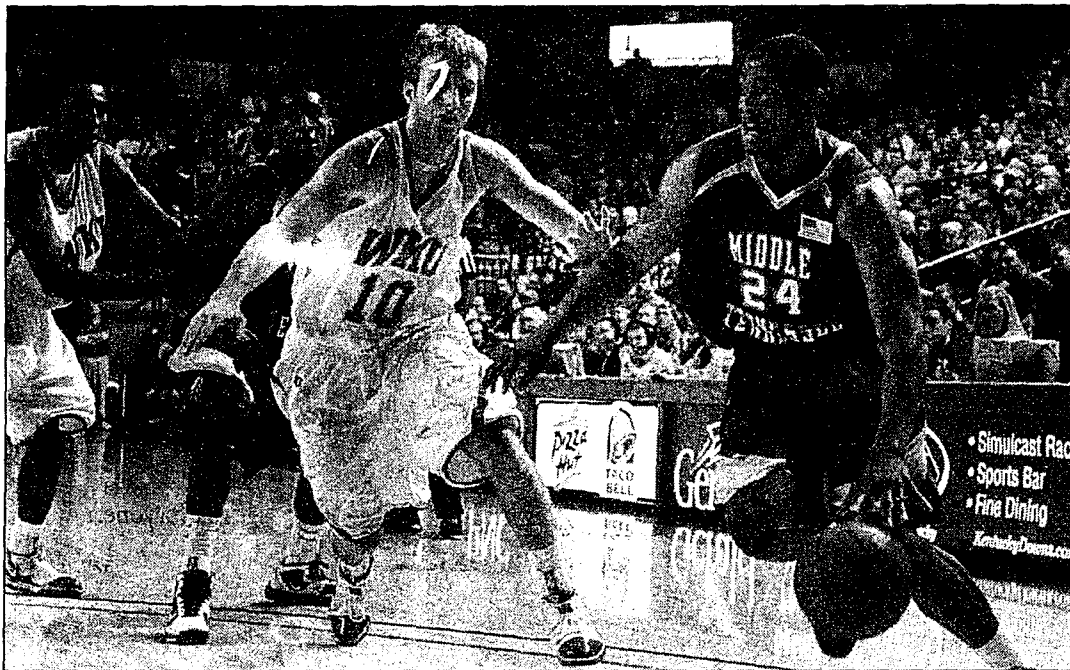


Photo Courtesy of Aaron Thompson, DNJ photographer  
Senior forward Montarrio Haddock (24) dribbles down court against WKU on Saturday.

respectively. The duo also contributed with guard James Gallman in holding WKU's star guard AJ Slaughter to a rough shooting night.

He finished the game

shooting 31 percent.

"We have a lot of work to do, a lot of improvements we need to make but we will take Sunday off and it will be a nice enjoyable weekend," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders will begin a three-game home stretch when they host the University of New Orleans Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Students are admitted free with I.D.

## Track team sets records

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Sports Editor

Senior Brittany Cox and redshirt junior Cherice Robertson each earned NCAA Provisional qualifiers Saturday as the Blue Raiders track and field team competed in the Blue Raider Invitational at the Murphy Center.

Cox earned her spot after hurling a school record 19.10m in the women's weight throw. The Antioch native's throw was the 15th longest in the NCAA this year.

Senior MeLyn Thompson finished second in the same event with a throw of 14.45m.

Robertson finished first in the 55-meter hurdles with an NCAA Provisional time of 7.84. Competing in her first season for the Blue Raiders after transferring from Vanderbilt University last year, Robertson also won the high jump with a mark of 1.73m.

"It is exciting getting to compete after having to sit out last season," Robertson said. "I have been trying to get my time down each week so I can score some points for the team in conference."

Junior Marla Bailey and sophomore Jackline Serem both earned lifetime bests in the indoor mile run, finishing 5:10.00 and 5:24.00, respectively. Further aiding the women's team, freshman Amber Jackson won the 400-meter run, with junior Nyeisha Wright taking first in the long and triple jump.

"The women have done a really good job," said head coach Dean Hayes. "They have some seniors and people who can score really big points."

For the men, sophomore Roscoe Payne and senior DeRay Sloss finished first and second in the 55-meter hurdles, respectively. Stanley Gbagbeke won the long jump competition with a mark of 7.34m.

Junior David Emery won the 800-meter with a time of 1:58.40 with junior Isaac Biwott finishing behind him with a time of 1:59.94.

Freshman Justin Chambers contributed by winning the 400-meter while Festus Chemaoui finished second.

The meet marked a rare opportunity for the Blue Raiders to compete in front of their home crowd.

"It gives them confidence, because they get to do it in front of their friends and their family," Hayes said.

MT travels to Lexington, Ky., next weekend for the Rod McRavy Memorial meet.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
An MTSU runner competes in the indoor mile.

## MT's Brentz named No. 2 player in country

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Sports Editor

Junior outfielder and pitcher Bryce Brentz was named No. 2 on a list of the top 100 players in college baseball by the College Baseball Blog.

The CBB puts together a top 100 list yearly, and the Knoxville native's past two seasons for the Blue Raiders were enough to give him the high spot.

Brentz has a career .400 average in two seasons with MT, including 176 hits, 45 home runs and 141 RBIs, as well as a slugging percentage of .807.

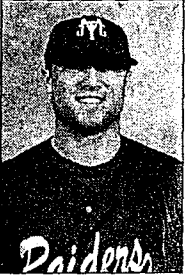
In addition to his success at the plate, Brentz has pitched well, accumulating a 6-3 record with a 3.99 earned run average with 86 strikeouts in 117.1 innings of work.

His sophomore season put himself and the Blue Raiders on the map, setting school records in batting average (.465), home runs (28), hits (107), runs (79), total bases (214) and slugging percentage (.930).

Brentz played for the USA Collegiate National Team in the summer of 2009, starting in 17 games.

He finished with a .366 average, with two home runs and 18 RBIs.

Keith Law of ESPN.com rated Brentz as the best position player on Team USA.



BRENTZ

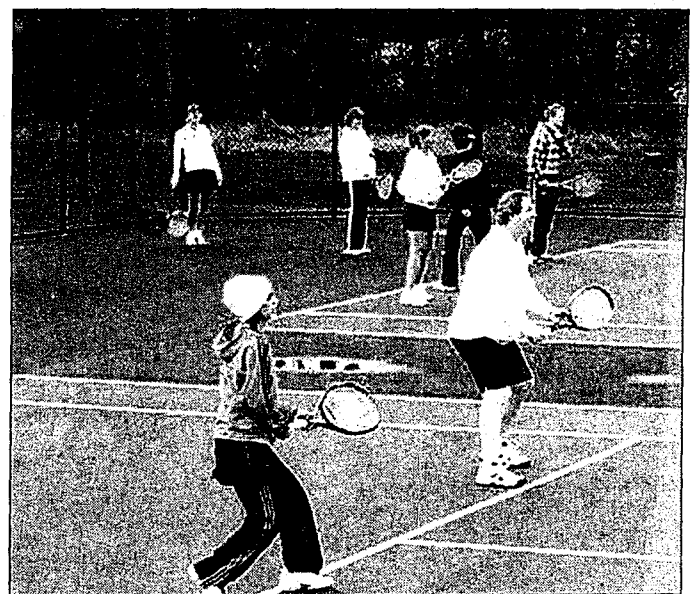


Photo Courtesy of goblueraiders.com  
Members of the community practice their swings to bring in funds for Haiti.

## Tennis team serves Haiti

By ETHAN LANNOM  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team joined the Haitian relief effort Saturday by holding a public clinic to raise money for the cause.

The team helped in demonstrating strokes, leading games and playing points for the many tennis enthusiasts who showed up at Old Fort Tennis Center on Old Fort Parkway.

Some men's tennis players were also at the event, including men's tennis head coach Davis McNamara.

"This is a great turnout for us," McNamara said. "We have a great tennis community in Murfreesboro."

Nearly all of the recently built courts were used for the clinic, something head coach Alison Ojeda said she was grateful to the city for.

"We want to thank the city as well for building these new courts," Ojeda said. "We had all the courts available that we needed today, and we appreciate it."

The Murfreesboro Tennis Association co-sponsored the event with the Blue Raider tennis team, and its presence was valued by Ojeda as well.

"The Murfreesboro Tennis Association teamed up with us to help," Ojeda said. "The Murfreesboro tennis community is always trying to help."

Coach Ojeda said she felt strongly that this benefit needed to take place and thanked the MTA for putting the event together on such short notice.

"All of these people need our help," Ojeda said. "There are so many kids without food and water, and we felt that we needed to have this fundraiser in order to help."

With no cost for the clinic, the team asked for donations to the American Red Cross for the Haitian earthquake victims.

When it was over, nearly 85 people of varying ages participated in the event, which collected \$1,800 for the Red Cross.



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# FEATURES



**ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO HELP THE RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM [MTSUSIDELINES.COM](http://MTSUSIDELINES.COM).

# GAMBLER'S Paradise

The first in a series of blogs by  
Tiffany Gibson

Graphic by Chris Carter,  
production manager

As an MTSU student working and living in Las Vegas, I've seen a lot of heinous acts committed, but the most devastating event I've encountered so far has been a church service for missing Haitians after a 7.0 earthquake hit the island two weeks ago.

I've been working as a news intern for the Las Vegas Sun for four months, and during that time I've covered shootings, fatal car crashes and murder court cases. Some incidents are easier to cover than others, but the service was definitely one of the most challenging assignments I've had yet.

When my editor asked me to cover an evening Mass at the La Première Église Évangélique Haïtienne De Las Vegas for missing Haitians, I thought it would be similar to covering a funeral. I expected to see people weeping in pews and sharing stories of family members at a podium. I had no idea the experience would be a life-altering one.

That night, I stood in the back of the church and watched as some people prayed silently and stretched their arms toward the ceiling of the church. Others wept into their palms.

During song selections, mourners paced back and forth along the center aisle and

re-cited prayers for thousands of missing people.

Even though I couldn't understand a majority of what they were saying because it was in Creole, I picked up on the intensity and dismay lingering in the air. They were scared.

I might not have been able to hear their words, but I heard the sorrow in their voices. It's a sound I'll never forget.

After the service, I had the opportunity to speak to some of the Haitians about their friends and family.

Pastor Delivrance Jean-Charles says she fears her pregnant niece, who was working in a congress building at the time of the earthquake, is either trapped under debris or did not make it out alive.

"She went to work and never came back," Jean-Charles says. "That's why we have to pray."

Resident Argentine Bellegarde says she also hasn't been able to track down her

family — four brothers and several cousins and nieces. She says all of them were in Haiti during the earthquake.

"I keep calling, but all I get is a busy signal," Bellegarde says.

She sang a song during the service that, she says, helps her remain strong through difficult times. She first heard it in 2005 when she was battling cancer and it gave her strength to survive.

Some of the song's lyrics are, "I don't have to worry because the Lord told me to be quiet— That's no bad to my soul," Bellegarde says.

Since the natural disaster, the Red Cross and various organizations have united to provide necessities and medical treatment to Haitians.

MTSU also contributed to the relief effort by rallying students and Murfreesboro Haitians together to collect items and donations in the lobby of the Keathley

University Center last Thursday and Friday.

In Haiti, people are still being pulled out of the rubble, and it has been reported that at least 200,000 have died. I can't even imagine what it's like to walk the streets of the island now. It must be heartbreaking to look at demolished buildings and crushed houses many used to call home.

It's also impossible for me to fathom the distress Haitians are going through, but after speaking with some of the Las Vegas Haitians I feel more connected to the cause. Now I'm focused on informing the public how to contribute relief aid.

I propose that more students get involved and donate items or volunteer at a local chapter of the Red Cross. Students and community members can also make a monetary donation at any Starbucks in the U.S. and Canada. All of these donations will go to the Red Cross.

Donations can also be made to several relief organizations such as UNICEF, Oxfam America and Partners in Health.

*Tiffany Gibson is a junior journalism major studying and working in Nevada as an intern for the Las Vegas Sun.*

## Student redefines Homecoming

### After abuse, homelessness, one student finds his home at MTSU

By KATY COIL  
Staff Writer

To read more, visit us online.

**online**  
[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

While most college students think of struggling as managing to pay for books, tuition, rent and still having enough leftover to have fun on the weekends, Laurence Tumpag has spent his college career struggling with domestic abuse and homelessness.

In the past few years, Laurence has had to deal with leaving an abusive household, living in homeless shelters and helping his mother and grandfather escape from domestic abuse all while pursuing his degree in social work at MTSU.

Laurence's story began in 2007 when he left his home after enduring bouts of violence with his stepfather.

"He was very aggressive towards me," Laurence says. "He was often ridiculing me—"

At first it was just verbal abuse, but then it escalated to various other levels of abuse."

Laurence eventually left his home with nothing but the clothes on his back. He hitchhiked until a neighbor came upon him and drove him to Jackson State Community College, which he was attending at the time. Since his mother is an American immigrant, he didn't have relatives nearby on which to rely. Laurence left and moved into a homeless shelter, working in a factory while getting his associates degree in history.

After becoming dissatisfied with management of the first shelter he stayed in, Laurence moved to another shelter in Jackson called the Dream Center, a safer environment that took in women, children and families. As a former Boy Scout, Laurence found the shelter through an acquaintance who was an executive in the Boy Scouts of America. Laurence remained at the Dream Center for eight months.

"I decided I didn't just want to be

homeless but to continue on with my education," Laurence says.

Laurence found education to be a key to success. After graduating with a 3.6 GPA from Jackson State, Laurence earned scholarships that helped him attend the private school Lambuth University, where he developed an interest in social work. He lived in the dorms at Lambuth with a full meal plan covered by his scholarships and financial aid.

He eventually decided to move to MTSU since the school is large, offered more extracurricular activities, rising tuition costs and to "grow as a person."

However, the cycle of domestic abuse in Laurence's life had not slowed during his period of being homeless. During that time, his 87-year-old grandfather decided to move in with Laurence's mother after his own wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and put into a nursing home. Laurence managed to develop a somewhat strained relationship with his stepfather in order to see his grandfather and noticed the signs of abuse in the home last summer.

"When he moved into the home, I was allowed to periodically visit my grandfather," Laurence says. "I'd observe how my stepfather was towards my grandfather—I would see my stepfather yelling at my grandpa or he would slam cabinet doors and make loud noises to startle him."

Laurence's mother was the family breadwinner. His stepfather was a retired marine who served in Vietnam, and Laurence speculated his Vietnam service has affected his stepfather's personality. He describes his stepfather as "very mili-

taristic" and feels he was "treated as a soldier" himself rather than stepson. As much as Laurence wanted to help his mother and grandfather leave the unhealthy environment his stepfather created, he had to wait for his mother to be ready to leave.

"At first, my mom didn't want to leave because she didn't know how to do it," he says. "She was the breadwinner, yet she let him control the finances."

Laurence says although his mother owned the house, she was scared that his stepfather was entitled to it because he fixed it up and did landscaping work. She was afraid to leave because she thought she would get nothing.

Laurence helped his mother gather all of the resources she would need in order to leave the abusive relationship, as well as get an attorney who was able to work for a reduced fee given the financial strain. He called the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which explained to him that since the abuse was mainly verbal, emotional and psychological with no physical assault, law enforcement would not be likely to get involved.

Laurence also called the hotline for Adult Protective Services, an organization that deals with the abuse of the elderly, who sent out a social worker to check on his grandfather. The arrival of the social worker did not sit well with Laurence's stepfather.

"I guess the presence of the social worker was very threatening to my stepfather," Laurence says. "He went into a tirade and my mother tried to intervene. She got in the car with my grandfather and just drove— They stayed in a motel that night."

"When I found out about it, I was calling churches to see if they would let them stay there," Laurence said. "One church managed to accommodate them into a motel for a few days."

After staying in a variety of motels, friend's homes and rental homes,



Photos courtesy of Laurence Tumpag  
Laurence Tumpag moved away from his mother's home when he was a freshman in college.

Laurence was able to find them an apartment to live in through his connections with local church members. His grandfather's elderly status helped him gain the apartment and his mother was permitted to stay as a live-in attendant.

"I feel God really waited for me to get a hold of someone," he says. "I knew they couldn't be going in-between houses forever."

A house from the agency was approved for them the last day of their allowed stay in the apartment.

"Everything fell into place," Laurence says. "I really attribute that to God, that he did that for them. Now, the divorce is finalized and there is sort of happy ending to this story."

His grandfather has an apartment

in Jackson, Tenn. whereas Laurence's mother was allowed to keep her house in Chester, Tenn. in the divorce settlements. Laurence's stepfather took whatever he could get from the house, stripping it of his furnishings.

"He took almost everything," Laurence says. "He took the mattress but not the bed frame; things like that."

Even though Laurence lives only two to three hours from where his mother and grandfather are, he cannot visit them often because he doesn't have a job and what money he has goes to covers his tuition at MTSU. His Lambuth scholarships were offered by the school and now he only has financial aid to cover his tuition at MTSU. He enjoys the diversity MTSU affords him.

# Answers are blowing in the wind

By REGGIE MILLER  
Contributing Writer

When most people are asked about the Tennessee Valley Authority and how it produces energy for our region, thoughts of coal plants and hydroelectric dams dominate the conversation. However, just outside Oak Ridge, on a reclaimed coal strip mine, you'll find something many people are unaware of – the largest commercial wind farm in the Southeast.

Though permission is needed to see the Buffalo Mountain Wind site up close, it is well worth the trip to see all 18 turbines in action. Even from a distance, they impart a certain elegance you definitely won't see just down the road at the Kingston Fossil Plant. The site has a capacity of 29 megawatts, or enough energy to power about 3,780 average homes.

Somehow, Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., believes these

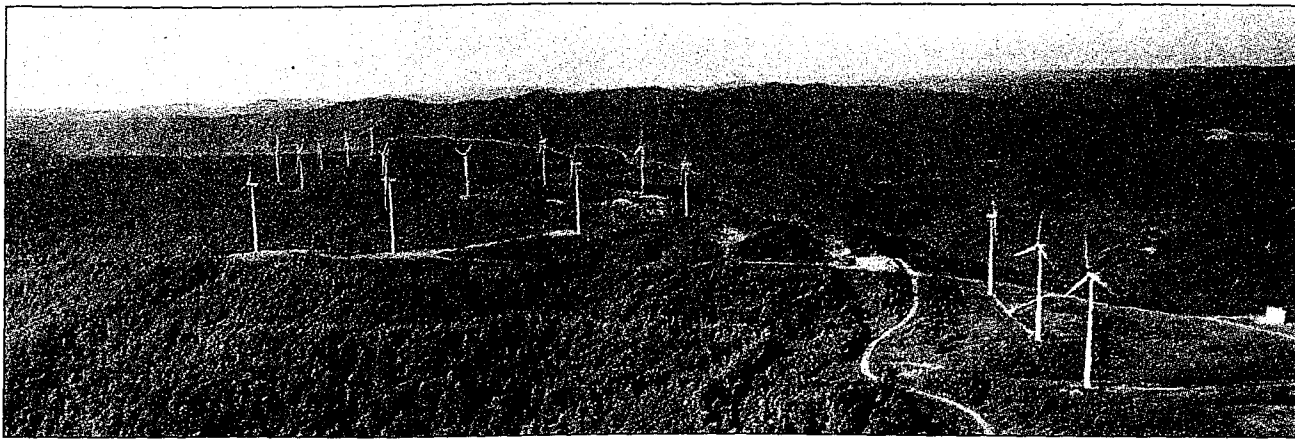


Photo courtesy of Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority produces energy for the surrounding area with a wind farm.

large wind turbines destroy the environment in the name of saving it. He once said they sound like "a brick wrapped in a towel tumbling in a clothes dryer on a perpetual basis."

When I visited the site with a group of fellow students, the noise was astounding, but not in the way Sen. Alexander would have

you believe.

"It's much more serene than I ever expected," says Reagan Richmond, a senior at University of Tennessee-Knoxville. "They sound kind of like the ocean, or like wind blowing through trees."

The subtle noise has a calming, almost nap-inducing quality. In fact, while some craned their necks

to see the remaining effects of strip mining on the adjacent ridges, others lay in the grass peering through their safety glasses at the slowly spinning blades.

"They are really beautiful," beams Brandy Potter, a junior liberal arts major at MTSU. "Being up here and looking out over the mountains really makes you appre-

ciate things like this that are trying to protect our environment."

Indeed, Sen. Alexander is correct in saying the turbines are very large. The turbine housings, which are larger than a school bus, appear rather small as you stand at the base of a turbine. As the surprisingly brisk air whipped around our group, we were told that the temperatures are especially frigid atop these beautiful behemoths.

While most of the Southeast's potential for wind energy lies offshore, Buffalo Mountain represents the innovation we need to mitigate the growing effects of climate change.

"I had no idea that such a thing existed in our own back yard," reflects Nicholas Waggoner, a senior educational and behavioral science major at MTSU. "If you're going to East Tennessee for any reason, it's totally worth getting sidetracked to see these."

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**Coconut Bay Café**  
Happy Hour till 10 p.m.  
Two for one draft, wine, well, margaritas  
Sat. \$5 pitchers  
Sun. \$2 longnecks

**Events Policy**

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to [slcampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu) or [snews@mtsu.edu](mailto:snews@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.

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# Hip Happenings

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Anathens  
Motives  
Awake Awake  
Jan. 26, 8 p.m.  
527 Main  
\$10

**Mayday Parade**  
A Rocket to the Moon  
There For Tomorrow  
We The Kings  
Jan. 26, 7 p.m.  
Rockettown  
\$15

**The Compromise**  
Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Exit/In  
Tickets not yet available

**Dave Barnes**  
Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
12th & Porter  
\$40

**Kris Kristofferson**  
Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium  
\$44

**Govt Mule**  
Jan. 28, 7:30  
Ryman Auditorium  
\$31.35

**Farewell Fighter After You**  
Jan. 31, 8 p.m.  
527 Main  
\$5

**Zoogma**  
Beat Repeat  
Canago  
Feb. 3, 9 p.m.  
Exit/In  
\$7

## SIDELINES OPEN HOUSE

The first Sidelines open house of the Spring 2010 semester will be held on Feb. 2.

For more information, contact us @ [sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu)

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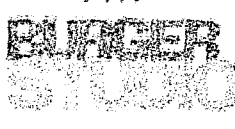














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march	FREE CHICKEN SANDWICH 	FREE 20OZ LEMONADE 	FREE CUP OF SOUP 	FREE TALL COFFEE 	FREE EGGROLL 
april/may	FREE COOKIE 	FREE 8PC. NUGGET 	FREE REGULAR COFFEE 	FREE FRESH CUT FRY 	FREE 3PC. BUFFALO WING 

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