

Thursday

HI: 35°  
LO: 12°

Friday

HI: 39°  
LO: 20°

Saturday

HI: 41°  
LO: 23°Student film on  
Honduras  
page 5

Exposure

Inside

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

Vol. 82 No. 46

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Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007

Editorially independent

**HOPE retention rates improving**By Faith Franklin  
Staff Writer

A recent report released in early January by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, finds that only 75 percent of the first batch of Hope Scholarship recipients will graduate with their award.

That means every three out of four members of the class of 2007 through 2008 have lost or will lose their status as Hope scholarship recipients.

About 60 percent of MTSU students retain their Hope Scholarship.

"[MTSU is] seeing a decrease in retention during that first bracket, which means that the students have to attempt 24 credit hours," Melanie Collins, Coordinator for Student Aid Office, said. "This is where we are finding that students seem to be losing their scholarship at a greater number."

In 2004, MTSU's first time Hope recipients consisted of 2,606 people. However, by fall 2005, only 1,479 retained their scholarship.

In the fall of 2005, there were 2,475 recipients, and by the fall of 2006, there were only 1,494

recipients left with their scholarship intact.

Students may lose their scholarship for a number of reasons.

"Most students are losing it due to their GPA," Collins said. "Some students come from high school, and they had an excellent record in high school, but when they come to college, they aren't prepared, so they lose their scholarship."

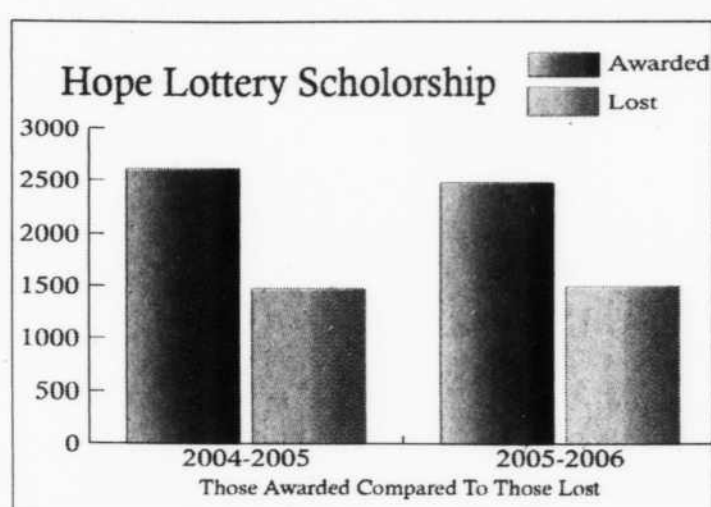
Collins said another reason students lose their scholarship is "they simply don't follow the rules and regulations. Perhaps they withdraw from the class or

drop some classes, and it changes their enrollment status, and therefore, they lose their scholarship because those are part of rules of the lottery."

"I lost my scholarship freshman year due to the new experience of getting acclimated to college," Dawn Fugh, sophomore education major, said. "It was like being a fish out of water. I know that I can regain my scholarship, but losing it teaches you a lesson, so I won't lose it again."

In Governor Phil Bredesen's

See HOPE, 2



Graphic by Chet Overall | Graphic Designer



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Nathan Lowry stands outside the Keathley University Center on Wednesday wishing students 'Happy V-Day' from the MTSU Campus Crusade for Christ.

**Cupid Cru spreads holiday cheer**

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Campus Crusade for Christ spent Wednesday wishing visitors to the Keathley University Center a "Happy V-Day" with a giant smile and half-naked man.

"We wanted to have fun for Valentine's Day and find a creative way to have people go to our Web site," said Jenny Rone, staff for the MTSU chapter of Campus Crusade.

Campus Crusade featured a Valentine's-inspired booth complete with a cutout background and photo ops with Cupid, portrayed by Crusade member Nathan Lowry.

"People were really excited about it," said Lowry, junior computer information system

major. "So far, a lot of people are already interested in the idea of Cru, and I think we are going to have a few show up to our meeting."

Lowry was not the only planned Cupid, but according to Campus Crusade, he was the only one to stick with the idea.

"I already had the stuff and thought it would be fun to do," Lowry said.

In addition to advertising the Web site, Lowry said the organization was looking to get their name into the public domain.

"Many students don't know about us," Lowry said. "We do some really cool things."

One of the upcoming events showcased by the Cupid Cru is "The Sexpert," a speaker who will be attending their Thursday meeting to talk about love, sex and relationships.

"Jeff Patton is going to talk about God's design for sex," Rone said. "It's actually convenient because it is the same time as our weekly meetings."

The organization started at MTSU in 1996 and has eight full-time staff members.

"It really helps college students grow in Christ," said April Forkum, sophomore special education major. "They're real people, not fake Christians. It's a really big family of people who really care about you."

Only one, small problem bothered the flow of Valentine's Day cheer, said Sarah Barlow, staff for Crusade.

"We were kind of kicked out of the KUC Grille, something about a no shirt, no shoes rule," Barlow said. "It must have been the body hair I guess." ♦

**Florida hosts alternative to spring break**

By Ashley Brase

Staff Writer

Several university students will be heading to the Florida Everglades over spring break to participate in environmental cleanup with MTSU's alternative spring break program.

The alternative spring break program, sponsored by Student Organizations and Community Service, is an effort to get students involved with the community outside of the Murfreesboro area.

Students will be visiting the Florida Everglades and Biscayne National Parks to assist in conserving the local environment.

"Our goal is to get people into community service in a way they really haven't before," said Jamie Burns, graduate student for Student Organizations and Community Service.

Burns will oversee the trip this semester along with site leader Larry Wilson, who assisted with the 2006 alternative spring break trip.

Students will spend the first three days of the trip visiting three counties in the Florida Panhandle and helping to repair damage caused by tornadoes late last year.

The following days of the vacation will consist of participating in a turtle nesting cleanup and reef fish survey. In these events, students will count the number of sea turtle eggs in each of the sea turtle nests and assist in cleaning up the beaches around the Everglades to help create safe and successful nesting areas for the sea turtle eggs.

They will also be working to aid in cleaning trash from the Everglades National Park, as well as assisting in the removal of exotic species of plants that are damaging the ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.

The trip this year will not be strictly volunteer work for those heading south.

"We are going to take the group to either the Florida Keys or Miami for a day, so they get the chance to be at a beach for spring break," Burns said.

Students will be staying at the Everglades Hostile but will be camping on the hostile grounds instead of staying in the hostile building.

"We've had a really good turn out this year," Burns said. "We have had over 50 people apply from freshmen to graduate students."

Though the program has had a large following this semester, many students are still uninformed of the environmentally conscious option for spring break.

"I've never heard of the program," said Ryan Johnson, senior political science major. "But I'd be into it just because it sounds interesting, and I'm all about experience."

During spring break 2006, 40 MTSU students traveled to the Gulf Coast to assist in cleanup and help to rebuild homes and playgrounds for school children following Hurricane Katrina.

This year's alternative spring break is toward helping students help the environment, as opposed to working with a rebuilding effort.

"This year, I'm most excited about seeing the students in a group atmosphere and giving back to the community and environment," Burns said.

The alternative spring break program generally runs during spring and fall breaks and may be adding another trip during the summer, Burns said.

The program takes 10 students and is paid for by Student Organizations and Community Service with the exception of food expenses.

All current students are eligible to apply regardless of grade level or major. Interviews are currently underway for students interested in partaking in the program. ♦

**Campus Crossings tenant tries to break lease after homicide**

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

A student who provided medical assistance during the Campus Crossings South shooting is attempting to break her lease due to claims of mental trauma.

Dori Richcreek, senior business management major, stumbled upon a bleeding Christopher DeBerry, 23, immediately after a fatal shooting at Campus Crossings South on Jan. 14.

DeBerry, who had been shot five times, was lying in the doorway of the apartment directly below hers. After checking DeBerry, she went into the apartment and saw two men lying on the floor, she said.

The first person she came to was Alan Bell, 21. She said she

checked for his pulse three times, thinking she could not find it, before she realized he was dead.

"There was nothing in his face," Dori Richcreek said. "He was gone."

After the realization Bell was dead, she said she moved over to the second man in the apartment, Thomas Eckerle, 23, and saw he was breathing.

She went back out to DeBerry and began to administer first aid. She grabbed a plastic Wal-Mart shopping bag from the apartment, and used it as a tourniquet to try to stop the bleeding from the gunshot wound in his arm.

She then checked the rest of his wounds and unbound his legs, which had been tied by the intruders, she said. After she untied his legs she stayed with DeBerry, keeping pressure on his

wounds until she heard the sirens. When the police arrived, they rushed to the scene in full gear, and told her to step aside.

"I looked down, and I had blood on my hands and my shirt and that's when it hit me," Dori Richcreek said. "I had just put myself in that position."

Judy Richcreek, Dori Richcreek's mother, said that as a result of the trauma her daughter endured through this experience, she should be away from the area.

However, attempts to break the lease have been unsuccessful.

"They're paying they are not letting me out of my lease because it's not stated in my lease that I can break [it]," Dori Richcreek said. "So, it's a legally binding contract, and I signed it for a year."

Tracy Joiner, manager of Campus Crossings South, said a

tenant can pay out the lease if they no longer want to live there, and if someone were to re-rent the apartment they would only charge the person until the day before the new tenant moved in.

In order for Dori Richcreek to pay out the entire lease of her apartment it would cost her over \$9,000, Judy Richcreek said. Her daughter renewed her lease just two weeks prior to the shooting.

The reason her daughter signed a new lease early was because tenants get one month free rent if they renew early, Judy Richcreek said. She added that because her daughter works two jobs to pay the rent herself, the offer seemed like a good deal.

Campus Crossings South has

See Campus Crossing, 2



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Dori Richcreek found bloodied DeBerry and Bell on Jan. 14, after a shooting at Campus Crossings South. Richcreek is now trying to break her lease.



# HPV vaccine becomes common, controversial

By Ashley Brace  
Staff Writer

Schoolgirls age eleven and twelve are now required to receive the vaccine to prevent Human Papilloma Virus in Texas. The vaccine affects nearly 50 percent of men and women, and is currently available at MTSU.

The vaccine is regarded as a method of prevention for HPV that causes cervical cancer. It is estimated that HPV leads to 10,000 cases of cervical cancer a year, with 3,700 of those cases resulting in death.

Merck Co. Inc, creator of Gardasil, the only available HPV vaccine, reports over six million new cases of genital HPV are diagnosed in the United States each year, making HPV the most common sexually transmitted disease in the country.

HPV has no symptoms but occasionally results in genital warts. The largest threat surrounding HPV is that the virus can lead to cervical cancer and in some cases death.

"I've had that cervical cancer scare with the virus," said Jessica Bracey, senior media design student. "The results turned out negative, but I would hate for that scare to come to others

knowing it could be prevented."

The vaccine is recommended for women ages 13 to 26 who did not receive it at a younger age, and can be administered as early as age nine. However, it can only be administered through age 35. It can also be given in correlation with other vaccinations.

There is no effective treatment for HPV once the infection is contracted, and is therefore, recommended for younger women.

"It prevents the two most common and the two least common HPV strands of the 100 that exist," said Tana Terry, HIV Education Specialist for Youth with Nashville cares. "These can cause cervical cancer, but the vaccine does not actually prevent cervical cancer."

The controversy surrounding administering the vaccine to school aged girls is that a vaccine to prevent a sexually transmitted condition may encourage younger women to be sexually active, and does not educate them on safe sex.

"If your having a discussion with your daughter about this vaccine, you need to be having a discussion about sex as well," said Terry. "This is a vaccine for a sexually transmitted illness."

Others feel administering the

vaccine will help prevent a life threatening illness that affects over half of the women in the United States.

"I think it's great," Bracey said. "I have a daughter and I have asked the doctor when the earliest is that I can get her the vaccine."

A representative for Oakland High School in Murfreesboro said the school does not currently administer the vaccine and has no plans to in the future.

Women may still contract cervical cancer from other strands of the disease after being administered the vaccine. It is recommended for women to continue to receive pap tests once receiving the vaccination to screen for cancer.

The HPV vaccine was developed by the Merck Corporation Inc. in 2006 and is still relatively new. MTSU is one of four Tennessee Universities that offer the vaccine.

The HPV vaccine is available at the Health Services office on campus. The vaccine is administered in three doses over a six-month period, and costs \$130 per dose, costing a total of about \$390.

Although HPV can affect men, there is no test or vaccine available at this time. ♦

## Campus Crossing: "Tenant cannot break lease."

Continued from 1

offered Dori Richcreek two options: she could move into another apartment, or they could relocate her to the other Campus Crossings location. However, Judy Richcreek feels her daughter does not need to be in the area because it serves as a reminder of the incident. "I am concerned about her mental health because I don't know how I could handle going through something like that," she said.

Dori Richcreek said that the relocation offer by the complex's management would not suffice, and it would be better for her to be removed from the situation entirely. She just wants to be away from it, she said.

"Every morning and night I have to walk past that [area]," she said. "Every time I see that, I see him laying there, yelling at me to come help him."

Joiner said they have had a couple people transfer to different apartments on-site as a result of the shooting. She said no tenants have moved to the sister property, which Campus Crossings is an alternative offered to the residents.



D. Richcreek

Judy Richcreek said she is trying to inform other college students that it is important to be aware of what they are agreeing to when they sign a lease.

"I really want kids to understand when you sign these leases you have to read and understand [them]," Judy Richcreek said.

Judy Richcreek understands that rules are made to be rules. However, she feels that under special circumstances, exceptions to rules should be admissible and the rules should be reexamined.

"I'm not trying to hurt Campus Crossings. I'm trying to do what's best for my daughter," Judy Richcreek said. ♦

## IFC learns leadership

By Christin Pepple  
Staff Writer

To promote leadership and partnership among campus fraternities, 17 members from the MTSU Inter-Fraternity Council will be attending the annual South Eastern Inter-Fraternity Conference this weekend in Atlanta.

"It's a really great program," said Gentry McCreary, director of Greek Life and assistant executive director of the conference. "We have eight IFC officers attending and four additional delegates from various fraternities along as well."

The SEIFC was founded over 40 years ago in Jacksonville, Mich., by a group of fraternity advisors. They wanted a student-run program to promote leadership among IFC fraternities. Over 100 regional fraternity councils are members of SEIFC, which is one of six programs in the North America.

"We are just excited about going down to Atlanta and getting ideas about how other chapters run things," said Brandon Butler, junior construction major and newly elected President of the IFC council for the spring semester. "We want more bonding among our fraternity brothers. This weekend will be great as far as that goes."

The conference is organized and run by an elected body of students who are under an advisory board.

"There will be somewhere around 500 student representatives from all over the South-East in Atlanta to learn about leadership development," McCreary said.

MTSU is being awarded the Educational Programming in the large division, the

Outstanding Programming in the large division and Campus and the Community Relations in the large division for 2006.

"We are anxious and hoping to win anything," Butler said. "We are trying for a programming award again this year, because the council has been doing so well."

Over the four-day conference, the representatives from all participating schools will engage in several activities and attend numerous lectures from keynote speakers. The keynote speakers are Mitch Crane with "Keeping the Greek Faith Burning," Erle Morring with "Hazed and Confused," Gary Sails with "From the Classroom to the Boardroom," Rick Barnes with "Willing to Wager" and Jon Rhea with "Bars Cars and Catastrophes."

"Attending SEIFC is an honor and we expect to learn new techniques of leadership so that everyone in attendance can bring something back to their respective chapters," said Chris Smith, senior mathematics major and IFC vice president.

In addition to attending, Nathan Haynes, vice president of recruitment for Greek Life, is running for an area vice president position on the SEIFC board.

"We are hoping that he succeeds in being elected to the board because the year before last we had someone get elected to the council, and we want to stay involved in the council," Butler said.

The fraternity representatives that will be attending the conference include eight executive IFC board members, two appointed board members and three delegates that were chosen from various fraternities.

"With the help of IFC half

scholarships, scholarships in which the student pays half and IFC pays the other half, we were able to bring three more people this time with us," said Carrie Smith, coordinator for Greek Life. "Also the original ten people who are able to go pay up front but get reimbursed partially for the trip."

Smith said that the board wanted to make the trip more affordable for students because the board wanted as many people to attend as possible.

"I'm really excited to get to go," said Jon Bryan, senior psychology major and president of Sigma Pi. "I hope to bring back a positive influence and something new to Greek Life." ♦

### Potential Awards to be won by MTSU IFC

On Feb. 17, awards will be given to chapters that show excellence in several fields.

- ♦ Advisor of the Year
- ♦ Fraternal Excellence
- ♦ Academic Achievement and Scholarship
- ♦ Educational and Outstanding program
- ♦ Interfraternal Relations
- ♦ Campus and Community Relations
- ♦ Community Service and Philanthropy
- ♦ Outstanding Service Project
- ♦ Risk Management and Judicial Procedures
- ♦ Recruitment
- ♦ Alumni Development
- ♦ Publications awards
- ♦ Outstanding Publications
- ♦ Outstanding Website

## HOPE: "Scholarship standards less harsh."

Continued from 1

State of the State Address, he expressed feelings of surprise to find so many students losing their scholarship.

"I'm concerned we are being too narrow in who qualifies for help," Bredesen said.

He also said he was concerned the state is taking away scholarships to quickly to those students who stumble in their academic studies.

"The reality is that most students have their ups and downs in college, and we need to find ways to support them through those times rather than pulling the plug on them," Bredesen said.

"The excess the lottery has should be used to raise the amount of money each student receives per year because tuition is increasing and students could use the money," Danielle Fitzgerald, freshmen fashion major, said. "The surplus could also be used to raise the pay of teachers and to improve the conditions of schools."

Bredesen proposed using the lottery surplus to begin renovating older schools and to construct new schools.

He is also asking for an increase in the lottery scholarship to \$4,000 dollars annually to coincide with the rising price of college tuition. ♦

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# Student Government Association

## Election Candidate Debate

Monday, February 19

6:00 p.m.

BAS State Farm Room

Open to the Public

(615) 898-2464 \* [www.mtsu.edu/~sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga) \* KUC 208

## Bill proposes open records for assembly

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Two Republican lawmakers want to subject the General Assembly to the same open records laws that local governments in Tennessee must follow.

The bill proposed by Sen. Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro, and Rep. Tom DuBois, R-Columbia, would require all legislative records to be open unless they are specifically closed in one of the more 200 exemptions to the open records law.

"We want to run it up the flag pole and see what happens," Ketron said.

The legislature is not expressly excluded from the open records act. However under a policy adopted in 1994, the General Assembly keeps records and investigations into sexual harassment claims against lawmakers confidential.

Legislative personnel files are also kept secret.

A Nashville judge ruled in December 2004 that the legislature has the right to set a different standard for itself, a case stemming from requests for any files pertaining to "sexual harassment or sexual discrimination charges" against state Rep. Chris Crider, R-Milan.

Frank Gibson, executive director of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, said that case has been one of the only examples he's been made aware of where someone had difficulty obtaining a legislative record.

"In practice, reporters and the public don't have a lot of problems getting records in the legis-

lature, but no agency or part of government should have an exemption that lets it decide at its convenience what to withhold and what to release," he said.

Ketron, who introduced a similar bill last year, said the language of his bill would "absolutely" apply to sexual harassment records.

The Public Records Act says all state, county and municipal records are to be available for inspection by anyone unless the record is specifically exempt. The state code includes hundreds of such exemptions, including medical records, sensitive military documents and investigative records of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Last year's legislative open records bill stalled in the Senate's State and Local Government Committee, a committee controlled by former Memphis Democratic Sen. Steve Cohen.

"We conduct the business for the state of Tennessee, and while we're conducting that business I don't see why the records shouldn't be available," Ketron said.

The proposal is one of several related to the opening and closing of records. Others seek to make state budget and other financial information publicly available on the Internet and requires local government officials to provide open records law information to any employees who handle open records.

Last week, Gov. Phil Bredesen said he plans to include money in his budget for an open government ombudsman who can help people who are refused access to public records. ♦



## CRIME BRIEFS

**Feb. 12 – 12:15 a.m.**  
Bell Street Lot  
Traffic  
Officer pulled over a vehicle traveling southbound on Middle Tennessee Blvd with an expired registration.

**Feb. 12 – 3:53 a.m.**  
Womack lane Apt. E  
Assault  
Subject called advising her friends boyfriend had busted in her apartment and put his hands on her and took her phone. The suspect then left the apart-

ment. The caller was very upset and had an injured arm. An ambulance was called. Housing was notified as well. All subjects were issues trespassing warnings, except the complainant. The subjects then left campus. They were all non-students.

**Feb. 12 – 10:51 a.m.**  
MTSU Blvd.  
Traffic  
Jeanice McCord of Shelbyville, Tenn. was issued a citation for passing in a no pass zone.

**Feb. 12 – 11:49 a.m.**  
Keathley University Center  
Theft  
Subject called to advise that they had a theft from the building and had the person in the manager's office and requested an officer.

**Feb. 12 – 4:11 p.m.**  
Recreation Center  
Theft  
Student had money stolen out of his wallet while it was in a locker.

## Department dictates use of cleaner fuels

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) - The Tennessee Department of Transportation has expanded the use of biodiesel in its vehicles to Chattanooga and Cookeville as a part of the agency's conversion to cleaner-burning fuel statewide.

The department first started using biodiesel in trucks in the Knoxville area in December 2005 to test the fuel in rough winter weather, said spokeswoman Jennifer Osborne.

"We wanted to really give it a good test and see how it per-

formed in extreme conditions. It did great," she said.

Now the state is using B20, a blend of 20 percent fuel made from biological sources and 80 percent diesel fuel, in 47 TDOT vehicles based in Chattanooga and Cookeville.

TDOT's goal is to have vehicles in Nashville switch over by the end of March, and Memphis and Jackson later in the spring, Osborne said. Trucks throughout the state should be converted to biodiesel by the end of the year, she said.

Osborne said the blend costs

roughly the same for the state as pure diesel fuel.

"It may not save a lot of money, but it does help with our air quality issues, and that's very important," she said.

The Chattanooga metropolitan area is among five in the state that aren't meeting federal air quality standards. The city and county have tested or used biodiesel in vehicles for a few years.

Ken Blankenship, director of purchasing for Hamilton County, said biodiesel fuel has not caused any performance problems or changed the mileage per gallon. ♦

## In-state marriage declines

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Marriages have been happening somewhat less often in Tennessee, but so have divorces.

New statistics released on Valentine's Day by the state Department of Health show the number of marriages and divorces declined during 2005.

There were more than 65,400 weddings in 2005, according to the department's Division of Health Statistics. That's a 2.5 percent decrease from the 67,104 marriages in 2004.

The state's divorce rate also

dropped, down 3.6 percent between 2004 and 2005. There were 27,823 Tennessee divorces in 2005 and 28,858 in 2004.

"It is important to remember that one year of statistics is not necessarily indicative of a trend," said George Plumlee, statistical analyst supervisor for the Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment.

Figures for 2006 are not yet available. Other love and breakup facts from 2005 gathered by the department include:

-The most popular place to get married in Tennessee was Sevier County, the home of Smoky

Mountain wedding chapels in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. The county's 18,682 marriages represented 28.6 percent of all Tennessee weddings.

-About 38 percent of marriages were the first for both the bride and groom, while 34 percent were between a man and woman who had been divorced.

-There were 734 senior citizen couples who got married.

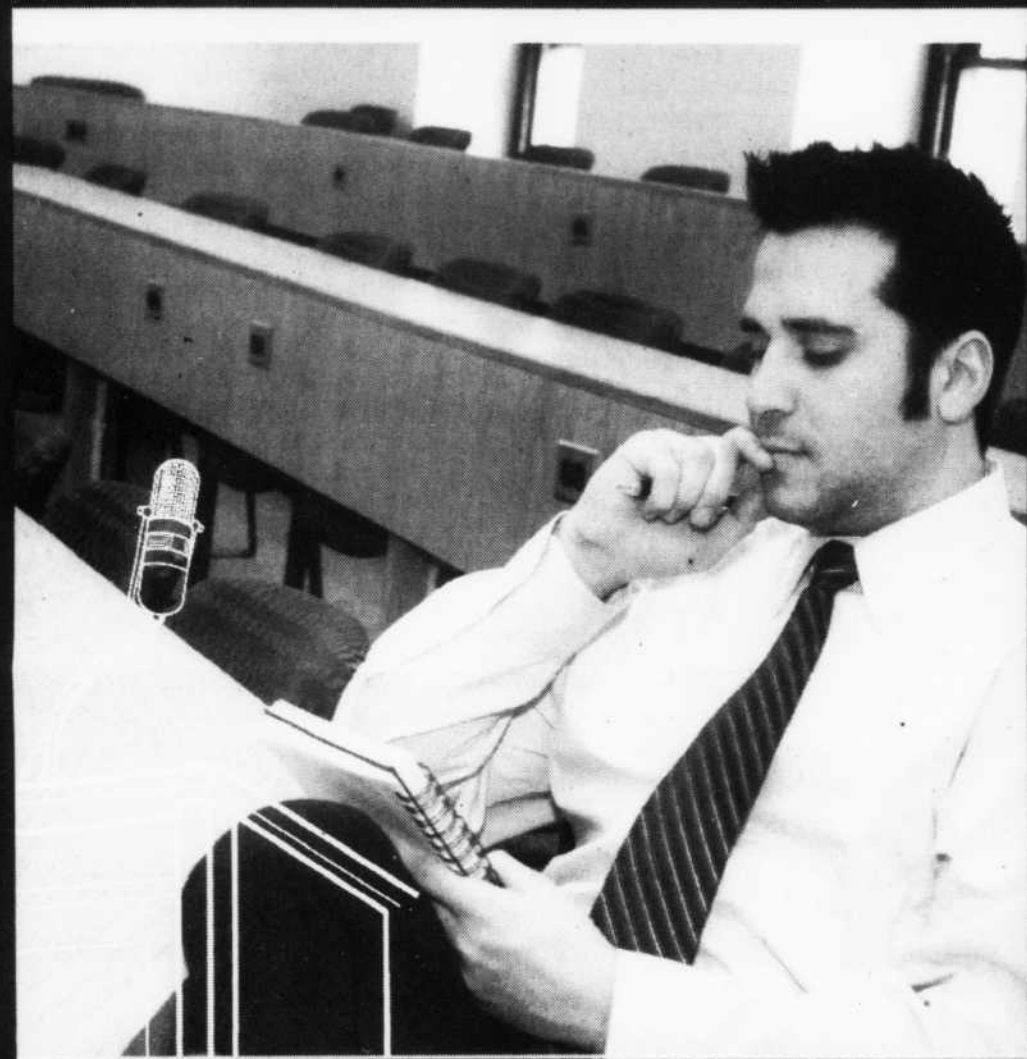
-More than half of the divorcing couples didn't have a minor child, while 21.4 percent had one minor child. Only 10 divorces in all involved six or more children. ♦

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To pre-register your attendance in the RN Student Career Room on February 22nd, please visit [www.vanderbiltcareerevents.com](http://www.vanderbiltcareerevents.com) or call 615-322-2116 or 800-288-6622. Please bring your resume and references. Parking is free.

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### FOR LEASE

### SUBLEASER

Roommate wanted to

Continued from last column

sublease individual room w/BA in Campus Crossings apt. \$425/mo, mo. of February paid, move in ASAP. Call Drew (615)496-9018 for more info.

### HELP WANTED

Camp Counselors needed for great overnight camps in the Pocono Mtns. of PA. Gain valuable experience while working with children in the

Continued from last column

outdoors. Teach/assist with athletics, swimming, A&C, drama, yoga, archery, gymnastics, scrapbooking, ropes course, nature, and much more. Office and Nanny positions also available. Apply on-line at [www.pine-forestcamp.com](http://www.pine-forestcamp.com).

Help Wanted: Motivated students to assist National Honor Society in registering and acting as local officers. 3.0 GPA

Continued from last column

required. Contact: [director@phisigmath-eta.org](mailto:director@phisigmath-eta.org)

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Continued from last column

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### GENERAL

Continued from last column

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### TRAVEL

Continued from last column

### OPPORTUNITIES

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Are you an undergrad who eventually wants to earn a PhD? McNair

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

### Miscellaneous

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Continued from last column

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# OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

## Prayer room promotes tolerance on-campus

Congratulations to the Muslim Student Association for the recent hourly annexation of their prayer room and a pat-on-the-back to MTSU for furthering the agenda of the open-minded.

Strides like these, especially in the traditional, conservative, Bible-belt South are unfortunately few and far between. Which is just another step for people to be more religiously tolerant.

However, if we stop to consider our colorful past, a few indiscretions may be found amongst the self-proclaimed tolerance. African slaves, Japanese internment camps, the Klu Klux Klan, "No Irish Need Apply" and recent policies dealing with Mexican immigration and boarder control are just a few examples of the numerous stereotypes and fears that have been held by the "typical" American.

For whatever reason, be it political, religious, race or sex, our illustrious country of opportunity has not always been, in practice, up to par with its preaching. This is why the acquirement of a space of their own is so important for the Muslim student population. It is just another step for people to be more religiously tolerant.

By giving Muslims a public space to practice their beliefs, it brings some of those numerous stereotypes and fears out of the alley and into the light. It no longer becomes a scary, unknown practice. After Sept. 11, 2001, the public as a whole became more conscience of the Muslim faith.

As a side note, people who say terrorists represents the Muslim faith are uninformed. A religion itself is not necessarily bad, but it is the people who practice and interpret it that give it meaning.

This is, of course, the whole point: tolerance. Since Sept. 11, MTSU has added a Middle Eastern studies program and now an area specifically designated to the practice of Islam. And while a few hours a day might not seem like a major advancement or even that big of a deal, at least it is a prayer in the right direction.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

## Socialist rule allows 'legal plunder'

French classical liberal theorist Frédéric Bastiat argues against government plunder in his 1849 essay "The Law." Bastiat concedes that governments are established to prevent plunder among its people. He notes that those most responsible for plunder in 19th century France are the socialists.

I would argue that the socialists are once again taking part in the legal plunder of hard-working people, but this time the threat is closer to home.

American liberals actively seek to redistribute the wealth of those people who work hard to earn their living.

Bastiat writes, "Socialism confuses the distinction between government and society." Socialists believe the government is fundamentally responsible for the well-being of the people. It is only fair that the government steal from those who make more money and give to those who make little or no money at all.

Whatever happened to the self-made man? In a country that produced such self-made individuals as Andrew Jackson, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Cornelius Vanderbilt, why is the unequal distribution of wealth and services allowed?

True, there are people who genuinely deserve assistance, and it is our duty as compassionate human beings to help them. Children, the disabled and the widowed all deserve the necessary assistance for survival.

"How is this legal plunder to be identified?" asks Bastiat. He then immediately retorts, "If the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. If the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself



Hurt Pride

Matthew Hurtt  
Staff Columnist

cannot do without committing a crime."

Why do decent and hard-working Americans allow the government to steal that for which they have labored tirelessly to earn? Complacency is the only response to such a question – and the answer should anger anyone who collects an honest paycheck.

An honest paycheck means anyone who goes to work and receives hourly what the market supports.

An honest paycheck does not include workers in a union, drug dealers or anyone else whose pay is either artificially adjusted or obtained through illegal means.

The solution to the problem of government plunder is simple: Americans must take action against the unlawful theft by the government under the guise of "social programs." Prior to the late 19th century, taxes were only levied in wartime for the most part. Why can we not operate under a similar system of taxation as was present in the early 19th century?

During the "Progressive Era," a group of bankers and other financial professionals pushed through the 16th Amendment: the Income Tax. Prior to the ratification of this Amendment, it was unlawful for the federal government to directly tax Americans in this way.

Congress should repeal the 16th Amendment.

Many social programs need massive restructuring. All forms of government assistance should be examined by an independent body and improved. Those citizens unfairly living off the tax dollars should be cut from the programs and forced to pay back to the government what they stole from the people.

Government overspending should be seriously evaluated altogether. The budget should not increase above inflation at all over an indefinite period of time until government overspending is eliminated. Economic socialists call this method of financial responsibility "budget cuts," when in actuality this is not the case.

Big government is surely upon us, and no single party is responsible for this tragedy. Democrats have created program after program, while Republicans refuse to limit the growth of government and spending. It truly is a shame that there is no viable political party for people who wish the government would go away.

To quote a proverb, "Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he eats for a lifetime." Why are we not more willing to teach?

These suggestions are not unreasonable. What myself and others like me are asking for is a government that stays out of our pocket books. What we hope to see is a society where people seek hands up and not hand outs.

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

## More parties needed for varied viewpoints

In class recently, my political science professor posed two questions to illustrate a point. "If you voted for George W. Bush or John Kerry in the last presidential election, will you please raise your hand?" A multitude of hands flew up immediately. "Now, if you voted in the last election but it wasn't for Bush or Kerry, raise your hand." One lowly hand, my own, slowly reached for the ceiling. Here, apparently, rests the future of three-party politics in the United States.

Why would anyone want to vote for Ralph Nader, or any other presidential candidate, when it's apparent they can't win? Wasting a vote is as good as not voting, right?

It appears so, but upon close examination, some political injustices reveal themselves.

First, the two parties that run U.S. politics don't properly represent the whole country. Democracy was created to give the people a collective voice. That means each and every group of them, no matter how small a minority, gets some say.

As is, two factions out of a countless number have political "clout" – Liberals and Conservatives.

This duality often presents voters with a dilemma. We're given two mediocre candidates, one Republican and one Democrat, and then vote for the lesser of two evils. This one-or-the-other politics compromises the ideals of democracy. Since no other candidates can possibly win, we vote for the same two parties, reinstating their stranglehold in two and four-year increments. In this manner, two staunchly opposed viewpoints "represent" an entire nation, while an infinite number of different opinions go unheard, even unvoiced.

My decision to vote for a different party, the Green party, didn't come from their oh-so-much-fun stance on marijuana legalization. Sure, it helps. Still, Nader didn't get my vote because he spent his life as a



Polishing Brass on the Titanic

Brandon Bouchillon  
Staff Columnist

watchdog for consumer safety – he's the reason cars must come equipped with seatbelts.

No, it was when Nader defended his 2004 presidential bid that I decided. Pundits cried foul, claiming his candidacy would take support away from Kerry, giving Bush a decisive advantage. Nader ran anyway, but his reasoning compelled me to vote for him.

Nader said, in essence, that if by his running for president, a third-party could receive some one percent of the vote, then the campaign would be a success. If in 20 years, a third-party might earn 10 percent of the vote, the campaign would be a victory for democracy.

In essence, if the landscape of American politics could be modified to represent more of her people, then to Nader, and to many who voted for him in 2004, it didn't matter if Bush or Kerry won.

With this logic, I decided to waste my vote. No, I won't see any change in the near future. However, someday, American democracy could embody the whole spectrum of her citizens. Such political evolution is surely worth the effort.

Until then, polar-opposite beliefs will continue to wrestle for control. Their shouting matches drown out the voices of the people. They heed the advice of political puppeteers. String-pullers like Karl Rove set the agenda, while the ruling party reclines comfortably, thoroughly embedded in their political dogma.

Brandon Bouchillon is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at bcb2r@mtsu.edu.

## Letters to the Editor

### Officers not to blame for bad polices

To the Editor:

When Christin Pepple slapped the title "callous, emotionally-stunted pigs" on the police officers involved with this woman's rape case, ["Woman's mistreatment not justice," Feb. 8] she was relying on the same judgmental attitude that she lambasted in her own article. What she and many others forget is that these law officers are merely trying to do their jobs. In modern years, that job has turned from good police work to more and more trying to avoid getting into a legal bind. In this case, the officers were acting by the department's policy. While certainly this woman was having a bad night, when it was discovered that she had an outstanding warrant, from never satisfying the court ruling from a previous bout of trouble, they had no option but to place her under arrest. As for the officer not giving her the pill, they have personnel in the jail that are tasked to distribute medication. Regular officers do not have the certifications, training or legally the scope of duty to give anyone any medication. Even with religion not a factor, if I was the police officer, I wouldn't have done it either. All in all, it was not a good night for any of the parties involved. Bad policies and unfortunate circumstances resulted in poor treatment of this woman.

It is a healthy process to publish articles like Pepple's to show the need for reform; however, name calling never solved anything.

Jeremy Crook  
Sophomore, chemistry

### Aramark's food changes in poor taste

To the Editor:

As a student for six years, I have noticed that the quality of the food improve dramatically over the time that I have been here at MTSU.

Recently, a member of a local corporate office came by to inspect our facilities on the campus.

He demanded various changes, that are unfortunately going to be made, that will decrease the quality of the food.

Some of these changes include using canned fruit instead of fresh fruit and replacing good quality meat with mixed turkey low quality meats.

Some of this has already taken place.

The corporate guys only hope that the students would not notice. I noticed when I had my omelet this weekend. They replaced ham with turkey-ham. It was not as good as those I've had in the past.

However, it's not the fact that they replace everything that bothered me; it's the fact that some yahoo at the Aramark office in some other state would think that students and faculty at this university should not know.

Aramark, please do not compromise the improvements that you have made over the past years. It is why I keep going.

I urge all students make their voices heard.

Jessica Causey  
Senior, accounting

## Correction

Last Thursday, the story "Background checks raise concerns among faculty" incorrectly stated that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to allow the background checks when in fact the Senate had approved the background checks last January.

The Senate is currently taking steps to alter the wording of the release form.

Sidelines regrets this error.

## SIDELINES

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# FEATURES

## Film captures hope in Third World



Photos contributed by Tasha Avery

Cane, Honduras may be a Third World county, but the MTSU's KidSAKE Foundation strives to bring the arts world to the underprivileged area. Senior Forrest Sanders brought his camera along and captured the devastation as well as the enduring hope.

By Laura Roberts

Contributing Writer

When thinking of places to visit during the summer, many warm spots come to mind – Florida, California, maybe even the Bahamas. The Third World country of Honduras, though, isn't at the top of many must-visit lists.

For one MTSU student, though, that was just the place to travel to during the summer of 2006.

Last May, senior electronic media communications major Forrest Sanders ventured to the sweltering village of Cane, Honduras for twelve days. There, Forrest set out to film a documentary about MTSU students working with the charity KidSAKE as they aided the poverty-ridden nation. The aspiring journalist returned to the United States with more than just a bunch of footage, though.

The KidSAKE foundation was established in 2000 by former MTSU teacher Jenny Rogers. The goal of the organization is to serve children – particularly those in Honduras – through volunteering and also by making the arts world available to them.

Speech and Theatre professor Jette Halladay is strongly involved with the organization and decided in 2006 more needed to be done to promote the

KidSAKE organization and its mission. Halladay contacted professor Stephan Foust of the mass communications department and solicited his help with the production of a documentary on the organization's upcoming summer trip to Honduras. Foust agreed, but on one condition: a student would have the opportunity to join him and film the trip.

Halladay consented, and Foust turned to a student he knew could do the job: Sanders.

For Foust, there was never any question as to who he would chose.

"Forrest has demonstrated in the past the ability to be a one-man band. He's an exceptional photographer, has an excellent story sense, is a strong editor and is highly motivated," Foust says.

Foust prompted the question to Forrest in early April 2006, and less than a month later, the eager student, along with thirty other MTSU scholars and a handful of faculty, were boarding a plane and heading for the village of Cane.

Upon arriving in the country, the MTSU crew got right to work interacting with the children of a local elementary school. The camera was rolling as they played with the kids and then got down to business painting parts of the school. Forrest continued taping their labor over the next few days as they removed large

rocks from rough soil and turned the large piece of land into a much needed garden for the community.

Forrest also took his camera on trips with the social worker students as they



Getting to experience the hospitality and kindness of people that have nothing, but are willing to share what little they have with you regardless is extremely humbling. It's not an experience I will soon forget."

—Forrest Sanders

went door to door in the village performing assessment surveys on the needs of the residents.

The results were devastating.

The people of Cane lacked even the bare essentials such as clothes, food or running water. One particular family of twelve was crammed into a tiny mud-house that consisted of one room with

a plastic chair and hammock. No bedding. No pillows. Nothing. The twelve were forced to sleep on the hard floor and share two pairs of shoes amongst themselves.

Despite everything, though, the people of Cane showed an incredible sense of graciousness and hospitably, treating the MTSU students "like kings and queens," as Forrest says.

While Forrest was sure to capture the heartache of the village, he was also able to catch a glimmer of joy as well. The theatre students that traveled with the KidSAKE organization preformed a musical for the children of the elementary school that combined both Spanish and English.

Despite the anguish the children face on a daily basis, Forrest was able to use his camera to capture the smiles in their eyes and hearts as they laughed and sang along with the MTSU students.

When Forrest left the country after his 12 day stay, his work was far from over. He arrived back in the States with nearly four hours of footage from the trip. From there, he had the challenge of piecing together the film, painfully editing each and every sequence just so.

Forrest relied on the help of his friend, senior Matt Hiller, to provide music for the documentary. Hiller, a music major

who went with Forrest on the Honduras trip, wrote and recorded an original score to accompany Forrest's documentary.

After endless days and nights, Forrest finally finished the 12 minute documentary and presented it to Halladay.

"I'm hoping it will help [Halladay] and KidSAKE in whatever way possible," he says. "By showing it to others, there might be even larger groups that travel down to Honduras in the future. Maybe every department at MTSU can have someone represent them on the next trip."

The documentary has since been submitted to various film competitions and recently won the prestigious Gold MarCom Creative Award. The honor comes from the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals and the film – along with a handful of others – was chosen out of 5,000 entries.

Forrest insists, though, that the sole reward was in the trip itself.

"I'd never been to a third world country before. Getting to experience the hospitality and kindness of people that have nothing, but are willing to share what little they have with you regardless is extremely humbling. It's not an experience I will soon forget." ♦

## Prayer rooms promote tolerance

By Rangebar Merani

Staff Writer

The Muslim population of MTSU doesn't have to feel inhibited by stereotypes and a lack of recognition anymore.

Recently, the Muslim Student Association has booked rooms in the Keathley University Center this semester for Muslims to use as a place to pray on campus.

The teachings of Islam require Muslims to follow the Five Pillars of Islam. One of those Pillars is to pray five times a day.

These rooms make it comfortable for any student to be able to pray on campus during a break or in between classes.

With so many students and faculty commuting from other parts of Tennessee, some Muslims don't have a reliable place to pray while on campus.

"The rooms are for those who don't have a comfortable place to pray on campus during the day," says Nida Shirazi, MSA secretary.

A sophomore biology major, Shirazi says "the MSA has been booking the rooms since I've been a part of the organization and probably long before that. I was only put in charge of it last semester," she adds.

The MSA has always been known for their efforts in organizing events and activities for not only the Muslim community at MTSU, but for anyone interested in learning about Islam.

Providing these prayer rooms on campus is just one of their many contributions to the Muslims at MTSU.

"I think the fact that we are able to get the prayer rooms show that Muslims have enough of a population to do something positive on campus," says Shirazi. "It shows that we are



Photo contributed by Rangebar Merani

Junior political science major Adnan Karim prays in his apartment near campus. Since a fundamental duty of the Islamic faith is to pray five times a day, many commuter students are unable to conveniently pray during school.

being acknowledged as a religious community on campus."

The rooms are available for Muslims to use for prayer throughout the semester. The rooms are open Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in KUC rooms 316 or 318.

"I book the rooms in advance for about three weeks," Shirazi says. "So, it's like I'm booking a meeting place. And there are usually a couple of people who use the rooms everyday."

With all the attention of Islamic extremists and terrorism the past few years, some people might feel uneasy about Muslims praying on campus.

"No, I do not think that others feel threatened by our having a place to pray," Shirazi says. "I have

yet to run into any sort of interference while booking the rooms."

"I don't think anyone should be bothered about these prayer rooms," says MSA member Adnan Karim. "I'm pretty sure a lot of people don't even know about the rooms."

Although most MSA members and other Muslims might know about the prayer rooms, others have no clue about it. Should people even mind that Muslims pray on campus?

"They shouldn't, but I can see how it can be controversial," says senior accounting major Makaili Glover. "People just want to be against stuff sometimes. But it's fine. It doesn't bother me. That's a place where they can get together and pray. People should

just be more accepting."

While it may just be a spot to pray, it means a lot more to Muslims on campus. In a time and day where some people are frightened by Muslims, the community at MTSU doesn't seem to be bothered by any of the stereotypes.

Karim, a Political Science major, agrees. "Having a spot to pray on campus is a big thing for Muslims at MTSU."

"This has been going on for awhile now and people should appreciate what MTSU is providing for not only its students, but its faculty as well. It really shows that we have a place not only here at MTSU, but in Murfreesboro as well," Karim said. ♦

## World Briefs

Actress sheds light on Darfur

U.S. scores low in child welfare

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) - Shaking hands with droves of cheering street children, Mia Farrow began a weeklong tour of the Central African Republic on Saturday to draw attention and aid to one of the world's forgotten crises.

The 62-year-old actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador will visit some of the 150,000 people displaced by the nation's simmering conflict.

"It's called a forgotten crisis, a forgotten humanitarian crisis, but forgotten implies that it was once remembered," Farrow told The Associated Press in an interview in the country's capital of dirt roads and tumbledown, tin-roofed buildings.

More than a year of instability in the impoverished nation's northeast boiled over into a rebellion in October in which insurgents captured several towns. The United Nations says the violence has affected 1 million people, nearly one-quarter of the country's population, and that tens of thousands of women have been raped by different factions. The Central African Republic government has accused Sudan of backing the northeastern rebels, but Khartoum has denied the accusations.

An impoverished country nearly the size of Texas, the Central African Republic has been wracked by coups and army mutinies since independence from France in 1960.

BERLIN (AP) - The United States and Britain ranked at the bottom of a U.N. survey of child welfare in 21 wealthy countries that assessed everything from infant mortality to whether children ate dinner with their parents or were bullied at school.

The Netherlands, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Finland, finished at the top of the rankings, while the U.S. was 20th

and Britain 21st, according to the report released Wednesday by UNICEF in Germany.

Children fared worse in the U.S. and Britain despite high overall levels of national wealth because of greater economic inequality and poor levels of public support for families.

"They don't invest as much in children as continental European countries do," he said, citing the lack of day care services in both countries and poorer health coverage and preventative care for children in the U.S.

The study also gave the U.S. and Britain low marks for their higher incidences of single-parent families and risky behaviors among children, such as drinking alcohol and sexual activity.

Britain was last and the U.S. second from the bottom in the category focusing on relationships, based on the percentage of children who lived in single-parent homes or with step-parents, as well as the percentage that ate the main meal of the day with their families.





# SPORTS

## MT seeking Mardi Gras charm

By Wesley Mize  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider basketball team will be looking to end their three game skid when they host Florida International on Thursday. MT holds a 1-0 lead in the season series against FIU after defeating the Panthers 60-46 on New Years Eve.

Middle Tennessee had a great defensive effort in its last meeting with FIU, and Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis believes defense will be the key to victory in Thursday's contest.

"We had one of the better defensive games all year," Davis said. "We held them to 25 percent shooting for the game and held them to 15 points at halftime. Now it will be hard to match, that but we can win if we get near the success we had last game."

The Panthers are led by 6-7 forward Alex Galindo, a sophomore transfer from Kansas, averages 13.6 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.

"He [Galinda] can do pretty much anything on the court," Davis said. "He can shoot the three and also drive to the basket really well. He's developing more of a low post game which will help him. He's only a sophomore with a high talent level, and I think he will be an all-league player down the road."

Both teams are coming into the game looking to end three game losing streaks. Davis feels that there is no excuse for losing,

but he is quick to point out who his team's losses came to.

"We have a three game losing streak, but it's against the best our conference has to offer," Davis said. "South Alabama has won 12 in a row, Louisiana-Monroe is undefeated at home, and Western Kentucky is always tough to play. We did positive things in each of those games, and I think we will get back to winning if we just build on those things."

One of the criticisms in the current losing streak is the fact MT appears to have been out-hustled in portions of each game. Davis feels his team's athleticism isn't on the level of the opposition this season.

"Loose balls and long rebounds that we didn't get hurt us because they led to points for the other teams," Davis said. "We do lots of toughness drills in practice already, so I don't think we need to enhance that. I think a lot of it is just our quickness isn't as good as some of other teams right now. It's something we work on, and we'll just have to continue to improve on it."

The Sun Belt conference tournament begins in two weeks. The tournament format consists of first round games being held at campus sites of teams with the higher seeded teams. The winner of the first round game will then travel to the campus of Louisiana-Lafayette to conclude the tournament.

The Blue Raiders are giving three regular season

games remaining, including Thursday's game with FIU. Each win is important for Middle to get in position to host the first round game inside Murphy Center.

"It's a real big advantage to host," Davis said. "If the season ended today, we'd be hosting the first round game. I think we'd have a nice attendance game if we could host so it's definitely important for us to win and get in position to do that."

Kevin Kanaskie scored 13 points against FIU along, with Desmond Yates. Yates, who tied his career high of eight assists.

Tim Blue had 10 points and helped MT get seven of the season-high 40 rebounds against FIU.

The Blue Raiders were on a four game losing streak when they met the Golden Panthers earlier in the season.

Alex Galindo scored 11 points in that game and the Blue Raiders will looking to him for some much needed points early in the game.

This weekend is Mardi Gras Night and students encouraged to attend and bring costumes for the parade 30 minutes after the women's game at 5:30 p.m.

The 46 points that FIU scored was the second lowest points scored in Davis five-years of coaching against the SBC.

MT will look to get one step closer to hosting the first round of the tournament by defeating FIU on Thursday. Tip-off inside Murphy Center is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. ♦

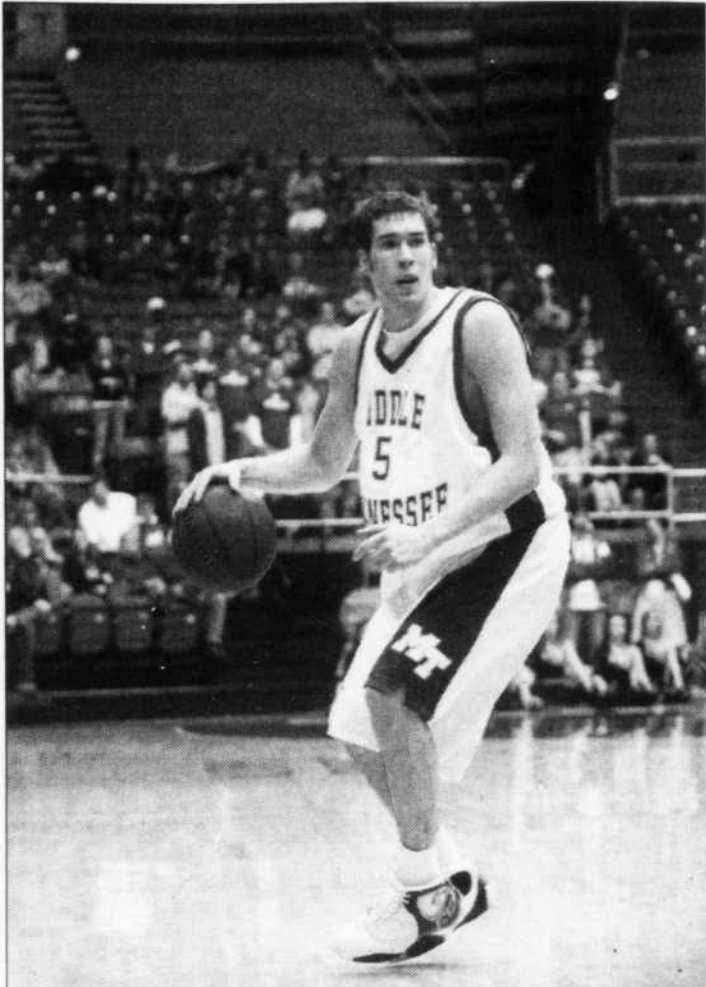


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer  
Sophomore Kevin Kanaskie waits for a free man so he can pass the ball.

## Lady Raiders get set to wind down dream season



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer  
Senior Chrissy Givens and the Blue Raiders are getting ready for a rematch with Florida International this weekend.

By Cody Gibson  
Staff Writer

After the biggest emotional high of the season Feb 11, the Lady Raiders received devastating news this week as freshman point guard Chelsea Lymon tore her Anterior Cruciate Ligament and is officially ruled out for the remainder of the season.

Look for junior point guard Latoya Barclay to assume Lymon's role of backup point guard and log valuable minutes for the Lady Raiders.

Yet, the Lady Raiders' season does not end with the loss of Lymon, of the three remaining games two of them at home.

This week the Lady Raiders take on Florida International Thursday night, Feb. 15, and take the rest of the week off, finishing the season with a road game at Troy on Feb. 22.

Then they host Florida Atlantic on Feb. 24 for the final game of the season before Middle Tennessee hosts the first round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

At this juncture of the season last year, Middle Tennessee was heading in the opposite direction.

The Lady Raiders lost to rival Western Kentucky and faced Florida International then promptly losing 73-57.

Yet, all ended well for the Lady Raiders last season. This season Florida International has flown under the radar in the Sun Belt Conference as they have compiled a 15-9 record and a 9-5 record in the conference, which is good for third in the Sun Belt East.

The Lady Golden Panthers, led by senior Latsma Jekabsone, is averaging 14 points and 10 rebounds a game.

Jekabsone was named All-Academic All-District this season and has really improved her play both offensively and defensively ranking at the top of the Sun Belt in blocks.

Laquetta Ferguson has been a big reason for the Lady Golden Panther's success.

Ferguson is leading Florida International with 17 points per game. Ferguson leads the team in steals as well.

Florida International has had inside success against strong interior defense, holding opponents to under 40 percent shooting.

Middle Tennessee fared well against the Lady Golden Panthers winning by 34 points, holding Jekabsone to only 6 points and holding Ferguson to 5-14 from the floor.

Look for Middle Tennessee's pressure to cause a number of problems and to force Florida International into a number of turnovers.

With Middle Tennessee ranked No. 17 in the newest polls, SBC teams will be giving the Lady Raiders their best effort.

The Lady Raiders have the second longest winning streak in the country and look to continue it on Mardi Gras Night at the Murphy Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon Feb. 15. ♦

## Men's tennis prepares for Bulldogs

By Colby George  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider Tennis team will be going into this weekends matches ten spots lower in the rankings.

They lost two matches to the University of Washington and another two an underrated Texas Tech team.

The Raiders will have another tough match this weekend against the Mississippi State Bulldogs, who are ranked 54 out of 75 teams.

"MSU is very good just like the other teams that we played in Seattle," said head coach Dale Short. "This is probably going to be a game that will go down to the wire like all of the others games we [have] played this year."

Middle Tennessee has had a tough season thus far, playing seven top ranked teams in the past nine matches.

The Bulldogs have only had two matches so far and will be inexperienced coming to Middle Tennessee.

Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom are currently undefeated this season in doubles, and do not look to be challenged by anyone on the MSU team.

"We are very proud of the effort by Born and Siljestrom," Short said. "Due to injuries we have to rely a great deal on our seniors to keep us in the tough matches and the 'twin towers' [Born and Siljestrom] are doing a great job as team leaders."

However, injuries are plaguing the Raiders.

Marco Born's ankle is still bothering him, Marc Rockafort has a deep bone bruise and tendonitis, and Marc Boiron is having problems with his knee, shoulder,

and ankle.

Due to injuries the Raiders had to start three freshmen while in Seattle. In all three matches in Seattle, the combined of the record of these freshmen players was 1-8.

"We are very beat up and young this season," Short said. "For us to beat Texas Tech, who is very underrated, and Washington we had to play almost perfect and that did not happen, which is why we came out of the weekend with only one win."

Middle Tennessee has had seven days of rest since their visit to Seattle, which has given a few of the injured players a chance to heal. They have rested Rockafort the past few days, and Born has been rehabilitating a tremendous amount to get back to 100 percent.

MTSU will face MSU this weekend at home. The Raiders current record at home this year is (5-1).

"We have a big advantage playing at home as well as other teams do," Short said. "We just need to put it together on the road as we do at home to be as good as we want to be."

The Raiders are very anxious to get back out on the tennis court after being beaten twice last weekend. The players are upset about the losses and want to get back into the swing of things.

"If you would have asked me at the beginning of the season if I would be happy about a 6-3 record I would have answered yes," Short said. "I am very proud of the record and my players. I think the tough part of the season has just about passed; there is not a team that looks as good as the teams we have played early this season."

The Blue Raiders will be offering free

Middle Tennessee Men's Tennis Schedule		
Feb. 25	Vanderbilt	1 p.m. Buck Bouldin Tennis Center
Mar. 1-3	HEB Invitational	1 p.m. Corpus Christi, Texas
Mar. 15-18	National Blue-Gray TBA	Montgomery, Ala.
Mar. 23-25	Rice Invitational	TBA Houston, Texas
Mar. 31	South Florida	11 a.m. Tampa, Fla.
Apr. 7-8	Sun Belt Shootout	TBA Lafayette, La.
Apr. 14	Memphis	11 a.m. Buck Bouldin Tennis Center
Apr. 14	Belmont	6 p.m. Buck Bouldin Tennis Center
Apr. 19-22	Sun Belt Championships	Denton, Texas
May 11-13	NCAA Regionals	TBA TBA
May 19-28	NCAA Championships	Athens, Ga.

pizza and drinks to everyone who shows up at their last match of the year at the Racquet Club. The match will take place Sunday, Feb. 18. ♦

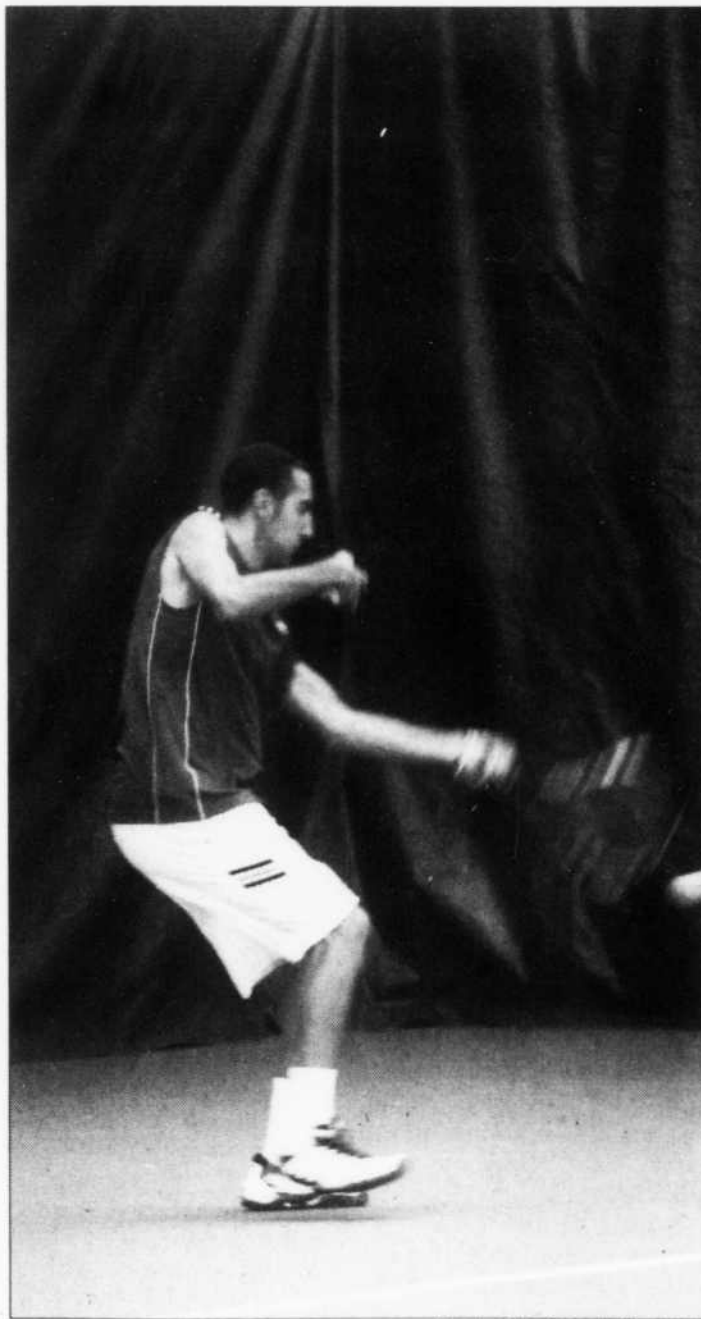


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor  
Freshman Marc Rocafor returns a service shot in a match.





Brittany Kirby moves through the UT-Knoxville defenders in order to score for the Indoor team on Saturday

## Indoor soccer team shutsout UT, UTC

MTSU held an Indoor Tournament at the Indoor arena at the Rec Center on Saturday February 10th. The other teams involved were from UT-Knoxville and UT-Chattanooga. The "A" and "B" teams were not split by talent, and they are usually all one team.

We just had to divide the teams since indoor only plays with 5 field players plus a keeper and outdoor teams play with 11 total.

Please let me know if you need anything else!

Scores:

UTC "B" vs. UT "B" :	3-1
MTSU "A" vs UTC "A" :	1-0
MTSU "B" vs UT "A" :	0-2
MTSU "A" vs UT "B" :	2-0
UT "A" vs. UTC "A" :	2-1
MTSU "B" vs. UTC "B" :	3-3
MTSU "B" vs. UT "B" :	1-0
MTSU "A" vs. UTC "B" :	1-0
MTSU "B" vs UTC "A" :	0-1
MTSU "A" vs. UT "A" :	1-0
UT "B" vs. UTC "A" :	0-3
UTC "B" vs. UT "A" :	0-5

Order of Finish  
MTSU "A"  
UT "A"  
UTC "A"  
UTC "B"  
MTSU "B"  
UT "B"

Members of MTSU "A" Team (Winning team!!!)

Megan Allender (Captain)  
Sara Wohlueter  
Lauren Greer  
Brittany Kirby  
Susan Wiley  
Katheryn Winn  
Hannah Westmoreland  
Jessee Keasling  
Courtney Tewell  
Mary Tensay  
Coaches:Wendy Windsor and Chuck Kirby

Overall the tournament went very well. All three schools had strong teams represented. What separated the MTSU "A" team from the rest of the competition was its' strong unity and ability to play together as one.

"From the start, this team came ready to play. As a coach, Wendy Windsor said, "I could not have ask for more out of my players. They were having fun and that's what playing soccer at this level is all about."

The team won all four games in complete shut out fashion: 4 wins, no goals scored against!! What a performance.

With the rest of the season coming up, this semester's team hopes to produce a strong winning season. Our goal this season is to go undefeated, which includes winning the Clemson Soccer Tournament to be held in April. Our program has come along way since our inaugural year in 2005...and we only plan on getting better.

The team does plan on making the indoor tournament an annual event with hopes of Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech competing as well.

## Track team advances to Sun Belt Championships

By Brendon Henson  
Staff Writer

Senior James Thomas and junior Stephanie Tamgho earned Sun Belt Athletes of the Week honors for their accomplishments at the MT Valentine Invitational this past Saturday.

Thomas placed first in the shot put with a mark of 53'7" setting his third consecutive PR in the event. Last year's SBC Indoor Most Outstanding Field Performer bested his last record by almost two feet.

Thomas also took first in the 35-lb weight throw with a toss of 55'8. Thomas is now ranked first in the conference in the weight throw and second in the shot put heading into next week's Sun Belt Championships.

At the SBC Championships last year, Thomas took first place in the weight throw and third in the shot put. Thomas looks to do even better this year.

"The shot put is one thing that's really improved [this season]. For the past three years I've been

doing the spin, trying to learn it, but I haven't really picked it up," Thomas told MT Media Relations. "In high school I did the glide and I went back to that and am picking it right back up. I'm trying to pick up a No. 1 in both events, which would really help the team."

Tamgho captured first place in two events while setting a season-best in the triple jump. Tamgho won the event with a mark of 40-8.75, and took home her third victory of the year in the long jump with a jump of 19-1. Tamgho currently ranks first in the Sun Belt in the long jump and third in the triple jump.

The Sevron, France native muses over the event she loves and the event she has shown promise in, with NCAA provisional marks being the ultimate goal.

"All I think about [is] the NCAA [marks]," Tamgho told MT Media Relations. "Technically I'm better in the long jump, but I have more potential in the triple jump. I'm closer to the NCAA

provisional mark in the triple jump. It's easier to reach that mark in the triple jump.

"The problem is that the long jump is my event. I love long jumping. I would do anything to be really good at it," Tamgho told MT Media Relations. "The triple jump is just for fun. I really don't take it that seriously. I don't really work on it. I just go compete and that's it."

In other notes, Middle Tennessee ranks first in six different events in the conference. Senior Orlando Reid leads the 200-meters with a time of 21.37, while Senior Juan Walker ranks first in the 55-meter hurdles at 7.24. Junior Carlos Morgan ranks first in the long jump at 25-5, while senior James Thomas is first in the weight throw at 58-8.75.

For the women, junior Stephanie Tamgho leads the long jump with her mark of 19-7.5. Freshman Britney Cox is first in the weight throw at 56-8.

Middle Tennessee heads to SBC Championships Feb. 24-25. ♦

## Baseball team gears up for Jacksonville State Friday

By Colby George  
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders men's baseball team will be starting their season off this weekend against Coach Steve Peterson's alma matter, Jacksonville State.

Middle is coming into the season after losing their top four batters from last season and all three of their starting pitchers returning for this season.

"Pitching will have to be our strength once Friday Feb. 16 comes around," Peterson said. "Our pitchers have been getting better and better ever since the end of last year."

After losing all of their top hitters Michael McHenry signed with the Colorado Rockies, Jeff Beachum went to the New York Yankees.

Followed by Josh Horn going to a independent pro team, and Todd Martin signed a pro contract.

The Blue Raiders were picked sixth in the Sun Belt by the coaches.

MTSU has made an appearance in the Sun Belt Championship game over the past four years winning only once in 2004.

"The preseason polls mean nothing; it is only based on returning players," Senior Wayne Kendrick said. "We lost a few people which is the reason for those rankings, but we have good players to step up to fill the shoes of the players we lost."

The Blue Raiders will have Alex Watson step in behind the plate at catcher to replace McHenry.

"Alex will have big shoes to fill," Peterson said. "Catchers from Middle Tennessee have always been good, so Alex will have a lot to live up to."

Jacksonville State will be coming into the game against MT fresh off of an Ohio Valley Conference Championship. They are as well picked second in their conference compared to MT being ranked sixth.

"We definitely will not be overlooking Jacksonville state," Josh Anderson said. "We are looking to win these first three games against them

to start the season off right."

"I graduated from Jacksonville State, so I know what baseball means to them down there," Peterson said. "They are going to be a very tough opponent to start the season off, and they know how to put it together and go out and get a win."

Last year, Middle Tennessee went down to Jacksonville State and swept all three games against them at the start of the season. To sweep the series again the Raiders are going to need people to step up at the plate because of all of there losses in the off-season.

Before last year the Raiders had not won a series against the Gamecocks since their 2001 season.

"It is Wayne Kendrick's senior season, and he is expected to do big things for us this year," Peterson said. "Coming into the season, he is one of our best players if not the best over all."

The Raiders have a lot of experience on the mound returning all three of their starting pitchers from last year.

"Our team is solid right now. We are confident as pitchers" Anderson said. "We trust the people behind us playing defense. The only hole we are looking to fill, though, is third base."

"We are ready to play," Peterson said. "We have a great chance to win a lot of games this season, and if our team plays the way that they can, then other teams are going to have to play perfect to beat us."

Coach Peterson, Kendrick and Anderson are all confident in their team and are looking to come out this weekend and sweep the series again against Jacksonville State.

The starters for this weekend is seniors Matt Scott on Friday, Tyler Copeland on Saturday and Nick Marrs on Sunday. All three seniors will get to starts this weekend.

Jacksonville State has not picked their starter for Sunday yet but will be starting Donovan Hand on Friday and Clark Jinks on Saturday. ♦

## Campus sports briefs

By Wesley Mize  
Staff Writer

### Football players suspended

Middle Tennessee football coach Rick Stockstill announced the indefinite suspension of two players on Tuesday.

Roy Polite and Darrel Howard were suspended for violating team rules; however the violations were not disclosed.

These players will not participate in spring drills in March and will be re-evaluated at the end of this semester.

Polite, an upcoming senior, started nine games at cornerback last season for the Blue Raiders. Howard, a rising junior played in three games as an offensive lineman.

This is Howard's second significant disciplinary action since joining the Blue Raiders.

Howard was arrested for gun possession and underage drinking last July. Part of his punishment for last year's offense included after practice conditioning drills.

**Raiders men's team beat no. 42 ranked Louisville**

Middle Tennessee win three singles matches as the Blue Raiders beat the Cardinals, 4-1.

MT picks up a needed victory after losing two straight games to

Texas Tech and Washington only days before at the Great Northwest Shootout in Seattle, Wash.

The Blue Raiders (6-3) double team of Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom beat Damar Johnson and Pablo Camacho, 8-4. Marc Boiron and Joao Paoliello defeat Chris Herrlinger and Ben Clos, 8-6.

In singles action Marc Rocafort beat Robert Rotaru 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Rocafort fell to Kenneth Nordheim 7-6, 7-6 in his next match.

Born beat Johnson, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6. Morgan Richard defeated David Simon to give MT the deciding victory, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The Blue Raiders had a chance to beat Texas Tech, but lost a two key doubles matches in tiebreakers, 4-1.

MT dropped doubles points at the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, only to three out of four in singles play.

Born-Siljestrom beat Bojan Szumanski and Christian Rojmar, 8-6. Boiron-Paoliello fell to Teddy DiBlasi and Dimitrio Martinez, 7-3.

Rocafort-Richard had the advantage with 6-1 over Sinisa Markovic and Michael Breler, but the Blue Raiders lost the tiebreaker, 7-5.

In singles Richard beat Rojmar, 6-3, 6-3. Paoliello, Alex McCann and Born fall in their singles matches.

Siljestrom beat Szumanski, 7-5, 4-5. Rocafort fell to Markovic, 6-3, 3-4.

In the opening of the Great Northwest Shootout in Seattle, Wash., the Blue Raiders were swept by Washington, 4-0.

Siljestrom beat Alex Slovic, 7-5, 3-4. Paoliello fell to Patrik Fischer, 6-3, 6-4. In doubles Siljestrom-Born beat Andy Kuharsky and Slovic, 8-6. Daniel Chu and Derek Drabble beat Paoliello-Boiron, 8-6.

Fischer-Mike Ricks beat Rocafort-Richard, 8-5. Rocafort fell to Kuarszky, 6-2, 6-3. Chu neat Boiron, 6-3, 6-0 and Born beat Chu, 7-5. Siljestrom beat Slovic, 7-5.

### Women fall to Louisville

Middle Tennessee women tennis team fell to Louisville, 4-3. MT (2-3) won the doubles matches along with a default match.

Marlene Chemin and Ann-Kristen Siljestrom beat Bianca Gorbea and Jo-Ann Van Aerde, 8-4. Hala Sufi and Claudia Szabo beat Natalie Laszkowski and Robyn White, 8-5.

Sufi got a default won over White, 6-1, 6-0. Natalia Baez beat Elvira Yusupova, 6-2, 6-1. Gorbea beat Stephanie Parkison, 6-2, 6-1. Siljestrom fell to Laszkowski, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. ♦

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SPRING 2007 INTRAMURAL SPORTS INDOOR SOCCER TOP 5 (Week 1)					
RANK	MEN'S A	MEN'S B	IFC	WOMEN'S	CO-REC
1.	Team 1 (1-0)	Saint Mina (1-0)	SAE (A) (1-0)	A D Pi (1-0)	Showtime @ the Apollo (1-0)
2.	Grown Men (1-0)	Blue Crew (1-0)	BETA (A) (1-0)	Were Not Greek (1-0)	Azzurri (1-0)
3.	Don Thava Team(1-0)	Felder 1st Floor(1-0)	Sigma Pi (1-0)	A O Pi (1-0)	Penguins (1-0)
4.	Make It Rain (1-0)	AHP (1-0)	K A (1-0)	Kappa Delta (1-0)	Blue Crew (1-0)
5.	Top Gunz (1-0)	Sons of Thunder (1-0)	PIKE (A)L (0-1)	A X OL (0-1)	Effin All-Stars (1-0)



MONDAY NIGHT  
SCORES  
5 on 5 BASKETBALL

MEN'S B LEAGUE 8-9 p.m.

Freak Nasties	50	Valsalva	50
Free Agents	44	The Revolution	19
Warriors	53	Kappa Sig	52
Tha Show	53	MT Bob	29

MEN'S A LEAGUE 9-10 p.m.

Team 1	59	IM All-Stars	65
The Kings	56	Da Bears	56
Rec Ballers	76	Got Goodie	52
UnderWater	48	HARD	37
Basket Weavers			

We Fly High 44

MP All-Stars 32

Nu Boyz 52

Big Blue WreckingCrew 51

Crunkards 49

No Doubt 50

SORORITY LEAGUE 9 p.m.

Kappa Delta	Win	A D Pi	35
Chi Omega	Default	A O Pi	26
A X O	Win		
ZETA	Default		

MEN'S B LEAGUE 10 p.m.

Legends	55	Rawdogz	55
Warrior Face	41	The Pretty Kittens	32
Pacers	48		
Ricky Bobby	38		

MONDAY NIGHT  
SCORES  
INDOOR SOCCER

MEN'S A LEAGUE 6-11 p.m.

Grown Men	6	Deuce's Wild	6
Hall of Famers	2	Internationale	5
Team 1	14	Top Gunz	4
Azzuri	2	Don Thava Team	4
Easy C	9	Make it Rain	10
The Gunners	5	Ninja Turtles	8

TUESDAY NIGHT  
SCORES  
5 on 5 BASKETBALL

MEN'S B LEAGUE 8 p.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT  
SCORES  
INDOOR SOCCER

IFC 6-11 p.m.

SAE (B)	Win
PIKE (B)	Win
ATO	Forfeit
Sigma Pi	Forfeit
BETA (A)	5
Kappa Alpha	3
PIKE (A)	5
SAE (A)	2
Sig Ep	Win
BETA (B)	Win
Pi Kappa Phi	Default
TKE	Default

SUNDAY NIGHT  
INDOOR SOCCER SCORES

MEN'S B LEAGUE 6-10 p.m.

Saint Mina	13	AHP	7
Nu Nemisis	4	Your Mom	6
Blue Crew	10	Felder 1st Floor	6
BTS	3	Shiny Pennies	2
Sons of Thunder	2		
1st Floor Felder	1		

Middle Tennessee 4, Louisville 1  
SINGLES

1. Andreas Siljestrom led Slavko Radman, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 3-2 (DNF)

2. Marco Born def. Damar Johnson, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6

3. Morgan Richard def. David Simon, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

4. Marc Rocafort def. Robert Rotaru, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

5. Kenneth Nordheim def. Marc Boiron, 7-5, 7-6

6. Joao Pailiello led Horatiu Oltean, 2-6, 6-4, 4-3 (DNF)

Order of Finish: 4,5,2,3\*

DOUBLES

1. Siljestrom-Born def. Johnson-Pablo Camacho, 8-4

2. Rocafort-Richard vs. Radman-Simon, DNF

3. Marc Boiron-Paoliello def. Chris Herrlinger-Ben Clos, 8-6


Order of Finish: 1,3\*


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