



Trouble on the row?

Kappa Alpha under investigation by Judicial Affairs for alleged rape, other infractions

By Christin Pepple
Campus News Editor

The Kappa Alpha fraternity is under investigation by the campus police and have charges pending by Judicial Affairs for a party at their house on Greek Row that was held Friday, Nov. 30.

According to a report issued by campus police, who Chief Buddy Peaster said are "nearing the end of their investigation," a police officer was dispatched to Middle Tennessee Medical Center Emergency Room on Dec. 2 in regards to a possible sexual assault victim.

The female victim was being held at MTMC because of an earlier, suicide attempt and had to be transported to the hospital by campus police from her Womack Lane residence according to the report.

"This victim stated that on Friday, Nov. 30 she was at a party located on Greek Row and that she may have been sexually assaulted that evening," stated the police report. "This officer notified the MTSU investigators, who responded to the MTMC ER for further investigations."

Campus police conducted an investigation where several individuals at the party were interviewed to ascertain clearly

whether or not this was a case of rape or consensual intercourse.

The alleged victim had a vaginal exam by a nurse and there was evidence of intercourse.

After several interviews with the alleged victim, the alleged assailant, and several others who attended the party, Peaster said that there is not enough evidence to prosecute the alleged sexual assailant from the state law perspective.

Nine interviews were included in the police report and each one varies on the details of how the evening of the alleged rape progressed.

One of the interviews of an attendee of the party from the police report said that the alleged victim had been seeing her alleged assailant "on and off recently."

"She was smiling and flirting. She then went to the quad area where she let her top part of her dress fall off. Several females said something to her about shutting her legs because their boyfriends were in the room and they were getting upset," said the attendee.

During another interview conducted with a different

attendee of the party she said that an unknown male accompanied the alleged victim to the alleged assailant's bedroom and stated, "I put that little slut in [his] bed, I left him a present."

"We have spoken to the district attorney's office about this case and we believe that there is enough information in this situation that sexual intercourse occurred, but there is not enough evidence for assault to be confirmed," Peaster said. "That can be extremely frustrating in cases such as these."

According to the police report, the alleged victim called the police station decided not to press charges against her alleged assailant on Dec. 11.

After this call, several members of the police force met with Gene Fitch, the associate dean of student affairs and Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean to student affairs to "discuss the matter."

Upon beginning the investigation by the campus police began, Judicial Affairs became involved. They cited rules and regulations violations on behalf of Kappa Alpha.

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INSIDE

Guitar Hero piques interest

"Guitar Hero" lures gamers into music; increases record sales
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The Avenue provides variety

New and interesting restaurants, bars and shopping stores open at The Avenue and around Murfreesboro
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Amber Holt steps into Givens' shoes



Holt, the nation's leading scorer, has taken over as the leader of the Lady Raiders after the graduation of Chrissy Givens
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Community News

Eckerle agrees to plea deal, out now

By Daniel Potter
Community News Editor

The defendant has agreed to a plea deal in the case of a robbery-turned-shootout that took place last January at Campus Crossings South on Rutherford Boulevard. MTSU students in the department of criminal justice assisted district attorney's office in preparing to try the case.

Thomas Eckerle, Jr., was charged with attempting to rob and bind Michael Holt, who lived in the apartment, and Christopher Deberry, a recent MTSU graduate, who fatally shot Eckerle's accomplice, Alan Bruce Bell, in self-defense. Both Eckerle and Deberry were badly wounded in the subsequent shootout.

Eckerle accepted the deal – two counts of attempted aggravated robbery and two counts of attempted aggravated kidnapping – with a sentence of eight years in prison but allowing for parole after one, the Murfreesboro Post reported.

Receiving credit for time served, Eckerle was released from jail the same day he pleaded – Dec. 13.

"I'm not real pleased with the result," said Assistant District Attorney Paul Newman.

He prosecuted the case along with Assistant District Attorney Tom Jackson.

"The deal ensued after consulting with one of the victims, who was in the Air Force," and had to return to the service, Newman said, referring to Holt. The deal resulted from "serious discrepancies in the testimony regarding exactly what happened and how it occurred."

"We had to take into account the possibility that this case would not go as good as we hoped it would," Newman said.

Complicating the prosecution's effort to establish a clear sequence of events, some of those present were impaired by the use of marijuana and hydrocodone.

Further hampering the prosecution, the state of Florida was slow in answering a request for information about Eckerle, who has a criminal record there. "We got it last week," Newman said, though the trial concluded last month.

Eckerle is expected to transfer his parole to Florida, in part due to his medical situation following the incident, said Jason Winsett, who graduated from MTSU in December and majored in criminal justice.

"He'll be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He's lost a substantial amount of weight," Winsett said. "He needs his family down there to help take care of him."

Winsett served as an intern at the district attorney's office before the trial, along with two other MTSU students, Paige Kimbro and Rachel O'Connor.

Their work consisted of compiling information from police reports, witness accounts and video interviews, and developing a coherent summary of events. Winsett said because prosecutors are extremely busy, the result is something akin to CliffNotes for their cases. "It allows them to review the case," he said.

The MTSU interns were also responsible for coordinating witnesses, as well as the introduction of evidence.

See COMMUNITY NEWS: Eckerle, 5

Community News



Sareeka, the orange Bengal tiger at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, relaxes in her enclosure Friday afternoon. Photo by Tamara Augustini, contributing photographer.

Nashville Zoo has security protocols

By Daniel Potter
Community News Editor

The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere has security precautions in place and has an established protocol for dealing with escaped animals – a topic of much concern in the wake of a deadly Christmas Day tiger attack at San Francisco Zoo.

Nashville's zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which provides safety recommendations and gives on-site inspections every five years.

"Escape protocols need to be in place for AZA accreditation," said Jim Bartoo, the zoo's marketing and public relations director. These can vary from clearing an area to evacuating the entire park, as situations range from benign to worst-case scenario.

"We have people here who are trained to tranquilize animals," Bartoo said. "They're part of the escape protocol process, if it comes to that." Further, if lethal force becomes necessary, "We have a shoot team."

In addition to the AZA accreditation, the Nashville Zoo also has the approval of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Unlike the AZA, which issues recommendations, the TWRA has firm requirements – "More strict than I think you'd find in many states," Bartoo said.

Nashville has two Bengal tigers, a slightly smaller breed than San Francisco's Siberian tiger.

Nashville's tigers, sisters from the same litter, Sareeka and Mylee, were hand-raised – "raised in captivity, but also raised with very much a hands-on approach with the keepers, until they got to a point where they weren't safe to handle anymore," Bartoo said.

"Because of that, these animals are very used to seeing people – to being around people. They've never challenged the fence line or

See COMMUNITY NEWS: Zoo, 5

Rock-n-roll collides with video games in Guitar Hero

"Everyone has played it from young to old, so it appears to be a popular thing."

-Robert Fitzgerald, owner, Johnny Guitar Music Shop



Rebecca Summar and Kevin "Toxic Teeth" Tillery shred in Guitar Hero. Image courtesy Activision. Photos by Daniel Potter. Design by Ryan DeBooy and Amy Jones.

By Tiffany Gibson
Assistant News Editor

In 2005, the world was introduced to Guitar Hero, a video game that supplies a guitar controller and classic rock music mixed with new up-and-coming bands. The video game instantly attracted gamers and became a popular choice due to its eclectic music and easy to use controller.

It is evident that Guitar Hero is ground breaking and addictive to fans considering the third installment, Guitar Hero: Legends Of Rock, has been referred to as the largest launch product ever by Activision. The game grossed \$115 million in its first week.

"I think it's about as addictive as marijuana, like to the point where the kids have the urge to play it every day, but it's not physically addictive, like alcohol," said Carter Hays, sophomore and business education major.

Originally, Guitar Hero creator Ron Kay was inspired by Konami's video game Guitar Freaks, which allowed the participant to interact in the game with a controller in the form of a guitar.

When playing the game, there are five buttons on the fret board, which are color coded in green, red, yellow, blue and orange.

As notes come toward the bottom of the screen, the buttons must be pressed down according to the color portrayed on the television screen in order for the note to be played. In addition to holding down the fret buttons, a strum bar must also be hit every time a note is required.

After spending countless hours practicing, gamers soon seem to progress and can choose their status within four options such as Easy, Medium, Hard and Expert.

"When I played, it seemed to be more revolved around the timing of the drums. I think it's good to learn to count through songs, but because of the unbalance of making music and playing a game, I have lost half a dozen students," said Chris Roberts, Cookeville local artist/guitar teacher and producer.

In agreement with Roberts, some people question the realism of Guitar Hero in relation to playing an actual guitar.

"I think people will be disappointed after buying a guitar because the game makes it seem like playing is easier then it actually is," said Troy Keith, Employee of Concert Productions.

Even though Keith believes it may be giving participants fictional beliefs about playing, he does support the music featured in the games.

All of the Guitar Hero games try to fuse together classic rock legends such as Poison, Black Sabbath, Guns N Roses and ZZ Top with more recent songs from AFI and the Killers.

"The game allows younger kids to play and

respect older music that they used to make fun of," Keith said.

The game is also linked to iTunes, which allows participants to download their favorite songs and recognize the melody when trying to master them.

According to the Web site Ars Technica, by allowing Guitar Hero 3: Legends of Rock to connect with iTunes it has increased digital record sales among bands such as Slipknot, Sonic Youth and the Strokes within the first week.

Andy Brown, manager of The Music Stop and lead guitarist in the band Exit 42, explained that Guitar Hero has inspired a Transcript Book for those wanting to learn how to play the actual songs featured on the games.

"In a household, choosing to take guitar lessons is about the same price spent on Guitar Hero, so it varies on which one people choose," Keith said.

Brown also went on to say that he believes playing a real guitar is more challenging in the physical aspect due to calluses and the discomfort.

Unlike Brown and Keith, Robert Fitzgerald, owner of Johnny Guitar Music Shop, believes that people inspired by Guitar Hero will want to take lessons rather than buy a guitar and quickly give up.

In fact, Fitzgerald also sells a Guitar Hero sheet music book similar to the one available at the Music Stop, which features all of the songs on Guitar Hero and Guitar Hero 2.

"Guitar hero is a way to put eight and nine -year-olds in touch with older bands such as Cream and Deep Purple.

"Judging by customers, everyone has played it from young to old, so it appears to be a popular thing," Fitzgerald said.


Guitar Hero has also inspired the video game Rock Band, which includes a drum kit, a bass, a microphone and a guitar.

Even though the game Rock Band is similar to Guitar Hero, it differentiates by including and encouraging other instruments.

"Rock Band is fun, but let's face it. If you're playing the bass in the band with your friends, you secretly want to be the guitar player. Everyone does," said Ryan Fitzgerald, former MTSU student.

In addition to the guitar sales increase, the third installment, Guitar Hero 3: Legends of Rock, has been given permission to use the masters of all of the songs by the real artists, thus proving that Guitar Hero, as a whole, has arrived as a videogame legend.


Do you dream of a job where you talk to zoo workers, legislators and guitarists? Report. Sidelines. Mondays at 6 p.m. in Comm. 269.



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Bush administration versus State causes REAL ID uproar

By Devlin Barrett

Associated Press Writer

Residents of at least 17 states are suddenly stuck in the middle of a fight between the Bush administration and state governments over post-Sept. 11 security rules for driver's licenses — a dispute that, by May, could leave millions of people unable to use their licenses to board planes or enter federal buildings.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who was unveiling final details of the REAL ID Act's rules on Friday, said that if states want their licenses to remain valid for air travel after May 2008, those states must seek a waiver indicating they want more time to comply with the legislation.

Chertoff, as he revealed final details of the REAL ID Act, said that in instances where a particular state doesn't seek a waiver, its residents will have to use a passport or a newly created federal passport card if they want to avoid a vigorous secondary screening at airport security.

"The last thing I want to do is punish citizens of a state who would love to have a REAL ID license but can't get one," Chertoff said. "But in the end, the rule is the rule as passed by Congress."

Chertoff spoke as he discussed the details of the administration's plan to improve security for driver's licenses in all 50 states — an effort delayed due to opposition from states worried about the cost and civil libertarians upset about what they believe are invasions of privacy.

Under the rules announced Friday, Americans born after Dec. 1, 1964, will have to get more secure driver's licenses in the next six years.

The Homeland Security Department has spent years crafting the final regulations for the REAL ID Act, a law designed to make it harder for terrorists, illegal immigrants and con artists to get government-issued identification.

The effort once envisioned to take effect in 2008 has been pushed back in the hopes of winning over skeptical state officials.

To address some of those concerns, the government now plans to phase in a secure ID initiative that Congress approved in 2005.

Now, DHS plans a key deadline in 2011 — when federal authorities hope all states will be in compliance — and then further measures to be enacted three years later.

To make the plan more appealing to cost-conscious states, federal authorities drastically reduced the expected cost from \$14.6 billion to \$3.9 billion, a 73 percent decline, said Homeland Security officials familiar with the plan.

The American Civil Liberties Union has fiercely objected to the effort, particularly the sharing of personal data among government agencies.

The DHS and other officials say the only way to ensure an ID is safe is to check it against secure government data; critics such as the ACLU say that creates a system that is more likely to be infiltrated and have its personal data pilfered.

In its written objection to the law, the ACLU claims REAL ID amounts to the "first-ever national identity card system," which "would irreparably damage the fabric of American life."

The Sept. 11 attacks were the main motivation for the changes.

The hijacker-pilot who flew into the Pentagon, Hani Hanjour, had four driver's licenses and ID cards from three states.

The DHS, created in response to the attacks, has created a slogan for REAL ID: "One driver, one license."

By 2014, anyone seeking to board an airplane or enter a federal building would have to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, with the notable exception of those more than 50 years old, Homeland Security officials said.

The over-50 exemption was created to give states more time to get everyone new licenses, and officials say the risk of someone in that age group being a terrorist, illegal immigrant or con artist is much less. By 2017, even those over 50 must have a REAL ID-compliant card to board a plane.

So far, 17 states have passed legislation or resolutions objecting to the REAL ID Act's provisions, many due to concerns it will cost them too much to comply.

The 17, according to the ACLU, are: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington state.

Among other details of the REAL ID plan:

—The traditional driver's license photograph would be taken at the beginning of the application instead of the end so that if someone is rejected for failure to prove identity and citizenship, the applicant's photo would be kept on file and checked if that person tried to con the system again.

—The cards will have three layers of security measures but will not contain microchips as some had expected. States will be able to choose from a menu which security measures they will put in their cards.

Over the next year, the government expects all states to begin checking both the Social Security numbers and immigration status of license applicants.

Most states already check Social Security numbers and about half check immigration status. Some, like New York, Virginia, North Carolina and California, have already implemented many of the security measures envisioned in REAL ID.

In California, for example, officials expect the only major change to adopt the first phase would be to take the photograph at the beginning of the application process instead of the end.

After the Social Security and immigration status checks become nationwide practice, officials plan to move on to more expansive security checks, including state DMV offices checking with the State Department to verify those applicants who use passports to get a driver's license, verifying birth certificates and checking with other states to ensure an applicant doesn't have more than one license.

A few states have already signed written agreements indicating they plan to comply with REAL ID. Seventeen others, though, have passed legislation or resolutions objecting to it, often because of concerns about the cost of the extra security.

Gordon secures funds for greenways as alternative

By Daniel Potter

Community News Editor

As part of Bart Gordon's plan to build a greenway from Murfreesboro to Nashville, the U.S. representative has secured \$424,000 in federal funds to expand trails in Rutherford County.

The funds are part of a \$1.8 million package passed by Congress to fund ecosystem restoration and protection here.

Gordon said his desire to preserve green space in Murfreesboro stems from his upbringing on a farm here. "When he was elected to Congress in the mid 80s," he said. "We were going through a real growth spurt," he said.

"I was seeing green space that was getting away from us," Gordon said. However, "It's expensive to buy large portions of land here." Gordon's solution is something he calls a "linear park," better known as a greenway — a woodland path for pedestrians and cyclists.

Gordon hopes the greenways can be used for transportation as well as recreation. They're part of an effort to create alternative means of transportation in the area, which also includes a growing bus network.

Eventually, Gordon intends to equip buses here with mounts for bicycles, so cyclists can ride to and from bus stops. "Smart buses" will also feature wireless Internet, so riders can surf the Web via laptop while they commute.

Gordon's ultimate goal is to provide a variety of public transportation options. "It has to work as a system altogether," he said. "I want to see mass transportation all through Middle Tennessee, with MTSU being a destination in that system."

"I think we are the second largest metropolitan area in the South" without mass public transportation, he said. "Environmentally, the more people we can get off the roads, the better off we'll be."

However, it will be years before such a system

is completed, says Dennis Rainier, Director of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation.

"There are several things that need to happen before that will come into fruition," Rainier said. The process of developing plans, taking bids and ultimately construction means new greenways in Murfreesboro will likely take years to complete.

"That has been the congressman's dream and hope for a long time — and I think it's not a dream anymore," Rainier said. "It's going to come into reality in the next few years. I hope it's sooner rather than later."

Rainier said large portions of the project's funding are intended not for recreation but alternative transportation. "The whole premise of the funding is to provide an alternative mode of transportation other than the car," he said.

Rainier said Gordon's staff has been instrumental in coordinating efforts regionally, where various jurisdictions often overlap.

"A lot of it was Bart Gordon's local office people working with all these different government and federal agencies working to make this thing come true," Rainier said. "I think it's been a great collaboration between Bart Gordon and his staff here."

Wayne Pollard, a sophomore majoring in electronic media, and an avid cyclist, has already used existing greenway paths.

"I've ridden it a couple times before on my bike," Pollard said. "Last time I used it was for transportation — I was going from my house to Stones River Battlefield" for a celebration marking the anniversary of the battle's end. "Riding down there didn't take very long at all."

"I think I would definitely use" an expanded trail running to Smyrna and Nashville, Pollard said.

Stones River Battlefield receives funding secured by Bart Gordon

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

Recently Stones River National Battlefield was given \$980,000 by the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands account. Congressman and former MTSU graduate student, Bart Gordon, secured the funding to improve the trail route and construct two new entrances into the park.

The two new entrances will be available at Thompson Lane, which will bring visitors into the main park area, and the Artillery Monument, which is located near McFadden's Fort.

"The current driving tour route was designed in the '60s, but the battlefield has more than doubled in size since then," said Julie Eubank, communications director for Gordon. "As a result, some of the portions of the battlefield are not accessible from the current tour route."

On average, the battlefield receives 200,000 visitors a year to reminisce about the battle of Stones River, which took place on Dec. 31, 1862. According to Gib Backlund, chief of operations at Stones River National Battlefield, the union army had just marched out of Nashville that December while the Confederate Army occupied Murfreesboro. President Lincoln desperately wanted a victory to help boost the popularity of the Emancipation Proclamation, so the battle began and ended three days later with a Union victory.

After being defeated, the Confederacy retreated as the Union went on to win Chattanooga and Atlanta, which ultimately led to the Union Army's victory in the Civil War.

The anniversary of the Stones River battle is celebrated from Dec. 31 until Jan. 2. During this time special events are offered such as Ranger informational guide walks, stories about actual soldiers who fought in the battle, and traditional cannons being shot.

"In 2011, the nation will observe the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. It's expected that visits to Civil War sites will increase as

the anniversary approaches," Eubank said.

Along the tour, guests also have the option of examining the exhibits that help tell the story of the battle as well as admiring natural plant and animal life along with memorial monuments for soldiers.

"The battlefield is a nice oasis in the midst of all the construction and growth," said Backlund.

In fact, the Stones River National Battlefield staff try to keep the battlefield conditions similar to how they were recognized in 1862 by having a prescribed fire once a year, as a way to manage plants and promote natural grasses, which will allow those visiting the battlefield to see through the eyes of a soldier maneuvering around on the battlefield.

"I go several times a year, sometimes just to bike and think about it [the battle], other times for the battlefield's many special programs and events. It is an outstanding contribution to our region," said Van West, director of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

West also went on to say that both the community and students will benefit from their visit because it tells the in depth story of how the Stones River Battle played a key role in the Civil War.

In addition to endless information about the battle, many MTSU undergraduate and graduate students also involved with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area contribute to some of the special programs and events. Students have worked on the museum or in the historic site interpretation at the battlefield.

The Center of Popular Music at MTSU has also assisted the battlefield by contributing time and effort to four exhibits thus far. The center has helped with four exhibits this far.

"As a whole, the story and the battle of the Civil War help shape who we are today, and how we got where we are," said Backlund.

MTSU construction update

*Health Wellness Center- expected for a June completion (six months)

As of now the plumbing is finished, as well as the electrical and the roof. The sprinkler system as of now is 85 percent completed.

*Observatory- located next to the Cope building is due to be finished late February. The stone benches and interior work is already in tact.

*Womack Lane- Apartments D E F and G H I are scheduled to be finished the first of June, so residents can move back in. Cabinets are also being put in which should be completed in March.

*Lion's Hall- the interior frame is 90 percent completed.

*The parking and paving of Alumni Dr.- will be finished according to when weather and temperature permit. However, the sidewalks are 98 percent completed. Until finished, everyone is advised to stay off the road.

*Peck Hall- the demolition was complete and the interior framework is 95 percent intact.

*Smith Baseball Stadium- located across from the Recreational Center, it will have the faculty parking lot closed until June of this year. The third base dugout was cemented and is now completed, but cement has just been poured in the first base dugout.

*Science building- is in the process of design and is expected to be completed by 2010.

*The Student Union Building- is also in the middle of designing and is scheduled to be finished in 2011.

*The New University Building- is expecting to finish with design around 2011 as well.

*The James Union Building and Wiser Patton- have finished their heating and cooling along with a sprinkler system.

*Peck Hall- has received a new elevator, heating and cooling and a unisex restroom.

*Smith Hall- roofs have been replaced and are intact.

*The JUB and the Keathley University Center- have upgraded their fire alarm systems.

Information compiled by Tiffany Gibson-Assistant News Editor

Alumna opens 'Plato's Closet'

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

Brittany Frey, MTSU alumna, recently rejoined in the opening of her own Plato's Closet retail store located in Murfreesboro.

During Frey's time at MTSU, she majored in recording industry management. She began working part time at Plato's Closet in Cool Springs in the summer of 2005. In 2006, Frey was made manager of the store due to her strong work ethics, which were recognized by Jackson Miller and co-owner Glen Miller.

"Work is important to Brittany [Frey] because she is driven by both her desire for long term success and her need to do the right thing," said Glen Miller. "This balance makes her an excellent businessperson, which her customers and staff recognize and respond to," Miller said.

Miller also went on to say that Frey benefited from her course work and the opportunities MTSU offered her outside of the classroom.

As of now, Frey is co-owner of Plato's Closet in Cool Springs and Murfreesboro, and hopes to have a grand opening in the middle of February since the store is only open to buy.

When selling clothes there is no appointment required nor is there any wait for clothes to sell. However, in order to sell the clothing, the condition must be good and in style.

In addition to clothing, Plato's Closet buys and sells items such as jewelry, belts, books, CDs and

DVDs.

"There wasn't any cool stores so we had to open one in Murfreesboro for college students living on a budget," said Frey, co-owner of Plato's Closet. "Basically this store is for them and the community."

The spark for Plato's Closet started out as a recycling business idea created by Lynn and Dennis Blum from Columbus, Ohio. Their teenage son came up with the name Plato from the Greek Philosopher and his preservation theories. Today, Plato's Closet is dominating North America with over 200 locations.

The inventory for every Plato's Closet comes from sales, which Frey stressed as crucial for the all of the store's survival.

Plato's Closet sells everything 70 percent less than the actual price and gives 30 to 40 percent back in cash. The store also accepts all seasons anytime throughout the year, along with any brand. Some of the styles featured in the store are Abercrombie & Fitch, Aeropostale, Old Navy, Hollister and Converse shoes.

Plato's appeals to lots of people, whether or not they are currently students," said Miller. "It allows people to get cash on the spot for clothes they no longer wear or to change their wardrobe frequently at a fraction of the cost they would have in the mall."



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY-PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
BRITTANY FREY, CO-OWNER OF PLATO'S CLOSET, BUYS CLOTHES FROM CUSTOMERS TO SELL BACK TO OTHER CUSTOMERS IN HER STORE.

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MT Academic Interim selected

By Mary Rose Fox

Managing Editor

Until a permanent vice provost for Academic Affairs is chosen, Diane Miller will be serving in the interim.

After four years, Jack Thomas, former vice provost, left the university at the end of December and began serving as Provost and Academic Vice President for Western Illinois University.

It was announced that Miller, director of the McNair program and the Undergraduate Research Center, would be taking Thomas' place as interim vice provost on Jan. 2. Miller also stepped in as vice provost four years ago, while the university selected Thomas for the position.

Miller was chosen by Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert and President Sidney McPhee to stand in as interim because, Gebert said, "Dr. Miller is extremely knowledgeable about MTSU and its programs, policies and faculty. She is a very competent administrator and is very committed to MTSU."

"I certainly appreciate Dr. Gebert's vote of confidence," Miller said. "I'm looking forward to serving members of the faculty and the student body."

She has served as interim vice provost for two and a half years prior to Jack Thomas.

"We have not yet gotten approval from the search committee" to officially start the application process for the position, Gebert said. "We would hope to have a permanent person named by the beginning of the fall semester."

As interim vice provost, Miller is responsible for working with academic programs, proposals and reviews, Gebert said. She will be working with a number of interdisciplinary centers, such as the African American Program, Aging Studies, Center for Popular Music and Health and Human Services.

Miller has also been a professor in mathematical sciences at MTSU for almost 15 years.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Dec. 26, 4:23 p.m.
Vagrancy
Fraternity Row – Alpha Gamma Rho
An individual in the Alpha Gamma Rho house was reportedly told not to be on Greek Row. The subject was supposed to be in the house alone, but when he went downstairs the individual was in the living room. The suspect then left the house and walked down the sidewalk toward the Recreational Center.

Dec. 28, 12:59 a.m.
DUI
Murphy Center
Sara Raper was arrested for DUI and consumption of alcohol under 21.

Dec. 30, 1:30 a.m.
Traffic
Blue Raider Drive
Tommy S. Varner failed to obey a traffic control device.

Jan. 1, 2:46 a.m.
Theft
Miller Horse Coliseum
A John Deer Gator was taken from the Miller Horse Coliseum and an officer was requested.

Jan. 4, 10: 48 a.m
Alarm
Peck Hall
A fire alarm in Peck Hall sounded and a contractor was called to advise it was set off by accident. The alarm was reset.

Jan. 4, 11:41 a.m.
Theft
Murphy Center
The theft of a laptop computer, computer monitors and a widescreen television monitor was reported.

Jan 5, 4:21 a.m.
Vagrancy
James E. Walker Library Parking Lot
Kurt Smith was issued a written trespass warning.

Jan 8, 12:30 a.m.
DUI First Offense
MTSU Boulevard
Adam Gragg was charged with DUI.

Jan 8, 12:34 a.m.
Vandalism
Alumni Drive
A caller believed that a pipe bomb was thrown into the new bus stop beside the Sigma Alpha Epsilon House. Glass had been shattered along with nails and masking tape, which were present at the scene with a message left for workers.

Jan 8, 10:57 a.m.
Traffic
Greenland Drive, Lot B
The subject went to the police station to fill out report in reference to someone hitting his vehicle in the parking lot.

Jan 8, 3:12 p.m.
Vehicle
East Main Street
Heather McMahan was served a state citation issued for driving on a revoked license.

Jan 9, 12:05 a.m.
Alarm
Recreation Center
The custodial supervisor reported the fire alarm became active within the Recreational Center. The custodial staff evacuated the building upon the officer's arrival. The Murfreesboro Fire Department and Terry Logan were notified.

Jan 10, 12:08 a.m.
Alarm
Fairview Building - Old Bel-Air Church
A fire alarm became active within the building. Nothing was received on dispatch. An officer advised the fire panel that the building is showing trouble, but there was no sign of smoke or fire. Terry Logan was notified of this incident.

News: Campus Crossings

Continued from page 1

Winsett, who is now pursuing a master's degree at Austin Peay, found the internship extremely helpful. "In this internship you get to see the felony process in motion," he said. "You read about it in the textbook, but this internship really allowed us to see it live and in action."

Winsett recommended the program to anyone studying criminal justice here. "I think it's a good tool that the university offers."

The internship yields nine credit hours and entails 320 hours of work.

Assistant District Attorney Newman noted, "They probably spent the majority of that 320 hours on that case."

News: Kappa Alpha

Continued from page 1

"As far as the fraternity being in trouble, they may have some university regulations that may have been violated, so this is now a Judicial Affairs situation," Peaster said.

"If a we are involved in a situation and there is a student involved, then most times we are going to let them [Judicial Affairs] know and handle it because it is going to be a violation of university policy as well," said Peaster.

Carrie Smith Youell, coordinator of Greek Affairs, said that the Kappa Alpha's, the oldest social organization on campus and part of the Intrafraternal Council, have violated several of the university's policies and, pending on the decision of Judicial Affairs, can be castigated through different venues.

"Depending on the severity of their violations as decided by Judicial Affairs, they can be reprimanded through probation, community service, withholding of intramural activities, et cetera," Youell said.

Judicial Affairs at MTSU handles any university violation of the rules and regulations that are in the Rights and Responsibilities handbook.

Regarding Kappa Alpha's charges, Sosh-Lightsy said the charges pending against the fraternity would be handled at a later time this semester once a date is set for the hearing.

The charges specifically against the organization are violation of alcoholic beverage rules which is the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages on University-owned or controlled property, and violation of general rules and regulations according to the Rights and Responsibilities handbook.

"We don't have any evidence that Kappa Alpha as an organization was involved in any sort of sexual assault," Sosh-Lightsy said.

When further questioned about individuals under investigation, Sosh-Lightsy said, regarding alcohol offense or sexual assault, "Individuals are facing individual charges."

John Carter, president of Kappa Alpha for the spring term of 2008, said that he did not think that the fraternity had been treated unfairly with the alcohol violations and the ensuing charges and could say nothing about the sexual assault charges due to the ongoing Judicial Affairs investigation that is protected under the Federal Education and Rights Privacy Act of 1974.

"I was, in the beginning, one of the more uninformed people and it played to my advantage because we are not allowed to talk much about it while it takes the time to sort through the facts," Carter said.

According to the Rights and Responsibilities handbook FERPA states, "a student's disciplinary files are considered 'educational records.'"

These records are confidential and may only be accessed by the student and as otherwise provided by law."

Carter said that he did not know exactly what the repercussions would be financially or as far as the national Kappa Alpha office is concerned, but that "nothing has been said about losing a charter until the impending investigation draws to a conclusion."

"I want to say that all of this is a very delicate situation and a very negative news-oriented situation but at the conclusion of this and when we are cleared of these serious accusations, I want the entire campus to know that we have been," Carter said.

"This is certainly not the first time we have ever had a case like this and unfortunately it won't be the last," Peaster said.



Mylee, the Nashville zoo's white Bengal tiger, relaxes in her enclosure Friday afternoon. Photo by Tamara Augustini, contributing photographer.

COMMUNITY NEWS: Zoo

Continued from page 1

the containment process here. They seem to be pretty well adjusted into this exhibit," Bartoo said.

The tigers weigh roughly 250 pounds and are about four years old, Bartoo said.

Their diet consists of meat, mostly beef and horse, "supplemented with a canine diet mix" for nutrition.

In addition to a moat between their enclosure and the viewing area, the tigers are surrounded by a fence.

"The vertical part of that is 12 feet high, and then there's another four feet that bends in towards the exhibit," Bartoo said.

Further, the fence has electric "hot wires" to discourage the animals from attempting to climb it.

A row of electric "hot grass" also runs along the edge of the moat, as well as parts of the perimeter.

"It's developed to keep animals away from certain areas without being ugly or intrusive for visitor view," Bartoo said.

The Christmas Day tiger attack left 17-year-old Carlos Sousa Jr. dead and critically wounded his two friends, brothers Paul and Kulbir Dhaliwal, ages 19 and 23.

The escaped tiger, Tatiana, was killed by police.

As a result, Bartoo received numerous questions from concerned parents and zoo members, which he fielded personally.

"I think after e-mailing them and talking to them on the phone they were pretty reassured," he said.

Additionally, the zoo expects to learn and adjust as more information emerges about how things went awry in San Francisco.

"Like anything else you do in life, it's always going to be a learning process," Bartoo said.

Attendance at the zoo does not appear to have suffered as a result of such concerns, Bartoo said, citing a recent Monday when 1,200 people visited the zoo – an impressive tally for January, he noted.

Though he was aware of the attack in San Francisco, Derrell Jamison was undeterred as he visited the zoo Friday afternoon.

"I still enjoy the zoo, even though there was an isolated attack," said Jamison, who graduated from MTSU in December with a degree in mass communication.

"I wasn't afraid at all," Jamison said, before adding, "When I walked past, it did make me look at the restraint systems that they have in place and wonder if the animal could jump over if it wanted to."

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\$40 CASH for Your Opinion and 1 1/2 hr. of your time. If you are a full-time student at MTSU and you would like to attend a focus group on Tuesday evening, February 5th in Murfreesboro, call 901-380-2803.

SERVICES

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for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more

information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

From the Editorial Board:
Illegal matters should be handled by law not school

Recently alcohol violations and alleged rape charges have been associated with the Kappa Alpha Order. Of course, under age consumption is breaking the law, which is why it's appalling that the any such charges are "handled" under the watchful eye of the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.

Judicial Affairs obtains jurisdiction over their cases with the aid of the Federal Education Rights and Protection Act. FERPA is designed to protect our educational records in a similar way that HIPAA protects our medical records.

What does alleged rape and illegal consumption of alcohol by minors have to do with our academic records?

Even the thought that FERPA could be used to protect rapists and assailants under the guise of privacy is disturbing. The bottom line remains that the severity of a crime should not be relevant, because no matter what, a crime is a crime.

Basically, instead of focusing on rape, the school is focusing on the dangers of alcohol. The victim is being portrayed as no longer a victim because she had a couple of beers. Her alleged assailant, however, might only have his intramural privileges revoked or worse - community service.

Interestingly enough, the victim decided not to press charges. Perhaps she felt as if nothing would be done if she chose to pursue the incident further.

Is this the desired reputation we wish to emulate as a university? It seems like the only reason why cases such as this remain in Judicial Affairs under academic records is to protect the school's reputation.

Wouldn't it be more glorified to have a school reputation based on morals that protect and inform its students, rather than sealing everything damaging and destructive in a file cabinet for only the blind to see?

Perhaps the administration should rethink their strategy when "dealing" with cases that are in violation of the law as well as academic and behavioral conduct.

Judicial Affairs should have every right to review and handle the behavior of students when they are in violation of the clear behavioral standards set forth in the Rights and Responsibilities of Students. But when illicit behavior becomes illegal, Judicial Affairs should step aside and make way for the law.

Nevertheless, this incident has been dealt with, but what about future dilemmas? Even our own chief of police realizes that this behavior and situation is more than likely to reoccur.



"And Friends" frankhasenmueller@gmail.com Frank Hasenmueller



MT's New Year's Resolutions

Some changes that could make things easier for students, faculty

Viva la 2008! With the new year come new opportunities for change, both personally and for the University as a whole. Change is good, unless you work for the Tennessee Board of Regents, in which case, change is very, very bad.

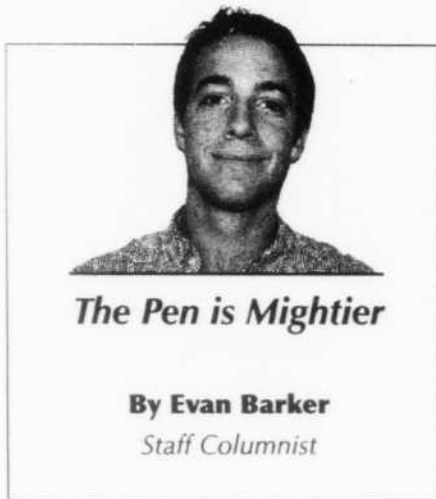
However, the mere start of a new year is not a sufficient impetus for change; MTSU will need some encouragement. The following is a handy list of New Year's resolutions that deserve to be considered, at least, before they are relegated to administrative birdcage liner, or used to housetrain Sidney McPhee's puppy.

The first New Year's resolution would be to drop the silly general education requirements that offer a disincentive to work. At MTSU, students who opt to take classes above and beyond the general requirements get elective credit, but are still required to take the lower classes. Oh, and this elective credit brings them incrementally closer to being dropped from their HOPE lottery scholarships.

For example, a student who enjoys Russian literature may decide to take classes on the subject, but will still be required to take the basic English composition and literature classes, instead of substituting harder classes. And so it goes.

At other, more prestigious state university systems, students are encouraged to challenge themselves into upper-division classes. Here, they are encouraged to do the bare minimum in order to graduate in four years, and thus help MTSU's pitiful retention statistics. There are other, sneakier reasons for this.

Anyone who has taken one of these lower-division classes in English or Mathematics has probably noticed that full professors teach only a minuscule percentage of these classes. Adjuncts or staff instructors teach the rest. The reason for this is that the full professors would rather teach graduate or doctoral students. They receive more credit hours for these classes, which contain far fewer students. They are also credited more for planning time. Ask a tenured professor, if you can find one, how many lower-division classes they teach.



Resolution number two might be more palatable to the university administration. The advising crisis is a contributing factor to the abysmal retention statistics, and we know how the TBR feels about that.

Of course, students would be apt to advise themselves if they had the tools with which to do so. RaiderNet's online degree evaluation has been unavailable literally for months, including the entire scheduling period for the current semester. Students might as well toss darts at their paper copies of the scheduling book, but they don't print the scheduling book anymore. And so it goes.

Another, more common-sense New Year's resolution for MT would be to get serious about recycling. Basically, being green is cool, unless you're a knuckle-dragging Fred Thompson wannabe. If you wish to recycle plastic bottles on campus, you can't. If you wish to recycle paper, you have to find a computer lab with a recycling bin, because the individual classrooms don't have them. If you wish to recycle glass, you throw it out.

We can debate global warming until the cows come home, but it is undeniable that perfectly recyclable trash takes up gobs of space in landfills, which is just plain wasteful. MT's contribution is massive, given that a sizable portion of Murfreesboro spends its days here, in a virtually recycling-free zone.

And so it goes.

Another, less realistic resolution would be to politely ask the TBR to stick a crowbar in its wallet, in the name of professor pay. We could tell them that the money would be for "retention purposes" so that they'd agree.

There was a time, long ago, that they'd agree. In 1969 and 1972, when Muhammad Yunus taught economics here. You may remember him as 2006's Nobel Peace Prize winner in recognition for his innovations in the banking field, to combat poverty in his native Bangladesh. Of course, it is a tremendous feather in MTSU's cap to have had him on faculty, but wouldn't it be great to get him back for a lecture series, or perhaps an honorary professorship?

Adjunct professors are paid roughly the same as the Aramark food workers, which is to say, they're not paid very well at all. Of course, given what we know about the general education requirements, this works well for the university. The decently paid, tenured professors teach a small number of upper-division classes, and the downtrodden adjuncts do the heavy lifting of the general requirements. Also, they're easily replaceable. And so it goes.

MTSU has a (probably exorbitantly expensive) billboard in Brentwood with the "I'm One!" advertising slogan. If we have the largest undergraduate enrollment in the state, it's safe to say that people know of our existence. Why not put the advertising money to better use, say, in academics? Sources say that academics are the primary reason d'etre of universities.

Chances are, the universities that will continue to ignore pleas to improve the quality of our dear university, because complacency is easy, and ignorance is bliss. However, the university would do well to consider its next steps, because we all want a good education and to get more smarterer.

Evan Barker is a senior viola performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

National security depends on knowledge of the Middle East

By Alex Johnson
Royston College

In a post-Sept. 11 song, Georgian and country music singer Alan Jackson admits he does not know the difference between Iraq and Iran.

But when it comes to Sept. 11 and the terrorist threat against the U.S., the real question is, do we know the difference between Iraq and Pakistan? Our national security depends on knowing the difference.

Pakistan is the country that is - or at least should be - the central front in our fight against terrorists because that is where al-Qaida is planning and training to attack us again. However, Iraq is the country in which 160,000 of our troops are policing a raging Sunni/Shia civil war that has little to do with the U.S.

The terrorist threat did not arise in Iraq. It arose from the al-Qaida jihadist movement which once was harbored in Afghanistan but, since U.S. involvement, has moved across its border with Pakistan. The current administration effectively has blurred the whole Middle East region by diverting U.S. attention away from the true threat.

Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader who planned the Sept. 11, 2001 that changed the world, is alive and well. Senior U.S. intelligence officials believe he is nestled in a safe haven for radical Islamic extremism, which thrives in the lawless tribal mountains of the Northwest Frontier Province along the Pakistan and Afghanistan border.

The terrorist organizations safeguarded here are responsible for attacks on America, the London bombings of 2005 and, some believe, the recent assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto - who the U.S. supported for a coalition government with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. All such terrorist attacks germinated from al-Qaida.

Pakistan purportedly has been on the U.S.' side in the war on terror, and since 2001, we have, according to Time, given \$10 billion to Pakistan to be used to fight the Taliban. However, it is disheartening to find out that most of this money has been used not to fight terror but to antagonize its eastern border rival, India - who happens to be an American ally. We apparently have not been spending our money for the war on terror wisely.

According to the most recent Economist cover story on Pakistan, aptly entitled, "The world's most dangerous place," these terrorist groups who dream of a global jihad "have gained unprecedented power during America's six-year war on terror." With our attention turned toward Iraq, our real enemies, the ones who actually have attacked us, are allowed to grow.

The Economist briefing on Pakistan reports that this lawless mountain-border region has become the central hub for Pakistani and foreign jihadist terrorists, and warlords "now control a vast and spreading swathe of territory." A large sum of money and Pakistani soldiers are ineffective substitutes in the fight against these jihadists.

Under President Musharraf, Pakistan, the world's least stable nuclear state, has gone through many transgressions of the democratic process, including martial law implementation and the suspension of habeas corpus. There also is an overwhelming suspicion that Musharraf's government did not provide adequate protection for Bhutto leading up to the election that was supposed to be held on Tuesday. The riots following her assassination left 174 banks, 22 trains and 13 electoral offices burned or destroyed.

Pakistan is in an atmosphere of utter chaos where the democratic process is stalled and political opposition is threatened, which, in addition to the fact that its government harbors both nuclear weapons and terrorists, create a terrifying equation.

The International Panel on Fissile Materials reported that Pakistan holds enough material to create approximately 60 nuclear bombs. Currently, the arsenal of fissionable material is heavily guarded by a strong, though corrupt, military. How long these weapons will be secure is anybody's guess.

The absolute worst long-term outcome in Pakistan would be for its cozy relationship with jihadists to turn into a situation in which the Taliban and al-Qaida-type terrorists gain control of its unstable government or get their hands on fissionable materials and nuclear technology. The Bush administration's failure to focus on the real threat in its war on terror has allowed our enemy to foster its next generation in an environment that is more dangerous now than ever. This ominous legacy is the greatest burden to be undertaken by the next administration.

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3	2	9	8	1	5	6
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Difficulty level: Moderate

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What's your favorite addition to Murfreesboro?

- a) The Avenue
- b) The restaurants
- c) I miss the green fields and cows

Go to mtsusidelines.com to answer

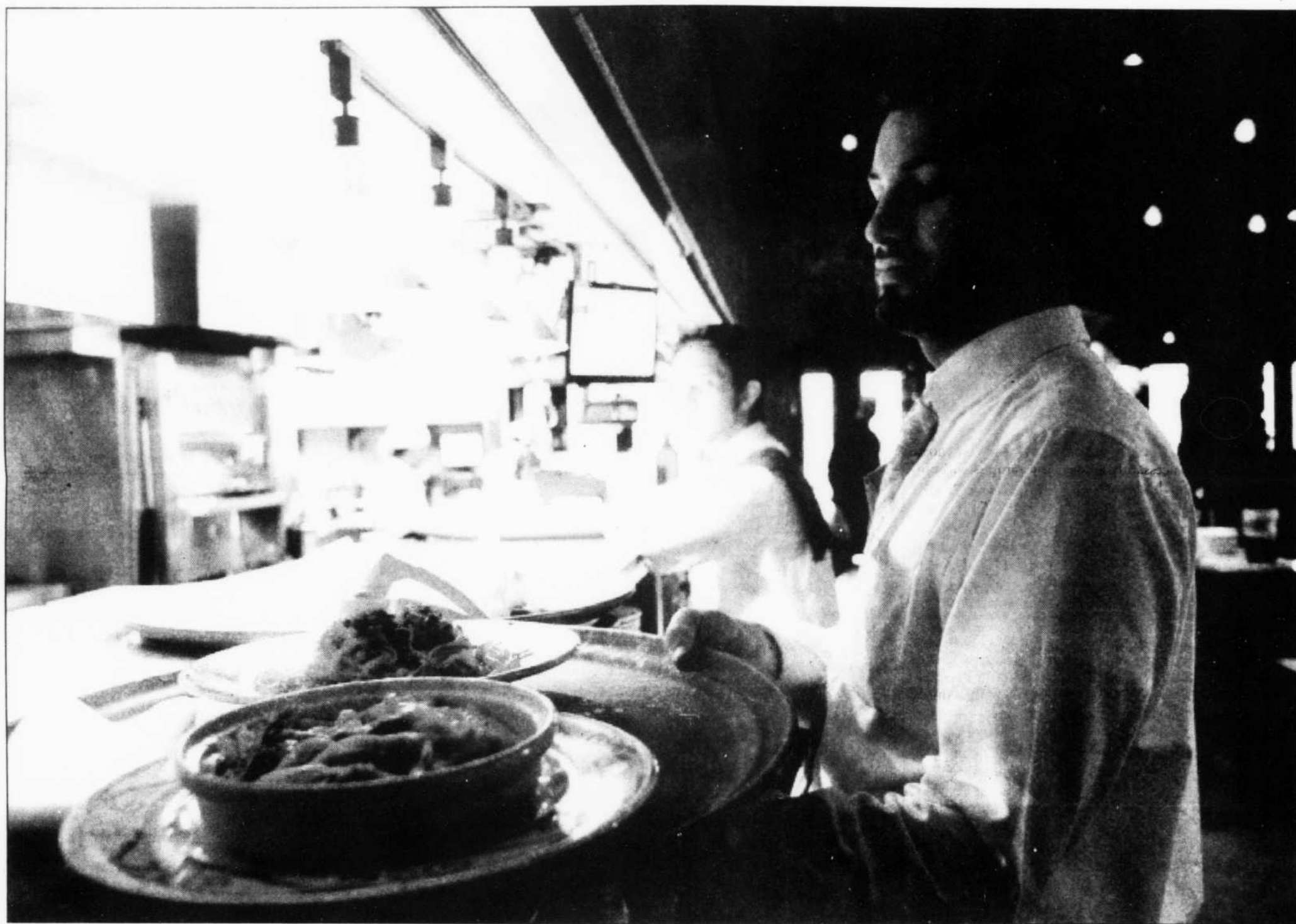
FEATURES

What's new to The 'Boro

If you've been here long enough, you can remember when Medical Center Parkway was little more than sprawling green fields and roaming cattle. You can remember when Luby's Cafeteria was one of Murfreesboro's nicest restaurants. You can remember when there was only one Wal-Mart, and it wasn't even a Super one.

One thing's for sure. Murfreesboro has come a long way.

By Sarah Lavery
Features Editor



New(ish) restaurants

Mimi's Café 2625 Medical Center Parkway (615-893-1352)

Decorated to honor the decadence of New Orleans' Beale Street, Mimi's Café boasts a highly diverse menu and a fun, comfortable atmosphere. Enjoy spiced up specials such as the Chicken Chorizo & Egg Enchiladas for breakfast or a zesty Black Bean & Chicken Chorizo Dip appetizer and a Carne Asada Entrée Salad for lunch or dinner. The restaurant's full bar serves the ABSOLUT Magnificent Mary, as well fresh squeezed margaritas and Mimi-tinis.

Macaroni Grill 2535 Medical Center Parkway (615-893-6670)

The beloved Italian chain has finally come to the 'Boro. The food is great, the bread and olive oil dip infamous, and you can draw on the table with crayons. Be prepared for huge crowds until the splendor of its newness rubs off a bit.

T.G.I. Friday's 1714 Old Fort Parkway (615-907-3086)

The new Friday's by Stones River Mall is the perfect place to go for unusual appetizers and imaginative American fare. Fried green beans, parmesan crusted quesadillas, fried mac and cheese and chimichurri sliders. Just like the crappy food you cook in your apartment with a little bit of haute cuisine added in for good measure.

Tomato Tomāto 223 W. Main St.

The owners of the more upscale Five Senses restaurant opened Tomato Tomāto in October, and gourmet pizza fans have never been happier. With toppings like cilantro, pesto, button mushrooms and white beans, this downtown restaurant—whose specialty pizzas are named after busy downtown streets like Main, Maney, Lytle, Walnut and others—stands out in the 'Boro pizza market. Tomato Tomāto is to Domino's what truffle burgers are to McDonald's.

Noppakao Thai 2943A S Rutherford Blvd (615-904-8918)

Authentic Thai cuisine like fish cakes served with a gingery mix of cucumber, onion and chili rings, all with friendly service and an immaculately clean environment (the health score is 99—always good news when visiting an unknown restaurant).

Cedar's Café 721 President Place, Smyrna (615-355-4442)

This Smyrna restaurant serves authentic Greek and Italian dishes. Pizzas, fettuccini alfredo, gyro plates and delicious chicken and beef kabobs, cheese bread, fried calamari rings, falafel, hummus with pita bread and breaded cheese ravioli. Basically, everything and anything to appease the diverse and indiscriminating stomach of a college student.

See **FEATURES**, 9

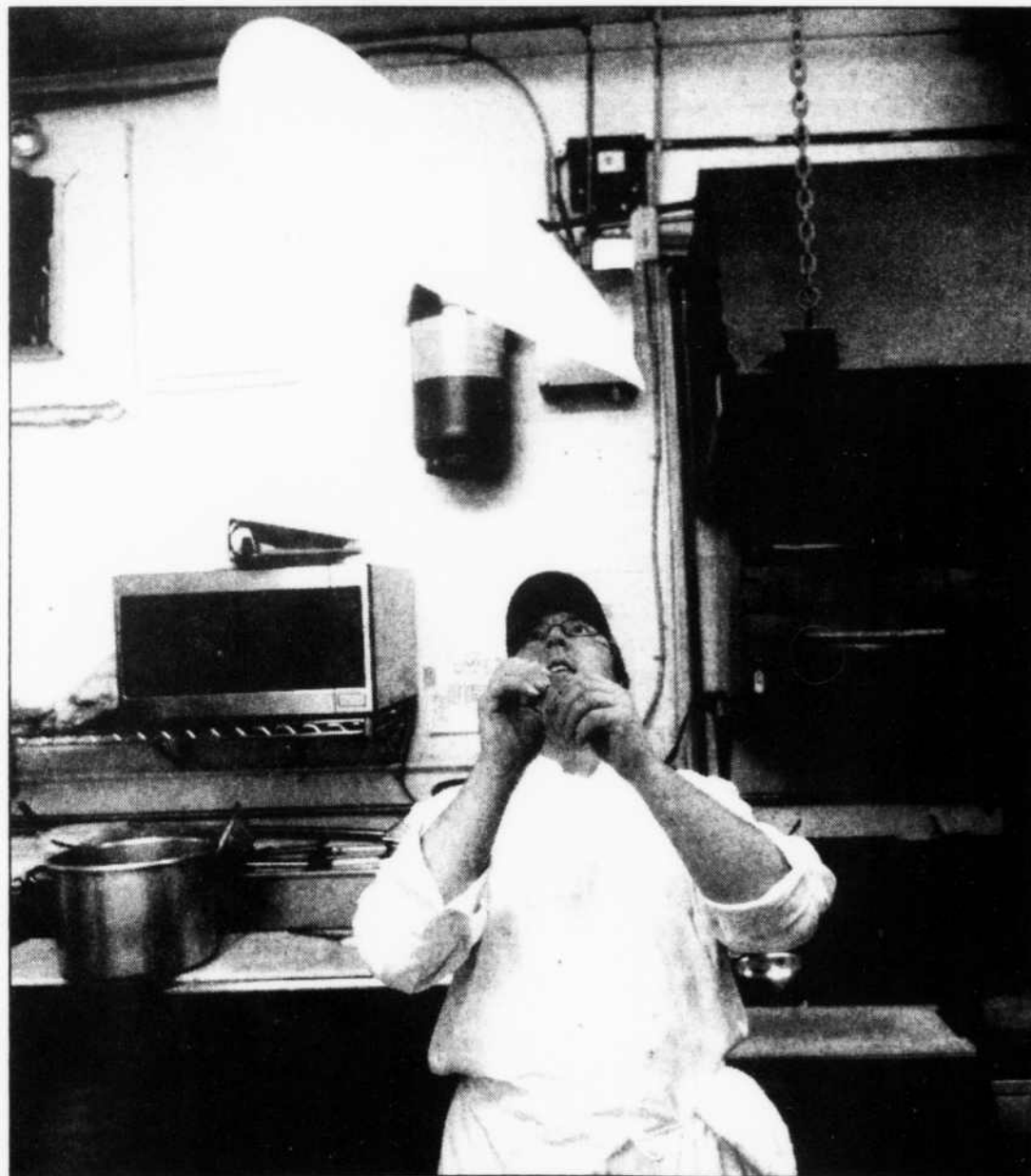


PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
(Top) Macaroni Grill server Michael DePriest serves some of the restaurant's famous dishes. The new-to-the-Avenue Italian chain has been packed to the seams since its opening.

PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Co-owner Mitchell Murphree tosses the pizza dough into the air at Tomato Tomāto, a new restaurant in Murfreesboro's square.

FEATURES: New to the 'Boro

Continued from page 8

Coming soon to the Avenue**Edible Arrangements**

Arrangements that are edible (really?) to fulfill your wildest edible-arrangement-fantasies.

Yakety Yak

Because we don't have enough individual wireless carrier stores, Yakety Yak will soon bring Murfreesboro all of its wireless needs from several different carriers.

Fulin Asian Cuisine

Slated to come to the Avenue this month, this new restaurant boasts distinctive Asian cuisine and finely prepared entrees at incredibly reasonable prices.

Hollister Co.

For all you intricately slashed and shredded denim lovers who've always made the trek to Cool Springs for your fix, breathe easy. Hollister Co. is going to join the Avenue's roster, and all of your witty t-shirts can be bought locally.

Coming soon to Stones River Mall**Forever 21**

All of you chic and cheap fashionistas out there, rejoice. The trendy superstore that is Forever 21 will soon not require a frustrating drive to Opry Mills. It's expected to join Stones River Mall during spring 2008.

Olive Garden

Unlimited breadsticks and perfectly pre-dressed salad will, in the near future, join Murfreesboro's crowded roster of Italian chain restaurants.

Pyramid's Café

What's that we hear? Stones River Mall might be creating some semblance of a food court? We won't have to eat a dozen cookies from The Cookie Store to fulfill our shopping hunger needs? Finally. ♦

Nearly Horoscopes**As decreed by Cosmic Christin***Astrology Expert***Aries**

March 21 - April 19

It's a brand new semester, and everything should go splendidly for you; that is, until you happen to trip over one of those kids that skateboard incessantly all over the campus without shirts. Three words: full body cast.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Beware your first class of the semester. You will meet someone delicious who loves you for who you are (the stars only know why). They have something contagious. Cheers.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Jupiter has decreed that you shall forever shame yourself after this semester. Which is actually a good thing if you think about it, because your life is much too sweet right now for someone with your face.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

You are rebellious. A free spirit. The fates have aligned to rain beautiful heart-shaped nice things on your face. Then you wake up, and you are yourself; miserable, hideous, socially ungraced and owing money to a large man named Sally.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Uranus had decreed that you must pay triple for your textbooks because he hates you. He just doesn't like you. It probably has something to do with all those high heels you wear around campus. Wear regular shoes like the rest of us instead of making that annoying "clacking" sound everywhere you go.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Your life is about to become some tragically cheap knockoff of *The Young and the Restless*. We definitely won't be tuning in for that one.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Prepare for some cold weather. There will be a massive snow storm coming your way. Oh, and by the way, the snow storm will only affect you, so you should cover up as much as possible. Trust me, this will keep all of us from shuddering.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

You are about to have some bad grades. I know, you're thinking, "Wait, the semester just started!" Regardless, you are about to suck it up.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Congratulations! You will not have a terrible month. Next month on the other hand... yikes.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Mercury has given you a big thumbs down for this month. Sort of like Mariah Carey in *Glitter*.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Happy Birthday, dude. Actually, strike that. The stars hope you get socks and an uncomfortable sexual present from your creepy Uncle Earl.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Beware any zoos. You don't need to be irritating the wildlife to get mauled by a tiger. Your outfit does that all by itself.



- 1/14-18 Dan in Real Life - KUC Theatre - 7:00/10:00 pm - \$2
- 1/14 Echos of Eternity, Unexpect, Sedent - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 p.m. - \$10
- 1/17 Burden of a Day, Oh Sleeper, Dead, Divine - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$8
- 1/18 Solvi, Slow Dither - Wall Street - 9:00
Hammertorch, The Turncoats, The Bohannons - The Boro - 8:00
Reason 2 Rebel, J.A.E., Mean Dinosaur, Riker Out - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
Chainsaw Booking Presents: Night of the Metalocalypse with Tony Danza
Tapdance Extravaganza, Destroy Destroy Destroy, Inferi, Dissect the Coroner, and Gorf - Rocket Town - 6:30 - \$10
- 1/19 My Beautiful Disaster, Former, Seventy Seven - Wall Street - 9:00
The Last Straw - Bluesboro - 9:00
Spice, Spellplay, and Strawberry Deluxe Disco Dance Party - The Boro - 8:00
HDWSS, Stiff and Southern Dust, Omicidia, Force Fed Broken Glass, Bleed out the Flaws - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$8
- 1/20 Showtime All Ages Hip-Hop - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
- 1/21 Furious Styles, A Crows Glory, Blood Stands Still - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
- 1/22-1/24 Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars (Movie) - KUC Theatre - 7:00/10:00 pm - FREE
- 1/22 Born of Osiris, Veil of Maya, After the Burial, Dissect the Coroner, A Promised - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
- 1/24 Vanna, My Hero is Me and Knives Exchanging Hands - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
- 1/25 Norman Ng Magic - KUC Theatre - 7:00 pm - FREE
T.H.B. - Wall Street - 9:00
Burning Las - Bluesboro - 9:00
Overzealous - The Boro - 8:00
Grim Yo Face Ent. Presents Anybody Killa, AJAX, Flagrant, Unstable, Stitch Mouth, Xplicit, Project Assassins - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10 advance, \$12 day of
- 1/26 The Royce - Wall Street - 9:00
Showgoat, 44 Vegas, 9 Ft Clearance - The Boro - 8:00
Adelaide, Anastaia - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$7
- 1/27 Rise to Fall, Monotone Sickness, Dead Level Breakdown, Before this Death, Better than Yesterday, Book of Trees - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$8
- 1/28 Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars - JUB TN Rm. - 7:00 pm - FREE
Four Letter Lie, Driver Side Impact, Blinded Black, Thief - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$8
- 1/28-2/1 Across the Universe - KUC Theatre - 7:00/10:00 pm - \$2
- 1/29 Emery - Rockettown - doors open @ 6:00, show @ 7 - \$15, ticketmaster.com
- 1/30 Downtown Brown, Hybris, Zombie Bazooka Patrol - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$8
Tiger Army, Revolution Mother, The Dear and Departed - Rockettown - doors open @ 6:00, show @ 7:00, selloutpresents.com
- 1/31 Krista Brock - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$7
- 2/1 Incredible Heat Machine, Jesco - Wall Street - 9:00
Reign Supreme, Pound for Pound, Gorilla Warfare, Kick to the Head - the Muse - 7:00-12:00 - \$10
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SPORTS

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MBB at Troy Wednesday 7:00 p.m. WGNS 1450-AM



(Top) Senior forward Amber Holt (No.1) shoots a fadeaway. Holt scored 29 points and pulled down nine rebounds.
(Bottom) Holt lines up a free throw. She was 11 of 15 from the charity stripe.

PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY-GRAPHIC EDITOR

The 'silent assassin'

Despite soft-spoken personality, Amber Holt fiercely leads Lady Raiders

By Dwayne Douglas
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders have a silent assassin in basketball player Amber Holt.

After having a junior year in which she averaged 16.9 points, 6.3 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game, the senior has now taken that performance to another level.

Last year the Lady Raiders were loaded as they had Holt and Chrissy Givens both putting up great numbers. Now that Givens plays professional, collegiate teams can concentrate playing better defense on Holt. Well, that looks to be easier said than done.

Halfway through her senior season, Holt is leading the nation in scoring as she is torching opponents for more than 26 points a night.

One may wonder how a player can be a silent assassin when she is leading the nation in scoring. However, Holt does more than score when she is on the basketball court. The deadliest part of her game consists of things that you can't see on a stat sheet. If there was a basketball number to measure a player's dedication and the size of their heart, she could possibly lead the nation in those categories as well.

She is also recognized nationally for being in the top 50 in field goal percentage and assist-to-turnover ratio. While many fans, coaches and media outlets keep track of these statistics, Holt does not follow them herself. "It does not matter. I just leave that for mom, Jo Jo [Freeman, Assistant Media Relations Director at MTSU], and others," said Holt.

Instead of worrying about individual numbers and performances, she is more focused on what the Lady Raiders are doing as a team. She said the difference in her game from last season to this season is not scoring. The difference is that she had to step up and be a leader.

Her performance on the court is just a part of her carrying out her duties as a leader. "I have to lead by example," said Holt. This visual leadership can be seen by her teammates and coaches in practice. Head Coach Rick Insell gave her the highest praise by saying,

"No one can stop Amber one-on-one."

Fans get to see her visual leadership style every time the team is playing.

Although she brings it to the court every night, some of her best games are when she is playing the top teams in the country. Last year she scored 28 points against top ranked Maryland. This season she scored a career high 41 points in front of the home crowd as they upset the then No. 8-ranked LSU Tigers. She played so well that when LSU coach Van Chancellor was asked if he would ever play at MT again, he responded by saying, "doubt it very seriously."

Holt credits her performance in those games to being focused and playing how everybody knows she can play. She said she is not intimidated by any team.

Her style is tough and fearless. She dives for loose balls and hit the floor similar to the likes of NBA players Dwyane Wade and Allen Iverson. Those are the type of plays that her teammates take notice too and that will not appear on a stat sheet for other coaches to plan against. If their star player and leader is willing to hustle like that, the other players will eventually follow suit.

To prepare her teammates for the second half of the season, Holt tells the team, "don't be scared, play the way we play, and... lift weights."

She says the hardest part of being the leader is becoming vocal, as she has always been a soft-spoken person.

Her favorite quote is, "The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack." If this quote holds true, the Lady Raiders may be headed to the NCAA tournament once more before their unquestionable leader, the silent assassin, packs her game up and take it to the next level.

Firing Davis is not the answer

The Lowdown

By Richard Lowe
Sports Editor

Tasting success can bring emotions we are not accustomed to. This is why when you first deal with death, you tend to be confused and when you enter into a new relationship, you are extremely happy. Many expected great things when Sidney McPhee hired Chris Massaro to replace Boots Donnelly as the athletic director of Middle Tennessee.

What wasn't anticipated was the fact that many people are beginning to turn on those that we cheered for before Massaro arrived in Murfreesboro.

Andy McCollum was seen as a polarizing figure, even though the majority of people on campus never came in contact with him. Those that did interact with McCollum said that he was a fun loving guy that enjoyed his job, but was given difficult circumstances to succeed. This is why when he was fired on that Sunday evening in November 2005, there were mixed feelings in the Blue Raider community. In the end, the arrival of Rick Stockstill signaled a time for change for the Blue Raider football program.

For some strange reason, I have heard rumblings from certain students and alumni that the same type of change should be made within the men's basketball program. Somehow, a combined 88-76 record is not good enough to maintain a coaching job at Middle Tennessee.

Kermit Davis, in name alone, brought credibility into a program that was in desperate need of some. He has been successful at all programs he has coached and has continued his success here as a Blue Raider. He is third in all-time career wins at Middle Tennessee, behind Jimmy Earle and Bruce Stewart respectively. Besides Bruce Stewart, Davis is the only coach in MT history to start his career with four straight winning seasons.

In fact, Coach Davis just suffered his first losing season at MT last season. At 15-17, Davis' team dealt with the loss of second team all-conference guard Adam Vogelsberg. Without Vogelsberg, then-sophomore Kevin Kanaskie was forced into the leadership role less than a week from facing off against No. 24-ranked University of Tennessee. Even though it was difficult to watch the growing process at times, you had no choice but to admit that without Vogelsberg, it would be a long season.

At the end of last season, signs of promise were shown when the young MT squad upset the number one seed in the conference tournament, the University of South Alabama. This came MT defeated Troy on the road to earn the right to play in the event.

Attendance in the Murphy Center has risen almost every year since he has arrived, even though lately the marquee games (home and away) involving the men's basketball program tends to be away from the "Glass House." It is hard to build a fan base when your home crowd can rarely see their team at home. Contrary to popular belief, it is asking a lot for a student to leave Murfreesboro to watch basketball games in Clarksville, Knoxville and Memphis.

So far, Middle Tennessee is 3-2 in the conference, with their only losses being against the top two teams in the Sun Belt for the last two years. I am not excusing

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LOWEDOWN: Firing Davis is not the answer

Continued from page 10

losses but understand the situation at hand. We are putting pressure on kids to grow up the moment they put on a Blue Raider uniform. We have started to blame the coach for behavior problems of the players instead of holding the players accountable for their own actions. Believe it or not,

every coach on staff at MT acts the same way. They have high expectations for the recruits they invite to this campus. The fans should as well.

The only coach to be fired in the Chris Massaro era was McCollum, and that was because he coached his team to four straight

losing seasons, earned the lowest APR in division 1-A college football, and could not defeat the University of North Texas. Davis has done the opposite, including victories over Western Kentucky, and yet there are fans that still want the quick fix.

Kentucky tops No. 13 Vanderbilt in 79-73 double-overtime win

By Antonio Gonzalez
AP Writer

Unlike the start of his tenure at Kentucky, coach Billy Gillispie more than met expectations in his Southeastern Conference debut.

Freshman Patrick Patterson had 23 points and 12 rebounds to lift the Wildcats to a 79-73 double-overtime win over No. 13 Vanderbilt on Saturday, stealing back some of the luster missing from the historic program during Gillispie's rocky start.

"There's a lot of basketball left," Gillispie said. "Not one time have I heard anyone make an excuse for them and not one time have I heard them make an excuse."

Ramel Bradley added 20 points, and Joe Crawford had 17 for Kentucky (7-7, 1-0), which gave Gillispie his first win against a ranked opponent this season.

But the Wildcats weren't spectacular.

They allowed Vanderbilt (16-1, 1-1) to crawl back from 16-point second half deficit, then blew an overtime lead before mounting a comeback.

But the hustle and effort that Gillispie has chastised his team for not having returned, and finally the Wildcats have a win they hope can spark their season.

"When you win a game like that it says a lot about the toughness of your team," Gillispie said. "They didn't give up and we wouldn't give up either. That's what made me most proud."

Shan Foster had 20 points for Vanderbilt, which started the day as one of five unbeaten teams in Division I A.J. Ogilvy struggled early for the Commodores, but ended with 16 points and five rebounds.

Still, Ogilvy admitted the 23,965 fans at Rupp Arena — the largest crowd he's played in front of with Vanderbilt — had him rattled.

"I think we got taken out of our game a little bit at the start," Ogilvy said. "We just tried to recover, but never could."

Bradley's jumper in the second overtime put Kentucky ahead 77-73, clinching the first win over a ranked opponent this season.

For a team that had seemed to lose confidence under Gillispie, Kentucky got a much needed boost that comes with an exhausting win over a ranked SEC East opponent.

Other games this season weren't as telling.

Kentucky was shocked with a 16-point home loss to Gardner-Webb in Gillispie's second game and the poor showings snowballed. The Wildcats lost to top-ranked North Carolina and were routed at No. 11 Indiana. They lost at home to unheralded San Diego. They

were beaten by instate rival Louisville.

They didn't show any affects of all that against Vanderbilt, playing with the passion of the Kentucky team's of old.

"We wanted this one, we needed this one and we got this one," Bradley said. "There's a whole new season ahead, and now we need to go out and keeping getting more wins."

Ogilvy's putback with 1.8 seconds left in the first overtime tied it at 72, sending a once blowout game into a second overtime.

After Vanderbilt took a 69-68 lead in the first overtime on a layup by Alan Metcalfe, Bradley answered with a layup for Kentucky. Patterson would the put the Wildcats ahead 72-69 on a tip-in, pumping his fist in a premature celebration.

"This is why I came to Kentucky," Patterson said. "I knew we could win games like this — Kentucky is supposed to win games like this."

Foster hit a 3-pointer with 14 seconds left in regulation that tied the game at 65, one possession after the Commodores forced Crawford into a turnover.

But it was the slow start that Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings said led to the loss.

Derrick Jasper hit two 3-pointers to cap a 10-0 run that gave the Wildcats a 23-10 lead with 9:36 to play in the opening half.

Kentucky then built a 46-30 with 15 minutes to play in regulation, and collapsed with the kind of blunders that have come to typify this year's Wildcats.

"They came out ready to play and I thought we really did all we could the first 10 minutes of the game to accommodate them," Stallings said. "I thought our team fought extremely hard after the first 10 minutes."

Vanderbilt tried to creep back, but Foster and Ogilvy couldn't get free from Kentucky's smothering defense, which held them to a season-low five points at halftime.

On one of the few occasions this season, Gillispie said he liked his team's effort and that's what led to the sudden turnaround.

"I think our guys are a little tougher than they're given credit for," Gillispie said. "They just showed what they can do when they're pushed to the brink."

Clemens not committing to deposition with House committee

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens' lawyer wouldn't commit Sunday to having the pitcher give a deposition to congressional investigators, even as he said the seven-time Cy Young Award winner remains willing to testify in open session before a House committee investigating denials that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, was likely to meet this week with staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has asked him to testify Feb. 13 along with his accuser, former trainer Brian McNamee. The committee wants to take depositions from the pair along with Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte, former Yankee Chuck Knoblauch and Kirk Radomski, the former Mets clubhouse attendant who has admitted supplying players with steroids and human growth hormone.

Hardin wouldn't directly answer questions about a deposition.

"There has been absolutely no change in Roger's willingness and indeed desire to testify under oath before Congress in a public hearing at a date of the Oversight Committee's choosing," Hardin said in a statement. "Any suggestion that he or we are having any second thoughts about that is absolutely false. All other pre-appearance issues and scheduling we will discuss privately with the committee and do not think it is appropriate to discuss those matters publicly."

McNamee told baseball drugs investigator

George Mitchell that he injected Clemens with steroids and HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001, allegations the pitcher denies.

ESPN.com, citing an unidentified individual familiar with the inquiry, reported Hardin is hedging on whether Clemens will give a deposition because it could interfere with the defamation suit Clemens filed against McNamee on Jan. 6. The individual also said Hardin might not give the committee the recording of a Dec. 12 interview involving McNamee and Clemens' investigators.

"This backtracking by Hardin is indicative of him getting cold feet. Roger will never testify," said Richard Emery, one of McNamee's lawyers. "Now we're seeing his true colors being revealed, that he's refusing to go before Congress and do that by trying to put it off."

A deposition allows staff lawyers for the committee time to push witnesses on points in ways congressmen often don't. Any inconsistencies the deposition and later testimony during a hearing could be exposed.

"He has no choice in the matter if he's subpoenaed," Emery said. "It's just a question of whether the congressional investigators will be subpoena him. If they don't, they'd be crazy. The whole point is to investigate in advance of the hearing so it isn't a circus."

McNamee's lawyers keep hinting there is additional evidence to back his account but won't go into details.

"We've always said there will be clear corroboration," Emery said. "Clear corroboration exists. And I won't say anything more."

In the opener of Congress' baseball/steroids doubleheader, commissioner Bud Selig, union head Donald Fehr and Mitchell are to testify before the committee on Tuesday. Mitchell has refused to release most of the evidence supporting his report, saying that decision was up to Major League Baseball and others who supplied evidence to him.

A former Senate majority leader and current Boston Red Sox director, Mitchell made 20 recommendations in his Dec. 13 report. Selig has adopted many but others are subject to collective bargaining, such as Mitchell's call for drug testing to be moved to an independent body.

Players have complained that Mitchell had no standard of evidence for what he printed in the report. Clemens angrily was upset that he has been presumed guilty.

Fehr said the issue goes beyond that.

"Once the report issues, there's going to be a natural tendency for people to treat it as accurate merely because it issued and that is without any sort of the normal process you would have," Fehr said. "The whole premise of drug-testing is that you are presumed guilty unless you are proved innocent, and that is fairly inconsistent with normal modes of jurisprudence, but that's what we have."

Predators lose shootout in Columbus

By The Associated Press

Blue Jackets coach Ken Hitchcock had a lot of reasons to be pleased with this one.

Nikolai Zherdev scored the lone shootout goal and set up the tying goal in regulation to help Columbus end a 12-game losing streak against the Nashville Predators with a 2-1 victory Saturday night.

Pascal Leclaire stopped all three shooters in the tiebreaker and made 26 saves in regulation and overtime for the Blue Jackets, who picked up their first win over the Predators since April 3, 2006.

"In the games against Nashville, we've always been the first team to crack," Hitchcock said. "We stayed with it and that's what I was happiest about."

Trailing in the third period, it once again was Zherdev who played the catalyst role. He scored twice in the third to help Columbus beat St. Louis 6-4 on Friday night.

"Right now, this is a lot of games in a row where he's stepped up and made good account of himself when we've need him the most," Hitchcock said of the 23-year old Russian.

Leclaire stopped Alexander Radulov, Martin Erat and J.P. Dumont in the tiebreaker.

"It's a pretty good feeling," Leclaire said of the win. "It doesn't really matter who it was, we need those points right now."

Chris Mason finished with 28 saves, not including stops on Michael Peca and Rick Nash in the shootout.

"The more times you play, sooner or later (it was going to happen)," Nashville coach Barry Trotz said of the loss. "Both teams played really well, played a real solid game. We had one turnover and they capitalized on it."

Rostislav Klesla pulled Columbus even at 10:45 of the third period with a snap shot from the slot. Zherdev set up the goal with a smooth dish after a giveaway by Dan Hamhuis in his own zone.

"He (Zherdev) made a good forecheck," Klesla said. "I was kind of following the play, hoping the puck would get passed."

Radulov scored for Nashville, which entered with seven wins in 10 games.

Radulov took a feed from Dumont and fired a shot over Leclaire at the 18:35 mark of the second period. Zherdev just missed from close range moments earlier and Nashville countered the other way.

The Blue Jackets have won a franchise-record five straight at home.

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Undermanned Chargers stun Colts 28-24

By Barry Wilner

AP Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Gone — Peyton Manning, Marvin Harrison, Adam Vinatieri and the rest of the Colts.

By stunning Indianapolis, the San Diego Chargers just knocked off New England's biggest road block to the Super Bowl.

Now San Diego must avoid a repeat of its last performance at New England.

That will be especially difficult without an injured LaDainian Tomlinson, who departed in the first half with a bruised left knee, and starting quarterback Philip Rivers, who went out in the third quarter with a damaged right knee in the Chargers' stunning 28-24 victory Sunday.

With Billy Volek at quarterback and Michael Turner as the main runner, San Diego went 78 yards on eight plays, with Volek sneaking in from the 1 with 4:50 remaining for the lead. The Chargers' big-play defense then held on downs at its 7, and stopped Indy again in the final moments to preserve their eighth straight win.

To make it nine in a row and advance to their second Super Bowl — the other was a loss to San Francisco after the 1994 season — the Chargers will need all the resourcefulness they showed at Indianapolis. Being undermanned against undefeated New England hardly is an enticing prospect.

Still, with All-Pro cornerback Antonio Cromartie getting an interception and fumble recovery, and linebackers Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips plaguing Manning, the Chargers showed they have the ability to throw off any offense. Maybe even the most prolific attack in NFL history.

The Chargers didn't come close against the Patriots in Week 2, falling 38-14. That was the beginning of a slide to 5-5 for San Diego, but the Chargers (13-5) are rolling now.

"A lot's happened since then," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We'll definitely start all over on the preparations. It's like it's a new team."

It was a gutsy showing by Rivers, who threw for three scores — he banged his right knee on a 56-yard screen pass TD by Darren Sproles to start the third quarter. And Turner, who could be a starter elsewhere but usually sits behind league rushing leader Tomlinson, gave the offense the balance it desperately needed in the late stages of the upset, rushing for 71 yards.

The Chargers' opportunistic defense, which led the league in takeaways (48) and turnover margin (plus-24), grabbed two interceptions — both on tipped balls — and a fumble. While San Diego couldn't stop Manning's offense from steadily marching downfield most of the game, it could make the key plays that get you closer to the Super Bowl.

Still, if Tomlinson is limited or sidelined, how much chance do the Chargers have against the perfect Patriots? Not to mention perhaps missing Rivers or tight end Antonio Gates, who courageously played much of the day on a

dislocated toe.

For the Colts (13-4), it was a bitterly quick elimination from the postseason.

A year ago, they won three playoff games, then beat Chicago in the Super Bowl. They couldn't recapture their touch on offense or defense this time, and a defense that allowed the fewest points during the season wore down against the equally physical Chargers.

Still, the Colts went in front 24-21 when Gonzalez slipped past Marlon McCree down the left sideline to complete a 55-yard scoring play with 10:07 to go. Chargers coach Norv Turner challenged that Gonzalez stepped out of bounds at about the 25, but the play stood.

So San Diego's backups then won it, helped by a 27-yard screen pass to rookie Legedu Naanee and a 15-yard face-mask penalty against Indianapolis cornerback Marlin Jackson.

Manning did throw for 402 yards, completing 33 of his 48 throws, but both interceptions killed deep scoring threats.

Rivers was 14-of-19 for 264 yards, and Volek went 3-of-4 for 48 yards in his clutch relief role. Vincent Jackson became Rivers' top target with Gates struggling, and had seven catches for 93 yards and a score.

Indianapolis lost only six fumbles all season, but Harrison, who hadn't been hit in almost three months while sidelined by a knee injury, was stripped on his first reception by Cromartie. McCree recovered at the San Diego 22, stymying a lengthy drive begun with Kelvin Hayden's interception.

San Diego capitalized with a 78-yard march, including three third-down conversions. Jackson beat double-coverage to the corner of the end zone for his 14-yard score on third down, making it 7-7.

Indy went on top 10-7 on Vinatieri's season-best 47-yard field goal, then the Chargers, now minus L.T., got to the Colts 31 behind Turner, who gained 25 yards on the march. But Nate Kaeding's 48-yard field goal try bounced off the right upright.

In the final seconds of the half, Manning's fourth incompleteness in 22 throws, a deflection by Wayne on a high pass, was picked off by Cromartie, the league leader in interceptions. He got several blocks, including one on Manning, in running it back to the end zone, but a block by Eric Weddle was ruled holding, negating the long touchdown.

Norv Turner was livid at the call, berating the officials after what appeared a simple legal push by Weddle, who also had the other San Diego interception.

Rivers found Chris Chambers with a 30-yard TD pass to open the second half, and the Colts came back on Wayne's 9-yard sideline reception on which he dived to the pylon. Initially ruled out-of-bounds, Wayne was given the touchdown after the Colts challenged.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Davis, Insell Live moved to "Coach's"

Coach's Grill is the new home for the Kermit Davis Live and Rick Insell Live weekly radio shows, Nelligan Sports Marketing announced Friday.

The Kermit Davis Live call-in show will debut at Coach's Grill Monday from 7 to 8 p.m., and the Rick Insell show will take place there Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m., instead of its usual Monday slot, due to the women's Sun Belt contest at Arkansas State.

After this week, all basketball call-in shows will take place on Monday evenings at Coach's Grill with the Rick Insell show running from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the Kermit Davis show from 7 to 8 p.m. The only exception will be early February, when Davis' show will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5, instead of Monday, due to the Blue Raiders playing at Arkansas State on Feb. 4.

Coach's Grill is located at 127 S.E. Broad St. and offers numerous flat-screen televisions, food, drinks, pool tables and other games, as well as arcade games for the children. Children always eat free at Coach's Grill.

"We feel this exciting new sponsor offers a great location and should be an excellent fit," said Jon Kuka, director of sales for Nelligan Sports Marketing. "We are looking forward to our relationship with Coach's Grill after having a very good relationship with Bluesboro."

The Rick Insell Live show can be heard on 89.5 FM WMOT and 1450 AM WGNS, while the Kermit Davis Live show is carried on the ESPN affiliate 106.7 FM "The Fan" as well as 1450 AM WGNS, 100.5 FM, and 101.9 FM.

The number to call with questions or comments for Coach Davis is 866-RAIDERS.

"Rowdy Raiders" begin rewards program

Every Rowdy Raider that comes to a Blue Raider men's or women's home basketball game will earn points towards end of the season prizes. Every time a fan comes to a home game, make sure he checks in at the Rowdy Raider table, located next to the student entrances at Doors E6 and E5. In order to earn reward points, one must check in prior to tip-off. When signing in, one point will be added. Once five points have been earned a Blue Raider car flag will be awarded, once 10 points have been earned a Blue Raider t-shirt will be awarded, and once 15 points have been earned, bigger and better Blue Raider apparel will be awarded. After earning 10 points, one's name will be entered into a drawing for two round trip airline tickets to

anywhere around the country. That will be given at the March 1 men's game vs. Troy at 7 p.m. One must be in attendance to win. For more information, contact Nikki Loos Peterson at nloos@mtsu.edu.

Nambawa wins triple jump; Indoor track team excels at UK

Sarah Nambawa won the triple jump with an NCAA provisional mark, Greg Franklin finished third in the 200-meter and Festus Chemaoui was third in the 3000-meter, leading Middle Tennessee's track and field teams over the weekend at the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky.

Nambawa posted a personal-best mark of 43-1.75 in winning the triple jump Friday night at Nutter Fieldhouse on the University of Kentucky campus. The sophomore also finished seventh in the long jump with a mark of 18-1 and was seventh in the 400-meters in 56.67.

Franklin, a transfer from Pratt Community College in Kansas, placed third in the 200 in 21.82 and was fifth in the 400 in 49.05.

Chemaoui finished third in the 3000 in 8:30.61, while sophomore William Songock placed fifth in the mile run in 4:19.22.

Sophomores McLyn Thompson and Brittany Cox had good performances in the shot put, placing fourth and sixth, respectively, with marks of 47-11.25 and 47-3.75. Cox also finished eighth in the weight throw with a mark of 52-8.

In the sprints for the men, newcomer DeRay Sloss ran 8.27 in the 60-meter hurdle prelims and placed seventh in the finals with a time of 8.24. Carl Morgan was eighth in the 400 in 49.78.

"Sarah had a great jump Friday night in the triple jump and missed the board all together, so she'll jump even further," Head Coach Dean Hayes said. "Greg did a nice job in the 200 and Festus had a good race as well. It was a good meet, something to get back in the swing of things and we got some good performances."

Middle Tennessee will host the Blue Raider Invitational next Saturday at Murphy Center.

Pack the House Challenge coming to Murphy Center

On Feb. 17, MTSU's women's basketball team will be participating in the NCAA/Sun Belt "Pack the House Challenge." We will be competing against each school in our conference to see who can "Pack the House." Friends and family are encouraged to come out and support the Blue Raiders on Feb. 17 in order to win the "Pack the House Challenge."

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Cowboys crumble in playoffs again; Giants head to Green Bay

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tony Romo can go wherever he wants with Jessica Simpson now. Eli Manning and the New York Giants knocked him and the Dallas Cowboys into the offseason Sunday.

Having to wait out long, slow drives by Dallas, Manning made his few chances count, throwing two touchdown passes to Amani Toomer and getting a 1-yard touchdown run from Brandon Jacobs for a 21-17 victory that put New York into the NFC championship game for the first time since the 2000 season.

Cornerback R.W. McQuarters intercepted a pass into the end zone with 9 seconds left, ending the Cowboys' final drive and marking Romo's second straight last-minute goof to cost Dallas a playoff game. His flubbed hold of a short field goal in Seattle ended the Cowboys' season last year.

Manning is heading to his first NFC championship game, at Green Bay next Sunday. Manning had a much better day than his brother, Peyton, whose Indianapolis Colts were stunned by the San Diego Chargers.

Dallas' failure is huge, much bigger than last season's flop in Seattle when Romo botched the hold on a go-ahead field goal in

the final minutes.

The Cowboys just wasted a 13-3 season, which matched the best in team history. They're the first No. 1 seed in the NFC to lose in this round since the NFL went to the 12-team playoff format in 1990. They also became the seventh team to lose a playoff game against a team they'd beaten twice in the regular season — joining Dallas' 1998 club.

Worst of all is the extension of all the skids: Romo now 0-2 in the playoffs, coach Wade Phillips 0-4 and the team 0-for-the-postseason since winning a wild-card game in 1996. The Cowboys have dropped five games since then.

The Cowboys might be headed into a stormy offseason. Team owner Jerry Jones said Thursday he would keep Phillips regardless of what happened in the playoffs. Now that will be tested, especially with highly valued assistant coaches Jason Garrett and Tony Sparano interviewing for jobs elsewhere.

Critics may point to Romo's trip to Mexico last weekend with his latest celebrity girlfriend as a disruption, but the problems went a lot deeper. There were all kinds of penalties that hurt Dallas drives and helped

New York's, sloppy tackling on defense and special teams, dropped passes and wasted timeouts.

The Giants loved every bit of it.

New York gave up 45 and 31 points in the first two meetings, in part because the defensive front that produced an NFL-best 53 sacks went hard after Romo but missed and wound up allowing big plays. This time, the Giants were content to give up short yardage, and the Cowboys accepted the invitation.

Their first three scoring drives took nine, 20 and 14 plays, burning a total of 23:32 off the clock. Dallas converted eight straight third downs in that stretch, yet came away leading only 17-14 midway through the second quarter.

Toomer turned a short pass into a 52-yard touchdown on the game-opening drive, breaking free from two tackles and running away from everyone else. New York hardly had the ball the rest of the first half, but got it back at its 29 with 47 seconds left and Manning turned it into another touchdown to Toomer, a 4-yarder on a drive helped along by a 15-yard face mask penalty.

BCS gets it right for once



Outside the Pocket

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

Purple and gold confetti rained down from the top of the Superdome as Louisiana State University quarterback Matt Flynn hoisted up the BCS National Championship trophy after his Tigers put a 38-24 schooling on Ohio State to become the champions of college football.

But for some reason people have been questioning LSU's claim to the championship. Why? The Bowl Championship Series of course. Now, everybody's heard all the problems with the BCS and how so many times it doesn't crown the true kings of the gridiron, but for once, the debate for who should be the true national champions does not have much credence.

Since there is no playoff, everyone wants to say that their team should be the national champion, and after this season's parity-laden outcome, everyone thinks they have a good argument.

That does not mean everyone has a good argument.

Coming into the title game, there were only three teams with one loss or fewer: Kansas, Hawaii and Ohio State. All three of these teams built their records on a cupcake schedule. Of the two loss teams, Georgia didn't win its conference. USC lost to heavy underdog Stanford as well as Oregon State. Oklahoma lost to a Colorado team that only won six games. And so on.

It may be painful to hear, but this season the BCS got it right. You can argue that LSU and Ohio State didn't even deserve to play in the championship game but if they were excluded Buckeye and Tiger fans would be phoning in on talk radio staking their claim to play for the title. Just like USC fans. And Kansas fans. And Georgia fans, ad nauseum.

Of course, a playoff would be a better solution, but it is going to materialize as slowly as Washington legislation handled by the most meticulous bureaucracy. First, the NCAA gave us the BCS, which was supposed to eliminate multiple teams having stakes in the title. Next it looks as though the NCAA is going to implement a "plus one" game that will add another game after the bowls are played. Then people will complain, as they do now, that the top two teams didn't make it to the championship game.

Then there will be a four, six or eight team playoff. However, sports fans are too shrewd to let an opportunity to tell the nation how their team isn't getting enough respect. Those not in the playoff will say how their team deserves to be in the bracket over Team X. Those in the playoff will gripe about how unfair their seeding is and how there is a [insert geographical region or conference affiliation here] bias.

The biggest hindrance to a playoff in college football is the very physical nature of the sport. The size of the tournament would have to be limited to a small amount of teams because it is unrealistic to expect teams to play 12 regular season games on top of four to six postseason games.

As a result of this limitation, there will be more controversy surrounding smaller conference teams. With 65 tourney bids in basketball, every conference can be represented. However, with 11 conferences as well as independent teams, it would be very difficult to include a team from each conference. Also, good teams that finished second in their conference (i.e. Georgia) would be difficult to include if the WAC's and the MAC's are getting into the playoff.

While we sit here and dream of a playoff in the future there really is only one thing to do—look shamefully down at our feet and realize that the LSU Tigers deserve to be national champions.

Diary of Chrissy Givens

Chrissy Givens played basketball at Middle Tennessee from 2004-07. She is ranked fifth in career points (1,915), first in points in a single season (768), tied for third in scoring average (22.6 points/game), third in career steals (290), and third in career assists (436) among others. After last season, she was drafted by the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury but was eventually released from the team before the season began. Currently she is playing professional basketball in Turkey. She will occasionally write *Sidelines* to inform the readers of her experiences. This is her second installment.

We have had some ups and downs for the first half of the season. We have won big games and lost games that we had no business losing. I am doing well. I made the All-Star team and I get to play with Cappie Poindexter (formerly from Rutgers) so I am extremely excited. I have traveled to Russia, Serbia, and Israel. I have seen some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. This is turning out to be a really good experience. We are 6th in the league as of now after the first half. We start the second half on January 20th. We should be in the top 3 this time around. It is so funny because my coach and Rick Insell need to meet. It's like I'm still playing for Rick. I absolutely love it. I don't get to do much traveling around Turkey because we practice two times a day and have meetings all the time. It's worth it, however, because in the end it will all pay off. We just beat Dynamo, the number 1 team in Eurocup, so that was really big for our standings in the Eurocup League. It's cold over here and I was under the weather a little bit but I have adjusted and I'm wearing more clothes now (LOL). We will travel to the coldest place in the world on January 16th to the play Dynamo again for Round 2. I'm looking forward to the game but not the cold (LOL). Well basketball is pretty much all I have time to do so I don't have any great stories to tell (LOL). I will let you know how we do against the Russian team. If we win we will be number 1 in Eurocup. Yay!

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Blue Raiders pick up third straight SBC home win

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

An improved defense helped Middle Tennessee continue its in-conference home winning streak in a 61-57 win over Florida Atlantic on Wednesday.

Over their last seven games, MT has held opponents to just 64.3 points per game compared to the 78.4 it was allowing over the first seven. Last season, the Blue Raiders led the Sun Belt Conference in opponent scoring.

"I believe our last three practices have been the best of the season, maybe the best since I've been here," junior guard Kevin Kanaskie said. "The focus was there and it paid off in this game. We played solid defense and our team chemistry continues to improve."

Desmond Yates led MT in points and rebounds with 14 and seven, respectively. Two Blue Raider newcomers also contributed in the win. Junior transfer Demetrius Green gave MT 11 points, five rebounds and three assists. Freshman Josh Sain had 10 points to go along with four boards.

The Owls (4-12, 0-5 SBC) were led by junior forward Carlos Monroe and senior forward Jeff Parmer. Monroe, FAU's leading scorer and rebounder, scored 15 points and pulled down nine rebounds while Parmer had 16 points and eight rebounds.

"Give Florida Atlantic a lot of credit," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I thought they played with a real purpose defensively. They got [Paul] Graham back and he's starting to get back into playing shape. They moved Parmer to the four and I thought that makes them a lot better because he can really shoot it and that stretches your defense."

"I was proud of our team. We had a chance right there to maybe blow it out a little in the first half and we kind of got stalemated offensively. I give Florida Atlantic a lot of credit for that."

The game was a sloppy affair as both teams combined to commit 43 fouls and shoot 42 free throws.

"A win is a win and none of them are ugly," Green said.

MT continued to have problems rebounding the ball. FAU outrebounded MT 38-32. The Blue Raiders have been outrebounded in eight of their fifteen games. Also they have been beaten on the boards in six of their nine losses.

So far this season, the Blue Raiders are undefeated when playing a conference foe in the Murphy Center. MT's two conference losses have come at the hands of last season's SBC regular season champion South Alabama and preseason favorite Western Kentucky. They are the top two teams in the East Division as of press time.

The Blue Raiders head into next week's game at Troy (8-7, 1-3 SBC) riding its first winning streak of the season and will look to extend it to three. The Trojans are looking to bounce back from a 74-49 road loss to Florida International.

The game will take place at Trojan Arena and is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.



Redshirt Sophomore Desmond Yates (31) gets a shot off in between four FAU players. Yates finished the game with a team-best 14 points and seven rebounds.

PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

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Holt, freshmen lead Lady Raiders over FAU Owls

By Dwayne Douglas

Staff Writer

MT fans had an opportunity to see the present and also get a glimpse of its future on Thursday.

Senior Amber Holt's 29 point, nine rebound performance was what MT fans expected and hoped to see. She led the team in points, free throws made and attempted, assists, steals and minutes in the Blue Raiders' 79-63 win over the Florida Atlantic Owls. Like many other teams, FAU did not have an answer to stop or even slow down Holt.

In addition to the good game played by Holt in which she had a career high of eight steals, MT fans were given a bonus with the performance of two freshmen. Emily Queen and Anne Marie Lanning both had their best collegiate game to date.

Queen had nine rebounds in the second half to give her a total of 15 for the game. She also finished with 14 points and received a standing ovation after fouling out of the game.

Lanning, who played her high school ball in Murfreesboro, came out and played the way local basketball fans knew she could. After scoring one point in the first half, she finished the game with 12.

The game was a tale of two halves for the Lady Raiders.

MT players started the game shooting like it would be a challenge to throw a golf ball in the Amazon. The team shot only 29 percent in the first half while FAU completed 39 percent of its shots.

The tempo started pretty fast with both teams getting up and down the court in a matter of seconds. However, the running was all for exercise as few baskets were being made by either team.

The Lady Raiders usually have fans on their feet cheering and yelling in excitement. This was a night when the most excitement was being provided by the FAU players. FAU's Carla Stubbs was the most exciting and energetic player on the court. She made several hustle plays and lead her team in scoring at the half. Her teammate, Mercedes Thompson, was also impressive in the first half. Thompson pulled down eleven rebounds in fifteen minutes of play.

Queen led the Lady Raiders in shot attempts by throwing up ten shots. But only two of those shots made their way through the nets. "Personally, the shots I was missing were right under the basket and that's just a lack of concentration on my part. That's something I can fix. It's something that shouldn't have happened," said Queen.

After twenty minutes of play, some fans may not have been entertained as FAU was leading MT 36-29. Only a few players from either team looked to have come to play.

Coach Insell knew why his team was trailing at the half. "We were not playing our game. Everybody was taking their turn shooting the ball. That's not what we're about. We had some people open and we didn't get them the ball," said Insell.

Some adjustments were needed from both teams. And it looked like those adjustments were made. Both teams played well in the second half.

FAU came out and scored very quickly. MT tried to respond and cut the lead, but a basket was taken by Starr Orr was called for a charge. The Lady Raiders and their fans did not take the foul too well. MT slowly played catch up before taking the lead and running away with it.

The most effective second half adjustments were made by the Lady Raiders. They only allowed FAU's Thompson to grab one rebound. The second half queen of rebounds was not an FAU player, but Queen for the Lady Raiders. The freshman showed some of the skills that she displayed as a senior in high school in which the Lexington Herald-Leader named her the No. 2 player in the state of Kentucky.

FAU shot well in the second half by making 48 percent of their shots, but the deciding factor in the game may have come down to conditioning and getting to the charity stripe. "We played hard," FAU head coach Chancellor Dugan said. "They got to the free throw line and did what they did. I am not going to take anything away from Middle Tennessee because they are a great team. When you send a team like that to the line 33 times and we don't get to the free throw line in the second half, it's crap."

The Lady Raiders had 24 of those free throw attempts in the second half. They took advantage and made 20 while running away with a win over the Owls.