

STUDENT TIMES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

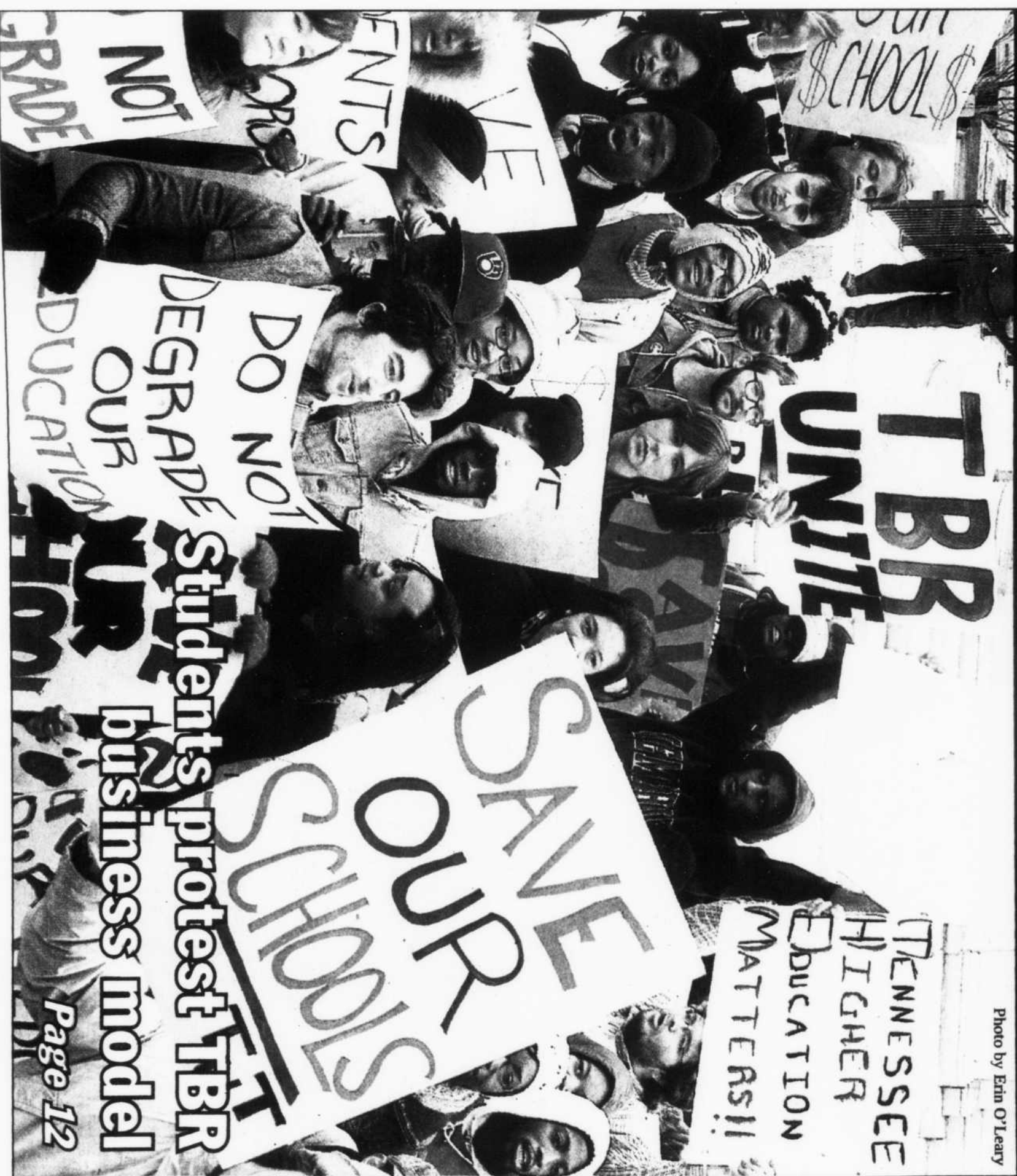
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

EDITORALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 85 NO. 1

SPECIAL ISSUE: BACK TO SCHOOL

Photo by Erin O'Leary



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Up 'Til Dawn and MTSU students have been working to make this year's Grand Finale one that YOU don't want to miss!

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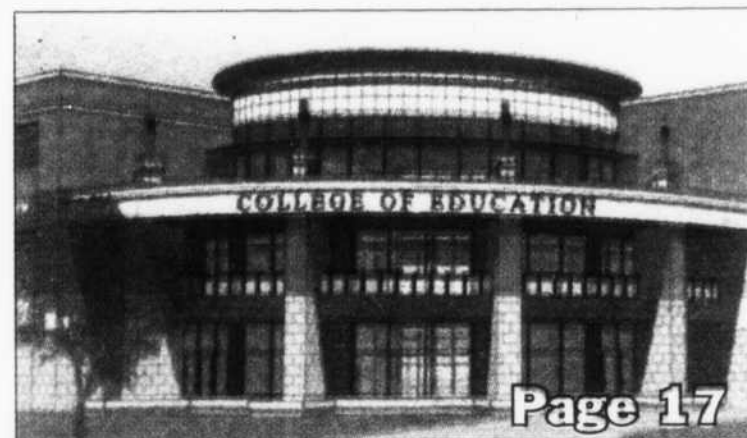


TBR Update: The future of MTSU



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The Tennessee Board of Regents decided on several new policies over the last month in response to budget cuts within the system. Some of these policies have been met with much opposition by students and faculty that are part of TBR institutions.



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College of Education construction delayed

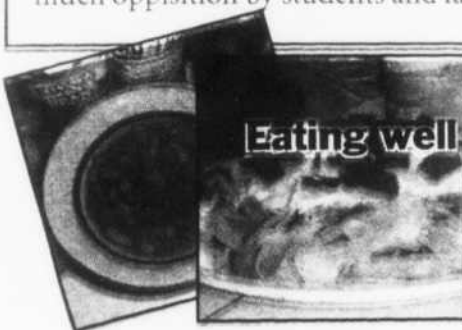
Construction on the new College of Education building was originally planned to begin in January, but due to lack of funding, construction has been put on hold indefinitely.



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Men's basketball enjoys productive break

While students were taking a break from school, the MTSU men's basketball team didn't take a break from winning. The team improved to 11-5 overall and 5-0 in the Sun Belt.



Eating well on a budget.....23

It seems like everyone is running low on funds these days. But even broke people have to eat. Good food can be cooked for cheap if you know where to buy the food and how to prepare it.

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Bredesen says budget cuts could force 2,000 layoffs

By ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee budget woes could force the layoffs of more than 2,000 state employees but a federal relief package for states could reduce that number, Gov. Phil Bredesen said Wednesday.

But Democratic governor said he sees no way to avoid some layoffs in budget plans that include cutting about \$900 million from the state's upcoming spending plan because of seriously lagging state revenues.

"I don't know any way to get from here to there without some layoffs," Bredesen said. "I hate to do it, I'm really going to work to try to minimize it."

"But I'm not going to get to zero," he said. "I know that." Jim Tucker, executive director of the Tennessee State Employees Association, said Bredesen is being too quick to resort to layoffs, especially after about 1,500 state workers accepted voluntary buy-outs in August.

The state should instead rely on budget reserves, savings from a hiring freeze and pension incentives to avoid the cuts, Tucker said.

"Economists nationwide are saying don't put people out, you've got to keep them working," he said. "I just don't understand that mentality of putting them out on the street."

Most state agencies have been asked to submit up to 15 percent budget cuts, and those plans included more than 2,000 cuts. Bredesen

said he hopes to find ways to reduce that number.

The amount of cuts could also be mitigated by the federal relief package, but Congress has been slow to act on that proposal and it's unclear how the money would be spent.

Bredesen warned the layoffs could be worse if the Legislature doesn't approve an administration proposal to allow more flexibility in civil service rules, and provide the ability to impose furloughs.

The civil service changes would allow state workers targeted for layoffs to immediately transfer to similar positions within other agencies instead of having to first leave state government and then reapply for openings.

And under current state law, the government doesn't have the ability to decide to close an office for one day a week to try to save money. Bredesen acknowledged that closing state offices will reduce access to services.

"But better that, in my mind, than closing an office entirely and telling somebody they've got to go 30 miles to the closest office," he said.

Tucker said furloughs would be preferable to layoffs.

"That's better than putting people in an unemployment line," he said.

Bredesen said he has no way of predicting a best- or worst-case scenario for layoffs.

"It's not 5,000, but it's not zero," he said.

Driver in fatal crash want to race again

By WOODY BAIRD
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The driver of a drag-racing car that slammed into a crowd of spectators last summer, killing six, said Tuesday that he would like to return to driving a race car in the future.

Troy Critchley, a professional driver from Australia who lives in Texas, took the witness stand in a Memphis courtroom to answer questions from lawyers handling civil lawsuits stemming from the crash that also injured 22 people, many of them seriously.

Critchley said he has been working as a racing team mechanic since the crash but may return to driving next year.

Critchley lost control of his 3000-horsepower dragster during a tire-spinning

stunt in the small town of Selmer in June 2007. The car plowed into onlookers lined up along a city street.

Victims or their families have filed more than two dozen lawsuits seeking tens of millions of dollars. It may be another year before any of those suits come to trial, and lawyers say some of the defendants may have no way to compensate victims for their losses.

"I doubt there's any way we can ever recover enough money to compensate these people," said Mark Donahoe, a lawyer whose firm represents several victims or victims' families. "We have two clients who have over \$150,000 in medical expenses each."

Four families represented by Donahoe's firm lost loved ones in the crash. Many surviving victims suffered critical injuries, including

the loss of limbs and damage to internal organs.

Critchley, the only person charged with a criminal offense in the crash, pleaded guilty to 28 charges of reckless assault and was sentenced to 18 months probation.

He filed for bankruptcy and has been discharged as a defendant in the lawsuits.

"He's just a witness now," Donahoe said. "But there are a lot of other people who share responsibility with Critchley."

The deposition was held in Memphis on an agreement between Critchley and the victims' lawyers.

Victims' lawyers said they are focusing their lawsuits on Critchley's employer, AMS Staff Leasing Inc., as well as sponsors of his racing team and financial supporters of the car show.

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This insurance plan does have certain limitations and exclusions. For complete detail see policy on file at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Budget cuts could cripple MT

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Managing Editor

MTSU is preparing for two budget reduction scenarios that will significantly impact the university and possibly lead to slashes in auxiliaries, faculty positions and cleaning services.

President Sidney McPhee said that before the holiday break he was notified of two possible budget reductions. The first scenario would be to cut \$19.3 million from the university's state appropriation. The second option would be to cut \$11 million if higher education receives funding from the federal stimulus package.

"We began discussions in November," McPhee said. "We didn't know what the figure was, but [we knew] there were going to be some major budget challenges."

McPhee said that he has put together several strategic work groups and a steering committee, which are made up of faculty, students and staff, to help look at areas where possible cuts could be made.

"We are looking at recommendations and ideas these groups are submitting," McPhee said. "And other ideas people are submitting to us in different forms to address the budget problems."

Even with these cuts, McPhee said that this is not going to affect the core mis-

PROGRAMS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE TARGETS:

PHOTO GALLERY
WMOT RADIO STATION
ART GALLERY

PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS *THE RECORD*
AND *SIDELINES* COULD BE FORCED TO
MOVE TO ONLINE-ONLY EDITIONS.

sion of the university, which is to educate students.

However, he said that auxiliaries are being looked at more closely for cuts in order to protect academic programs.

In a proposal submitted to the Tennessee High Education Committee on Dec. 22, some of the suggestions made include activities such as Child Development Center, Tennessee Livestock Center, Evening Extended School Program, Student Publications (*Sidelines*), Child Care Lab and some special service centers to increase, establish new fees or become fully self-supporting activities.

Some publications such as *On the Record* and *Sidelines* could be moved to online and no longer in print.

"We've got to try to generate more revenues in areas that we could, like the Tennessee livestock center," said

John Cothern, senior vice president. "We are going to require them to become fully self-sufficient where they don't have to use any state resources."

Cothern also said that the work groups are looking at reducing custodial cleaning services and eliminating some grounds services.

For on campus student workers, Cothern said that students would only lose positions if offices need to make

Adult/Commuter Services and Intercultural/Diversity Affairs and International Student Programming.

In addition to these ideas, some full time temporary teaching positions could be eliminated, a use for adjunct teachers for vacant positions could increase as well as classroom sizes, and operating budgets for all departments could be reduced.

"We are not going to do across the board cuts, but everything is on the table for discussion," McPhee said.

The Athletic Department has also been looked at for possible cuts, including a reduction in fifth year scholarships, team and administrative travel and recruiting.

"Athletics will have to pick up their share and raise more money or cut back on some of the things they have," Cothern said.

Some of the programs currently being looked at to close

this is the most severe budget reduction MTSU has ever had.

"Even though these budget cuts are very difficult and challenging, we are going to continue to offer our majors and classes," Gebert said. "Some of the classes will be larger and we are asking students to do a better job of planning and taking classes they need."

A reduction in levels of support provided has also been something the work groups are looking to possibly cut. Gebert said that this would cause students to wait in line longer for services like parking and advising.

Gebert said that instead of only cutting services and programs, the work groups are looking at areas to bring in more revenue from.

"We are all looking at ways we can be more creative and generating more revenue," Gebert said. "We are all looking very carefully about the January sales tax revenues, and depending on those that will be an indicator if more money needs to be cut."

While these cuts are purely just possibilities, McPhee said that he has been very open about the budget cuts and would like to have an open forum with students in the spring.

"Our students need to make their voices heard and let legislative representatives know the value of education," McPhee said.

"We are not going to do across the board cuts, but everything is on the table for discussion."

Sidney McPhee
President of MTSU

reductions in their budget by cutting back on staff.

As far as combining activities, the work groups are looking at possibly combining Women's Center and

altogether are the Photo Gallery, WMOT Radio Station and Art Gallery.

Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost of Academic Affairs, said that

National Folic Acid Awareness Week set to educate students

STAFF REPORT

Last week was National Folic Acid Awareness Week. The National Council on Folic Acid rolled out the theme "New Year, New You! Make A Daily Multivitamin Part of Your New Year."

The Tennessee Folic Acid Council partnered by MT-

SU's Center for Health and Human Services strives to reach out and increase the awareness about the benefits of daily folic acid intake.

"Folic acid awareness is needed now more than ever," said Cynthia Chafin, TFAC coordinator and proj-

ect director at the Center for Health and Human Services. "We need to educate all women, especially Latinas, that folic acid can help prevent birth defects of the brain and spine."


"Be good to yourself in the New Year-take a multivitamin with folic acid every

day, in addition to a healthy diet," Chafin said. "College-aged women need to hear this messages to be thinking about their futures."

Although all enriched cereals and grain products in the U.S. are fortified with the B-vitamin folic acid, only one third of U.S. women of child-

bearing age consume the recommended amount.

Women need folic acid, even if they are not planning to become pregnant, since 50% of all pregnancies are unplanned. Taking folic acid before pregnancy reduces the risk of birth defects of the brain and spine.



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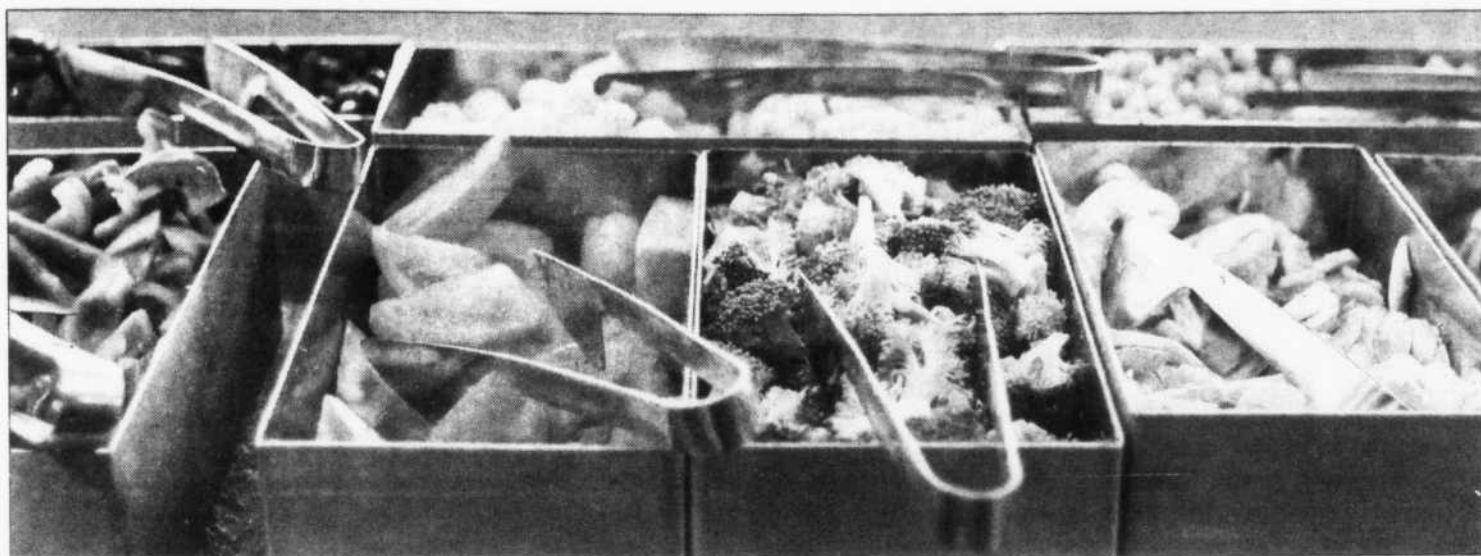


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

McCallie Cafeteria has options for vegetarians and vegans, but some students do not believe that the food is numerous enough.

Limited veggie options on campus

Dining halls on campus have left vegetarians and vegans without as many options as for meat eating customers

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Raiders Organized for Animal Rights (ROAR) are attempting to raise awareness on campus and promote vegan/vegetarian lifestyles as a way to directly save animals.

"ROAR is working to educate people. During Veg Week, we had pot lucks, info nights, and screenings of 'Earthlings,'" said Kenvv Torrella junior recording industry major. "I think a lot of people on campus who want to be vegetarian or vegan find it hard because they don't see a lot of options. Maybe if they saw more, it would be easier."

Students at MTSU who have vegetarian or vegan diets may find it difficult to eat at the dining facilities on campus. While the cafeterias offer numerous options for students who eat meat, there are very few for those who don't.

"There are no vegan options and usually only one vegetarian choice in the cafeterias," said Brittany Pate, freshman. "When they do have a vegetarian option, it's

usually not very appetizing."

"It seems that if you are vegetarian or vegan, your only options on campus are Subway or vegetarian sushi," said Danny McClain, junior graphic design major. "I rarely eat on campus and usually just make my own lunch."

According to a national poll sponsored by the Vegetarian Resource Group, the attitude towards vegetarianism in the last 20 years has certainly changed, and proof of this can be found in grocery stores where shelves of vegetarian and vegan foods are sold.

A poll by independent market research firm Harris Interactive in 2005 showed that 3% of American adults are vegetarians, meaning they do not eat meat, poultry or fish but may consume eggs and dairy.

People who are vegetarian or vegan have chosen these diets for either health reasons, emotional reasons or both.

"I made the choice because I was strongly against animal cruelty," Torrella said. "Whether you are vegan/vegetarian or not, the food

needs to be healthier. I just got so sick of eating cheese pizza all the time."

"I became vegetarian because I felt that capitalism is wrong and animals should not be exploited for food," McClain said. "I soon realized the dairy industry is just as bad as the meat industry, and it's just unnecessary violence towards animals."

According to the ROAR Web site, meat and dairy have been linked to high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and even some types of cancer. Many people have also used a veg lifestyle to lose weight or reverse the negative effects of an unhealthy diet.

Those who are considering going vegan or vegetarian might have doubts about it but might not realize that a lot of food they already eat is meatless or does not have dairy products in it.

"A lot of people [who aren't vegan] have this misconception that if a certain food is labeled vegan that only vegans can eat it," McClain said. "They don't realize that a lot of the food they eat is actually vegan."

While the majority of stu-

dents on campus may not have vegetarian or vegan diets, those who aren't still feel that there should be more options for those who have plant based diets.

"They have a great selection for people who eat meat, but they could definitely have more for vegetarians," said Robert Hill, sophomore philosophy major. "They should at least have three more vegetarian options and two vegan, in addition to the salad bar."

The campus food supplier, Aramark had no comment when asked about their vegetarian and vegan options offered at the cafeterias on campus.

"Aramark should survey students to see how many students on campus are vegetarian or vegan and would like to see a change in the cafeterias," Pate said. "If you are vegan, then there is no point in getting a meal plan."

"I think people on campus who want to be vegetarian or vegan find it hard because they don't see enough options," Torrella said. "I'm sure if they saw more it would be easier."

Greeks get a jump on Spring Recruitment

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Spring semester is officially under way and bringing with it the efforts of fraternities and sororities to spread the word about their organizations and recruit new members.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the National Panhellenic Council will be the only Greek organizations at MT recruiting potential members this spring semester. The Panhellenic sororities will not be participating in the spring recruitment due to procedures set by their national office which requires them to stop taking in new members when their rosters are full.

"This isn't something that's just locally, it's nationally," said Danny Kelley, Dean of Student Life. "The National Panhellenic Conference has procedures set up where they try to make it as fair as possible so that the number of members for all sororities on any given campus are consistent."

While NPC has certain restrictions, they are encouraged to take in new members when they can.

"The thing that Panhellenic may need to consider at some point is increasing total," Kelley said. "Being at total or above total on a consistent basis when it turns into a trend and is happening every year means that there are probably students wanting to join but they are not able to because the groups are all at their max."

The IFC consists of 12 fraternities on campus. It is up to each individual group

Former student faces upgraded charges

Starlett Custer's charges for stabbing another student in a parking lot have been upgraded from aggravated assault to attempted murder

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

The MTSU student that was arrested in August for the alleged stabbing of another student over a parking spot was indicted last week by the Rutherford County Grand Jury with attempted murder and aggravated assault.

"I think in this case people should understand that it is as important to uphold the law as it is to punish people that do not," said Buddy Peaster MTSU police chief.

Starlett Custer, 19 was

originally charged with aggravated assault on Aug. 27 after she was arrested in the Bell Street parking lot for supposedly stabbing Ashley Ramsay. Ramsay was stabbed several times and hospitalized for her injuries.

"The District Attorney's Office, as well as our department, felt that from the records of the incident that the charge should be harsher than aggravated assault and so they gathered the best that they could evidence that was the case," Peaster said.

Custer's indictment hear-



Starlett Custer

ing will be held on Jan. 20 where she will be able to hire an attorney for her settlement hearing on Feb. 6.

"We are very satisfied that they chose to prosecute her with an attempted murder charge."

BUDDY PEASTER
MTSU CHIEF OF POLICE

If no decision is made there will be a plea bargain on Feb. 18. Custer's case was initially being held in general session court in Rutherford County, but was later passed to the Rutherford County Grand Jury in circuit court.

"We are very satisfied that they chose to prosecute her

with an attempted murder charge," Peaster said. "With the details from the case, it seems reasonable and right to give her a more serious charge that just aggravated assault."

Custer was released on a \$10,500 bail on Aug. 27 and later withdrew from her classes.

State Farm donates \$35,535 to MT

Three separate departments on campus receive funds from State Farm to help support campus

By JESSICA HASTON
Copy Editor

State Farm Insurance Company donated \$35,535 to MTSU to support the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, the MTSU Science Olympiad, the annual Invention Convention and the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans program.

The Jones College of Business received the largest portion, \$25,000, to support a professorship.

Dr. E. James Burton, business dean, said that State Farm's donation is especially helpful considering MTSU's recent budget cuts.

"Ron Nichols, vice president of operations for State Farm, and State Farm Insurance have recognized that recruiting and retaining highly qualified faculty is necessary to the future of the Jones Col-

lege," Burton said. "The recent gift has been provided to provide the dean of the Jones College options in recruiting and retaining faculty that would not be available otherwise."

State Farm's regular contributions have made an impact on MTSU and the College of Business in the past. The State Farm Auditorium in the Business and Aerospace building was named for a large donation given at the time of the building's construction and more recently, the State Farm Excellence Professorship awards recognized faculty members.

MTSU has also received donations earmarked for science and education programs.

Tom Cheatham dean of the

College of Basic and Applied Sciences accepted \$4,000 for the Science Olympiad.

"The donation for the Science Olympiad program will allow us to fund several teams

"We want to show our appreciation to MTSU for saluting our veterans."

Ron Nichols
vice president of operations for State Farm

of high-school and middle-school students to come to the Olympiad in the spring. We bring in teams from as far away as Chattanooga to participate," Cheatham said.

The \$3,335 contribution to the Invention Convention will benefit and attempt to creatively stimulate a younger group.

Over 300 fourth through sixth graders from the sur-

rounding area participate in the program. Participants must create a new game or an invention that will make life easier. After they come up with an idea, they must construct the invention and provide an explanation of how it works and what purpose it fulfills.

"The Invention Convention provides a unique opportunity for students to apply skills learned in the classroom to a specific project," said Tracy Ring, elementary and special education teacher and organizer of the Invention Convention. "It is a creative endeavor with specific requirements addressing each of the curriculum areas. Another aspect enjoyed by all

is bringing elementary age students to MTSU to interact with the university students and the campus."

State Farm has sponsored the program since the fifth annual Invention Convention in 1997, covering such costs as the featured invention and awards for participants.

"We want to show our appreciation to MTSU for saluting our veterans," Nichols said.

Nichols also presented a check for \$3,200 to the Salute to the Armed Services/Veterans program.

"We are very appreciative of all that our good friends at State Farm have done for not only the Jones College but for the university as a whole, and we look forward to continuing the extraordinary partnership that has developed between us," Burton said.

Obama's bailout to help homeowners

President-elect Barack Obama will use financial bailout fund on helping to fix the lending crisis and avoid helping industries or lawmakers.

By KIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writer

President-elect Barack Obama would spend the remaining \$350 billion of a financial bailout fund on expanded lending and reduced foreclosures and would not use the money to help other industries, lawmakers said Wednesday after discussions with Obama emissaries.

The Senate was set to vote Thursday on whether to release the money. Lawmakers insisted that Obama advisers put their assurances in writing before the vote.

Seeking to secure votes from wary members of both parties, Obama aides fanned out across the Capitol on Wednesday. Their lobbying effort culminated in a closed door meeting between Senate Republicans and top Obama economic adviser Larry Summers and incoming White House chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel.

The private guarantees went further than what Obama's team has been willing to discuss publicly about his plans for the second half of the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Obama has asked Congress for the money and has been trying to overcome misgivings from lawmakers over how the Bush administration spent the first half of the fund.

Democrats were growing increasingly optimistic that the Senate would agree to release the money to the new

administration. And even reluctant Republicans praised Obama's outreach.

"These folks have much more credibility already than Secretary Paulson," Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said, referring to the Bush administration's treasury secretary, Henry Paulson.

Still, Republicans demanded that the incoming Obama administration put in writing details of the conditions and goals for the money.

"There is a real concern that it's one thing to say it in the privacy of that room; it's another thing entirely to put something on the record," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

"It is critical we provide a real road map on how this funding will be spent."

Jim McGovern
Representative

While the criticism of the Bush administration's handling of the bailout has been bipartisan, Republicans were especially opposed to using the bailout funds to help out nonfinancial sector industries. Money from the fund has been used to assist insurance giant American International Group Inc. and automakers General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Summers and Rahm "did not represent they are in favor of industrial policy."

"We'd like to see something publicly stated with reference to that issue," he added.

In the House, Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass.,

said Summers assured him that Obama would commit a significant portion of the bailout money to foreclosure relief.

The House on Thursday was scheduled to vote on Frank legislation that would place broad restrictions on the bailout program. One major provision would require that the new administration spend between \$40 billion and \$100 billion on reducing the number of foreclosures.

"I believe they would have done this anyway," Frank said after speaking to Summers on Wednesday.

Obama's transition office would not comment on discussions held with members of Congress.

The House bill has little chance of passing the Senate.

Summers this week submitted a three-page letter to congressional leaders as part of Obama's request for the money that outlined the Obama economic team's goals. But several Republicans and Democrats said the letter was not specific enough and said they needed more information from the president-elect.

Congress built in a safeguard by requiring that after the first \$350 billion of the bailout fund was spent, Congress could reject spending the second half. Obama has said he needs the additional money to help extend loans to small businesses, consumers, homeowners and local



Photo Courtesy www.barackobama.com

governments.

Lawmakers from both parties have complained that the Bush administration did not spend the money as it initially intended.

Paulson told legislators last year that the money would be used to buy toxic assets held by the banks in hopes that would help them make more loans. But the Treasury soon changed course and used the money to make direct infusions of capital into financial institutions with few strings attached. Lawmakers complained that the money has not appeared to loosen cred-

it.

"It is critical we provide a real road map on how this funding will be spent," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

Republicans argued that Frank's bill was a futile effort.

"That we would just go ahead with the bill that everyone acknowledges is not going to become law as cover for us to then release the \$350 billion is just plain wrong," said Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif.

Former student faces upgraded charges

Starlett Custer's charges for stabbing another student in a parking lot have been upgraded from aggravated assault to attempted murder

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

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originally charged with aggravated assault on Aug. 27 after she was arrested in the Bell Street parking lot for supposedly stabbing Ashley Ramsay. Ramsay was stabbed several times and hospitalized for her injuries.

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MTSU CHIEF OF POLICE

If no decision is made there will be a plea bargain on Feb. 18. Custer's case was initially being held in general session court in Rutherford County, but was later passed to the Rutherford County Grand Jury in circuit court.

"We are very satisfied that they chose to prosecute her

with an attempted murder charge," Peaster said. "With the details from the case, it seems reasonable and right to give her a more serious charge that just aggravated assault."

Custer was released on a \$10,500 bail on Aug. 27 and later withdrew from her classes.

State Farm donates \$35,535 to MT

Three separate departments on campus receive funds from State Farm to help support campus

By JESSICA HASTON
Copy Editor

State Farm Insurance Company donated \$35,535 to MTSU to support the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, the MTSU Science Olympiad, the annual Invention Convention and the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans program.

The Jones College of Business received the largest portion, \$25,000, to support a professorship.

Dr. E. James Burton, business dean, said that State Farm's donation is especially helpful considering MTSU's recent budget cuts.

"Ron Nichols, vice president of operations for State Farm, and State Farm Insurance have recognized that recruiting and retaining highly qualified faculty is necessary to the future of the Jones Col-

lege," Burton said. "The recent gift has been provided to provide the dean of the Jones College options in recruiting and retaining faculty that would not be available otherwise."

State Farm's regular contributions have made an impact on MTSU and the College of Business in the past. The State Farm Auditorium in the Business and Aerospace building was named for a large donation given at the time of the building's construction and more recently, the State Farm Excellence Professorship awards recognized faculty members.

MTSU has also received donations earmarked for science and education programs.

Tom Cheatham dean of the

College of Basic and Applied Sciences accepted \$4,000 for the Science Olympiad.

"The donation for the Science Olympiad program will allow us to fund several teams

"We want to show our appreciation to MTSU for saluting our veterans."

Ron Nichols
vice president of operations for State Farm

of high-school and middle-school students to come to the Olympiad in the spring. We bring in teams from as far away as Chattanooga to participate," Cheatham said.

The \$3,335 contribution to the Invention Convention will benefit and attempt to creatively stimulate a younger group.

Over 300 fourth through sixth graders from the sur-

rounding area participate in the program. Participants must create a new game or an invention that will make life easier. After they come up with an idea, they must construct the invention and provide an explanation of how it works and what purpose it fulfills.

"The Invention Convention provides a unique opportunity for students to apply skills learned in the classroom to a specific project," said Tracy Ring, elementary and special education teacher and organizer of the Invention Convention. "It is a creative endeavor with specific requirements addressing each of the curriculum areas. Another aspect enjoyed by all

is bringing elementary age students to MTSU to interact with the university students and the campus."

State Farm has sponsored the program since the fifth annual Invention Convention in 1997, covering such costs as the featured invention and awards for participants.

"We want to show our appreciation to MTSU for saluting our veterans," Nichols said.

Nichols also presented a check for \$3,200 to the Salute to the Armed Services/Veterans program.

"We are very appreciative of all that our good friends at State Farm have done for not only the Jones College but for the university as a whole, and we look forward to continuing the extraordinary partnership that has developed between us," Burton said.

Obama's bailout to help homeowners

President-elect Barack Obama will use financial bailout fund on helping to fix the lending crisis and avoid helping industries or lawmakers.

By KIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writer

President-elect Barack Obama would spend the remaining \$350 billion of a financial bailout fund on expanded lending and reduced foreclosures and would not use the money to help other industries, lawmakers said Wednesday after discussions with Obama emissaries.

The Senate was set to vote Thursday on whether to release the money. Lawmakers insisted that Obama advisers put their assurances in writing before the vote.

Seeking to secure votes from wary members of both parties, Obama aides fanned out across the Capitol on Wednesday. Their lobbying effort culminated in a closed door

meeting between Senate Republicans and top Obama economic adviser Larry Summers and incoming White House chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel.

The private guarantees went further than what Obama's team has been willing to discuss publicly about his plans for the second half of the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Obama has asked Congress for the money and has been trying to overcome misgivings from lawmakers over how the Bush administration spent the first half of the fund.

Democrats were growing increasingly optimistic that the Senate would agree to release the money to the new

administration. And even reluctant Republicans praised Obama's outreach.

"These folks have much more credibility already than Secretary Paulson," Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said, referring to the Bush administration's treasury secretary, Henry Paulson.

Still, Republicans demanded that the incoming Obama administration put in writing details of the conditions and goals for the money.

"There is a real concern that it's one thing to say it in the privacy of that room; it's another thing entirely to put something on the record," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

"It is critical we provide a real road map on how this funding will be spent."

Jim McGovern
Representative

While the criticism of the Bush administration's handling of the bailout has been bipartisan, Republicans were especially opposed to using the bailout funds to help out nonfinancial sector industries. Money from the fund has been used to assist insurance giant American International Group Inc. and automakers General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Summers and Rahm "did not represent they are in favor of industrial policy."

"We'd like to see something publicly stated with reference to that issue," he added.

In the House, Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass.,

said Summers assured him that Obama would commit a significant portion of the bailout money to foreclosure relief.

The House on Thursday was scheduled to vote on Frank legislation that would place broad restrictions on the bailout program. One major provision would require that the new administration spend between \$40 billion and \$100 billion on reducing the number of foreclosures.

"I believe they would have done this anyway," Frank said after speaking to Summers on Wednesday.

Obama's transition office would not comment on discussions held with members of Congress.

The House bill has little chance of passing the Senate.

Summers this week submitted a three-page letter to congressional leaders as part of Obama's request for the money that outlined the Obama economic team's goals. But several Republicans and Democrats said the letter was not specific enough and said they needed more information from the president-elect.

Congress built in a safeguard by requiring that after the first \$350 billion of the bailout fund was spent, Congress could reject spending the second half. Obama has said he needs the additional money to help extend loans to small businesses, consumers, homeowners and local

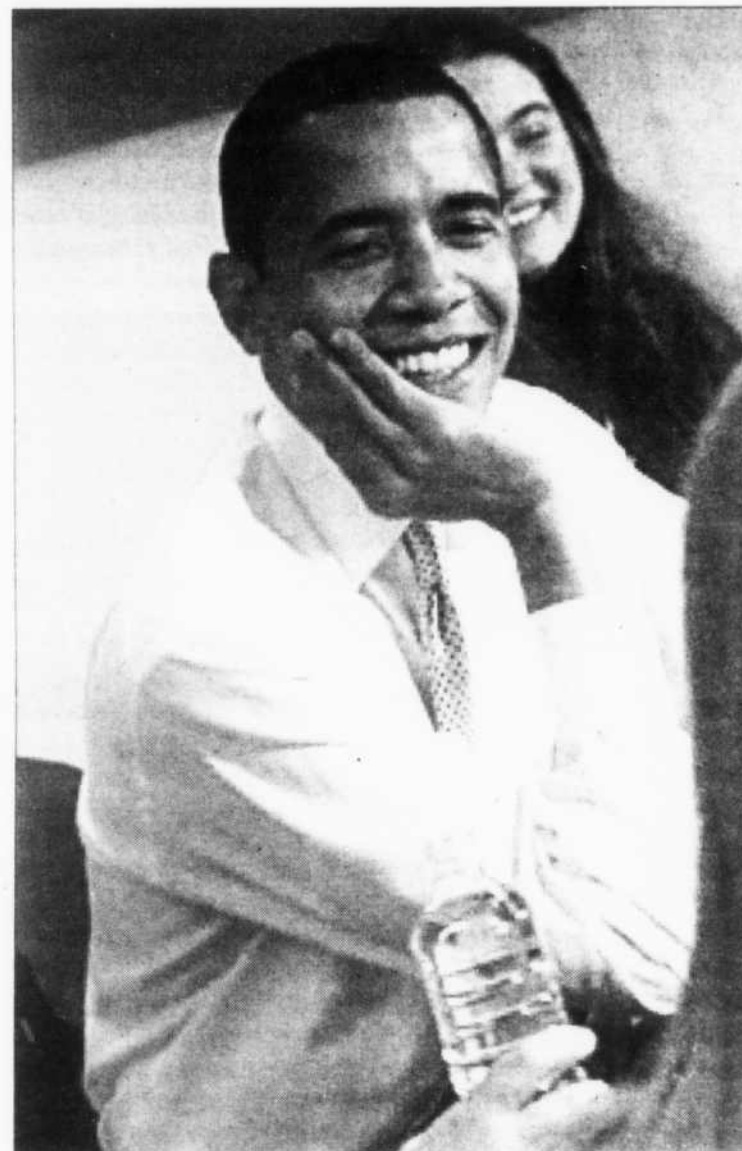


Photo Courtesy www.barackobama.com

governments.

Lawmakers from both parties have complained that the Bush administration did not spend the money as it initially intended.

Paulson told legislators last year that the money would be used to buy toxic assets held by the banks in hopes that would help them make more loans. But the Treasury soon changed course and used the money to make direct infusions of capital into financial institutions with few strings attached. Lawmakers complained that the money has not appeared to loosen cred-

it.

"It is critical we provide a real road map on how this funding will be spent," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

Republicans argued that Frank's bill was a futile effort.

"That we would just go ahead with the bill that everyone acknowledges is not going to become law as cover for us to then release the \$350 billion is just plain wrong," said Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif.

First GOP speaker in 40 years elected to TN House

By **ERIK SCHELZIG**
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee House has its first Republican speaker in 40 years. But the lawmaker who won in a narrow upset Tuesday did it without the support of his GOP colleagues.

Rep. Kent Williams of Elizabethton edged Rep. Jason Mumpower of Bristol on a vote of 50-49 after all 49 Democrats banded together to support him.

Williams, 59, is a farmer and owns a restaurant in Carter County on the North Carolina border. He is the first Republican elected state House speaker since 1969, and takes over from Rep. Jimmy Naifeh, D-Covington, who had held the chamber's top post for a record 18 years.

Williams' victory was loudly booed by Republicans in the gallery who were stunned by Mumpower's loss on what was supposed to be a triumphant day for their party. One person shouted: "Traitor!"

Naifeh threatened to clear the spectators from the chamber, and two armed state troopers came in to flank the speaker's podium as Williams was sworn in.

In brief comments to the members, Williams said he would take a bipartisan approach as speaker by splitting powerful committee chairmanships equally between Democrats and Republicans.

"It's time to end the infighting and the bickering and the just looking out for yourself," he said.

Mumpower said he will move forward as the lead advocate for the Republican membership in the House.

"I'm not going to let personal feelings get in the way of my ability to do that job," he said.

Republican Caucus Chairman Glen Casada, of Frank-

lin, was more visibly emotional about the results of the vote.

"Crushed," he said. "We're crushed, because we were deceived. We were led to believe one thing, and the opposite happened."

Republicans in November won majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly for the first time since 1869. When the 106th General As-

sembly convened Tuesday, Republicans had a one-seat advantage in the 99-member House.

Williams was among the 50 House Republicans who just days after the election signed a pledge to elect Republican leaders when the chamber convened. The pledge did not specify that the candidate had to be the caucus nominee.

"I don't consider myself a traitor," Williams said. "I voted for a Republican, a Republican who can lead."

State Republican Party Chairwoman Robin Smith has threatened to strip the party affiliation from any member who didn't vote for the caucus nominees. Williams "lied, in a quest for personal power," she said in a statement after the vote.

"She's the queen of the Republican Party," Williams said in response to Smith's comments. "She's the one that leads us around with a nose ring, but I'm not going to be led around by a nose ring."

Asked whether he would become a Democrat if he is stripped of his Republican affiliation, Williams said "never."

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Professor loses fight with cancer

Current Theater and speech professor dies at the age of 57

By SPENCER MOHEAD
Staff Writer

Dale Edward McGilliard, a MTSU professor, died Dec. 28 in Murfreesboro after a long struggle with cancer.

McGilliard, 57, joined MTSU's theater department in 1990 after teaching at Arkansas State University, Jarvis Christian College and Dyersburg State Community College.

McGilliard directed more than 25 plays and held the positions of coordinator of theatre, head of performance studies and associate chair of speech and theatre. McGilliard earned two bachelor degrees one from Lincoln Christian College in 1973 and one from Arkansas State University in 1979, a masters degree from Arkansas State in 1980 and a master's in fine art from the University of Oklahoma in 1988.

"Dale loved the theater," said former student John F. Mauldin, assistant professor of theater. "He was committed to his students' success. Dale loved life. I have learned

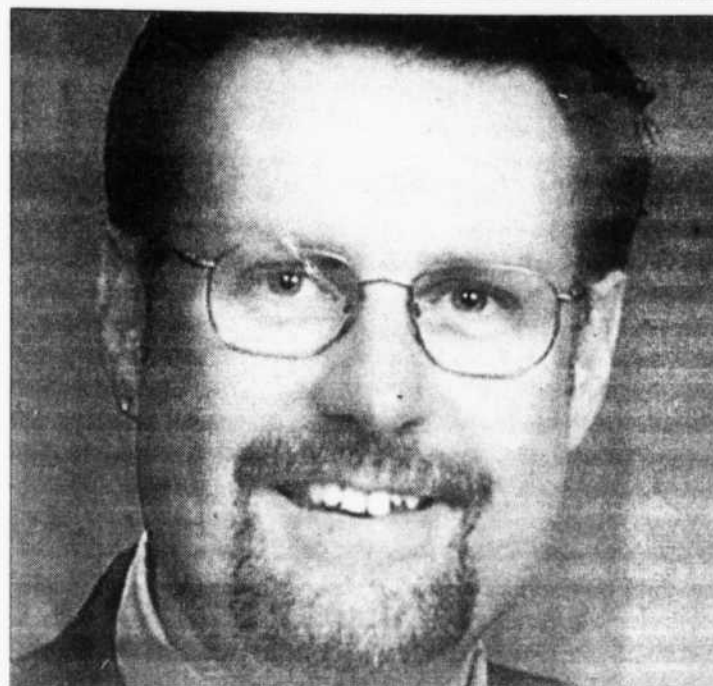


Photo Courtesy of News and Public Affairs.

Dale Edward McGilliard lost his battle with cancer at age 57.

so much from him as an actor, a teacher and a person."

McGilliard's impact didn't end with his duties as a professor. In 2002 he became the president of Tennessee's Governor School for the Arts, a program for gifted high school students.

The theater professor was active in the community. He was president of the Tennessee Theatre As-

so much from him as an actor, a teacher and a person."

"Dale was a caring person who kept in touch with many of his students long after they were in class or even after they graduated," Gibson said.

McGilliard is survived by partner Chad Linder of Murfreesboro, sister Christina and husband Steven Warren, of McGilliard's native Indianapolis, IN; nephew Jeffrey

"Dale loved the theater. He was committed to his students' success. Dale loved life. I have learned so much from him."

John F. Mauldin

Assistant Professor of Theater

sociation, commissioner for the Murfreesboro Center for the Arts and president of the Murfreesboro Little Theatre.

"He should be given credit for helping community theater flourish in Rutherford County," said Jesse Cannady, a sophomore liberal arts major.

Jeff Gibson, an associate professor of speech and theater said McGilliard

Warren, of Franklin; and niece Kimberly and husband Todd Garza, of Austin, TX.

Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or the Dale E. McGilliard Scholarship Fund at MTSU.

There will be a memorial service on Friday Jan. 23 at 4:30 in MTSU's Tucker Theatre.

Obituaries

Wymer Wiser, a retired biology professor who spent nearly 40 years teaching at MTSU, died Dec. 21 in Murfreesboro. He was 85. He served as adviser to the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society for many years. Wiser taught Bible classes at Minerva Drive Church of Christ and preached when the regular minister was away.

Linda Hare, former vice president for development and University Relations at MTSU, died from cancer Jan. 5. Hare worked to increase diversity at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and was active in recruiting and encouraging potential

residents and faculty to join the School of Medicine. She also served as vice president for Institutional Advancement at Meharry Medical College.

Dale McGilliard, a theatre professor at MTSU, died Dec. 28 of cancer. McGilliard is to be buried in Indianapolis, the city where his parents are buried.

John Ward, former head custodian for the Murphy Center Complex, died Dec. 1. He was 86. Ward worked for MTSU for more than 25 years and was an avid supporter of the university's athletic department.

Renovations start from extra funding

STAFF REPORT

Renovations of the Homer Pittard Campus School, located across from campus, recently began after receiving a grant that would fund construction to create a more accessible and safe campus.

With \$2.6 million committed by the Rutherford County commission and \$1 million each by the Christy-Houston Foundation and MTSU, workers began in earnest about two weeks before teachers returned for the fall semester.

As of right now wiring and automatic sprinkler installation are about 75 percent complete. New pillars have been installed, heating and cooling units have been put in place and about half of the blower units have been installed.

Construction of the ramp and elevator is scheduled for

completion by the first of August but could be finished by late February or March.

"We are excited about the progress being made with the Campus School renovations and the partnership we have developed with MTSU during the project," said Harry Gill Jr., director of Rutherford County Schools.

"It is especially important to note that determining project priorities, safety was and is the number one consideration," said President Sidney McPhee. "I am grateful to the county and Campus School officials, to the Christy-Houston and to the many parents for their interest in making these much-needed improvements while also striving to preserve the school's historical integrity."

"Campus School will continue to be a crown jewel of which all of us can be proud," McPhee said.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Students and faculty members of Tennessee Board of Regents' schools protested outside the state capital on Tuesday.

TBR Passes portion of business model

By JAY BAILEY
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Board of Regents has passed portion of the new business model making it substantially harder for students to obtain a higher education.

Amidst rallies and demonstrations, TBR met in Nashville to vote on and pass the 12-credit-hour cap portion of Chancellor Charles W. Manning's new business model on Dec. 15. The cap requires an increase in the price of tuition for any student exceeding 12 credit hours.

"By instituting a 12 [credit] hour cap the board is putting a strain on any student trying to get a competitive and well rounded education," said TBR Student Regent Representative Gionni Carr. "Students will no longer be able to experiment and try different types of classes without increasing the amount of time they will be in attendance at school."

Ashley Renner, senior liberal arts major and member of the Coalition to Save Our Schools, said that the new model is "sad because a student who knows what degree they want will take five years to graduate."

"The Tennessee Hope Scholarship currently makes no allowances for summer school nor a fifth year of school," Renner said. "Many students will lose their dream of a college education because this [model] will make it outside of their fiscal reach."

Protestors have been fighting to have the cap raised to

Students protest TBR at capitol

Protestors march to show disapproval of 12-credit hour cap on course fees

By JAY BAILEY
Staff Writer

Governor Phil Bredesen agreed to a meeting with students to discuss the recently proposed Tennessee Board of Regents business model after more than 100 protestors gathered in Nashville on Tuesday.

The protest, which was a march from Tennessee State University to the Nashville Capital building, was led by Gionni Carr, the TBR student regent representative.

"We have been told for years by our elders that we have had everything handed to us, and that we don't stand up for anything," Carr said. "But now with the future of our education on the line, it is our time to stand up for what we believe in."

The Murfreesboro-based Coalition to Save Our Schools organized the protest in co-

operation with Carr.

Students from across the TBR system were informed about the protest through Facebook, e-mail, telephone and flyers. Schools such as TSU, the University of Memphis, Tennessee Tech University, East Tennessee State University and Cleveland State Community College had students in attendance.

"Save our schools," the protestors said as they marched up Charlotte Avenue to the capital building.

TBR professors, who were also involved in the protest, as well as movement leaders, gave speeches outside the capital building.

"All we're asking is for them to make good on their promise of a higher quality education," said Andy Smith, a professor at TTU.

Smith said he opposes the business model. He is one of



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

A Tennessee Board of Regents student holds a protest sign.

many professors affected by university-issued layoffs.

"Months ago in November, this started as a memo, and now we have come together as a movement," Smith said.

After the protest outside

the capital building lasted for about an hour, Bredesen's office contacted Carr to inform him that the governor would meet with members of CSOS.

Wayfinding program directs the masses

By Jeselyn Jackson
Staff Writer

A new signage program directing motorists is under-way in Rutherford County due to the efforts of the Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Rutherford County Wayfinding Program Board.

The program has put in place 135 new directional signs and nine welcome signs to inform visitors as well as Rutherford County residents that they are traveling in the right direction toward historical sites, government facilities and other attractions throughout the county.

"Another part of the program will be the removal of the old signs to reduce visual clutter and confusion," said Mona Herring, vice president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Rutherford County Wayfinding Program Board consists of a representative for Murfreesboro, Smyrna,

Eagleville, the county and two representatives from the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The inclusive signage program has been in the works since June 1997.

The program will highlight many of the tourist attractions in Rutherford County, in addition to providing navigation to MTSU.

"This will be a huge benefit for Middle Tennessee State University; it will get people there no matter which exit they get off of and it will direct them directly to the University," Herring said. "Many people have driven around lost and confused. We've tried to do a really good job of pinpointing those specific buildings at the university to cut down on the confusion."

The Travel Industry of America said visitors to Rutherford County created an economic impact of \$237,600,000 on the community in 2007.

Students returning to cam-

pus after winter break have already begun to notice the signs.

"When I returned to Murfreesboro, the big bright signs really caught my eye, seeing that they were blue I was initially upset, under the impression that they were funded by MTSU," said Korben Pratcher, senior, recording industry major.

All monies for the signage project were obtained from a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation and a matching funds grant from the Christy-Houston Foundation.

"I was informed that they weren't funded by the university yet I thought of other things the money could have went to other than signs, however they will be very helpful to those not accustomed to Rutherford County," Pratcher said.

A pilot trial sign program for Rutherford County, along

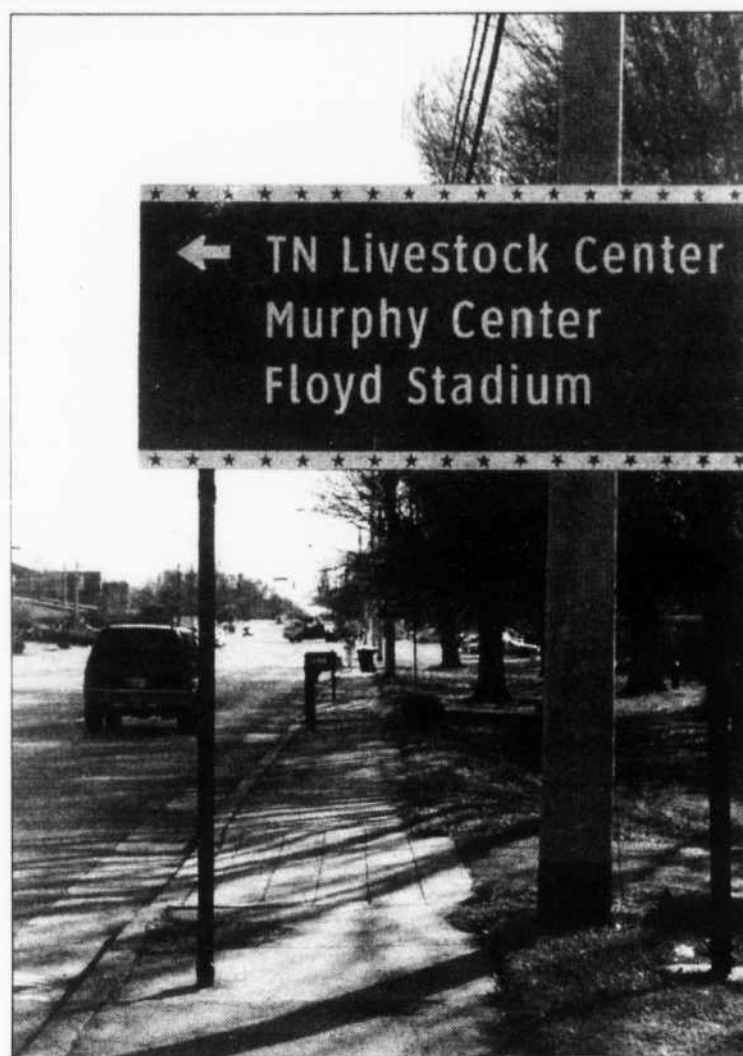


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

The sign above is one of 135 new directional signs.

with Chattanooga and Memphis, was approved by TDOT in December 2003 and the project began to move forward.

Rutherford County can now boast that it has the only countywide Wayfinding signage project in Tennessee.

MODEL FROM PAGE 12

15 credit hours to ensure that it is possible for students to graduate within four years.

Manning's new business model has faced much opposition. A large number of students have been organizing protests and demonstrations, including a march to the Nashville Capital building to display their disapproval on Tuesday.

Help was even received from inside the board itself when Carr attempted to have the new model tabled temporarily.

In attempts to table the new business model, Carr said she

hoped to postpone its passing temporarily allowing more students the opportunity to organize and explore alternative paths.

"The board is supposed to be the voice of the students looking out for their best interests, and I feel that we have not done so properly," Carr said.

Manning addressed demonstrators who gathered outside at MTSU's winter graduation.

"We are in a financial crisis," Manning said.

He said he felt that dramatic action must be taken. Utilizing the University of Phoenix as his model, he set about designing a new business model allowing for large

budget cuts.

Numerous demonstrations have been organized by the CSS in cooperation with Carr to stop the passing of the business model and to negotiate the secession of fiscal cuts.

The CSS and Carr gathered at the capital building to make their voice heard.

After an hour of speeches and marching, Carr was finally contacted by Gov. Phil Bredesen's office to schedule a meeting with the movement leaders.

The new model also proposed provisions allowing universities to layoff tenured staff.

TBR passes policy for teacher layoffs

STAFF REPORT

The Tennessee Board of Regents passed a general personnel policy yesterday allowing university presidents within the TBR system to layoff employees due to budget issues.

The university presidents, though, will first need approval for layoffs from a council consisting of academic administrators and professors.

The council is to analyze the university as a whole and decide which

programs are thriving and which ones are requiring the most money. The decision to cut entire class programs will be made based on the council's analysis.

TBR is the nation's sixth largest higher education system. It governs 45 post-secondary education institutions, including universities such as MTSU, technology centers and community colleges.

The TBR system includes six universities, 13 two-year colleges and 26 technological centers.

CURRENT EVENTS

Grand opening of MTSU Campus Pharmacy
Thursday, Jan. 15, 8 a.m. until 4:30 a.m.
Location: MTSU Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center

Holding Patterns benefit concert for MTSU dance theatre
Friday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10
Location: Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building's Tucker Theater
More information: Call 615.494.7904 or email nofsinge@mtsu.edu

The Wizard of Oz
Tuesday, Jan. 13 until Sunday, Jan. 18
Admission: \$22.50-\$68.50

Location: Tennessee Performing Arts Center
More Information: www.tpac.org

Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest Shows on Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 16-31 at 7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10 for show or \$25 for dinner and

show
Location: Bear Hollow Resort
More Information: visit www.bearhollowtn.com

The Frank Freeman Benefit Concert featuring The Pink Spiders, SupreX and The Running
Saturday, Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Admission: minimum donation of \$10 requested
Location: Rocketown
More Information: Visit www.rocketown.com

Ghostfinger featuring All We Seabees and Shoot the Mountain
Saturday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m.
Location: Exit/In

CRIME BRIEFS

Dec. 3, 1:21 p.m. Miscellaneous
Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house
Approximately \$500 in stolen Christmas decorations recovered from AGR house after being reported stolen from a residence in Lebanon, TN.

Dec. 3, 6:49 p.m. Assault
Mary Hall
Subject called wanting to report being assaulted by his girlfriend earlier that day.

Dec. 4, 12:22 a.m. Vandalism
Corlew Hall
Area Coordinator wanted to report additional vandalism.

Dec. 4, 12:31 a.m. Fire Alarm
Saunders Fine Arts building
Report of fire alarm and smoke coming from third floor office.

Dec. 4, 4:07 p.m. Theft
Deere Hall
Subject reported theft of property, believes roommate took items from room.

Dec. 5, 12:31 a.m. Trespassing
Woodmore Cafeteria
Job Powell arrested for criminal trespassing.

Dec. 6, 6:38 p.m. Public Intoxication
Maintenance Lot
Darrel Ogle reported possibly intoxicated passed out in front of the Hastings building.

Dec. 8, 12:34 p.m. Reckless Driving
Mass Comm south parking lot
Eli Strange issued state citation for reckless driving and leaving the scene of a property accident.

Dec. 8, 1:40 p.m. Warrant
Corlew Hall
Kyle Adcock charged with vandalism

Dec. 8, 5:03 p.m. Drug Abuse

Judd Hall
Housing called requesting an officer to check possible drug activity.

Dec. 8, 7:19 p.m. Vandalism
Felder Hall
Charles Pollard issued citation for vandalism for toilet papering Felder Hall.

Dec. 10, 9:27 a.m. Medical Assistance
Nicks Hall
Subject called for assistance for roommate who was reporting chest pains

Dec. 10, 6:58 p.m. Driving on suspended license
Alumni Drive
State citation issued for driving on suspended license and campus citation issued for speeding.

Dec. 11, 3:35 a.m. DUI
MTSU BLVD
Angela Neighbors arrested for DUI first offense and underage drinking.

Dec. 11, 11:33 a.m. Vandalism
Corlew Hall
Subject called and requested officer in reference to some graffiti on wall near room.

Dec. 11, 9:38 p.m. Driving on suspended license
Blue Raider Drive

Dec. 12, 3:46 a.m. Underage drinking
Nicks Hall
Roberto Velazco issued citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Dec. 12, 11:46 a.m. Theft
Scarlett Commons
Property stolen from apartment

Dec. 12, 5:27 p.m. Theft
Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house
Subject came into the station wanting to file a stolen property report.

Dec. 15, 12:32 p.m. Theft
James E. Walker Library
Subject requested an officer in

reference to the theft of a computer drive from the fourth floor.

Dec. 15, 3:32 p.m. Theft
Business Aerospace Building
Subject wished to file a report regarding theft of a wallet.

Dec. 17, 1:42 p.m. Vandalism
MTSU campus
Subject requested an officer in reference to vandalism to one of the university owned houses.

Dec. 18, 7:17 a.m. Vandalism
Rutherford Parking Lot
Home Made device found at bus stop, minor damages

Dec. 18, 3:17 p.m. Theft
Scarlett Commons
Subject came to station to fill out report of bicycle being stolen.

Dec. 27, 12:00 p.m. Vandalism
Keathley University Center
Purple spray paint graffiti on southwest corner of KUC

Jan 1, 1:14 a.m. Public Intoxication
Jillian Dixon arrested for underage consumption and public intoxication.

Jan. 1, 2:22 p.m. Harassment
Scarlett Commons
Subject came to police department after receiving a disturbing picture sent to her phone.

Jan. 6, 9:34 a.m. Traffic Registration Violation
Faulkinberry Drive
Nikolay Khivrenko issued state citation for expired registration.

Jan. 7, 10:54 a.m. Accident
McFarland Health Services lot
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to one of their employees backing into a vehicle.

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NAACP celebrate King with Brunch

The great-great-grandson of Fredrick Douglas to speak at James Union Building

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

The 29th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch will be held this Saturday in the Tennessee Room at the James Union Building at 9 a.m.

The tickets for the brunch, co-sponsored by the MTSU and Murfreesboro chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, cost \$15 for students and \$30 for non-students.

"The purpose of the breakfast is to remember that Dr. King's goal was to bring

all races and nationalities to the table to make decisions for the betterment of the entire community," said Goldy Wade, president of the Murfreesboro chapter of the NAACP.

The NAACP's "role as an organization is to ensure that all people remember the good that Dr. King accomplished during his lifetime," Wade said.

Kenneth B. Morris, the great-great-great-grandson of abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, will be featured as the event's guest speaker.

Morris "has a very strong

lineage of people who are actively involved in different movements," said Carlissa Shaw, senior liberal arts major and MTSU NAACP president.

"We want the students of MTSU to be reminded of the civil rights movement and to be involved in honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King," Wade said.

This year's brunch theme is "Achieving the Dream through the Audacity of Hope."

"Dr. King had a dream, and we believe that President Obama's election is just the

tip of the iceberg to seeing that dream fulfilled," Wade said.

The brunch is open to all members of the MTSU community as well as the Murfreesboro community.

"This event is geared toward all races who believe in the equal rights of all people who make up this community regardless of their nationality," Goldy said.

During the brunch, the MTSU NAACP will honor Sondra Wilson, MTSU SGA President as its first Student Leader of the Year.

"We are acknowledging

an individual each year who has worked hard to make MTSU a better place," Shaw said.

The organization is also honoring Albert Richardson Jr. as its Jerry Anderson Humanitarian Award winner and Wade as the Jerry Anderson Hero Award winner.

In addition to having a guest speaker, music and entertainment will be provided.

"It's is an event for people to come out, socialize, eat breakfast and celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King," Shaw said.

What to do in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, Jan. 15

Scholarship Banquet

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel

Saturday, Jan. 17

C.E. McGruder Unity Breakfast

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Jefferson Street MB Church

Sunday, Jan. 18

Pre-Inauguration Celebration Concert

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Big Harpeth Tabernacle

Monday, Jan. 19

Pre-Convocation Activities Youth Program

(Living Wages)

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Jefferson Street M.B. Church

Pre-Convocation Celebration

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: TSU Gentry Center

MLK March

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Jefferson Street Baptist Church

Convocation

Time: 12 p.m.

Location: TSU Gentry Center

For further information on Nashville events, visit
www.mlkdaynashville.com

NAACP MLK Week Events

Achieving the Dream

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 20

Time: 7 p.m.

Partners: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Details: A comparison of Martin Luther King to the success of Barack Obama

RECRUITMENT FROM PAGE 7

to determine whether or not they will participate in spring recruitment. This spring semester, all twelve fraternities will be taking in new members.

"IFC groups do not operate the same way as NPC groups and don't have a total membership restriction," Kelley said. "All of them have been highly encouraged to have recruitment during the

spring."

The NPHC fraternities and sororities at MTSU will also be taking in new members this spring.

"NPHC is unique in the sense that the national council is not involved at all with the recruitment efforts of the individual organizations under them," Kelley said. "Each individual chapter decides whether or not they are going to be participating. All of these groups should be participating in the spring."

While spring recruitment is

less formal than fall recruitment, Greek organizations host events so that potential members can get involved.

"During the IFC recruitment week which is Feb. 9 to 14, there will be an information night, a chili cook-out night where potential members can visit different tents and then rounds nights where they can visit the fraternity houses," said Executive Vice President and Sigma Nu Alumni Relations Chair, Brandon McNary. "Friday night is smoker night, the

last night for fraternities to impress potential members. Saturday is bid day where they come and accept the bid from the fraternity they want to join."

Fall recruitment brings in a larger pledge class due to so many incoming freshmen, however efforts are being made by the organizations to increase spring recruitment.

"Last spring semester, 27 to 35 individuals accepted bids, this is the norm," said Coordinator of Greek Affairs,

Byron Lightsy. "We want our chapters to know that we are behind them in whatever they want to do for spring, but we would like them to have bigger numbers."

"We are trying to hit a lot of organizations and make spring recruitment bigger," McNary said. "Everything we do for recruitment in the spring, we will use as a stepping stone to make the next fall recruitment even better. Hopefully the numbers will go up and continue to go up."

MELLOW MUSHROOM PIZZA BAKERS

HAPPY HOUR



MONDAY:

Bucket Night

TUESDAY:

2 For 1 Pints

WEDNESDAY:

Pitcher Special

\$4 Jager Bombs

LIVE TRIVIA 8:30

THURSDAY:

Beer of the Day

LIVE ACOUSTIC 7:00

FRIDAY:

\$1.00 off Shroom Drinks

SATURDAY and SUNDAY:

\$1.00 Pabst Pints

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Budget crunches education building

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Managing Editor

The groundbreaking ceremony for the College of Education, which was originally scheduled for the end of January, has been put on hold indefinitely due to budget discussions among the state building commission.

Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost of Academic Affairs, said that the decision to fund the building would probably be based on the sales tax figures from the end of December that will come out mid-January.

"Because of the economic concerns of the state, we have not yet been given the go-ahead on this particular building," Gebert said. "Even though we haven't had the ground breaking officially yet, there is still a lot going on."

Watson Harris, director of Academic Technology Planning and Projects, said that a final design for the building, along with utilities, has been prepared and will be taken to the state building commission.

"We have not been notified of the groundbreaking date, but we have been allowed to bid the first package for the utilities infrastructure," Watson said. "This is a very good sign."

The College of Education is currently estimated at a cost of \$30 million, which will be covered by state funds.

"There are dollars in a budget, my understanding is, to pay for this," Gebert said. "They are not releasing it yet because they might need it to balance the budget for this fiscal year."

Even though the building could be delayed because of funds, both Gebert and Wat-



Photo Courtesy of Watson Harris

The new College of Education Building will be the turn of the new part of campus. It will be next to the new student union building.

son said that the plans are moving forward.

"This is one of those projects where we had the construction management person chosen at the same time as the architect, so the construction people are traveling along with the design and helping us estimate it as we go along," Harris said. "When we make a change, we automatically know how it affects the budget."

The College of Education will consist of three floors, 26 classrooms and two lecture halls that will seat a total of 225 students, according to Harris.

Harris said that there would be a great deal of informal learning rooms where professors can do collaborative team based instruction.

"Students can go into these classrooms and pull laptops out of closets, and use a collaborative software," Harris said. "Students can share documents, so they can learn more about collaborative work."

All of the classrooms will be located on the first floor, except for a few additional rooms on the second floor.

There is also an observation area in between two classrooms. Harris said that this area could be used to observe teaching methods.

"Psychology can also use that room, even though they are not going to be located in this building," Harris said. "We have designed the classrooms so the whole university can participate in this technology."

Harris said that the second floor would consist of 56 faculty offices and a suite for the dean.

"All of the different components of advising, placement and everything that has to do with the college will be in the area with the dean," Harris said. "The chairs [chair holders] are on the third floor."

The second floor will also have a café area where students, faculty and staff can enjoy refreshments inside or outside on the balcony, Harris said.

In addition to this, there will also be AVA and three computer labs. Harris said that the three computer labs would be connected to one printer room.

Harris said that the college

would have a lot of technology available for both students and professors to use.

"Especially in the college of education, teachers need to be very functional with technology and different forms of technology," Gebert said. "Because as it changes, they need to be able to teach their students."

Due to the delay of funds, Harris said that the technology would be bought last to avoid designing for an obsolete technology situation.

"This College of Education is going to make the turn from the old part of campus to the new part of campus," Harris said. "It's appropriate that the College of Education would be there since we started out as a normal teaching university."

Give (wise) alms!



Uncommon Ground
Alex Blackwelder

The recent corporate bailout has people talking in billions. How many billions in tax dollars will go where to help the economy?

We, the taxpayers, have relatively little say in where our tax dollars go, but what if you could choose whom you helped with your money and see how drastically your money improved someone's life with as little as \$25?

Well, you can.

Microfinance has opened a new world in the fight to end extreme poverty. The concept of it is very simple. One person loans an entrepreneur in a developing nation a small amount of money to develop his or her business.

Over time, the loan is paid back with zero interest and the lender can use the same money to invest in another person's business. Microloans are so efficient because they directly connect the donor with the beneficiary.

Think of it as an extension of the "teach a man to fish" philosophy, except the man knows how to fish; he just needs a little cash to buy a rod and some bait.

The main company working to lend is Kiva.org. As of Dec. 18, the mini-bankers on Kiva have loaned \$52,624,535. Within hours that someone asks for a loan, it is fulfilled.

Melahet Aliyeva, a 36-year-old mother of two from Azerbaijan, is asking for \$1,200 to purchase four calves to jumpstart her farm. Within half a day, she reached her goal

thanks to 19 charitable lenders.

Another businesswoman, Basiratu Owoduni, was loaned \$350 in a day to buy more goods to sell in her goods stand in Nigeria.

Microloans are not only more efficient, but more ethical than foreign aid from governments.

Over the last 40 years, wealthy governments have given Africa over half a trillion dollars, yet people are worse off. Foreign aid in the form of money or goods given to governments to combat poverty are often stolen, sold in the black market or used to put local merchants out of business. Often times when journalists report on such crimes, they are exiled or worse.

According to James Shikwati, a Kenyan economist, governmental foreign aid finances corrupt bureaucracies and kill the natural entrepreneurial spirit in Third World countries required to rise out of poverty.

Microloans give charitable donors the ability to help those in poverty without the risk of developing a dependency on aid. Lenders give the entrepreneurs the independence to provide for their families through their own ideas and hard work.

In an anti-poverty ad by Bono, he reassured "You can relax; I'm not asking for your money."

He wants you to ask your government leaders to send more foreign aid to Africa. Instead of asking for you to open up your own hearts and wallets, he wants you to force someone else to. I just cannot understand that concept.

I think it is my responsibility to share what I've been blessed with. I hope you feel the same, but I'll let you make that choice on your own.



Open Mouth, Insert Foot
Tiffany Gibson

Larry Flynt, "Hustler" publisher, and Joe Francis, "Girls Gone Wild" CEO, are asking the government for a \$5 billion bailout for the porn industry. With people losing their jobs daily and higher education in a budget crisis, it's appalling that these millionaires are asking for more money so they can continue to fly in private jets, dine with class and preserve their wealthy statuses.

While they enjoy rolling 20 deep in their Hummer limousines, higher education is being forced to make

budget cuts by letting go of faculty, turning to adjunct professors, increasing class size and eliminating auxiliaries.

Businesses, radio stations, newspapers and restaurants are closing, leaving even more people without a source of income.

Most people are worried about how to manage their money so they can make car and house payments, but Flynt and Francis think that instead of helping those people, the government should bail out an industry that made \$97 billion in 2006, according to safefamilies.org.

Francis was right when he said the government should take the porn industry seriously and consider it as one of many in-

Porn moguls Flynt and Francis ask for bailout

dustries suffering, but he was wrong when he failed to mention the families of employees that might be impacted by the downfall. Then again, maybe Francis only cares about his own bank account.

Whatever the case, the porn industry does not seem to be struggling as much as thousands of other companies or individual Americans.

Both Flynt and Francis are pleading their case

creasing.

Instead of having failing products, the industry seems to have a successful market for Internet users; therefore, Flynt and Francis should take advantage of this and promote their products more online.

The solution is not to ask for more money, especially when there are other ways of bringing in revenue. At least the adult industry has that option. Other companies most likely wish they

could do the same.

With statistics like these, the porn industry downfall doesn't seem to be

**“Every second 28,258
Internet users are view-
ing pornography.”**

-toptenreviews.com

to Congress and claiming that DVD sales are down by 20 percent. This is correct. Sales began decreasing in 2006; however, sales that year still brought in \$3.6 billion, according to toptenreviews.com.

This means that video sales for 2007 and 2008 could probably pay for half of the \$5 billion being asked for.

Not to mention there are now 4.2 million pornographic Web sites and every second 28,258 Internet users are viewing pornography on them.

In 2005, Internet sales brought in \$2.5 billion and in 2006 there was an increase to \$2.84 billion. Even though video sales may be plummeting, Internet sales seem to be in-

too severe, which is why I question the motives behind a \$5 billion bailout.

Obviously, it has nothing to do with the well being of employees because the industry is still bringing in large amounts of revenue nationwide.

Similar to Francis, Flynt doesn't appear to care about his employees or consumers. He recognizes that times are hard, but urges people to spend their money on sex because, according to him, sex is the one thing people can't live without.

In an article for CNN, Flynt said, "People are too depressed to be sexually active. This is very unhealthy

College should teach more than facts

There are over a quintillion pieces of information recorded as facts by humans.

What, you didn't know that? That's the most known fact of them all.

Okay, okay, you got me. I made that number up. But there is a seemingly infinite amount of information out there.

And thanks to inventions like the printing press, the public library and the Internet, access to information - generally speaking of course - is as simple as saying, "I want my MTV."

Now think back on the many years you have been educated in America and how



From the Editor
Michael Stone

much of that education has involved the dissemination of information that could easily be accessed through a public library or the Internet.

Before college, you might have been in high school relaxing in a foreign language

class memorizing arbitrary nouns that didn't teach you much about speaking the language.

Before high school, you might have been in middle school having vocabulary tests over nine-letter words that you could have just as easily learned by reading or typing a Microsoft Word document.

The point is you were probably taught a bunch of facts during K-12 education. And you might not have even retained most of this information - except maybe that George Washington was the first president and that George Washington Carver

was the peanut guy.

Teaching youth straight facts is a problem to me. Children should begin to be taught how to think openly, conceptually and critically during the course of their pre-adult education.

There is an even bigger problem, though, than the factual education that is being given to America's youth. And that problem is that factual education has crossed into the collegiate level.

Some MTSU students may have had a class or two or three with professors that have what I like to call the "bold-face-term disease." Symptoms of this disease

include, but are not limited to, taking bold face terms out of textbooks, presenting them on Power Point slides to a class and testing students with multiple-choice examinations over the Power Point presentation.

Granted, classes tend to move away from factual learning and toward conceptual learning in the upper-division levels. But factual dissemination should not exist at all during the collegiate level of education. Students do not pay thousands of dollars a semester to have what is written in a textbook chewed up and regurgitated to them.

During my sophomore year at MTSU, I had a history class where I was one of about 80 students. It was a course that I had to take for general education outside of my major courses.

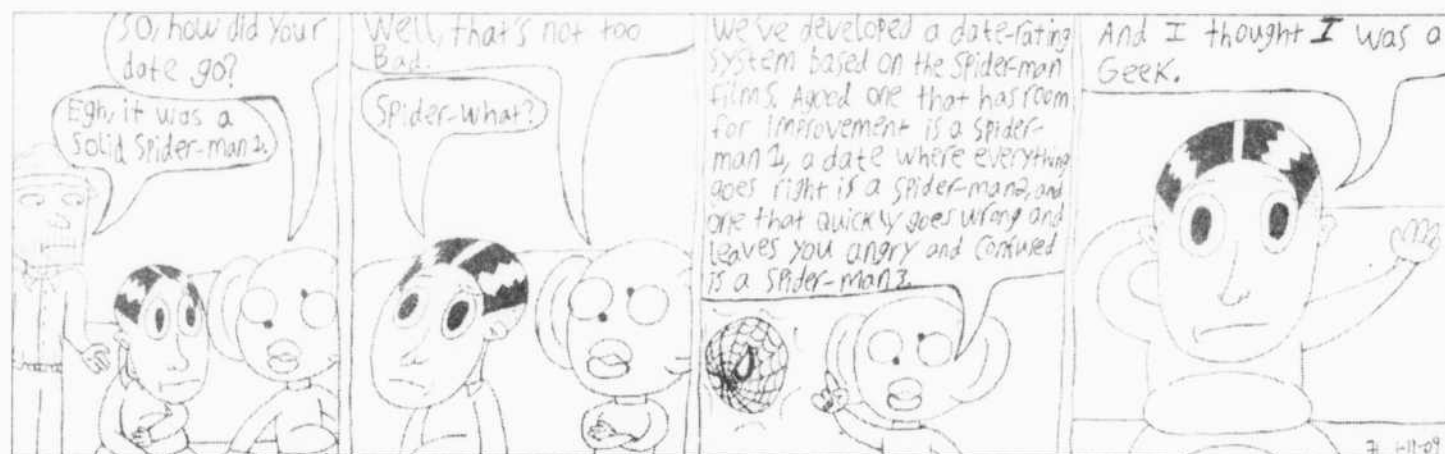
The professor required out-of-class papers and essay tests in spite of the large class size. And even though it took her longer to grade tests than a professor who uses a multiple-choice grading machine, she still read each and every word written by her students and graded the papers and essays accordingly.

Her drive to make her students to go the extra mile, even though she had a lot of them, inspired me (she even knew all of our names).

Three other professors have truly inspired me at MTSU. A music professor gave me a whole new perspective on the world, an English professor taught me to critically analyze and delve deep into literature and a journalism professor basically taught me everything I know about journalism.

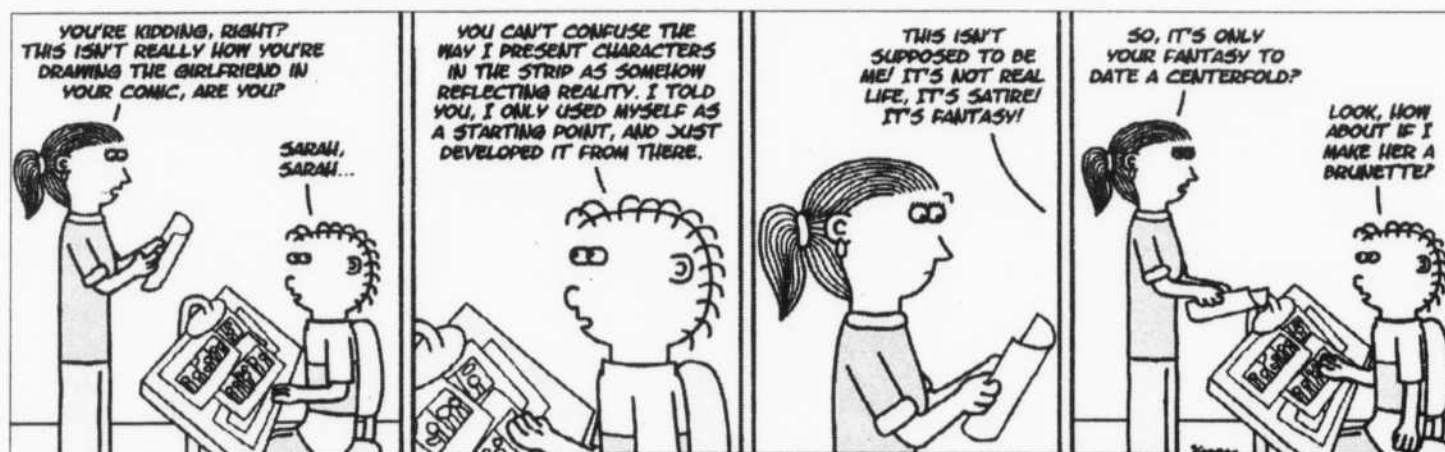
I learned from these four professors because they didn't disseminate facts from

COMICS



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller



"Last Ditch Effort"

lde-online.

John Kroes

Get real, go green in 2009!



Desist! Rely! Conform!
Byron Wilkes

With the passing of an old year and the start of a new, now is the time for fresh starts and welcome changes. Perhaps you have even considered a new year's resolution, like going vegan, spending more time at the gym or studying harder in school.

But for most of us, a new year's resolution is a short-lived attempt at changing behavior that we'll probably return to despite our tenuous promise to ourselves.

That's why I've decided to compile a list of environmentally friendly habits that don't mandate an overhaul of your day-to-day life. If you're going to try and change your lifestyle this year, it may as well be a change that will benefit the environment and future generations.

Start recycling what you can. Recycling doesn't mean you have to systematically sift through every piece of your garbage, just separate things like paper, glass and plastic before you discard them. You'd be surprised just how fast beer bottles and cola cans build up. The city of Murfreesboro provides a recycling center, as do most schools in the county, as well as the MTSU Biology Club and four Kroger locations here.

Paper or plastic? Neither! Reusable bags can be bought at most grocery stores, but stores don't restrict what kind of bag you can bring in. Shopping with reusable bags considerably cuts back on the number of plastic bags thrown away.

Turn off the lights. When you leave your residence and forget to turn off all the lights, you're burning energy and money for the entire time you're gone. This can build up living costs.

Use the thrift store. Buying used clothes is a great way to save money, though most of the time you won't find high-end couture in thrift stores. Giving away old clothes is not only charitable, but clears up your closet space. Some businesses such as Plato's Closet offer money for used name-brand clothes.

Unplug devices that aren't in use. Whether it's your cell phone charger, computer charger, lamps, microwave, etc., plugged-in appliances use energy even when they're off or not in use.

Don't waste water! Most Americans consider water a disposable product, but around the world there are many more nations not so lucky. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth or shaving and use only what you need in recipes. Showers also save a sizeable volume of water compared to baths.

Minimize car usage. Using a bicycle is the best option here, as it provides exercise

and emits no unnecessary carbon emissions. If you live too far away or cycling is just out of the question, carpooling is a great alternative to cutting back gas costs.

Cook your own meals. While the McDonald's may look tempting five minutes before that early morning (or afternoon) class, remember that repeated trips to fast food restaurants rack up a tab that is considerably higher than those same mealtimes purchased at the grocery store. This also makes food budgeting easier.

Use your dryer efficiently. To ensure your dryer isn't wasting any energy and working at its full potential, cleaning the lint filter each load is crucial. Also make sure the vent in the back is clean and that the dryer's location has sufficient airflow for the machine's intake. Then again, drying your clothes the old-fashioned way (on a line) uses no electricity at all if you have the space and patience to do it.

Buy blackout curtains. Regardless of the season, curtains can help keep heat or cool within an abode. Avoid using central air or heat by using ceiling fans to circulate the air.

Save energy while cooking. Whether it's leaving food covered to cook faster or using the microwave to avoid using the energy required on heating up an element, it's pretty simple to cut energy-efficient corners while cooking. If you have a gas stove, be sure to turn off the pilot light correctly when not in

use.

Read the ingredients. Don't just check the ingredients to your meals, try looking at the labels on detergents, make-up and other household cleaners to see what sort of chemicals are used in each's manufacture.

Reduce consumption. For one day, keep track of everything you buy or eat. You'll be surprised how much you'll spend without giving it a second thought.

Raise your awareness. Don't be satisfied with eating whatever you feel like or buying whatever products at the store when you've surely been bombarded by the ecological differences between certain products, as well as foods.

Use more efficient light bulbs. Using environmentally friendly light bulbs not only saves lots of money on your energy bill, but it also saves you money when purchasing the actual bulbs. Energy efficient light bulbs last much longer than contemporary bulbs.

While I realize that many of you out there will not be so easily moved by this list of simple changes for the New Year, I certainly hope that at least a few of you will take some of them into account in the hope that each of us can make an impact for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

Check out <http://www.greenlivingtips.com/> for more environmental habits you can easily incorporate into the 2009.

PORN BAILOUT FROM PAGE 18

depressed to be sexually active. This is very unhealthy as a nation. Americans can do without cars and such, but they cannot do without sex."

Basically, Flynt is suggesting that sex should be at the top of everyone's at the top of everyone's priority list because it is the one thing a person cannot live without. I'm sure people will thank him for his wise words someday when they are homeless and left shopping in dumpsters for groceries.

As far as depressed, yes, Americans are dispirited because they have to do without things they need or love. And if lower class individuals have to cut back, then why shouldn't Flynt and Francis? They are both worth millions and should save their money instead of flaunting it and spending irresponsibly.

Owen Moogan, Flynt's spokesman, recently said that consumers have no business determining whether or not the money should be given to this industry. This statement is confusing because Flynt wants the money to produce more products, but that's not going to matter if his customers don't support or can't afford to buy his merchandise.

Personally, I have nothing against the adult industry, and I do take it seriously as an industry that is facing a slight economic downfall. I just don't understand why Flynt and Francis want \$5 billion when clearly their industry is doing pretty well and could pay for itself.

Tiffany Gibson is sophomore journalism major and can be reached sidelinesmanager@gmail.com.

Video games do not equal combat

I love video games.

I got my first console when I was in elementary school – a Super Nintendo. In middle school I received a Playstation for Christmas. And finally, after a long wait similar to Cartman and the Wii, I got my Playstation 2 as a junior in high school.

The world of interactive entertainment has definitely evolved from the heydays of killing brain cells in shady arcades. Video games help to develop hand-eye coordination, logic and puzzle-solving skills, and continue to turn entire generations into tech-savvy beings. And despite limited time to play, I still engage in video games as often as possible.

So I was very disturbed to hear a CNN report yesterday about a new military recruitment facility in a Philadelphia shopping mall.

According to the report, the \$12 million facility “has 60 personal computers loaded with military video games, 19 Xbox 360 video game controllers and a series of interactive screens describing military bases and career options in great detail.”

Jesse Hamilton, a recent veteran of Iraq, spoke out



Yeah, Whatever
Andy Harper

against the new recruitment effort and said, “[The Army Experience Center is] very deceiving and very far from realistic. You can’t simulate the loss when you see people getting killed. It’s not very likely you are going to get into a firefight. The only way to simulate the heat is holding a blow dryer to your face.”

The fact that the military might be trying to make a vague connection between actual warfare and a video game like Call of Duty 4 is utterly insulting to all active and veteran soldiers. It’s almost saying their job was and is no harder than pushing a few buttons.

Comparing warfare to simulated combat is like seeing “Schindler’s List” and proclaiming you can sympathize with Holocaust survivors.

To clarify, this topic has

nothing to do with the military overall. I’m not up for writing much about whether I support or disapprove of the war or my opinion on our outgoing and incoming presidents’ foreign policies.

What I do find interesting, however, is the area of military recruitment. I constantly refer to the recruitment mall next to Hobby Lobby off of Old Fort Parkway as “piranha row.”

I call it piranha row because recruiters will try to get as many bites at a potential recruit as possible – anything to boost the Army’s ever dropping enlistment rate.

To be fair, I am an Army brat via my father, so my dislike of recruitment officers started at a very young age. By the age of 12, I was receiving US Army paraphernalia – bags, visors, Frisbees, sunglasses.

When I was 14, I joined my high school’s JROTC program. This was mostly out of respect for my father, who was, at the time, the executive officer of the program.

When I was 15, a sophomore, the Army recruiter came to visit.

I, along with my fellow classmates, were told to come

to school in dress uniform and give up our lunch periods to stand with the Army recruiter to talk with our fellow, non-JROTC peers.

We were supposed to sell the army life, despite the fact that we hadn’t lived it. I just found it to be useful excuse

young people and their parents... When he [Patrick] and other recruiters would gripe about their pressure to meet their quotas, their supervisors would snarl that they ought to be grateful they were not in Iraq.”

Barely a year after tak-

“You can’t simulate the loss when you see people getting killed. It’s not likely you are going to get into a firefight.”

JESSE HAMILTON
IRAQ WAR VETERAN

not to be forced to find a seat in our already over-crowded cafeteria.

I ditched JROTC my sophomore year and refused to sign-up or respond to any postcards, letters or e-mails I had, and do still occasionally, receive.

But after reading another recruitment-themed story on Dec. 22, 2008 at Comcast.net, I’m actually starting to feel like recent recruiters are little more than Uncle Sam’s punching bags.

The story talks about the multiple suicides that have plagued the Houston Recruiting Battalion over the past three years. All soldiers served combat tours before becoming recruiters.

One death in particular, Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Henderson, is the main focus since his widow, Staff Sgt. Amanda Henderson, and Texas Sen. John Cornyn (R) have pressed the state senate for an investigation into Patrick’s suicide.

According to Amanda, her husband worked “13-hour days, six days a week, often encountering abuse from

ing the recruiting position, 35-year-old Patrick hanged himself in his backyard shed with a dog chain.

Wretched isn’t strong enough to describe Patrick’s last year of life and tragic isn’t nearly appropriate enough to describe his death.

Whatever causes these soldiers’ distress, the added pressures of creating a magical illusion of play fighting through entertainment and promising real-life, video game glory at the potential cost of young Americans’ lives is more than enough to cause any human being distress – especially when that person knows the truth.

At this point, I’m not sure what’s worse: asking soldiers to out-right fabricate combat situations to boost enlistment numbers or being the person who has to lie to unsuspecting young men and women?

I just hope we don’t start opening martial arts studios asking kids to train with Mortal Kombat and then turn around, expecting them to break cement blocks with their bare foreheads.



Photo Courtesy morguefile.com

A soldier stands at attention bearing the POW-MIA flag

The P's of the presidency



Three P's
Sam Ashby

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all on the tube nothing was on, not even Lou Dobbs.

So I turned it to everyone's natural second choice, CS-PAN. I usually don't watch CSPAN because, for one thing, it's extremely boring. For another, I never understand half the stuff they're talking about when they are featuring the Senate floor and the various debates ongoing for legislation. Especially when it comes to the detailed talk about disagreements over policy incentives and such, I usually just change it.

Anyway, on this day CS-PAN had a panel discussing the presidency of Lyndon Johnson, the 36th president of the U.S.

Here's what I know about Johnson from reading and watching TV: he escalated the Vietnam War, declared a "war on poverty" and was responsible for the "Great Society."

I also know that Johnson

was a politician in every sense of the word. He had a knack for persuading other reluctant senators to vote on legislation he supported while serving as Senate Majority Whip, which later became to be known as "the Johnson treatment." His turbulent relationship with Robert Kennedy is well known.

But one thing I began to realize while watching this panel discussion on Johnson is that I believe his personality is one of the biggest contributors to his mixed legacy today. I then began to recognize two other forces that sometimes contribute to the legacy of a president long after he has left office: policy and power. Let's look at each one more closely and individually.

First, the most important factor in determining a president's legacy is personality. When the word comes to mind, I think of Richard Nixon and Watergate. Unfortunately for this president, that is the first thing that comes to the minds of many Americans when his name is mentioned. He served a full term before the Watergate scandal hit the national scene.

During his first term, he tried to improve race relations and was successful in desegregating many public schools in the South long after *Brown v. Board of Education* and the original Civil Rights Act of

1964 was passed.

But Nixon's personality is what brought the most powerful man in the world down. He's famously known for being very paranoid and shrewd. I find it amazing that something like a president's

elderly afford their medications.

One example I can think of when it comes to a policy decision that has affected the public perception of a president was President Bush's choice to veto the

nating how much that can change from administration to administration. Our government is set up, as all of you know, on a system of checks and balances. No one branch can achieve power over the other.

Many Americans are in agreement when it comes to the power of the president, that it shouldn't be increased and that the Congress, the courts and the president should work together when enacting laws that affect the American people. This comes from a *USA Today* news story, "Poll: Public opposes increased Presidential Power."

It seems that history has been kind to those presidents that have had a working, cooperative relationship with the Congress rather than those presidents that bypass it and exercise a record amount of executive orders.

These three words contribute a lot to the perception of a president while in office, but mostly once they have left office. Once they do leave, the American people can actually take a step back and look at what presidents have done for the country, whether those actions are good or bad.

How will President-elect Obama grade in these three areas once he actually starts governing? We'll have to see.

“It seems that history has been kind to those presidents that have had a working, cooperative relationships with the Congress.”

personality can be his greatest downfall.

This is exactly what happened to President Nixon. I also believe the personality of President Bush will be remembered alongside his decisions and public perception that will factor into, what I believe will be, his mixed legacy as well.

The second area is policy. The perceptions of all past presidents is of course based on their policy decisions and what they wanted to achieve when passing these through the Congress or through executive order.

Many Americans, from what I've seen, usually approve of a president who passes domestic policy that strengthens the middle class, improves the American education system and helps the

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. Among other things, it allowed low-income pregnant women to receive state-level assistance as long as they are below a certain poverty threshold, according to a summary at govtrack.us.

Bush vetoed the bill. His reasoning was that the bill "moved healthcare in the wrong direction." This was stated in a letter he wrote to the House of Representatives. Many Americans didn't see this though, especially those living in poverty. Because of this, Bush will probably be remembered for being out of touch with the less fortunate.

The third criterion is power. All presidents have power obviously. But I find it fasci-

TEACHING FROM PAGE 19

a textbook or even use a textbook, for that matter. Rather, they taught their students how to conceptually and critically think through research, writing and open discussions.

I have a proposition to

the professors of MTSU for the current semester and all semesters from this one on – instruct your students in a way that requires them to critically think instead of memorize. This is a university and students who pay to attend should be working toward an education rather than a piece of paper.

Do you have an opinion?

Unlike your professors, we'd like to hear it.

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Eat well for cheap

How to make 7 great meals for under 5 dollars

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

The economy is in a crunch, tuition and rent prices are going up and salaries are going down. This doesn't mean people can stop eating because they're broke.

To eat cheap, many students resort to cooking ramen, eating fast food, or scrounging around for some leftover pizza or takeout from the night before. None of this is particularly healthy, and after a while, the cost of eating out can eat at you, or add to that freshman fifteen.

However, it is possible to eat a good, healthy meal for cheap as long as you are smart about it. Each of the seven meals listed below costs under five dollars per person to make, offer dietary variety and are a lot tastier than Top Ramen, the third Big Mac this week, or Captain Crunch cereal.

To make cheap food that also tastes good and offers

balance, you have to know how and where to shop.

Most of the items purchased for this article were bought from United Allied Grocer's, also known as the United Grocery Outlet. United is located on the corners of South Church and Broad Streets, near downtown Murfreesboro.

United is a wholesale grocery store, which means you can get the same food you would buy at Kroger or Publix, just for much cheaper. The only difference in products is the price.

In order to make money, stores like Kroger and Publix have to sell grocery items for more than they bought them. Since United has already bought these items for less, they can sell their groceries to customers at a wholesale price. The food is the exact same as you might find at Kroger or Publix, but much more inexpensive.

A few ingredients were not

included on the lists of items needed to buy in order to complete the recipes.

Items such as milk, salt, pepper and eggs are essentials for cooking and can be kept around for easy use.

If you don't have milk or eggs, you can either go buy some or you can ask to borrow it from one of your dorm mates or that person in your apartment complex you've been meaning to talk to.

The hardest part of eating cheap is not the preparation of the food but the shopping for ingredients. A few rules for grocery shopping can keep wallets thick and stomachs full.

Think in terms of quantity rather than price. Check for unit prices on packages. A package of 5 tortillas at \$1.50 is not cheaper than the package of 10 tortillas at \$2.50.

It's not on sale if you don't need it. If you already have



Photos by Katy Coil, features editor

(Above) The hamburger steak with gravy and two sides looks like a homestyle meat and two vegetables. (Below) A personal-pan meatloaf is cheap and comforting.

The Comfort Food Meal

Personal Pan Meatloaf and Vegetables

It may not be Mom's, but it will tide you over until the next trip home.

- 1 Ground beef patty - \$1.37
- 1 sleeve saltine crackers - \$0.88
- 1 onion - \$0.69
- 1 can tomato sauce - \$0.33
- 1 can of corn - \$0.50
- 1 potato - \$0.41
- 1 green pepper - \$0.69
- Total Price:** \$4.87 per serving

Break up ¼ of crackers into crumbs. Meanwhile, chop 1/8 of the onion, 1/8 of the pepper into slices. Take ½ of the ground beef patty and mix it with the chopped pieces of onion, peppers, and the cracker crumbs until mixed smoothly. Place the meat into small pan or container. Pour 4 oz. of tomato sauce over the top of the meatloaf. Bake in oven at 350 to 450 degrees on medium. When the meatloaf is halfway done, pour remaining 4 oz. of tomato sauce on top of the loaf. Boil corn until it is sufficiently cooked and kernels are soft and tender. Peel potato and boil in water until the potato is mushy and can be easily divide up with a cooking utensil. Add in 1 cup milk and butter according to taste then mash.

The Looks Expensive But Isn't Meal

Hamburger Steak with Vegetables

The hamburger steak will to pass as a meal at nice home-style restaurant, but only cost half the price of eating the meal at there.

- 1 Ground beef patty - \$1.37 (Unit Price)
- 1 Can of mushrooms - \$0.59
- 1 Gravy can - \$0.79
- 1 Potato - \$0.66
- 1 Can of green beans - \$0.50
- Total Price:** \$3.91 per serving

Roll out the ground beef into a ball and then mash until it is ½ to ¾ inches thick. Then season with a dash of salt and pepper. Place the beef in a skillet with cooking oil on the bottom. Cook the beef patty until one side is browned and then flip and cook the other side. Continue until the inside of the burger appears to have little pink inside. Wash the whole potato, using scrub brush or fingers to help remove dirt. Use a fork to poke holes to ventilate the potato before putting in the microwave. Microwave for 4 minutes. Heat green beans in a small pan until cooked. Meanwhile, mix mushrooms and gravy into a skillet and heat, stirring occasionally. When the gravy is completed, pour on the finished hamburger steak.

MEALS, PAGE 25

The Vegetarian Meal

Vegetarian Chili

You don't have to be vegetarian or vegan to eat cheap, but eating your veggies can be cost effective, easy, and tasty.

- 1 onion - \$0.69
- 1 red bell pepper - \$0.77
- 1 packet of chili mix - \$0.79
- 1 green pepper - \$0.69
- 1 can of kidney beans - \$0.74
- 1 can Rotel Tomato and Chile mix - \$0.39
- Total Price:** \$4.07 per serving

Place 2 cups of water into pot. Cut the green peppers into 1/4 and then dice slices. Do the same with the red pepper and the onion. Open up can of tomato and chile mix and then pour in. Boil the pot with mixed ingredients on the stove until thick, approximately an hour on medium heat. Electric skillets and microwaves are alternate cooking options, if available.

The Asian Style Meal

Oriental Stir Fry

Feel free to experiment with different kinds and flavors of meat as well using other vegetables

- 1 package Ansera long grain enriched rice - \$1.29
- 1 can green beans - \$0.50
- 1 can mushrooms - \$0.59
- 1 package pre-shredded chicken strips - \$1.49
- 1 package Concord Foods Asian stir fry mix - \$1.00
- Total Price:** \$4.87 per serving.

Pour 1 tablespoon oil in a skillet. Make sure oil covers the entire bottom of the skillet. Tear shredded chicken into smaller pieces. Simmer in oil on medium heat, flipping meat so that both sides cooks. Simmer until meat is hot. Prepare stir fry mixture in bowl according to package directions. Combine 1 cup rice and 2 cups of water into a bowl. Cook on stove or microwave until the rice is puffy and has consumed the water. Add in green beans and mushrooms to rice mixture. Put green bean, rice, and mushroom mixture into skillet with chicken. Pour stir fry mix on top and stir until rice is completely brown. Continue simmering on medium until the mixture is cooked.

The On-the-Go Meal

Al fresco Tortilla Wrap

These wraps can be made ahead of time and refrigerated or quickly assembled if a few ingredients are prepared ahead of time.

- 1 package tortilla - \$1.19; individual tortilla - \$0.19
- 1 Roma tomato - \$0.21
- 1 package cheese - \$1.89
- 1 package pre-shredded chicken strips - \$1.50
- 1 head of lettuce - \$0.89

To make easier, dice tomato into slices and shred lettuce ahead of time. Take out tortilla and fill with 1/3 of the chicken strips from the package. Place diced tomatoes and shredded lettuce on top of meat. Sprinkle cheese as desired. Wrap up ingredients in tortilla.

The Tex-Mex Style Meal

Loaded Nachos

This can be a meal made for game night, a party, or just to sit and eat for yourself.

- 1 package nacho or salsa chips - \$0.89
- 1 package Mexican cheese - \$1.85
- 1 cup sour cream - \$0.99
- 1 package green onions - \$0.45
- 1 can Rotel Tomato and Chile mix - \$0.39
- Total Price:** \$4.57 per serving

Spread the chips on the plate, making sure they are evenly distributed. Some chips can be set aside for later dipping. Open can of Rotel Tomato and Chile mix, drain can of water. Spread the tomatoes and chiles evenly over the top of the chips. Open the cheese packet and spread it evenly on top of tomatoes and chiles. Option: at this point, you can microwave the ingredients on the plate to melt the cheese. Put on 2-3 tablespoons full of sour cream. Spread sour cream on top of cheese layer with back of spoon. Wash green onions and then lay on cutting board or hard surface. Cut off ends, discarding them and then cut and dice green ends until you have a handful or 1 cup of diced green onions. Spread diced onions on top of the sour cream layer.

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

Movies

1/12 - 1/16 - Pulp Fiction - KUC Theatre - 7 p.m. - FREE

1/20-1/23 - High School Musical 3: Senior Year - KUC Theatre - 7 and 9 p.m. - \$2

Music

1/15 - The Features. - Club 527 - 9:30 p.m.

1/16 - Dixie Whiskey (ex-Pink Spiders). - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Dr. Gonzo, ODD, Misplaced My Zombie - The Boro - 8 p.m.

Cold Truth - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

44 Vegas, Toxic Fuzz. - Club 527 - 10 p.m.

1/17 - Whitebeater. - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Mudlap Kings - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Wrong Way: Sublime Tribute Band, THB - Club 527 - 10 p.m.

1/18 - The Compromise. - Club 527 - 7 p.m.

1/20 - Obama Nation Inauguration Celebration - The Boro - 9 p.m.

1/22 - Richard Karg - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Days of the New, The Last Straw - Club 527 - 10 p.m.

1/23 - Screamin' Booevils. - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Cherphonics - The Boro - 8 p.m.

Stacey Michhart - The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Mike Anderson and the Deputy's - Club 527 - 10 p.m.

1/24 - Mindset Defect, War Within, Deadchain - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Ribbon Pigeon - The Boro - 8 p.m.

Livin' With Jack - The Blue Rooster - 9 pm

Other

1/20 - Karaoke - The Blue Rooster - 9pm

1/21 - Live Trivia - Wall Street - 8 pm

Compiled By Malarie Woods



Photos by Katy Coil, features editor

(From Left to Right) Vegetarian chili, loaded nachos, and Asian stir fry all offer tasty variety and value.

MEALS FROM PAGE 23

four cans of green beans, you don't need to buy a fifth one just because its offered on discount today.

Don't be afraid to by generic or store brand items. The only difference between brand name and generic are the labels on the packages and cans.

Know what you want to buy ahead of time. Plan out your meals and your grocery list. Wandering the store aimlessly – especially on an empty stomach – leads to many purchases that are unnecessary and not cost effective.

Grocery shop and cook with friends. A meal usually makes more than one serving

and if everyone goes into together, each individual pays less for the same amount of food. Also, more food can be bought for less money.

Feel free to experiment with recipes. If it calls for bread crumbs, a package of crumpled crackers will work just as well.

Most of all, have fun, think outside the box, and eat well.

To find more healthy recipes that won't break the bank, check out the following sites.

www.bloglander.com/cheapeats

www.cooks.com

www.allrecipe.com

The Date Night Meal

Parmigiana di Pollo or Chicken Parmesan

If you want to do something nice for that special someone but you can't afford a night out on the town with a pricey meal and tickets to the ballet or Wrestlemania, stay in and cook. It will mean a lot that you took the time and effort to prepare a meal and you won't have to spend very much, especially when you price the meal per serving. You feed two people for under ten dollars. Besides, what says love better than Italian food?

Total Price	Price Per Serving	
2 Chicken Breasts	\$2.51	\$1.25
Mozzarella Cheese	\$1.85	\$0.93
Parmesan Cheese	\$1.85	\$0.93
Saltine Crackers	\$0.88	\$0.44
Pasta Sauce	\$1.00	\$0.50
Pasta noodles	\$0.89	\$0.45
Total Price:	\$8.98	\$4.50 per serving

Place the two chicken pieces on foil, fold the foil over on top and pound them to make them thinner. Meanwhile, whisk together 1 cup of milks and two eggs. Place olive oil in a skillet and then make sure it is spread around, covering the entire base of the skillet. Begin simmering the oil in the skillet. Break up crackers into small crumbs in one bowl. Dip each piece chicken in the egg and milk mixture on both sides and then into the crumbs on both sides. Place the breaded chicken into the skillet of oil. Cook them in the skillet for 3-4 minutes, flipping halfway through so both sides are browned. Set oven to 350 degrees. Sprinkle mozzarella and parmesan cheese, leaving out around 1 cup, on top of the chicken then pour spaghetti sauce sparingly over the top. Bake the chicken at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, boil spaghetti noodles and if desired, boil sauce until it is hot. When the chicken has finished cooking, place it on top of the spaghetti noodles. Place the remainder of the sauce on top of the chicken and noodles then sprinkle the remaining parmesan cheese on the top.



Photo by Katy Coil, features editor

The produce section at United Grocery Outlet provides variety and affordable prices for any chef on a budget.

Back to School Horoscopes

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You're completely ready for back to school. Pretty soon, you will be skipping more classes than you signed up for.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

School just started and you're ready for a break. Don't slack off now, though. All your professors this year are going to be tough.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You know that hot guy or girl you met at that party over the holidays? Yeah, they're not calling you back.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You packed on the pounds with those holiday snacks. At least you're insulated for winter.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

You really packed on the pounds with all those holiday snacks. On the plus side, you're insulated for winter.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

Be very afraid of the color yellow this semester. Very afraid.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Get ready for your first test of the semester. It will probably be some time next week.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Money's going to be tight for you this semester. Consider exchanging that ugly sweater from Great-Aunt Marian so you can buy textbooks.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Unexpected roommate drama is on your horizons. You might want to sleep with one eye open.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Stay away from the hottie in the third row this semester. It's your overprotective prof's kid.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Look forward to spending long, dreary hours slaving away in the library this semester.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

It's going to be a tough trek this semester, but don't expect a motivational poster. Quit whining and get to work.

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All he needs is his ukulele

An MTSU sophomore uses his unique instrument to write and play his songs

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Singer/songwriter Al Torregroza first took up an instrument nearly ten years ago and has never looked back since.

"I have to be immersed in music all the time to be happy," says Torregroza, an MTSU sophomore.

There are likely very few on campus or in the Murfreesboro area who have heard Torregroza's music. Apart from the creation of a MySpace page (myspace.com/ajtoro), exposing his music to the public has not been as great a priority as continuing to play music and progress as a songwriter. In fact, the first opportunity for others to hear Torregroza play was last December, at the "Hot on the Row" showcase.

The event, sponsored by American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and Amer-

ican Songwriter Magazine, featured 12 winners of a songwriting competition who performed their music before an audience including ASCAP representatives at Nashville's Dan McGuinness Irish Pub. Torregroza was among the winners, selected to perform the song he had submitted, titled "Merry Go Round."

"Merry Go Round," which Torregroza claims to be his favorite of the songs he has written, sounds like a collaboration between John Mayer and Jack Johnson, and was composed on a ukulele.

"It's the first really happy song I've written," Torregroza says, "I

wrote it in my room at school one day when I was [mad]. I wanted to remind people that in spite of the bad things that happen to them, there's good if you let it come to you," says Torregroza.

The happy vibe that has recently taken over his songwriting Torregroza attributes to his recent switch from writing songs mainly on the piano to writing on his ukulele.

"Cheesy as it sounds, I find inspiration from all the good around me, and seeing people do things for one another."

AL TORREGROZA
SINGER/ SONGWRITER

Though he claims to play little guitar, Torregroza has been practicing the ukulele for seven months after purchasing the instrument with almost no intent of seriously learning to play.

"It kind of inspired my want to be a song-



writer." Torregroza says. "I just thought the sound was so relaxing and I bought it not thinking I would take it seriously, but it changed how I thought about music. Before the songs I wrote were darker ballads, but after taking up the ukulele, they became happier and more 'me.' Now I'm also able to write happier songs on the piano."

Prior to discovering his songwriting niche with the ukulele, Torregroza had an extensive musical history, beginning with his middle school days when he first took up the piano.

The piano lessons were short-lived, lasting for only a month before he gave them up, not understanding the importance at the time, as he says. Torregroza continued to pursue the instrument without the lessons by teaching himself how to play.

While attending a Catholic high school in Somerville, New Jersey near his hometown of Bound Brook, Torregroza learned to play the marimba and saxophone, sang in choir, and led the percussion

section in the marching band.

Today, Torregroza is happy to be at MTSU pursuing a degree in music production and songwriting, but has not always been in an environment conducive to creativity.

"I went to University of Miami to study music education, but I don't think I could give it my all because I wanted to get more into the creative side of music with songwriting and production," Torregroza says.

Though his collection of songs totals about an album's worth at twelve, songwriting is an art becoming progressively easier for Torregroza, he says, not only because of his connection with the ukulele, but with a songwriting MO as mellow and laid-back as the melodies he makes.

"It's getting easier because I don't force it, and I don't worry about it so much," he says. "When I write, I let the idea sit in my head for a while. I think it's better to let an idea take shape in your head first rather than try and force it out."

Torregroza also tends to write lyrics before the music.

"I used to have less of a connection with words, but going through college, people find themselves and change their minds all the time. I'm better at expressing myself now," Torregroza says.

In spite of his relatively new-found fascination with writing on the ukulele, Torregroza still claims that the piano is his favorite instrument to play.

"It's what got me going musically and I would never be where I am today without it," he says.

"I wrote 'Man of Steel' on the piano. It's a slow ballad and totally different from 'Merry Go Round'."

He says he is satisfied with the sound, and believes it to be music that a wide audience can relate to, particularly "Merry Go Round," which he recorded himself. He added full instrumentation to the song with recording equipment, transforming the melody from rustic to pop.

Plans for playing shows are on the back burner at the moment for Torregroza, whose interest mainly lies in composing more songs and further developing his style.

He expresses a desire to eventually record professionally in Nashville, but for now, Torregroza says he is content to simply continue writing music at MTSU and recording DIY Style.

"Cheesy as it sounds, I find inspiration from all the good around me, and seeing people do things for one another," Torregroza says. "It's things like that I find inspiring, and writing is what I want to do for other people."

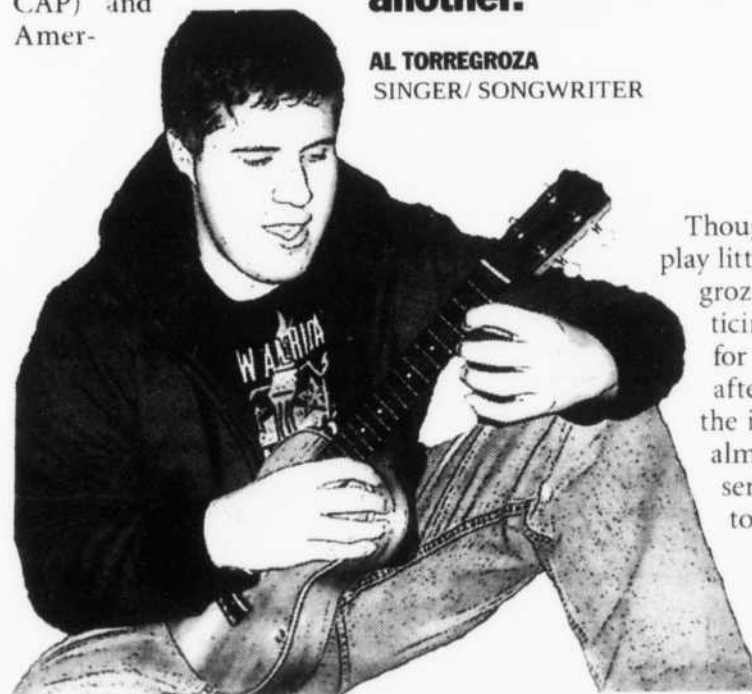


Photo illustration courtesy of Al Torregroza

Men's basketball enjoys productive break

Blue Raiders improve to 11-5 on the year and 5-0 in the Sun Belt Conference

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team got just about everything they wanted on this year's holiday wish list and quite a bit more.

During the holiday break, the Blue Raiders played in nine games and unwrapped such gifts as two 1,000-point scorers in junior forward Desmond Yates and senior guard Kevin Kanaskie, a seven-game winning streak that ties the sixth-longest winning streak in MT history, a 5-0 Sun Belt Conference record and even a Basketball Travelers Championship trophy.

"I'm really proud of our basketball team," said MT Head Coach Kermit Davis. "These guys have played at a high level over the holidays. It's been some really good basketball."

That high level of play, however, was not there from the beginning as the Blue Raiders stumbled out of the gate to start the break. Consecutive losses at home to Tennessee Martin, 72-65, and away at Belmont, 82-69, threatened to cripple the team's postseason hopes and holiday spirits.

Then, on Dec. 20, the Blue Raiders traveled to Springfield, Mo., to compete in the Basketball Travelers Tip-off Tournament. The men's team overcame their underdog status and won three games in three days, including a 63-51 victory over host Missouri State. The victory marked the first time MT swept a three-game in-season tournament since 1956.

Yates ended the tournament with 22 points on 10-of-13 shooting in the championship game and earned



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Senior guard Nigel Johnson shoots a free throw during the UT game at the Murphy Center in November. The Blue Raiders lost 76-66.

himself tournament MVP honors. Afterwards, Yates cited the tournament as a momentum booster for the team.

"We really bounced back this weekend, and we did something that hasn't been done at Middle Tennessee in a long time," Yates said. "It's a great way to get ready for conference play."

The team proved it was ready for Sun Belt Conference play as it followed up its championship with an 89-80 overtime victory at North Texas. Yates scored 25 points and Kanaskie added 19 to help erase an 11-point second-half deficit and fuel a comeback win for the Blue Raiders. The men orchestrated a 21-7 run in the final eight minutes of regulation to cement one of the Blue Raid-

ers largest comeback wins of the season.

Next up, the men's team dominated South Alabama, 82-67, on the road to win their fifth straight contest. Balance was the key in this game as four Blue Raiders walked away with double-digit points. Senior guard Demetrius Green scored 18, Yates finished with 17, Kanaskie put up 16 and junior forward Montarrio Haddock poured in 13 to give the basketball team another conference win.

The Blue Raiders brought their winning ways home with them as they pulled out a 59-57 victory on Jan. 8 with a buzzer-beater against Florida Atlantic University. The men's team played uncharacteristically and trailed the entire game until the very end.

With three seconds remaining, Green drove the lane, avoided a charging foul and placed a last second layup into the basket ensuring that the Blue Raiders remained perfect in the Sun Belt Conference.

"I knew they would call a charge, so I had to avoid them to get the shot off," Green said about the winning play. "Desmond [Yates] made a good pass to me, and I knew I had to finish, and I did."

Green didn't stop being the hero after one game, as he once again hit a game-clenching 3-pointer two days later, leading the men's team to a victory over Florida International University, 68-63. It was the team's seventh straight win. The victory ended MTSU's holiday

break with a 7-2 record and sole possession of first place in the Sun Belt Conference East.

Next up, the men's team will face rival and fellow Sun Belt Conference hopeful Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., tonight at 7 p.m. The last time these two teams met was in the Sun Belt Conference Championships one year ago. WKU won the game, 67-57, and effectively ended MT's 07-08 basketball season. Tonight, the Blue Raiders look to get revenge against the last Sun Belt team to beat them and remain perfect in Conference play. A win would solidify MT's position as one of the teams to beat in the Sun Belt Conference.

Volleyball team's season ends on disappointing note

Team posts a 27-8 record but falls short of NCAA Sweet 16 due to Purdue loss

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Managing Editor

With a season record of 27-8, MT's volleyball team didn't quite live up to 2007's record but the team did make it to the second round of the NCAA tournament for the third straight year.

The team lost in the Sun Belt tournament and was just shy of making it into the NCAA Sweet 16 by tying for 7th place.

"Compared to the previous year when we were 35-3, we were a little disappointed," Head Coach Matthew Peck said. "We didn't win the Sun Belt tournament to win the conference, but our team came back and played very well Thanksgiving weekend against one of the best teams in the country, St. Louis."

MT bounced back and won in the first round at the NCAA tournament, but lost to Purdue, which pushed MT out of the Sweet 16.

In addition to losing the

tournament, MT will also be losing its only senior, Ashley Asberry, who is ranked fourth in the nation for hitting efficiency.

Asberry said that disappointment doesn't even come close to describe how she felt after losing in the Sun Belt tournament.

"I felt betrayed and heart broken," Asberry said. "I set personal goals every season, preseason and postseason, and that day I felt like nothing else I did mattered because we lost the big one."

As a senior, Asberry said that she enjoyed her role as a leader, but felt that the team didn't improve together throughout the season.

Peck said that Asberry did an outstanding job during her time at MT.

"As far as being a team leader, she was our only senior," Peck said. "And coming in she was from Murfreesboro, so she was a three year starter for us. We'll miss her quite a bit."



Photo by Alex Blackweider, photography editor

Members of the volleyball team gear up for a match against the University of Louisiana at Monroe during the national anthem.

Even though there were some problems early on in the season, Peck said he is very proud of his team.

"One of our starters, Sasha McGlothlin, tore her ACL in her knee during a match in September," Peck

said. "We lost another player mid-way through the season that quit the team, so we had some issues and came out of it having a very good season."

After McGlothlin became injured, Peck said junior

Ianay Yancey played a big role in stepping up and playing middleblock. Junior Ashley Waugh also became a full-time starter this year.

VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 30

Softball team looks forward to exciting season



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Members of the girl's softball team prepare for an eventful season in 2009.

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Managing Editor

MT softball Head Coach Sue Nevar had 22 wins last year and is looking to double that amount with the new season starting up on Feb. 7 against the University of Virginia in Greenville, N.C.

Nevar, who achieved the second-most wins for a coach in his or her first year in program history last year, said that the team has an advantage this year because they now have four pitchers.

"At this level and the competition in our conference, you've got to have different

types of pitchers with different looks," Nevar said. "I've got one that throws a rise ball and a good drop, another one that is strictly drop, and an [one with an] off-speed drop."

Nevar said that junior Lindsey Vander Lugt, who is ranked No. 1 in the nation by the NCAA for the least amount of walks for every seven innings, freshman Katy Jutson, sophomore Kellie Head and freshman Tobie Joy will make up the pitching staff.

In addition to pitchers, Nevar said that the team is going to have more variety and flexibility.

"With 16 kids, we're go-

ing to have availability to put speed on the bases and maybe one of our power hitters that isn't that fast, we can pinch a run for her this year and score that run," Nevar said. "Last year I was limited on bench people."

Last season, Nevar said that the team only had 14 healthy bodies and that number would increase this year. She said that usually teams should have around 18 to 20 players on the team in case of injuries.

To read more, visit us online.

online
www.mtsusidelines.com

The best is yet to come: '09 baseball

The Blue Raiders are preparing for an extremely eventful season

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The upcoming season of Blue Raider baseball is being heralded as one of the "to-watch" season of college athletics.

The preseason actually got off to a daunting start. MT Head Coach Steve Peterson underwent open-heart surgery in late November. However, Peterson's immediate recovery is not lost on the Middle Tennessee community. The coach returns to the diamond with a record of 663-531-3 and eight NCAA tournament bids.

In December, senior infielder Rawley Bishop and sophomore pitcher/outfielder Bryce Brentz were named to both the Ping!Baseball 2009 Preseason team and the 2009 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year pre-season list. These honors came after spectacular performances by both players in the 2008 season.

Bishop had received many awards including the American Baseball Coaches Association South Central All-Region and the First Team All-Sun Belt Conference honors. He batted .372, scored

64 runs and hit 18 home runs. Brentz also received a number of accolades including the Collegiate Baseball's Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American and the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association Freshman All-America, to name a few.

The Wallace Award will be presented in July 2009 on the campus of Texas Tech University. It is given annually to the nation's top-performing collegiate baseball player. Bishop and Brentz are joined by five fellow Sun Belt Conference players.

The Ping!Baseball award named Brentz second-team utility player, while Bishop will be playing third-team first base. They will be joined by three other Sun Belt athletes.

The Blue Raiders will start off the season at home in a newly renovated Reese Smith field. The ribbon was cut on the field during the opening weeks of the fall semester. The Raiders are returning 27 letterwinners, including Bishop, Brentz, and senior Grant Box. They will play Missouri State on Feb. 20, 21 and 22.

Top Returnees

17 Rawley Bishop

10 Grant Box

7 Bryce Brentz

16 Chad Edwards

12 Nathan Hines

21 Black McDade

35 Kenneth Roberts

Wrestling club looks to grapple in '09

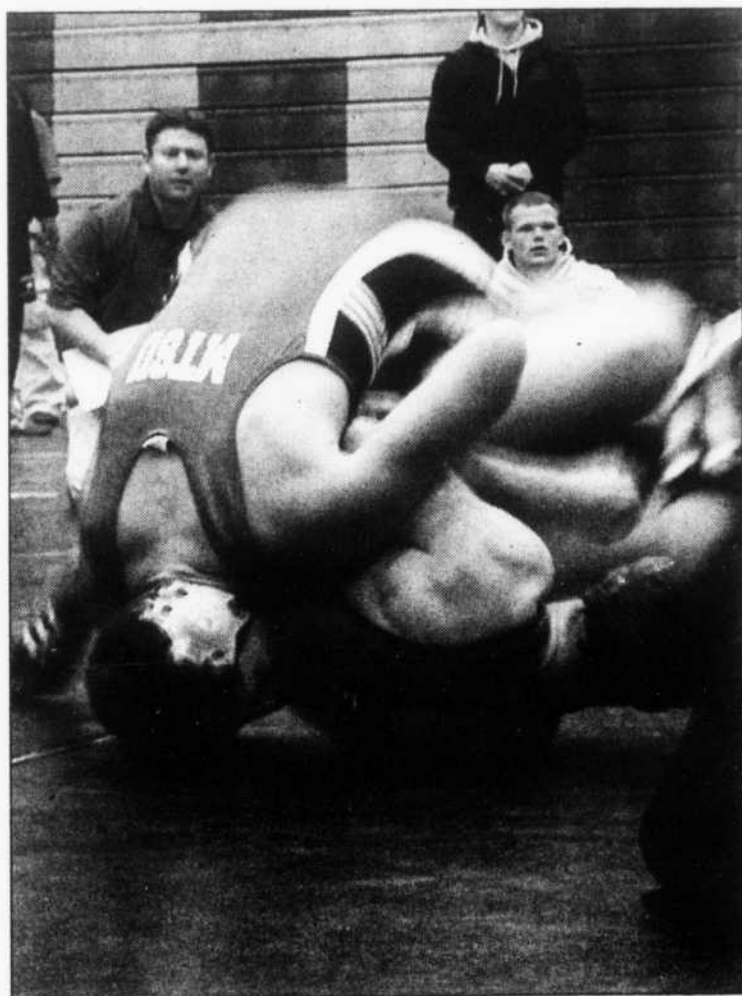


Photo courtesy Cory Watson

A member of the wrestling team grapples with an opponent.

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Managing Editor

In the prime of their season, the wrestling sports club prepares for upcoming matches against Tennessee Temple, Auburn and the National Duals, which is scheduled to take place Jun. 30 in MTSU's Campus Recreation Center.

The team gained success last year after winning the Tennessee State Duals competition and having team members Cory Watson, Anthony Pierce and Jesse Watson qualify for nationals. The team also won the No. 1 Sports Club of the Year award, giving them more funding for the 2008-09 season.

"As we gather more support from local communities and schools, I think MTSU is only going to get better," Head Coach Bryan Knepper said. "The fact that we are hosting and are in the National Duals is great for the university."

Knepper said that the ultimate goal for the program is to become part of the athletic department so funding won't be an issue.

"We're well funded through the sports club, but when we buy supplies and print tickets up, it's coming out of our pockets," Knepper said.

To raise additional funds, Knepper said that the team has given out concessions at Titans football games and put on a spaghetti dinner at a local church.

As far as competing at a Division I level, Knepper said that no programs are being promoted to Division I because wrestling is the No. 1 sport being cut due to fairness of scholarships.

"People look at it as a club league, but really it's not like that," Knepper said. "Some of these teams beat Division II and III teams on a constant basis."

"We're probably third in line when it comes to leagues in the nation."

Watson, team president and junior history major, said that even though the team consists of a young athletes, most of the guys have been wrestling since eighth grade.

"We do worry about inexperience," Watson said. "As the season's progressed, we've gotten better and used to the college rules."

Watson said that he and Vice President Matt Coffman basically have to run the program.

"At the beginning we have to give a budget presentation to Wendy Windsor, [sports club director]," Watson said. "We make all the travel arrangements, set up all the matches and our coach Bryan helped a lot as far as setting up the matches."

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VOLLEYBALL FROM PAGE 28

Improving from last year's success, Peck said that junior Ashley Mead and sophomore Izabela Kozon both had huge contributions to the team.

"Then we had two fresh-

men, Stacy Oladinni and Brynne Henderson, who played in every game of every match in the whole season," Peck said. "They really helped our team get over the hump a little bit."

Peck said that the NCAA infraction filed in May for having an ineligible player did not have an impact on his

team whatsoever. The penalties for the violation include two years of probation, a vacation of wins, a reduction in scholarships and a two-year show-cause order for the former head coach.

"That hasn't factored into anything with our team whatsoever, and I don't believe that it will," Peck said.

Asberry said that she thinks the team could have done so much better.

"I did good, I think, but it was never just about me," Asberry said.

Looking ahead, Peck said that the team is going to miss Asberry, but they knew this would be her last year so they had to plan for

it.

"One of our freshmen, Lindsey Cheatham, is going to do a great job for us and be a very good player," Peck said. "And then we have two freshmen coming in for Ashley's position that I think are going to be tremendous players as well."

MT fans apathetic towards women's basketball program

Despite national recognition, MT community fails to show support for Blue Raider athletics



The 5th Down
Chris Welch

As the largest undergraduate school in the state of Tennessee, you'd think that MTSU would garner more attention in national athletics. This season-as far as women's basketball is concerned-you'd be right.

The Lady Raiders remain the only unbeaten team in the Sun Belt East. That says a lot by itself. However, the fact that they are gaining respect from both nationally recognized polls-the Coaches and AP polls-says a lot more.

Basketball is unique in that, unlike football, the vast majority of colleges play on an even field. In football, the conference means a lot, as anyone who watched the Bowl Championship series witnessed. It would be a lot harder for MTSU to hold their own against, say, a

Texas or a Georgia in an NCAA football match up.

However, in basketball, MT is actually a major player on the national level. As of Wednesday, the Lady Raiders were ranked 34th in the AP poll. That's nationally, folks. Even better was the ESPN/Coaches poll: that ranked the Ladies at 32nd.

Obviously, MT head Coach Rick Insell is doing his job well. MT has made five straight post-season appearances. Junior forward Alysha Clark has been nationally recognized as one of the 50 players-to-watch for the Naismith Trophy. MT is ranked 1st in the Sun Belt conference for scoring offence, free-throw percentage, steals, and 3-point percentage.

The task now falls on us, the students at large. The Lady Raiders are doing what they do best, but it falls on a largely empty stadium. Why, if the team is doing so well, is there no school spirit to support them?

The Lady Raiders' next home game is against fellow Sun Belt team Arkansas State on Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. Hopefully, the Ladies will have some fans in the stands for whom they can show off.

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Men's basketball coach gives radio a try

Coach Kermit Davis gears up for radio show Mondays this season

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

It's not exactly a Top 40 single, but men's basketball Head Coach Kermit Davis is building up his radio credibility in the Middle Tennessee area.

As of Jan. 12, Davis has a regular slot across Murfreesboro radio waves. Coach Davis joins the league of coaches nationwide that bring yet another aspect of the school's athletics into focus.

Each Monday for the remainder of the season, Coach Davis will be available to give insight into the finer workings of the Middle Tennessee men's basketball program, providing game analysis and answering questions about Blue Raider

basketball.

Coach's Grill will play host to Davis and continue to do so throughout the season. The restaurant, located at 127 Broad St., offers lunch and dinner menus, drinks, pool, arcade games, and free meals for kids.

Coach Davis has a friend in the radio business. Rick Insell, coach for the Lady Raiders basketball team, also has a slot that has been moved back to Tuesdays due to schedule conflicts.

The move was made from Bluesboro restaurant to accommodate the Blue Raiders' younger fans as the recent passing of the Tennessee public smoking ban prompted Bluesboro to transfer the establishment to

21-and-over.

Fans of Blue Raider basketball are encouraged to attend the shows live at Coach's Grill. These fans will be given an opportunity to ask questions directly to the coaches—a privilege not often given to the general public.

This radio show comes in addition to the Kermit Davis Live television show. Davis can be viewed on CSS networks across the state. Host Chip Walters will review the previous week's games with commentary and highlights.

Kermit Davis Live can be heard on the ESPN affiliate 106.7-FM "The Fan." The number for call-in questions is 866-RAIDERS (866-724-3377).



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Coach Kermit Davis cheers on his team from the sidelines.

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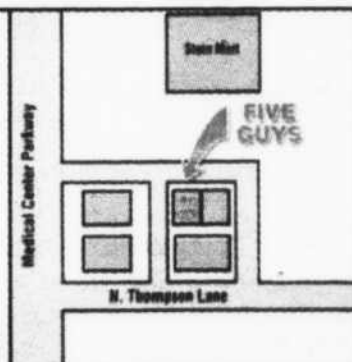
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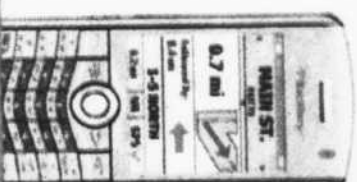
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