

Sidelines



**Parking
Observatory
New Football Coach
Fraternity Reforms**

Back to School: Special Edition

back to school spring 2006 contents

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to slapinio@mtsu.edu, and include your contact information for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.

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Welcome back to a "new" Sidelines

Welcome back everyone. We have been busy in the Sidelines office during the break. An expanded staff of nearly 60 reporters, designers, editors and photographers has worked diligently over the last month and a half to bring you a "new" Sidelines.

The spring Sidelines comes with a fresh look and the pledge of broad coverage and content. We want to make sure you know out about the 250 organizations and nearly 40 different sports our campus offers. We hope you will learn something new about a fellow student or faculty member with more human interest stories.



Mullen

We want to keep you entertained and informed with our new special section, "Exposure," which will feature local bands, artists, restaurant, book and movie reviews as well as information about weekend campus and community activities. We hope to provoke thought with our new opinions section, in which we now invite faculty to respond with informative and fun commentary about their lives.

In addition to coverage, we hope to show a clear understanding and appreciation of our First Amendment rights as students and journalists. With these rights comes great responsibility to uphold a code of ethics. Though we are still learning as students, we are accountable for using principles that reflect our understanding that while no journalist can be truly objective, we can strive to be unbiased in our writing and interpretation of news.

We welcome you to visit the Sidelines office anytime. We encourage you to join us as writers by submitting letters to the editor or editorials about current issues or concerns. We ask you to strengthen our news by suggesting story ideas. Remember that our job is to inform you, and I know we can work together to make Sidelines an accurate and useful source of information and entertainment for the MTSU community.

Sarah B. Mullen
Sidelines Editor

Sarah Mullen can be reached at 898-2337 or sleditor@mtsu.edu. The Sidelines office is located in Room 269 of the Bragg Mass Communications Building.

Greetings from your Student Body President

Dear Students,

On behalf of the student body and SGA office, welcome back to MTSU for the spring 2006 semester! There are many new and exciting opportunities awaiting during the spring semester. The SGA has prepared an opulence of events for students here on campus.

The 2006 Dean's Forum is now underway and will be the second time that SGA has given the students the opportunity to come and ask the deans of their respective college questions regarding academic life



Fulcher

here at MTSU. The senate is gearing up for their 2nd annual "I Hate Campaign", at which students will be able to voice things they hate about MTSU; therefore, it will enable the student government to know what changes need to be made on campus.

Another exciting thing on our agenda is the student survey of whether or not they feel smoking should be permanently banned in campus dormitories. SGA also plans to seek information from students about what they would like to see in the new student union of which plans are now underway. The SGA Public Relations department is proud to announce our support of the Blue Raider basketball teams. We will be giving away bumper stickers of a basketball with "MT" written

on it, as well as many other promotions to support blue raider athletics.

The SGA has also teamed up with campus and the Rutherford County chapter of Dolly Parton and Governor Bredesen's Tennessee Reads Project to help raise \$27,000 this semester to purchase books for early childhood education here in the Murfreesboro area.

As you can see, the SGA is not slowing down, and is awaiting your new student input.

To address the question I have been asked several times recently of whether or not I plan on seeking a second term for Student Body President for the 2006-07 academic term, I have put much thought into making this decision, and I have

decided that I will not seek re-election, but will stand behind the SGA continually during my time here at MTSU. I feel that there are several viable candidates which I hope will step up and fill the executive office positions, and wish them all the best of luck in the spring 2006 elections, which will be held on Feb. 28th - Mar. 2nd!

I wish you all the best of luck in your academic, athletic, professional, and social endeavors in the semester to come!

Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Blue

Paul Bryant Fulcher,
Student Body President

Please save handicap spots for handicapped people

To the Editor,

As a wheelchair user, I'm very appreciative of all the accommodations that are in place for handicapped faculty and students throughout the campus of MTSU. However, I see room for improvement, and I believe that with the cooperation of all faculty and students this problem could be eliminated.

As everyone knows, there is a shortage of parking spots available on campus, and that problem is being addressed as I write this letter. Until additional parking is available, we must suffer through the University's growing pains.

However, I'm amazed to see how many barely inconvenienced people embracing the concept of being disabled. There's a real danger in today's victim culture that the definition of disability will be so expanded that it will create a sort of disability inflation.

The down-fall of TennCare is an example of what can happen to a good program if pretenders take advantage. This inflation has already affected handicapped parking across our state. How come there are less handicapped spaces available in poor weather? Since the ADA legislation was passed, an unbelievable assortment of pseudo-disabled people—including the obese, medicated, and back-pain sufferers demanding ADA protection.

To me, nothing could be more pathetic than claiming to be less able in order to gain some competitive advantage. On some level or another, all of us are disabled. We've all had experiences that have left us maimed and scarred, either psychically or physically.

Maybe both, but that does not put everyone who's gotten a bad break in life on the same level of loss as those of us who have suffered permanent disability from injury, disease, or at birth. As for the pseudo-disabled, I would

like to see a new rule adopted. Only those who don't want to be disabled can lay claim to being disabled. Would you be upset if someone who was color blind got an advantage in the work place over you?

In conclusion, the real disabled among us know how difficult it is to compete and prosper in our overwhelmingly able-bodied world. To see the few protections and advantages won by our advocates being claimed by those who either don't need or deserve them simply adds insults to our injuries.

Lets all work together to keep our campus the most handicapped friendly University I've ever had the privilege of attending.

Matthew B. Wells

Spring 2006 Staff



Mullen

I am Sarah B. Mullen, the *Sidelines* Spring 2006 editor. I am a senior at MTSU, majoring in photography and minoring in English. I have six years of professional experience as a reporter, photographer and designer. I have worked for the Daily Herald in Columbia, Tenn., and the Herald-News in Dayton, Tenn.

I have earned my Associate of Science Degree with an emphasis in Mass Communications from Columbia State Community College. I plan to graduate from MTSU in December. I look forward to working with you to make *Sidelines* a great student newspaper.

If you have a news item, or would like to submit a letter to the editor, please contact me at 898-2337 or sleditor@mtsu.edu.



Orenstein

I am Matt Orenstein, the *Sidelines* Spring 2006 design editor. I am a senior at MTSU, majoring in Mass Communications with an emphasis in print journalism and minoring in political science and philosophy. I plan to graduate this May.

I have worked for *Sidelines* for close to three years and I am excited to see it grow and change this semester.

If you have any gripes about the design, or praise for that matter, let me know. I can be reached at 494-7650.



Jackson

Hola MTSU! I'm Michaela Jackson, and I'm the managing editor at *Sidelines* (which is a fancy title for payroll manager and assistant to the editor). I've worked at this paper since my first semester of college in Fall 2003, and I've done more jobs than I can list here. I'm a journalism major and an English major, so I'll be up to my eyelids in Mark Twain and the inverted pyramid this semester.

We're all really excited about where *Sidelines* is going this semester. If you have any ideas or (constructive) criticism, please speak up. This is a student newspaper; your opinion matters! You can contact me at slmedit@mtsu.edu or 904-8357.



Richardson

This tall handsome gentleman is Jay Richardson. He's a marketing junior. He enjoys photography and other forms of fine art including music. He has worked at *Sidelines* of a year and a half. Contact me at slphoto@mtsu.edu.



Harper

Hey, Andy Harper here! I'm a sophomore and journalism major, with a minor in secondary education and English. This is only my second semester at *Sidelines*, but I am excited about being the news editor. We have an amazing staff of writers and editors and this will definitely be an incredible semester.

If anyone has news tips, campus or local events and general concerns, the writers or myself may be reached at either slnews@mtsu.edu or by phone at 615-898-2336.



Hreha

Hello reader. My name is John Hreha. I am going to be designing for *Sidelines* and *Exposure* this semester. I am a senior media design major with minors in philosophy and graphic design. When I graduate in May, I am going to pursue a career in magazine design and other freelance opportunities. I have been studying design for four years, but this is my first semester working for *Sidelines*. When I am not working on design, I enjoy composing electronic music, cooking, and trying to stay busy. You can contact me at 494-7650.

Staff Continued



Hutton

Hi, my name is David Hunter and I'm the sports editor. I'm very excited about this job and along with the writers we will do everything to make this the section one of the best in the paper.

My previous experience includes writing for *Sidelines* for five years. My major is radio-TV journalism. I plan to graduate in May.

David Hunter can be reached at 898-2816 or slsports@mtsu.edu.



Van Orden

Hi my name is Sandi Van Orden. I am a senior journalism major. I have been at *Sidelines* since Fall 2003. I am the Capitol Hill correspondent this semester. I will graduate in May and hope to work in the journalism field. I can be reached at slstate@mtsu.edu or 898-5436.



Phillips

I am the features editor for *Sidelines*. I am a senior and my majors are journalism and German. Upon graduation, I hope to work for a daily newspaper and, eventually, as a foreign correspondent for a news wire service. Two of my main interests are Irish music and foreign travel. I can be contacted at 898-2917 or slfeatur@mtsu.edu.



Hines

Hi! My name is Erica Hines and I'm glad to be a part of the *Sidelines* staff this Spring semester. I am a junior majoring in media design with a minor in business and art. This will be my second semester working on the design team, and I look forward to expanding my talents through other areas in journalism such as photography and writing. Contact me at 494-7650 or erh2g@mtsu.edu.



Leffew

Greetings and salutations. I'm Jon Leffew, a junior history major from Kingston, TN.

I have been with *Sidelines* in some capacity for the last two and a half years, and I have been the assistant sports editor for a little more than three semesters.

I enjoy all sports, and I plan on becoming a history teacher and coach after graduation. Contact me at jal3p@mtsu.edu.



Thompson

Hello, my name is Meghanne C. Thompson, and I work at *Sidelines* as the advertisement design manager. I am a junior at MTSU, majoring in graphic design through the Liberal Arts College. I am originally from Farmington, New Mexico but grew up outside a cornfield in Burlington, Iowa. I have worked at *Sidelines* for over three years in the advertising department, but have been happy to branch over and help redesign our new and improved *Sidelines*. Any questions concerning advertising through our paper can be directed to sl4ads@mtsu.edu or by calling the Business Office at (615) 898-5111.

Philosophy cut from general education

By BRIAN STRAKA

Staff Writer

When the general education requirements for all Tennessee Board of Regent's (TBR) schools were reconfigured in 2004, a course in logic and critical thinking was omitted from the requirements.

For more than 30 years at MTSU, Philosophy 2110, "Elementary Logic and Critical Thinking," served as an option to fulfill the first area of general education: organization, analysis and communication of ideas. Now, that field has been narrowed to "communication."

Although the TBR changes took effect in the fall of 2004, teachers in the Philosophy Department are just starting to feel the effects of the change.

Since it was dropped as a general education course in fall 2004, enrollment in PHIL 2110 has diminished considerably, with enrollment getting worse each semester. Before fall 2004, the philosophy department offered approximately 10 sections of the course each semester and about three over the summer. Now, only one section is offered during the summer with as few as one section being offered during the fall and spring semesters, as is the case for the spring 2006 semester.

"We've been very fortunate that our funding and staff haven't been affected," said Michael Hinz, an associate professor of philosophy at MTSU. "Luckily, enroll-

ment in the [Intro to Philosophy] courses has made up for it."

The change has some professors in the Philosophy Department questioning the decision to cut the philosophy course from the menu of options. They say students are being done a disservice and that the field of philosophy is being marginalized.

"We think that there are, in fact, three fundamental cognitive skills required for achieving excellence in the arts and sciences: literacy, numeracy, and rationality," said Ron Bombardi, head of MTSU's Philosophy Department. "With this view in mind, the new system seems to us unbalanced: favoring the development of oral and written English skills to the exclusion of skills in logical reasoning."

Hinz said he agrees with his colleague.

"It's bad for the school," Hinz said. "[Being able to think logically and critically] is a requirement, and there's a class that teaches it, but now it's not offered."

Hinz said that one major problem with the decision was that the department was never given a chance to defend the class or to make revisions to the description that was submitted.

"The reason we were given was that there was there was no oral component to the class," Hinz said. "That could have easily been remedied if we had been given the opportunity. It wasn't handled in the right way."

The TBR worked with MTSU's General Education Curriculum Committee to come up with new course requirements for the revised curriculum, says Clare Bratten, a member of the general education committee and an assistant professor of Electronic Media Communication at MTSU. The TBR handed down "learning outcomes" which specified the goals for each area of the general education curriculum. Course descriptions were then compared to these "learning outcomes," and if they did not meet the requirements, were not added to the curriculum.

The Philosophy Department is not alone in its opinion that Philosophy 2110 is important. Some MTSU students say the exemption from the curriculum of a class designed to promote logical thinking and analysis could cause problems.

"I think that critical thinking is an important skill to have," said Jon Wolvin, junior, recording industry major. "People need to be able to logically and critically think through problems."

It's not just students and professors who feel that logic and critical thinking are good things. Statistics from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* show that students who are well versed in philosophy do significantly better on standardized tests such as the Graduate Records Exam and Law School Admission Test. Their performance on these tests is due in part to their ability to apply rigorous logical

analysis to complicated questions.

Although PHIL 2110 no longer fulfills a general education requirement, it is still offered by the Philosophy Department for students of any discipline interested in the art of reasoning.

"Our courses will continue to be of great service to many students," Bombardi said. "But we are curious: Why should public education now abandon its most ancient legacy?"

[T]he new system seems to us unbalanced: favoring the development of oral and written English skills to the exclusion of skills in logical reasoning.

—Ron Bombardi, head of MTSU's Philosophy Department

New emergency call boxes purchased for campus

By Kristen Teffeteller

Staff Writer

Four new emergency call boxes will be installed in areas across campus, bringing the total number of emergency phone systems to thirty-nine.

At a cost of approximately \$4,200 each, the university has spent approximately \$200,000 on the emergency phone system since the early 1990s, according to Gerald Caudill, manager for MTSU's Engineering/Building Services and Environmental Health and Safety.

The SGA passed a resolution requesting more emergency call boxes installed on campus,

Caudill said. The decision to purchase and install the additional boxes came "per their request."

"The university plans to install additional phones as existing buildings are renovated and new projects are completed," Caudill said, including the new parking lot across from Greek Row.

The phones will eventually be installed in areas where there are few or no call boxes, he added.

Some students also mentioned the lack of call boxes in particular areas.

"Five of my classes are in the Ellington Human Science Building, and there isn't a call box in the parking lot behind the building," senior nutrition and food science major David

Duff said.

"I have only seen one between the Keathley University Center and Cyber Café," senior criminal justice administration major Tori Sanders said.

Call box location is determined by several factors. Current travel routes, or anticipated travel routes, are taken into serious consideration when planning the installation, Caudill said.

Parking lots and visibility of the call boxes also factor into the placement. Since the call boxes are solar-powered, they must be placed where they can absorb the sunlight easily.

The university originally purchased the phones because it saw a need for students to feel safe,

Caudill said.

"Health and Safety investigated the idea and the community has shown a need for phones in certain areas," he said.

Only three actual crimes have been reported using the emergency phone system, Roy Brewer, interim chief of police said.

"The call boxes are used mainly when someone has vehicle troubles," Brewer said. "There is no real correlation between the location of call boxes and a crime deterrent factor."

It gives students "peace of mind" to know they can easily contact the police department if needed, he added.



Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer
New call boxes will soon be up and running all over campus.

Stockstill named head football coach

By DAVID HUNTER

Sports Editor

There are many changes on Middle Tennessee State University's campus this year, including a new football coach.

On December 12, 2005, Rick Stockstill became the 14th head football coach to lead the Blue Raiders. He came to Murfreesboro after spending the last two seasons at the University of South Carolina.

In 2004, he coached a group of wide receivers under Lou Holtz that included current NFL player Troy Williamson. Last year, he coached the Gamecocks tight ends and was the recruiting coordinator under head coach Steve Spurrier.

"I want to change the attitude around here," Stockstill said. "To me, you got to start acting like a winner. There is nobody on this team that's ever had a winning record. I know what it takes to win and I want to bring in coaches that have come from winning programs."

During his short time with the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, he caught the eye of current MT athletic director, Chris Massaro who was working at the University of South Carolina during that time.

"He's been a guy I've kept an eye on for a long time," Massaro said. "In the Carolinas he's known for his recruiting. I always wondered if he makes a good coach, and when I had a chance to observe him for a year, I was able to observe what he did and how his receivers produced."

Stockstill, a Sidney, Ohio native, began his college career as a quarterback for Florida State from 1978-1982. During that time under Coach Bobby Bowden, he went to three bowl games and was named All-American honorable mention in 1981. He also decided he wanted to be a head coach after he finished college.

"Playing under him [Bowden] for five years was like coaching under him, because that's what I wanted to do," Stockstill said. "I was like a sponge; I was soaking up everything."

His first coaching job was at Bethune-Cookman College where he led the Wildcats for two seasons, 1983-84. Then he went to University of Central Florida from 1985-1988. However, his big break came when he went to Clemson University from 1989-2002.

During his time at the university he filled many different roles. Some of those responsibilities included recruiting coordinator, wide receiver coach, co-offensive coordinator, passing game coordinator and quarterback coach. According to the

school's record, he brought in some of the best Clemson players of all time at the school. That included the school's all-time leading rusher Raymond Priester, all-time leading passer Woodrow Dantzler and all-time leading receivers Rod Gardner and Derrick Hamilton. In 2003, he moved to offensive coordinator at East Carolina University.

Some of the coaches that he has worked with include former South Carolina coach Holtz, current USC head coach Spurrier, former CU head coach Danny Ford, current CU head coach Tommy Bowden, former CU head coach Ken Hatfield and former CU head coach Tommy West. He learned something from each of those coaches that he takes into his first head-coaching job.

"The big thing I learned under [Bobby Bowden] was motivation and honesty," Stockstill said. "[Under] Coach Spurrier, I thought the big thing was never get too high, never get too low. Coach Holtz [was] another guy that demanded fundamentals. He demanded from the coaches that we teach the fundamentals of the game. Tommy West [emphasized] the importance of the head coach in recruiting. [Under] Danny Ford, I learned probably the toughness part. He wanted a tough coaching standpoint from those guys."

Even since Stockstill arrived in

Murfreesboro in early December, he has begun making changes.

"[I've been busy] between interviewing and hiring coaches, recruiting, calling and getting to know the current players and trying to get acuminated here with the surroundings," Stockstill said. "I wanted to be a head football coach and I wanted to do it at this level. I felt that this was a university that you could be successful at," Stockstill said.

He said with this job he would have to do more than just coach the team.

"I'm attacking this job with passion," Stockstill said. "To me the head coach has got to be more than a head coach. I've got to be a promoter, fundraiser, spokesperson, a coach and a motivator. I've got to be so many different things to get this program where I want to be."

There were several reasons why he decided to coach here, including selling the university to recruits, the university being a prime location for recruits and the ability to win here.

However, Stockstill knows he has a lot of work ahead of him.

"We got a lot of things to overcome here. One, we're limited with only 12 scholarships to give this year because of the low APR rating that we had," Stockstill said. "We've got to overcome that. I believe in this staff that I've hired. I believe that

they are great coaches, great teachers, and great people. I just believe that good things can happen here early if everybody buys into the system. I want to build it the right way. I'm not going to go the junior college route or the quick fix. It's going to take some time.

"We're going to build this program from the foundation, and basically we've starting over," he said. "There are a lot of things I want to change."

One of the things the Stockstill is known for nationally is his way of bringing players to the university. He has several tips that make him so successful.

"I think it goes back to hard work," Stockstill said. "I think you have to do it every day. Recruiting is about working hard. Everybody says you can't outwork people now because of the rule changes. I disagree, I think you can outwork people that's been my philosophy."

"To me the next thing is building relationships," he said. "You have to be honest with those kids, honest with those parents."

Another thing that Stockstill said he is working on is bringing fans and students to the game.

"If you win, they will come," Stockstill said.

"We've got to put a product on the field that when a fan comes to the game, win or lose, when you walk out of that stadium, they'll say, 'Boy those kids played hard, and gave great effort,'" Stockstill said.

"There is a certain group of people at any university that will come no matter what," he said. "There is another group out there that aren't really Middle Tennessee fans, but they like college football. We've got to get them coming to the game. We got to get the students involved, because there are too many students here for them not to be coming to the game. My vision is to make this stadium, like Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke basketball.

Stockstill's new staff brings a lot of experience from teams that have won in the past. The only coach he kept from the previous staff was Art Kaufman (linebackers). The new coaches that he has hired include Les Herrin (defensive line), Jimmy Ray Stephens (offensive line), Larry Kriksey (running backs), Manny Diaz (defensive coordinator), Brent Brock (tight ends) and Antonio Goss (cornerbacks).

Stockstill is married and has a son and daughter.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

New MT Head Football Coach Rick Stockstill said he plans to improve the football program by changing the attitude. "I think it goes back to hard work," he said. "You have to do it every day."

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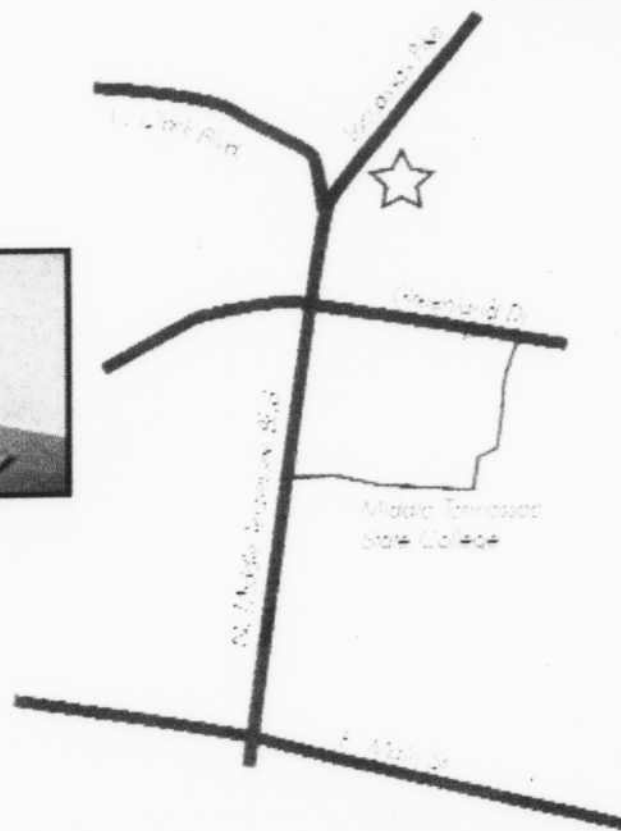
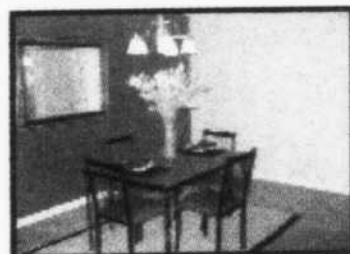
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MT's NCAA sports spring in action

By DAVID HUNTER

Sports Editor

Some of the teams are currently in action, while others will begin later in the spring.

Baseball

Head Coach Steve Peterson comes into his 19th season as the leader of the Blue Raiders. The season begins on February 18th with a home doubleheader against IP-Fort Wayne. The team finished with a record of 32-23, 13-10 in the Sun Belt Conference last season. The team has six starters and seven pitchers coming back. A full report will be coming up as the season nears.

Men's Basketball

Currently the team has a record of ?-? on the season. Right now the team is just starting the conference portion of the schedule. In March, the Murphy Center will be the host site of the 2006 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference

Basketball Tournament. There will be a full report coming in Thursday edition about the games that took place during the break. Next home game is Jan. 26 against New Orleans.

Women's Basketball

Currently the team has a record of ?-? on the season. They are also right in the middle of the conference schedule. The Women's SBC tournament will also be in the Murphy Center in March. There will be a full report coming in Thursday edition recapping the games during the break. Next home game is Jan. 21 against SBC newcomer Troy.

Track

The men's and women's team began their indoor part of the season with 13 first-place finishes at the MT Christmas Invitational on Dec. 8-10. Juan Walker had three wins in the long jump, triple jump, and 55-meter hurdles. The men's team had four other wins. On the women's side, they picked up six event wins. Dean Hayes

is in his 41st year as the head coach. MT will host the 2006 Sun Belt Indoor Track Championships on Feb. 25-26. The outdoor season begins in March.

Softball

The team will begin the 2nd year of the Leigh Podlesny era as the head of the Blue Raiders. The opener will be Feb. 14 at Evansville. The first home game will be the MT Strike Out Cancer Tournament on Feb. 24-26. Last season, the team was 8-43, 1-19 in the SBC. The team has four position starters and three pitchers coming back. A full preview will be coming up as the season nears.

Men's Tennis

Coach Dale Short's team begins the dual match part of the season. The team's first match is Jan. 28 against Chattanooga at the Racquet Club. They will also have home matches at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. Two double teams and one single player are on the preseason rankings. Andreas Siljestrom is ranked 57th, while

his double's team of him and Marco Born is ranked 10th. Brandon Allan- Kai Schledorn is ranked 8th. The Allan-Schledorn team won the MT Fall Invitational in September. Born-Siljestrom took the ITA All-American Championships in October. A full preview will be coming up as the season gets near.

Women's Tennis

Alison Ojeda begins her first season at the helm of the team. The team begins the season on Jan. 27 on the road against at UT-San Antonio. The first home match will be on Feb. 4 against East Tennessee at the Racquet Club. They will also have home matches at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. The team had a dual match record of 8-14 last season. Two players will be back for the team this season, Claudia Szabo and Ann-Kristin Siljestrom. Szabo had a record of 11-21 in singles and 11-20 in doubles last year. Siljestrom was 15-6 in

See NCAA, 31

Blue Raider Baseball Notebook

MT Baseball gets ready for practice

Head coach Steve Peterson and the Blue Raider baseball team will begin practice next Monday at Reese Smith Field with four-on-one workouts and strength and conditioning. Middle Tennessee will practice for the first time as a full team on Monday, January 23. The Blue Raiders open the season Saturday, February 18, with a 1 p.m. doubleheader against IP-Fort Wayne. All practices are open to the public and begin at approximately 2:45 p.m. at Reese Smith Field. Also, the coaching staff for the Blue Raiders attended the American Baseball Coaches Association National Convention last weekend in Chicago and will be part of the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association State Convention this weekend in Nashville.

Brazelton signs with Padres

In case you missed it over the holidays, Dewon Brazelton signed a one-year contract with the San Diego Padres. Brazelton was traded to the Padres on December 7 but became a free agent the next week. He then decided to ink with the defending National League West champions on January 3. Brazelton, 25, went 1-8 with a 7.61 ERA (60 ER/71.0 IP) and 43 strikeouts in 20 games (eight starts) for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2005. As the Devil Rays' 2005 Opening Day starter at the age of 24, Brazelton was the Major League's second-youngest Opening Day starter last season. Originally the third overall pick in the 2001 First-Year Player Draft, Brazelton was acquired from Tampa Bay in exchange for third baseman Sean Burroughs on December 7, 2005. Over parts of four Major League seasons with the Devil Rays (2002-05), Brazelton has a career record of 8-23 with a 5.98 ERA (168 ER/253.0 IP) in 54 games (41 starts).

Courtesy of MT Media Relations (Jo Jo Freeman)

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File Photo

There will be serious changes coming to Greek Row in the Spring, including the revocation of Kappa Sigma's charter and the addition of Sigma Pi fraternity to the Spring rush roster.

Kappa Sigma to lose charter, house

By ANDY HARPER

News Editor

The MTSU Kappa Sigma Chapter is preparing to lose their charter and house, though nothing has been made official, said Gentry McCreary director for

Greek life.

"We were on probation this past semester for a party in last spring," said Patrick Merritt, Kappa Sigma president. "As per the probation, we had to follow certain rules of the University."

According to Merritt, Kappa

Sigma was charged with having alcohol at their house during the party last spring.

"The district grand master for Kappa Sigma, as requested by the university, conducted an investigation into the alcohol charges," McCreary said. "The recommen-

dation concluded from that investigation was to suspend the charter."

While no official vote has been cast, Greek life was told that the situation is imminent and to expect for the charter to be removed, McCreary said.

"I personally think the level of punishment is too extreme and very unfair," Merritt said. "The campus uses rules as 'safeguards' and are way too strict, the fact

See Kappa Sigma, 31

Sigma Pi fraternity added to Spring rush roster

By JASON EVERETT

Staff Writer

Sigma Pi will be added to the Interfraternity Council the beginning of April as the newest fraternity to be introduced to MTSU since Pi Kappa Phi's re-chartering in November of 2003.

"Sigma Pi is proud to be a part of Greek life at MTSU and is looking forward to support other organizations to make MTSU a better Greek community," said Justin Peach, chapter founding father.

The new chapter was decided between seven friends, who wanted to charter something new. The group's goals includ-

ed focusing on scholarship and unity with other Greeks, according to Social Chair Corey Bransford. Bransford said he was enthusiastic about the newness of his fraternity.

"We are starting a new tradition, as a founding father you can mold the standards," he said. "Even though the fraternity won't be that large we go for quality."

The new fraternity hopes to be the first chapter in history to organize within a six-month period. The leaders want to begin the fraternity with at least 40 members.

"Officially Sigma Pi is just a fraternal colony however they will participate in Spring Rush," said Gentry McCreary

director for Greek life. "They plan to charter around November, but they need about 40 men before they become a chapter."

McCreary said Sigma Pi campaigned last fall to become a state chapter, but could only come up with 25 members.

The spring and fall rush helps fraternities grow. Fraternity rush is open to any male student with a 2.3 high school grade point average or college GPA equivalent. Spring rush activities begin on Jan 31 and end Feb 1. The activities include an informational meeting, showcase, open recruitments and a formal.

"Rush is a great time for guys new to

Greek life and thought about rushing during the fall semester," McCreary said. "It is a good opportunity for young men who want to get involved on campus."

Among the participants of Rush are: Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Tau Omega, Beta Theta Pi, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The individual fraternities on Greek row will be having the majority of their activities at their houses while the fraternities without houses will be hosting their events in the Recreation Center.

Baseball field renovations underway

By RUSSELL LUNA

Staff Writer

Renovations are underway on the Reese Smith Baseball Field. The construction is a three-phase project and including improvements to have more games televised.

Athletic Director Chris Massaro is leading the way, along with Coach Peterson, to make Reese-Smith Field a better NCAA facility.

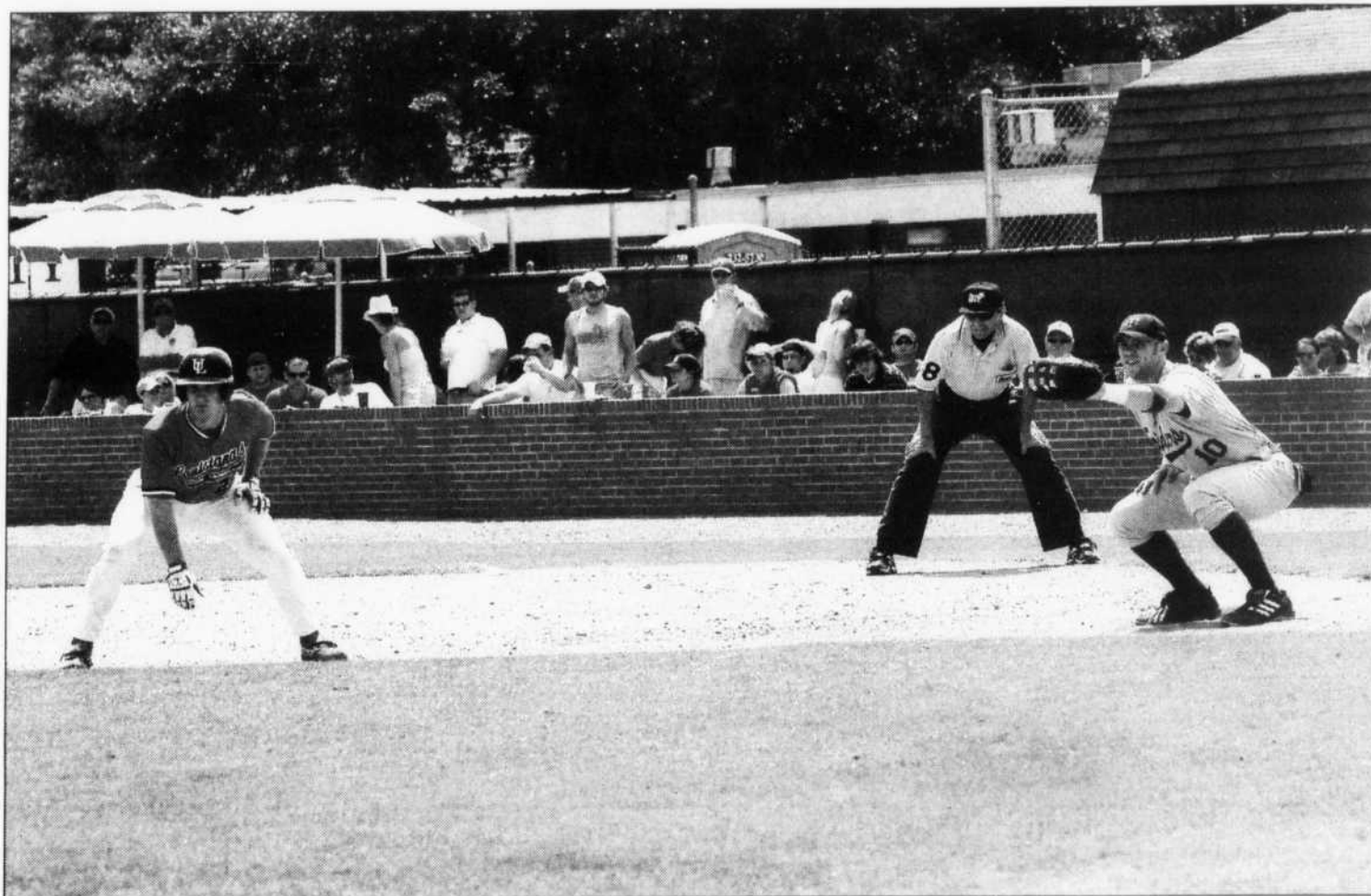
Phase I

The three step project is now underway new light poles replaced the older lights in Reese-Smith stadium in early September. The new lights are to specifications used by AAA and the NCAA. These new lights will also fit ESPN regulations, thus allowing the potential to televise more games and possibly host a section of the NCAA regionals.

"The improved lighting sets at tone for stadium expansion because we were able to move the poles out of the bleachers providing for expansion", said Coach Peterson recently to Go Blue Raiders.com's Jo Jo Freeman. "Campus allowed us to move one of the poles into a parking lot. The old lights had served a purpose, but they really got to be more of an antique. We couldn't service television and they really weren't good enough."

Not only will new lights be visible this season, but a new 24-foot high section for a batter's eye will also be visible in center-field. The older wall was made of wood, which meant that over time it was rotting away. The new outfield wall is very similar to those used by Major League Baseball.

Something that might not be as noticeable will be the new sod implanted from Southeastern Turf and Southern



File Photo

First baseman, Josh Archer, gets ready for the tagout. The Reese-Smith Baseball field will be seeing many changes in the next few years. Phase I addition will be finished by the start of the season. The final project will not be completed until 2008.

Athletic Fields. The infield was graded and installed to replace the dead spots in front of the pitcher's mound and home plate. The new sod should be visible by the first pitch against IP-Fort Wayne on February 18th.

Phase II

The next initial plan, which is currently being financed by fundraising, will be to

build a plaza connecting Reese-Smith Field to Floyd Stadium. The plaza would replace the parking lot that currently exists down the left field line of the baseball complex. Ideally, the plaza would enter the east side of Floyd Stadium which would allow for the addition of bathrooms, concession stands, and possibly another Lightning's Locker Room. The ultimate goal of the plaza is to attract the Sun Belt Conference and the NCAA into hosting baseball championships and regionals in the near future. Beginning this summer, the TSSAA will play their baseball championship game in Reese-Smith Field.

"Our facility doesn't meet the standards of our league, especially with seven of the nine schools making improvements and major upgrades in their facilities since 2000", said Peterson. "We want to host conference tournaments and NCAA Regionals at Reese Smith Field. They would be great for the University and for the community, pumping dollars into the local economy in much the same way all of the TSSAA events do."

Phase III

As many Blue Raider fans have noticed, Reese-Smith field has been unable to accommodate large crowds.

The MTSU athletic department plans make Reese-Smith field similar to the Auburn University or Baylor University. Plans are to include amenities such as expanding the seating capacity while making the stadium much like a new minor league ballpark that would include a store, plenty of bathrooms, and TV outlets for fans to watch the game while getting concessions. The plans for the third phase of this project are in the developmental stages and are expected to be completed by opening day of 2008.

"We are pleased with the projects they have done for Auburn and Baylor", said Athletic Director Chris Massaro. "I think we can have a wonderful facility here in the next few years."

Coach Peterson, in his 19 years as head coach, has led 8 Middle Tennessee teams to NCAA regional appearances and 10 Ohio Valley and Sunbelt Conference

2006 Spring Intramural Sports Schedule

5-5 Basketball	1/30
Indoor Soccer	2/06
Dodgeball	2/20
4-4 Sports Trivia	2/23
Softball	3/20
"Tip-off Classic"	3/26
Arena Football	3/27
Flag Football Tourney	4/03
4-4 Sand Volleyball	4/17
Kickball Tourney	4/17

New parking lot under construction

By KRISTEN TEFFETELLER

Staff Writer

Construction is underway on the new student parking lot, scheduled for completion in July on Rutherford Boulevard, according to Ron Malone, assistant vice president of administration for events and transportation.

It will bring the approximate total of student parking to 13,000, Malone said.

The lot will be composed of asphalt and pervious concrete, much like the lot adjacent to Kirksey Old Main and Midgett.

"The pervious concrete will help to control petroleum products from mixing with the soil by sifting the impurities out," Malone said. "It holds up very well, in addition to being environmentally friendly, which was a big concern for us."

Malone also said there are plans to widen MTSU Boulevard and Blue Raider Drive in order to create a designated shuttle bus lane. This will allow the red route to "run unimpeded" by other traffic. An additional road, complete with shuttle lane, will eventually be constructed south of Greek Row to connect Rutherford Boulevard to Womack Lane.

The Raider Xpress Red Route shuttle will run to three bus stops located in the lot. Each stop will be marked with one of the emergency call boxes found on campus.

"Our hope is that students will be more inclined to park in the exterior lots and use the shuttle," Malone said.

Malone said the lot next to the softball

field would be modified once construction of a press box is complete. Other lots composed of shoot chip, such as the one behind the Bragg Mass Communications building, may one day be paved.

"We put shoot chip in locations where the university anticipates expansion, like at the Mass Comm building," Malone said. "It is much less expensive."

Patti Miller, assistant vice president for campus planning, said "from a planning perspective," the university will meet parking demands but must consider more pedestrian areas and green spaces. The construction of the new parking lot on Rutherford Boulevard is one way the parking demands are being met.

"Most people want to park as close to the core as possible," Miller said. "It's physically not possible for everyone to park close to their classes."

It is more of a traffic problem than a parking problem, according to Malone.

Malone said MTSU has more parking spaces available during the peak times of 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. than other campuses. In fact, there are "nearly 400 to 500 empty spaces" during those hours, Monday through Friday.

"I think there is enough parking for everyone, but it is too spaced out," said John Prince, junior recording industry student. "No one wants to park on the outskirts and wait for the bus."

Many students echo Prince's sentiments. Other complaints include lack of convenience to particular buildings and

the need for a parking garage.

"I never really had a problem with parking," said David Duff, a senior food science and nutrition major. "I usually just take the first [parking space] I see and walk."

Some students have already recommend parking in exterior lots in order to make it to class on time.

"I hate leaving home extra early just to get a parking spot, especially for an 8 a.m. class," said Rebecca Salazar, junior recording industry major. "If I have a class in Peck Hall, I park at the old church [Middle Tennessee Building] on the corner of Middle Tennessee Boulevard and Lytle Street."

Other students park in the Bell Street lot when attending classes on the west side of campus. The Parking and Transportation Services and Public Safety lots, located along East Main Street, are also options when considering your parking situation.

"When I have classes in the BAS [Business and Aerospace Building], I park in the gravel lot that everyone said used to be the Art Barn," said Abby Thomas, a freshman journalism student.

Like most students who have a couple of night classes, junior graphic design major Ashley McPeak said she parks in the designated white parking for her 6 p.m. class.

Malone states the university opens up the "bulk of the white lots" at 5:30 p.m. to accommodate night students, excluding the Bragg Mass Communication lot and

Davis Science Building lot.

The university often hosts events on campus that may disrupt some students' parking plans. The TSSAA basketball tournament, for example, will be held in March and the Greenland Drive lot will be closed off to students for a couple of days.

"We like to hold events like these because it benefits the city and the university," Malone said. "I recommend that students give themselves more time, especially during this event, and park in a location that allows them to take the shuttle."

Malone mentioned the Tennessee Livestock Center lot and the current Rutherford Boulevard lot as examples where students could park and catch the Raider Xpress. The tip emphasized the most by Malone and the students was to make extra time on any day for traffic and parking considerations.

"Most universities do not allow their students to park on the interior of the campus," Malone said. "We have the environment and mindset that we should be allowed to walk right into class. The reality is that there are nearly 23,000 students and 3,000 staff and faculty here on any given day."

"We have to make the shuttles work as efficiently as possible," Malone said. "As the campus continues to grow, student parking will be moved to the perimeter and people will realize it is much more efficient to take the shuttle into the interior of campus."

Bragg teacher parking lot not on construction list

By RACHEL CARRICK

Staff Writer

Ask any student at Middle Tennessee State University what the number one problem on campus is, and chances are, nine times out of ten, they'll say parking.

MTSU is located in Rutherford County, the second fastest growing county in the nation. The university enrollment rate is increasing 2-3 percent per year. This percent increase means new campus construction and renovation projects are needed to accommodate the demands of the ever increasing student population.

The list of the current construction projects at MTSU

includes the expansion of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, renovation of the old Todd Library and select campus dorms. Considering all the current projects and the fact that parking is such an issue at MTSU, why isn't the paving of the teacher's parking lot behind the Bragg Mass Communication Building higher on the priority list? The answer is cost.

According to Dr. Anantha Babbili, Dean of the College of Mass Communication, the Bragg Building is expected to expand in the next three to four years. Since construction and renovation projects are chosen on the basis of priority, it could take up to ten years for the expansion to occur.

"It is our [the College of Mass

Communication] hope that the expansion of our building will be seen as a priority when it is reviewed by the board," Babbili said.

This expansion will add a new wing extending to the edge of the teacher's parking lot. If the parking lot is paved, it will be more costly and time consuming during construction. However, if the project could take ten years to occur, it would make more sense to pave the parking lot until then.

Babbili said if the Capital Expenditures Committee approves the initial \$58 million budget for the Bragg Building expansion, despite some inflation in the budget due to raised gas prices caused by Hurricane Katrina, the expansion could be

expected to occur in a few years. This means the parking lot would not need to be paved.

Babbili also said as an administrator and a faculty member, he sees both sides of the argument. As an administrator, he can't see spending large amounts of tax payers' dollars on paving a parking lot that will be removed during construction. As a faculty member that uses the parking lot, he can see the safety issues and concerns, such as stray gravel and ditches that form due to high traffic volume.

According to Ron Malone, head of MTSU Parking and Transportation Services, the teacher's parking lot is not actually "gravel" anymore. It is what is referred to in the industry as "oil and chip."

"Oil and chip is an asphalt material that has a gravel base and a top coat of the asphalt material. The gravel works its way down into the bottom layer and then becomes a hard smooth surface that serves well for parking," Malone said.

Malone said oil and chip is what is usually found on old country roads and costs half of what it takes to asphalt a road or, in this case, a parking lot. Oil and chip also serves well for drainage and oil run off in parking lots where as asphalt has a tendency to crack from water damage, Malone said.

"It's a small price to pay compared to asphalt," Malone said.

See Parking, 31

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If you are interested in past ads or past issues you can go to the Walker Library and access any former *Sidelines* edition on microfilm.

Advisers make scheduling easy

By Tori Harris

Staff Writer

MTSU offers advising for students of all majors and minors. Whether or not a student utilizes the advising services is completely up to the student.

"During peak registration times and right before the semester begins students are in my office, calling and emailing non-stop," said Sonja Burk, advisor for the regents online degree program.

Hattie Traylor, advisor for the college of Mass Communication, thinks that it is a good idea for students to see an adviser "at least one time a semester." She also said that transfer students and freshmen are required to see an adviser before they are allowed to register.

"Freshman and sophomores come in for advising because things are still new to them, and juniors and seniors because they want to graduate on time," Traylor said.

Michelle Arnold, advisor for the Honors College, said that she gets more visits from undergrads because she feels that they are still "adjusting" and want to be sure they are on the right path.

Burk mainly advises upperclassmen, because of the "nature" of majors she advises for.

Danielle Jarrett, an undeclared freshman said she has already met with her adviser about three times. On the other hand, some students feel that auditing their degree online by themselves is accommodating.

Advisers "can be helpful, but for the most part they share with us the same information that we

already have access to; some students just don't take an initiative to figure out things for themselves," said Landon Dave, a junior Aerospace Pro-Pilot major.

"If you have a catalog you're fine," said Antoinette Williams, a junior psychology major, who said she has met with her adviser a few times.

"He was very knowledgeable of the field overall, but as far as finding campus programs that would be beneficial to me as a psychology major, he didn't offer much advice on," she said.

Advising "can enhance the student's awareness of available resources on campus," Arnold said.

"Degree audit is a wonderful tool and should be used in conjunction with a student's adviser. Degree audit is computer generated and at times cannot read a student's total transcript," Burk said.

Traylor said that sometimes the audits are not up to date in the systems, which can cause errors.

Seeing an adviser has its negatives as well as positives. The negatives include not being able to spend a great deal of time with just one student, Burk said.

The Pulse

Music

1. Coldplay
2. Jack Johnson
3. DMB
4. Led Zeppelin
5. Incubus
6. The Beatles
7. John Mayer
8. Pink Floyd
9. Green Day
10. The Killers

This top 10 bands list is courtesy of Facebook.com

Look for more top 10 lists to come in future issues of *Sidelines*.

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MTSU sports clubs

All the students are back in class, and here are some of the sports clubs that you can join.

Baseball



This is the only Tennessee College to have a baseball club. Currently the club has 23 members, and is looking for more. There is a \$50 fee to join that helps pay for part of the practice and game uniform. The club plays in the Carolina West

Conference, and they have their home games at Middle Tennessee Christian School or Barfield Park. Their first game is against Clemson on Feb.25. For more information contact Kevin Jones at 275-9075 or email him at kmj2c@mtsu.edu

Ice Hockey



This club is preparing to begin their second half of their season. Currently the team has a 7-4 record on the season. They start back up on Jan.20 at Wright St. Their next home game is Feb.3 against the University of Tennessee. They play their

home games at Southern Ice in Cool Springs. For more information visit their website at mtsuicehockey.com.

Master Swim



This club currently has 25 active members. The club swims at the campus recreation center. They are still looking for more to join. This spring they have two postal meets coming up. A postal

meet is host sitting the Wallace

Martial

website

Men's

als by Divisio

They finished third in the South record. They have been to nationals in the past. Their first match is Jan.28 with the Blue and White Game. For more information contact John Ferraro at 402-301-9167 or email him at jferraro@hotmail.com

Skydiving

This club is looking for more jumpers to join. Last semester four people took the jump, while, 35 to 40 are interested. The first stage a person has to do is take a tandem jump. The club has two and hopefully more

the Spring 2006 semester

wim here and send their time to the ope to go to a couple of meets dur- more information contact Karen tmsu.edu.

This club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11 p.m. in the rec center. They welcome all interest in martial arts, grappling, boxing and self defense to begin or continue their training. For more information, go to their

u.edu/~mtsumac.

scheduled trips to West Tennessee Skydiving in Memphis. For more information contact Bailey Ryan at 901-496-7926 or email at skydive325@yahoo.com.

Tennis



This is a new club on campus that formed during the last semester. Currently the club has 17 members and is looking for more. They play in their first match in late Feb against James Madison. For more information go to their

website at www.freewebs.com/mtsutennisclub.

Women's Soccer



This club is in their second year. The team has between 25 to 30 members on their team and is looking for more to join. During the fall, the club made it to the semifinals at Nationals and went to three other tournaments.

Their record at the end of the season was 11-7. For more information go to the website, www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/Clubs/scwsoccer.htm.

Wheelchair

This club won a tennis national championship in 2004 with Kevin Green and Russell Rodriguez winning the USTA National Collegiate Wheelchair Doubles Championship. This was the first year that MTSU sent a team. This season the club will host the USTA National Collegiate Wheelchair Championships in March. For more info contact, Michael Paul at 485-1113.

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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.

Clubs you can join on campus

Boxing
Cricket
Fencing
Footbag
Inline Hockey
Lacrosse
Paintball
Racquetball
Women's Rugby
Men's Soccer
Ultimate Frisbee
Men's Volleyball
Women's Volleyball
Wrestling
Wakeboarding



By Casey Phillips

Staff Writer

MTSU will soon begin seeking funding and Tennessee Board of Regents approval for the second phase of the planned astronomical observatory complex that began with the recently completed naked-eye observation plaza.

Construction on MTSU's naked-eye astronomical observatory was completed last week, but Associate Astronomy Professor Eric Klumpe, the complex's designer, said this is only the halfway mark for the planned observation complex.

Klumpe, the observatory's designer, said his plans, which he began developing in 1999, call for a second building to house telescopic equipment connected via a camera to external displays and mounted on a computer-guided tracking system.

"I've designed what I call an inside-out observatory," he said. "Basically, when I call it the inside-out design, I mean that I'm turning the outside of the building into a master classroom."

"The image from the camera on the telescope will be digitized and processed before being displayed on the screens outside," Klumpe explained. "Instead of people waiting in line to look into the telescope, what you'll get now is people sitting, drinking coffee and looking as long as they like."

The complex's equipment will be of a higher level of quality than that used at the current observatory, Klumpe said.

"When the fun and games are over, students can get on and do real research too," he added. "It's not just a public play thing, but a serious tool as well."

Despite misinterpretations of the naked-eye observatory's intended function, the completed complex's unique design will serve a vital purpose by exciting public interest in astronomy, Klumpe said.

"A lot of people just have no idea of the capabilities of this project," he said. "They think of it as a nice place to eat lunch. They see the statues on top of the columns as something artistic, not realizing that the angles are very precise and deliberate."

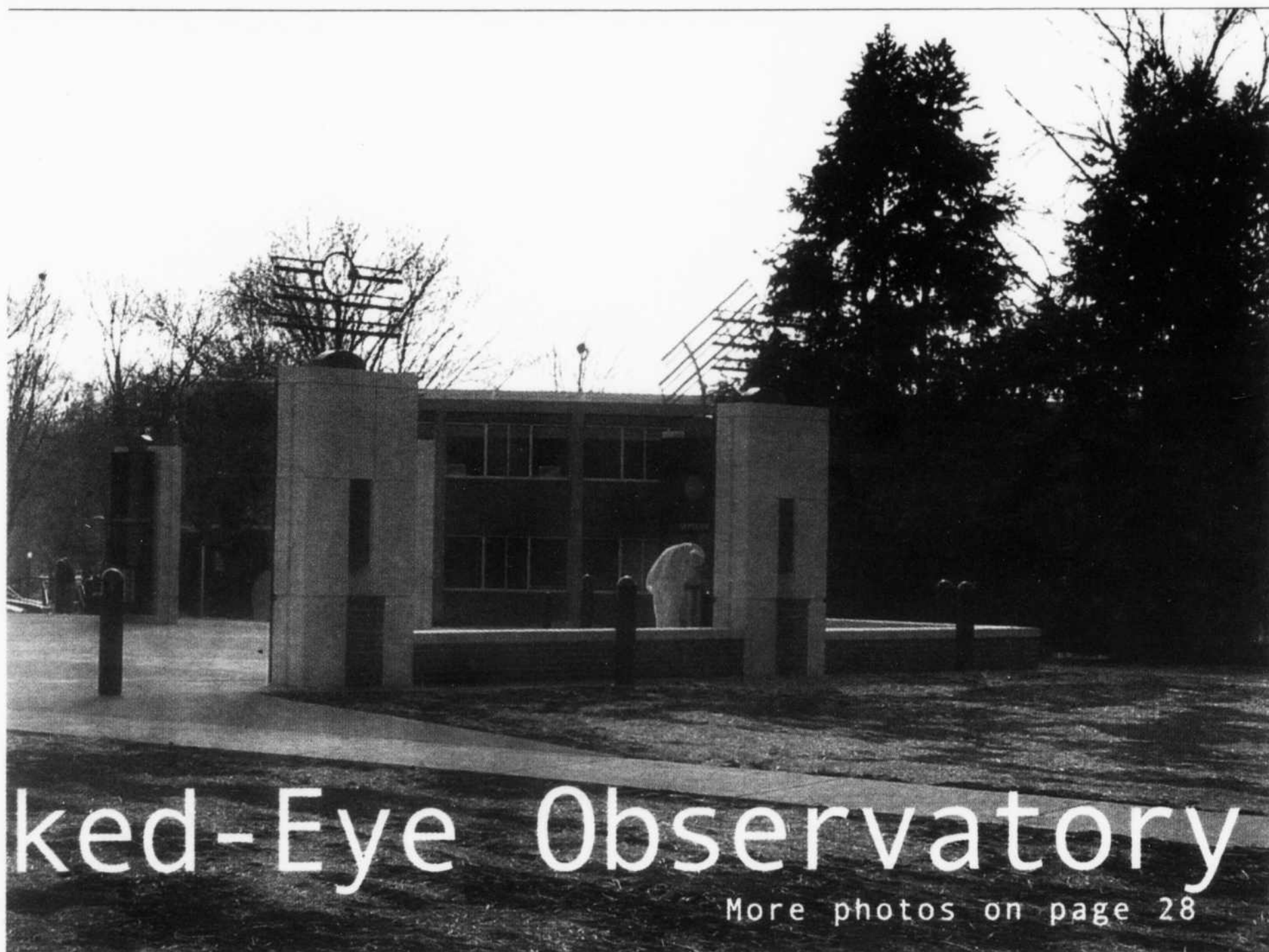
"If they listen, however, without exception, their jaw hits the floor once they hear what it's capable of," he added. "This is the most awesome educational tool I've ever seen. There's nothing else like it in the United States."

Students' interpretations of the function of the 12 columns circling the naked-eye complex have ranged from UFOs to astrology, but a closer look usually leads the curious closer to the truth.

"We called it 'Stones River Henge,' sophomore history major Patrick Gilliam said, referring to one of the complex's unofficial titles. "But I think that the metal bars from each column are like a graph or grid that you can use to chart star movements or identify specific stars."

Klumpe said Gilliam's guess hits closer to the truth than either UFOs or witch covens. Using the 12 columns posted at regular compass intervals as a guide, he said visitors to the complex could locate and chart the movements of various stellar bodies.

Gilliam, who took his first classes in astronomy last semester, said growing up away from the city lights made him doubt the decision to place the observatory in the middle of campus.



Naked-Eye Observatory

More photos on page 28

"I think it's a good idea," he said, "but I think the location was poorly chosen because it's in the middle of town. There's so much light that, even on a clear night, you can't see all the stars you want to."

However, Klumpe said his decision to place the observatory next to the Wiser-Patten Science Building and the Cope Administration Building was intentional and based on a number of factors.

"Where it is now is the old part of campus," he explained. "The only way [that part of campus] can grow is to knock down an old building and build a bigger one. On the old side of campus, there's a lot more blockage of light. I'm not saying it's dark, but it's dark enough to do what we need to do."

Although the project's location has never moved, the design of the complex itself has been modified. The original plans called for the naked-eye and telescopic components to be integrated, but Klumpe said that design has changed and the telescopic unit will now be located 200 feet apart from the naked-eye plaza.

Due to the focus on the naked-eye component of the complex, Klumpe said plans for the telescopic portion have just now begun moving ahead.

"We're basically at ground zero trying to get the money for the second half now," he said. "I decided to start with the naked-eye observatory first because I thought it would be easier to get the money for the telescope later once people were excited about the project."

Klumpe attributed the successful funding of the naked-eye plaza to the efforts of Congressman Bart Gordon. Through efforts on their behalf, Klumpe said Gordon was

able to secure nearly \$650,000 of a total of approximately \$750,000 for completion of the first half of the project.

"Bart Gordon works on the committee that oversees NASA, and he caught the vision early," Klumpe said. "He's been an absolute asset to the project. He's really worked hard to get us the money we needed."

"NASA has the ability to allocate their funding based on what they feel is important, but Bart Gordon got the ball rolling," he added.

According to Klumpe's estimates, funding for construction of the telescopic portion will need to be roughly equivalent to that raised for the naked-eye observatory.

"Our new architect will come up with the cost of building it," Klumpe said, "but I've already got the cost for the astronomical aspects of it. The two budgets will be combined, but when we estimated it about four to five years ago, the cost was roughly a 50/50 split."

A schedule for completion of the entire complex is too unreliable now due to too many unknown factors related to funding and approval of the second half of the project by the Tennessee Board of Regents, Klumpe said.

In the meantime, however, Klumpe said he will continue working on an experiment guide to accompany the naked-eye observatory.

"I'll be writing a manual that has 40 or so experiments students can do using the naked-eye observatory," he said. "Many of them are the same ones used by the ancient astronomers to determine things like the rate at which the Earth rotates on its axis, its rate of movement around the sun, and in theory, to anticipate eclipses, to name a few."

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Meal Memberships provide you with a specific number of meals throughout the semester that are budgeted on a weekly basis, plus extra money to use at campus retail locations. Meal Memberships are perfect for students living on campus or for commuters students who are often on campus. Meal Memberships provide the most economical way to eat on campus – the value cannot be beat! Meals come in semester-long weekly packages– you choose the one to fit your schedule and eating habits.



Freshman Memberships

Freshman Meal Memberships are only available to on-campus residents with 30 hours or less. The Freshman 10 and Freshman Unlimited offer a special value with a lower price and increased Flex dollars. The Freshman Memberships are included in the housing fees and only available through MTSU Residence Life.

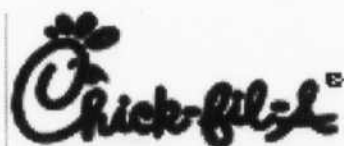
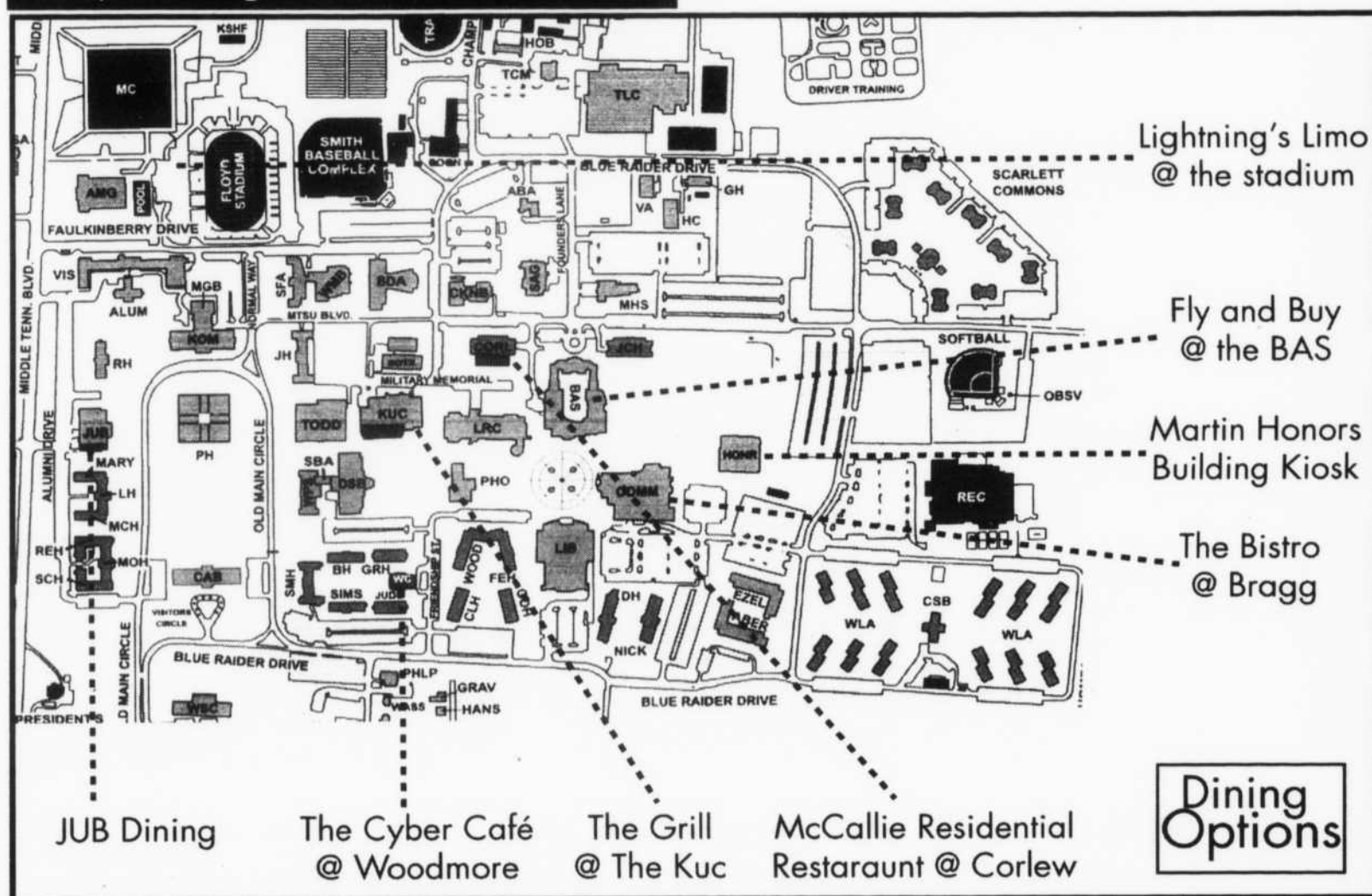


eDining Dollars

E-Dining Dollars work as a debit card. You deposit a minimum of \$100 on your MTSU ID card, and add to your account in increments of \$100. You may make purchases from your account at any time and when you make a purchase it is subtracted from your E-Dining Dollars account.

Only one meal per meal period (eg. breakfast lunch dinner) can be used for security reasons? E-Dining Dollars will transfer from Fall to Spring semester, but not from Spring to Summer or Summer to Fall

Campus dining locations



Block Memberships

Block Memberships provide you with a specific number of meals throughout the semester that can be used at any time, plus extra money to use at campus retail locations. Block Memberships are perfect for students who commute and are only on campus a couple times a week. Block Memberships provide the most flexible way to eat on campus! Meals come in semester block packages and can be used at any time – you choose the one to fit your schedule and eating habits.



Need to know where to spend your campus bucks?

Each dining cafe is easy and accessible, but spending your MTSU dollars depends on where you go.

Lightning's Limo (Floyd Stadium), Martin Honors Building Kiosk, Buy & Fly (BAS), The Bistro @ Bragg (Mass Comm), The Grill (KUC), JUB Dining, and The Cyber Café (Woodmore) accept Flex Dollars, eDining Dollars, Raider Funds, and Cash.

All funds, including Meal Plans are accepted at McCallie Dining (Corlew Hall).

Moving out of house into dorm, college life

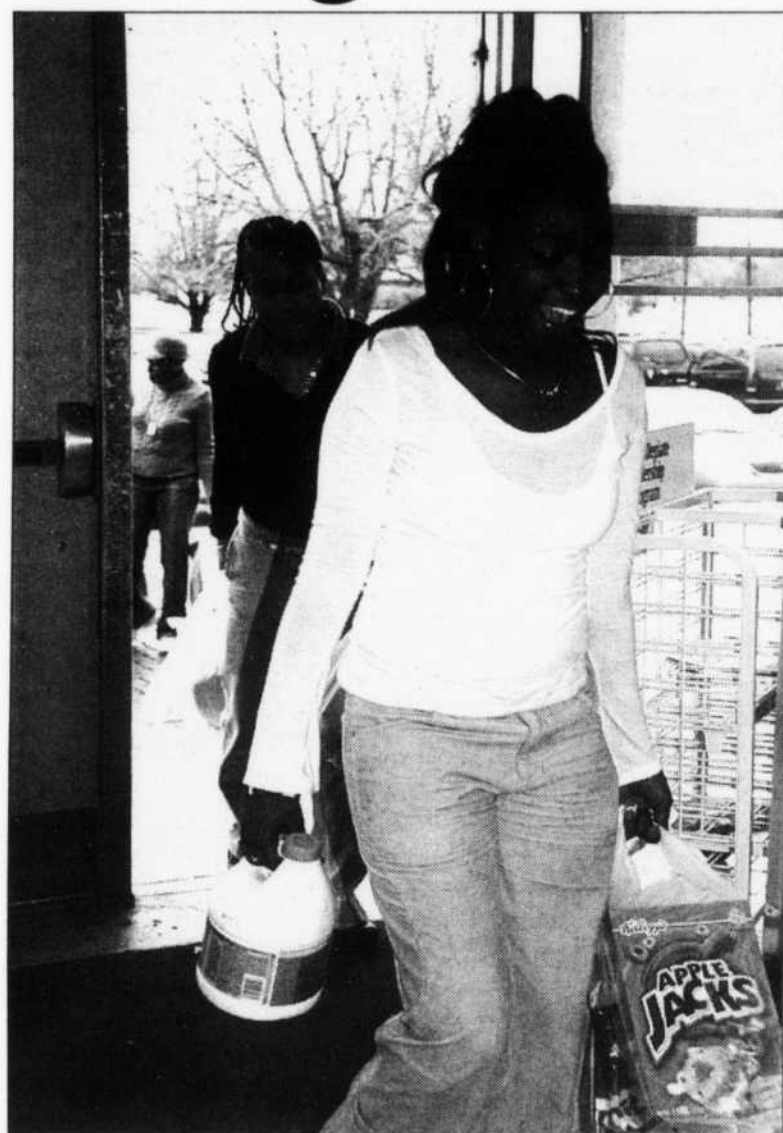


Photo by Sarah B. Mullen | Editor

Michelle Newell walks through the doors of Cummings Hall Saturday followed by her mother, Ramona and cousin, Latoya Wilson.

By SARAH B. MULLEN
Editor

Michelle Newell begins the first day of spring classes at MTSU today along with thousands of other students. But, Michelle experienced another first on Saturday when she moved into her first dorm room.

This new experience often includes living with a complete stranger, showering in a room of strangers with your shoes on and sleeping in a room smaller than most walk-in closets.

Of course, moving into a dorm also may mean meeting life-long friends, experiencing the firsts of college life right along with student neighbors, and for most, experiencing an awkward but exhilarating sense

of complete freedom for the first time.

"I want to be independent and learn for myself," Michelle said. "Back home I have it made. Everything is done for me. I want to get to know myself."

Michelle's initial experience moving into a dorm was not exactly exhilarating. Saturday morning, Michelle, her mother Ramona, her neighbor James Sharkey and her cousin Latoya Wilson, marched into a third-floor room of Jim Cummings Hall and got a surprise.

"It was pitiful," Michelle said. "[The prospective roommate] had the closet and drawers all filled with her stuff, and I had no room for my stuff, and it smelled nasty."

After a few minutes of sheer disgust, the group marched back

down to the lobby where Michelle's mother explained to the desk assistant that her daughter needed a different room.

Michelle was moved to another room, and the momentum was set in place. After about four or five heaping trips from the car, to the elevator, to her new room, Michelle was ready to settle in. She said goodbye to her mom, cousin and neighbor, and introduced herself to her new roommate, who, according to Michelle, has a lot in common with her.

"I didn't cry when my mom left," Michelle said. "I was a little teary-eyed because I know she isn't far."

Michelle, 18, graduated from Overton High School in Memphis in May 2005. Last fall, she attended Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis. She chose MTSU because her major is television production and she liked MTSU's internship opportunities. She is contemplating a minor in theology.

"I plan to be more than just an anchor," Michelle said. "I want to host my own gospel show, and maybe have a hotline where people can call and I talk speak with them about their problems."

Among general education courses, Michelle has her first mass communications course, Intro to Mass Media, this spring. In addition to her classes, Michelle hopes to join a club on campus.

Michelle is living in Cummings Hall—one of 19 dormitories on campus—which is centrally located near the aerospace building and directly in front of the McFarland Health Services building. The hall is the home of MTSU's First Year Experience Program. This program is geared toward first-year students (those with 29 credit hours or less).

In Cummings Hall, lower division classes are taught, an academic advisor holds regular office hours and there are tutors who live on each floor of the hall who hold workshops and pro-

grams designed to assist students with their transition to MTSU.

For many like Michelle, moving into a dorm is the beginning of a life independent from parents, and facilities like Cummings Hall makes the transition a little easier for both par-

ents and students.

"College is the first step to the real world. There is registration, then moving into your dorm, going to your classes and then from that point, doing your best to achieve your goals," Michelle said.



Photo by Sarah B. Mullen | Editor

Michelle Newell, her cousin, Latoya Wilson, neighbor, James Sharkey, and mother, Ramona begin unpacking at Cummings Hall.



Photo by Sarah B. Mullen | Editor

After a long day of moving and unpacking, Michelle Newell and her cousin Latoya Wilson say goodbye.

It was fun while it lasted, Vandy

By Jared Hastings

Staff Writer

The MT football team will no longer play Vanderbilt this fall. Instead Vanderbilt has opted to play Michigan to secure coverage by ESPN.

After having to make eleventh hour changes to the 2005 football schedule, Middle

Tennessee finds itself in much the same situation heading into the 2006 season after being informed last week that Vanderbilt was backing out of this year's season opener to play at Michigan.

The key player in the swap was sports network ESPN. The network has agreed to nationally televise not only the season

opener between Vanderbilt and Michigan, but also a 2007 Vanderbilt football game, as well as a future Vanderbilt women's basketball game.

With the swap, Middle Tennessee now finds itself with an open date on September 2, the first full Saturday of the college football season. While a replacement has not been

named, LSU, Nebraska, and Texas A & M have been mentioned as possibilities.

Middle Tennessee athletic director Chris Massaro could not be reached for comment, but did report in a press release that he is very appreciative of the administration at Vanderbilt because they handled everything in a first class

manner. We are hoping to schedule more games in the future with Vanderbilt.

The Blue Raiders and Commodores have played three times in the last five seasons, all at Vanderbilt's Dudley Field. The Blue Raiders have won all three meetings in the I-A era.

KUC knoll needs better landscaping

By Jennifer Myers

Sidelines Contributor

Why is the sky blue? Why is the grass green? Why isn't the KUC knoll landscaped?

"I think it's sad that one of the most frequented locations on campus looks so run down," says public relations major Jessica Childress. "From a PR standpoint, the knoll does not give our university a very good name."

Childress isn't the only one who thinks the KUC knoll needs work. Other students feel the same way, but only a few have actually attempted to change it.

A few years ago, MTSU's Greek community, disappointed with the knoll's appearance, took matters into their (ITS) own hands and landscaped a portion of the KUC courtyard area.

"It was a lot of hard work and long hours but so much fun," said former sorority member Liz Fowler. "The area we landscaped (to the left of the knoll), looks ten times better."

But, many still feel the KUC knoll is in bad shape.

Troy Festervand, Associate Dean of the College of Business is not happy with the knoll.

"For one, it is unattractive, period. And two, from a student's perspective, tell me what is motivating and inspiring students to life their spirits on the knoll?" Festervand asked. "It really doesn't contribute anything to our campus whatsoever."

But, James Luter, MTSU's Ground Motor Pool Manager of 15 years, disagrees.

"Campus Planning wanted it to be a place where students could throw Frisbees, hang out or enjoy a picnic lunch, said Luter. "The KUC knoll was made to be a sort of amphitheater, a place where bands could gather for students to listen to."

Childress also said the knoll does not need to be an amphitheater. "There is one by the Mass Communication building that never gets used and what about the Murphy center? That's an amphitheater as well," Childress said.

So why aren't those amphitheaters enough?

"The thing about that amphitheater is that that location will only work if people want to hang out there, but people do want to hang out at the knoll," said Assistant Vice President of Campus Planning Patty Miller. "So, the knoll was left open so that we can

one day build and amphitheater there. We have the model and plans in our office."

While there are "plans" for the knoll, this doesn't explain the current state of the knoll landscaping.

"There is just so much that MTSU could do to improve the knoll. Even if a few trees were planted on the outskirts, it could still serve its purpose as a gathering spot," said alumnus and current landscaper, Alex Chernikow. "It would make sense that the knoll should be more attractive, since it is a well-visited area. I would probably plant some trees and definitely do something about the grass, or lack of."

Luter agrees with Chernikow that the knoll needs work.

"I do understand that it doesn't look too good right now, but I think campus planning may have a plan as to what they will do next with the knoll."

Campus Planning does have ideas. One is to

improve the landscaping that surrounds the path leading from the James Union Building (JUB) to Greek row.

"As far as intense improvements go, we would like to see benches and trees by the sidewalk to improve the appearance," Miller said.

Student Orientation Assistant (SOA) coordinator, Jennifer Stoltz said she is not proud of the KUC knoll either. She explained that in the past, the university had encouraged the SOA's to use the knoll as a gathering spot to stop tours and offer information about the surrounding buildings.

"Now, I advise SOA's to go over by the library to speak with the students; it is simply much nicer," said Stoltz.

University planner Miller said plans for improving the landscaping and look around the KUC is expected to take place within the next year five years.

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Dream Alive carries on King's vision

By BRENT NEWSOME

Staff Writer

Aside from having the day off from school and work what is it we do to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

We celebrate every other holiday by performing certain rituals. On Christmas, we gather around the tree and exchange gifts with our loved ones. On Halloween, we trick or treat. On Valentine's, Mother's and Father's day we give gifts and honor our loved ones. On the Fourth of July and Memorial's Day we barbeque. Even on St Patrick's Day we wear green and pinch each other.

There will be a celebrating during the MTSU Annual Memorial Celebration Week, Dream Alive, which is dedicated to keeping the spirit and legacy of Martin's dream alive.

The celebration features many drives, events, and programs sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Starting Tuesday, Jan.17, 2006 the MTSU chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity will be holding a voter registration drive. A display will be up from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Later the same evening in the Hinton Music Hall at Write Music Building at 6 p.m. Kumbaa Nu

Soul College Tour will provide a night of entertainment that will feature a gospel music variety. There will be opportunities for audience participation and open microphone for the public.

Wednesday Jan.18 there will be a blood drive in the KUC stating at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During that same time there also will be a voter registration drive hosted by Seta Phi Beta Sorority and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Later at 7 p.m. there will be movie Night sponsored also by the Alphas designed to bring the campus together for a night of insightful reflection and critical conversation at the movies. This will be located at the KUC Theater and is free to the public.

Thursday Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. the MTSU chapters of Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi will also be sponsoring a display and voter registration drive. Later that same evening the Alpha phi Alpha Fraternity will be sponsoring a skate night to bring the campus community together for togetherness and fun.

Friday Jan. 20 there will be another voter registration drive in the KUC from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Later that same night starting at 6:30 p.m. in the State Farm Room in the Business and Aerospace Building there will be a Black History trivia quiz and a family feud bowl.

Theses events will be in game show format and should be a lot of fun.

The event's winners will receive various prizes. For this event you will be able to register as early as Tuesday Jan. 17 in the Multicultural Affairs Office located in the KUC room 148. Study questions will also be provided that same Tuesday to give ample opportunity for preparation for the game.

On Saturday Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. until noon there will be a self determination memorial and presidential brunch in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The brunch will be held in the James Union Building in the Hazlewood Dining Room. The brunch will feature MTSU President Dr. Sidney Mcphee and Vice Provost Jack Thomas. This event is open and is free to students.

Capping the week off the grand finale of the University's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is a memorial service and a candlelight vigil in King's honor. This event will feature guest speaker Joe Rogers and will take place in the Tucker Theater starting at 6 p.m.

Joe Rogers was the youngest Lieutenant Governor.

See Dream Alive, 31



Student Government Association



ELECTIONS 2006

Do you want to learn valuable leadership skills that you can use during and after college? The Student Government Association is looking for future leaders for the student body at MTSU! Note these important dates to see how you can run for a SGA Executive Office or a seat on the SGA Senate!

January 30	Election packets available in KUC 208.
February 7	Election packets due by 4 p.m.
February 14	Eligibility announced.
February 15	Mandatory candidate meeting.
February 18	Campaigning begins.
February 28	Elections begin via PipelineMT.

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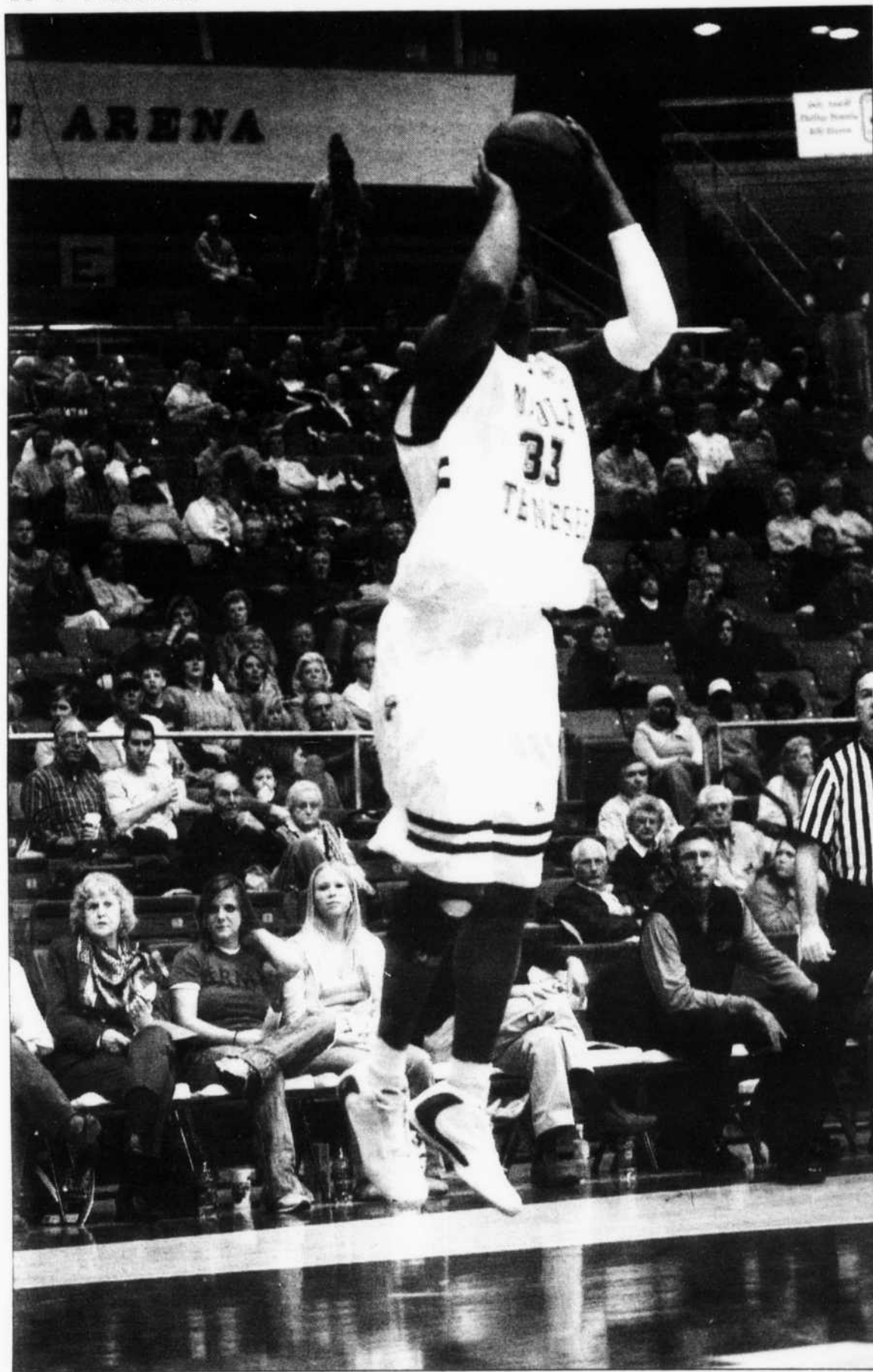


Photo by Joe Harvey | Sports Writer
Former MT forward Brian Lake attempts a jump shot during a home game. He left the team during the break.

While you were out



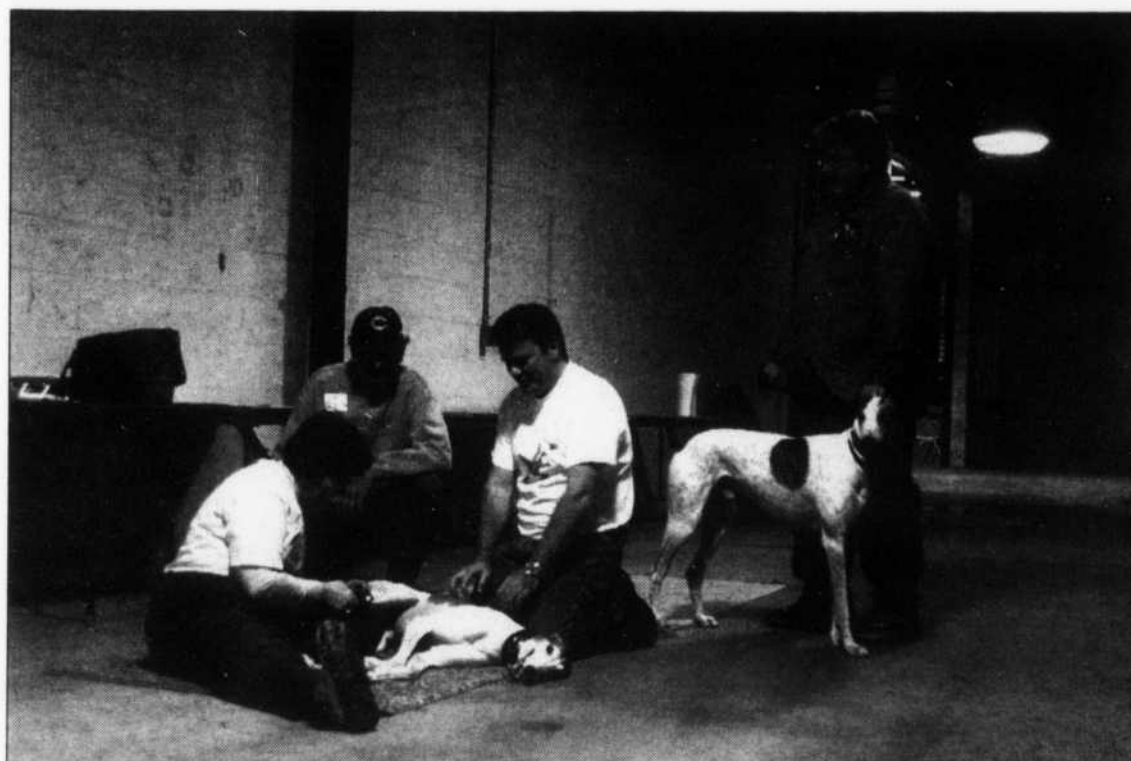


Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer
Greyhounds took over the Livestock Center on Jan. 15. (Left)

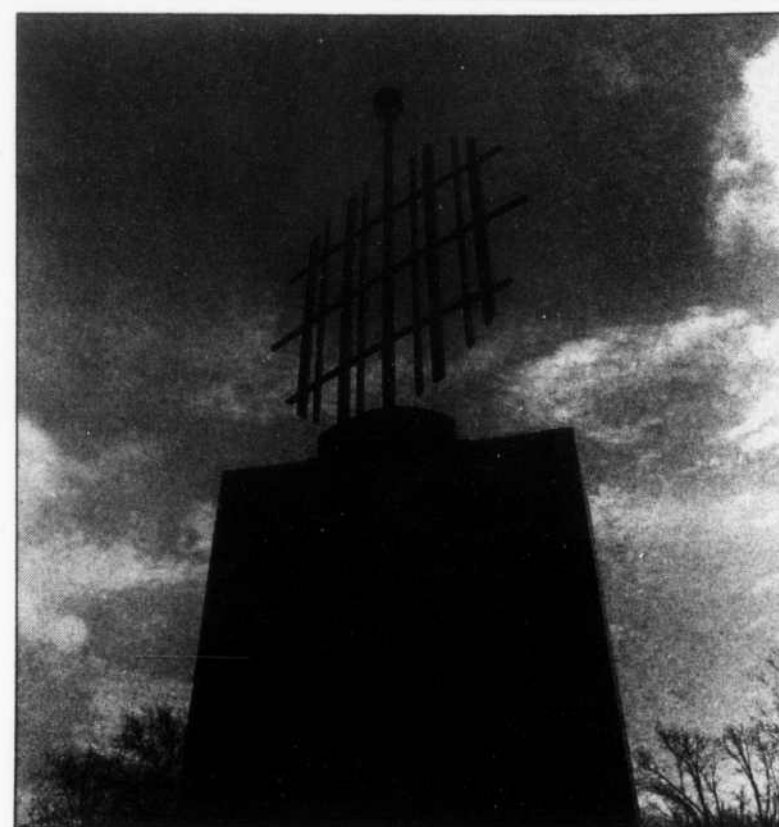
Photo by Joe Harvey | Sports Writer
MT guard Marcus Morrison attempts a free throw during an away game at Western Kentucky. The Blue Raiders lost the game 80-48 on Jan. 8. (Below)



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor
Heart's Desire won the 6500 lb. tractor pull with a distance of 225.03 ft.

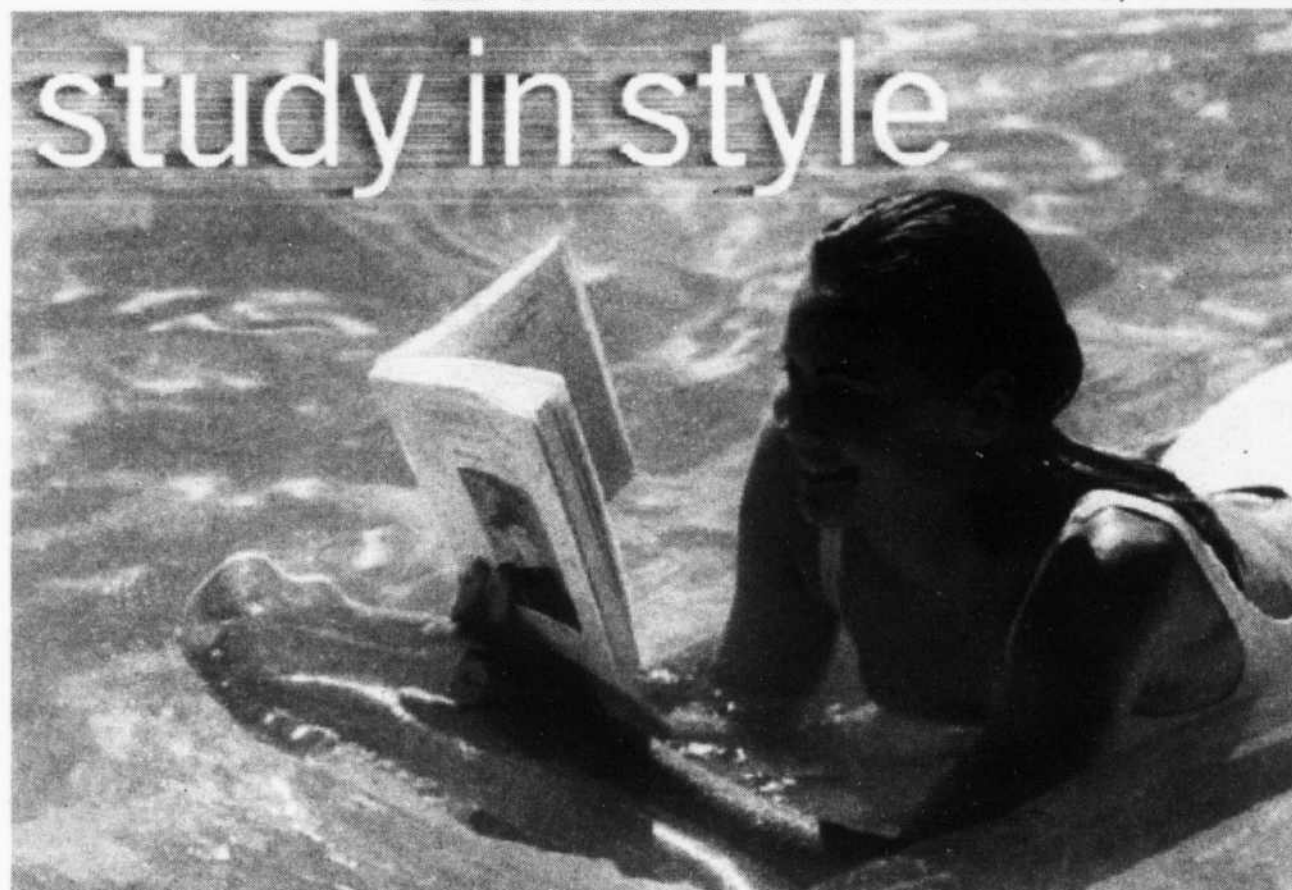


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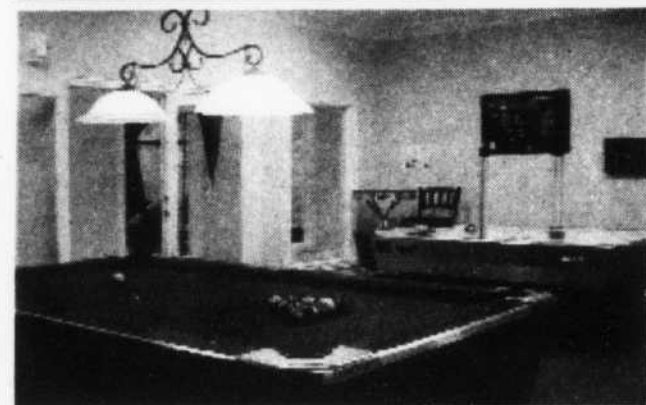
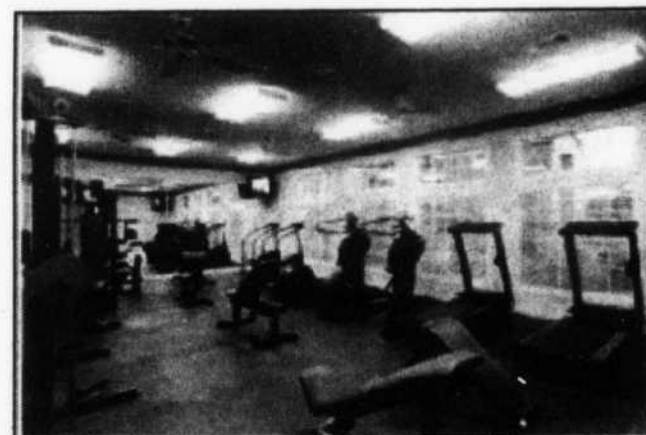
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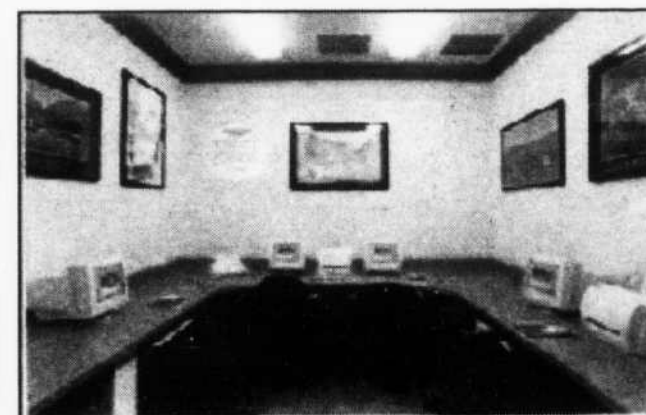


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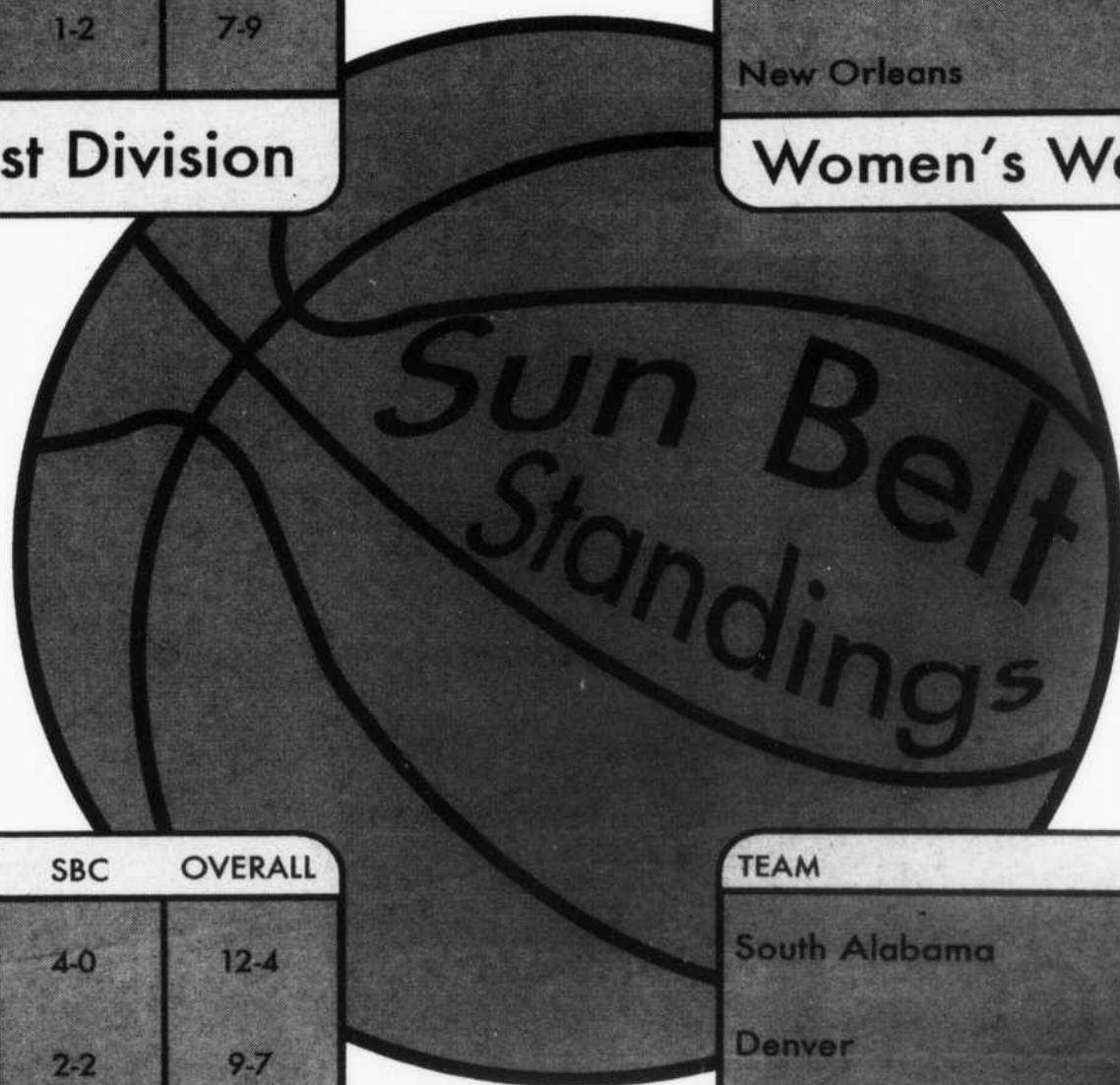


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TEAM	SBC	OVERALL
Florida International	2-1	9-6
Middle Tennessee	2-1	9-7
Western Kentucky	1-2	11-5
Arkansas-Little Rock	1-2	9-7
Arkansas State	1-2	7-9
Women's East Division		

TEAM	SBC	OVERALL
Louisiana-Lafayette	3-1	13-3
Denver	3-1	9-6
North Texas	2-1	12-3
South Alabama	2-1	8-7
Troy	1-2	7-7
New Orleans	0-4	2-14
Women's West Division		



TEAM	SBC	OVERALL
Western Kentucky	4-0	12-4
Arkansas-Little Rock	2-2	9-7
Arkansas State	2-3	7-12
Middle Tennessee	1-2	8-7
Florida International	0-4	3-13
Men's East Division		

TEAM	SBC	OVERALL
South Alabama	3-0	12-3
Denver	3-0	10-6
North Texas	2-1	9-5
New Orleans	2-2	5-10
Troy	1-2	8-7
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-4	4-11
Men's West Division		

NCAA: Golf starts in Mexico

Continued from 10

singles and 12-9 in doubles. A full report will be coming up as the season comes closer.

Golf

Both the men and women's team will begin the spring part of the schedule next month outside the country. The women head to BajaMar Invitational in BaraMar, Mexico on the 14th

and the 15th, while the men head to Guadalajara, Mexico for the Club de Golf Santa Anita Classic on the 19th and 20th. During the fall the highest finish for the women was a win at the Unlimited Potential/Baytree Classic. The men's highest finish was a fourth at the Missouri Bluffs Challenge. Full report coming as the season nears.

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Parking: "Bragg Parking"

Continued from 13

"Due to Hurricane Rita and increasing oil and gas prices, construction nowadays is not cheap."

MTSU will also save money when it decides to expand the Mass Communication building because it is easier to rip up an oil

and chip surface than an asphalt surface, and it saves construction time as well, Malone said.

"The only negative thing about the oil and chip parking lot is that you have to re-stripe frequently as gravel strays due to traffic," Malone said. "You have to re-stripe at least twice as much

as an asphalt lot, but it's easy to do when the university is on break or holiday."

Malone said if you add up the cost of maintaining and re-stripping the lot as opposed to paving with asphalt, the university saves a significant amount of money

Kappa Sigma: "To lose house"

Continued from 11

that one incident such as this would cause any fraternity to lose their charter in not a fair punishment."

Merritt also said there were times when both the office of greek life and the Interfraternity Council have not always provided the needed support to certain

fraternities, particularly in situations of punishment.

"We [MTSU] will honor and support the decision of the national Kappa Sigma office," McCreary said. "We will help these men transition from their house on Greek Row."

McCreary said the university and the national Kappa Sigma office are still studying the lease

of the Kappa Sigma house on Greek Row.

"We are trying to be as supportive as possible," McCreary said. "Nationals felt the plan of action was in the best interest of the fraternity and the university is geared towards a long term plan for possible re-colonization of the Kappa Sigma charter."

Dream Alive: "Joe Rogers"

Continued from 23

He is a captivating speaker who cultivates the minds of his audience. He has performed in front to audiences at Arizona State University, executives for ExxonMobil Corporation, Colorado State and St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

He has been profiled by the Washington Times, Ebony, Jet, and Business Week magazines. He is a very dynamic speaker with positive words of motivation, history, and enthusiasm.

"We are anxiously looking forward to Joe's performance," said Ralph Metcalf director of multicultural affairs.

All students are encouraged to attend all events which are free to students as well as the public.

Tell your family and friends come out and help preserve the legacy of a man who did so much for the civil rights movement and race relations.

ClassifiedS

Marketplace of MTSU

0411

PT WORK-- good pay, flex schedules, sales/svc, no exp nec-will train, conditions apply, all ages 18+, 832-8448, workforstudents.com

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Continued from last column

0431

Resort Condo for Rent for SPRING BREAK! at High Point World Resort, Kissimmee, FL March 5-12, 2006 1BR, sleeps 4, full kitchen, Near Disney World \$100/night OR \$600/all 7 nights (retails \$125/night) Minimum 4 nights, one occupant must be 21 Call Jim (615) 975-4792 after 4 pm. Must reply before Feb. 15, 2006

Continued from last column

0435

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Continued from last column

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0471

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podlesny@mtsu.edu

0402

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